

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I too thought I'd be transferred to West Bengal but seems there is still some work left for me in Maharashtra!

## Singer Nirmala Mishra passes away in Kolkata

Kolkata, July 31: Noted Bengali and Odia singer Nirmala Mishra passed away at her residence in Chetla area here in the early hours of Sunday after suffering a massive heart attack, a senior doctor said.



Mishra, 81, had been battling age-related ailments for some time. "She suffered a massive heart attack around 12.05am and was taken to the nearest nursing home, where the singer was declared dead," the doctor told PTI.

More P4

# Jeremy gets India 2nd CWG gold

LIFTER FROM AIZWAL BREAKS TWO GAMES RECORDS EN ROUTE TO THE YELLOW METAL WITH A POWER-PACKED DISPLAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, July 31:** Young weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga smashed two Games records on his way to a sensational gold medal win at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games (CWG) as he added a second yellow metal to India's tally Sunday.

The 2018 Youth Olympic champion dominated the men's 67kg competition with a total lift of 300kg (140kg+160kg), finishing ahead of Samoa's Vaipava Nevo Ioane, who managed a total of 293kg (127kg+166kg). Nigeria's Edidiong Joseph Umoafia took bronze with an effort of 290kg (130kg+160kg).

The 19-year-old from Aizwal wrote the Games snatch (140kg) and overall lift (300kg) record in his name but not before an injury scare as twice he grimaced in pain during the clean and jerk attempts.

Jeremy opened up a huge 10kg gap with the nearest rival Umoafia when he lifted 140kg in the snatch. He had begun with 136kg. He went for 143kg in his final attempt, but

did not succeed.

In Clean and Jerk, the 2021 Commonwealth Championships winner began with 154kg and followed that up with 160kg, but could not complete the 165kg attempt.

This was India's fifth medal from the weightlifting arena with

Mirabai Chanu (gold), Sanket Sargar (silver), Bidyarani Devi (silver) and Gururaj Poojary (bronze) earning podium finishes Saturday.

Jeremy is son of a national-level boxer Lalneihluanga. He also aspired to don the gloves but shifted to weightlifting as it involved just power to excel, something he found fascinating.

Both President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Jeremy for winning the gold. "Your self-belief despite injury during the event enabled you to create history & inspire millions. Your podium finish has filled Indians with pride," tweeted Murmu.

"Our Yuva Shakti is creating history! Congratulations to @ralte-

I am happy after winning the gold, but not satisfied with my performance. To meet the world standards I will have to better my performance in future

JEREMY LALRINUNGA



Jeremy Lalrinnunga atop the podium poses for photographs after winning the gold medal at Birmingham Commonwealth Games

PTI PHOTO

Jeremy, who has won a Gold in his very first CWG and has set a phenomenal CWG record as well," Modi said in a tweet.

Earlier late Saturday night, Bidyarani Devi clinched a silver in the women's 55kg category. Soon after Chanu's gold, the 23-year-old created a Games record by lifting 116kg in the Clean and Jerk after a personal best of 86kg in the snatch section, totalling 202kg.

The gold medal expectedly went to Nigeria's Adijat Adenike Olarinoye, who lifted 203kg (92kg+111kg).

"It is my first CWG and I feel very happy about the silver and about the Games record as well," Bidyarani said after the medal ceremony.

Bidyarani, like Chanu hails from Manipur. She had won the Commonwealth Championships gold in 2019 before getting a silver in the 2021 edition.

Daughter of a farmer who also owns grocery shop, Bidyarani took up weightlifting due to her short height.

"I was into taekwondo from 2008 to 2012 after that I shifted to weightlifting. I had a height problem so had to shift. Everyone told my height is ideal for weightlifting. So I changed sports," Bidyarani informed.

## 5-YR-OLD BRUTALLY CANED BY TEACHER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kabisuryanagar, July 31:** Coming close on the heels of the alleged assault of 14 girl students by a teacher in Bhadrak district, a five-year-old boy fell sick after being brutally beaten up by a teacher during class, Saturday at Sridadhibaman Nodal UP School at Barida village under this block in Ganjam district.

The injured boy was identified as Gopal Moharana, a native of the village. Gopal lives in the village with his mother as his father works in Dubai. As per reports, the incident occurred Saturday when Gopal had been to school. During a class, the teacher asked him to do a sum and he committed a mistake.

Enraged, the teacher allegedly beat him up brutally with a cane. As a result, he was bruised on his back.

He was rushed to Barida hospital and was discharged after primary treatment. Family members alleged that the teacher did not meet them and enquired his health condition. When contacted, BEO Akshyartibala Pattanik and ABEO Bishnupriya Nayak said that a probe will be conducted and suitable action will be taken. Although the state government has banned all forms of corporal punishment on school premises by declaring them as punishment-free zone, such incidents are coming to the fore frequently.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**



Government of Odisha

# State Level Orientation Programme for 6891 newly Recruited Secondary Teachers

1<sup>st</sup> August 2022  
Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar

Chief Guest  
**Sri Naveen Patnaik**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

Department of School & Mass Education

DSPL-121

OIPR-27068/13/0015/2223

# leisure



## SUVARI RECALLS HOW SHE WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED

Hollywood actress Mena Suvari, who is known for films such as *American Pie* and *Rumour Has It* has claimed her ex-boyfriend 'manipulated' her into having threesomes with other women. The 43-year-old star has opened up about the past relationship in a recent interview, but chose not to name the man.

## BRIDGERTON STAR PHOEBE DYNEVOR IS IN DELHI

While the shooting of the next season of *Bridgerton* is on in full swing in the UK, one of its stars is in India. Phoebe Dynevor, who plays Daphne in the Regency-era drama, is currently shooting in Delhi for her next project.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You are enthusiastic about mixing with people today, and you will feel like combining business and leisure. You will be encouraged to take part in group activities as you have the ability to work and have fun at the same time. Ganesh says that as a matter of fact you may emerge wiser from others' ideas.

**TAURUS**  
This day you will tend to be too bossy, too harsh on your subordinates or employees and end up making them miserable as well as hostile. Their insubordination could corrode the respect you get and, in addition, make things unworkable. This acrimony and ill will is sure to spread and foul up your larger professional connections and interests.

**GEMINI**  
Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

**CANCER**  
You wish to display your social prestige and monetary clout in front of your relatives. But you have to pay a heavy price for that. Your past experience will teach you something, which will stand in good stead for future dealings.

**LEO**  
You will see some change in your daily schedule today. It is a good day to start a new job or business activity. You will focus more attention on your personality today. You will try to improve yourself and bring your hidden talents to the fore. Make the most of this opportunity to implement your plans, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh says you realise the importance of family matters today. You have great skills when it comes to negotiations, and you will use them in settling disputes amicably. Ganesh says you have learned the lessons of life on staying level-headed, and that you keenly believe that opposition eventually leads to progress.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you will use your mental competency to complete all your work on time. You may not give complete attention to your family as you will be spending time in the office or at work. Your extraordinary intelligence will be showcased at work today. Ganesh says do not forget your family which has played a huge role in your success.

**SCORPIO**  
Try to take a chill pill as you may be worried about petty issues today. Do not let them hinder your happiness and take a toll on your health. However, the day looks promising towards the end. Friends are just a phone call away, call them and set out for a destination unknown to destress and rejuvenate.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
It's time for some entertainment. Movies, picnics and dining out is on your mind. Invite your beloved and enjoy quality time with each other. Also, you will spend time with you family and friends, and attend a music concert together.

**CAPRICORN**  
Though you leave no stone unturned to identify the opportunities coming your way, you need to keep your guards on whenever you are a part of a legal matter. Financially, you're likely to bear some heavy losses, and if you're a dealer or a broker, the chances of suffering from them are even higher.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today, you will wish there were two of you! You are deluged with pending work, and even doubling up efforts will not seem enough. You may even cancel your movie date, deciding to deal with your sweetheart's tantrums later. It's your boss you are worried about, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Bright prospects will greet whatever new ventures you decide to focus on today, says Ganesh. It is a good time to implement your plans. Apart from short-term monetary gains, you may also find yourself pursuing activities which bring you intangible rewards, like goodwill for example.

# KIARA'S ENVIABLE RECORD

**Mumbai:** Post-pandemic, the box office track records of several celebrities have taken a beating. However, there's one celebrity who has proved to be an exception and whose star power has instead increased in this period. And that's none other than Kiara Advani, who celebrated her 30th birthday Sunday. With 2 Rs. 200 crores films, 1 Rs. 100 crores flick and 2 major blockbusters on OTT, birth day girl Kiara has the best and the most enviable track record in Hindi film

industry at present. Earlier this year, she was a part of the horror comedy *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. It was a blockbuster and a rare Hindi film which managed to work at the box office, collecting a mind-boggling Rs. 185.92 crores. A month later, she joined Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor in *JugJugg Jeeyo*. Its lifetime earning ended at around Rs. 85 crores. Her first digital release, *Laxmi* (2020), got negative reviews but amassed record viewership. Her second digital release is

*Shershaah*. It is considered to be the biggest blockbuster on OTT due to its viewership and terrific word of mouth. If one takes into consideration her 2019 films, her *Kabir Singh* collected Rs. 278.24 crores, surprising the industry while *Good Newwz* also crossed the Rs. 200 crores mark. AGENCIES

# Ne-Yo a serial cheater, claims wife Crystal



**Los Angeles:** American Singer Shaffer Chimere Smith, popularly known as Ne-Yo, has been accused of being a "serial cheater" by his wife Crystal Smith. She made shocking allegations against her husband on an Instagram Post Sunday. "8 years of lies and deception," she began. "8 years of unknowingly sharing my life and husband with numerous of women who sell their bodies to him unprotected... To say I'm heartbroken

and disgusted is an understatement. To ask me to stay and accept it is absolutely insane. The mentality of a narcissist. "I will no longer lie to the public or pretend that this is something it isn't. I choose me, I choose my happiness and health and my respect." "I gained 3 beautiful children out of this but nothing else but wasted years and heartache," she continued in her post. "I'm choosing to stand tall with my head held high. If someone can't love you the way you deserve then it's up to you to love yourself. With no hate in my heart I wish him

nothing but the best," Crystal concluded. The couple hit a rough patch in February 2020 and announced they were divorcing in February 2020. The news came as a complete shock to Smith, but they wound up reconciling four months later. AGENCIES

