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THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

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Odisha: Naveen announces 15 days Relief assistance for flood affected people

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday announced relief assistance for flood affected people for a period of 15 days. Patnaik made the announcement after an aerial survey of the flood affected areas in the Mahanadi river system. He said the relief would be provided to people in villages in Khordha, Puri, Cuttack, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur district for 15 days where flood water has entered the villages. The Chief Minister said seven days relief assistance



to provide all sorts of assistance in the flood affected areas such as relief, cooked food, health care, drinking water, fodder and medicare to animals. The officials were asked to assess the damages within

seven days after the flood water receded and provide house damage and crop loss assistance within 15 days to the affected people. Chief Minister made an aerial survey of the islands of Luna,

Chitrotapala rivers in Kendrapara district, islands of river Paika, a branch of Mahanadi, Kujanga and Naugaon of Jagatsinghpur district, Gopa, Nimapara, Astaranga, Delanga, Pipili and low lying areas of Kansa in Puri district to assess the damages. The Chief Minister expressed his concern over the submergence of large tract of crop land and damage of houses in flood water. Secretary to Chief Minister and 5T Secretary V K Pandian accompanied him during the aerial survey.

CBI conducts searches at 25 locations in coins fraud case

New Delhi, (UNI) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday carried out searches at 25 locations in Delhi, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Alwar, Udaipur and Bhilwara at the premises of ex-bank officials in its investigation of a case related to alleged coins fraud case worth Rs 11 crore. The raids were carried out at the premises of around 15 former bank officials and others, including ex-Branch Manager/Joint Custodian and Cash Officers in an on-going investigation of a case related to alleged frauds in coins, CBI statement

stated. CBI had registered a case on April 13, 2022, in compliance of orders of Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur and took over the investigation of a case earlier registered at Police Station Todabhim, Karauli (Rajasthan) on the allegations of fraud in coins of Rs 11 crore detected while counting of coins at State Bank of India, Mehandipur Balaji Branch, District Karauli during August 2021, it stated. Incriminating documents recovered during searches were being scrutinized. Investigation is underway, it added.

Not ashamed on such politics?: Rahul Gandhi on Bilkis Bano case

New Delhi, (UNI) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the BJP of supporting criminals, and said it showed their 'mentality' for women. Slamming the ruling party, Rahul Gandhi said BJP tried to save its rape accused Unnao MLA, and that Gujarat government released rapists. "Unnao - tried to save BJP MLA, Kathua - Rally in support of rapists, Hathras - Government in favor of rapists, Gujarat - Rapists' released and honoured. Supporting criminals shows the petty mentality of BJP towards women. Are you not ashamed of such politics, Prime Minister?" Rahul Gandhi said. The Congress has been cornering the BJP over the release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case. Eleven men who were sentenced to life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case of 2002 were released from Godhra sub-jail on Monday after a panel set up by the Gujarat government approved their application for remission of the sentence.

BCKIC foundation to promote networking knowledge in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Odisha Science and Technology Department and Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) Foundation on Wednesday signed an MoU for the upgradation of scientific, technological and innovation infrastructure by undertaking various joint collaborations. Puja Mishra, Secretary, Odisha State Council on Science and Technology and Dr Mrutyunjay Suara, Chairman, BCKIC signed the MoU in the presence of Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda. The initiative, Panda said, will help accomplish the 'Science to Society vision' of the Department in strengthening the scientific capability of the State.

The Department, he further said, will be more encouraged to enrich science education, research, innovation and communication in the State. As per the MoU, BCKIC will be an implementation partner for executing some of the initiatives of the Department, such as the formulation of science, technology and innovation policy of the State, promotion of innovation and IP culture and technology transfer activities in the State. Both the Department and BCKIC will work together with the objectives of promoting networking and knowledge sharing to create an impact on Science & Technology, mainly in education, health, hygiene and sanitation, communication and environment. More emphasis will be put on training and capacity building, and industry-academia collaborative activities.

Bihar Education Minister was accused in arms act: Modi

Patna, (UNI) Former Bihar deputy chief minister and BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi alleged that Bihar government has made Madhepura MLA professor Chandrashekhar Education Minister of state who was an accused of arms act as he was caught carrying ten live cartridges of point 315 hiding

in his bag. The BJP MP said here on Wednesday it is a great irony that a person facing such cases has been given the responsibility of education. He said that the kind of educational reforms and messages to the students would be given by such Education Minister can be easily guessed. Modi said

that a case was lodged against Chandrashekhar at Indira Gandhi International Airport police station on February 21, 2019 under arms act 25 and Indian Penal Code 482 for carrying live cartridges hiding in his bag. Modi said that the high court however accepted the plea of the MLA that

the cartridges were kept in the bag in advertently but it is hard to believe that how any one can carry 10 live cartridges unknowingly. He questioned why Chandrashekhar had hidden the cartridges when he was not carrying licensed rifle with him. During interrogation Chandrashekhar could not exhibit

licence or any authorised letter of permission for carrying cartridges, he quipped. The BJP leader said that by making a person an education minister who is fond of keeping cartridges, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar perhaps want to make the students skilled in carrying out "abduction industry".

Low pressure area forms over Bay Of Bengal, heavy rainfall alert

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): A low-pressure area has formed over the northeast and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal, the regional centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Bhubaneswar informed on Thursday. It is likely to intensify further into a well-marked low pressure area during the next 12 hours and concentrate into a depression during the next 24 hours. Under its influence, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to



occur in interior and coastal Odisha on August 19 and in western Odisha on August 20. The weather center has issued an orange warning for 17 districts for heavy to very heavy rainfall today. The alert has sounded for Dhenkanal, Sundergarh,

Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Angul, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur and Cuttack. While yellow warning has been sounded for Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sonapur, and Kalahandi.

Decision on closing of Hirakud Dam gates after 3 pm: SRC

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Decision regarding the closing of some gates of the Hirakud Dam will be taken after 3 pm on Thursday, informed Odisha Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Jena. There has been no rain in the upper and lower catchment areas of the Mahanadi River since Wednesday and the current inflow of water is 4,40,000 cusecs and the outflow is 6,74,000 cusecs. Also, the current water level in the Hirakud reservoir is 624.43 feet. In view of the possible rain under the influence of low-pressure, efforts are being made to maintain the level at 622



feet, said Jena. Speaking about the situation at Mundali barrage in Cuttack, Jena said though the floodwater flow has receded to 10,26,000 cusecs, it has not receded up to our expectations of 10 lakh cusecs. The water level

has started receding in other areas except for Kansa in Puri district and no new breaches have been reported so far. A total of seven breaches have been reported in the Mahanadi system so far, Jena added.

Lawyers of Western Odisha to enter Lok Seva Bhawan forcefully

Sambalpur, (UNI) The advocates of Sambalpur and neighbouring districts under the banner of central action committee (CAC) will forcefully enter into the Lokseva Bhawan, the state secretariat to compel Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik to hold discussion on establishment of a permanent bench of Odisha High Court in Sambalpur. The advocates of Sambalpur, Bargarh, Deogarh and Boudh districts have decided to take

this extreme step since the chief minister is not giving time to the advocates to discuss the high court bench issue. CAC convenor Ashok Kumar Dash on Thursday apprised the members of the new plans to achieve

the goal. The CAC had organized agitations in Western Odisha on July 8 last and submitted a memorandum to both the Governor and the chief minister on the long standing demand of a permanent bench of Odisha

High Court in Sambalpur. Dash said since the state government did not do anything on their demand, the advocates of Western Odisha, he said had taken a decision to forcefully enter the Lok Seva Bhawan.

Two die as cave collapsed in Malipada forest in Koraput

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Two people died and three injured after a portion of the cave in which they took shelter collapsed at Malipada forest near Gupteswar area under Boipariguda block of Koraput district on Thursday. Sources said five people had gone to the forest since Tuesday to collect forest products.

I&B Ministry blocks 8 YouTube channels

New Delhi, (UNI) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on Thursday said eight YouTube channels, one Facebook account and two Facebook posts have been blocked for showing fake news and spreading communal hatred. The I&B Ministry issued the order on Tuesday, utilizing the emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021. The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 114 crore, were subscribed by over 85 lakh users.

The blocked YouTube channels include Loktantra Tv, which had 23,72,27,331 views and 12.90 lakh subscribers, U&V TV, with 14,40,03,291 views and 10.20 lakh subscribers, and a channel called AM Razvi, which had 1,22,78,194 views and 95,900 subscribers. Other channels are Gouravshali Pawan Mithilanchal, with over seven lakh subscribers and almost 16 crore views, SeeTop5TH with over 24 crore views and 33.50 lakh subscribers, Sarkari Update with over 70 lakh views and 80,900 subscribers, Sab Kuch Dekho with over 32 crore views and 19.40 lakh subscribers and Pakistan based News ki Dunya

which had 61,69,439 views and 97,000 subscribers. The I&B Ministry in a statement said the purpose of the content published by some of these YouTube channels was to spread hatred among religious communities in India. False claims were made in various videos of the blocked YouTube channels. Examples include fake news such as the Government of India to have ordered demolition of religious structures; Government of India to have banned celebration of religious festivals, declaration of religious war in India, etc.



Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony and disturb public order in the country. The YouTube channels were also used to post

fake news on various subjects such as the Indian Armed Forces, Jammu and Kashmir, etc. The content was observed to be completely false and sensitive from

the perspective of national security and India's friendly relations with foreign States. "The content blocked by the Ministry was found to be detrimental to sovereignty

and integrity of India, security of the State, India's friendly relations with foreign States, and public order in the country. Accordingly, the content was covered within the ambit of section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000," the I&B Ministry said. The blocked Indian YouTube channels were observed to be using fake and sensational thumbnails, images of news anchors and logos of certain TV news channels to mislead the viewers to believe that the news was authentic, the ministry said. All the YouTube channels blocked by the Ministry were dis-

playing advertisements on their videos having false content detrimental to communal harmony, public order and India's foreign relations. With this action, since December 2021, the Ministry has issued directions for blocking of 102 YouTube based news channels and several other social media accounts. "The Government of India remains committed towards ensuring an authentic, trustworthy, and safe online news media environment, and thwart any attempts at undermining India's sovereignty and integrity, national security, foreign relations, and public order," the I&B Ministry added.

7 missing after car falls into canal in Pakistan Hindus in Bangladesh celebrate Janmashtami

Islamabad, (UNI) Seven people were missing after a car fell into a drainage canal on Wednesday night in Pakistan's southern port of Karachi, the rescue service said.

Speaking to Xinhua on Thursday, Muhammad Salman, an official of the rescue department of the Edhi Foundation in Karachi, said that the car fell off the road into Malir drainage canal due to high water pressure following heavy rain in the city.

He said a family, including four children, was in the vehicle along with the driver, adding that the



rescue operation has been underway to recover the victims.

Salman, who was personally involved in the operation, said the ill-fated car has already been found, but the victims re-

mained missing.

Pakistan has been suffering from severe floods in parts of the country for over two months.

At least 649 people were killed and 1,030 others

injured in separate rain-triggered accidents across Pakistan over the last two months, the country's National Disaster Management Authority said on Wednesday.

Dhaka, (UNI) The Hindu community in Bangladesh celebrates Janmashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, on Thursday with religious fervour.

It is a public holiday in Bangladesh. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted members of the Hindu community on the occasion, in separate messages.

"Lord Sri Krishna's philosophy was to remove injustice, oppression and violence from the society and build a bond of genuine love and harmony among people,"



Hamid said.

"I call upon the Hindu community people to stand by the helpless and distressed people of the society following the philosophy of Lord Sri Krishna," he added.

Haseena said her Awami League government is determined to maintain communal harmony in the country. "I believe that Sri Krishna's ideals and lessons will strengthen the thousand-year-old com-

munal harmony, friendship and brotherhood of Bengalis."

She urged people to maintain social distancing norms while celebrating Janmashtami.

Zelensky to host Lviv talks with UN chief, Turkish leader

LVIV, Ukraine : As a potential power broker, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will use his first visit to Ukraine since the war started nearly six months ago to seek ways to expand the export of grain from Europe's breadbasket to the world's needy while U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres will focus on containing the volatile situation at a Russian-occupied nuclear power plant.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is hosting both men far away from the front lines, in the western city of Lviv, where diplomatic efforts to help end the war will also be on the agenda.

Meanwhile, the screams of incoming shells still overpowered the whispers of diplomacy.

