



## EVOLVING SCENARIO

Actor Rakul Preet Singh feels that the stereotypes of onscreen pairings no longer exist in the industry

LEISURE P2



## KABUL AIRPORT SEALED

The Taliban deployed extra forces around Kabul's airport to prevent large crowds from gathering after the twin blasts Thursday

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA LOSE 3RD TEST

India suffer an innings and 74-run defeat against England in the third Test as the hosts level the series at 1-1

SPORTS P12



## New regd mark under BH series launched

**NEW DELHI:** With an aim for a seamless transfer of registration of passenger vehicles from one state to another, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has introduced a new registration mark under the Bharat series (BH series). A vehicle bearing this registration mark shall not require the assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to another. Under the new scheme, the vehicle registration facility will be available on a voluntary basis to specific people and organisations.



## Mysore gangrape case cracked, 5 held

**MYSORE:** Five labourers, including a minor, allegedly involved in the gangrape of a college student near Mysore earlier this week have been arrested, Karnataka DG and IGP Praveen Sood said Saturday. The five, who frequented Mysore often, are from the "labour class" doing jobs like wiring, carpentry and driving, he said, adding, they hailed from Tirupur in Tamil Nadu. "As per preliminary interrogation, one of them is a juvenile - a 17-year-old - subject to confirmation", he said. The sixth one is absconding.

1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We have no option but to act on this information. It is expected to come BEFORE elections!

## Odia actor held over fight with neighbour

**Bhubaneswar:** Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested popular Odia cine actor Bobby Mishra for assaulting his neighbour and threatening the latter at their apartment in IRC village under Nayapalli police limits. Saroj Kumar Mishra alias Tapi has lodged a complaint with the police against Bobby late Friday night. According to sources, the fight between Bobby and his neighbour started over a trivial matter. The complainant and Bobby's younger brother got engaged in a verbal duel over the latter parking his motorcycle at the parking spot allotted to Saroj at their apartment, Friday evening. Soon Bobby intervened and the argument turned violent as Bobby shoved Saroj and threatened him of dire consequences.

## Girl kidnapped over love affair, rescued

**Chandbali:** Unknown miscreants allegedly kidnapped a girl student from Mahulia Square under Chandbali police limits in Bhadrak district while she was returning home from tuition classes. The girl, identified as Madhusmita Panda, is the daughter of Gaurahari Panda of Ugratara village. She was abducted and taken away in a car August 19. The matter has shocked the residents after CCTV footage of the kidnapping came to the fore. The miscreants came in a white car and kidnapped the girl from near a cement shop at Mahulia Square.

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	33.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.0°C	25.0°C
Humidity	98%	98%
Rainfall	28.1mm	11mm
Forecast	Light rains likely	



**OVERCOMING IMPEDIMENTS:** Switzerland's Marcel Hug, competes in the men's T54 5000-meters final during the 2020 Paralympics at the National Stadium in Tokyo, Saturday

# US DRONE STRIKE KILLS IS-K PLANNER

The US struck back at the Islamic State after a suicide bombing killed 169 Afghans and 13 American soldiers at the Kabul airport, August 26

AGENCIES

**Washington, August 28:** The United States attacked an Islamic State "planner" in Afghanistan in retaliation for a deadly bombing outside Kabul airport and said there was a high risk of further blasts as it nears the end of a mission to evacuate civilians and withdraw troops. "Initial indications are that we killed the target. We know of no civilian casualties," a US military statement said.

A US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the drone strike was against an Islamic State militant planning attacks. A reaper drone, which took off from the Middle East, struck the militant who was in a car with an Islamic State associate. Both are believed to have been killed, the official said. In Jalalabad, community elder



- Drone strike in province on Pakistan border
- Residents of Jalalabad city say they heard blasts at night
- US Embassy says people should leave airport gates immediately
- About 111,000 people evacuated so far

Malik Adib said three people were killed and four were wounded in the air strike at around midnight Friday adding he had been summoned by the Taliban investigating the incident. "Women and children are among the victims," said Adib,

though he did not have information about their identity. Residents of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar, said Saturday they had heard several explosions from an air strike around midnight, though it was not clear if the blasts were caused by a US drone. A senior Taliban commander said some ISIS-K members had been arrested in connection with the Kabul attack. "They are being interrogated by our intelligence team," the commander said. Spokesmen for the Taliban, which completed a rapid takeover of the country this month as US forces withdrew, declined to comment on the drone strike.

# COVID-19 guidelines extended till Sept 30

All states and Union Territories to ensure there is no large gathering during festivals and take pro-active measures to check the spread of nCoV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 28:** Ahead of the festival season, the Centre Saturday asked all states and Union Territories to ensure there is no large gathering and that they take pro-active measures to check the spread of coronavirus.

Extending the ongoing COVID-19 guidelines for one more month till September 30, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said the overall pandemic situation now appears to be largely stable at the national level, except for the localised spread observed in a few states.

The total number of active cases and high case positivity in some districts continue to remain a matter of concern, he told the chief secretaries of all states and UTs in identical letters.

According to the Union Health Ministry data updated at 8 am Saturday, 46,759 people tested pos-

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 28:** With enhanced supplies of Covid vaccines from the Centre, the Odisha government has revised its earlier target and now plan to inoculate 3.5 lakh people every day.

State Health & Family Welfare, Additional Chief Secretary, PK Mohapatra Saturday wrote to all District Collectors, municipal commissioners and chief district medical and public health officers in this regard.

In a communication to these officials, Mohapatra said, "The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) has now nearly doubled the monthly vaccine allocation to states and faster vaccine consumption will lead to higher allocations to the states. The issue of syringe availability has also been resolved now."

"In view of this, it is of utmost im-

portance that we step up the pace of vaccination in all districts," he said. Mohapatra has also asked the officials to give priority to people waiting for their second dose of vaccination, especially teachers, non-teaching staff of government and private schools and pregnant women.

The District Collectors and municipal commissioners have been directed to ramp up the vaccination drive accordingly to achieve the daily target fixed for their districts.

As per the letter, a target of 30,000 doses per day has been set for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), 28,500 for Ganjam district, 20,000 for Cuttack, 19,000 for Mayurbhanj, 18,000 for Balasore, 16,000 for Sundergarh, 15,000 for Jajpur, 14,500 for Keonjhar, 14,000 for Puri, 12,500 in Bolangir, 12,000 each in Bargarh, Kalahandi & Bhadrak and Kendrapara (11,500). All other districts have set a daily target of 10,000 or less.

# LADY SCRIBE, 4 OTHERS HELD FOR EXTORTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 28:** In a shocking incident, five persons, including a lady reporter and the owner of a news Web portal, were arrested by police Saturday for allegedly assaulting two businessmen in the city recently.

Nandankanan police have filed a case (93/21) on the basis of the complaint lodged by one of the victims, Purnachandra Sahoo, 32, of Nageswarpur village in Kendrapara district. Sahoo, in his complaint, alleged that the accused inflicted inhuman torture on him and his business partner, Vikram Singh, a resident of Asansol in West Bengal. Both Singh and Sahoo are jointly engaged in mining of iron ore since the last five months.

On August 2, Singh reached Bhubaneswar and sought the help of Sahoo in arranging a financier to invest in his mining business. Subsequently, the duo contacted different investors in Bhubaneswar.

Meanwhile, a friend of Singh, Ramanuja Mishra advised them to contact the prime accused and owner of the Web portal *Live Kalinga*, Raghunath Sahoo alias Raj of Patia. On August 5, they met Raj who assured them that he would help them to get ₹50 lakh from noted a businessman, Sanjay Hans, owner of Lalchnd Jewelers.

Later, he told them to come to the Web portal's office at Raghunathpur in Patia area where an employee of Hans would come to discuss the issue. When the duo reached the office, the security guard took their mobile phones away. Within a few hours, the duo realised that they have been trapped by Raj. The accused demanded ₹10 lakh from both Singh and Sahoo.

Raj and his staff kept the duo locked in the office and brutally thrashed them with plastic pipes and hunters. They allegedly scorched different parts of their body, including the private parts, with cigarette butts.

On August 7, Mishra came to know about the extortion plan and contacted Raj. He asked Raj to immediately release the duo or else he would inform the police. After Mishra's phone call, the staff of the portal left the office setting the duo free.

# Duty of citizens to expose lies of State: Justice Chandrachud

Justice Chandrachud said totalitarian governments are associated with a "constant reliance on falsehoods in order to establish dominance"

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 28:** While delivering a talk on the topic "Speaking Truth to Power: Citizens and the Law" as a part of the 6th MC Chagla Memorial Online Lecture, Justice Chandrachud said speaking truth to power is a right that every citizen must have in a democracy but equally, it is a duty of every citizen, the Live Law reported.

The right to speak truth to power by the citizens is integral to the functioning of a modern democracy, he said, adding, one cannot rely solely on the State to determine the truth but citizens must remain more vigilant and participate more actively in the process.

"Speaking truth to power" refers to an act by a speaker to use truth to criticise someone who is more powerful, Justice Chandrachud said. This act aims to uphold the right to hold truth to power with the assumption being that truth will counteract power and obviate a predisposition to tyranny, he added.

"Democracy and truth go hand in hand. Democracy needs truth to survive," he said.

Justice Chandrachud, however, said totalitarian governments are

associated with a "constant reliance on falsehoods in order to establish dominance" and public intellectuals have a duty to expose the lies of the state.

"It can't be said that State will not indulge in falsehood for political reasons even in democracies. The role of US in the

Vietnam War did not see the daylight until the Pentagon papers were published. In context of Covid, we see that there is an increasing trend of countries across the world trying to manipulate data.

Hence, one cannot only rely on the state to determine the truth," he said.

"As responsible citizens, we should put these truth providers through intense scrutiny and questioning to convince ourselves of the veracity of the claims made by them. It is equally important for those making truth

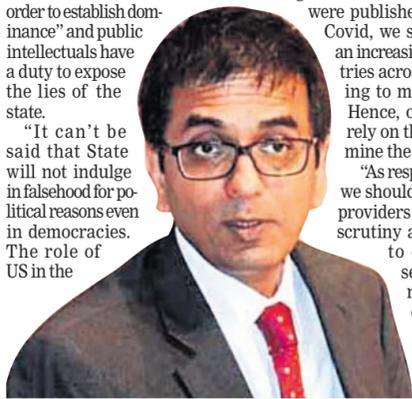
claims to be transparent," he added.

Referring to Hannah Arendt's ideas on totalitarian regimes and Noam Chomsky's call to action for intellectuals to speak the truth, Justice Chandrachud said it is the duty of every citizen to take steps to strengthen a country's public institutions. This can be done by ensuring schools and universities give students a free environment where they can differentiate truth from falsehood, the plurality of opinions is celebrated, the integrity of elections protected and steps taken to ensure that we have a free press.

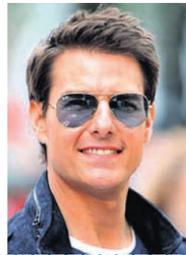
"People not being concerned about the truth is another phenomenon in the post-truth world. There is a contest between 'our

truth' versus 'your truth' and the tendency to ignore the truth which is not in alignment with one's perception of truth. We live in a post-truth world. Social media platforms are responsible... but citizens are also responsible. We incline towards echo chambers and don't like opposing beliefs... we live in a world that is increasingly divided along social, economic and religious lines," he said.

He added, "We only read newspapers that align with our beliefs... we ignore books written by people who do not belong to our stream... we mute the TV when someone has a different opinion... we do not truly care about the 'truth' as much as we do about being 'right'."



# leisure



## TOM CRUISE'S CAR STOLEN WHILE SHOOTING IN UK

Hollywood star Tom Cruise is currently in the UK filming the latest *Mission: Impossible* movie, and his luxury car got stolen by thieves. "Tom had been driven around in the car while in Birmingham and some of his luggage and belongings were inside it when it was taken," reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

## KRISTEN STEWART STUNS AS PRINCESS DIANA IN SPENCER

Hollywood star Kristen Stewart looks every inch like royalty as she channels Princess Diana in the first trailer for *Spencer*, an upcoming biographical drama about the beloved royal. Directed by Pablo Larrain, *Spencer* is set in 1991 as Diana grapples with the decision to end her marriage to Prince Charles.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Today you will be focussed and unshakable in your work. The results will be noticeable by mid-day. In the evening you will meet one of your admirers and this will take a load off your shoulders. Ganesh predicts that if you are unmarried, you will meet someone remarkable.

**TAURUS**  
You analysis, estimates and decisions, your planning and implementation is likely to be wayward and error prone. You could, thus, fall short of your targets today, warns Ganesh. Every thing you do is likely to be misplanned and misdirected. You are advised to maintain focus, and stick to the basics. Be watchful about your miscalculations and take corrective measures before things get out of hand. Take up financial matters later in the day.

**GEMINI**  
Ganesh warns that those around you could harbour feelings of enmity against you today. These people will try to malign your name and slander your reputation. However, in front of you these people will act like your well-wishers. You will taste the sweet fruit of success after much hard work, post noon, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will put your long-standing plan of buying a new house into action, or refurbishing the current house. You will have enough liquidity to be able to meet these expenses, and still be able to spare a substantial amount of money for investment in a business.

**LEO**  
Ganesh looks at the stars and foresees that you are at the receiving end of a lot of advice and suggestions from elders today. The best part is that you are likely to get influenced by them as well. Your workplace may look like a battlefield as there are chances that you get into open confrontation with peers. Be wary of legal disputes that might arise in the afternoon. Ganesh suggests that you meditate for peace of mind.

**VIRGO**  
Despite all the adversity that you face, you will stay firmly down to earth. Ganesh says there is a strong likelihood of the afternoon bringing some good tidings and good results that you have been looking forward to. Love and peace will prevail in your domestic life. Later today, Ganesh says, you may develop some new friendships.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that there are chances that you may start with a new business venture today. Those of you from the fields of Interior designing, beauty parlor, fashion boutiques etc will be able to gain success today. The day is a good one for monetary benefits to you. You will soon get good news from your children's end. All ventures undertaken by you will surely be successful.

**SCORPIO**  
At work, your day won't be smooth enough as you come across few hurdles. However, nothing will stop you from achieving short-term targets. Besides work, health will demand much of your attention today. You may even show an inclination towards the supernatural, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Calm and quite, you are in a mood of introspection today, foresees Ganesh. You will express your feelings and come out as a sentimental person in front of your family members. Afternoon is packed with appointments, either for business or fun and entertainment activities. However, you may loosen your purse strings during the evening to groom yourself.

**CAPRICORN**  
Today, you will be performing a balancing act as you will be balancing your domestic demands on one end and professional commitments on the other. Eventually, you will spend more time with your friends and family. You are surrounded with experienced and matured people, so ask for their guidance whenever you feel confused, advises Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
The world around you is changing fast and if you don't speed up, you are going to get lost in maze. Today, you're creative side will come to the fore and you will be able to materialise your ideas. Some matters need your attention immediately, but don't take any major decisions right now, advises Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
A progressive day when it comes to matter related to the workplace, says Ganesh. Projects that you have slaved over for long, will finally come to fruition today. You will be able to reap the benefits of your hard labour now. You will take up new and interesting projects now. Minor financial expenses could be the bump in the road for you today.

### NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

## Matchstick man creates a 'hockey stick' now

Miniature artist Saswat Ranjan Sahoo had earlier created sculptures including an idol of Lord Jagannath, Border-Gavaskar Trophy, an Army Tank, a Shiva Linga, a 1870 model penny-farthing bicycle and an Olympics Logo

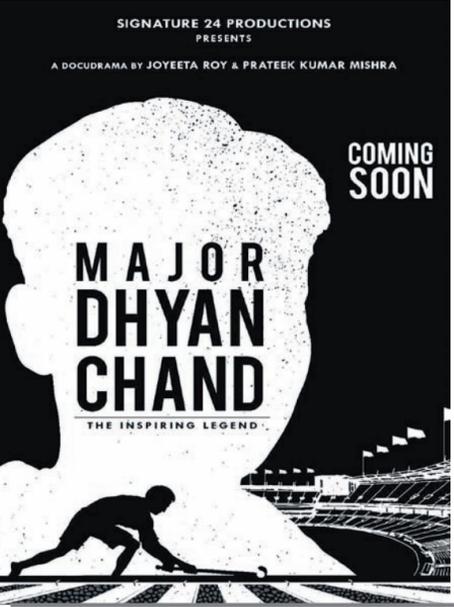


**Bhubaneswar:** Puri-based miniature artist Saswat Ranjan Sahoo is quite famous for creating breathtaking crafts from matchsticks. He has created crafts like an army tank, a radio, a chariot, a rakhi and even an idol of Lord Jagannath, using thousands of matchsticks. This time, he has come up with a miniature hockey stick made of matchsticks to mark National Sports Day. About his latest craft, Saswat says, "I took two days to make the hockey stick using 690 matchsticks. It is 5 inches in height with a width of 15 inches. Being a sports lover, I have great respect for hockey. That's why I decided to come up with a hockey stick to mark National Sports Day as part of my tribute to legendary hockey player Major Dhyhan Chand on his birth anniversary."

Saswat started making miniature crafts during lockdown last year. "We have seen sculptures made from plastic, fabric and several other objects. But not many people have attempted to do something using matchsticks. Earlier, I created Lord Balabhadra's Chariot 'Taladhwa' by using 10,220 matchsticks in just 11 days. Besides, my other creations include an idol of Lord Jagannath, Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Army Tank, Shiva Linga,

Nagarjuna Beshra of Lord Jagannath, 1870 model of a penny-farthing bicycle, Olympic Logo and rakhi," says Saswat.

Saswat presented his 'Army Tank' to Vice General of Army Chandiprasad Mohanty during the latter's visit to Jagannath temple and the 'Nagarjuna Beshra of Jagannath' to the Governor of Odisha Ganeshi Lal. "I will soon present a 'chariot' to our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik", signs off Saswat. PNN



## Major Dhyhan Chand's first teaser poster out

**Bhubaneswar:** National Sports Day is celebrated August 29, on the birth day of hockey wizard Dhyhan Chand, to honour the national teams and the sports icons of the country. Ahead of this day, the teaser poster of *Major Dhyhan Chand*, a docudrama on the life and times of the genius, was released Saturday. In the poster, the genius is seen practicing hockey barefoot on rail tracks. Joyeeta Roy of Signature 24 Productions, also one of the producers of the project, said,



## Kalira Atita to be streamed on multiple OTT Platforms

**Bhubaneswar:** The wait is over. National Award winning Odia film *Kalira Atita* is all set to be released on two global streaming platforms - MX Player and MUBI. Yet another ingenious creation of internationally acclaimed filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda, *Kalira Atita* focuses on rising sea levels induced by climate change. The film, which took over 13 years to complete, is now creating waves globally. After participating in prestigious festivals in the UK and Australia, the film is now heading for Norway, reveal production house sources. It has also been officially selected for screening at the 12th Annual Chicago South Asian Film Festival, Chicago. Panda, who made his debut in the Odia film industry with this film, says, "Odia Cinema has had such an amazing past, but somehow I miss seeing such classics being made in today's times. I hope we will be able to bring back those glorious times with this film." This would probably be the first Odia film to be streamed on two platforms simultaneously. It will be released on MUBI September 3, followed by MX Player. PNN

## RAKUL opens up on onscreen pairings

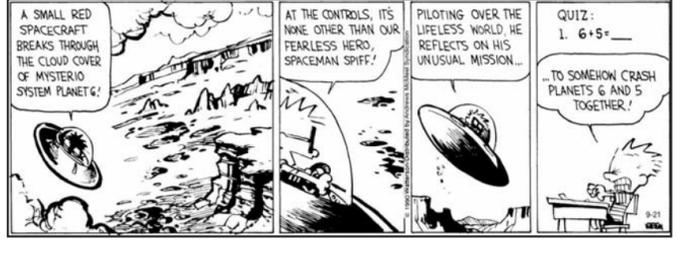
**Hyderabad:** Actress Rakul Preet Singh is gearing up for the release of her upcoming Telugu film *Konda Polam* alongside Panja Vaisshnav Tej.