# When Mumtaz had to ignore Shammi's proposal

**Mumbai:** Veteran actress Mumtaz who celebrated her 75th birthday ruled hearts with her onscreen presence back in her day. However, beyond her filmy appearances, she was reportedly in love with Shammi Kapoor and the duo was even looking to tie the knot. The actress had once opened up about her romance with Shammi Kapoor. Here's what she revealed in the throwback in-



terview, "I was all of 18, and in love with Shammi Kapoor while we were filming *Brahmachari*. He

wanted me to give up my career, but I wasn't ready. I had my family to look after. I had lost my mother during *Boond Jo Ban Gaye Moti*." She also admitted that she was well aware of the fact that many Hindi film actors of her time used to like her. Mumtaz stated, "I was lucky that men wanted to marry me. There was an attraction, yes, but I didn't act on it. I'd wake up at 4 am every

day, and reach the studios on the dot at 9. I had far too many responsibilities to have affairs. There was no time for love and romance. Of course, I was fond of Jeetu. Dharmendra was an attractive man. Dev saab was so handsome. But it's not always necessary to have an affair with your co-stars. You can admire them from a distance (laughs)." AGENCIES

## STAR IN THE MAKING



A young girl performs during an event organised by Odissi Dancers' Council for the artistes under 16 years of age at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Sunday. Rajya Sabha MP Sulata Deo was present at the event as chief guest. The festival aims to offer a platform to young dancers to showcase their skills, said Council's President Snehaprava Samantray and Secretary Ileana Citaristi.

## Tribal art expo in Bangalore



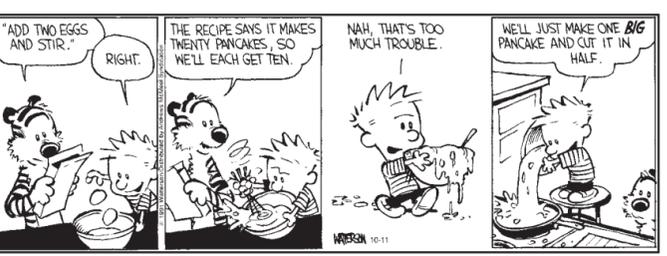
An artist explains the Minister about a painting. **Bhubaneswar:** Odia Language, Literature & Culture (OLL&C) Minister Ashwin Ku Patra Sunday inaugurated Odia Tribal Painting Exhibition organised jointly by the Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi (OLKA) and OLL&C department at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad Art Gallery, Bangalore. The exhibition showcased tribal paintings on Saura culture. The Secretary to Government in the Department of Kannada and Culture Dr N Manjula, eminent Sand Artist and OLKA President Sudarshan Patnaik were present on the occasion. The exhibition will end August 3. More than 25 tribal artists of Odisha participated in the event. Similar exhibitions will be held in other parts of the country to encourage the artists of Odisha and showcase their artistic skills, said Patra. PNN

## FUN post

### PEANUTS



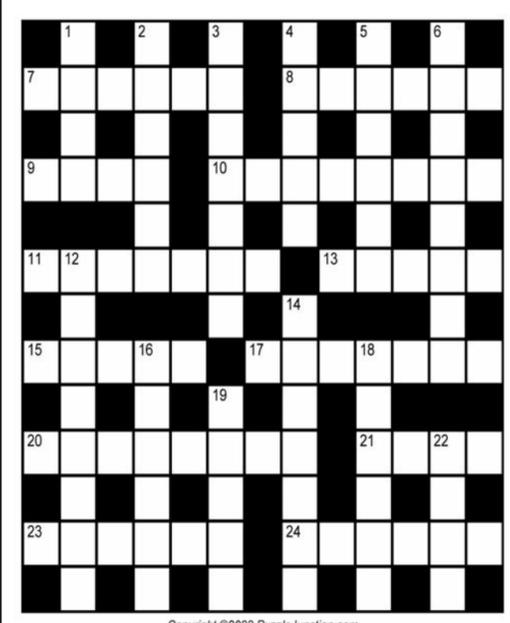
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



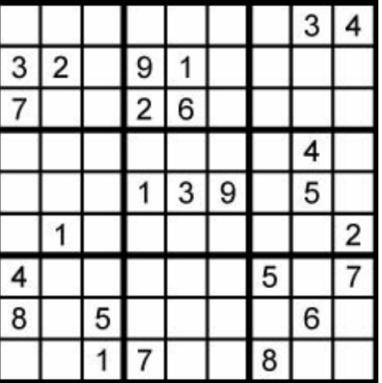
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Coiffure
  - 8 Psychiatrist, to some
  - 9 Wallop
  - 10 "Shoot!" (4,4)
  - 11 Barrier
  - 13 Jeans material
  - 15 Thread holder
  - 17 Gave a leg up
  - 20 Reckless
  - 21 Saintly glow
  - 23 Mount Etna locale
  - 24 Chase after
- Down**
- 1 Summon
  - 2 Calamitous
  - 3 Perfume
  - 4 Wedding helper
  - 5 Picayune
  - 6 Invigorate
  - 12 Special importance
  - 14 Dishonest
  - 16 Zebra giraffes
  - 18 Globe
  - 19 Female prophet
  - 22 Extol

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

REFUSAL SPEND  
E L C S A U X I E  
P S Y C H O S O M A T I C  
A I E N E M A R I O  
Y E N M E R C E N A R Y  
G A S S A O S  
A C U T E A V E R T  
A O I T E D  
G O L F C L U B S I N K  
O O R E D N E  
R O U G H A N D R E A D Y  
S A S S Y I P O P R E E  
S A S S Y I P O P R E E

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



**IN SYNC**  
 Artistes of Sudha, a cultural outfit, perform at an event organised at Sanskruti Bhawan in Puri, Sunday

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	58,19,33,473	55,19,26,533	64,19,418
India	4,40,19,811	4,33,49,778	5,26,357
Odisha	13,13,145	12,98,016	9,140

## NDPS body orders seizure of drug peddler's ₹1.32cr assets

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** The competent authority (eastern region) under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Kolkata has ordered confiscation of assets worth over Rs 1.32 crore owned by notorious drug peddler **Seikh Jamsed**, an official of the Crime Branch's Special Task Force (STF) said Sunday.

According to the official, Jamsed was arrested from his residence at Haldipadia slum here April 22 this year. Brown sugar weighing 1.227 kg, a motorcycle and other incriminating materials were seized from Jamsed, a drug peddler having links with interstate gangs.

Soon after his arrest, the STF detected movable and immovable assets worth Rs 1.32 crore owned by the accused out of ill-gotten money, said the official. A detailed proposal for confirmation of seizure of the properties earned out of drug peddling was sent to the competent authority as per provision under Section 68(F) of the NDPS Act, 1985, the official pointed out,



**Seikh Jamsed** was arrested from his residence at Haldipadia Slum here April 22 this year

**Brown sugar** weighing 1.227 kg, a motorcycle and other incriminating materials were seized from Jamsed

**Soon after his arrest**, the Special Task Force detected movable and immovable assets worth Rs 1.32 crore owned by the accused out of ill-gotten money

adding that the competent authority, a quasi-judicial authority

under NDPS Act, passed the order for the seizure.

The property includes a three-storey building located in Jharpada area under Laxmisagar police limits in the City and a few plots across the state. "The property was purchased out of ill-gotten money of drug peddling within the last six years in the name of Jamsed and his mother Anima Bibi," said the official, adding that the accused was also involved in three more cases registered at various police stations.

## Undertrial prisoner dies in Baripada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Baripada, July 31:** An undertrial prisoner (UTP) died while undergoing treatment at a state-run hospital in Mayurbhanj district Sunday, police said.

The 34-year-old man, an inmate of Baripada Circle Jail, complained of uneasiness and was admitted to PRM Medical College and Hospital here Saturday, a police officer said.

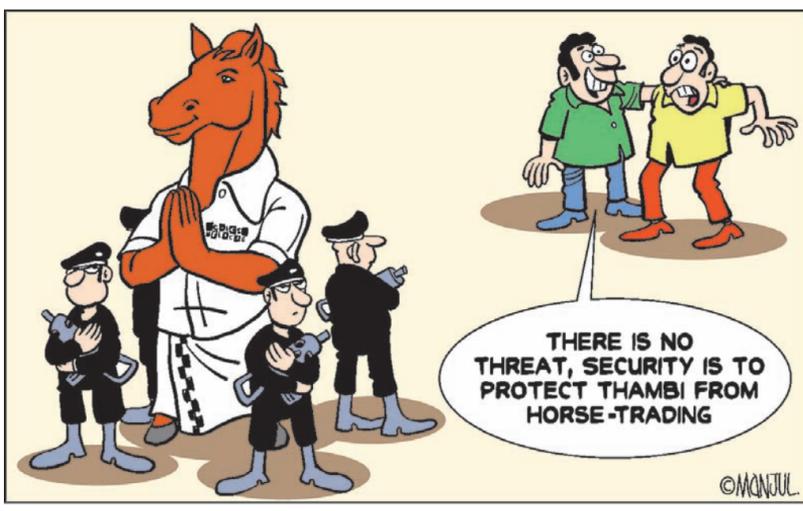
"He died Sunday while undergoing treatment at the hospital," Baripada Town Police inspector in-charge **Birendra Senapati** said.

The man was accused of raping a girl in Chuapani village in Badampahad police limits in the last week of June and was arrested and produced before a special POCSO Court July 1.