A total of 11 people were killed and 40 wounded in a series of massive Russian missile strikes on Ukraine's Kharkiv region

on Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

The late Wednesday attack on Kharkiv killed at least seven people, wounded 20 others and damaged residential buildings and civilian infrastructure, authorities said.

At the same time, The Russian Defense Ministry on Thursday morning claimed it targeted "a temporary base of foreign mercenaries" in the city of Kharkiv, killing 90 of them.

Erdogan, whose nation is a member of NATO which backs Ukraine in the war, also oversees a wobbly economy that has been increasingly reliant on Russia for trade. That backdrop turns Thursday's meetings in Lviv into a walk on a diplomatic tightrope. Earlier this month, the Turkish leader met on the same issues with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Erdogan is set to have a one-hour meeting with

Zelensky in the early afternoon before both are joined by Guterres.

Last month, Turkey and the U.N. helped broker an agreement clearing the way for Ukraine to export 22 million tons of corn and other grain stuck in its Black Sea ports since Russia invaded Feb. 24. A separate memorandum between Russia and the U.N. aimed to clear roadblocks to shipments of Russian food and fertilizer to world markets.

The war and the blocked exports significantly exacerbated the global food crisis because Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers. Turkey is in a position to help speed up exports, which have been reduced to a trickle so far.

Grain prices peaked after Russia's invasion, and while some have since returned to prewar levels, they remain significantly higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developing countries have been hit particularly

hard by supply shortages and high prices. Even though ships are now leaving Russia and Ukraine, the food crisis hasn't ended.

U.N. spokesman Stéphane Dujarric told reporters this week that Guterres' trip to Ukraine will allow him "to see first-hand the results of an initiative... that is so critically important to hundreds of millions of people."

He said the three leaders will also discuss the situation at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, Europe's largest, which Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of shelling.

Before his meetings, Guterres visited Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine's oldest, and praised the role of academic institutions in building democratic institutions in a brief statement to reporters. He made no

comment on the substance of the visit. In his nightly video address Wednesday, Zelensky reaffirmed his demand for the Russian military to leave the plant, emphasizing that "only absolute transparency and control of the situation at and around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant for the Ukrainian state, for the international community, and for the IAEA can guarantee a gradual return to normal nuclear safety." The International Atomic Energy Agency is a U.N. agency. Russia has rejected the demand.

If grain transports and nuclear security are issues where some progress could be made, talks about an overall end to the conflict weren't expected to yield anything substantive.

In March, Turkey hosted a round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators, who discussed a possible deal to end the hostilities. The talks fell apart after the meeting in

Istanbul, with both sides blaming each other. Erdogan has engaged in a delicate balancing act, maintaining good relations with both Russia and Ukraine. Turkey has provided Ukraine with drones, which played a significant role in deterring a Russian advance early in the conflict, but it has refrained from joining Western sanctions against Russia over the war.

Facing a major economic crisis with official inflation near 80%, Turkey increasingly relies on Russia for trade and tourism. Russian gas covers 45% of Turkish energy needs, and Russia's atomic agency is building Turkey's first nuclear power plant.

During their meeting in Sochi this month, Putin and Erdogan agreed to bolster energy, financial and other ties between their countries, raising concerns in the West that Ankara could help Moscow bypass the U.S. and European Union sanctions.

Over 26k people evacuated from Ukraine

Kyiv, (UNI) More than 26,000 people have been evacuated to Russia over the past 24 hours from dangerous areas of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR) and Ukraine, head of the Russian National Defense Control Center, Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev, who also leads Russia's humanitarian response coordination headquarters, said.

"Over the past day, without participation of the Ukrainian authorities, 26,079 people, including 4,500 children, were evacuated to the territory of the Russian Federation from dangerous areas of Ukraine and the Donbas republics," Col. Gen. Mizintsev said at a briefing.

He added that since the start of Russia's special military operation, more than 3.44 million people, including over 540,000 children, have been

evacuated to Russia.

Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine on February 24 in response to calls by the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics for protection from Ukrainian troops. The Russian Defense Ministry said the goal of the operation, which targets Ukrainian military infrastructure, is to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine, and to completely liberate Donbas.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the operation aims to "protect people subjected to genocide by the Kiev regime for eight years." As of March 25, the Russian Armed Forces completed the main tasks of the first stage, significantly reducing the combat potential of Ukraine. Western nations have imposed numerous sanctions on Russia and have been supplying weapons to Ukraine.

UN wants impartial investigation extrajudicial killings in police custody in Bangladesh

Dhaka, (UNI) The UN wants an impartial investigation into the disappearances, extrajudicial killings and torture in police custody in Bangladesh, said Michel Bachelet, head of the organization's human rights affairs. On Wednesday afternoon, the last day of his four-day visit to Bangladesh, he spoke at a press conference in Dhaka on various issues related to human rights in Bangladesh. Bachelet said, Bangladesh is moving towards the next elections. Going in an exciting and polarizing direction. In this situation, although the activities of civil society are very important, the field of work of civil society and various rights activists has been narrowed, said Michelle Bachelet, the head of human rights affairs of the United Nations. She said that the up-

coming elections are very important for sustainable economic development. At this time, it is important to give opportunity to political parties, workers, civil society workers to hold meetings. Depriving them of their rights can lead to social unrest. Demands of women, minorities, youth should be heard. During the period of political unrest, one should be careful about using excessive force. Bangladesh must work to protect human rights according to international law. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet arrived in Bangladesh last Sunday. On the first day, he said the Minister of Foreign Affairs. AK Abdul Momen met with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Law Minister Anisul Haque.

Hosepipe ban in Thames Valley, London to take effect on Aug 24

London, (UNI) UK water supply company Thames Water announced on Wednesday a temporary hosepipe ban across the Thames Valley and in London effective August 24 due to continued droughts amid record-low rainfall.

"From Wednesday 24 August, we are bringing in a hosepipe ban (also known as a Temporary Use Ban) for all customers we supply water to, even if we don't bill you directly," the company said on its website.

The ban prohibits citizens from using hosepipes, sprinklers and jet washers for watering gardens, filling swimming and paddling pools, cleaning vehicles and outdoor surfaces, among other things.

Exemptions will be made for using a hosepipe to ensure health and safety,



for businesses and farmers that water plants for sale, to maintain a pool during its construction and in other special cases, the company said. People with restricted mobility are also allowed to use hosepipe for almost all purposes. Those breaching the rules can be fined up to 1,000 pounds (\$1,209).

Thames Water said that this new restriction is another step to boost diminishing water resources, with prior efforts including reducing leaks and encouraging customers to cut water consumption. According to BBC, the restriction will affect as many as 10 million Thames Water customers.

Similar bans have been already announced in Yorkshire, Hampshire, Wales, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Sussex and some other parts of the country. The United Kingdom has been facing an abnormal heat wave since July, with the temperature reaching a record-high of 40.3 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) on July 19.

Liz Cheney vows to keep fighting Trump after Wyoming loss



Washington, (UNI) Rep Liz Cheney has vowed to keep fighting Donald Trump after conceding defeat in the Wyoming Republican primary to Trump-backed candidate Harriet Hageman.

"This primary election is over. But now the real work begins," she told a crowd of supporters late on Tuesday. The Wyoming congresswoman has made her name as an anti-Trump Republican and continued to vow Tuesday that she would do whatever it takes to ensure Trump would never be re-elected as president after the January 6 Capitol riot. She was one of the 10 Re-

publicans who voted to impeach him for inciting the event.

Cheney told NBC that she planned to join a coalition of Republicans, Democrats, and independents, saying a broad, united front was necessary to keep Trump out of office. Her spokesperson also told Politico that she planned to launch an organization in the coming weeks to educate Americans about the "ongoing threat to our republic." In response to rumors that she is contemplating a run for the presidency herself, Cheney told NBC that she would make a decision "in the coming months."

Manipur remembers Rajiv Gandhi, CM appeals to promote oneness

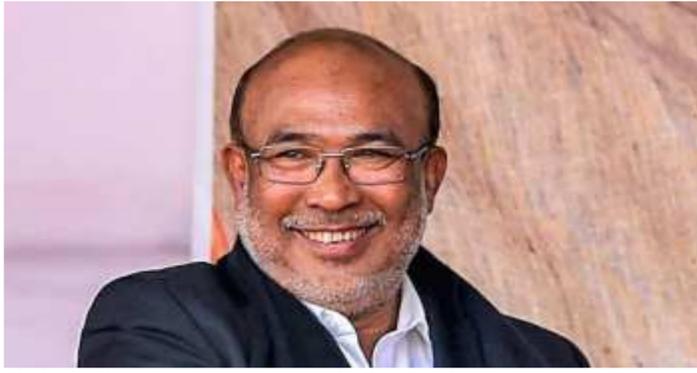
Imphal, (UNI) Manipur CM, N. Biren Singh said that the motto of the Government is to protect the lives and property of the general public and as such the Government would always work for the welfare of its people irrespective of differences among different communities residing in the State.

He was speaking during observation of Sadbhavana Diwas at Manipur Rifles complex here on Thursday.

Sadbhavana Diwas is observed every year on 20th August, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

However, this year, the Diwas was observed on Thursday as 20th August falls on Saturday which is a closed holiday for Government Offices and 19th August 2022 too is a Gazetted holiday on account of the Janmashtami festival.

The theme of Sadbhavana is to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony among people of



all religions, languages and regions. The idea behind observance is to eschew violence and to promote goodwill among the people.

N Biren said that Manipur is like a mini-India where people from different communities had been residing together for the last many years, he stressed the importance of phasing out all differences and marching forward together to make one Manipur within one India.

Stating the objectives of observing the Sadbhavana Diwas as to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony, the Chief Minister expressed that observation of the same is very important for

a country like India which is resided by different communities. He further expressed his desire to make the observance more meaningful with every citizen following its basic theme of Sadbhavana in a real sense.

He further raised concern on exercising the freedom of speech by some people beyond the ambit provided under the Constitution of India, causing harm to the interest of the general public and creating tension among different communities.

He appealed to the public to refrain from such activities and asked them to come up with their grievances in the right forum

and through their elected representatives so that it could be solved at the earliest.

Mentioning that the State's achievements in different sectors was due to prevalence of peace and support of the people, he expressed happiness that the public had begun to actively participate in the development works of the Government. This shows the true meaning of democracy with people's participation in governance, he added.

Power, Forest and Environment Minister Thongam Biswajit, stated that the main objective behind the observance of Sadbhavana Diwas was to

promote National Integration and Communal Harmony among people and to refrain from any form of violence.

On the occasion, he recalled the distinctive thoughts and ideals of Former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi and added that the latter had always worked for the peaceful co-existence among different communities and making a strong united India during his dynamic leadership.

He continued the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had always worked to bring equal development in both hill and valley areas through various initiatives.

The Government had left no stone unturned to bridge the gap in development across the State and to maintain the aged-old relationship among different communities, he added.

The Minister stressed that misunderstanding and mistrust arising between any

community could be redressed through political dialogues which is imperative for maintaining a healthy relationship and peaceful co-existence.

During the observation, the Chief Minister led the other dignitaries and officials in taking the solemn pledge to work for the emotional oneness and harmony of all the people of India regardless of caste, region, religion or language. The pledge further read to resolve all differences through dialogue and constitutional means without resorting to violence.

Cabinet Ministers, Member of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and Senior Civil and Police Officials also attended the programme among others.

Artistes of Shri Shri Bal Mukunda Dev Government Music College, Imphal performed the opening and closing songs as a part of the observance.

ED raids BSP MP premises in UP, Delhi



Lucknow, (UNI) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched four places, including at the residence of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Afzal Ansari and mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday.

Official sources said that searches were also carried out at Afzal's residence in Delhi besides in Lucknow, Ghazipur and Mau districts in Uttar Pradesh.

In Lucknow, the searches took place in an apartment in Dalibagh area.

Official sources said a team of ED along with

central security forces reached the ancestral house of the Ansaris at Yusufpur Phatak in Mohammadabad town in Ghazipur.

Searches also took place at the premises of property dealer Ganesh Dut Mishra, jeweller Vikram Agrahari and travel agency owner Shamsuddin Khan in the city. All of them were considered close to the Ansari family.

Illegal properties of Mukhtar Ansari and his associates to the tune of Rs 15 crore have been seized in different parts of the state in the last few months.