The actress, who has worked with both senior and young actors, feels that the stereotypes of onscreen pairings are broken now. Rakul, who has worked with senior actors like Ravi Teja and Mahesh Babu, has also featured alongside younger stars like Sundeep Kishan. "I think the industry has completely changed today. Gone are the days when people used to think that if you work with senior actors, you can't work with junior actors, and vice versa. I think it's way past that... Now it's about the roles, it's about how you look and how you carry those," says Rakul. "Times have changed now. Films are changing and evolving and I really hope that the filmmakers see that and more opportunities and scripts come like that," she adds. IANS

### PEANUTS



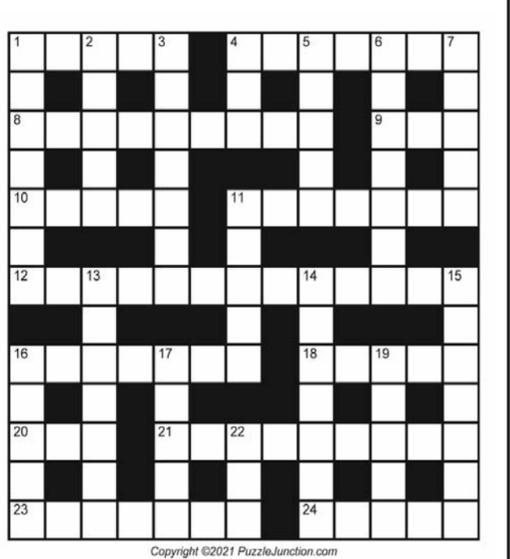
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



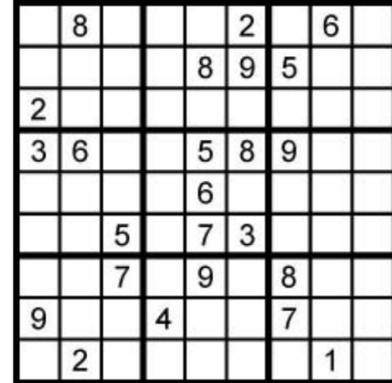
### FUN post CROSSWORD



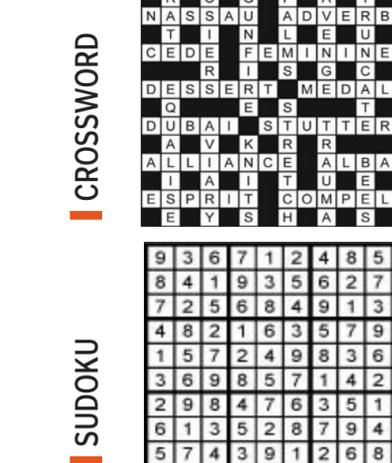
- Across**
- 1 Merits
  - 4 Deodorant type
  - 8 Coops
  - 9 ET's craft
  - 10 Martial arts expert
  - 11 Side arms
  - 12 Perfume (3,2,8)
  - 16 Queen's residence
  - 18 They're verboten (2-3)
  - 20 Weep
  - 21 Largest venomous snake (4,5)
  - 23 Gave way
  - 24 Part of the whole
  - Down**
  - 1 Elevate
  - 2 Fracas (3-2)
  - 3 Kind of compartment
  - 4 Commercial
  - 5 Deceptive maneuvers
  - 6 Ostracise (4,3)
  - 7 Crazy birds
  - 11 Lying facedown
  - 13 Functional
  - 14 Camera attachment (4,3)
  - 15 Subjugate
  - 16 Autocratic
  - 17 Annoyed
  - 19 Majestic
  - 22 Silent assent

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



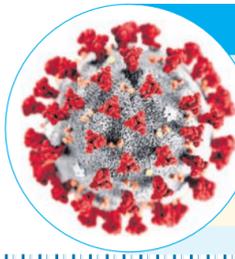
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## LIFE IS PRECIOUS

A traffic cop enforcing the road safety norms at Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	21,64,85,969	19,34,69,622	45,03,747
India	3,26,49,947	3,18,52,802	4,37,370
Odisha	10,05,654	9,90,796	7,765

# CUPF AT DHENKANAL TO BE READY BY 2023



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan lays the foundation stone for the facility, Saturday

The common user petroleum facility would help reduce the transportation cost of petroleum materials in central & north Odisha

Due to this project, Dhenkanal district will also have other small/ancillary industries which will create jobs for local people, he added.

The facility will reinforce supply security for petrol and diesel in central and north Odisha. The ₹394-crore project on 49.671 acres with 42,000 kilolitre storage capacity will be commissioned in 2023 and create massive employment opportunities, Puri said in a tweet.

Teli thanked the oil industries and the people of Dhenkanal for their support and efforts. He emphasised on completion of the terminal project within the stipulated time. More such projects are in pipeline from the ministry for the development of Odisha and Assam, he added.

While BPCL will be the lead company for developing this facility, the Capex will be shared amongst participating companies based on a mutually agreed formula. A target has been set to complete the project by August 2023.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 28:** Foundation stone for a common user petroleum facility (CUPF) that would be used by all the three oil marketing companies was laid at Sadashibpur in Dhenkanal district Saturday. A target has been set to complete the project by August 2023, said sources.

Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister of State (MoS) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli laid the foundation stone in the presence of local MLA and MP

while Hardeep Singh Puri joined the ceremony through videoconferencing.

Pradhan said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Purvodaya is to ensure infrastructure development of eastern part of India. India cannot be developed without the development of the eastern part of the country."

He said the Prime Minister emphasised the need for focused development of Eastern India to fuel the next wave of national growth. As a result, the Eastern States of India, particularly Odisha, has witnessed accelerated growth in the past years.

Pradhan said the common user pe-

# Heavy rain may lash state till Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 28:** The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday issued warning of heavy rain for two days.

The department said that heavy rain may continue in several districts of the state till Monday. Issuing warning for Sunday, the weatherman said, "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur."

It also added, "Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul and Dhenkanal districts."

The department also said that heavy rain could lash eight districts of Odisha Monday. "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati and Rayagada districts," the department said in its weather forecast till Monday.



Capital city witnesses heavy downpour, Saturday op photo

The met department however didn't issue any warning for the next three days after Monday. There is also no warning for the fishermen of the state.

As per IMD's evening bulletin, the state capital could see one or two spells of rain or thundershower Sunday while the maximum temperature in the city could go upto 32 degree Celsius.

The department in its rainfall report claimed that the highest rainfall in the state was reported in Paralakhemundi which saw 85mm of rainfall.

The maximum temperature in the state was reported in Talcher (33.6 degrees Celsius) while the minimum temperature was reported in Phulbani at 17.5 degree C.

# Covaxin single dose to infected equivalent to 2 doses for unaffected



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 28:** A single dose of Covaxin in Covid-19-infected individuals elicits a similar antibody response as obtained with two doses of the vaccine in those without a previous history of the disease, according to a study conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The study was published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research Saturday. "If our preliminary findings are confirmed in large population studies, a single dose of BBV152 vaccine may be recommended to previously confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infected individuals so that the naive individuals could attain the larger benefit of a limited vaccine supply," it said.

India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, codenamed BBV152, was approved by the government for emer-

gency use in January. Two doses are given with a gap of four to six weeks.

The study was undertaken to examine SARS-CoV-2-specific antibody responses after day zero (baseline, before vaccination), day 28 plus/minus two days post-first dose (month 1) and day 56 plus/minus two days post-first dose (month 2) of BBV152 in a group of healthcare professionals as well as frontline workers.

The antibody response of individuals with confirmed pre-vaccination SARS-CoV-2 infection was compared with those individuals without prior evidence of infection.

As part of the study, blood samples were collected from 114 healthcare professionals and frontline workers who received Covaxin at vaccination centres in Chennai from February to May 2021.

"Overall, good vaccine-induced antibody responses were seen in prior SARS-CoV-2-infected individuals, except in

## ICMR'S NEW FINDING

As part of the study, blood samples were collected from 114 healthcare professionals and frontline workers who received Covaxin at vaccination centres in Chennai from February to May 2021

Good vaccine-induced antibody responses were seen in prior SARS-CoV-2-infected individuals, except in two, who received a single dose of BBV152 vaccine that was similar to antibody responses seen after a two-dose vaccination course administered to infection-naive individuals

two, who received a single dose of BBV152 vaccine that was similar to antibody responses seen after a two-dose vaccination course administered to infection-naive individuals," the study stated.

"Our results in a varied group of healthcare professionals and frontline workers lend support to the previous studies (albeit mainly focused on mRNA vaccines) that increased levels of SARS-CoV-2 binding and neutralising antibodies are present after a single vaccine dose in previously infected individuals and are comparable to the levels seen after two doses in those without prior infection," it added.

The study offers evidence in support of public health-oriented and immunologically sustained vaccine strategies.

# Srimandir visitors in soup over fake RT-PCR reports

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, August 28:** Singhadwar police Saturday released four persons who were detained for submission of fake RT-PCR reports for visiting Srimandir here Friday.

The four persons—Manish Agrawal and Sneha Agrawal of Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh and Balabhadra Khuntia of

Gochhikar Sahi and Deepak Patra of Kalikadevi Sahi in the city here—were released after interrogation. Notices were also served on them, police said.

According to police, Manish and Sneha Friday submitted two RT-PCR negative reports at a verification kiosk near the Lions' Gate of Srimandir to visit the 12th century shrine. The officials at the kiosk found something unusual in the RT-PCR

reports and informed the same to Singhadwar police.

"The two devotees from Madhya Pradesh admitted that they had submitted fake RT-PCR reports at the kiosk. They told us that Deepak and Balabhadra had provided them the fake reports. We detained all of them for questioning after registering a case in this regard," said an official of Singhadwar police.

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**

आंध्र प्रदेश Government of India Undertaking

Andhra Corporation

**REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE**  
MANIKHAMB, OT ROAD, POLICE LINE,  
BHASKARGANJ, DIST.: BALASORE, PIN-756001,  
Email: cb8832recovery@unionbankofindia.com,  
Mob.: 8827539953, 8249176744

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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES**

(E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable/ Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (e-AB) & Union Bank of India (e-CB) (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" and "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 15.09.2021, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

**JAJPUR ROAD BRANCH (ERSTWHILE ANDHRA BANK),**  
Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, Ph. No.: 06726-220406, Email: bm0275@unionbankofindia.com

Name & Address of Borrower, Guarantors & Mortgagors:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower: M/s. Gupta Pharmaceutical Agency (Represented by its Partners), At: Gopabandhu Chhak, Near Bhimsen Palace, Jajpur Road-755019, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha, Partners / Guarantors / Co-obligant / Mortgagors/ Legal Heirs of Late Sudha Gupta: 1) Mr. Sanjay Kumar Gupta, 2) Mr. Sailesh Kumar Gupta, Both are at Gopabandhu Chhak, Near Railway Crossing, Jajpur Road-755019, Dist.: Jajpur, Partners/Guarantors/Mortgagors/ Legal Heirs of Late Sandeep Gupta: 1) Smt. Anita Gupta, W/o: Late Sandeep Gupta, 2) Miss Isha Gupta (Minor Daughter) represented by mother &amp; natural guardian Smt. Anita Gupta, Both are at Gopabandhu Chhak, Near Railway Crossing, Jajpur Road-755019, Dist.: Jajpur</b>	₹ 99,79,334.90 as on 15.03.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.1:</b> All that part and parcel of Immovable Property being residential Vacant Land Measuring Area: Ac.0.50dec. situated at Plot No.: 554, Khata No.: 35, Hal Plot No.: 676 under Khata No.: 76, Mouza: Sanapatuli, Tahasil: SRO: Jajpur, Dist.: Jajpur (Odisha), held in the name of <b>Hal Narayani Gupta</b> , Bounded (as per doc) by East: Rama Chandra Mohanty, West: Krushna Chandra Majhi, North: Krushna Chandra Majhi, South: Keonjhar-Jajpur Road	Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹2,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹2,00,000/-
<b>Name &amp; Address of Borrowers:</b>	Amount Due
<b>Borrowers: 1) Badajena Iron and Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by it's Director: Ranjit Kumar Badajena, 2) Ranjit Kumar Badajena, S/o: Prafulla Kumar Jena, 3) Aiswarika Badajena, W/o: Ranjit Kumar Badajena, All are at Plot No.: HIG-165, Kanan Vihar, Phase-1, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda</b>	₹ 2,68,95,508/- as on 03.10.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.2:</b> Land and Building - Residential belonging to <b>Ranjit Kumar Badajena (Owner of the Property)</b> , situated at Semi Urban Residential Land & Building, Area: Ac.1.64dec. at Mouza: Mangarajpur, P.S.: Byasanagar, Dist.: Jajpur, Khata No.: 199/69, Plot No.: 18, 34/975 & 33/974, Khata No.: 113, Plot No.: 11, 14, 25, 29, 30, 38 & 42, Khata No.: 199/72, Plot No.: 10, 15 & 32, Khata No.: 160, Plot No.: 31 and Bounded by East: NH-215, West: Self, Ranjit Badajena, Pabitra Rout & Govt. Land (in Gochar), North: Bhaskar Mallick, Tilotta Mallick, Raghu Mallick, Sara Mallick, Krushna Chandra Swain, Pond Embankment, South: Sankarshan Behera, Bhaskar Mallick	Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹2,23,50,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹22,35,000/-
<b>Property No.3:</b> Urban Land belonging to <b>Ranjit Kumar Badajena (Owner of the Property)</b> , situated at Semi Urban Residential Land, Area: Ac.0.272dec. at Mouza: Dolipur, P.S.: Korai, Thana No.: 10, P.S.: Byasanagar, Dist.: Jajpur, Khata No.: 480, Plot No.: 794, 796 & 520 and Bounded by East: Plot No.: 608, 795 & 894, West: Plot No.: 519, 521, 7792, North: Mr. Padani Jena & Others, South: Black Top Road.	Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹54,40,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹5,44,000/-

**KEONJHAR BRANCH (ERSTWHILE ANDHRA BANK),**  
Dist.: Keonjhar, Ph. No.: 06766-253783, Email: bm1299@unionbankofindia.com

Name & Address of Borrower, Guarantor & Co-applicant:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower: Mrs. Monika Singh, W/o: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, At: Rasiklal Colony, Near Town Thana Square, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 / Co-applicant/Guarantor: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, S/o: Mr. Maharaja Singh, At: Rasiklal Colony, Near Town Thana Square, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001</b>	₹ 25,21,121.03 as on 07.08.2018 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.4:</b> All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential Land and Building Measuring Area: Ac.0.11dec., situated at Khata No.: 229/226, Plot No.: 97/2510, Mouza: Turumunga, Dist.: Keonjhar, held in the name of <b>Mrs. Monika Singh</b> , Bounded by North: Road, South: Property of Ramesh Chandra Sahoo, East: Property of Ramesh Chandra Sahoo, West: Private Road	Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹15,42,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹1,54,200/-
<b>Name &amp; Address of Borrower, Guarantor &amp; Co-applicant:</b>	Amount Due
<b>Borrower: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, S/o: Mr. Maharaja Singh, At: Rasiklal Colony, Near Town Thana Square, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 / Co-applicant/Guarantor: Mrs. Monika Singh, W/o: Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, At: Rasiklal Colony, Near Town Thana Square, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001</b>	₹ 16,64,914.71 as on 03.06.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.5:</b> All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Urban Land measuring Ac.0.050 dec i.e. 2178 Sq. It situated at Plot No.: 227/1410, Khata No.: 136/437, Mouza: HatiaTangar, Bhaibarpur, Unit-7, Sadar, Keonjhar, held in the name of <b>Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh</b> , Bounded by North: Abhinav Kumar Dwivedi, South: Rabi Boital & Govt Land, East: Archana Dwivedi, West: Bikash Ranjan Das	Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹14,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹1,40,000/-

**JAJPUR TOWN BRANCH (ERSTWHILE CORPORATION BANK), At: Sitalashwar, Ambikei Chhak, Jajpur Town, Jajpur, Odisha-755001, Ph. No.: 8849371084, Email: cb1802@unionbankofindia.com**

Name & Address of Borrower:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower: M/s. Panchghata Verity Store, Prop.: Mr. Sashikanta Routray, At: Sridharpur, Mouza: Jalasarpur, Tahasil: Dasarathpur, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha - 755007</b>	₹ 8,24,152.39 as on 08.07.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.6:</b> All that part and parcel of the vacant Land and Building in the name of <b>Sri Sashikanta Routray</b> , Mutation Khata No.: 807/8, Plot No.: 695, Area: Ac.0.04 dec. (out of Total Area: Ac.0.13 dec. vide RSD No.: 781601547, dt. 21.10.2016), Kissanam of Land: Homestead (the above Khatian Corresponding to Hal Plot No.: 695 of Hal Khatian No.: 747), Mouza: Jalasarpur, Thana No.: 270, Tahasil: Dasarathpur, Dist./Thana/SRO: Jajpur, Odisha, Bounded by North: Road, South: Rest of the plot, East: Self, West: Masjid	Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹16,56,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹1,65,600/-

**BALASORE BRANCH (ERSTWHILE ANDHRA BANK),**  
Dist.: Balasore, Ph. No.: 06782-263530, Email: bm1022@unionbankofindia.com

Name & Address of Borrowers & Guarantor:	Amount Due
<b>Borrowers: 1) M/s. Sindhujama Agarbati Works, Prop.: Mr. Narayan Prasad Shaw, At: Kalidaspur, P.O.: Haripur, Via: Motiganj, Balasore-756003, 2) Mr. Narayan Prasad Shaw, At: Kalidaspur, P.O.: Haripur, Via: Motiganj, Balasore-756003 / Guarantor: Mrs. Subhadra Shaw, W/o: Mr. Narayan Prasad Shaw, At: Kalidaspur, P.O.: Haripur, Via: Motiganj, Balasore-756003</b>	₹ 36,90,331.39 as on 04.11.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.7:</b> All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Immovable property being Land & Building admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.110 Dec and Ac.0.190 Dec., Total Area: Ac.0.300 dec., situated in Plot No.: 277 & 278, Khata No.: 157/86, Jhatigudia, Gobindpur, Khantapada, Kuligaon Road, Balasore held in the name of <b>Mr. Narayan Prasad Shaw</b> , Bounded by North : Plot No.: 560 & 561, South: Road, East: Purna Ch. Behera, West: Srinath Dutta and Immoveable property being Residential Land and Building admeasuring Area: Ac.0.040dec. situated at Plot No.: 157/100, Jhatigudia, Gobindpur, Khantapada, Kuligaon Road, Balasore, held in the name of <b>Mr. Narayan Prasad Shaw</b> , Bounded by East: Purnachandra Behera, West: Srinath Dutta, North: Plot No.: 560 & 561, South: Road	Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹49,06,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,90,600/-