The court sent him to judicial custody. A case of unnatural death has been registered and the post-mortem examination conducted at the hospital, while the report is awaited, the officer added.

**The man was accused of raping a girl in Chuapani village in Badampahad police limits in the last week of June**

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Pvt college staff booked over non-issuance of certificates

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** After much dilly-dally, the Pahala police have finally registered a case against the officials of a city-based private engineering college over non-issuance of final certificates and mark sheets to hundreds of B.Tech pass out students in the City. The Pahala police seemed reluctant to file the case under various pretexts despite the directions of the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), alleged the students.

On July 26, the OHRC while hearing a petition filed by the aggrieved students ordered the OIC of Pahala Police station to register a case



considering the order as the FIR. However, the Pahala OIC did not give any heed to the order by the state rights body.

"As the commission prima facie finds there is an act of cheating misappropriation of funds of the large

number of students and playing hide and seek by the college authorities, let this order be sent to the OIC Pahala PS to treat this order as the FIR and register a case and take appropriate action against the person responsible for

this act," the OHRC instructed.

The commission has also directed the petitioners to file regular complaint with the Pahala police in this regard.

Notably, the students who have graduated from the institution during the educational year, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are yet to receive the final degree certificates and mark sheets despite paying all the dues of the college. As many as 438 students have been suffering unemployment for the tussle between college and the Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT).

Both the college and BPUT have been playing with the career of the victim students.

## STATE SEES 1,029 NEW COV CASES, 2 MORE DEATHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** Odisha reported 1,029 new Covid-19 cases Sunday, while two more patients died of the disease, the health department said.

There are 6,608 active cases in the state at present, according to a bulletin. The positivity rate was 5.16 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing 19,954 samples. As many as 175 children were among the new patients.

Sundargarh reported the highest number of 222 cases, followed by 173 in Khurda, where Bhubaneswar is located.

The toll rose to 9,140 with the deaths of one person each in Bhubaneswar and Puri.

The state had logged 981 cases Saturday.

The state has so far reported 13,13,145 COVID-19 cases. Of them, 12,97,344 people have recovered, including 1,051 in the last 24 hours.

## MEMORIAL LECTURE



Governor Ganeshi Lal speaks at the inaugural occasion of Jayant Das Memorial Lecture organised at Pramod Convention and Club Resort in Cuttack, Sunday. Dignitaries including Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar are seen

## Vendors scuffle at Market Building

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** Tension prevailed at the Unit II Market Building area here Sunday after a fracas between the street vendors and members of the traders' association over the putting up of stalls by the street vendors.

As per the information, some street vendors forcibly tried to set up stalls in the market area which was opposed by the members of the traders' association.

The market building traders' association members alleged that they were assaulted by the street vendors.

Upon being informed, officials from the Capital police station rushed to the spot.

As per sources, the street vendors were evicted from the Market Building area last Sunday. However, they reached the area again today and tried to set up their businesses which were opposed by the members.

The market has been closed for an indefinite period following the scuffle.

association members alleged that they were assaulted by the street vendors.

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## Antibiotics in kids may cause permanent asthma

**E**arly exposure to antibiotics kills healthy bacteria in the digestive tract and can cause asthma and allergies, claims a new study conducted on mice.

The study, published in 'Mucosal Immunology', has provided the strongest evidence, so far, that the long-observed connection between antibiotic exposure in early childhood and later development of asthma and allergies is causal.

"The practical implication is simple: Avoid antibiotic use in young children whenever you can because it may elevate the risk of significant, long-term problems with allergy and/or asthma," said **Martin Blaser**, director of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine at Rutgers University in the US.

In the study, the researchers from Rutgers, New York University and the University of Zurich, noted that antibiotics, 'among the most used medications in children, affect gut microbiome communities and metabolic



**The practical implication is simple: Avoid antibiotic use in young children whenever you can because it may elevate the risk of significant, long-term problems with allergy and/or asthma**

**MARTIN BLASER** | CENTER FOR ADVANCED BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE DIRECTOR

functions. These changes in microbiota structure can impact host immunity."

In the first part of the experiment, five-day-old mice received water, azithromycin or amoxicillin. After the mice matured, researchers exposed them to a common allergen derived from house dust mites. Mice that had received either of the antibiotics, especially azithromycin, exhibited elevated rates of immune responses—allergies.

The second and third parts of the experiment tested the hypothesis that

early exposure to antibiotics (but not later exposure) causes allergies and asthma by killing some healthy gut bacteria that support proper immune system development. Lead author **Timothy Borbet** first transferred bacteria-rich fecal samples from the first set of mice to a second set of adult mice with no previous exposure to any bacteria or germs. Some received samples from mice given azithromycin or amoxicillin in infancy. Others received normal samples from mice that had received water. Mice that received antibiotic-altered samples

were no more likely than other mice to develop immune responses to house dust mites, just as people who receive antibiotics in adulthood are no more likely to develop asthma or allergies than those who don't.

Things were different, however, for the next generation. Offspring of mice that received antibiotic-altered samples reacted more to house dust mites than those whose parents received samples unaltered by antibiotics, just as mice that originally received antibiotics as babies reacted more to the allergen than those that received water.

"This was a carefully controlled experiment," said Blaser. The only variable in the first part was antibiotic exposure. The only variable in the second two parts was whether the mixture of gut bacteria had been affected by antibiotics. Blaser added that these experiments provide strong evidence that antibiotics cause unwanted immune responses to develop via their effect on gut bacteria, but only if gut bacteria are altered in early childhood.

**यूनियन बँक** Union Bank of India

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Cuttack Main Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors in loan Account mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Cuttack Main Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the Secured Assets.

CUTTACK MAIN BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrowers & Guarantors	Liabilities due as per notice (In Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property
<b>Borrowers:</b> (1) M/s Das Agencies, Prop: Shri Ramesh Chandra Das, S/o Late Binod Bihari Das, Address: C/o Ajit Chandra Das, At: Professor para, Canal Road, Cuttack-753003, & Jobra Road, College Square, Cuttack-753003. (2) Shri Ramesh Chandra Das, S/o Late Binod Bihari Das, At: Badheisahi, PO.: Buxi Bazar, Cuttack-753001. <b>Guarantors:</b> (1) Mr Harish Chandra Das, S/o Late Binod Bihari Das, (2) Mr Ram Chandra Das, S/o Late Binod Bihari Das, both are residents of At: Badheisahi, PO.: Buxi Bazar, Cuttack- 753001.	<b>Rs.36,23,826.01</b> as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	<b>24.05.2022</b> / <b>29.07.2022</b>	Residential Land belonging to <b>Mr Rama Chandra Das, Mr Harish Chandra Das and Mr Ramesh Chandra Das</b> , S/o Binod Bihari Das, situated at Khata No. 566/ 237, Plot No. 188/1956, Area: Ac.0.076dec, Mouza: Champati, Thana: Salepur, Thana No.10, Tahasil: Salepur, Tahasil No.515, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha, Bounded By: North-Road, South- Plot of KujjaSethi, East- Plot of Purna Ch Behura, West- Plot of Swarnalata Mandal.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:30.07.2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

# Chief Minister pays tribute to singer Nirmala Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the demise of noted Bengali and Odia singer Nirmala Mishra. The singer passed away at her residence in Chetala locality of Kolkata in the wee hours of Sunday after suffering a massive heart attack. She was 81.

Paying tribute to the singer, Patnaik said Mishra had created a name among people of the state with her high quality singing. She had entertained people by lending her voice to songs in several Bengali and Odia films in 60s and 70s. Her demise is a huge loss for the Odia and Indian music in-



dusty, he said. Mishra had been battling age-related ailments for some time. "She suffered a massive heart at-

tack around 12.05am Sunday and was taken to the nearest nursing home, where the singer was declared dead," the doctor informed.

Born in 1938 in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, Mishra is a recipient of the Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrishna Das Award, which was conferred on her for lifetime contribution to Odia music. Her popular Bengali songs include 'Eamon Ekta Jhinuk', 'Bolo to Arshi' and 'Eai Banglar Mati Te', while some of her hit Odia songs are 'Nida Bhara Raati Madhu Jhara Janha' and 'Mo Mana Beena Ra Taare'.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also expressed grief over the demise of Mishra.

## MATTER OF PRIDE



Paika women showcase their valour at the celebration of state Paika Akhada Mahasangha's vijay utsav in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## Kid found with suspected Monkeypox symptoms

AGENCIES

**Amaravati, July 31:** An eight-year-old boy in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur was found with suspected symptoms of monkeypox.

Health officials said Sunday that his samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.

The boy has been admitted to the isolation ward at Government General Hospital (GGH), Guntur.

The boy, son of daily wage workers from Odisha, approached the hospital with fever and rashes. The doctors isolated him and collected his samples. The samples, including swab from throat, blood, urine, from lesions on skin, have been sent to Pune.

Officials said the reports are likely to be available Monday.

The boy's parents came to Yedlapadu in Palnadu district in search of work 15 days ago. He developed fever and rashes a week ago and his parents initially thought it was nothing serious. As the boy's condition didn't get better even after a week, they rushed him to Guntur GGH July 28.

The doctors examined the boy and noticed rashes and fever, both symptoms of Monkeypox and shifted him to an isolation ward.

According to doctors, his condition is stable. His parents have also been kept under observation as a precautionary measure.

This is the second suspected case of Monkeypox in Andhra Pradesh. The first suspected case was reported from Vijayawada July 17.

Last week, the first suspected case of Monkeypox in neighbouring Telangana had also tested positive.

## BMC to auction off defunct food vehicles, tyres

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** In a bid to reduce spread of dengue, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has decided to identify and penalize individuals who are found illegally stacking/dumping defunct food vehicles, carts, and unused tyres in state capital.

Issuing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) against management and disposal of defunct vehicles, food carts, wooden the-las, rickshaw and unused tyres

in public places of different wards, the BMC stated that such items thrown abruptly in different wards create aesthetic problem and unhygienic condition by providing breeding platforms for mosquitoes and flies.