India's Rajiv Sethu makes India proud in the Asia Road Racing Championship

Sportsland SUGO (Japan): The IDEMITSU Honda Racing India celebrated its best ever performance in the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship 2022 (ARRC). Today's race made India proud. It is the first time that India's solo team secured top 5 position at Asia's toughest road race championship. Rajiv recorded the new best finish by Indian rider in AP250 class of ARRC at 5th spot Saturday's AP250 race was one of the toughest races of the season with 5 riders crashing out in first lap. Starting the wet 12-lap race 1 from 14th on the

grid, Rajiv quickly moved to 6th place after lap 1. From thereon, he continued to maintain his position until he fell in lap 5 due to wet racetrack. Determined to finish the race, Rajiv challenged himself and immediately re-joined the race to finally cross the chequered line at 5th place. Masterful race performance by the Indian rider Rajiv Sethu in his very first outing at Sportsland SUGO International Circuit resulted in the team realizing its next step up by securing top 5 position in the Race 1 of AP250 class and earned 11 points.

Maharashtra to provide affordable housing: CM



Mumbai, (UNI) Maharashtra will fulfill the dreams of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by providing affordable housing to the common people, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced on Thursday.

"Our government is committed to provide residences and affordable houses to common people ... which is also dream of our Prime Minister," he said.

Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnis launched the lottery of 5,211 houses to be con-

structed on behalf of Pune Mandal MHADA.

He said more than 90,000 citizens applied for the flats.

He said 3,000 houses were ready and will be distributed in the next one-and-a-half months while the rest of the flats will be completed and distributed in one-and-a-half years.

"Owning a house is the dream of every citizen. To fulfill this dream, Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the concept of affordable housing for all."

Nitish defends Leshi, reprimands party MLA Beema for targeting her

Patna, (UNI) A day after JD(U) MLA Beema Bharti accused Leshi Singh of being involved in a number of murder cases who was inducted in the cabinet of newly formed Grand Alliance government, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar defended Leshi and warned Beema not to make such a baseless allegation.

Kumar told media persons here that he was surprised to learn that Beema had made serious allegations against Leshi. All allegations made against Leshi were baseless and there was nothing against her, he pointed out.

"Beema was made minister on two occasions earlier and she could not even read oath paper during swearing-in ceremony in 2014" Chief Minister said adding that she should not have levelled baseless allegations against Leshi Singh.

If Beema had any intention to desert JD(U) then he had nothing to say as she was free to do so whatever she liked, he remarked.

Farooq calls all-party meet on non-local voters

Srinagar, (UNI) National Conference President Dr Feroz Abdullah on Thursday called an all-party meeting to discuss permission given to non-locals to vote in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was called an hour after Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti said she had urged Abdullah to convene such a meeting.



Kumar said it was not for the first time that Leshi had been made Minister. She was Minister in the last cabinet and also earlier, he maintained.

Beema Bharti on Wednesday had alleged that Leshi Singh had been indulged in getting murder of anyone at her convenience who could put a political challenge to her.

She had taken strong exception to Leshi being inducted into the cabinet. She had even threatened to resign from the party if Chief Minister Kumar did not remove Leshi from the cabinet.

Chief Minister to a query about allegation levelled against his law Minister Kartikey Kumar of his involvement in a kidnapping case and a pending war-

rant of arrest against him, said that the matter was being looked into. He, however, had feigned ignorance about it when asked in this connection yesterday.

Kumar said that he had personal relation with RJD Chief Lalu Prasad. The pace of development of Bihar would accelerate under the regime of the Grand Alliance government in Bihar, he added.

Chief Minister who visited Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science (IGIMS) Patna to enquire about health of ailing Energy Minister Bijender Prasad Yadav, said he was much better than earlier.

He was admitted to IGIMS on Wednesday after he complained of uneasiness in his chest and cough.



Abdullah spoke to the leaders of political parties and requested them to attend the meet on Monday, his party said. The Chief Electoral

Officer on Wednesday announced that about 25 lakh non-locals can vote during state assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Five lakh people in Odisha affected in current flood, 2.55 lakh marooned: SRC

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Around five lakh people in 2066 villages of 71 blocks in 13 districts are affected by the current flood, Odisha Special Relief Commissioner P K Jena said here on Thursday.

After reviewing the flood situation with the Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra, the SRC said 2, 55,325 people in 470 villages were marooned. He said in these areas one lakh people are being provided cooked food in 190 Relief centres and 90,000 people were evacuated.

Several houses were damaged and a vast track of crop land submerged under water. Jena said the water level in the Mahanadi river has been receding since Wednesday. Official sources said at present

28 sluice gates of Hirakud dam were opened.

At 6 PM on Thursday the water level at Hirakud reservoir was 623.60 feet. The inflow of water at Hirakud has come down to 3,95,840 lakh cusecs against outflow of over 4.81,497 lakh cusecs at 6 PM.

At Munduli, the flow of water is decreasing. The discharge of water from Munduli was 10,02,823 lakh cusecs at 6 pm against 10,10,525 cusecs at 3 PM

The SRC said light to moderate rain may hit Odisha on August 19 and 20 due to the well-marked low pressure concentrating into depression.

Jena quoting an IMD report said Low Pressure Area has formed over northeast and adjoining

areas of eastcentral Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh-Myanmar coasts. The system is likely to move west-northwestwards and become more marked during the next 12 hours.

The Met department further said that the well-marked low pressure will concentrate into Depression during the subsequent 24 hours. Under its impact heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected at a few places and extremely and extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places is very likely over North Odisha on August 19 and 20.

As many as 11 NDRF, 12 ODRAF and 52 Additional Fire Service Teams have been deployed in relief and rescue operation in the flood hit areas, official sources said

Congress' rally against price rise postponed to Sep 4

New Delhi, A (UNI) Congress on Thursday said it will hold a rally against price rise on September 4. The 'Mehngai Pe Halla Bol' rally was earlier scheduled to be held on August 28.

Congress General Secretary Organisation Jairam Ramesh also said that Rahul Gandhi will address the Mehngai Pe Halla Bol rally, and on September 7, and he will also be present at the commencement of Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari on September 7.

"Due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation, the Congress party's Mehngai Par Halla Bol Rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi is being rescheduled from 28 Aug to 4 Sept. The rally will send a powerful message to the insensitive Modi sarkar," said Ramesh. At a press conference, Ramesh said PCC Presidents and senior leaders from the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand attended a meeting held at the Congress office to plan the agitation. "On August 22, there will be a meeting at every PCC Headquarters for 'Halla Bol, Delhi Chalo' against price rise. For the next five days, till August 23, there will be public meetings on price rise in every state. On August 25, a program will be organized in every district for the preparation of 'Mehngai Pe Halla Bol, Delhi Chalo', and on August 27, in every block, programs will be organized to prepare for Mehngai Par Halla Bol rally," he said.

"This rally will be held on 4th September at Ram Leela Maidan. People will come from different states and inflation, GST has been imposed on food items, on that, we are going to give a strong, effective message on unemployment, to this insensitive Modi government," Ramesh said.

India at 75 | Stepping back from an ecological abyss

Chipko. Silent Valley. Narmada. Koel-Karo. Growing up in the 1970s and the early 1980s, many of us who were passionate about environmental issues were inspired by these and other movements. As the government too responded with a series of forest, wildlife, environment-related laws and policies, there was hope that India would be able to balance its development needs with the sustenance of its ecological foundations. As India celebrates 75 years of Independence, has that hope been sustained?

An earth under stress

The prospects today seem far gloomier than they did in the 1980s. Four hundred and eighty million Indians face the world's most extreme air pollution levels. According to NITI Aayog, "600 million people in India face high to extreme water stress... with nearly 70% of water being contaminated; India is placed at 120th amongst 122 countries in the water quality index". Land degradation and desertification are taking place over 30% of our land, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation. Average levels of land productivity are one-fourth or one-fifth of what they could be; pumping in artificial fertilizers restores a bit, but at the cost of pushing the soil further towards death. Food items in most cities have pesticide residues well above human safety levels. The World Bank — itself partly responsible for pushing India into unsustainable pathways — reported in 2013 that India was losing 5.7% of GDP due to environmental damage. The latest global environmental ranking by Yale and Columbia Universities puts India at the bottom among 180 countries; while flawed in many respects, including how it lets rich countries off the hook, it is nevertheless reflective of what is happening on the ground.

Favouring corporate access

All this evidence has still not penetrated the minds of politicians and economists setting development priorities. The obsession with economic growth — despite growing evidence of GDP being a very poor indicator of human well-being — treats the natural environment (and related livelihoods) as fodder for exploitation. Despite public posturing about the Sustainable Development Goals, the natural elements without which we would all be dead — land, water, biodiversity, air — continue to be ignored or mauled.

In fact, the Government is dismantling environmental and social security policies to favour corporate access to land and natural resources, such as the latest proposals to amend forest and environment laws, and the Environment Impact Assessment notification. Its priority programmes include building massive physical infrastructure that only disrupts the natural infrastructure we desperately need to protect. For instance, the 2022-23 Budget has an allocation for highways that alone is 40 times greater than the Budget of the Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Of what use is faster and faster mobility, if at the end of the journey we still have air and water and food that are killing us?

Given the hopeful signs of the 1970s and the 1980s, how did we come to this pass? In our book *Churning the Earth*, Aseem Shrivastava and I analysed in detail a significant turning point — the economic 'reforms' beginning in 1991. With greater integration into the global economy, the entry of multinational (and big Indian) corporations into every sector, and increasing exports of natural materials and imports of toxic waste, the issue of environmental sustainability was relegated to the background. Mining projects crept into previously safe areas including wildlife protected areas and Adivasi territories, the oceans became a target for major commercial extraction (and will be even more so with the new Deep Ocean Mission), and big infrastructure became a holy mantra.

Still many miles to go for 'tryst with destiny'

Gandhiji's advice to everyone was to 'be the change you want to see in the world.' Our Common Agenda recommends greater participation of youth in governance of national and global matters. They must become catalysts for movements of change in their own communities and places of work. They should listen to people around themselves and encourage people to listen to each other and to respect each other.

INDIANS proudly unfurled the national flag on August 15 to celebrate the birth of their nation 75 years ago. India has advanced a lot since then. But it has miles to go to achieve the "tryst with destiny" it set out. The first stage of the journey for Indians' independence ended with the departure of the British after a historic non-violent struggle. The second stage is to "poorna swaraj" (Mahatma Gandhi's vision) — when all Indian citizens will have full political, social, and economic freedom; and become a country not divided into fragments by narrow domestic walls, where all minds are without fear and all heads are held high (Tagore's vision).

Sadly, many Indian citizens — who belong to the so-called "lower" castes, and those who follow "minority" religions — are not yet assimilated as equal citizens. Also, fear of hunger and inadequate opportunities to earn decent incomes haunt millions. Lately, even political freedoms are being curbed in the name of national security. Moreover, though India's gross economic growth (GDP) is amongst the fastest in the world, India is becoming one of the most unequal societies in the world.

The world isn't in much better shape. The vision of a boundaryless world, a dream of international economists in which money and trade flow freely across national borders, is vanishing. The cold war for global hegemony has heated up again. Global supply chains and global flows of finance have broken down with Covid restrictions and US sanctions against China and Russia.

When the Second World War, in which millions of people lost their lives, ended, the world's leaders vowed: "never again". Global institutions were set up to maintain global peace, to help countries rebuild their shattered economies, and assist poorer countries to develop rapidly—the United Nations, the World Bank and the IMF. They have failed to do so. India's tryst with destiny for Indian citizens is the same as the UN's tryst was for all the world's citizens. The UN needs urgent reforms. The Secretary-General presented recommendations to the 75th meeting of the UN General Assembly. The recommendations, "Our Common Agenda", provide critical lessons for the improvement of India's governance also for building India beyond India@75.



"Our Common Agenda" emphasises the need for leaders in institutions at the top to listen to common people. Global institutions (and many national governments) are run by people who are experts about everywhere, but who don't listen to common people anywhere, even in their own countries. People wish to be heard and to participate in the decisions that affect them. Government by the people is the essence of democracy. The Secretary-General asks all governments to conduct exercises for "national listening" and envisioning the future.

Multinational businesses and many economists see national boundaries as impediments to the growth of the global economy. They would rather the world did not have meddling national governments. Starry-eyed liberals also imagine a world with a global government directly elected by all citizens of the world. For them, too, nations are unnecessary divisions of a universal brotherhood. The report says, "One of the strongest calls emanating from the consultations on the seventy-fifth anniversary and Our Common Agenda was to strengthen the governance of our global commons and global public goods. This does not require new institutions. Rather, we need new resolve and ways of working together that are suited to the challenges we face." It also explains "the social contract originates at the subnational and national levels, and its exact architecture is unquestionably up to each society to

determine. All societies face and are affected by global pressures, while solidarity within countries provides the foundation for our cooperation internationally."