**BHADRAK BRANCH (ERSTWHILE ANDHRA BANK),**  
Dist.: Bhadrak, Ph. No.: 06784-241120, Email: bm1812@unionbankofindia.com

Name & Address of Borrowers, Co-applicants, Guarantors & Mortgagors:	Amount Due
<b>Borrowers : 1) M/s. JDP Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by it's Managing Director: Mr. Sachidananda Pati, S/o: Laxmikanta Pati at Gudupal, P.O.: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756139, 2) Sachidananda Pati (Managing Director), S/o: Laxmikanta Pati, At: Jhinkiria, P.O.: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 3) Sabita Routray (Director), W/o: Pratap Chandra Routray, At: Panda Colony, Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, Dist.: Ganjam-760003, 4) Jubaraj Mahala (Director), S/o: Late Dharanidhar Mahala, At: Jhinkiria, P.O.: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 5) Manoj Kumar Sahu (Director), S/o: Surendra Kumar Sahu, At: Kalimegha, P.O.: Bidyadharpur, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139 / Co-applicants, Guarantors &amp; Mortgagors: 1) Surendra Sahu, S/o: Late Margasira Sahu, At: Kalimegha, P.O.: Bidyadharpur, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 2) Rama Krushna Pati, S/o: Prahallad Pati, At: Jhinkiria, P.O.: Arasa, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 3) Satyasree Routray, S/o: Mr. Pratap Chandra Routray, At: Panda Colony, Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, Dist.: Ganjam-760003, 4) Mrs. Basantilata Sahu, W/o: Surendra Kumar Sahu, At: Kalimegha, P.O.: Bidyadharpur, P.S.: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756139, 5) Pratap Chandra Routray, S/o: Late Ananda Prasad Routray, At: Panda Colony, Berhampur, P.S.: Baidyanathpur, Dist.: Ganjam-760003</b>	₹ 5,49,13,907.50 as on 04.12.2018 with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.8 :</b> Factory Land & Building at Khata No.: 462, Plot No.: 425, Area: Ac.0.820dec., Plot No.: 424/3601, Area: Ac.0.120dec., Total Area: Ac. 0.940dec., at Gudupal, Via/P.S.: Tihidi, Bhadrak, standing in the name of <b>M/s. JDP Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by it's Managing Director: Mr. Sachidananda Pati</b>	Reserve Price: ₹2,22,85,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹22,28,500/-
<b>Property No.9 :</b> Plant and Machinery of Factory.	Reserve Price: ₹2,00,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹20,00,000/-

**BID INCREMENT AMOUNT FOR EACH PROPERTY : ₹10,000/-**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 15.09.2021 between 01:00 P.M. to 05:00 P.M. (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extention), e-Auction Website : www.mstcecommerce.com**

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit:  
<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/aucactionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/tendeViewAllAuction.aspx>

**Place : Balasore, Date: 27.08.2021** **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India**

# State shelled out ₹6.96cr subsidy for int'l flight ops

## MONSOON SESSION AHEAD



The entrance of Odisha Assembly in Bhubaneswar being refurbished ahead of the Monsoon Session, Saturday

OP PHOTO

The Centre had decided to provide 80 per cent of the subsidy under the viability gap funding (VGF) scheme by setting up a Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust (RACFT)

It was further decided that the remaining 20 per cent subsidy would be borne by the states.

Replying to the RTI plea filed by activist Pradipt Pradhan, the Odisha Tourism department stated that it had paid Rs 6.96 crore to Air Asia, operator for the only international flight between Odisha and Kuala Lumpur

Reply to the RTI application dt.20.12.2020 of Sri Pradipt Pradhan, Bhubaneswar.

Information sought in A: Name of the flight with No. flying from Bhubaneswar to other countries.

Information of A: Air Asia AK - 30 Bhubaneswar to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Air Asia AK - 31 Kuala Lumpur to Bhubaneswar.

Information sought in B: Provide total no. of tourists travelled to Odisha from these foreign countries from 2017 to 2020 through these international flights (Year-wise).

Year	Total
2017	23,164
2018	31,697
2019	25,523
2020	4,342

Information of B: Tourist travelled to Odisha from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

Information sought in C: Provide total amount of subsidy given by Govt. of Odisha for it (Year-wise) and calculation made for fixing certain subsidy amount.

Year	Total
2017-18	Rs. 4,43,70,000/-
2018-19	Rs. 2,53,06,000/-
Total	Rs. 6,96,76,500/-

Subsidy/VGF extended to M/S AIR ASIA Berhad from dt.26.04.2017 to dt.25.04.2018 @ Rs.1,70,000/- (inclusive of all taxes and duties) for every completed round trip.

Subsidy/VGF extended to M/S AIR ASIA Berhad from dt.26.04.2018 to dt.25.04.2019 @ Rs.97,500/- (inclusive of all taxes and duties) for every completed round trip.

A copy of the RTI reply

to be borne jointly by the state and the Centre on 80:20 basis. The decreased amount in subsidy is an indicator that international air connectivity has got a shot in the arm with cheaper and affordable travel," said a state government official.

The RTI also indicated that while Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) witnessed about 23,164 international flyers in 2017, it shot up to 31,697 in 2018 and 75,412 in 2019. Sources at the BPIA also said that before the ban on international travel, air fares from the state had dropped from Rs 2,000 to less than Rs 1,000.

Meanwhile, the Union government has requested the state government to give consent to provide 100 per cent VGF support for international UDAN operations on flights from Bhubaneswar to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Colombo, Singapore and Kathmandu. On receipt of the consent of the state government for 100 per cent VGF support, routes will be put for bidding by the airlines.

# Cong bats for abolition of contractual system

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The state unit of Congress Saturday demanded abolition of contractual system of recruitment and outsourcing in government offices.

Addressing the media at Congress Bhawan here, party spokesperson Satyaprakash Nayak said, "The government has been giving contracts to several private agencies which are engaging the unemployed youths at poor salaries. The government should remove the contractual posts in government projects. Otherwise, the youths of the state would be pushed to misery."

He also said that earlier the youths had a dream of landing on



Congress leader Satya Prakash Nayak addresses media, Saturday

a government job and they were working hard to achieve this. But, now the government has handed over the recruitment contracts to private firms. "This will lead to poor productivity and demotivation which could lead to economic

issues," he said. Nayak said, "The government should pay the contractual staffers as per the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission. The government also needs to work on the age limits of youths preparing for

Youths with BTech and MTech degrees are getting salaries around ₹8,000 per month due to privatization in job contracts, said Nayak

government jobs." Nayak also applauded the wages fixed in the state. "The state government's Labour Commission fixed the daily wage at a higher rate which is a welcome step. But people with BTech and MTech degrees are getting salaries around Rs 8,000 per month due to privatization in job contracts, outsourcing and contractual works," he said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The state government has provided around Rs 6.96-crore subsidy for the operation of the only flight between Bhubaneswar and Kuala Lumpur from 2017 to 2019, revealed a Right to Information (RTI) reply.

In a bid to boost passenger foot-fall on international routes, the Centre had launched a scheme to operate subsidised flights to cities in Asian region such as Singapore, Bangkok, Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur.

The Centre had decided to provide 80 per cent of the subsidy under the viability gap funding (VGF) scheme by setting up a Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust (RACFT). It was further de-

ecided that the remaining 20 per cent subsidy would be borne by the states.

Replying to the RTI plea filed by activist Pradipt Pradhan, the Odisha Tourism department stated that it had paid Rs 6.96 crore to Air Asia, operator for the only international flight between Odisha and Kuala Lumpur. It also revealed that Rs 4.43 crore and Rs 2.53 crore subsidies were provided in 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

The scheme had provisions that the subsidy would be provided to some select airlines for the passenger seats which remain unoccupied at the time of flight operation.

"What this meant is that if an operator expected only 30 passengers out of a 100-seater flight, the subsidy for the remaining 70 seats is

## Skill competition

BHUBANESWAR: Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) has conducted Odisha Skill Competition in categories like joinery, cabinet making, carpentry, 3D digital game art, health and social care and automobile technology. These competitions were organised by Odisha Skill Development Authority and CUTM was selected as one of the venues. CUTM acts as a qualifier for regional skill competition which is a way to make to India Skills and then to World Skill Shanghai 2022.

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**AFFIDAVIT**

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Cuttack on Dt.27.08.2021, I, SYED OBAIDUR RAHMAN, 56 yrs., S/o. Late Syed Habibur Rahman of Khatbin Sahi, P.O.- Buxibazar, P.S.- Lalbag, Dist.- Cuttack, PIN - 753001 want to declare that my name (SYED OBAIDUR RAHMAN) as well as my Wife's Name (Late Rizwana Rahman) has been misspelt as SAYED OBAIDUR RAHMAN and RIZUANA REHMAN respectively in the School Certificate of my daughter Rubina Rakhshi. Henceforth my name as well as my wife's name may be correctly spelt as SYED OBAIDUR RAHMAN and Late RIZWANA RAHMAN respectively for all purposes.

# 117 children in Puri district get Ashirbad succour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, August 28: The Puri district administration and the district child protection unit Saturday provided financial assistance to 117 children under the Ashirbad scheme of the state government.

Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu provided the assistance through cheques at a videoconferencing. She also interacted with the children on various issues.

"We have provided financial assistance to 117 children under Ashirbad scheme in the first phase. Steps have been taken to provide free education to the beneficiaries in government/private schools. They have been provided with free uniforms and books. The beneficiaries would be included under several other welfare schemes of the state government," Sahu said.

The state government had launched the Ashirbad scheme in June this year to provide financial assistance and other benefits to children who lost their parents

## AID FOR COVID-HIT

The state had launched the Ashirbad scheme in June this year to provide assistance to kids who lost both their parents or the main earning member of the family on or after April 1, 2020 due to Covid-19 or other reasons

₹2,500 per month will be provided to the children who have lost both parents to Covid-19 and Rs 1,500 per month to those who have lost a single parent to the virus on or after April 1, 2020

or the main earning member of the family on or after April 1, 2020 due to Covid-19 or other reasons.

As per the announcement, Rs 2,500 per month will be provided to the children who have lost both parents to Covid-19 and Rs 1,500 per month to those who have lost a single parent to the virus on or after April 1, 2020.

The amount will be transferred



Puri Collector Samarth Verma and other dignitaries during the distribution of Ashirbad aid, Saturday

to the bank accounts of the guardians/caretakers of such children till they attain the age of 18. The assistance will not be provided in case the child has been adopted. The beneficiaries will be included under the central/state food security scheme and the state government's Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana for availing free medical services.

Such children can also continue in schools in which they were studying before the demise of their parents. If the relative, who has taken responsibility, resides elsewhere, arrangement of schooling will be made in that case. If necessary, the state government will help in the admission of such children in Adarsh Vidyalaya or Central School. The state government will assist

these children to pursue higher education under the Green Passage scheme.

As per the scheme, the relative, who would take the responsibility of the orphaned/hapless kid, would be eligible for a house under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana. Out-of-turn allotment will be made for him/her. The relative will be covered under other government welfare schemes as per his/her eligibility.

"We have identified 528 children for inclusion under Ashirbad scheme. Details of 269 kids were verified and 117 among them have been included in the scheme in the first phase," said an official of the district administration.

According to the official, a total of 24 kids from Puri municipality area, 26 from Brahmagiri, two from Satyabadi, 18 from Nimapara, six from Kakatpur, three from Puri Sadar, eight from Pipili, three from Kanas, 12 from Krushnaprasad, seven from Delang, three from Gop and five from Astarang have been included under the scheme.

# Interstate drug peddler nabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch has arrested an interstate drug peddler from Balasore. The accused has been identified as Sk Raju, a resident of Masjidgali at Aradabazar in Balasore.

Police claimed that Raju used to procure brown sugar from West Bengal and supply the contraband to local traders in Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other areas of the state.

The accused was produced before the District and Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge in Balasore Friday.

The STF had earlier arrested three of his associates who were in possession of 2.402 kg brown sugar. A case (30/21) under Sections of 21 (c) and 29 of NDPS Act was also registered.

## FITNESS MANTRA



People participating in a yoga camp at a hotel in Puri, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# 1,602 kids & adolescents contract virus since Aug 15

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Altogether 1,602 children and adolescents contracted Covid-19 since August 15, said sources at Health department Saturday adding that 779 more people, including 105 children, tested positive for Covid-19 in Odisha.

The Covid tally in the state has now reached 10,05,654, said a Health department official Saturday. Sixty-eight fresh fatalities took the death toll to 7,765, he added.

The daily positivity rate was at 1.09 per cent as 779 new Covid cases were detected from 71,137 sample tests conducted in the last 24 hours, the official said.

The infection rate among people below 18 years of age was at 13.47 per cent, up from 12.99 per cent recorded Thursday.



Altogether, 1,602 children and adolescents contracted the disease since August 15, and 35 of them died during the period, he said.

Of the fresh cases, 454 were reported from quarantine centres, and 325 detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district registered the highest number of new patients at 259, while Nabarangpur did not report any fresh case.

Odisha now has 7,996 active cases, and 9,89,840 people have re-

covered from the disease. Of the new fatalities, 25 were reported from Cuttack, seven each from Kendrapara and Khurda, six from Jagatsinghpur, five each from Angul and Mayurbhaj, the official said.

Three Covid deaths each were recorded in Balasore, Bhadrak and Dhenkanal, two in Nayagarh and one in Puri. Fifty-three other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities, he said.

The state has thus far conducted over 1.78 crore sample tests for Covid-19, including 71,137 Friday, and the positivity rate stands at 5.62 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Health department asked all the district Collectors, municipal commissioners and public health officers to remain vigilant, following reports of fake Covishield vaccine.

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**KHARASROTA RIVER PROJECT**

# TALKS INCONCLUSIVE



The controversy surrounding the mega drinking water project on the Kharasrota river gathered momentum in Rajnagar area

After the meeting with administration drew no conclusion, activists of Kharasrota Nadi Banchoo Sangram Samiti warned that they would intensify their protest in coming days

Collector Amrit Raturaj said it can't be said that the meeting turned futile. The Samiti had placed two demands and the same will be informed to the state government. The construction work is going on unhampered and will soon end, he said

Dolagovinda Nayak, Sharat Chandra Rout, Kali Prasad Nayak, Sabita Baraj and Ramakanta Rout attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed issues related to IIT Hyderabad's report, the amount of water in Kharasrota river, construction of the barrage, the project's impact on local areas and Bhitarkanika National Park among others. "The meeting failed as there was disagreement over the ownership of the land on which the project is being constructed," informed Samiti's secretary Das.

"The owner of the land is Sheikh Hussain Badshah, son of T Hussain Saheb from Budhwar Peta Kurnool Camp (B) in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. The project is being constructed on the land he purchased in 2019. We are yet to understand why the state government is constructing the project on his land. The project's construction work was started without a survey regarding the volume of water in the Kharasrota river. While 20 million litres of water is required per day for the beneficiaries, there is a plan to draw 117 million litres per day from the river,"

informed Das.

"The owner of the project site is a resident of Andhra Pradesh. And the government is getting the project done employing all possible means. This raises a doubt," he added.

"The area of the project site measures 70 decimals belonging to three 'khatas.' But the district administration has kept around 70 acres of land in its custody, affecting cultivation and cattle grazing. A playground has also shrunk. When we raised these issues in the meeting, the Collector tried to convince us with irrelevant topics," he further added.

When contacted, Kendrapara District Collector Amrit Raturaj said it can't be said that the meeting turned futile. "The Samiti had placed two demands and the same will be informed to the state government. Meanwhile, the construction work is going on unhampered and will soon end," he added.

**RUN FOR HEALTH**



Youth participating in the 'Fit India Freedom Run' event organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra in Sambalpur, Saturday

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara/ Pattamundai, August 28:** With the meeting between the district administration and the members of the Kharasrota Nadi Banchoo Sangram Samiti Friday having failed, the controversy surrounding the mega drinking water project on the Kharasrota river gathered momentum in the locality.

Immediately after the meeting, the members of the Samiti, while briefing journalists, said they would intensify their protest in coming days. They said they warned the administrative officials present in the meeting that even if the construction work ends, they would never allow the project to function.

The meeting was held on the premises of Pattamundai block office. From the administration side, District Collector Amrit Raturaj, SP Madkar Sandeep Sampat and Sub-Collector Niranjan Behera and from the protestors' side, Sangram Samiti's president Durjoydhana Mohanty, secretary Bidhan Chandra Das, convenor Debendra Nath Sharma,

## Pilferage in PDS goes on as admin sits pretty in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, August 28:** Irregularities have allegedly been committed in the PDS in Balasore. Food stuff meant for beneficiaries is being misappropriated while beneficiaries have been left fuming. The administration was accused of failing to check irregularities in PDS. Members of the youth wing of Bharatiya Rashtriya Mazdoor Congress have taken up the issue with the sub-collector, the civil supplies officer and the deputy registrar of cooperative societies.

During the distribution of PDS items, dealers and retailers have been reducing kerosene and wheat quota every month while official records are maintained to show that the quota has been delivered to beneficiaries in right measures.

"Every month, quintals of wheat are pilfered while delivering items to beneficiaries. Whenever beneficiaries complain about their reduced quota, the dealers explain try to explain it differently. This has been happening over months, but the civil supplies authorities do little to check such open pilferage," it was alleged.

The Collector and the district civil supplies officer had visited the PDS distribution centre at Sasang panchayat recently.

Next day beneficiaries were still given 1.3 litre of kerosene instead of their monthly quota of 1.5 litre each. But in the records, it was mentioned that beneficiaries received their full quota.

District civil supplies officer Pradyumna Rout said they have received complaints from beneficiaries. "Action will be taken after an investigation," he added.

# Foundation stone for GM's 2nd campus laid

AGENCIES

**Sambalpur, August 28:** The foundation stone for the second campus of Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) at Badsinghari near Basantpur area, on the outskirts of the town, was laid by vice-chancellor N Nagaraju.

The VC laid the foundation stone Friday in the presence of vice-chancellor of the Odisha State Open University (OSOU), Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra, Registrar of OSOU, Manas Ranjan Pujari and registrar of the GMU, Jugaleswari Dash.

Deputy registrar of GMU, UC Pati said the second campus of the GMU will be developed over 67 acres of the land. The department of Higher Education, Odisha, has provided ₹2.11 crore for the construction of a boundary wall surrounding the land. The boundary wall work began Friday.

The Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHC) is carrying out the construction of the boundary wall. A target has been set to complete the construction of the boundary wall in four months and in the meantime, the architectural plan for the second campus will be prepared, he said.

Pati said the construction work of the buildings for the second campus at Badsinghari will be carried out with the fund of the Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). RUSA has al-



ready sanctioned ₹27.5 crore for the development of infrastructure of the institution in the first phase.

The fund is being spent on the development of infrastructure in the existing campus of the university in Sambalpur city. The institution will get a grant of ₹27.5 crore more in the second phase from RUSA.

The fund, which will be received in the second phase, will be utilised for construction of buildings at Badsinghari, he said.

"We have planned to shift all the science departments of the university to the second campus after it is constructed. This apart, the new departments, which will be opened in future, will also function from the new campus. Moreover, an administrative building, library, guest house will also be developed there", Pati said.

# Admin fails to deliver on rural job scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, August 28:** Owing to Covid-induced difficulties, the government has underscored the need for proper implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) so that rural people get sufficient work. However, Chhatrapur block has lagged behind other blocks in executing the rural job scheme. Over 2,000 projects under the scheme have not yet started.

Scores of people in the block are deprived of availing work under the scheme when the difficulties due to the second wave of Covid are yet to subside.

Reports said, there are 22 blocks in Ganjam while Chhatrapur has remained at the bottom so far as implementation of the rural job scheme is concerned.