"After identification of location and person illegally stacking/dumping such items the Zonal Deputy Commissioner (ZDC) shall issue a notice to the violator. In case the person is not identified, the enforcement squad will seize the item in seven days after issuance

of notice. The BMC will then initiate the process of auction of the seized material. The unused tyres could be sold out to tyre shops through auction for tyre retreading purpose while other items may be sold through e-auction," said a BMC official.

Moreover, the BMC will also create awareness among citizens against the same with organisation of activities like radio jingles and street plays. Discussions will also be held in ward meetings to discourage people from

such activities.

"Regular meetings will be conducted by enforcement squad with automobile workshops, fabricators, engineering workshops, tyre shop and kabadiwallas. Awareness creation and enforcement activity shall be carried out parallelly to avoid unauthorized stacking/dumping of defunct vehicle and unused tyres in public places or roads through enforcement squad under the guidance of concerned ZDC," a BMC notification read.

## Law students visit Orissa high court



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** The High Court of Orissa has, Saturday, organized a visit of law students from University Law College, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar to its premises.

Saturday law students from University Law College, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and their teachers visited the High Court premises at Cuttack. Lawyers Sagarika Sahoo and Jagadish Biswal were present on the occasion. They explained various aspects of judicial functioning to the students. The students saw the Chief Justice's Courts and Chambers in the Heritage Building and the new building of the High Court, Judges' Library and the Conference Halls. They put queries which were answered by the lawyers.

The students were shown video clips of swearing-in ceremony of Judges and explained the procedure involved therein. Video clip of the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation was also played for viewing of the students in the Chief Justice's court room.

The students also visited Aain Seva Bhawan which houses the Odisha State Legal Services Authority and the High Court's

The purpose of organising such visits is to bring transparency about the real functioning of judiciary

Arbitration and Mediation Centers where they were given an idea about the Alternative Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanism and its contribution to redressal of the grievances of poor litigants.

At Odisha Judicial Academy the students were given an idea about various kinds of training programmes designed for the lawyers and Judges. They also interacted with Justice SK Panigrahi who shared his experience as lawyer. Justice Panigrahi explained the students as to how advocacy is a noble and unique profession in spite of the challenges associated with it. He encouraged the students to aspire for becoming good lawyers and judges with special mention about hard work as a necessity for the same.

The purpose of organizing such visits is to bring transparency about the real functioning of judiciary which is different from the myths prevailing in the society.

## CLEANING CAMPAIGN



Puneet Sagar Abhiyan Group comprising cadets from Sainik School and Armed Squadron along with volunteers participated in cleaning of Bali Yatra Ground on Mahanadi River in Cuttack, Sunday.

OP PHOTO

# Monkeypox can spread from close physical contact, say experts

**M**onkeypox can spread from close physical contact regardless of sexual orientation or race and scapegoating or demonising the entire LGBTQ community as 'spreaders' will be a repeat of the mistake made during the AIDS epidemic, healthcare professionals and activists have said.

The monkeypox outbreak has raised widespread fear for the LGBTQ community amid reports of the disease being traced among men having sex with men.

Indian equal rights activist Harish Iyer said monkeypox doesn't just spread in the LGBTQ community.

"It happened in the community when there was pride month going on and there were more events in the community. It is just an episode of everyone going to a wedding and then getting Covid. So you need to look at them as victims and not perpetrators," Iyer told PTI.

He further said the monkeypox outbreak is already stigmatising the community and people who developed fever and are scared to go for a medical test.

"Even AIDS was called a gay-related disorder because it was believed to

spread in gays only. But even heterosexuals can have multiple partners.

"WHO has a precedent. They know what happened during the AIDS epidemic and their cautionary message could have been more clear. They could have been more careful with that. Why do they assume that heterosexuals don't have multiple partners," Iyer said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a public health advisory stating that "some cases (of monkeypox) have been identified through sexual health clinics in communities of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men".

"The world health body also asked men having sex with men to limit their partners."

Trans-community health expert Anmol Singh said there is a risk that people will now start distancing themselves from the community which will further isolate them.

"Stigmatised thinking that we have more sexual partners or we are more into sex work than any other straight person will create more negativity," Singh said.

Healthcare professionals have also clarified that monkeypox can



spread from close physical contact regardless of sexual orientation or race.

Somesh Gupta, professor in the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at AIIMS, Delhi, said the Covid pandemic seems to have galvanized the efforts of the mainstream media to report on the latest developments in healthcare.

But without the temperament of a medical professional, it gets weaponised for sensationalism, he said. "This is happening again, this time to Monkeypox; a disease which is clearly transmitted not just sex-

ually but also by close contact, including skin-to-skin and skin-to-cloth such as in a family living together or friends meeting for lunch," Gupta said.

"Unfortunately, it (monkeypox) is endemic in Africa, a continent largely ignored in regard to their knowledge. With the surge of new cases, it has started being identified in the homosexual and bisexual circles before others as it involves intimate skin-to-skin contact. But it has also been found in semen samples," he added.

Starting with a high-grade fever,

The World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a public health advisory stating that "some cases (of monkeypox) have been identified through sexual health clinics in communities of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men"

"This is happening again, this time to Monkeypox; a disease which is clearly transmitted not just sexually but also by close contact, including skin-to-skin and skin-to-cloth such as in a family living together or friends meeting for lunch," Somesh Gupta, professor in the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at AIIMS, Delhi, said

sore throat, painful swellings in the groins and rectal pain, patients develop the characteristic at a later stage. But sometimes, there are imperceptible fluid-filled blisters over the face, palms, soles and ulcers in the mouth and genitals which remain infectious till the lesions dry and the crusts fall off with new skin forming underneath.

"If we aren't careful, it would be the HIV/AIDS story repeated, a deja vu. Stigmatized and isolated, the patients would not report symptoms and seek treatment, leading to further transmission while the misinformed

majority heterosexual population and even health departments mistakenly assume that they are not at risk," Gupta said.

Satish Koul, Director, Internal Medicine, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, said stigmatisation can quickly disable evidence-based response by stoking cycles of fear, driving people away from health services, impeding efforts to identify cases and encouraging ineffective, punitive measures. "We should urge media outlets, governments, and communities to respond with a rights-based, evidence-based approach that avoids the stigma."

"Stigma and blame undermine trust and capacity to respond effectively during outbreaks like this one," Koul said. Raj Mariwala, Director, Mariwala Health Initiative, said it is very important to look at public health messaging critically.

"Instead of scapegoating or demonising entire communities as 'spreaders' or using the label of suspects, it is important to focus on accessible and affirmative ways to talk about how to protect oneself while being accurate about how the virus is transmitted. PTI

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.0°C	35.6°C
MIN	27.0°C	27.0°C
Humidity	76%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain likely	

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Talcher I Sunita Bhutia (29), W/o-Prakash Chandra Bhutia, of vill- Balunga Khamar, PO- Kandhal, PS-Talcher, Dist.- Angul. Before marriage my name is Sunita Khilar, D/o- Biranchi Narayan Khilar which has been reflected in my personal all documents. Hence I declare that Sunita Bhutia & Sunita Khilar is one and same person. That henceforth, I will be known as Sunita Bhutia, W/o Prakash Chandra Bhutia for all purpose.

Sd./- Sunita Bhutia

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

SHORT TAKES

3-yr RI to man for rape bid on minor

**Sambalpur:** A special PCCSO has court sentenced a man to three years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him for rape bid on a 13-year old minor under Thelkuli police limits in this district. The convict was identified as Deepak Sahu in the area. Magistrate Biswaranjan Behera pronounced the order after examining the statements recorded by seven witnesses under Section-8 of PCCSO Act. A penalty of ₹10,000 was also slapped on the convict. The court also said that if the convict fails to pay the penalty he will have to undergo an additional six months of rigorous imprisonment, Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kumar Panda said. The incident occurred May 17, 2015 when the survivor was alone at home. Sahu barged inside her house and tried to rape her on the pretext of drinking water. The survivor however, managed to free herself and ran out of house and raised an alarm.

2 killed, 2 critical in accident

**Nuapada:** At least two persons were killed and two others suffered critical injuries after two cargo-laden trucks collided head-on near Taraboda kendu leaf godown on National Highway-353 under Komna police limits in this district, late Saturday night. The deceased were identified as Abhisek Pradhan, 29, of Bolangir district and Dharmendra Mahara, 33, of Kalahandi district. The two were working as the driver and the helper of one of the ill-fated trucks. The two injured persons were also the driver and the helper of the other truck. The identities of the injured are yet to be ascertained as they are senseless. They have been admitted to the Nuapada district headquarters hospital (DHH). On being informed, personnel from the Tarbod police station reached the spot and rescued the injured persons with the help of an earthmover and rushed them to the Nuapada DHH.

Undertrial flees from Jharsuguda hospital

Jail warder suspended, show-cause to two others

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, July 31:** An undertrial prisoner fled from the Jharsuguda hospital premises here while undergoing treatment for his respiratory problem in its ward, late Saturday night.

The accused Indrajit Sahani, 25, of Bothna village under Madhopur police limits in Bihar gave slip to the jail warder and escaped from the hospital premises.

On being informed, jail superintendent Lakshmikanth Dhangda Majhi suspended jail warder Kishore Kumar Joshi who was on duty and lodged a complaint against the absconding undertrial at the Town police station in Jharsuguda. Majhi



also issued show-cause notices to two other warders Rajesh Kulu and Santosh Minz for the incident.

Police registered a case and started an investigation. A manhunt was launched to nab the absconding undertrial, Majhi said.

Notably, Orient police station officials had arrested Sahani in connection with the theft of a truck from Brajarajnagar area in the district and produced him in court, July 26. Sahani was remanded to judicial custody of Jharsuguda sub-jail after the magistrate rejected his bail plea.