Tagore was a poet. He disagreed with Gandhi about the value of nations for humanity. Gandhi was a practical man. He said the romantic idea of a harmonious global village would never be realised unless people learn to live together and to care for their natural environment in the villages and cities where they live. Self-governing communities must cooperate with other self-governing communities around them to democratically manage their larger pool, shared resources—the rivers they share, the routes of communication between them, and governance of trade amongst them. "Think global and act local" is the only way that complex problems like climate change will be solved. National and regional institutions of governance are essential intermediaries for governance of the global commons.

Gandhiji's advice to everyone was to "be the change you want to see in the world." Our Common Agenda recommends greater participation of youth in governance of national and global matters. Young people must become catalysts for movements of change in their own communities and places of work. They should listen to people around themselves and encourage people to listen to each other, to respect each other, and take collective responsibility for their local commons. Demanding change from people on top, whose ways of thinking and working have caused the problems that now need to be urgently solved, is not the way young people will bring about change in the world. Nor should young people scramble to climb up to the top of political parties, companies and governments to change the world. Because the designs of the institutions will have to be changed to conform to the principles that are affirmed in the UN report for global governance. They were also laid out in India's Constitution, though, sadly, they have not been implemented in practice.

The 75th anniversary of India's independence is an occasion to reflect on the path it was pointed to and the fact that it has not yet been taken. We must now turn to it. This path will take us faster to our tryst with destiny in India @100. Moreover, by walking the talk of our founding principles, India will become a role model for harmonious governance in a troubled and divided world.

Goal of developed India

Modi envisions strategy for 25 years

ON the historic occasion of India completing 75 years of freedom from colonial rule, Prime Minister Modi, in his Independence Day speech, laid out the path envisaged by him to take the country ahead in its march towards progress. There is much that remains to be done to fulfill the dream of the freedom fighters and a country envisioned by our forefathers, as laid out in the Constitution. Ambitiously aiming for a developed status for India by its centenary year of independence, he listed some key goals. Filtering out the jingoism from his utterances — that is by now predictably a tom-tomming of his government's schemes and a strong bias against the regimes from 1947 to 2014 — an outline of the future strategy is visible. Not surprisingly, it rides majorly on the thrust of economic and education empowerment through the 'Make-in-India' initiative and the 'New Education Policy', respectively. Fuelling them would be the new-



age buzzwords of technology and digitisation. To achieve this end, the PM has rightly sought the helping hand of our demographic dividend: the youth, including from smaller towns and villages. After all, with 66 per cent of the population below the age of 35, India has the

advantage of being home to the largest youth population in the world. The 'panch pran' that he enumerates for the citizens are geared towards a society collectively aspiring to bring about change. The pledges include working for a developed India, abolishing slavery, taking pride in heritage and adopting unity and a sense of duty. While these are commendable, a lot remains to be set right before the ground is conducive to fomenting such a spirit of unity in the increasingly polarised cultural and socio-economic set-up.

Significantly, in the bid to maximise the reaping of this large productive pool of people, Modi's calculations foresee a critical role for women. This is a heartwarming. For, it is an acknowledgement of the fact that even 75 years after the right to equality was given to the fair sex, it continues to be treated unfairly, with the society failing to unshackle itself from misogynist and patriarchal tendencies. At the same time, it is pregnant with the promise of opportunities on equal terms for the women in every field.

History of strategic thinking on the Indo-Pacific

IN 1992, senior RAND analyst George Tanham touched a raw nerve in India by concluding that India did not have a tradition of strategic thinking throughout its history. His essay, prepared after a four-month visit to India was commissioned by the US Defence Department, during which he interviewed several top Indian security officials. Tanham concluded that part of our problem was historical as Indian thinking was dominated by "ethnic, linguistic, religious, caste and internal regional rivalries over national concerns." Political unity did not exist despite cultural identity, except briefly during the Mauryan, Gupta or Moghul empires. The British never took Indians into confidence for their strategic designs. As a result, Indian military thinking developed as a reactive, land-oriented defensive strategy.

In 1945, veteran historian-diplomat Sardar KM Pannikar had said the same in his book "India and the Indian Ocean". He wrote this book on the eve of Independence, to guide our leaders into a diversified strategic thinking, citing the importance of seas in our future security architecture. Till the middle of the thirteenth century, the control of the Indian waters was entirely in Indian hands. Even the Arabs, "who succeeded to the supremacy of the sea, after the breakdown of Chola naval power, were only commercial navigators", did not pose any security threats. "The unique glory of the Moghuls could not hide the fact that on the sea they were totally helpless, and Akbar himself had to suffer the humiliation of the trade of the Empire being interrupted, and the pilgrim traffic to Mecca harassed by the Portuguese on his coast." Aurangzeb realised this "only when the Sidis of Janjira offered their services against the growing Maratha power on the sea."

However, regional satraps, like Shivaji, Hyder Ali or Kerala princes, were aware of the importance of the sea. Ali concluded his 1782 treaty with the famous French admiral, Suffren. After Suffren departed in 1784, the British dominated the Indian Ocean till 1941, when Singapore fell. Pannikar said that the use of the seas for area dominance was propagated by other thinkers like Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan of America and German



general-geographer-academic Haushofer, whose treatise "Geo Politik of the Pacific Ocean" was "a virtual textbook for Nippon's naval strategy." How did a German professor's work become Japan's naval strategy? I had read about Professor Karl Haushofer in American journalist Agnes Smedley's 1943 book "Battle Hymn of China", wherein she had referred to her long dialogue with Mao Zedong on India in 1937 while she was staying in the Yanan (Yan'an) caves with him, Zhu De and others. Smedley, a close associate of Lala Lajpat Rai in New York, was arrested in 1918 by American agencies under the Espionage Act for promoting Indian freedom activities. Upon release, she moved to Berlin, where she wrote two works on Indian history for Haushofer's "Institut für Geopolitik", which came under some notoriety as the incubator of Adolf Hitler's ideas on "Blut und Boden" (Blood and Soil). However, Albrecht Haushofer, son of Karl Haushofer was executed by Hitler's SS on April 21, 1945, for being a part of the

Kreisau Circle for plotting Hitler's assassination. Karl Haushofer's ideas on the strategic importance of the Pacific Ocean had crystallised during his tenure as German military attaché in Japan during 1909-10. Haushofer stayed in India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) for 10 weeks during his sojourns in this period which convinced him that the "Monsoon Countries" such as India, Ceylon and China had constituted a geopolitical unit. He also saw the events in the Indian Ocean rim as connected to the developments in China, Japan and the Pacific into an opportunity to throw out colonial rule to enable German influence over the region.

It is commonly understood that the term "Indo-Pacific" had originated from the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's speech at the Indian Parliament in 2007 ("Confluence of the Two Seas") and his later address in Kenya in 2016 ("Toward a Free and Open Indo-Pacific"). This had paved the way for America to recognise the importance of linking the two seas by renaming the US

Pacific Command as the US Indo-Pacific Command in May 2018. "Foreign Policy" (July 30, 2021) gave credit to this renaming to Japanese official Satoshi Suzuki and his American counterpart Brian Hook to "bring India in from the cold of its nonaligned Cold War stance and focus on China." However, Harvard scholar Hansong Li gives credit for this concept to Haushofer, as Pannikar wrote in 1945. Li, in his Cambridge University paper dated June 4, 2021, traces the origin of this "Indo-Pacific" concept from his 1924 paper "Building Blocks of Geopolitics, Geopolitics of Pan-Ideas, and German Cultural Politics in the Indo-Pacific Space." Haushofer envisaged Indo-Pacific as "an organic and integral space primed for political consciousness" based on oceanographic foundation "with novel evidence in marine sciences, ethnography, and philology, but also legitimated it as a social and political space."

This paper and his other works were widely translated into Japanese and circulated among security and academic circles and became cornerstones of Japan's strategy for Pacific and India Oceans before the World War II.

In Europe, events during the pre-Second World War days reveal that it was Haushofer's writings that linked Japan with Germany and Axis powers which led to the conclusion of the 1940 Berlin Tripartite Pact and secret agreements carving out zones of influence along longitude 70 degrees east in which India came under the Japanese area of influence. That map is still available on the archives. A near century after Haushofer's "Indo-Pacific" thesis, one finds this area is still pivotal with the same players in action but in different roles. Haushofer's thesis did not help Germany due to checkmates by other powers, including the Soviet Union. In 2022, Germany is nowhere in sight as a military power in the Indo-Pacific Japan, which was the pillar Haushofer's thesis has aligned with the West. China, which Haushofer wanted to pit against the West, is now an energised power which keeps others guessing whether it would integrate Taiwan ahead of 2049 when the PRC completes a century.

Coal Sector Performance Outstanding Says Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi said that Indian economy is marching ahead despite odds and difficulties caused by Covid - 19 pandemic. Addressing the function to confer coal minister's awards for 2021-22 here today Shri Joshi pointed out that coal sector has played a crucial role in ensuring energy security of India. Shri Joshi urged CIL and its subsidiaries to focus on infra-

structure development, transportation and new technologies to increase coal production. Secretary Coal Dr. Anil Kumar Jain, Chairman, Coal India Ltd Shri Pramod Agarwal and other senior functionaries of the ministry and coal India subsidiaries attended the function.

Started last year, the purpose of the Awards was to not only appreciate and acknowledge the best performers among CIL's coal producing companies, but also to create a congenial



and competitive spirit to outperform each other. The first ever awards of last year were in three categories of safety; production & productivity; sustainability. Expanding the ambit, this year two new additional

categories of quality and ERP implementation have been added. In another upshot, General Managers of best performing areas are also acknowledged and awarded this year in four subcategories. Of the

awards in five categories Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd (MCL) bagged the first prize in three categories namely safety, production & productivity and quality. While the first prize in sustainability category went to Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) bagged first prize in implementation of ERP.

Continuing the high orbit performance this year as well, CIL's production of 224 million ton (MT)

so far (till 11th Aug, 2022) achieved a strong growth of 24% - the like of which was never witnessed before. Total off-take of 251 MTs with 10.4% growth is another point in the company's performance. Also, at a time when the country is vigorously reviving its post pandemic economic growth, Coal India's capital expenditure reached an all time high of 15,400 crores in FY'22, overtaking the target for the second consecutive year.

Collector Koraput Requested to interfere the constant traffic jam problems

Prasanta Bishoyi

Jeypore: In spite of appeals by the local people of Jeypore subdivision in Koraput District, a battery of trucks kept on the Ranchi-Vijayawada Highway towards Hatisal from Gandhi chowk is reported to have caused the intensification of the traffic jam problems. The local administration regarding the jam is neither imposing any fine nor taking any action reveals the ill-intention of some officers. Everyday, the jam after the evening hours is found to be horrible.



People are fed up with the carelessness. Some members of different organisations are wishing to meet the District Collector Abdal Akhtar with a hope to find out any solution to this grave issue. It has been noticed that even sometimes ambulance passing through this route are facing hurdles in reaching the hospital in time. Earlier the local administration

gave notification for imposing fines and also reportedly circulated information that hereafter if any Truck Parking found stretching upto the NH be found, punishment as per law would be taken. But, it seems that the concerned authorities of Jeypore are not taking it seriously. Now, people do hope that the intervention of Koraput District Magistrate is a ray of hope to this issue.

Army recruitment under Agnipath Scheme

(V.R.Raju)

Chatrapur, Army recruitment under Agnipath Scheme will be held at different places of Odisha from 1st Nov 2022 to 7th Nov 2022. Details are available in www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. On line registration is must and it open from 5th Aug to 03 Sept 22.

Harika and Sibani did well in Education Hons of Berhampur University

Prasanta Bishoyi

Jeypore: The +3 examination results Conducted by Berhampur University was declared. Two students of the local Govt women's College jeypore secured forth and seventh position in Education hons. They are Miss P.B.Harika and Miss.Sibani patnaik . They brought fame to the college as proudly stated by Dr.Manoranjan Pradhan and the Principal of the college Dr.Manorama Devi.

OPSCASO Exam Postponed, Rescheduled Date To Be Notified Soon

Bhubaneswar:, (TNB): With many districts facing flood situation, the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) today announced to postpone the Assistant Section Officer (ASO) examination. The examination was scheduled to be held on August 21. "It is for information of all concerned that in view of the dislocation caused by the severe flood in the State, the ASO written examination scheduled to be held on 21st August 2022 (Sunday) is hereby postponed until further order.