As the MGNREGS execution has not been encouraging in the block, Collector Vijay Amruta

**POOR MGNREGS SHOW IN CHHATRAPUR**



Kulange had issued a show cause notice to the then BDO. Later, the BDO was transferred. Another BDO has been given additional charge of the block while the government is yet to make the new posting.

It is said that due to Covid restrictions, thousands of people have lost jobs. They used to work in other states and have returned to villages. Since they have no

work, they go through a lot of hardship.

Given such situations, the Collector has been asking the block authorities to execute projects under MGNREGS. The district administration is upset over poor show of the block administration in executing the projects even though many officials have been working in the block over years. As per official data, 25,708 fam-

As many as 2,637 projects under the scheme have not been started. The block administration has managed to create 6,08,216 workdays while works of 105 projects have been finished

ilies in Chhatrapur block have got job cards while only 10, 324 families have been provided work under the scheme till Saturday.

Till date, the block administration has managed to create 6,08,216 workdays under the scheme. Only works at 105 projects have been finished while work on 1834 projects is in different stages. However, 2,637 projects have not been started. Negligence by officials is allegedly undermining the effectiveness of the rural jobs guarantee scheme in this block.

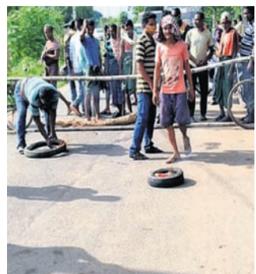
**FARMERS FUME OVER ELEPHANT MENACE**

# 2 forest officials detained in Hindol

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Hindol/Boinda/Baripada, August 28:** Elephants are wreaking havoc with paddy and vegetables in parts of Hindol in Dhenkanal district, Boinda in Angul district and Betanoti in Mayurbhanj district.

Local were upset over continued depredation by the jumbos in Bunsapokhari panchayat in Dhenkanal district. Two forest officials visited the village Saturday. Angry locals detained two officials and blocked the Hindol-Angul road for hours, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded. Over last 15 days, animals have



been damaging crops, but the forest department is allegedly doing nothing. The two officials had told their higher-ups about their

detention by locals. Another report from Kishorenagar said a herd of 12 elephants has been on a damaging spree in the areas under Handapa range.

They have damaged 5,000 cauliflower, 200 plantain trees and 100 mango trees Friday night. The animals have also trampled crops in acres of land.

Farmers alleged that the forest department is neither coming out to assess the crop damage nor driving the animals out of the range.

Handapa ranger Chaitanya Behera said a special squad has been formed to drive the animals

out. He assured that affected farmers would be provided with compensations.

Reports from Baripada said that elephants from Jharkhand and Simlipal sanctuary have caused extensive damage to crops in Betanoti range.

A herd of 25 elephants from Jharkhand and 10 from Simlipal caused havoc in Dantiamuhan and Chitrada areas.

Due to presence of elephants, many villages in the region are reeling from darkness as the energy department has snapped power supply for safety of animals.

## Vyasagar NAC in Jajpur to have indoor stadium

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, August 28:** The state government has approved the construction of an indoor stadium at Vyasagar Notified Area Council (NAC) limits of Jajpur district. The matter came to the fore after a letter of the works department under secretary Mukhtikanta Patra reached the officer on special duty (OSD) of Roads and Buildings department in Jajpur.

According to sources, the government approved 89 multi-purpose indoor stadiums in Odisha including 52 NACs, 30 municipalities and three municipal corporations. In his official letter, Patra has directed the OSD to take necessary steps in this regard soon.

The multi-purpose indoor stadium will help support emerging sportspersons in Jajpur, the official said.

On the other hand, local residents have raised doubts on successful implementation of the project. A pond digging work which was started three years ago has been left midway and not completed yet.

The infrastructure and development projects like Vyasa Sarovar and Vyasa Jagannath Udyan have faced the same fate. Several heritage sites in Jajpur district like Udaygiri, Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Olasuni and Ashokjhar have also been neglected, the denizens alleged. They demanded that the project should not be left halfway once its construction is started.

## Kin stage sit-in over patient's death in Gajapati

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, August 28:** Tension flared up on the premises of district headquarters hospital here in Gajapati district Saturday as relatives of a patient who died allegedly due to medical negligence staged a sit-in, laying a siege to the medical road.

A report said, N Laxman Rao, a resident of Seri Sahi, complained of stomach pain. His family members immediately rushed him to the DHH. While undergoing treatment, he

succumbed Saturday morning. Family members accused the doctor of neglecting his treatment.

Demanding action against the doctor, the irked family members staged a sit-in in front of the DHH, disrupting traffic on the medical road.

Police officials rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the agitators. But the agitating family members stuck to their demand.

They said they will not call off their stir until action against the doctor is taken. At the time of filing this report, the sit-in was still on.

**AWARENESS VEHICLE**



Sadar sub-collector Abhimanyu Behera flagging off awareness vehicle Kishan Rath for farmers in Sundargarh, Sunday

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Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of Work /Service	Estimated Total Project Cost (₹ in Million)
1.	2021_MCL_215197_1	Development and Operation of Subhadra OCP (West of Gopalprasad west & Utkal-A Block) as per Part-II (scope of the Project) of Contract Agreement and other requirements specified in the Contract Agreement for the period of 25 (Twenty-five) years.	22618.40

Documents Download Start Date & Time: 22.08.2021, 6.30 PM, Documents Download End Date & Time: 23.10.2021, 05.00 PM, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: 01.09.2021, 10.00 AM, Bid Submission End Date & Time: 23.10.2021, 05.00 PM & Bid Opening Date & Time: 25.10.2021, 11.00 AM. MCL e-Procurement Help desk (Ph. 0663-2542695/2542264, e-mail : [hlp-eproc.mcl@coalindia.in](mailto:hlp-eproc.mcl@coalindia.in)) R-5070

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. G274-cycle-2wheeler-BBS-1  
NAME OF WORK : QUOTATION CONTRACT FOR OPERATION OF CYCLE & TWO WHEELER PARKING STAND AT PLATFORM-1 SIDE OF BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATION FOR 90 DAYS.  
Advertised Value : ₹ 3,62,970/-, EMD : ₹ 1,21,000/-, Period of Completion : 03 Months.  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1200 Hrs. of 14.09.2021.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road PR-319/M21-22

FOCUS CRYPTOCURRENCY

# REGULATING CRYPTOMANIA



The pandemic-driven low-interest regime has also contributed to a booming stock market and investment in cryptocurrencies

Investment in cryptocurrencies has exponentially grown in recent times. Globally speaking, at the end of Q1 2021, the crypto market capitalisation was \$1.9 trillion. Compared to the Q1 of 2020, the market witnessed massive growth in market capitalisation (+146% vs -8%) and trading volume (+155% vs +48%), as presented in Coingecko's Q1-21 report. The Indian cryptomarket has equally grown. Unocoin launched its exchange in 2013, followed by Zebpay in 2015, CoinDCX and WazirX in 2018 and Coinswitch KUBER in 2020. The number of users in a typical exchange ranges between 2-13 lakhs. The exchanges are trying to lure potential customer-investors to buy coins for as small as ₹100. It's the fungibility that is marketed to the common man.

The other incentives offered to attract investors include zero fees and no lock-in period. Indians have started parking relatively more money in equities and mutual funds these days compared to earlier times. The recent data on household financial assets and liabilities show household net financial assets at 21% of GDP in Q1 of 2020-21 compared to 4% in Q1 of 2019-20. A recent Livemint report says that Sensex has given 44.76% one-year returns to an Indian investor whereas fixed deposits, liquid funds and gold have yielded 4.9%, 3.15% and -13.04% respectively. In contrast, as on August 26 Bitcoin has witnessed more than 300% increase in its price over one year, reports CoinGecko. Moreover, the pandemic-driven low-interest regime has also contributed to a booming stock market and investment in cryptos. Increased retail participation in stock markets speaks of increased awareness about stocks and near-stocks like cryptocurrencies during the pandemic. It is also not surprising for the average Indian investor to be lured by crypto exchanges' advertisements. But the return on these virtual coins has witnessed very high volatility implying the inherent risk in such coin investments. How justified is this cryptomania despite regulatory uncertainties? The Indian exchanges have been struggling with regulatory uncertainty since April 6, 2018, the day RBI prohibited all commercial and cooperative banks, payments banks, small finance banks, NBFCs, and payment system providers from dealing in virtual currencies. This was followed by the monetary policy press conference saying, "currency issuance is a sovereign function, and a private currency cannot overwrite what is in the sovereign domain." The government of India, in its 2018-19 Budget, had declared to take all measures against cryptocurrencies since they were not legal tender. But in March 2020, the Supreme Court set aside the RBI Circular on Prohibition on Dealing in Virtual Currencies on the ground of proportionality, giving some relief to the market. One of the RBI papers in 2020 identifies "Cryptocurrencies as one of the business models of the Indian Fintechs and as one of the forces of creative disruption. This business model deals with bitcoin and other digital currency products and services with 342 firms engaged in this business." So, for RBI it's a transition from cognizance to confusion on regulating cryptocurrencies. After the apex court's verdict, the trading of cryptocurrencies in Indian exchanges picked up again. Further, the RBI booklet, "Payments and settlement systems in India, 2010-20" has been apprehensive about risks associated with cryptocurrency with discussion on the possibility of introducing a digital version of the fiat currency -- the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II (no. 1989-2025) has listed a bill, "to create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the RBI and also to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India."

ture the use of cryptocurrencies. In the absence of accurate data on crypto usage it is difficult to design taxes. The crypto exchanges suggested taxing crypto transactions instead of entirely banning them. Thirdly, the government has been apprehensive about illegal transactions and money-laundering with such coins' use. Finally, keeping aside the possible benefits of the blockchain technology underlying cryptocurrencies often debated in the public domain, its volatility is a potential threat to financial stability. But a recent statement by the Union Finance Minister in the India Today Conclave South held during March 12-13, 2021 indicated the possibility of the government allowing a certain amount of window for people to experiment on blockchain and bitcoin, not entirely shutting off crypto related activities. Soon after this WazirX, CoinDCX and Coinswitch Kuber crashed May 19, 2021. Paytm did stop its banking support to crypto exchanges May 22, 2021.

What could be the future of cryptocurrencies in India amid such uncertainty in the market and without any clarity by the regulator? First, there may not be a blanket ban on cryptocurrencies so that the underlying technology is encouraged. These currencies are expected to be traded as any other 'high risk' assets. Secondly, the regulation may call for necessary changes in the Income Tax provisions to tax a limited set of transactions as the government may deem fit. Third, the RBI may issue CBDC as legal tender. But CBDC won't serve the purpose of those investing in cryptocurrencies. The CBDC and private virtual currencies are different though both may function using distributed ledger technology. The former is legal tender, whereas the latter are decentralised, well beyond the control of any central bank. Let us hope the regulation in the offing will clear the dust soon.

The writer is Professor, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad.

## With Hounds & Hares

Is India in a military and strategic alliance with the United States or is it not? In January this year, the United States declassified a 2018 document which says its national security challenge is "to maintain US strategic primacy... while preventing China from establishing new, illiberal spheres of influence." It lays out the case of how China's rise will change the region and challenge US influence globally, and concludes that "a strong India, in cooperation with likeminded countries, would act as a counterbalance to China."

To this end, the 'desired end state' the US sought, was to be 'India's preferred partner on security issues,' and 'the two cooperate to preserve maritime security and counter China's influence.' As part of this, the Americans would also have as an objective the creation of a quadrilateral (Quad) framework that would pull in the navies of India, Japan, Australia and the US as the 'principal hubs' ranged against Chinese influence. Over a couple of pages, the US lays out the plan of how it will make India a 'Major Defence Partner' and how 'a strong Indian military (would) effectively collaborate with the United States.'

The document lays out also what is intended to be done with China: prevent it from 'harming US competitiveness' and 'prevent China's acquisition of military and strategic capabilities.' The zone of the Quad's operations, the so-called Indo-Pacific, is centred around the Strait of Malacca, a narrow passage linking the Indian Ocean with the Pacific, between Malaysia and Indonesia through which the bulk of China's imports and exports flow. The dependence of China on this passage has led that country to consider the 'Malacca Dilemma' and is behind the Belt and Road Initiative, opening up alternative routes. So why was India signing up for this alliance to thwart China? It is not clear. With no discussion in Parliament, with no interviews to the media and no press conferences, with no reference to this in his manifestos, Modi began drifting India into a strategic partnership and military alliance with the US. In February 2020, during Donald Trump's visit to India and days before the Ladakh crisis began, Modi committed India to this agreement essentially ranged against China. 27 October 2020, during the visit of US defence secretary, Mike Pompeo, India signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). It would help India access American intelligence to improve the accuracy of the Indian Army's missiles and armed drones. This portended air force-to-air force cooperation. The second agreement signed was the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA). It allows the two nations' militaries to replenish from each other's bases, and access supplies, spare parts and services from each other's land facilities, air bases and ports, which could then be reimbursed.

LEMOA is for India-US navy-to-navy cooperation. Signing the BECA pact in Delhi, Pompeo attacked China directly: 'I am glad to say that the United States and India are taking steps to strengthen cooperation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese Communist Party.' Secretary of State Mike Esper said: 'We stand shoulder to shoulder, in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific for all, particularly in light of increasing aggression and destabilising activities by China.'

Rajnath Singh and Jaishankar, who were standing next to Pompeo and Esper, did not name China. Rajnath Singh's prepared remarks (which were later changed) had reference to this line, which was later deleted: 'Excellencies, in the area of defence we are challenged by reckless aggression on our northern borders.' This change was not given to the Indian translator in English, who read out the original text and the Americans released it, to India's discomfort.

When that paper on America's strategy was declassified, China said that 'its content only serves to expose the malign intention of the United States to use its Indo-Pacific strategy to suppress and contain China and undermine regional peace and stability.' And that 'the US side is obsessed with ganging up, forming small cliques and resorting to despicable means such as wedge-driving, which fully exposed its true face as a trouble-maker undermining regional peace, stability, solidarity and cooperation.' India did not react to the release of the document.

The third pact, signed earlier, was the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA). It allows India access to encrypted communications equipment and systems so that Indian and US military commanders, and the aircraft and ships of the two countries, can communicate through secure networks. BECA, LEMOA and COMCASA completed a trioka of 'foundational pacts' for deep military cooperation between the two countries. COMCASA was signed in September 2018, five months after Modi travelled to Wuhan to meet Xi. The Wuhan spirit agreement between Modi and Xi, signed 28 April 2018, says that India and China would not be rivals but would cooperate with each other. They would 'push forward bilateral trade and investment.' The rest of the statement is anodyne, in keeping with Modi's fondness for informal summits with no particular agenda, but the spirit referred to is that of cooperation and not rivalry.

The problem, whether he fully understood it or not, is Modi was hunting with the hounds and running with the hares. At the same time as Modi was holding hands with Xi, India was also winking at Trump's Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at China. In May this year, Army Chief Naravane told PTI in an interview that the Quad is not a military alliance: "The Quad neither intends nor attempts to be a military alliance. It is meant to be a plurilateral grouping which focuses on issues specific to the Indo-Pacific. Some countries have portrayed the Quad as a military alliance to raise unsubstantiated fears despite no concrete evidence to show the same."

So is India in a military alliance with the US against China or is it not? We do not know, because there has been no discussion, no transparency and most likely no real thinking on this matter at our end.



What is God after all? An eternal child playing an eternal game in an eternal garden.

SRI AUROBINDO



Aakar Patel

At the same time as Modi was holding hands with Xi, India was also winking at Trump's Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at China



Debashis Acharya

THE CRITICAL CONCERN OF RBI HAS BEEN TO PROTECT THE ORDINARY INVESTORS AND NOT TO ALLOW PRIVATE CURRENCIES TO TAKE OVER SOVEREIGN FUNCTIONS

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## The danger of 'nothing to lose'



William L. Silber

A NOTHING-TO-LOSE ATTITUDE DRIVES THE CONTINUED WARS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Presidents, generals, dictators, and ordinary people take big risks when they have nothing to lose, similar to a quarterback in American football throwing a so-called Hail Mary pass. But the consequences of such a strategy in politics, war, and business are usually more serious than the outcome of a football game. In the Middle East, for example, it has produced continuous conflict because the warring parties feel as though they have nothing to lose.

The brokerage firm TD Ameritrade's annual collegiate stock-market contest illustrates the incentives when there is "nothing to lose." Each team begins with a paper allocation of \$500,000, and a final cash prize goes to the team whose portfolio earned the highest profit in the space of a month. In 2015, students from Southeast Missouri State University beat 475 other entrants by turning \$500,000 into \$1.3 million. None of the winning students knew anything about finance, so how did they do it? According to the team captain, "We had nothing to lose. If we end up losing all \$500,000, oh well. We basically just decided to be as risky as possible."

This go-for-broke approach exploited the rules of a contest that rewarded only the biggest gain, while ignoring all the losses. The students were protected against losing money, so they devised their strategy accordingly. This anecdote may sound trivial, but that same logic is often followed by protagonists in real-world conflicts.

For example, the pursuit of "unconditional surrender" during wartime can have catastrophic unintended consequences. When US President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued this politically popular demand during World War II, the Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, told Hitler that now, "the Germans have nothing to lose and everything to gain" by continuing to fight.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Allied commander in Europe and future US president, agreed with Goebbels. In November 1944, he warned the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington, DC, that the "enemy's continued stolid resistance" comes, in part, from "Nazi propaganda which is convincing every German that unconditional surrender means the complete devastation of Germany and her elimination as a nation."

Hitler relied on that spin to motivate his troops for a desperate

counterattack in December 1944 (the Battle of the Bulge), saying beforehand, this is "really a kind of Hun battle in which you either stand, or fall and die." Hitler's roll of the dice - his Hail Mary pass - did not change the outcome of the war, which was already lost. But it did produce the worst atrocity inflicted on US troops in Europe: the massacre at the Belgian town of Malmedy.

A similar nothing-to-lose attitude drives the continued wars between Israel and Palestine. In 1973, when Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir met Joe Biden, then the freshman US senator from Delaware, to discuss Israel's security, she said, "don't look so worried... We Israelis have a secret weapon. We have nowhere else to go."

More recently, Israel has felt it has nothing to lose in fighting Hamas, because the organisation's founding charter denies the right of the Jewish state to exist. But Israel must also deal with Palestinians who just want a state of their own, rather than Israel's destruction. As Riyadh Mansour, the Palestinian observer at the United Nations, noted in response to the latest conflict in Gaza this past May, Israel has "failed in defeating Palestinian consciousness and in breaking

apart our national belonging... We all stand at a crossroad."

At the same time, Tzipi Livni, a former Israeli vice prime minister and justice minister, wrote, "The two-state solution... seems as important as ever. Even if peace is not around the corner, the point of no return is closer than ever before. We must not go there. The most important thing for now is to keep the road open."

In other words, beware of enemies with nothing to lose.

Martin Luther King, Jr., a little over a year before he was murdered in Memphis, used a similar idea for avoiding armed revolution: "Riots grow out of intolerable conditions. Violent revolts are generated by revolting conditions, and there is nothing more dangerous than to build a society with a large segment of people who feel they have no stake in it; who feel they have nothing to lose."

In a world beset by new and old zero-sum conflicts, this lesson remains as timely as ever.