He was in jail when he developed respiratory problem, July 27. Later, the jail authorities admitted him to the hospital for treatment.



Girl students performing a Sambalpur dance as another belts out a song at the alumni meeting of 1980 batch of Khallikote University in Berhampur, Sunday

NO RPDAC MEETINGS IN BOLANI SINCE 2016

Development in mining areas takes backseat

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, July 31:** As meetings of the Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC) are not being held regularly, development in Bolani area of Keonjhar district has taken a backseat, sources said Sunday.

Some members of RPDAC and activists of a voluntary organisation recently met Union Minister Arjun Munda and appraised him of the need for holding RPDAC meetings to carry forward developmental works in mineral-bearing Bolani locality. They have also written July 28 to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the regard.

Locals said that though the Odisha government is aware that no RPDAC meetings have taken place in the last two years, no steps have been taken in this regard. This has resulted in a stalemate in developmental works in Bolani.

It was learnt that the last time of RPDAC for the mining-affected Bolani locality was held in 2016. At that time, several decisions had been taken for various develop-



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

ment activities as promised by SAIL in the area. The RPDAC should have reviewed how far developmental activities have been implemented and what works have remained unfinished, sources said.

Still, mineral extraction and transportation have been going on smoothly and SAIL has been raking in the moolah. During expansion of mining projects, SAIL had

closed since in 2016-17. There was plan to upgrade a school to the higher secondary (class XII) level. However, still now students can only study up to Class II in the school, locals pointed out.

SAIL had also promised to set up a pellet and beneficiation plant to utilise raw material in the area so as to create scope of employment for the locals. However, the project hasn't taken off.

RPDAC's role assumes significance with the government stressing industrialisation to foster economic growth and alleviating unemployment.

As per guidelines, the decisions taken by the RPDAC are executed in the mining-hit and industrial areas. If the administration had held the RPDAC meetings in time, such issues would be discussed so as to remind the company of executing its promises, sources said.

In the absence of development, local people have to suffer a lot. They have urged the administration and the Union Minister to ensure that RPDAC meetings are held regularly in the larger interest of the mining-hit people.

Some members of RPDAC and activists of a voluntary organisation recently met Union Minister Arjun Munda and appraised him of the need for holding RPDAC meetings

promised to do various developmental works and accordingly locals had supported it and given their consent in favour of the expansion of mining operations.

However, locals alleged that developmental works promised by SAIL have not been executed. Many local issues have been left unresolved. SAIL had set up an ITI near Bolani slum, but it has remained

₹2 crore embezzled through fake bills

LOCALS SEEK VIGILANCE PROBE INTO SCAM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Derabish, July 31:** The Odisha government is spending crores towards development systems, but irregularities have affected some projects in Kendrapara district. One such case has come to the fore in Garadpur area where over ₹2 crore meant for drainage restoration has allegedly been misappropriated through fake bills.

Locals and farmers from four panchayats have taken up the issue with the Kendrapara district collector and the superintending engineer of the drainage division.

According to reports, hundreds of acres of low-lying farmlands and swamp lands like Hariankapata, Paniola, Janrabarimula and Hurasahpata under Garadpur block get waterlogged during the monsoons and this is an annual problem. Farmers of Bangalpur panchayat in the past had repeatedly urged the collector and the authorities of the drainage division to lay hume pipes wherever necessary.

Years later, the drainage division had allocated ₹2 crore for the

DRAINAGE RESTORATION



purpose and a tender was floated. Locals alleged that the contractor concerned did not carry out the work, but embezzled the entire fund in collusion with an assistant engineer Harianka Sarpanch Kanaklata Pradhan, Indola sarpanch Jyotsnamayee Behera and Janrabarimula sarpanch Shankarsan Parida and hundreds of farmers made such complaint before the Collector.

They have demanded a Vigilance investigation into the matter.

When contacted, superintending engineer of the drainage division Bankanidhi Samal said that he has received a complaint about the irregularities. "The matter will be investigated and action will be taken accordingly," he assured.

CAMPA fund goes down the drain in Nayagarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, July 31:** A plan to plant fruit-bearing trees like mango to ensure enough fodder for elephants in this district has been mired in controversies and irregularities attributed to forest officials, a report alleged.

The plantation of mango saplings has been taken up under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The plan is to plant 25,000 saplings on 50 hectares of land in Gochha reserve forest and 30,000 saplings on 150 hectares of land in Banijhari proposed reserve forest area.

Reports said that a mango forest is being created to provide food for the elephants at Gochha reserve forest and proposed Banijhari

FODDER GENERATION FOR ELEPHANTS



reserve forest under Panchrida forest range of Nayagarh division.

The plan was to plant 55,000 mango saplings but forest officials have planted only 4,000 much to everybody's disappointment. Moreover, it has been alleged that

huge amount of money to the tune of several lakhs have been siphoned off on the pretext of sapling plantations.

Allegations are rife that the saplings are not being planted in a scientific manner with pits being

DFO Kshyama Sarangi said she will order a probe into dumping of saplings in water body. ACF Himanshu Muduli said he will look into it

dug up under Sal trees. It is a well-known fact that mango saplings will never grow under another tree. Moreover, the pits are only six inches in depth instead of the 1.5 feet required for the growth of mango saplings.

Forest officials have also not implemented any steps to protect the saplings. It was alleged that many saplings got destroyed as they were just placed besides the dug up pits. These rotten saplings were thrown

into water bodies and new saplings were purchased after a video of it went viral.

A spot inquiry of the plantation programme revealed that at many places saplings were lying scattered and the pits empty. Locals and tribals alleged that only 4,000-5,000 saplings have been planted in proposed Banijhari reserve forest.

Residents Rabindra Pradhan and Ranka Pradhan alleged that the forest guard at the Gochha beat house is siphoning off lakhs on the pretext of plantation. The guard has been transferred but he has managed to stay on at the same place.

ACF Himanshu Sekhar Muduli said that he will conduct a probe into it. DFO Kshyama Sarangi said she will order a probe into dumping of saplings.

Water contamination causing diarrhoea in Gajapati villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, July 31:** A report on samples collected from P Gobindapur village under Mohana block in Gajapati district stated that a number of wells have contaminated water. It is the main reason for which diarrhoea has broken out in the village, chief district medical officer Mubarak Ali said.

Notably, a minor girl died of diarrhoea in P Gobindapur village while 23 people have been affected by the disease. A medical team has visited the village and took stock of the situation. Health officials had earlier collected samples from eight sources of water and sent

them for testing. In the report, two of the samples have confirmed water contamination. This has created panic among local residents with the water-borne disease spreading by the day. Four people hit by diarrhoea were hospitalised Saturday.

The CDMO advised the people not to panic, but to maintain sanitation and drink safe water. Another medical team has sensitised people about precautionary measures. Meanwhile, efforts have been initiated to provide hygienic drinking water to the villagers. The report has also been submitted to officials of the district administration.

FARM WORKS



Women farmhands planting paddy saplings on a farmland in Hinjilicut area of Ganjam district after drawing water through a motor pump, Sunday

Elephant alert equipment goes defunct in Dhenkanal

Risks for vehicles, commuters increase on National Highway-55

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, July 31:** A siren and alert light system that was put up on an experimental basis on National Highway-55 to warn commuters and vehicles about the presence of elephants has gone out of order, a report said. This has put the lives of commuters in danger as they are now deprived of advance information about the presence of animals on national highway. With the system not working, life has become risky for both commuters and vehicles.

Reports said, a voluntary outfit with help of the Forest department had installed the siren and alert light system near Rasasingh. The siren would automatically blare out a high decibel sound and the light would keep flashing at night if any elephant strayed near the highway. However, the equipment turned



Over 326 elephants are holed up in various forest areas in Dhenkanal district with 225 in the Hindol forest range

defunct after rainwater seeped inside it a few weeks ago.

The locals informed the Forest officials about the development, but the latter are yet to take a call on it. Meanwhile, a herd of elephants strayed into Dhenkanal district near the Ambithi village on the fringes of Bantala locality in neighbouring Angul district.

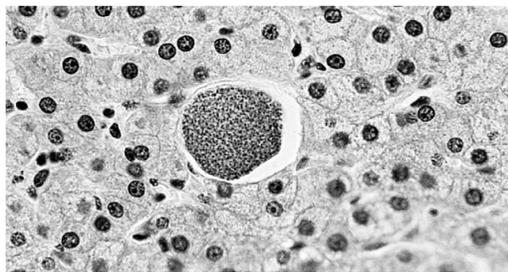
As per reports, over 326 elephants are staying in various for-

est ranges in Dhenkanal district. Among them, 225 elephants were found in the Hindol forest range, the officials said.

When contacted, DFO Prakashchand Gogineni said confirmed that the siren and alert light installed on the NH-55 is out of order. He said that an agency in Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu has been asked to repair the equipment on an urgent basis.

FOCUS HEALTHCARE

# MALARIA COMEBACK



Malaria manifests in several forms and often goes unreported due to misattribution. Committing to eliminate it by 2030 after a 70-year crusade is not easy, and the world may have to wait for some more years

The dreaded malaria can make a comeback amid global warming and heavy rains and needs three times more allocations a year: India could suffer severe economic hardship, and wage and production loss as it accounted for 83 per cent of malaria cases and 82 per cent deaths in South-East Asia in 2021, says the World Health Organisation.

South East Asia has 4.2 million cases and 7341 deaths. Climate change and global warming can accentuate the problem amid a global commitment to eliminate malaria by 2030, according to Soumya Swaminathan, the Chief Economist of WHO.

Annually, India spends about \$1.94 billion on malaria, according to an estimate in 2017 by Indrani Gupta and Samik Chaudhury of Ambedkar University. But it may have to increase allocations as the WHO finds that its own estimates need at least three times rise a year. According to the WHO report, current funding levels (estimated at US\$3.3 billion in 2020) will need to more than triple, reaching US\$ 10.3 billion per year - \$ 80.24 billion by 2030, target year for elimination of the disease. Malaria can strain national economies, impacting some nations' GDP by as much as an estimated 5-6 per cent. It includes 75 per cent losses on productivity/wages and the rest on treating the disease, says Gupta.