The 76th Independence day was celebrated at NTPC ER-II Headquarters with traditional splendor

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Shri A.K. Goswami, Regional Executive Director NTPC (Eastern Region -HQ -II) hoisted the National Flag and took the ceremonial salute. This was followed by his address. During his address, He stated that it was with a great sense of pride that we celebrate the 76th Independence Day of our Nation. The People' at NTPC were the prime movers of powering our nation and contributing significantly to its growth. With a humble start in 1975, NTPC is now the nation's largest and most admired energy major. It is indeed a

matter of pride that our company is India's largest integrated energy company with an installed capacity of more than 69 GW powering the country's growth. The Regional Executive Director further stated that NTPC is expanding its footprint in new business areas like green hydrogen, waste-to-energy, and e-mobility. India's largest power producer is also aiming for a 10 per cent reduction in net energy intensity by 2032. NTPC has become India's first energy company to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN High-level Dia-



logue on Energy (HLDE).

NTPC has been recognized as one of the "Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022" by renowned Team Marksmen in association with India Today. NTPC's flagship CSR initiative, Girl

Empowerment Mission (GEM), had reached new heights of success in helping young girls to realize their goals. This year, NTPC has carried out its GEM program in around 35 projects/stations. ER II

Region has stood as a pillar and partner in NTPC's journey towards excellence. He also spoke about the achievements of ER-II in general and projects/units in specific.

Shri A.K. Goswami, RED(ER-II) called upon everyone to work together towards the larger cause of sustaining the competitive advantage of the company and the development of the nation. He urged upon all employees of ER-II to come forward and contribute their best for the organisation and the Nation at large.

Franklin Templeton launches Franklin India Balanced Advantage Fund

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Franklin Templeton (India) launches an open-ended dynamic asset allocation fund called Franklin India Balanced Advantage Fund (FIBAF) in the Odisha market. The fund intends to generate long-term capital appreciation and income generation by investing in a dynamically managed portfolio of equity and equity related instruments and fixed income and money market instruments.

Franklin Templeton sees strong potential for growth of mutual funds in Odisha as new investors look at alternative modes of investment following declining returns from traditional assured returns products. The fund house is working on growing its



distributor network in Odisha, with the aim of reaching out to more investors to educate them about the benefits of mutual fund investing. The assets under management of the mutual fund industry in Odisha currently stands at around Rs. 35 thousand crore spread across key cities like Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, and Cuttack among others

and is poised for exponential growth in the medium to long term.

FIBAF is a prudent choice for investors seeking a 'one-stop' solution for their investment needs as it offers tactical allocation between equity and debt based on market valuations and fundamental factors-driven views. The product is suitable for investors who are not only

keen to take advantage of the growth opportunities in equities, but also prefer to reduce the impact of market volatility. The New Fund Offer opens on August 16, 2022, and will close on August 30, 2022, during which units will be available at Rs.10/- per unit. Speaking on the launch of the fund, Avinash Satwalekar, President, Franklin Templeton - India, said, "We are excited to bring another diversified investment offering that helps investors in Odisha navigate through changing markets, in a simple and efficient manner. We are eagerly looking forward to embarking on a new chapter of growth in India, and the launch of FIBAF represents a first of many steps to this end.

Water Wise' National Level Seminar, organised, A Big Challenge to protect Water

Naresh Ch. Pattanayak Keonjhar, One day seminar on 'water wise' based on success stories and best practices from rural India in water, waste water (grey water) and foecal sludge management was organised in New Delhi on Wednesday. Different aspects of "The JalJeevan Mission and the Swachh Bharat Mission" practices in national wide were discussed.

The programme was organised by Center for Science and Environment (CSE) to ensure 'functional' tap water supply across the country.

Presiding the meeting Sunita Narain, director general, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) here narrated "



some best practices from rural India in water, greywater and faecal sludge management. In the national seminar, latest publication of titled Big Change is Possible, containing compendium of case studies has been inaugurated by Officially releasing the compendium, Vini Mahajan, secretary, department of drinking water and sanitation, Jal Shakti ministry, Government of India.

Reporters and social workers from different states including Naresh Chandra Pattanayak, Journalist of Keonjhar dist from Odisha partici-

pated in the national seminar and discussed on the issues along with others. Beside Odisha, participants from Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Karnataka, Maharashtra, were present. Similarly senior government officials from different states were participated in the day long seminar. "It was a very nice program, that not only reflects about the problems, and possible solutions are discussed" said Ashish Chhatri, of Sikkim. Similarly Harsh Rao from Karnataka said "the seminar that highlighted several issues on water and sanitation issues at the national level. We learn and gathered idea from it."

Textile Merchant Association, Cuttack celebrated the 75th independence

Cuttack, (TNB): Odisha's oldest and largest textile association "Textile Merchant Association" Cuttack celebrated the 75th Amrit Mahotsav of Independence in the Textile Merchant Association office located in the local Jubilee Tower under the chairmanship of Vice President Naresh G Khatod and under the able leadership of General Secretary Rajesh G Agrawal with great fanfare. Celebrated. The program started with the hoisting of the national flag and the tricolor. Former vice-president of the organization and well-known bhajan singer Dinesh Joshi along with all the members present sang the national anthem. Today's meeting's president Naresh ji Khatod welcomed all the

members and respected guests who had come and wished everyone a very Happy Independence Day. After that, the hardworking energetic minister of the institution, Rajesh G Agrawal, laid the complete information about the progress of the institution in front of the house.

He apprised the House about the work done by various committees constituted for the session 2021-23. Out of which he made special mention of the work of some committees, in which the building committee, "BADDEBTSRECOVERY COMMITTEE", "SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE", transport committee etc. are prominent. Secretary Rajesh ji told that the building committee has

made the building very beautiful and furnished by beautifying the building. He told that the Transport Committee, after interacting with various transports, made such arrangements for the members of the organization to get the goods of all the mandis at an accessible rate and also got token money for the organization from various transports. Dhanuka's role was commendable. The Secretary told that on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence under the leadership of Welfare Committee, the organization also fulfilled its social responsibilities by distributing sewing machines in Nirman Orphanage and dry ration in Apnagar Orphanage. It is worth mentioning that the wholesale merchants of



the organization supply the goods to the retail cloth shops across Odisha, out of which the money of some merchants was also sunk, which was also recovered by the beddept committee of the institution and furthermore the merchants were told that if your payment If any trader does not give his information to the organization, we will try our

best to get your payment by making every effort and if needed, the name of that trader will also be blacklisted.

Despite this, if the payment is not recovered, then 2 senior lawyers and a retired judge have also been appointed by the organization for further legal action. Every effort will be made to ensure that the payment does not stop in

any trader. Further, the Secretary told that all the workers and all the committees of the organization are actively doing their work. The keynote speaker of the program, Geetanjali Ben (Brahmakumari Ashram) motivated all the members about business empowerment with his motivational speech.

Yes, we will bring it to the government. Shri Pralhad ji Khandelwal, Shri Nathmal ji Chanani, Shri Kamal ji Sikriya, Shri Suresh ji Kamani, Shri Subhash ji Kedia, Shri Nand Kishore ji Joshi, Shri Purshottam ji Agarwal etc. registered their presence as the honorable guests of the program. According to the glorious tradition of the institution, the elderly members of the organization, Shri Dhanraj Ji

Agarwal and Shri Nandlal Ji Chaudhary were honored by presenting wreaths and bouquets. In this episode of honour, the former president of the organization, Mr. Mohanlal ji Singhi, was honored by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Ashok Gehlot with the award of Rajasthan Pride, by presenting him with a wreath and giving mementos on behalf of the institution. The former vice-president of the institution, Shri Dineshji Joshi, was elected as the president of the Utkal Regional Marwari Conference and the secretary of the institution, Shri Rajeshji Agrawal, was honored by presenting a memento and a memento on behalf of the organization for becoming the organization minister of the Indian Board of In-

dustrial. Shri Soumya Ranjan ji Rout, the executive member of the organization, requested all the officials of the organization to consider the matter that the members of the organization should have their own shop at an accessible rate. In making all the above programs successful, the treasurer of the organization Saroj ji Sundarka, co-secretary Sajjan ji Agarwal, Vinay ji Jain and all the executive members Manish ji Kochhar, Manish ji Sharma, Vishnu ji Modi, Manoj ji Singhi, Somyranjan Raut and many other workers were special. Contributed. Shri Shubhkarani ji Jain conducted the meeting efficiently. In the end everyone enjoyed the delicious food together.

Sensex crosses 60,000 mark in early trade, Nifty above 17,873 level

Mumbai Equity benchmarks on Wednesday continued to trade higher, with the Sensex breaching the crucial 60,000 mark in early trade amid positive global trends and persistent foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE benchmark index was trading 141.62 points higher at 59,983.83 in early deals. Soon, it jumped to 60,008.11 points, higher by 165.9 points.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 48.25 points to 17,873.50 points. From the Sensex pack, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HDFC and HDFC Bank were among the laggards. In Asia, markets in Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted higher while Seoul was trading lower in mid-session deals. Markets on the Wall Street had ended mostly higher on Tuesday. The BSE benchmark index advanced 379.43 points or 0.64 per cent to settle at 59,842.21 points on Tuesday. The Nifty climbed 127.10 points or 0.72 per cent to 17,825.25 points. Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.5 per cent higher at USD 92.83 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the Indian capital market as they bought shares worth Rs 1,376.84 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Prashanth Tapse - Research Analyst, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said that helping investor sentiments will be the bullish FIIs who have bought shares to the tune of Rs 16,219 crore so far in August.

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-Backed Concord Biotech Files For IPO (Public Offer)

New Delhi. Rare Enterprises-backed Concord Biotech has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator SEBI to mop up funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO is entirely an offer for sale of (OFS) of 2,09,25,652 equity shares by Helix Investment Holdings Pte Limited, which is backed by private equity firm Quadria Capital, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The offer also includes a reservation for subscriptions by eligible employees.

Concord is among the leading manufacturers of fermentation-based biopharmaceutical APIs, focused on niche segments such as immunosuppressant, oncology, anti-fungal and anti-bacterial. It has three manufacturing facilities -- Valthera, Dholka, and Limbasi -- in Gujarat.

The company is backed by Quadria Capital Fund and Rare Enterprises, which was set up by billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, along with his wife Rekha. The veteran stock market investor passed away on Sunday. Ahmedabad-based biopharma firm's revenue from operations rose to ₹713 crore for the financial year 2022 from ₹617 crore in the preceding financial year. However, profit after tax dropped to ₹175 crore in FY22 from ₹235 crore in the previous fiscal.

BIG update for LIC Customers, here is your chance to revive Lapsed LIC Policy: : Check last date, late fee

New Delhi. Life Insurance Corporation of India had announced its Special Revival Campaign for revival of lapsed policies. The insurance behemoth has launched its Special Revival Campaign from 17th August, 2022 to 21st October 2022 for individual lapsed policies.

Under this Special Revival Campaign, Policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within 5 years from date of the First Unpaid Premium subject to certain terms and conditions. The revival plan is applicable to all policies except ULIP Policies.

"This Special Revival Campaign is a unique drive as it extends to all non ULIP Policies with very attractive concession in late fee. Under this Special Revival Campaign except ULIP policies, all policies can be revived within 5 years from date of the First Unpaid Premium subject to policy conditions," LIC said in a official release. There is a 100% waiver of late fee for Micro Insurance Policies to facilitate affordable restoration of risk cover. There are no concessions in medical requirements, the insurance behemoth further added.

The campaign is launched to benefit those policy holders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed, LIC said.

MOST ECONOMISTS SEE GDP GROWING AT SLOWER PACE IN Q1 THAN MPC PROJECTION

New Delhi. Most economists believe that India's economy grew at a slower pace than the monetary policy committee's (MPC's) projection of 16.2 per cent in the first quarter of financial year 2022-23 (Q1FY23). Their projections range between 14.5 per cent and 16 per cent.

All major official data, including the index of industrial production (IIP), for computing the gross domestic product (GDP) for the quarter have been released. At the outset, it may appear that a double-digit GDP growth in Q1FY23 over the 20.1 per cent growth seen in Q1FY22 is quite high.