The writer is a former Professor of Finance and Economics at the Stern School of Business, New York University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

- Words may be false and full of art; sighs are the natural language of the heart. - THOMAS SHADWELL
- The first time you marry for love, the second for money, and the third for companionship. - JACKIE KENNEDY
- The heart of another is a dark forest, always, no matter how close it has been to one's own. - WILLA CATHER

### WORDSWORTH

#### Pandiculation

You do this, you really do. You just don't know that you do. When you're tired to the extent of yawning in fatigue, you may stretch your arms and neck to ease them. That's pandiculation. Writers have been known to use the word just for yawning, but properly that's an associated action, not the thing itself. This example might be correct, or might not, it's hard to say: *Nothing new, nothing fact, nothing different. Result: ennu, followed by pandiculation and into the arms of Morpheus (Evening Independent, Massillon, Ohio, 14 October 1931).* It comes, as you might guess, from Latin - from pandiculatus, the past participle of pandicari, to stretch oneself. The ultimate origin is the verb pandere, to stretch. That verb has also given us expand, plus some other much rarer words. Pandiculation isn't encountered often. But variations on it were once used for a quack remedy.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Catch-22 situation

Sir, This is in reference to the news item "Biden vows revenge," Orissa POST, August 28, 2021. The death of at least 170 people, including 13 US soldiers in bombings near the Kabul international airport has tragically laid bare the messy evacuation that began after the Taliban captured the Afghanistan capital. It was the deadliest day for the US forces in the war-torn country, even as the attacks were certainly not a bolt from the blue. US President Joe Biden said, "We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay;" even as he stuck to the fast-approaching deadline of August 31 for pulling out the American troops. Going forward, it's a catch-22 situation for the US. Biden's call for revenge may not only impede the withdrawal process but also prompt the Islamic State's Afghanistan affiliate to launch more attacks in the coming days endangering the lives of those who are still stranded in Afghanistan. The US runs the risk of shooting itself in the foot all over again if it pursues the perilous course of retribution. With the Islamic State bent on causing damage to the US, other nations have no option but to work in coordination with the Taliban for the safety of their residents. Now, it is a race against time for India as it committed to the full evacuation of the stranded Indians from Afghanistan. The task needs to be concluded at the earliest, considering the likelihood of more bombings at or around the Kabul international airport.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Lifeline for Baghel

Sir, The leadership question in Chhattisgarh continues to haunt the Congress high command with former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and his sister and party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra taking the opposite sides. While Rahul has promised the State Health Minister TS Singh Deo that the latter will share the chief minister's term, Priyanka wants Bhupesh Baghel to continue as the chief minister in light of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, where each party is pursuing the votes of the backward communities and the grand old party is no exception. Thus, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel may have got a lifeline for now but could make way for TS Singh Deo after the Uttar Pradesh elections.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

# After Jaleswar, drug trade flourishing in Remuna area



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Remuna, August 28:** Jaleswar in Balasore is yet to shed its tag as a hub of brown sugar smuggling while Remuna is witnessing proliferation of drug trafficking with excise and police officials busy carrying out raids in other areas. The drug menace is yet to be stamped out in the district, a report said. The report said, illegal drug trade has been flourishing in Talapada panchayat. In past few months, such illegal activities have increased manifold here, locals said. According to reports, drug ped-

dlers come on bikes and in cars to Sunahat, Balighat and Galapola areas and sell small packets of drug for thousands of rupees. Educated youths are falling into the vicious trap of drug consumption, it was alleged.

Besides, other places like Srijang, Tundura, Inchudi, Rasalpur and Jaydev Kasba panchayats are plunging into routine drug peddling.

Drug mafia has created small traders in these areas and running their business.

Retail traders are bringing drug in auto rickshaws engaged in fish transportation. Locals said with the increase in drug trade, law and order has been deteriorating in

## NEW HUB

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Locals blamed the excise and police officials for the rise in drug peddling in rural pockets.

Excise officials Friday seized brown sugar worth ₹15 lakh and arrested two persons including a woman in Balasore. The flying squads and the police have been regularly carrying out raids in parts of Balasore with seizures of brown sugar. Locals said raids should be carried out in the areas of Remuna.



## DROUGHT WOES

Farmers participating in a preparatory meeting ahead of staging a padayatra, September 1 in protest against drought like condition in Nuapada district

# Short shrift to Talcher-Gopalpur rail route

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, August 28:** Construction of Talcher-Gopalpur rail route passing through Nayagarh district has remained a non-starter as authorities are yet to carry out a survey conducted for the project, a report said.

The matter came to the fore as residents from all walks of life and various political spectrum came together and intensified their demand for an early start of the project. The project remaining a non-starter has sparked resentment. Attending a meeting at the conference hall of the block office, they decided to apprise the state government and the Centre for an early start of the project.

Guru Prasad Jena, former chairman of Nayagarh Municipality, presided over the meeting while



two conveners Biswanta Mohapatra and Pramod Patnaik spoke on the need of the rail route. They said a mass movement will be built up to create pressure on the state and the Centre for an early start of the project.

At first an awareness drive will be carried out and later, people of areas

where the rail route will have stations will be called to a meeting and apprised the need for the rail route. Later, they will reach out to people of other districts where the rail routes will pass and memorandums will be submitted to the Prime Minister, Union Railways Minister and MLAs of state government.

Reports said that the proposed project is expected to be a game changer as people of Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Nayagarh, and Ganjam districts will be benefited from this rail route. The rail route will start from Talcher and will be laid till Gopalpur in Ganjam. A plan outlay of ₹864 crore has been made for construction of the 293-km long rail project.

The authorities have conducted surveys thrice for the project in 1990, 1997 and 2018. The Centre has sanctioned grants of ₹5 lakh in

1990, ₹10 lakh in 1997, ₹10 lakh in 2018. The project has also been placed in the Pink Book of Indian Railways. As many as 21 stations will be constructed between Talcher and Gopalpur.

The proposed stations will be at Takua, Mahidharpur, Rasol, Gobindpur, Bhapur, Nuapatna, Badamba, Kantilo, Khandapada, Nayagarh, Sarankul and Banthapur; Karchuli, Buguda, Balipadar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Nayagarh, and Ganjam districts will be benefited from this rail route. The rail route will start from Talcher and will be laid till Gopalpur in Ganjam. A plan outlay of ₹864 crore has been made for construction of the 293-km long rail project.

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# Farmers seek expansion of canal network

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Digapahandi, August 28:** Scanty rainfall has induced drought like situation in parts of Digapahandi block in Ganjam. Farmers in the region have demanded water supply from Ghodahada irrigation project to farmlands which have been out of irrigational coverage. They staged a demonstration in front of the office of the superin-

tending engineer of Chheligada irrigation project's canal division.

The agitating farmers later submitted a memorandum to MLA Suryanarayan Patro, seeking expansion of the canal network for irrigational coverage.

"If canals in the area are expanded, about 1500 hectares of farmland would be irrigated at the critical time like drought this year," they pointed out.

Hundreds of acres of land in Badadumbula, B Turubudi, Sanadumbula, Badadumbula, Dashipur, Kandasar, Bira Padmanabhpur and Sumanpur are solely dependent on rains.

Farmers also held talks with an assistant engineer and junior engineers about irrigation issue and demanded quick steps for irrigation facilities in two panchayats.

# Woman's body with stones tied recovered in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Ganjam, August 28:** A woman's body with stones tied to it was spotted at Rushikulya riverside near Potagarh area in Ganjam district Saturday.

The deceased, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was found wearing a nightwear. The face of the deceased, however, was not visible as a cloth was wrapped around the body, covering its face. Locals initially spotted the body and alerted the police. Hundreds of people gathered on the spot as the news spread.

Later, Ganjam police station IIC Subhendu Kumar Sahu, Chhatrapur police station IIC Priyas Ranjan Chhotray, Chamakhandi police station IIC Ajit Kumar Parida and OIC Trinath Pattanayak reached the spot and carried out an investigation. The body was recovered and sent for postmortem.

While the police suspect the woman was murdered by miscreants before the body was dumped on the riverbank, Ganjam police station IIC Sahu said more facts would come to the fore once the cloth is removed. "Meanwhile, we have called in a forensic team. The investigation will reveal whether it is a murder or rape and murder case," he added.

# 70-yr old art centre cries for attention

POST NEWS NETWORK

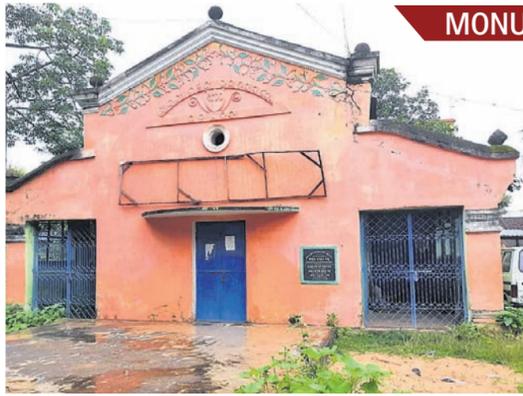
**Pallahara, August 28:** The first centre established around 70 years ago for the development of song and music in the kingdom of Pallahara which was then a part of the Gadajata region and now a block in Angul district is dying a slow death.

With the efforts of then queen Soubhagyamanjari Pal and some artists, the centre was established in 1952. It was running from a house temporarily. In 1960, the queen provided a land measuring 11 decimals. And the centre got its permanent building as well as its name.

The centre was named Soubhagyamanjari Kalakendra. And thus a new era of practicing music and song in Pallahara area began.

The first guru of the centre was Prabhakar Pradhan, who learnt how to play the Sitar from Pattayat Saheb Guru Sitakanta Deb of Deogarh state. Despite being a physically-challenged person, he became popular and produced many good students.

With the popularity of the centre spreading beyond the boundary, it achieved a milestone in 1972 as it was registered as an institution in undivided Dhenkanal district. With the passage of time,



## MONUMENTAL NEGLECT

With the efforts of then queen Soubhagyamanjari Pal and some artists, the art centre was established in 1952. It was running from a house temporarily. In 1960, the queen provided a land measuring 11 decimals in Pallahara area. It was named Soubhagyamanjari Kalakendra.

Due to financial crisis, the smooth management of the institution affected and new instruments couldn't be bought. Some art lovers and artists had tried to infuse life into it, but that didn't work

more pages of glory got added to it.

It got affiliation of Gandharva Mahavidyalayas in Chandigarh and Maharashtra and courses on classical music and Odissi dance were started. It was also affiliated to Cuttack's oldest institution Babulal Joshi Kalakendra.

Because of the tireless efforts of the institution's principal Prabhakar Pradhan and gurus like Hrushikesh Sahu, Bhimsen Sahu, Lalit Mohan Behera, Nilamani Jena, Smruti Ranjan Dash and Lingaraj Dash, it

emerged as one of the best institutions in the state.

Students would make a beeline here to take admission into it. Many of its alumni have established themselves as gurus in their respective fields in different parts of the country.

Its downfall started from 1996 when its principal Prabhakar Pradhan died. Many problems cropped up, obstructing its successful journey.

Due to financial crisis, the smooth management of the institution affected and new in-

struments couldn't be bought. Some art lovers and artists had tried to infuse life into it, but that didn't work. The then MLA Mahesh Sahu provided some financial assistance to the institution in 2017 and with this money, some improvements happened.

Thanks to the efforts of some local artistes, the National School of Drama in Delhi organised a mega training camp involving 40 aspirants in 2020. But this too failed in salvaging Soubhagyamanjari Kalakendra. Local people held political lead-

ers, local administration and the state government responsible for the institution's present deplorable situation. "It is their lack of will power that proved detrimental for it," they alleged.

"Without government assistance, it is impossible to run such a big institution. It can get a new lease of life if the government intervenes," observed Lingaraj Dash, secretary of the institution who is also a former Tabla instructor.

Expressing concerns, Bibekananda Biswal and Netrananda Mahakul, both artistes, said, "The institution was once a pride of Pallahara area. Now it remains only to be a shadow of its former self. Due to lack of infrastructure and instructors, the progress has got stuck. We urge the state government to do the needful to bring it back to life.

When contacted, Sub-Collector Ajit Kumar Pradhan, who is also the chairman of the managing committee, said after the demise of the institution's managing committee's secretary and due to Covid-19 situation, its new committee has not been formed. "Soon steps will be taken to form the new committee and no stone will be left unturned to revive this oldest institution," he added.

# 1st annual fete by UU alumni

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 28:** Utkal University's old students' association Friday celebrated its annual function in online mode.

On this occasion, members of the association garlanded the statue of Devi Saraswati at the entrance of the university in the morning. Later, they distributed fruits and planted saplings at the Ladies' Hostel-5 on the university premises.

A webinar was held in the evening in which Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, state higher education minister Arun Sahoo, adviser of Adarsh Vidyalaya Sangathana Upendra Tripathy, vice-chancellor Prof Sabita Acharya joined as chief guest, inaugurator, chief speaker and the guest of honour respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan, who is an old student of the university said the university was a centre of quality education in the past and can bring glory for it if we all unite and work for its development. He assured to provide all help and cooperation in this endeavour. State Higher education minister Arun Kumar Sahoo, an old student unveiled the first edition of Utkalayan, the e-magazine of the old students association.

## DEMO FOR BARRAGE



Locals demanding construction of a barrage on the upstream of the Vamshadhara river staged a demonstration and submitted a memorandum to the Gunupur Sub-Collector addressed to the Chief Minister, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# Commuting on NH-49 through Judia Ghat turns nightmare

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 28:** People travelling on NH-49 through Judia Ghat on the outskirts of Keonjhar town are no longer feeling safe. This is so because large boulders and landmasses often fall from above the roadside hill.

In the past, many cases were reported wherein commuters and their vehicles suffered minor to severe injuries. July 30, a driver and helper of a truck had a miraculous escape after a huge boulder came rolling down from the hill and fell on their truck, damaging it severely. The helper had suffered a few bruises. The traffic on the NH disrupted for hours as the boulder remained there in the middle of the road.

On a daily basis, people from villages under Bansapal and Telkoi



People from villages under Bansapal and Telkoi blocks come to Keonjhar town, travelling through Judia Ghat where they feel unsafe during the journeys

blocks come to Keonjhar town for marketing or other works. They travel on this road. While crossing Judia Ghat, they feel unsafe. They cross the ghat with a faint heart leaving everything to God.

During the expansion work of the NH, the roadside portion of the hill had to be cut. Now with the expansion work completed, the

steep hill stands menacingly. Though there is guard wall and iron net to ensure safety of commuters, at places boulders and landmass are rolling down onto the road. In rainy season such cases are more frequent.

Local residents urged the NHAI authorities to take steps to end people's fear.

FARMERS' IRE



Tomatoes dumped by farmers on the Solapur-Pune highway as they are not getting optimum prices for the produce, in Solapur, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

80% of Nariman point will submerge by 2050: Civic chief



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 28:** Mumbai municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal has made a sinister prediction for the city, saying that by 2050, a major portion of south Mumbai, including the business district of Nariman Point and state secretariat Mantralaya, will go under water due to the rising sea level.

Tourism Minister Aaditya Thackeray Friday, Chahal said about 70 per cent of the city's A, B, C and D wards in south Mumbai will be under water due to climate change. He said that nature has been giving warnings, but if people do not 'wake up' then the situation would turn 'dangerous'.

is a matter of just 25-30 years as 2050 is not too far. "We are getting warnings from nature and if we do not wake up, it will be a dangerous situation for the next 25 years. And it will not only be the next generation but the current generation will also suffer," Chahal warned. He said that Mumbai is the first city in South Asia that is preparing its climate action plan and acting on it.

**We are getting warnings from nature and if we do not wake up, it will be a dangerous situation for the next 25 years. And it will not only be the next generation but the current generation will also suffer**

IQBAL SINGH CHAHAL | MUMBAI MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

fecting us. But now it has come to our doorstep," he added. Chahal said that last year for the first time in 129 years, a cyclone (Nisarga) hit Mumbai and thereafter in the last 15 months, there have been three cyclones. After that, August 5, 2020, about 5 to 5.5 feet water was accumulated at Nariman point. "There was no cyclone warning that day, but considering the parameters, it was a cyclone," Chahal said. Highlighting that the city has witnessed some extreme weather conditions recently, he said that the city faced Tauktae cyclone and witnessed 214 mm rain May 17, though monsoon arrives here June 6 or 7. Before June 9, Mumbai recorded 84 per cent of the June rainfall and in July, 70 per cent of month's average rainfall was received in just four

days - from July 17 to 20, he said. Under the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP), the data assessment has identified areas and communities most vulnerable given increasing climate uncertainty, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said in a release. Data from across BMC's 37 automatic weather stations (AWS) over the past 10 years suggests that on an average, Mumbai has seen six heavy, five very heavy, and four extremely heavy rainfall days per year. And for all the rainfall that occurs during the monsoon season in Mumbai, each year, approximately 10 per cent falls under the heavy category, nine per cent very heavy, and six per cent extremely heavy. According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) classification, daily rainfall from 64.5 mm to 115.5 mm is considered 'heavy', 115.6 mm to 204.4mm 'very heavy' and more than 204.5mm is 'extreme'.

Discussed only OBC quota in my meet with CM: Fadnavis

The meeting between Fadnavis and Thackeray generated intense political interest amid speculation that leaders of BJP and Sena have agreed informally to go soft on each other



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 28:** Maharashtra BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis Saturday said his one-on-one meeting with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was regarding OBC quota in local bodies and no other topic was discussed. After attending an all-party meeting Friday, the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly and Thackeray met behind closed doors for 10 minutes, triggering speculation amid a raging political feud between BJP and ruling Sena over the arrest of Union minister Narayan Rane Tuesday for his con-

troversial remarks against the Sena chief. "It is true that I held discussions with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray after the all-party meeting on OBC quota in local bodies. The discussion during our meeting was only about the OBC quota in local governing bodies. Thackeray asked my cooperation and I responded positively," Fadnavis told reporters. "No other topic came up for discussion during our meeting," he added. The meeting between Fadnavis and Thackeray, whose parties had shared power in Maharashtra from 2014 to 2019, had generated intense political interest amid speculation

that leaders of BJP and Sena have agreed informally to go soft on each other especially in the wake of the Rane episode. The all-party meeting was held at the Sahyadri Guest House of the state government here on the issue of restoring the reservation for OBCs in local governing bodies. CM Thackeray had said all political parties agreed to restore the reservation for OBCs in local governing bodies and a decision would be taken in a week. The state government is trying to find a way to restore political reservation for OBCs in Maharashtra after the Supreme Court read down the earlier provision.

Kota coaching institutes all set to reopen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kota (Raj), August 28:** Coaching institutes in Kota are all set to reopen from September 1 following the Rajasthan government's nod for reopening of schools in the state. However, the coaching centres have announced several safety measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus among the students, the owners of the institutes said. At the hostels and messes, biometric attendance will be replaced with registers which will have a column for categorising students with influenza like illness (ILI) and they will be advised on regular medical care and monitored by medical teams, they said. Around 1.75 lakhs students from across the country throng to Kota, a prominent coaching hub in the country for various engineering and medical entrance examinations, every year. The city has around 35-40 major coaching institutes. Around 3,000 hostels and as many messes/eateries offer room accommodation and food to these students, propelling the local economy, which was hit hard by the Covid pandemic. The institutes said they have



ensured that vaccination and complete compliance of Covid protocol takes the top priority and therefore, almost the entire staff, faculties, and students above 18 years have been inoculated at most of the coaching centres of the city. Special arrangements have been made for vaccination of the students upon their arrival in the city, and those found not inoculated, would be given priority for getting the job at local health centres, said a district official on Friday. The coaching institutes of the city have been asked to check RT-PCR negative report and vaccina-

tion certificate of students arriving in the city, Kota collector Ujjawal Rathore told media Thursday. The deputy director of education department has been deputed as the nodal officer to supervise the reopening of classes from September 1, and he has been directed to arrange special vaccination camps for students above 18 years, he added. Fresh offline batches are going to be started from September 1, 8 and 15, Naveen Maheshwari, director of Allen Career Institute, told PTI. In order to avoid crowding at the coaching centres, students have been called in separate batches from September 1 to September 15. Even after start of offline classes, online option would be available for the students, he said. Most of the hostel buildings in the city have been sanitised and the students' strength at messes has also been brought down to 50 per cent with an individual being allowed to take the food to his/her room, Naveen Mittal, president of Kota coaching association, said. Hostels in Kota have a single-room culture that already keeps the students sufficiently protected, but now a total ban will be imposed on accommodating more than one student in a room. A separate room on the top floor of every hostel has been developed into a quarantine zone, Mittal said, adding, over 20,000 students have reached Kota in the last few days. Currently, there are over 50,000 students from outside in Kota, he said. Anwar Ahamed, a mess owner in Vigyan Nagar area of the city, claimed he is receiving 10-12 new subscriptions for tiffin delivery service every day. "The number of tiffin delivery service subscription has gone over a 100 in the last few days," he said.