India needs enormous budgetary allocation, a severe strain for a government under financial constraint. It is said that malaria is manageable and controllable. The 15th Finance Commission recommended unconditional grants of Rs 1 lakh crore for the health sector for five years and told the states to spend 8 per cent of their budget on health. The Economic Survey 2020-21 says that out-of-pocket expenses by households on health is one of the highest in the world more so if treated in private sector.

Mumbai has warned of malaria spread as in June 2022 itself it detected 57 cases and 119 cases in the first week of July. Assam has recently issued a warning on vector borne diseases as 74 encephalitis

cases have been detected. The North-East has very high incidence and malaria-related anaemia. Similarly, Delhi reported detection of 126 dengue cases in June but is silent on malaria. In western Uttar Pradesh, medical officer Dr Avandira Kumar issued an alert and created special malaria-dengue wards at 10 primary health centres in early July. Rajasthan had heavy rains this year. The incidence of malaria in 2021 had increased marginally to 649 cases from 449 cases in 2020 and dengue case 1022 cases from 717 cases.

The Union Health Ministry says despite powerful drugs to treat malaria, the last two years of COVID pandemic has thrown up challenges for diagnosing malaria. Several symptoms are so common "it has become harder for medical professionals to discern from initial symptoms leading to misdiagnosis or worse no diagnosis." No wonder that there remains a gap between Indian national data and that of the WHO.

Various data and information from Purulia, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, Kheda in Gujarat and WHO may be an indicator of the losses because of the vector-borne disease. New data from the WHO reveals that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted malaria services, leading to a marked increase in cases and deaths. According to its latest World Malaria Report

2021, there were estimated 241 million malaria cases and 627,000 malaria deaths worldwide in 2020. This represents about 14 million more cases compared to 2019, and 69,000 more deaths. Approximately two-thirds of these additional deaths (47000) were linked to disruptions in the provision of malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment during the pandemic.

Malaria cases and deaths remain unacceptably high and are resurgent in several settings, though recent developments inspire optimism. The report states that between 2.7 million and 5.9 million cases were reported in India in 2020, whereas the official records say about 187,000 cases were reported. Director of Malaria No More, Pratik Kumar, says that one of the reasons for disparity remains malaria burden diverted to the private health sector, which now is catering to a large segment of healthcare facilities. The disparity is also noticed in numbers - 10.9 lakh malaria cases were reported in 2016 while the sales of anti-malaria drugs were ten times more. Acknowledging the factor Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has asked private healthcare facilities to report such incidence.

Despite gains over the last 15 years, malaria control has stagnated, with resurgence and rising morbidity in several highly endemic countries exacerbated by

service disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, says a study 'Malaria in 2022: Increasing Challenges, Cautious Optimism' by Prasanna Jagannathan & Abel Kakuru in Nature Communications.

Indrani Gupta notes that an analysis of the trend and patterns in public expenditure by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme shows a declining focus of the central government on vector-borne diseases. Also, allocation of financial resources among states does not reflect the burden of malaria, the major vector-borne disease in the country.

Data reporting in public domain seems to be less during the past few years. It is stated that since larger numbers are treated in private hospitals and clinics data prospecting has suffered.

"The fight against malaria has recorded immense progress in the recent years. However, as seen in the past, malaria has a history of bouncing back with a vengeance. Through active media attention, key gaps and issues can be regularly highlighted, ensuring that those are addressed in strategic and policy decisions. This will help India expedite efforts towards malaria elimination," says Kirti Mishra, chief technical officer, Odisha, Malaria No More.

The 2020 report of the WHO Strategy Advisory Group on malaria eradication has looked at this in detail and does provide useful information, especially with respect to malaria transmission and the vulnerability of populations to malaria as 95 per cent of Indians live in malaria-prone areas.

Soumya Swaminathan says the basic WHO position is that climate change is likely to increase rather than decrease the risk of malaria transmission. The WHO is testing genetical modification of mosquitoes to counter malaria but warns that India should not use it as field trials are several years away.

Malaria manifests in several forms and often goes unreported due to misattribution. Committing to eliminate it by 2030 after a 70-year crusade is not easy, and the world may have to wait for some more years.

INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

**THERE WERE ESTIMATED 241 MILLION MALARIA CASES AND 627,000 MALARIA DEATHS WORLDWIDE IN 2020**

## Weaponising Gas

Europe is caught between the devil and the deep sea. Russian President Vladimir Putin has turned out to be the devil. The prospect of a severe economic dislocation, a freezing winter a few months away and weakening of Europe's fight against climate change because of a renewed use of coal-based energy is the deep sea. Putin has resorted to what Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy calls "an overt gas war" to force Europe to withdraw sanctions against Russia for the latter's invasion of Ukraine. When he attacked Ukraine in February, Putin had calculated he would win quickly and the West would meekly surrender to his blatant dictatorial behaviour. But, Ukrainians stood up to the challenge and are still spiritedly defending their country against Russian aggression. This has forced Putin to use Europe's reliance on Russian gas exports as a weapon to undermine Western solidarity, forcing it to lift sanctions and acquiesce to Moscow's territorial greed. The more the resistance by Ukraine frustrates Russia's design, the more Russia tries to blackmail Europe by cutting the flow of gas through the main east-west pipeline. The message to Europe from Moscow is loud and clear - be soft on the war and enjoy a warm winter with enough gas heating homes, or else, shiver during the freezing winter and suffer industrial breakdown for want of gas generated electricity.

As things are going out of control, European Union members have agreed to cut gas usage by 15 per cent as part of a phased move away from reliance on Russian supplies. But, there are chinks in the EU armour as some countries are opting out of the deal or vacillating fearing dire consequences due to reduction in the supply of Russian gas. For example, Hungary, the EU state close to Russia, has not signed the deal at all. Brussels, the EU headquarters, believes energy security will strengthen transnational collaboration and ensure political, economic and strategic integration. But, the reality is Russia's decision to turn off the gas tap has already brought tensions between member states. While Spain has taken care to improve its infrastructure to help it diversify its energy supply, Germany has only increased its reliance on Russian gas through the 1,200 km-long Nord Stream 1 from the Russian coast near St Petersburg to north-eastern Germany. France will not be directly hit by Russia's gas war since its power supplies are mostly nuclear, but President Emmanuel Macron is worried, as an advocate of European integration, about a wider threat to the eurozone if the German economy is damaged by soaring gas prices. The majority shareholder of Nord Stream 1 is the Russian state-owned company Gazprom. By the end of June, Germany was importing 26 per cent of its gas from Russia through Nord Stream 1. But using the alibi of overhauling a boiler, Gazprom cut gas deliveries by 75 per cent. In early July, it shut down Nord Stream 1 for 10 days. Though it partially reopened it in the third week of July, it soon announced the supply would taper off. This pushed up wholesale prices of gas in Europe which are now 450 per cent higher than they were during the corresponding period last year.

The whole Russian move appears well calculated. It declared war against Ukraine in February and did not immediately use its gas supply as a bargaining chip to ease sanctions by Europe. It waited for the next winter to set in so the need for gas would be direly felt and creating alternatives of building terminals for LNG (liquefied natural gas) and getting new sources would prove too costly and time-consuming.

Putin is using Russia's gas muscles so effectively that Europe is fast becoming helpless against his manoeuvres. The weapon of sanctions is being blunted by Russia's gas strategy.

WISDOM CORNER

**In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit.**  
ANNE FRANK

**In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.**  
THOMAS JEFFERSON

**He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.**  
FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

WORDSWORTH

Verbigeration

The American actor, musician, and author John Lithgow remarked in a newspaper interview in February 2015 that verbigeration was his current favourite word. Though it describes the use of words, the concern of any actor or writer, Mr Lithgow would surely not wish it to be applied to himself. One might guess that it refers to the bigging up of verbs, though it's actually said with a soft g, like refrigeration. The association isn't altogether wrong, as it refers to the involuntary repetition of meaningless words and phrases. The psychiatrist Bernard Glueck described it in 1916 as "senseless word salad". Another writer, G Stanley Hall, in a work ten years earlier with the off-putting title Youth: Its Education, Regimen, and Hygiene, preferred to define it as "The continual utterance of certain words or phrases at short intervals, without reference to their meaning." It has been regarded as a symptom of a mental disorder, though we in the UK, currently in the run-up to a general election, may feel it could be used to describe certain British political figures. Its source is Latin, verbum, a word (also the source of verbiage), plus the verb gerere, to carry on or conduct, from which derived the Latin verb verberare to talk or chat. An isolated early appearance of verbigeration in English was in the dictionary Glossographia in 1656; Thomas Blount, who compiled it, defined it in this neutral Latin sense. However, nobody else bothered with it until it was reinvented late in the nineteenth century by the British physician Daniel Hack Tuke. It was never popular and was soon after replaced by palilalia, taken instead from Greek: palin, again, plus lalia, talk or speech. There's also echolalia, from the same root, which is similarly involuntary repetition, but of the words of another person.

Verecund

A verecund person is modest, bashful or shy. The Oxford English Dictionary's entry for this word, published back in 1916, doesn't suggest it's obsolete or even rare. In fact, it hasn't yet quite vanished, though it has never been common. You need to have learned Latin in your youth - once standard for educated writers of earlier generations, of course - to have been likely to include this word in your prose. Its heyday, insofar as it ever had one, was roughly in the half century after 1850. It turns up in an article penned by an erudite columnist in the issue of The Marion Weekly Star of Ohio dated 17 February 1912, in a comment that can only make us marvel at how times have changed: What this country needs is men who are not afraid to proclaim to the public their virtues of mind and character. There is too little of the projection of self into the arena. Our politics is speckled with men who are so diffident and verecund they never say a word about themselves or their achievements. The only example one can find from modern times is in Translations by the Irish playwright Brian Friel, which was first performed in 1980. The play is set in 1833 and in it characters speak Irish, Greek, Latin and English.