However, that quarter was affected by the severe second wave of Covid-19. As such, the economy shrank by 8.5 per cent in Q1FY22, when compared with the corresponding pre-Covid period of FY20. If the economy expands by 16.2 per cent during the June quarter of FY23, as projected by the MPC, this would translate to a 6.3 per cent expansion over the corresponding period of FY20. Only CareEdge, previously CareRatings, pegged Q1 GDP growth much higher at 17.8 per cent. This would mean 7.7 per cent growth over the corresponding period of FY20, and would imply that the economy is



recovering finally. CareEdge's chief economist Rajani Sinha said despite multiple headwinds on the external as well as domestic fronts, the economy is expected to have performed well in Q1, led by pent-up demand, especially in the services sector.

"High-frequency economic indicators such as goods and services tax (GST) collections, auto sales, freight movement, and bank credit offtake witnessed healthy growth, reflecting a pick-up in the Sinha said. However, rural consumption is still weak, she added.

Meanwhile, Bank of Baroda's chief economist Madan Sabnavis, who projected GDP growth of 14.5-15 per cent in Q1, said while sector-wise growth rates would be numerically high, the push from industry will be limited with the consumer segment not yet returning to normal. "Investment, too, has been at lower levels with only infra-based sectors showing signs of traction." O.B's growth projections translate to a 5-5.4 per cent expansion over the corresponding quarter of the pre-Covid period, Sabnavis said. The IIP grew 12.7 per cent in Q1, against 44.4 per cent last year. However, this represents 4.8 per cent growth over the corresponding pre-Covid period.

The IIP had declined 6.9 per cent in Q1FY22, compared with Q1 of FY20. It should be noted that IIP is a volume-based index, while GDP is a value-based estimation. ICRA's chief economist Aditi Nayar said the impact of high commodity prices on volumes and margins of producers would weaken industrial growth. She said double-digit GDP growth in Q1FY23 reflects the low base of the second wave of Covid-19 and the recovery in the contact intensive sectors.

ATM Cash Withdrawal Limit For Major Banks And What They Charge



New Delhi. All major banks, both in the public and private sector, allow a limited number of free transactions at the ATMs every month. Beyond the free transactions, which include financial and non-financial services, the lenders levy a charge with applicable taxes.

The number of free transactions at the ATMs may differ on the type of account

and the debit card you hold.

Using the ATMs beyond the permissible limit of free monthly transactions will be chargeable. According to a notification issued by the Reserve Bank of India in June last year, the banks were allowed to charge ₹21 per transaction at the ATM above the monthly free transaction limit, effective from 1 January 2022. Customers are allowed five free transactions at their bank ATMs every month, and the limit is three free transactions for other bank ATMs. Customers in non-metro centres can avail of five free transactions at other bank ATMs. The RBI allowed banks to levy an interchange fee of ₹17 per financial transaction and ₹6 for each non-financial transaction at all centres starting 1 August 2022.

The banks collect ATM service charges to meet the increasing ATM installation and maintenance costs.

All the major banks also charge an annual fee on debit cards or ATM cards, depending on the kind of card a customer possesses.

Nirmala Sitharaman's strong warning against cryptocurrency --Here is what crypto investors should know

New Delhi. Re-emphasising the government's stand on the legality of cryptocurrency, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has once again warned crypto investors against investment in any such crypto. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her address at an event organized by the BJP Economic Cell, strictly warned the people that cryptocurrency is not a currency. She also reminded investors to proceed with caution on cryptocurrencies, adding that a new law on cryptocurrencies will be brought soon.

"...please — Caution is the word. So I think all of us will have to share our thoughts and move with a bit of caution on this. There is immense possibility



when you're talking about the technology, but how and where and what trajectory it takes is something which all of us will have to be concerned about and watch for," Sitharaman had said.

It may be noted that the Indian government does not recognise cryptocurrencies,

but levies a 30 per cent tax on income earned from such virtual digital assets.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been making a strong case for global regulation of cryptocurrencies to tackle the risks of money laundering and terror funding.

Oil Prices Recover From 6-Month Lows, But Still Below \$92.5 Per Barrel

TOKYO. Oil prices rose on Wednesday, recovering from six-month lows hit the previous day, as a larger-than-expected drop in US oil and gasoline stocks reminded investors that demand remains firm, if overshadowed by the prospect of a global recession. Brent crude futures rose 13 cents, or 0.1 per cent, to \$92.47 a barrel by 0035 GMT. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures climbed 27 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to \$86.80 a barrel. The contracts slumped about 3 per cent on Tuesday as weak US housing starts data spurred concerns about a potential global recession.



gasoline stockpiles for a second straight week has reassured investors that demand is resilient, prompting buys," said Kazuhiko Saito, chief analyst at Fujitomi Securities Co Ltd. "Still, the oil market is expected to stay under pressure, with fairly high volatility, due to worries over a potential global recession," he said.

US crude and fuel stocks fell in the latest

week, according to market sources citing American Petroleum Institute figures on Tuesday. Crude stocks fell by about 448,000 barrels for the week ended Aug. 12. Gasoline inventories fell by about 4.5 million barrels, while distillate stocks fell by about 759,000 barrels, according to the sources. An extended Reuters poll showed on Tuesday that crude inven-

tories likely dropped by around 300,000 barrels last week and gasoline stockpiles likely fell 1.1 million barrels, while distillate inventories rose. Investors also awaited clarity on talks to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Oil supply could rise if Iran and the United States accept a proposal from the European Union, which would remove sanctions on Iranian oil exports, analysts said. The EU and United States said on Tuesday they were studying Iran's response to what the EU has called its "final" proposal to save the 2015 nuclear deal after Tehran called on Washington to show flexibility.

Airtel Pays 8,312.4 Crore To Clear 4-Year Instalment In Advance For 5G

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel has paid ₹8,312.4 crore to the Department of Telecom towards dues for spectrum acquired in the recently concluded 5G auctions, the company said on Wednesday.

With the payment, Airtel has paid four years of 2022 spectrum dues upfront. Airtel said it believes that this upfront payment, coupled with the moratorium on spectrum dues and AGR (adjusted gross revenue)-related payments for four years, will free up future cash flows and allow Airtel to dedicate resources to single-mindedly concentrate on the 5G rollout. Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel made a successful bid of ₹43,039.63 crore. "This upfront payment of 4 years allows us to drive 5G rollout in a concerted manner given our operating free cash flow. Airtel also has access to ₹15,740.5 crore in capital from the rights issue, which is



yet to be called. "With the ideal spectrum bank, best technology and adequate free cash flow, we are excited to bring to the country a world-class 5G experience," Bharti Airtel MD and CEO Gopal Vittal said in the statement. The company had an option to pay ₹3,848.88 crore upfront and the rest in 19 annual instalments. The country's biggest ever auction of telecom spectrum received a record ₹1.5 lakh crore worth of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with ₹87,946.93 crore bid.

Lack of treatment guidelines hampering monkeypox care globally, study shows



A dearth of high quality, up to date clinical guidance on monkeypox may be hampering effective and safe treatment of the infection around the world, according to a review

lines. Most were of low quality according to the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation II (AGREE) system, scoring an average of two out of a possible seven. And most lacked detail and covered only a narrow range of topics.

There was little provision for different risk groups: only five (36 per cent) provided any advice for children; and only 3 (21 per cent) provided advice for pregnant women or for people living with HIV. Treatment guidance was mostly limited to advice on antivirals and wasn't consistent: seven guidelines advised cidofovir, four of which specified this only for severe infection; just four (29 per cent) advised tecovirimat, and one (seven per cent) brincidofovir. More recent guidance, includ-

ing from the World Health Organization, recommends the use of tecovirimat rather than cidofovir. While cidofovir and brincidofovir are active against pox viruses in laboratory studies, there is little data on how well they treat pox viruses in people, added to which they are only authorised for use in certain countries, note the researchers. None of the guidelines detailed optimal dose, timing or length of treatment. And only one guideline provided recommendations on supportive care and the treatment of complications. All 14 guidelines recommended vaccination as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), but not all of them were up to date on the newer generation vaccines. And PEP guidance for different risk groups was limited and at times contradictory.

The researchers acknowledged that understanding of the monkeypox virus is still evolving, which may account for some of the variability in recommendations they found. But "even with a limited evidence base, clinical management guidelines are important tools for guiding decision-making and to reduce risk of inappropriate treatments." Given the recent global publicity surrounding monkeypox, this is an opportune moment to harness interest and investment in further research to make sure that everyone is given the best treatment, they said.

Modi govt giving Rs 4.78 lakh loan to every Aadhar card holders Here's the truth behind it



New Delhi: A viral message is doing the rounds in the social media regarding financial assistance by the Central Government. The message says that the central government is providing a loan of ₹4,78,000 to all Aadhar card owners.

The fake message further asks the people to register for getting the financial support and click upon a certain link to apply for the loan.

Meanwhile, Busting the fraudulent message, PIB has said that this message is FAKE. PIB also said that no such aid has been announced by the Finance Ministry of India.

"It is being claimed that the central government is providing a loan of Rs 4,78,000 to all Aadhar card owners," The PibFactCheck said. It added:

-- Do not forward such messages
-- Never share your personal/financial details with anyone

PIB from time to time advises that people should not click any such suspicious links being sent over as a viral message.

How to get messages fact-checked by PIB? If you get any such suspicious message, you can always know its authenticity and check if the news is for real or it is a fake news. For that, you need to send the message to https:

//factcheck.pib.gov.in. Alternatively you can send a WhatsApp message to +918799711259 for fact check. You can also send your message to pibfactcheck@gmail.com. The fact check information is also available on https://pib.gov.in.

New Delhi A dearth of high quality, up to date clinical guidance on monkeypox may be hampering effective and safe treatment of the infection around the world, according to a review led by an international team of researchers.

Existing guidance, such as it is, too often lacks sufficient detail, fails to include different groups, and is contradictory, said the researchers from universities of Oxford in the UK, Bristol in Australia, and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, among others.

They said that "the lack of clarity between guidelines creates uncertainty for clinicians treating patients with [monkeypox] which may impact patient care."

The "study highlights a need for a rigorous framework for producing guidelines ahead of epi-

demics and a recognised platform for rapidly reviewing and updating guidance during outbreaks, as new evidence emerges."

"Human [monkeypox] is providing a challenge even in high-resource settings with well-resourced healthcare systems. The lack of guidelines may especially impact clinics with limited previous experience in managing patients with [monkeypox]," the researchers wrote in the paper published in the open access journal BMJ Global Health. The team searched six major research databases for relevant content published up to mid October 2021, plus the "gray literature" -- policy documents, newsletters, reports, for example, published up to May 2022 -- in several languages.

They found 14 relevant guide-

ZIM vs IND | Shikhar Dhawan comments on Washington Sundar missing out on ODI series: Quite an important player

'New Delhi Shikhar Dhawan has commented on Washington Sundar missing out on the Zimbabwe ODI series due to an injury, saying that he is quite an important player for the team.

India suffered a big blow when Sundar was ruled out from the three-match series after sustaining an injury during his County stint with Lancashire. The 22-year-old will now undergo rehabilitation at the NCA and was replaced in the squad by Shahbaz Ahmed.

Speaking at the press conference, as quoted by News 18, Dhawan admitted that the team would miss the services of Sundar and hailed him as an important player for the team. The southpaw also went on to say that there are enough spinners in the squad who would provide solid backup throughout the three-match series.

"He is quite an important player. We have got a replacement now. Shahbaz (Ahmed) is coming in. But we have got other spinners as well in the side. We have got quite a balanced side. Kuldeep Yadav is there, Deepak Hooda bowls off-spin. We are going to miss him (Sundar). At the same time, we've got good backup as well." "Very sad that Washington is out. It is part and parcel of our field, these things happen. Hope that he recovers soon," said Dhawan. Dhawan, who is one of the senior members of the squad, also believes that the youngsters will get a good opportunity to shine against Zimbabwe. "We guys are happy to be here. It's a good feeling to be back here. I remember when I came in 2014 or something (2013). It was good. The wickets are quite good over here and I am sure that youngsters over here are looking forward to playing the matches. Few of the boys have been touring a lot. I am sure they are going to get chances over here," said Dhawan.

Andre Russell hints at possible T20 World Cup return for West Indies: Always want to play and give back



'New Delhi West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell has hinted that he would like to make a return to the squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia.