₹30cr helicopter put on sale for ₹4cr in Raj

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, August 28:** An Agusta helicopter purchased by the Rajasthan government for ₹30 crore in 2005 has become a burden for the state government now. Finding no takers for its bid to sell the chopper, the state government is now ready to dispose it off for barely ₹4 crore. As per government sources, the chopper has been labelled as 'jinxed' ever since it developed a technical glitch in November 2011 with then Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and others onboard. It has not been used since then. Now, it has become a headache for the Rajasthan government as even after 11 attempts to sell it, the chopper has found no takers, government officials confirmed. Recently, Chief Secretary Niranjan Arya at a high-level meeting decided to re-auction the Agusta helicopter and directed the con-

cerned officials to submit fresh proposals in this regard. However, the government has not found any buyer till date. The helicopter is parked at the state hanger in Jaipur since 2011, and is fast turning into junk. Fresh tenders are now being invited for its sale along with spares and tools. The directorate of civil aviation has fixed its price at ₹4.5 crore after failing to sell the chopper many times in the past. The helicopter was procured during Vasundhara Raje's first tenure as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 2005. In 2011, it had to be grounded following a technical glitch during a flight with Gehlot onboard. Officials said that since then, the chopper is considered 'jinxed' as it had put the life of Gehlot at risk. The twin-engine A109E power helicopter was procured at a cost of ₹30 crore from the Italian firm AgustaWestland.

Third wave may be a tsunami of 60 lakh cases, warns Maha

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, August 28:** With the possibility of India hurtling towards a Covid-19 third wave, the Maharashtra government has cautioned that the state could witness around 60 lakh cases in such a situation. Health Minister Rajesh Tope Friday said that while around 20 lakh were affected in the first wave followed by 40 lakh in the second, the dreaded next wave may lead to over 60 lakh cases. "Of these, nearly 12 per cent would require oxygen support during treatment... We are trying to achieve 100 per cent vaccination as soon as possible," he said. Contending that the third wave has already started in the US, the UK, Russia, and other countries, he called upon people to take extreme precautions during the upcoming festivals like Janmashtami, Ganeshotsav, Navratri and Diwali to avoid a surge in the cases. Tope has discussed the issue with his Kerala counterpart Veena George, whose state recorded 31,000 new cases Thursday with the Onam celebrations considered the prime reason, but the authorities have stepped up testing. He revealed that to tackle the upcoming health crisis, the Maharashtra government is in the process of recruiting more doctors, nurses and other medical-paramedical staffers besides enhancing health care capacities including for juveniles. "By September end, we plan to recruit 7,000 medical staff in-



**Health Minister Rajesh Tope said that while around 20 lakh were affected in the first wave followed by 40 lakh in the second, the dreaded next wave may lead to over 60 lakh cases**

cluding 1,200 doctors. We are enhancing the production of liquid medical oxygen, increasing the number of beds in Covid hospitals, and getting 1,000 new ambulances," Tope said. Additionally, the government has approved an increment of ₹1,500 in the salaries of 71,000 ASHA workers for which an amount of ₹275 crore will be included in the budget. Health Department officials said that at least nine of the worst-hit districts in the two previous waves

"are being monitored very closely" to ensure that infections and fatalities can be controlled, besides taking measure to shield children and infants. The situation has already become worrisome as the state has already recorded over 200 cases of the Covid-19 variant, Delta Plus, which has claimed 5 patients till date. This week, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation authorities were stunned after 22 young students, mostly below 18, were found infected out of 95 in the St Joseph's School & Orphanage in Dongri, and the institution was promptly sealed Thursday. Maharashtra reported 4,831 new coronavirus cases and 126 deaths Saturday, taking the infection tally to 64,52,273 and death toll to 1,37,026, a state health department official said. As many as 4,455 patients were discharged from hospitals, which took the cumulative number of recovered cases to 62,59,906, he added.

CM Gehlot gets heart treatment as common man in Jaipur hospital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, August 28:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, known for his simplicity, got his angioplasty done Friday after registering himself with the new-launched state health services scheme as a common citizen. Suffering from chest pain since Thursday night, Gehlot underwent coronary angiography, angioplasty, and stenting at the Sawai Mansingh Hospital here. Giving information about the Chief Minister's health, SMS Medical College Principal Dr Sudhir Bhandari said Gehlot had mild discomfort in chest along with cervical spondylosis and radiculopathy. "He was having atypical symptoms of heaviness on right side of chest, back and right arm. His ECGs were normal." With his atypical symptom, Bhandari advised him to do cardiac work out. "As a disciplined patient, Gehlot agreed for all the investigations with a request that I would like to get everything done in SMS," because of his utmost faith in SMS doctors and infrastructure," said Bhandari. He was registered as a common man, in newly-launched Rajasthan Government Health Scheme and was subjected for CT Coronary Angiography and was found to have 90 per cent blockage in one of the main arteries. "This finding was matching with his non-specific symptoms and he



was advised cardiac intervention. Honble CM immediately consented to go ahead and he was shifted to cardiac cath lab where he was subjected to coronary angiography, angioplasty and stenting. The procedure was uneventful and post procedure he is recovering well. He is asymptomatic and cheerful," Bhandari said, adding that Gehlot has been suffering from post-Covid syndrome and this cardiac complication seems to be a part of post-Covid complication. "Otherwise his cardiac status was absolutely healthy before the pandemic with CT coronary angiography normal." The CM expressed his gratitude for all the wishes which was receiving for speedy recovery.

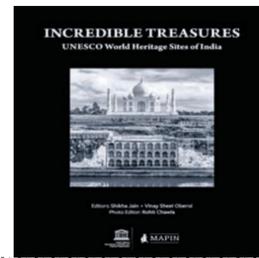




I would like to applaud the untiring efforts of all those who have worked to make PM Jan Dhan a success. Their efforts have ensured the people of India lead a better quality of life  
**NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER**

## BOOK ON UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF INDIA

Containing rich text illustrated with spectacular photographs, including archival images, a volume that encapsulates the rich cultural treasures of India inscribed on the UNESCO world heritage list has been launched



### of the day quote

The PM has hailed the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana on its 7th anniversary. It is actually the 7th anniversary of the renaming of the UPA's Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account. What an expert in renaming, repackaging and relaunching



**JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER**

Why are the farmers opposing the three 'black' farm laws? Because if the right to decide the price and other things for crops grown by the hard work of farmers is given to BJP's billionaire friends, then this will happen



**PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONG GEN SECY**

If you show us ED, we will also send proof against BJP leaders to the agency. A section of BJP ministers and leaders are working hand in glove with the coal mafia. They even stayed at hotels run by them during elections



**MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM**

# Hydel projects can be built in Upper Ganga region: Centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 28:** Eight years after the Supreme Court moratorium on dam construction in the Upper Ganga region, three Union Ministries and Uttarakhand have reached a consensus to allow construction for as many as seven hydropower projects, including one of them destroyed in the February 2021 flash floods.

The Ministries of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Jal Shakti, Power and the state have together reached a consensus on the seven projects to be implemented, according to an affidavit filed by the Joint Secretary, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Sujit



Tapovan Vishnugad project was destroyed due to flash floods in Dhaulti Ganga basin in Chamoli district in February

Kumar Bajpayee ten days ago in connection with an ongoing case regarding dam projects in Uttarakhand post the 2013 disaster which had witnessed over 5,000 deaths, damage to property and infrastructure projects.

Post the 2013 Kedarnath disaster, the Supreme Court had formed an

experts committee - termed as the Expert Committee I in the government affidavit - that had documented how the government tweaked rules to accommodate hydropower projects in Uttarakhand and had warned against building more dams, especially in the para-glacial region.

SEVEN PROJECTS	
1,000 MW	Tehri stage II project
520 MW	Tapovan Vishnugad project
444 MW	Vishnugad Pipalkote project
99 MW	Singholi Bhatwari project
76 MW	Phata Buyong project
15 MW	Madhmaheshwar project
4.5 MW	Kaliganga II project

After the government had accepted this report, the Supreme Court lifted the total ban across Uttarakhand and kept on hold two dozen-odd projects - the current seven are part of that list, all under

construction, with five of them having environmental clearance and two, being small capacity, not needing it.

In May 2015, the Supreme Court formed yet another committee, mostly comprising government officials and scientists in various capacities, termed as the expert body II in the affidavit. This expert body II had cleared six projects, the government told the court, and said, it will consult other ministries too. Months of to-and-fro letters from one ministry to other, the Environment Ministry finally told the Supreme Court that there is a consensus on seven projects.

However, not all are happy with the decision. Ravi Chopra, envi-

ronmentalist and founder director of the People's Science Institute (PSI) at Dehradun, who had headed expert body I that produced a report on the 'Assessment of Environmental Degradation and Impact of Hydroelectric Projects during the June 2013 Disaster in Uttarakhand', said Ideally, there should be a complete moratorium on dam constructions in the Himalayas, particularly in Uttarakhand.

Many of these dams have been designed on the basis of very little rainfall data. Normally, we need 100 years of data for dam designs, but if not 100, at least have for 30-40 years. Here, for example, Singholi Bhatwari project, they barely have 17 years of data, Chopra said.

# Cops lathicharge farmers, 10 hurt

The state police drew severe criticism for the action against the farmers, and several roads and highways, including toll plazas, were blockaded at different places in protest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, August 28:** Around 10 people were injured Saturday as police allegedly lathicharged a group of farmers disrupting traffic movement on a highway while heading towards Karnal to protest against a BJP meeting.

Besides Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, state BJP president Om Prakash Dhankar and other senior leaders of the party were present at the meeting. The state police drew severe criticism for the action against the farmers, and several roads and

highways, including toll plazas, were blockaded at different places in protest.

The affected routes included the Fatehabad-Chandigarh, Gohana-Panipat, Jind-Patiala highways, Ambala-Kurukshetra, the Delhi highway near Karnal, Hisar-Chandigarh and Kalka-Zirakpur national highways.

Several commuters were left stranded at highways for hours.

Haryana Bhartiya Kisan Union (Chaduni) chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni alleged that the police brutally lathicharged the protesting farmers, leaving many injured.

While senior Samyukt Kisan Morcha leader Darshan Pal said the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) had given call for road and toll plaza blockade till 5 pm Saturday to protest injuries to "dozens of farmers" and detaining of some farmers by Karnal police, Chaduni said road blockades will continue till all those detained in Karnal were released.

Several protesters present at the site near the Bastara toll plaza around 15 km from Karnal claimed to have witnessed 8-10 people sustain injuries in the police action.

Karnal police IG Mamta Singh, however, told PTL, "We used mild force because they were blocking the highway. Some stones were also pelted towards the police. Mild force was used to disperse the protesters".

She said that some protesters were earlier in the day detained for maintenance of law and order and they were being released.

Farmers protesting the central farm laws have been opposing public functions of the BJP-JJP combine in Haryana. Several farmers had gathered at the Bastara toll plaza near Karnal, responding to a call given by the BKKU.

# ED calls Banerjee, wife in coal smuggling case



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, August 28:** In a major development, the Enforcement Directorate has summoned Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the national General Secretary of Trinamool Congress, and his wife Rujira Banerjee in connection with an alleged coal smuggling case involving coal smuggling.

Banerjee, an MP from Diamond Harbour, has been asked to appear before the financial probe agency in New Delhi September 6, while his wife has been summoned September 1. Sanjay Basu, the lawyer for the Banerjees, has been told to appear before the agency September 3.

Two senior IPS officers of West Bengal Police -- Shyam Singh and Gyanwant Singh - have also been summoned by the ED in the same case September 8 and

9, respectively. The CBI had questioned Rujira Banerjee in connection with the case February 23, days ahead of the Assembly elections in Bengal. Her sister and family members have also been questioned in the case.

The case was filed under the relevant sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by the ED after studying a November 2020 FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that alleged a multi-crore coal pilferage scam related to the Eastern Coalfields Ltd mines in the state's Kumustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol.

Local state operative Anup Majhi alias Lala is alleged to be the prime suspect in the case. The ED had earlier claimed that Abhishek Banerjee was a beneficiary of the funds obtained from this illegal trade. The Trinamool leader had denied all the charges.

# TN Assembly adopts resolution against Centre's farm laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 28:** The Tamil Nadu Assembly Saturday adopted a resolution urging the Centre to withdraw the three contentious farm laws, against which farmers have been holding protests for months outside Delhi.

The main opposition AIADMK and its ally BJP staged a walkout over the issue while another partner PMK did not follow suit. DMK's allies, including Congress, the CPI and CPI(M) supported the resolution.

## The main opposition AIADMK and its ally BJP staged a walkout over the issue

Chief Minister M K Stalin told the House that all cases, filed against farmers and leaders of political parties who staged peaceful protests across Tamil Nadu seeking withdrawal of farm laws, would be withdrawn.

Stalin moved a resolution, calling for the repeal of the three laws that went against the doctrine of federalism enshrined in the Constitution and sought that it be adopted unanimously. These laws should be withdrawn by the Centre to protect the interests of farmers and prevent agriculture from going into the control of big ticket companies, he said.

The resolution, listing the three farm laws, said since the three laws are not conducive for our country's agriculture growth and farmers welfare, these should be repealed by the union government. Such laws were against the farmers' welfare, the resolution added.

Independent India has not seen such protests and we have a duty to fully oppose the three farm laws enacted by the Centre.

All the three laws are against agriculture and farmers. The only demand of farmers is that they should get the right price for their produce, the Chief Minister said, adding all the three laws do not even speak of Minimum Support Price even for the sake of it.

# Exclusion of Nehru's image from ICHR celebrations stirs row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 28:** The exclusion of Jawaharlal Nehru's image from the poster of the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations by the ICHR triggered a controversy with opposition parties slamming the government for it and dubbing it as petty and atrocious.

Congress leaders took strong exception to the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) omitting Nehru's photograph from the 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to mark the 75th year of India's independence.

They shared the screenshot of the ICHR website showing photographs of Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, BR Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Madan Mohan Malviya and Veer Savarkar but Nehru's picture was missing in the 75th year independence celebrations.

There was no immediate comment available from the ICHR. Though central BJP leaders did not comment on the row, the party's Punjab unit spokesperson Gaurav Goel said Nehru was responsible for the partition.

## SHORT TAKES

### Prof threatens to kill Mamata; booked

**Kolkata:** Case was lodged against a professor of the Calcutta University for allegedly threatening on social media to kill Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, police said Saturday. The case was registered against Arindam Bhattacharya, a professor of the Zoology Department, by the Hare Street police station on the basis of a complaint filed by PhD scholar Tamal Dutta, a senior police officer said. Bhattacharya was booked under IPC sections 505 (1B) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public), 506 (threat to cause death or grievous hurt) and 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy), said Murlidhar Sharma, the joint commissioner of police (crime). The professor is yet to be taken into custody, police said.

### AC 3-tier to cost 8% less: Railways

**New Delhi:** The Railways Saturday said the fare of its new air conditioned three-tier economy class coaches will be 8 per cent less than the existing 3AC coaches, giving the best travel experience at the cheapest price. The fare of the new coaches is 2.4 times the base price of existing sleeper class of mail and express trains, officials said, adding 50 such coaches have been given to different zonal railways. "Now, since the fare is fixed, these coaches will be attached in existing mail express trains. In trains which are running with maximum length, these coaches will replace sleeper class coaches," they said.

# CBI files 10 more cases, nabs 2

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 28:** A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered 11 separate cases in connection with the post-poll violence in West Bengal, the probe agency filed another 10 cases Saturday, taking the tally of total cases to 21.

The CBI also arrested two persons Saturday for an alleged attempt to murder in Nadia district, officials said. The two accused - Bijoy Ghosh and Asima Ghosh - were briefly detained before being arrested by the probe agency, they said.

The CBI has carried out searches at 15 locations in connection with the case related to attempt to murder of Dharma Mandal who suffered serious injuries after his family was attacked May 14 night at

their home in Nadia district's Chapra, they said.

The CBI had booked eight persons in the matter, they said.

To probe the cases, the Centre has provided CRPF security cover to the CBI teams amid apprehension of locals and the state administration disrupting the investigation.

The agency said that so far it has registered eleven separate cases after being handed over the probe by the Calcutta High Court.

The Calcutta High Court had recently handed over the investigation of serious crimes such as rape and murder during the post-poll violence in West Bengal to the CBI. Similarly, the division bench of the high court also formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the lesser crimes that occurred after the declaration of Assembly election results in Bengal May 2.



Sand Artist Ajay Rawat creates a sand sculpture on camel to promote tourism, in Pushkar

PTI PHOTO

# BRICS adopts 'New Delhi Statement', India stresses on climate equity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 28:** India, at the 7th meeting of the BRICS Environment Ministerial 2021 Friday, stressed on the need for taking concrete, collective global actions against global environment and climate changes, guided by equity, national priorities and circumstances, and the principles of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)'.

The Environment Ministers adopted the New Delhi Statement on Environment, which is aimed at furthering the spirit of Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus in Environment

among the BRICS Nations.

BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, termed as emerging economies and together fighting for climate justice at global negotiations. Indian Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav chaired the meeting from Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, as the other Environment Ministers from BRICS countries joined virtually. The meeting was preceded by the BRICS Joint Working Group on Environment meeting on August 26, a release from the Environment Ministry added.

Yadav said that 2021 is a very crucial year not only for the BRICS but for the whole world as well, as there is UN Biodiversity COP15 in October

The report has given enough, may be the last signal, for taking concrete, collective global actions against global environmental and climate challenges  
**BHUPENDER YADAV | ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTER**



and annual climate change meet (UN-FCCC COP26) in November. He emphasised that BRICS countries can play a very significant role in ad-

ressing the contemporary global challenges of climate change, biodiversity

loss, air pollution, marine plastic litter, etc. Referring to the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1 contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report Climate Change 2021 The Physical Science, he said, "The report has given enough, may be the last signal, for taking concrete, collective global actions against global environmental and climate challenges."

He informed the BRICS Ministerial that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is today leading by example by taking several robust steps in the field of renewable energy, sustainable habitats, creation of carbon sinks through additional forest and tree cover, transition to

sustainable transport, e-mobility mobilising the private sector to make climate commitments, etc.

He also stressed the importance of resource efficiency and circular economy, conservation of wildlife and marine species or biodiversity, and concrete actions taken by India on climate change and biodiversity. BRICS countries being hotspots for biodiversity can tell the world how we have been conserving such mega diversity since time immemorial, and can also play a very significant role in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, he said.

The key areas proposed in the BRICS Environment Ministers' Statement 2021 are guided by the issues, which may have primacy in COP15 and COP26, the release added.

# international

## of the day quote

Tourists from India are welcome to visit Sri Lanka and we are making arrangements to allow them to enter the country following strict health guidelines

PRASANNA RANATUNGA | TOURISM MINISTER, SRI LANKA

The Afghan crisis is creating new data in the geopolitical sphere and at the same time is creating possibilities for migration flows. We have to prepare ourselves for the possible consequences

MICHALIS CHRISOCHOIDIS | MINISTER OF CIVIL PROTECTION, GREECE

Covid-19 vaccines will be given to members of the country's persecuted Rohingya ethnic group. The authorities are trying to vaccinate 50% of the country's population this year

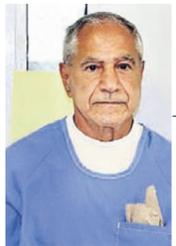
ZAW MIN TUN | SPOKESMAN, JUNTA



We look like fools all over the world. We are weak. We are pathetic. We are being led by people that have no idea what they are doing. These are the people that we had at bay to a level that you wouldn't believe. There was no way that they never even fired on our troops

DONALD TRUMP | EX-PRESIDENT, US

**RFK'S ASSASSIN GETS PAROLE**  
The man convicted of shooting dead Robert F Kennedy in a 1968 assassination that rocked the US was granted parole Friday. Sirhan Sirhan, now 77, had tried on 15 previous occasions to be released from the life sentence imposed five decades earlier



## AIRLIFT WINDS DOWN

# Taliban seal off Kabul airport

More than 117,000 people have been safely evacuated through the Kabul airport, but thousands more are struggling to make it out by August 31

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kabul, August 28:** Taliban forces sealed off Kabul's airport Saturday to most Afghans hoping for evacuation and most NATO nations flew out their troops after two decades in Afghanistan, winding down a frantic airlift that Western leaders acknowledged was still leaving many of their citizens and local allies behind.

A suicide attack Thursday by an Islamic State affiliate killed 169 Afghans and 13 US service members, and there are concerns that the group, which is far more radical than the Taliban, could strike again. Many Western nations have completed their evacuation operations ahead of Tuesday's deadline for the withdrawal of all US forces.



Saturday, the Taliban fired warning shots and deployed some kind of coloured smoke on a road leading to the airport, sending dozens of people scattering, according to

New layers of checkpoints sprang up on roads leading to the airport, some manned by uniformed Taliban fighters with Humvees and night-vision goggles captured from Afghan security forces

Areas where large crowds of people have gathered over the past two weeks in hopes of fleeing the country following the Taliban takeover were largely empty

## Last UK evacuation flight leaves Kabul

The last British flight evacuating civilians from Afghanistan has left Kabul, bringing to an end an operation that has airlifted almost 15,000 Afghan and British citizens in the two weeks since the Taliban took control. Britain's armed forces are now preparing to leave and will take small numbers of Afghan citizens with them on remaining flights this weekend, a defence ministry spokesperson said Saturday. "It's time to close this phase of the operation down. But we haven't forgotten the people who still need to leave, and we will do everything we can to help them," Britain's ambassador to Afghanistan, Laurie Bristow, said in a statement.

Afghans to stay, pledging amnesty even to those who fought against them, and has said commercial flights would resume after the US withdrawal, but it's unclear if airlines will be willing to offer service. The US and its allies have said they will continue providing humanitarian aid through the UN and other partners, but any broader engagement is likely to hinge on whether the Taliban deliver on their promises of more moderate rule.

## Russia seeks CSTO security alliance

**Moscow:** Moscow will work more closely with fellow members of a post-Soviet security alliance as the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan raises regional security risks, Russia's defence minister was quoted as saying Saturday. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow had stepped up contacts within the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a Moscow-led alliance that groups six former Soviet states. "We're in close contact with CSTO members over Afghanistan... That's why our interaction within CSTO should be strengthened," Shoigu was quoted as saying by the RIA news agency. Drug trafficking is another concern, he added. The CSTO said Friday it would hold military exercises in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan from September to October involving several thousand troops due to the situation in Afghanistan.

a video circulating online that was consistent with AP reporting. In Kabul itself, hundreds of protesters, including many civil servants, gathered outside a bank while countless more lined up at cash machines. The protesters said they had not been paid for the past three to six months and were unable to withdraw cash. The Taliban has encouraged

## SHORT TAKES

### Louisiana braces for Hurricane Ida

**New Orleans:** Residents across Louisiana's coast Saturday were taking one last day to prepare for what is being described as a "life-altering" Hurricane Ida which is expected to bring winds as high as 140 mph (225 kph) when it slams ashore. The storm is expected to make landfall on the exact date Hurricane Katrina devastated a large swath of the Gulf Coast 16 years earlier. But whereas Katrina was a Category 3 when it made landfall southwest of New Orleans, Ida is expected to reach an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane.

### Bangladesh boat capsizes claims 22

**ArrayDhaka:** At least 22 people were killed after a boat carrying over 100 passengers capsized in Bangladesh's Titus River following a head-on collision with a sand-laden vessel, which got hit by another ship from behind, authorities said Saturday. A passenger, Ali Akhter Rizvi, told media that the boat left the Champaknagar ghat of Vijaynagar upazila of Brahmanbaria district at around 4.30 pm Friday evening.

### Police, protesters clash in Berlin

**Berlin:** Police tussled with protesters as thousands of people marched through Berlin Saturday chanting slogans and waving banners against Covid-19 restrictions. Some demonstrators tried to get past barricades to the government district around the Reichstag parliament building and clashed with officers, police said. Four officers were injured, the Berliner Zeitung reported. About 50 people were detained, some for assaulting officers, the force said.

### Belarus crackdown on journos continues

**Kyiv:** Belarus has ordered the closure of the country's largest independent journalists' organisation, the latest move by authorities to suppress critical reporting in a yearlong crackdown on dissent. Friday's order by the country's supreme court to liquidate the Belarusian Association of Journalists follows the jailing of some 30 journalists, raids on newspaper offices, blocking the websites of major independent media and closing the PEN Centre writers' organisation that was headed by Nobel literature laureate Svetlana Alexievich.

## Iraq hosts ME summit to mend regional fractures



AGENCIES

**Baghdad, August 28:** Several Middle Eastern leaders and French President Emmanuel Macron met in Baghdad Saturday at a summit hosted by Iraq, which wants its neighbours to talk to each other instead of settling scores on its territory. Iraq's security has improved in recent years but it is still plagued by big power rivalries and heavily armed militia groups. Competition for influence in the Middle East between Iran on one side and the United States, Israel and Gulf Arab states on the other has made Iraq the scene of attacks against US forces and assassinations of Iranian and Iraqi paramilitary leaders. The strained relationships within the region have also led to disruptions to global oil supplies with attacks on Saudi Arabian oil installations - blamed on but denied by Tehran. Organisers of the Baghdad summit said they did not expect any diplomatic breakthroughs. "Getting these countries to sit around the

table - that will be achievement enough," said one Iraqi government official. Heads of state attending included Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, King Abdullah of Jordan, Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Macron. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates sent their heads of government, and Turkey its foreign minister. Macron was due to stay an extra day, meet Iraqi leaders and visit French special forces fighting Islamic State insurgents. Shi'ite Muslim Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia, longtime rivals for regional dominance, sent their foreign ministers. The two countries resumed direct talks in Iraq in April this year, but those meetings yielded no breakthroughs. The US-Iran rivalry brought the Middle East to the brink of war after the United States under former US President Donald Trump killed Iran's military mastermind Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike at Baghdad airport in 2020.

# 'US has options if Iran nuclear diplomacy fails'



AGENCIES

**Washington, August 28:** President Joe Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in White House talks Friday that he was putting "diplomacy first" to try to rein in Iran's nuclear program but that if negotiations fail he would be prepared to turn to other unspecified options.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, both leaders touched on Iran, one of the thorniest issues between them, but mostly they paped over their disagreements. Biden said they discussed "our commitment to ensure Iran never develops a nuclear weapon." "We're putting diplomacy first and we'll see where that takes us. But if diplomacy fails, we're ready to turn to other options," Biden added, without offering specifics. A White House statement issued later said the two also "reviewed steps to deter and

contain Iran's dangerous regional behavior." "I was happy to hear your clear words that Iran will never be able to acquire a nuclear weapon,"

## Biden, Trump same on nuclear issue: Khamenei

**Dubai:** A top Iranian security official accused US President Joe Biden Saturday of illegally threatening Iran after he said he may consider other options if nuclear diplomacy with Tehran fails. The emphasis on using 'other options' against (Iran) amounts to threatening another country illegally and establishes Iran's right to reciprocate ... against 'available options', Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Twitter. Iranian Supreme Leader

Bennett told Biden. "You emphasized that you'll try the diplomatic route but there's other options if that doesn't work out," he added, also stopping short of identifying the possibilities. Bennett told reporters that Israel has developed a "comprehensive strategy" to keep Iran away from nuclear breakout and stop its "regional aggression." Alluding to Israel's threats of military action and the billions of dollars in US military aid it receives, Bennett said: "It's our responsibility to take care of our fate, but we do thank you for the tools ... you've been giving us."

Ayatollah Khamenei drew a parallel Saturday between the Biden administration's approach to the nuclear accord to that of former President Donald Trump, who withdrew from the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran. The current US administration is no different from the previous one because it demands in different words what Trump demanded from Iran in the nuclear area, state television quoted Khamenei as saying in his first meeting with Raisi's Cabinet.

## RESPECTING MARTYRS



Wayne Eggleston lowers the US flag to half mast at Park Semper Fi in San Clemente, Calif. Eleven Marines, one Navy sailor and one Army soldier were among the dead in Thursday's attack in Kabul, Afghanistan

## Pentagon holds talks with Chinese military

AGENCIES

**Washington, August 28:** A senior Pentagon official held talks with the Chinese military for the first time since President Joe Biden took office in January to focus on managing risk between the two countries, a US official told agencies Friday. The United States has put countering China at the heart of its national security policy for years and Biden's administration has described rivalry with Beijing as "the biggest geopolitical test" of

this century. Despite the tensions and heated rhetoric, US military officials have long sought to have open lines of communication with their Chinese counterparts to be able to mitigate potential flare-ups or deal with any accidents. Michael Chase, deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, spoke last week with Chinese Major General Huang Xueping, deputy director for the People's Liberation Army Office for International Military Cooperation. "(They) utilized the US-PRC

Defense Telephone Link to conduct a secure video conference," the US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining open channels of communication between the two militaries," the official added. Vice President Kamala Harris said Thursday that the United States welcomes competition and does not seek conflict with Beijing, but will speak up on issues such as maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

# US intel still divided on origins of Coronavirus

## US INTELLIGENCE HAS RULED OUT THAT THE CORONAVIRUS WAS DEVELOPED AS A WEAPON

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, August 28:** President Joe Biden said Friday that China was withholding "critical information" on the origins of Covid-19 after the US intelligence community said it did not believe the virus was a bioweapon - but remained split on whether it escaped from a lab. The United States, however, does not believe Chinese officials had foreknowledge of the virus before the initial outbreak of the pandemic that has now claimed 4.5 million lives, according to the unclassified summary of an eagerly awaited intelligence report. The community remains divided on the pathogen's origins, with

four agencies and the National Intelligence Council judging in favor of natural exposure to an animal as the likely explanation, and one agency favoring the lab leak theory. "Variations in analytic views largely stem from differences in how agencies weigh intelligence reporting and scientific publications, and intelligence and scientific gaps," the summary said. The intelligence community and global scientists lack clinical samples or epidemiological data from the earliest Covid-19 cases, it added. Biden said the United States would continue to work with allies to press Beijing to share more information and cooperate with the World Health Organization.



"We must have a full and transparent accounting of this global tragedy. Nothing less is acceptable," he said.

**Lab leak fading**  
Beijing has rejected calls from the United States and other countries for a renewed

origin probe after a heavily politicized visit by a WHO team in January also proved inconclusive, and faced criticism for lacking transparency and access. In a statement Friday, the Chinese embassy in Washington slammed the US intelligence community's findings, defending its handling of the pandemic and the WHO investigation.

"The report by the US intelligence community shows that the US is bent on going down the wrong path of political manipulation," the embassy said in a statement. "The report by the intelligence community is based on the presumption of guilt on the part of China, and it is only for scapegoating China." Reacting to the report, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxun said, "It is a mendacious report made up for political purposes. There is no scientific basis or credibility in it. The US has also released a statement slandering and attacking China. The Chinese side hereby expresses its firm objection."

**Critical information about the origins of this pandemic exists in the People's Republic of China, yet from the beginning. To this day, the PRC continues to reject calls for transparency and withhold information, even as the toll of this pandemic continues to rise**

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

## of the day quote

From September 1 GSTN is implementing GST rules that bars a taxpayer to file GSTR 1 wherein taxpayer has not paid taxes for previous two consecutive tax periods

**RAJAT MOHAN** | SENIOR PARTNER, AMRG & ASSOCIATES

It is highly unfortunate that Niti Aayog in the last seven years had done absolutely nothing to support the 8Cr traders of India and now when the government is trying to create a level playing field in the retail sector; it is interfering in between and trying to derail the process

**PRAVEEN KHANDEWAL** | SECRETARY GENERAL, CAIT

There are clear downside risks to spending (on automobiles) if more events and trips are cancelled and more products are delayed getting to shelves

**SAL GUATIERI** | SENIOR ECONOMIST, BMO CAPITAL MARKETS

## SHORT TAKES

### BPCL to supply medical oxygen

**New Delhi:** Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) Saturday said it will supply medical grade oxygen from its Mumbai refinery to Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to meet the requirement of medical oxygen in municipal hospitals in the city. BPCL will supply 10 to 15 tonnes a day of VPSA (Vacuum Pressure Swing Adsorption) oxygen with 93% purity, the company said in a statement.

### FDI equity inflows up 168% to \$17.57bn

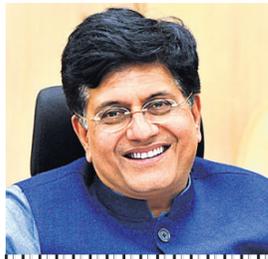
**New Delhi:** Foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country rose by more than twofold to USD 17.57 billion during April-June this fiscal on account of measures such as policy reforms and ease of doing business, an official statement said Saturday. Total FDI inflow rose to USD 22.53 billion during the first three months of 2021-22 as against USD 11.84 billion in the same period of the last year, it said. Total FDI comprises equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.

### Mangala oilfield completes 12 yrs

**New Delhi:** Scottish firm Cairn Energy-discovered Mangala oilfield in Rajasthan has completed 12 straight years of production, producing more than 473 million stock barrels of oil. Mangala oilfield was discovered by Cairn in 2004. The field was put to production on August 29, 2009. In December 2011, Cairn sold the India business to billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta group. "Discovered in 2004, the field was the largest global discovery of the year and India's largest onshore discovery in 25 years. Since first oil August 29, 2009, Mangala field has produced more than 473 mmstb as of July 2021," Vedanta said in a statement.

### SAIL to pump in ₹4K cr in J'khand

**New Delhi:** State-owned Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) Saturday expressed commitment to invest ₹4,000 crore in the next three years in Jharkhand to augment capacity of its Gua mines besides installing a 4-million-tonne (MT) pallet plant. The intent for investment was made at the launch of the Jharkhand Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (JIIPP) 2021 by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

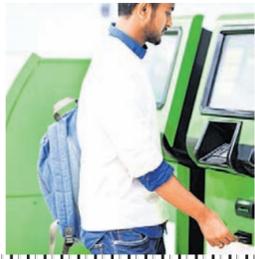


We are fast progressing in our discussions with the UK, with the UAE and other GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries. Canada and Australia are really on a fast track

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

### CRYPTOCURRENCY ATM OPENS IN HONDURAS

The first cryptocurrency ATM in Honduras opened this week as bitcoin backers sought to spur demand for virtual assets after neighboring El Salvador became the first country to establish bitcoin as legal tender



# Jan Dhan accounts swell to 43 crore in 7 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 28:** Bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) have increased to 43 crore with total deposits over ₹1.46 lakh crore, the finance ministry Saturday said as the government's flagship financial inclusion scheme completes seven years of implementation.

The PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address August 15, 2014 and was simultaneously launched August 28 to foster financial inclusion. This national mission was launched to ensure people have access to financial services, namely, banking,

remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.

As on August 18, 2021, the number of total PMJDY accounts stood at 43.04 crore. Of this, 55.47 per cent (23.87 crore) Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 66.69 per cent (28.70 crore) holders are in rural and semi-urban areas, the finance ministry said in a statement.

During the first year of the scheme, 17.90 crore PMJDY accounts were opened. Out of total 43.04 crore PMJDY accounts, 36.86 crore or 85.6 per cent are operative, and the average deposit per account is ₹3,398, as per the statement. Increase in average deposit is another indication of increased

The PMJDY was announced by PM Modi during his 1-day speech in 2014 and was simultaneously launched August 28 to foster financial inclusion



usage of accounts and inculcation of saving habit among account holders, it said.

Total RuPay cards issued to PMJDY account holders rose to 31.23 crore. For account opened after August 28, 2018, the free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister tweeted, "Today we mark seven years of #PMJanDhan, an initiative that has forever transformed India's development trajectory. It has ensured financial inclusion and a life of dignity as well as empowerment for countless Indians. Jan Dhan Yojana has also helped further transparency."

## Google in talks to make large investments in Airtel



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 28:** Bharti Airtel might soon get an investment from Google which could run into several thousands of crores, as per media reports. Both the companies are already in advanced stage of discussions and negotiations since last year, media reports said. These reports suggest the investment from Google into Airtel can be quite large in amount.

It remains to be seen what are the underlying dynamics because the Jio and Google partnership might have come with a restriction for the latter to invest in any of its rival companies, including Airtel or Vodafone Idea. Google had invested ₹34,000 crore into Jio Platforms.

Bharti Airtel is already looking to raise capital so that it can invest in its 4G networks around the country to increase capacity. Jefferies believe that since there's no urgent need of raising cash, the telco is likely assuming that it will need a larger capacity network to hold all the Vodafone Idea (Vi) customers that come its way, Telecom Talk reported.

# Future Retail moves SC to stay HC orders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

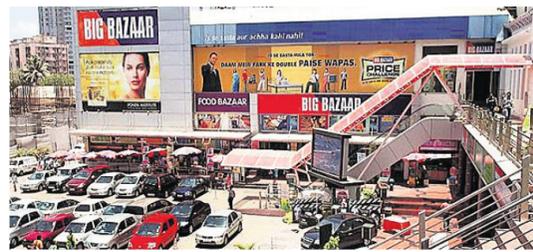
**New Delhi, August 28:** Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail Ltd Saturday said it has approached the Supreme Court against orders passed by the Delhi High Court to maintain the status quo in relation to its ₹24,713 crore deal with Reliance Retail and directing it to enforce the order of the Singapore-based Emergency Arbitrator.

In a regulatory filing, Future Retail said, "Please be informed that the company has filed a special leave petition before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the impugned orders dated 2nd February 2021 and 18th March, 2021 passed by 'Ld. Single Judge'...The SLP will be listed for hearing in due course."

In its petition, the company stated that "here is extreme urgency to hear" and "stay the Impugned Orders" passed by the single-member bench of Delhi High Court, failing to which the company would go into liquidation.