Russell was part of the West Indies squad for the last edition of the tournament in 2021 in Dubai. However, he hasn't worn the maroon jersey since then. The 34-year-old has now hinted that he could be in line for a return to the squad for the ICC T20 World Cup 2022, which is scheduled to begin in October. Speaking to former teammate Daren Sammy on Sky Sports, as quoted by the ICC's official website, Russell said that he always wants to play and give back. However, the all-rounder said that the West Indies board would have to accept his terms as well. Russell went on to say that he aims to win another World Cup or two more for the team. "I always want to play and give back. But at the end of the day, if we are not agreeing on certain terms...they have to respect my terms as well. At the end of the day, it is what it is." "We have families and we have to make sure that we give our best opportunity while we have one career. It's not like I can start over again. I'm 34 and I want to win another World Cup - or two more - for West Indies because at the end of the day, I'm here now, and I'm just taking it day by day," said Russell. Recently, West Indies coach Phil Simmons expressed his frustration at the non-availability of key players. However, Russell insisted that he is keen to get involved. "Of course, of course. The maroon is all over." "Honestly, I have two franchise hundreds and I wish those hundreds were actually playing for West Indies. I don't regret saying this just now. I really enjoyed playing for Jamaica Tallawahs but those two hundreds, it would be more special coming in international cricket," said Russell.

Mohammed Kaif on KL Rahul replacing Shikhar Dhawan as captain for Zimbabwe series: Could have been avoided

'New Delhi. Former cricketer Mohammed Kaif has suggested that KL Rahul replacing Shikhar Dhawan as the captain for the Zimbabwe ODI series wasn't right and it was a situation that could have been avoided.

When India named the squad initially, Rahul wasn't part of the team and Dhawan was set to lead in the three-match series. However, the right-handed batter was later added on to the squad and was also handed the captaincy. Dhawan was named as the deputy for Rahul in the series.

Speaking to NDTV

about the entire episode, Kaif said that the entire episode could have been avoided and there might have been a miscommunication. The former cricketer also said that it was not nice to Dhawan that he was forced to relinquish the role. "The situation could have been avoided. You have asked a valid question. There might be a miscommunication, and the report of KL Rahul might have come late. He is going there for the Asia Cup, but he would have needed match practice before that. Somewhere, there might have been a miscommunication. If Shikhar Dhawan



was announced as the captain, so the team could have played under him, it would

not have made any difference." "Currently, it is a different era now. You go as

the net-bowler and then you end up playing Tests, and you make your debut. In COVID times, there have been certain changes. But you are right, I completely agree with your question, that if you have announced someone as captain, then the communication could have been better and people would not get the chance to question the call. It is not nice for Shikhar, as a player, he is very chilled out, he will not care but it is not right for Shikhar Dhawan," said Kaif. Kaif further talked about Dhawan and insisted that the southpaw has a lot of cricket left in him and called him a won-

derful batter. The former cricketer also said that Dhawan is capable of playing all three formats.

"Shikhar Dhawan has a lot of cricket left in him. He is a wonderful batter, he is just playing one format now. He does well in the IPL, he is a wonderful player. Sometimes I get shocked that his name only pops up in ODIs. He is a better player than that, he can play other formats as well. I salute him. He just plays ODIs, but whenever he plays, he scores runs. He did well against West Indies, he scores whenever he gets an opportunity," said Kaif.

Sachin Tendulkar knows everything but I'm not expecting anything: Vinod Kambli in dire need of work

'New Delhi Former India cricketer Vinod Kambli said that he is looking for cricket-related assignments as his only source of income is the pension from the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

The 50-year-old Kambli, who last coached a team during the 2019 T20 Mumbai League, has been hit by the post-Covid world as he is just dependent on INR 30,000 from the BCCI. Kambli used to mentor young cricketers at the Tendulkar Middlesex Global Academy in Nerul. However, the retired cricketer finds Nerul too far to travel. "I used to wake up at 5am, take a cab to DY Patil Stadium. It was very hectic. I would then coach at the BKC ground in the evening," Kambli told Mid-day. "I am a retired cricketer, who is completely dependent on the pension from the BCCI. My only payment (source of income) at the moment is from the Board, for which I am really thankful and grateful. It takes care of my family." "I was seeking help from the MCA (Mumbai

Cricket Association). I came into the CIC [Cricket Improvement Committee], but it was an honorary job. I went to the MCA for some help. I have a family to look after. I told the MCA many times that if you require me, I am there whether it is at the Wankhede Stadium or at BKC. Mumbai cricket has given me a lot. I owe my life to this game. After retirement, there is no cricket for you. But if you want to stay steady in life, it is important to have assignments. I am looking for that from the MCA. All I can do is request the MCA president [Dr Vijay Patil] or the secretary [Sanjay Naik] for an assignment." "When asked whether his childhood friend and India batting legend Sachin Tendulkar is aware of this financial situation, Kambli said: "He (Sachin) knows everything, but I am not expecting anything from him. He gave me the TMGA (Tendulkar Middlesex Global Academy) assignment. I was very happy. He has been a very good friend. He has always been there for me."

It was hard not being able to play WBBL last season: CWG gold medallist Rachael Haynes re-joins Sydney Thunder



'New Delhi. The 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medallist and Australia vice-captain Rachael Haynes has re-joined Sydney Thunder for the upcoming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL). Haynes, who is Sydney Thunder's all-time leading run scorer, led the club to victory during the 2020/21 season. The 35-year-old batter missed the following season after suf-

fering an injury during an Australia match. She then took personal leave for the birth of her child with partner Leah Poulton. Haynes's return to the WBBL, however, was blocked by the various Covid-19 related border restrictions at the time. Haynes has scored 1919 runs in 85 matches for Sydney Thunder, with a highest score of 78 not out. She said that she was happy to be

back in lime green. "It was hard not being able to play WBBL last season for a variety of reasons and I can't wait to get back out there and represent the Thunder Nation," Haynes said.

"We have such an exciting bunch of talented young players that provide plenty of energy and I'm keen to see how far they have come in the year I was away from the team. This club means so much more to me than just results on the field and the chance to get back out and engage with our community is something else that I'm looking forward to." Sydney Thunder's WBBL List Manager and club legend Alex Blackwell said: "Rach is such an integral part of the Sydney Thunder."

Gokulam Kerala FC issues statement as women's team stranded in Uzbekistan after FIFA ban



'New Delhi. Gokulam Kerala FC has issued a statement to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after 23 players of the club's women's team were stranded in Tashkent, Uzbekistan after being denied the chance to play in the AFC Women's Club Championship after FIFA's ban on AIFF. Football's interna-

tional governing body imposed a ban on AIFF in the early hours of 16th August, which meant that the Indian clubs would be unable to compete in continental tournaments.

Gokulam Kerala have now released a lengthy statement on Twitter saying that the women's team has been left stranded in Tashkent and urged Prime

Minister Modi to intervene and help revoke the ban so that the team can take part in the AFC Women's Club Championship. "Our team reached Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from Kozhikode during the early hours of 16th of August 2022. On arrival, we heard through various media outlets that FIFA

has banned AIFF (All India Football Federation) and the clubs are therefore no longer entitled to take part in the international competition until the suspension is lifted."

"In the light of the above, we request PMOs good officers to intervene in this matter and make all efforts to revoke FIFA ban and include us back in the AFC Women's Club Championship as the champion club of India."

ADVERTISEMENT "Our Prime Minister's dream is to make India a Super Power and become number 1 in the world. In a small way, our club is spearheading the efforts to bring women's football in India by being the champion club of Indian since 2019.

To see Lewis Hamilton driving a car like that was sometimes embarrassing: Jean Alesi

'New Delhi. Former Formula One driver Jean Alesi has said that it was embarrassing to see Lewis Hamilton drive a slow car after Mercedes struggled to make an impact during the early rounds of the season. Many fans were hoping that Hamilton would be able to reclaim his throne as the best driver on the grid this season after narrowly missing out on the World Title to Max Verstappen during the last campaign. However, Ferrari and Red Bull quickly made the 2022 season a two-horse race, with the Silver Arrows struggling in the early stages of the season.

Speaking to Give Me Sport, Alesi said that everyone was shocked by the start made by Mercedes this season and it was embarrassing to see the seven-time World Champion in a slow car. However, the former Ferrari driver praised Hamilton's ability to make the car competitive as

Mercedes has seen a change in fortunes ahead of the season break. "It's easy for me to say but everyone was shocked by [their start]. When they presented the car in Bahrain everyone said 'oh my God, they have made something very special and they will be untouchable'."

"But lap after lap they found out the car was nowhere. And to see Lewis Hamilton driving a car like that was sometimes embarrassing because Lewis is a seven-time World Champion." "But to see his capacity to still improve the car, that was impressive. In Hungary, it was fantastic to see George [Russell] on pole position and Lewis fighting towards the front," said

Alesi. Alesi said that he cannot see Mercedes picking up a win before the end of the season. "By experience, when a car is born with problems you're not able to fix it."

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff wary of tension developing between Lewis Hamilton and George Russell



'New Delhi Mercedes boss Toto Wolff has admitted that he is wary of the rising tensions between Lewis Hamilton and George Russell and said that it is natural when high stakes are involved.

Russell has been one of the most consistent drivers on the grid this season and Hamilton has finally found some wind in his sail this season. The 24-year-old currently has the edge over the seven-time World Champion in the driver's standings with a 12-point gap. Russell is fourth in the driver's standings and Hamilton is sixth. While many were left wondering how both men would co-exist in the team, Wolff feels that the two men have bonded over a common enemy in the W13 car.

Speaking to Motorsport.com, Wolff

said that the biggest opponent for the Mercedes drivers this season has been their own cars. The Mercedes boss felt that the situation was certainly advantageous in some respects. "I think the biggest opponent for George and Lewis was the car, not the team-mate or other drivers. And that was certainly advantageous in some respects." "They used different solutions and set-ups, even a lot on some occasions, with the aim of exchanging impressions and useful information to come out of the situation we experienced," said Wolff. The Mercedes boss also commented on the growing tensions between both the teammates and said that it was natural as both men are competing in a top team for major honours. "When

the objectives become races and Championships, I will be able to tell you whether the respect I see today between the two will prove to be a predominant factor," Wolff said.

"When playing for the highest stakes I think it is natural to have some tension, but if people fundamentally respect and esteem each other, then it will never go too far," said Wolff.

BAI clerical error issue - Prathamesh Kulkarni to get wild card entry

'New Delhi. The Aurangabad bench of Bombay High Court has ruled that badminton player Prathamesh Kulkarni was entitled to play at the India Junior International Grand Prix 2022 as a wild card entry since his name could not go through the participant list due to a clerical error by Badminton Association of India (BAI).

The division bench of Justices RV Ghuge and AR Pednekar passed the order during a special hearing that was held on Aug 15, Independence Day. The bench was hearing Kulkarni's petition which stated that he had applied to participate in two tournaments of promotional nature. After issuing notice on August 12, the court sat specially on a court holiday as the list of participants for the international challenge was to be sent at 5 pm on August 15 itself.

The India Junior International Grand Prix 2022 is supposed to be held in Pune from August 30 and the India Maharashtra International Challenge 2022 will start in Nagpur from September 13. The BAI had cleared Kulkarni's form from the female category, which he tried to get corrected. However, instead of rectifying the mistake, his application was treated as withdrawn by BAI.

Kulkarni clarified that he did not desire to blame anybody, but sought that the situation be rectified and he thus prayed for a Wild Card Quota. He sought that BAI be directed to complete the process to enable him to participate



in the Pune matches from August 30. After a brief hearing, the Court was convinced that the form submitted by Kulkarni was in order, within the deadline and never withdrawn. The court noted that it was "due to the bungling of BAI" that the situation had arisen.

West Indies vs New Zealand: Shimron Hetmyer, Keemo Paul and Gudakesh Motie ruled out of ODI series

The ODI series is crucial for West Indies as qualification points are up for grabs to secure direct entry to the 50-over World Cup in India in 2023. The series against New Zealand is West Indies' last in the Super League.