Future Retail, in its petition, said the scheme of amalgamation, which will be listed before the NCLT cannot go through due to the orders of the High Court.

"...and as a result of which the Scheme which benefits all the stake-



IN A REGULATORY FILING, FUTURE RETAIL SAID THAT IT HAS FILED A SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION BEFORE THE APEX COURT AGAINST THE IMPUGNED ORDERS

FUTURE RETAIL, IN ITS PETITION, SAID THE SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION, WHICH WILL BE LISTED BEFORE THE NCLT

holders, including the public at large and various public sector banks may fall through; If the Scheme falls through, it is inevitable that FRL will go into liquidation," it said.

Besides "approximately ₹28,000 crore of public money in the form of bank loans and debentures issued by FRL and its group companies is also at risk," said the Future

group firm in its appeal.

The magnitude of damage that may be caused to the public at large is "unimaginable" as livelihoods of more than 35,575 employees of FRL and various companies that are part of the Scheme may be lost, it added.

"The solvency of over 8,050 SMEs (excluding SMEs of Future Enterprises Limited) and their employees is at stake.

The scheme filed before the Mumbai bench of NCLT, entails consolidation of Future Group's retail and wholesale business, and the logistics and warehousing business into one entity Future Enterprises Ltd and then transferring it to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd as per the

Rs 24,731 crore deal with Reliance Industries Ltd.

# Economic rebound expected on rapid vax, infra spend: Niti VC

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 28:** A strong economic growth rebound is expected on the back of rapid vaccinations, a recovering monsoon boosting agricultural output, thrust on infrastructure investments by the government, and growth in export, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar has said.

Kumar further said that as per consensus estimates, despite downward revision in the GDP growth projections, India is expected to be amongst the fastest-growing major economies in the world.

"A strong rebound is expected on the back of rapid vaccinations, a recovering monsoon boosting agricultural output, thrust on infrastructure investments by the government, growth in exports, which have performed remarkably during April-June registering a growth of 18 per cent over the same period in the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20.

"We also expect consumption to recover in the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal year," he said in a newsletter 'arthNITT'.

The RBI has lowered the country's growth projection for the current financial year to 9.5 per



A strong rebound is expected on the back of rapid vaccinations, a recovering monsoon boosting agricultural output, thrust on infra investments, growth in exports, which have performed remarkably during April-June registering a growth of 18%

**RAJIV KUMAR** | VICE-CHAIRMAN, NITI AAYOG

cent from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier, while the World Bank has projected India's economy to grow at 8.3 per cent in 2021.

According to Kumar, after phased unlocking post the second Covid wave, the economic activity has gained strength.

"The government has also stepped into provide another dose of stimulus of ₹6.3 lakh crore, focused on healthcare, tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, MSMEs and exports," he noted.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Samsung announces loyalty programme

**New Delhi:** Consumer electronics brand Samsung announced a unique consumer loyalty programme in association with Flipkart called Samsung Home. This one-of-a-kind consumer loyalty programme has been designed to incentivise existing Samsung consumers by offering them affordability benefits, acknowledging their love and preference for Samsung's consumer electronics products. This program brings special benefits to consumers on second purchase of Samsung's latest televisions, washing machines, refrigerators or microwaves till September 30, 2021. Consumers who have bought Samsung consumer electronics products on Flipkart on or after July 28, 2021 can avail this offer. Under this program, customers will be eligible for paying only 50% of their first EMI (up to ₹2,500).

### NTPC coal mining conducts vax camp

**Ranchi:** NTPC coal mining headquarter, Ranchi organised a second dose anti-Covid vaccination camp for its employees, family members and associates in its own office premises. The vaccination camp was conducted through Medica Hospital, Ranchi. Around 50 people were administered Covishield doses. The HR department, CMHQ has coordinated for organising the camp following all the Covid protocols during the camp. The objective of the vaccination camp was to cover the remaining employees, family members and associates whose second dose was due for a vaccination. NTPC Coal Mining Headquarters is also ensuring 100% vaccination for its employees, family members, associates and contract workers at its Coal Mining projects situated in the state of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.



### PPL bags Greentech award for safety

**Bhubaneswar:** Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) was conferred with the Greentech Foundation Award for its effective safety culture in 2021. The award was given by Greentech Foundation. PPL once again has been recognised for its overall effort in maintaining best industrial safety practices. Greentech Foundation committed to recognise and celebrate ethos of outstanding performance in safety issues. Each year, it appreciates the effort and ability of different industries that are practicing best safety practices. PPL received the Award from RK Dubeey, CMD Canara Bank in presence of Bhola Singh, Director, Coal India and Babu, Executive Director (Finance), Adani.



# NMDC assists NINL to start iron ore mining in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 28:** NMDC, the largest iron ore producer in the country, has decided to provide technical and financial assistance to Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) for resumption of their mining operations in Odisha.

The operations of NINL iron ore mines at Mithirdamine block have resumed. The inaugural function was attended by Sumit Deb, CMD NMDC; PK Satpathy, Director (Production) NMDC; RK Jha, MD NINL and senior officials of NMDC and NINL.

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Commerce and DIPAM, NINL approached NMDC for support. To provide impetus to the supply of high-grade



iron ore in Odisha, NMDC signed a MoU to extend assistance to NINL. NINL, a joint venture firm of MMTC, IPICOL, OMC, NMDC and others set up a 1.1 MTPA integrated steel plant at Dubri in Jajpur. The company acquired the mining lease for captive production of iron ore in January 2017.

NINL received permission for merchant sale of iron ore for 1 MT per year for 2 years to augment the iron ore production in Odisha and meet the expenses of the firm.

# Af's economic crisis deepens as airlift winds down

THE WAR-TORN NATION IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON INTERNATIONAL AID, WHICH COVERED AROUND 75% OF THE WESTERN-BACKED GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kabul, August 28:** Hundreds of Afghans protested outside a bank in Kabul Saturday and others formed long lines at cash machines as a UN agency warned that a worsening drought could leave millions



in need of humanitarian aid. At the Kabul airport, thousands are still gathering in hope of flee-

ing the country, even after a suicide attack Thursday killed 169 Afghans and 13 US service members and

amid warnings of more attacks. The massive US-led airlift is winding down, with many Western nations having completed their own evacuation efforts ahead of Tuesday's deadline.

The economic crisis, which predates the Taliban takeover earlier this month, could give Western nations leverage as they urge Afghanistan's new rulers to form a moderate, inclusive government and allow people to leave after the planned withdrawal of US forces August 31.

Afghanistan is heavily dependent on international aid, which covered around 75% of the Western-backed government's budget. The Taliban have said they want good relations with the international community and have promised a more moderate form of Islamic

rule than when they last governed the country, but many Afghans are deeply skeptical.

The protesters at New Kabul Bank included many civil servants demanding their salaries, which they said had not been paid for the past three to six months. They said even though banks reopened three days ago no one has been able to withdraw cash.

ATM machines are still operating, but withdrawals are limited to around USD 200 every 24 hours, contributing to the formation of long lines.

A UN agency meanwhile warned that a worsening drought threatens the livelihoods of more than 7 million people. The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said Afghans are also suffering from the coronavirus pandemic and dis-

placement from the recent fighting. Earlier this month, the UN World Food Programme estimated that some 14 million people — roughly one out of every three Afghans — urgently need food assistance.

The FAO said that crucial help is needed ahead of the winter wheat planting season, which begins in a month in many areas. So far, funding would cover assistance to only 110,000 families of farmers, while some 1.5 million need help, the agency said, adding that the current harvest is expected to be 20% below last year's.

President Joe Biden has said he will adhere to a self-imposed Aug. 31 deadline for withdrawing all US forces. The Taliban, who control nearly the entire country outside Kabul's airport, have rejected any extension.

# Bhavinaben enters final at Paralympics

THE 34-YEAR-OLD PADDLER CONTINUES TO SCRIPT HISTORY AS SHE STUNS WORLD NO.3 TO SEAL SUMMIT CLASH BERTH



## ARCHER RAKESH SAILS INTO LAST 16

**TOKYO:** Rakesh Kumar continued his impressive run of form to storm into the pre-quarterfinals while his teammate Shyam Sundar Swami made a second round exit as Indian compound archers had a mixed day at the Paralympic Games here Saturday. A day after he shot the highest score - 699 out of a maximum 720 - by an Indian para archer in the qualification round, the wheelchair-bound 36-year-old Kumar easily overcame Ka Chuen Ngai of Hong Kong by a massive 13-point margin at the Yumenoshima Park here. In the last-16 round Tuesday, the third seeded Kumar will face 14th seed Marian Marecak, a two-time 49-year-old Olympian from Slovakia. Earlier, 21st seed Sundar, who also got a bye into the second round, had a narrow 139-142 defeat against 2012 Paralympics silver medalist Matt Stutzman, the armless archer from the USA who shoots with his feet.

Trailing 5-9, Zhang won three successive points to make it 8-9.

In a bid to gather herself, Patel took a time-out after which there was no stopping her. Armed with two match points, she notched up the win, extending her purple patch.

This was Patel's first victory against the former world number one Zhang. The two players had met 11 times before.

Patel will face a tough challenge from Zhou in the gold medal match. She had gone down tamely (3-11, 9-11, 2-11) to the Chinese player in her opening group match Wednesday.

In the quarterfinal Friday, Patel had defeated 2016 Rio Paralympics gold winner and World No.2 Borislava Peric Rankovic of Serbia to clinch a medal and script history.

Athletes in Class 4 category have fair sitting balance and fully functional arms and hands. Their impairment may be due to a lower spinal-cord lesion or cerebral palsy.

a small time shopkeeper at Sundhiya village in Gujarat's Mehsana district, she was not considered a bright medal prospect coming into the Games but she has made her maiden Paralympics a memorable one. Patel, who plays in a wheelchair, lost the opening game in a tight contest. But, she made a strong recovery, claiming the next two games to take a 2-1 lead.

Patel was in great touch as she needed only four minutes to wrap up the third game. In the fourth game, Zhang showed her class not giving Patel the bragging rights just yet as the match headed into the decider.

In the deciding fifth set, Patel quickly raced to a 5-0 lead. But the Chinese made a strong comeback.

Robinson takes five-wicket haul to help England level the 5-match series 1-1 as the visitors win the third Test at Headingley by an innings and 76 runs

# MIDDLE ORDER COLLAPSE SINKS INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Leeds, August 28:** Pacer Ollie Robinson (5/65) engineered a middle order collapse with the second new ball as England completed a facile innings and 76 run victory against India on the fourth day of the third Test, here Saturday.

All the good work Friday, when India reached 215/2 at stumps, was completely undone as Robinson and James Anderson (1/26) hit the right lengths and got movement off the pitch to wrap up the Indian innings in a jiffy. India were all out for 278 in the morning session.

It was a match that England won by executing their strategies to perfection with an idea of opposition's soft underbellies.

India had lost the match on the first day itself when they were

bowled out for 78 as it meant that they were always playing a catching up game in this Test match.

A huge first innings lead of 354 taken by England only increased the worry with three days of batting needed to save the game.

It was an improbable task to bat out three days in conditions which can change rapidly to make batting difficult. Playing out time isn't a virtue that many in this team, save likes of Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara, possess.

The middle order which looked solid Friday was completely rattled on penultimate morning under bright sunshine as most of the batsmen didn't know where there off-stump was which was pretty baffling if one takes the third day's performance into consideration.

India lost eight wickets for ad-

dition of only 63 runs and the memories of a morning collapse in Adelaide once again became fresh as good balls found their way either into the gloves or hands of slip fielders.

From 215/2, it was 239/6 and then it was a matter of formality. Ravindra Jadeja (30) added some more runs in Test kitty before Craig Overton (3/47) ended India's nightmare.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
India 78 & 278 (Virat Kohli 55, Ravindra Jadeja 30; Ollie Robinson 5/65, Craig Overton 3/47) lost to England 432 by an innings and 74 runs.



**VIRAT KOHLI:**

Basically down to scoreboard pressure... Always up against it when you get out for under 80, and the opposition puts up such a big score. But we did well to stay in the game yesterday, fight back as much as we could, and gave ourselves a chance. We thought the pitch was good to bat on, coming on nicely. But the discipline forced mistakes and the pressure was relentless. Difficult to cope when you're not scoring runs.

**JOE ROOT:** It was fantastic, clinical performance, the two big lads were exceptional, built pressure early on. Three maidens this morning, and we felt we were in a good place to take wickets. When chances came we took them. Look at the talent in the dressing room we know we're capable, just have to be more consistent.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tokyo, August 28:** Bhavinaben Patel continued to script history as she became the first Indian to enter the final of a table tennis event in the Paralympics with a hard-fought 3-2 win over China's Miao Zhang in a class 4 semifinal here Saturday.

The 34-year-old Patel, who had surprised even the Indian camp in this Paralympics with her sensational show, stunned her World No.3 Chinese opponent 7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8 in the semifinal showdown that lasted 34 minutes.

She will take on another Chinese player - World No.1 Ying Zhou - in the summit clash Sunday. Daughter of Hasmukhbhai Patel,

# India U-18 eves set for Asian rugby sevens meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 28:** India is set to participate in the Asia U-18 Girls Rugby Sevens Championship in Uzbekistan's Tashkent September 18-19, Rugby India announced via a press conference here Saturday.

The announcement was made by actor Rahul Bose, who is a board member of the Indian rugby body, in the presence of Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera, chief executive and chief country officer of Societe Generale India Toby Lawson, Indian Rugby Football Union president Vikram Ahuja and Odisha



Rugby Football Association president Priyadarshi Mishra.

Commissioner-cum-secretary of state Sports & Youth Services department Vineel Krishna and Member of Parliament Achyuta Samanta, who is also the founder of KITT and

KISS also graced the occasion.

In addition to Societe Generale (financial partners & official bank), Government of Odisha and KIIT (high performance partners), Rugby India have signed on BLK (match kit partner), Fast & Up (nutrition

partner), BLADE India (National Teams partner) and Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance (ABTP) as official partner.

Besides the dignitaries, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also joined the ceremony virtually. "The part-

nership between Rugby India and Government of Odisha has started taking shape. I am happy that the national girl's team's training camp is being organised here in Bhubaneswar. I would like to extend my best wishes to all girls who will make it to the U-18 squad that will play the Asian sevens in Uzbekistan.

"Rugby has a special place in the sports development initiative in the state. Many of our young boys and girls are playing Rugby and making it to the national teams. Odisha will become the home of Indian Rugby. We would like to extend our full support to Indian Rugby and may this partnership thrive for many years."

# CITYZENS GUN DOWN GUNNERS



Ferran Torres celebrates one of his goals against Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, Saturday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, August 28:** Crestfallen Arsenal players being humiliated in the Premier League has become all-too familiar in recent years. But it's never been this bad. Not in the 128 years since the club started playing in the English leagues.

A 0-5 collapse at Manchester City Saturday left Arsenal with three losses without scoring at the start of the season for the first time in their history.

In the week when the defending Premier League champions missed out on signing not only Harry Kane but also Cristiano Ronaldo, the existing attacking options did the job against a side reduced to 10 men after Granit Khaka's first-half sending off.

There were two goals and an assist from Ferran Torres, and goals from Ilkay Gundogan, Gabriel Jesus and Rodri. Perhaps it was expected. This was Arsenal's ninth successive league loss to City, stretching back into Arsene Wenger's reign.

The opener was conceded even earlier this week, after only six minutes. Left back Kieran Tierney allowed Gabriel Jesus to beat him far too easily for the high ball. And it was a cross from the striker that Gundogan headed in at the back

post off the cross bar, via a slight touch off goalkeeper Bernd Leno. Far from showing any spirit of recovery, Arsenal's performance deteriorated even more. It was another soft goal conceded in the 12th minute.

Cityzens were able to deploy a short free-kick routine and had the space for a passing interchange before Bernardo Silva's high ball into the penalty area evaded the defense and Torres tapped in.

Khaka was handed his fourth red card in his five years at Arsenal for producing a two-footed lunge on Joao Cancelo. Some Arsenal fans had already started heading to the exit by the time City scored again in the 43rd minute.

Once again Arsenal was sliced through far too easily, this time in a move that started with a ball through the center from goalkeeper Ederson. Torres then played it out to the left wing to Jack Grealish and the USD 139 million summer signing drifted in the penalty area. Jesus was gifted space and time to cushion the pass and then to tap into the net.

Again, City had the freedom of Arsenal territory around the penalty area before Torres teed up Rodri to curl into the bottom corner of the net. Torres was then on target again in the 85th.

## FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

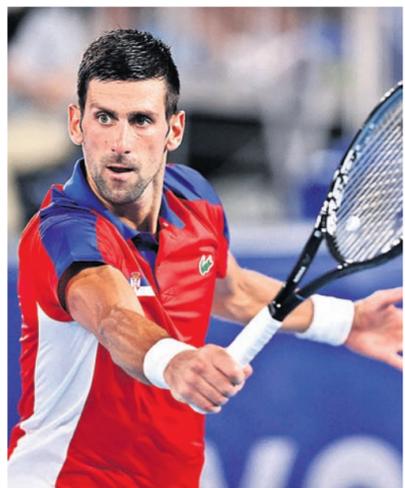
### Correa hits brace on debut for Inter

**VERONA (ITALY):** Joaquin Correa enjoyed a dream debut for Inter Milan, coming on late as a substitute and scoring twice for the defending champion to beat Hellas Verona 3-1 in the Italian league. It was 1-1 in Verona when visiting coach Simone Inzaghi brought on Correa for fellow Argentine Lautaro Martinez with 15 minutes of normal time remaining. Correa, who joined from Lazio Thursday, scored in the 83rd and then sealed the win in injury time. Inter were forced to chase the game when Ivan Ilic scored in the 15th. Martinez struck the equaliser in the 47th.

### Haaland late strike seals Dortmund win

**BERLIN:** Erling Haaland scored in injury time to give Borussia Dortmund a 3-2 win over Hoffenheim in the Bundesliga just when it looked like his team would have to settle for another disappointing result. Hoffenheim substitute Munas Dabbur equalised in the 90th minute for the visitors, giving home fans a familiar sinking feeling after Dortmund had twice taken the lead. But Haaland scored in the stoppage time. American international Gio Reyna got the opening goal for Dortmund. Baumgartner equalised in the 61st. Then Bellingham found hosts' second goal in the 69th.

# US Open: All eyes on Djoko, Osaka



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, August 28:** Novak Djokovic is well aware that his two-track pursuit of men's tennis history at the US Open - the first calendar-year Grand Slam in more than a half-century and a record 21st major title - means all eyes will be on him when he is on the court. Naomi Osaka knows, too, that her return to Grand Slam action for the first time since pulling out of the French Open for a mental health break means she will be the center of attention when she has a racket



in her hand as the defending women's champion at Flushing Meadows - and when she has microphones in front of her.

The year's last Grand Slam tournament begins Monday - with full crowds allowed a year after all fans were banned because of the coronavirus outbreak - and, even if this weren't the first one since 1997 that'll be missing Federer, Nadal and both Williams sisters, there is little doubt where the focus would be. From other players. From the media. From the fans. The World No.1 Djokovic began

his accumulation of major trophies on the hard courts of the Australian Open in 2008; his title there this February was his ninth. He added his second trophy on the red clay of Roland Garros in June, followed by his sixth on the grass of Wimbledon in July.

A fourth on the hard courts of the US Open in the September 12 final would not only let him break a tie for career Slams with Federer and Nadal but also go 4-for-4 this year, something only two other men have managed to do. Don Budge was the first in 1938,