'New Delhi. West Indies cricketers Shimron Hetmyer, Keemo Paul and Gudakesh Motie have been ruled out of the One-Day International series against New Zealand, beginning August 17. The ODI series is crucial for West Indies as qualification points are up for grabs to secure direct entry to the 50-over World Cup in India in 2023. The three matches are West Indies' last in the Super League. The side is currently in sixth position with 80 points, having won eight and lost 13 of their 21 matches so far. Shimron Hetmyer has made himself unavailable for the series due to personal reasons, while Keemo Paul has been ruled out with an injury and left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie has failed to recover from the hand injury sustained during the limited-overs series against India last month. West Indies have added batter Jermaine Blackwood and leg-spinning all-rounder Yannic Cariah as replacement players. Blackwood has been called back

to the ODI squad for the first time since 2015, while Cariah has earned a maiden call-up after being promoted from the West Indies A squad that has been playing against Bangladesh. Meanwhile, seam-bowling all-rounder Odean Smith has been added as a reserve. Hetmyer has to attend to a family matter in Guyana. Unfortunately, Motie is not yet able to rejoin the squad and Keemo is struggling with an injury. CWI's Lead Selector, Dr Desmond Haynes said. However, it provides an opportunity for Yannic Cariah to get a chance. He is someone that has been performing well on the regional circuit and we feel now is the right time to integrate him into the senior team set-up. Odean Smith has been added on the back of some notable performances in the T20I series. He has displayed the all-round ability to change games and we look forward to his continued development."

PPA organised Maritime Public Private Partnership Conclave

PPP increase access to capital, encourage innovation and help share risks— Shri Shantanu Thakur, Hon'ble MoS, MoPSW

Paradip, (TNB): Public Private Partnerships (PPP) increase access to capital, encourage innovation and help share risks, said Shantanu Thakur, Hon'ble MoS, MoPSW in his inaugural address virtually at the Maritime Public-Private-Partnership Conclave 2022 organised by Paradip Port Authority (PPA) here in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. They are well designed and implemented in a transparent regulatory environment bringing in greater efficiencies and sustainability to the provision of public services. The principal objective for encouraging PPP in the Port sector is to fulfil the requirement of creating infrastructure and operating them smoothly through expeditious mobilization of private sector resources to improve the

quality and efficiency of services to the stakeholders. He hoped that as a part of Vision India 2047, Paradip Port will evolve as a world class mega port with over 750 Million Tonnes Per Annum capacity by 2047. Paradip Port has been at the forefront in successfully completing several PPP projects worth over Rs.3000 crores recently, which led to capacity addition of 55 MTPA at Paradip. It is also noteworthy that the Port has recently awarded the Western Dock project of 25 MTPA capacity at a cost of Rs.2392 Crores. The 1st Phase of this project for 12.5 MTPA capacity will be completed in 3 years and the overall project in 5 years time. On completion, this will enable Paradip Port to have facilities to handle large Cape size vessels upto

18.5 meters draft. He reiterated that Govt. of India under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been laying emphasis on attracting private investments to the Port sector to induct latest technology, improve management practices and for addition of capacity & enhancement of functional efficiency to India's Major Ports. In his introductory remarks, P.L Haranadh, Chairman Paradip Port Authority (PPA) said that aiming for a USD 5 trillion Indian economy in 2025, the port sector will grow to 2.3 Billion tonnes per annum (BTPA) traffic by 2026. Similarly, India's manufacturing and agriculture push is likely to propel growth of containerisation traffic up to 50 MTEU by 2026. Shri



Haranadh addressed that there is a need to bridge the port capacity gap in next five years to capture the traffic growth. The Govt of India's initiatives such as Sagarmala Programme, Maritime India Vision 2030, Major Port Authority Act 2021, National Monetisation Pipeline, Gati Shakti and Amrit Kal Vision 2047 has been pivotal in driving PPP investments to the tune of Rs 10 Lakh Crores in Indian port sector. Shri

Haranadh further said that Paradip port has been envisioned to become 750+ MTPA capacity by 2047. Around 80 MTPA capacity addition projects has been identified to be taken up in recent 4-5 years period. Further Capacity augmentation projects are being explored driven by Port led Industrialisation and adequate port connectivity. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries Department, (GoO)

stressed on port infrastructure development through PPP mode. Eastern India has a lot of growth potential in steel, polymer and plastic. Ports at Dhamra, Gopalpur, Subarnarekha and Paradip including the upcoming Mahanadi Riverine Port have huge growth potential. GoO with its single window clearance system has smoothen the port led industrialisation at Paradip, Kendrapada and Balasore region. PPA, ECOR, Govts at both Centre and the State in a synergy plan will serve values.

Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary, Commerce and Transport, GoO stressed for bringing the integrated vision of the State to action mode for transformation of the region. He also enu-

merated various investment opportunities in the State Maritime sector. Sharad Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, ECo. Railways, in his concluding remarks outlined various railway port connectivity to the iron & coal mines and industrial hubs in the hinterland. The entire ECo Rly network is being planned to have automatic signalling to handle huge expected traffic in the region. He informed that ECo. Railways is working in a synergy with each stakeholders to drive growth in the State.

A.K. Bose, Dy. Chairman, PPA offered the vote of thanks. After inauguration ceremony, panel discussions on "Opportunities and challenges of PPP model in Indian Port Sector" and "Reduction of logistics costs in Mari-

time Sector—Role of PPP" took place. On the occasion, steamer agents Atlantic Global Shipping Pvt. Ltd., Seatrans Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd., Samsara Shipping Pvt. Ltd., Importers Tata Steel Ltd., Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd., IOCL Pipelines Division, Exporters Sembcorp Energy Indian Ltd., ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd., Tamilnadu Generation, Distribution Cooperation Ltd., Operators Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal Pvt. Ltd., Paradip International Cargo Terminal Pvt. Ltd., JSW Paradip Terminal Pvt. Ltd. and in the field of stevedoring Ripley & Co. Stevedoring & Handling Pvt. Ltd. Seaways Shipping & Logistics Ltd were awarded for their outstanding performance and contributions.

Relief distribution to the marooned at Kanas



Pipli, (TNB): Thousands of people were marooned across Odisha as the River Mahanadi and its tributaries basin flooded. The recent Flood at different blocks of district Puri has stood like a mountain of sorrows. In joint collaboration of CWDS, MAMATA, Theosophical Society, New Horizon and Innerwheel Bhubaneswar Eliti, relief materials were distributed to the marooned people of Kanas Block of Puri District. Under the guidance of Chairman Child and Women Development Society Maj. Dr. Kalpana Das and Subhranti Samantray relief materials

were distributed to the flood affected people of different villages like Sabalanga, Atharbatia of Kanas Block Puri District. Relief materials like flattened rice, sugar, bread, biscuits, candle, match box, water bottle etc were distributed to the three hundred flood victim families.

Maj. Das herself joined in relief distribution work. District Coordinator CWDS Puri Mr. Kamal Kumar Dash coordinated the relief operation. Volunteers like Himadri Naik, Himansu Behera, Prakash Parida assess the situation and helped in relief distribution work.

Dist Collector asked weekly Progress report of overbridge

Susil ku. Aich Angul, Today at the District Collector's office, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble District Collector Shri Sidharth Shankar Swain and Hon'ble MLA Talcher Mr. Brajkishore Pradhan, 21st Zone District Council Member Ms. Satyavama Sahu, 18th Zone District Council Member Mr. Amiya Pradhan, President of Security Forum Mr. Muralidhar Sahu, MCL Authority, Overbridge Developer and all the villagers of Ghantapada. An important meeting was



held in the presence of the villagers regarding the delay in the over bridge work. It was decided in the said meeting that the work will be completed by next March 2023 and the weekly schedule of completion of the said work will be submitted to the District Collector and Deputy District Collector Talcher will monitor it in every 15 days.

One Warrantee arrested

Prasanta Bishoyi Jeypore, It was reported that one warrantee named Prakash Khara of Bariniput Panchayat of jeypore municipality area was arrested by the local police. The Sadar police IIC Iswar Chandra Tandhi has given information about the arrest of the warrantee Khara.



UCCIL delegation leaves for Nepal to explore investment in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) A 45 members delegation of The Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry Limited (UCCIL) left for Kathmandu on Wednesday on the invitation of the Nepal government. The delegation will try to explore the common interest in trade between the two countries and to explore the possibility of investment in Odisha, UCCIL sources here said. The team of large Industrial houses, MSME, Trade, Agriculture, Food processing, Travel, Mines & Mineral sector will hold talks with the Nepali business community on August 18.

Odisha cherishes a very strong relationship with Nepal as the King of Nepal has got certain rights to perform the rituals in Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri since time immemorial. This visit will further strengthen the bilateral ties between Odisha and Nepal. The team will meet the Nepal Prime Minister, sources said.

Celebrating Independence Day in a unique style

Asutosh Ratha Bargarh: Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav of Independence and 76th Independence Day was celebrated with the hoisting of the national flag by the leading volunteer organization Nistha of Bargarh district. An exhibition of photographs of freedom fighters, old coins/notes, paper cuttings of the martyred Veer Javan was organized at Nistha Bhavan on this occasion. Mr. Debesh

Hot Strip Mill-2 of RSP creates new production record

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) The Hot Strip Mill - 2 of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has created new production records. The Mill rolled 7073 tons of Slabs and produced 320 coils weighing 6896 tons of Hot Rolled Coils on August 15 last, a RSP release issued on Wednesday said. This was the best performance of hot strip mill-2 of the RSP since inception. The previous best single day rolling of 6818 tons of slab and 6689 Tons of coil was

achieved on June 19, 2022. Besides, the HSM-2 also clocked the record Single Shift HR Coil production in 'B' Shift of August 15 last by rolling 2735 Tons of Slab and making 2670 Tons of HR Coil in the said shift.

The previous best record of rolling 2600 Tons of Slab and 2524 Tons of HR coil for any single shift was achieved on August 8, 2022. RSP Director in charge Atanu Bhowmick has congratulated the HSM-2 collective and all

the associated units stating that this be the beginning of a glorious journey of the Mill in the Amrit Kaal."

RSP Executive Director (works) S R Suryawanshi visited HSM-2 on August 16 to congratulate the collective for the remarkable performance. "The splendid performance signifies the spirit, determination and professionalism of the collective", he said. The Hot Strip Mill-2 with 3 Mil-

Three accused in the case of theft forwarded to the court

RUDRA MOHAN SAHU Banarpal: Banarpal police arrested three accused in the case of theft from Santhanapur village. According to the information, the Banarpal police started an investigation after reports of repeated thefts from Santarapur village. Police arrested three accused Srikant Naik (alias), Saroj Sahu (Nano) and Pintu Palei and seized one water pump, one Syntex water tank, one bundle of electric



wire from them. It appears that the accused has been prosecuted by filing a case no.260,278/2022 under Section 379/34 IPC in their name and forwarded to court.

State Level Amrit Mahotsav program Organized by VSVD Council



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): With the joint support of Vishwa Sanatan Vedic Dharma Council and Nikhil Utkal Sankirtan Maha Sangha, State Level Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and Harghar Triranga program was held at Pavitra Arya Ashram in Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar. The program was organized by Viswa Sanatan Vedic Dharma Council President Baba Panchadev was presided by Nikhila Utkala Sankirtana Mahasangha President Shree Bishnu Charan Mohanty. Many dignitaries joined the program made it a grand success.

SUMA Security Agency Launched by SOA

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): A new security service styled as 'SUMA Security Agency' has been launched in Bhubaneswar on behalf of Sikshya 'O' Anusandhan University (SOA) on Monday. The logo of the new agency was unveiled by Prof. (Dr.) Manoranjan Nayak, Founder President of Sikshya 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day. Prof. Nayak took the salute at the Independence Day parade performed by the contingents of the SUMA Security Agency.



Bridge under ward number seven may collapse : people may face problems

Rajesh Dahima Rajgangpur, Due to incessant rains in the district for the past few days, the condition of the bridge on the way from Garden Pada to Maledihi has become very poor and deplorable. This bridge located in ward number seven is years old. Due to continuous rain for three days, the possibility of the collapse of the bridge has in-

creased. Drivers have to bear the biggest problem in passing through here. Due to the rains, the water level of the bridge has increased and due to the increasing effect of water, some part of this old bridge has broken, due to which any untoward incident can happen and it cannot be ruled out. Due to the apathy of public representatives and ad-

ministration officials, there is anger among the people of the area. People of the area warned of agitation if it was not repaired immediately. It is said that in view of the deplorable condition of this old bridge, the construction work of a new bridge was started immediately after this and a contractor of Rourkela got the contract to do this construction



work but till now the construction work of this bridge has not been completed. found to be.

As a result, due to the construction work of the new bridge hanging in the balance, the nearby local people are forced to move through the old bridge, which has signed an untoward incident, in spite of that no meaningful effort nor by the local public representatives and the local administration. Has been. The most important aspect of this link is that the bus

also travels through this bridge, which has become a matter of concern. Despite this, there is a lot of anger among the people commuting through this bridge due to the public representatives including the departmental officers being the public spectator and the local people are demanding to complete the construction work of the bridge at the earliest.