LOL

MAN ON STREET

A bum asks a man for \$2. The man asked, "Will you buy booze?" The bum said, "No." The man asked, "Will you gamble it away?" The bum said,



"No." Then the man asked, "Will you come home with me so my wife can see what happens to a man who doesn't drink or gamble?"

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

# The true meaning of cybersecurity

When we talk about cybersecurity, we usually think of commercial antivirus software, ransomware attacks on large corporations, or leaks of politically scandalous emails. But little is said about public security in the digital realm, and that is a big problem when we increasingly depend on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the Internet of Things to carry out our ordinary daily activities.

Moreover, these technologies' rapid development has led to a hybridisation of crime. Many illicit activities now straddle the physical and virtual worlds, which has introduced new trade-offs and calls for a reconsideration of long-standing law-enforcement strategies.

Consider illegal recreational substances. Many people now seek to acquire these over the internet, because buying online is generally seen as safer than meeting a stranger in a dark alley. But online channels tend to put people into direct contact with the organised crime groups that control most of the distribution of illicit substances. When people hand over money to these groups, they are unwittingly helping to fund the global networks that also finance terrorism and traffic in arms, people,

and human organs and tissues.

It is well known that the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated many forms of digital innovation and adaptability, and online drug purchases are no exception. Amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances are increasingly available on the darknet, the open web, crypto markets, and even social media. There are both risks and potential benefits associated with these new distribution channels. On a positive note, analysing digital data flows could allow for faster detection of novel psychoactive substances that pose a threat to public health. And, of course, transacting on crypto markets or through similar digital channels can protect individual users from physical violence, theft, sexual exploitation, and abduction.

Moreover, recent studies show that people who use drugs and acquire substances through ICTs are more likely to adopt harm-reduction practices and promote responsible use, generally because they are operating from the privacy of their homes or other safe settings. Governments and law-enforcement authorities should keep these findings in mind as they seek to create safe public spaces online. While the state alone is responsible for

defining what counts as a crime, policing criminal activity is not its sole purpose; it also must ensure public health and uphold fundamental rights such as privacy. And in the case of drugs it will need to be more thoughtful about who is really a criminal, and who is a victim.

Accordingly, many law-enforcement strategies should be reconsidered, and resources should be redirected toward strengthening the competencies of nascent cybercrime units. Rather than pursuing recreational substance users and markets, investigative efforts should focus primarily on ICT-mediated criminal activities and operations that pose a significant threat to the general public.

Here, a promising new model is "pre-arrest police diversion" or "deflection." This collaborative intervention strategy connects law enforcement, biopsychosocial agents, and public-health systems to create community-based treatment and support pathways, so that drug users do not have to enter the justice system. To create safe digital spaces, we need to shift public actions vis-à-vis drug users from a repressive perspective to an educational one. That means leveraging specialised law-enforcement units and optimising the reach of biopsychosocial

agents. With these modifications, we also can start to rebuild the lost trust between this population group and law-enforcement agencies.

These methods are known to reduce the impact of controlled-substance use on communities and households, while freeing up law-enforcement resources to focus on what really matters, such as terrorist financing, the rise of new opioid markets, counterfeit pharmaceuticals, arms trafficking, and child sexual-abuse material distributed online.

As long as states insist on criminalising recreational substances, people will continue to seek them on the black market, and law-enforcement agencies will continue to fight an uphill battle. But with the right strategies in place, ICTs have enormous capacity both to reduce harm to drug users and to empower law enforcement to focus on truly pernicious criminal behaviour. As the world increasingly moves online, we must recognise that cybersecurity is about more than preventing hacks and fraud. It is also about improving the safety, health, and well-being of the people behind the screens.

The writer is ambassador for One Young World.  
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## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
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Prevent cholera

Sir, Seventy-five years have passed since Independence. After many hardships and difficult situations like poverty, famine, external attacks, our country today has come a long way in the path of development. For years, people in our country did not get nutritious food to eat, nor did they get clean water to drink. But today the times have changed and everyone can get food and water due to the government's developmental efforts. Despite all this, it is a sad development that cholera has been spreading in Rayagada district of Odisha. Perhaps the benefits of the government's developmental programmes have not reached all the people properly. Now there is a need for proper surveillance to diagnose the disease and make the benefits of the government's developmental programmes available to the people in the tribal district to protect their lives from the dreaded disease.

Chittaranjan Barik, JAGATSINGHPUR

'Freebee' & 'responsibility'

Sir, This word 'freebee' has been heard in both the Houses of the Parliament and outside as well. In fact distribution of goods for free is called 'freebee'. It is inevitable in capitalism that if everything is given away for free, the economy will suffer. One thing must be mentioned here that people with the knowledge of economics know that there is a difference between 'freebie' and 'welfare'. Why talk of 'freebee' only for the poor? If the government provides some service to the people for free, then what is the problem? Why does the government promise to provide various services for free during elections? In fact, in a welfare state like India, it is the responsibility of the government to provide people the essential goods such as food grains, fuel, healthcare, education, electricity, groceries and vehicle services at minimum cost. But all these services are not in the hands of the government. The government has handed over all these services to the capitalists. The issue of 'free' comes when the government is unable to provide these services to the people at low cost. If the government provides food grains and healthcare to the people during a crisis, then it cannot be called 'free' but it will be called a 'responsibility', because our country is a welfare state. But, those who steal government money under the supervision of the government and go out will be called 'free'.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR



**A constitutional republic shall thrive only when its citizens are aware of what their Constitution envisages**  
N V RAMANA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

### NEW ROLE

Sanjay Arora, a Tamil Nadu-cadre IPS officer who headed the paramilitary force ITBP, was appointed as the Delhi Police commissioner Sunday



### of the day quote

Women should be provided equal opportunities and a "dignified atmosphere" at work for their empowerment  
SHUPENDER YADAV | UNION MINISTER



Maharashtra has taken along people of all religions, castes, languages etc. Mumbai's progress is because of the hard work of ordinary citizens. Koshiyari had earlier made objectionable comments about social reformers Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule  
SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT



Jammu and Kashmir Police is the finest example of superior internal security machinery for the protection of the integrity and sovereignty of the country  
MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## Can Agra cope with the exploding motor vehicles' population?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Agra, July 31:** Can Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal and half a dozen other historical monuments, that annually attract millions of visitors, cope with the exploding human and automobile population? This question is baffling the town planners and the ruling party politicians who look for answers to sort out the great urban predicament. Agra district's population has crossed five million. Keeping pace is the phenomenal increase in the number of vehicles on the roads. In addition to more than two million registered vehicles, Agra also

sees thousands of vehicles from other states using the two Expressways and several national highways criss-crossing the city. To add to the woes of the locals, the exploding simian, bovine and canine population are major concern areas that the city planners need to address urgently.

The alarming rise in the number of private vehicles has hastened the collapse of the traffic management system if ever there was one. Long traffic jams, angry commuters, increased street fights and accidents are the daily features of the traffic scenario in the Taj city. Can anything be done to



save the city from degenerating into a civilisational sink? Local citizens' forums and voluntary organisations say that the first major step should be to recognise and respect the rights of the pedestrians and the humble cyclists who should always get a favoured treatment on the roads.

The second is to plan mobility management and not traffic management. Humans have to be the chief focus of urban planning, not vehicles and accommodation, the activists demand.

The use of private vehicles has increased in the eco-sensitive Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), spread over 10,400 sq km, reflecting the general level of economic growth in the region. Private vehicle usage share in Agra of total motorised transport is relatively higher compared to metros.

However, the city planners are hopeful that by the time the Metro rail project takes shape in two

years, there would be a considerable reduction in the number of private vehicles. Work is fast progressing on the 30-km metro network scheduled to be operational before the 2024 general elections.

Environmentalists Devashish Bhattacharya says that Agra, Mathura and Ferozabad have high levels of killer pollutants in the ambient air. The PM10, NO2, SPM, and RSPM levels are alarmingly high even after three decades of pollution-fighting measures that the Supreme Court initiated in 1993, on the recommendations of the high-powered S. Vardarajan committee.

## Public grievance redressal time cut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said the time for redressal of public grievances received on an online portal has been reduced from 45 to 30 days.

He said this decision is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on effective implementation of public grievance redressal mechanism with disposal of grievance within minimum possible time, but with maximum possible satisfaction of the complainant.

Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said an order issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievance (DARPG) also states that a complaint received from a citizen will not be closed until an appeal filed against it is disposed of. Last year, the DARPG had reduced the maximum time limit to 45 days from 60 days to resolve public grievances, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said. Singh said under the leadership of PM Modi, every attempt is being made to implement an effective public grievance redressal system and bring about administrative reforms at par with global standards to promote satisfaction among the people.

## ED RAIDS RAUT'S RESIDENCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 31:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing a money laundering case Sunday conducted a search at Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's residence in suburban Bhandup for nine hours and questioned him before shifting him to the agency's office in south Mumbai in the evening, sources said. Raut claimed he was being framed based on "false evidence" but won't bow down and quit the party, shortly before being herded into the south Mumbai office of the ED. "They (ED) are going to arrest me. I am going to be arrested," Raut told reporters outside the ED office after he was brought there from his Bhandup residence.

"Zukega nahi (won't bow down)," Raut said, putting up a brave front. He alleged that the ED action was aimed at trying to weaken Shiv Sena and Maharashtra and that a "false" case is prepared against him. After the ED action began in the early morning, Raut tweeted that he will die, but will not surrender and never leave Shiv Sena.

At 7 am on Sunday, ED officials, accompanied by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, reached Raut's 'Maitri' bungalow of Raut and began the search. The action follows two summonses issued by the ED against Raut, the latest being on July 27.



Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut being taken to the Enforcement Directorate office in connection with a money laundering case in Mumbai

Raut was summoned for questioning by the ED in a money laundering case linked to the alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and related transactions involving his wife and associates.

He had appeared before the agency in Mumbai to record his statement on July 1 but after that, he skipped the two summonses issued by the agency citing the ongoing Parliament session. The Rajya Sabha MP, who is a Uddhav Thackeray loyalist, had denied any wrongdoing and alleged that he was being targeted due to political vendetta.

In the late afternoon, Shiv Sena supporters holding saffron flags and banners raised slogans against ED when officials moved out with Raut outside his bungalow in Bhandup. Sena workers tried to block the path of vehicles of ED but they were removed by local police, an official said, adding some protesters were bundled into a police van.

Before going with ED officials, Raut came down at the gate of his home, waved at his supporters and displayed a saffron scarf. Raut's mother, who was standing at the first-floor window of their bungalow, became emotional along with his other relatives.

## Trains, road traffic hit as farmers protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, July 31:** Farmers Sunday squatted on railway tracks and blocked roads at several places in Punjab and Haryana as part of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha's nationwide protest against the Centre "renege on its promises" made when the agitation against now-repealed farm laws was withdrawn last year.

In Punjab, the Ferozepur division of Indian Railways had to cancel or reschedule several trains because of the four-hour agitation. As a result, scores of passengers were forced to wait at various railway stations for hours.

According to railway officials, Amritsar-Pathankot, Amritsar-Qadian, Pathankot-Verka were among five trains which were cancelled while eight trains, including Amritsar-Jaynagar, Amritsar-Sealdah, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi, Amritsar-New Delhi and Amritsar-Ajmer Express were rescheduled.

Two trains - Bathinda-Fazilka and Fazilka-Bathinda - were short terminated, they said. "I, along with my wife, came here for treatment. We had to return to Jammu today. Our train, which was scheduled to arrive at 10:30 am, got delayed for several hours," said a



Jammu-based man at Jalandhar railway station.

A woman from Jandiala was to go to Jammu to pay obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine but her train also got delayed due to the farmers' agitation. "We have been waiting for the train for hours," said the woman. Many trains were stopped and roads were blocked at several places from 11 am till 3 pm.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU)-Kadian president Harmeet Singh Kadian, participating in the protest at Phillaur railway station, said the farmers were holding the protest on the call given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farmers' unions.

Farmers alleged that they were forced to squat on rail tracks as the Centre was "not listening to their demands".

## Monkeypox scare: Man kept in isolation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 31:** A 35-year-old man who arrived at Tiruchi airport on Friday and had a skin rash -- a symptom of monkeypox, is kept in isolation at Pudukkottai Medical College Hospital in Tamil Nadu.

The man was sent to Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, Tiruchi on Friday but he went missing from the place. The hospital authorities informed the police and the health department about it. Later, he was found at his residence in Pudukkottai on Saturday and taken to the Medical College Hospital there. The authorities instructed the family of the person to isolate themselves until a complete diagnosis is made.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Heroin seized

**Guwahati:** The Assam police Sunday seized heroin valued at around Rs 8 crore, and arrested two persons on charges of drug peddling from Bokajan area of Karbi Anglong district. As per reports, the police had specific information about the activity of the peddlers in the area and on this, they intercepted a vehicle at Khatkhathi in Bokajan. Following the search of the vehicle, around 75 boxes containing 966 grams of heroin were seized. Police held two persons who were in the vehicle. They were identified as Soleman Thuyar and Simaan Thuyar.

#### 4 Haryana MLAs threatened: Police

**Chandigarh:** Four legislators in Haryana received death threat and extortion calls from multiple phone numbers tracing to the countries in the Middle East from June 24 to 28, the police said Sunday. First Information Reports (FIRs) were lodged against the threats and had been assigned to the Special Task Force STF by DGP P.K. Agrawal to investigate. Technical analysis of these mobiles has confirmed that these numbers are registered in the Middle Eastern countries and were being operated from Pakistan, said an official statement.

#### Over 1,200 cattle perish in Gujarat

**Ahmedabad:** Gujarat Agriculture Minister Raghavji Patel has said that 1240 cattle have died so far due to lumpy skin disease in the state. However, Opposition alleged that the death toll is 25 to 30 times higher, claiming the state government is hiding the death toll as it did during corona pandemic. Around 50,000 cattle infected with lumpy virus are being treated, 1240 died and 15 lakh are being vaccinated, the minister said in Jamnagar on Saturday evening, after a meeting with Jamnagar Municipal Corporation officers.

#### 2 killed as bus, car collide in Noida

**Noida:** Two people were killed while another was critically injured in a bus and car head-on collision in Noida on Sunday, an official said. The deceased were identified as Purushottam (45) and Rinku (35), both residents of Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. According to the official, the incident took place on the Jhaajar-Rabupura road near village Mohammadpur when a private bus on its way to Rabupura from Jhaajar crashed into a Renault Triber that was coming from the opposite side.

### I-DAY SPIRIT



A Rajasthani artiste performs as part of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav' celebration, ahead of the Independence Day in Bikaner

## Adhir seeks apology from Irani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday, demanding that Union minister Smriti Irani tender an "unconditional apology" for allegedly yelling the name 'Droupadi Murmu' without using the prefix "President or Madam".

In his letter to Birla, the Congress leader in Lok Sabha also reiterated that it was because of his "slip of tongue" that the name of President Murmu was dragged into an "unnecessary and unwarranted controversy".

"This inadvertent mistake happened because I am not very good at Hindi. I have regretted my mistake and have apologized to the Hon'ble President," he said. He, however, said the manner in which Union minister Irani was taking the name of the President in the House was neither proper nor in consonance with the status and position of the President.



She was yelling 'Droupadi Murmu' repeatedly without prefixing Hon'ble President or Madam or Smt. before the Hon'ble President's name. This clearly amounts to degrading the stature of the office of the Hon'ble President

ADHIR NANJAN CHOWDHURY | CONGRESS LEADER

"She was yelling 'Droupadi Murmu' repeatedly without prefixing Hon'ble President or Madam or Smt. before the Hon'ble President's name. This clearly amounts to degrading the stature of the office of the Hon'ble President," the Congress MP said. "Therefore, I demand that Smt.

Smriti Irani may tender unconditional apology to the Hon'ble President for her disrespectful remarks and for lowering the dignity and stature of the Hon'ble President's office," he said. Chowdhury himself had tendered a written apology to President Murmu Friday.

## Undetected hypertension adds to India's rising stroke burden

Studies have shown that at least 64 per cent stroke patients have hypertension which is the most prevalent risk factor for this deadly cardiovascular event

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 31:** Undetected and untreated hypertension is the top risk factor for stroke which is the second leading cause of death and disability after ischemic heart disease across the world.

Studies have shown that at least 64 per cent stroke patients have hypertension which is the most prevalent risk factor for this deadly cardiovascular event. With stroke

burden increasing exponentially in the country, doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) say it is time now to focus on hypertension treatment - a prevention strategy that is achievable and can save millions of lives.

"It is time we recognise that hypertension, an easily treatable condition, has far reaching repercussions. Raised blood pressure can result in stroke which not only causes premature death and life-long disability, it can throw families into irrecoverable financial shocks and loss of income. Increasingly in India, the stroke survivors are a relatively younger population. We must bear in mind that this means loss of income and a work life curtailed," said Dr Pradeep Aggarwal, Professor, Community Medicine, AIIMS Rishikesh. Stroke is responsible for an es-



timated 5.6 million deaths and 116.4 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) worldwide, as per 2016 data. In India, incidence of stroke ranges from 116 to 163 people per 100,000 population. Studies have revealed that the increasing prevalence of hypertension in India is likely to push up the stroke burden of the country.

Dr Surender Deora, senior cardiologist, AIIMS Jodhpur warns that severe hypertension has been correlated with a poorer prognosis and even higher mortality in stroke patients. "In majority of cases we see that ischemic stroke is linked to poor control of high blood pressure. What we describe as the stroke burden is not just due to its high

mortality rate. Stroke is a massive public health and well-being concern because up to 50 per cent survivors remain disabled for the rest of their lives. This has a devastating socio-economic impact."

According to a study on stroke epidemiology in India, the incidence of stroke in South Asian countries has increased by more than 100 per cent in the past four decades. By 2050, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the burden of new strokes will be on low- and middle-income countries. As a result of the epidemiological transition sweeping through India, stroke prevalence is all set to rise in the coming years.

Dr Pankaj Bharadwaj, Additional Professor, Dept. of Community and Family Medicine and Dean, School of Public Health, AIIMS Jodhpur, said, "Paying attention

to the stroke-hypertension connection now will pay dividends in the future. There is no dearth of evidence from clinical practice and from the grassroots that untreated and uncontrolled blood pressure is the most common cause for stroke. We must do what we can to reign in the damage caused by high blood pressure, treatment for which is affordable and easily available.

Although, high blood pressure has become a health crisis with at least one in four adult Indians suffering from this condition. To meet India's commitment of 25 per cent relative reduction in prevalence of high blood pressure by 2025, till June 2022, Indian Council of Medical Research's India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) has been rolled out in 105 districts across 21 states covering 1500+ health facilities.

# Encounter deaths: Assam third in country

51 people died and 139 were injured in police encounters between May 2021 and June 2022 in the northeastern state



The High Court had directed the Assam government to file the updated investigation report on every police encounter case since May 2021 within six weeks. The court fixed September 29 as the next date of hearing.

Civil rights lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan and senior lawyer Indira Jaising during their separate appearance for the petitioner; argued in the High Court that the PIL raised the issue of public importance involving the rule of law in Assam.

"The Assam Police did not follow the law and procedure laid down by the Supreme Court in the 2014 case of People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) versus Maharashtra on alleged fake encounters. The state government

also did not follow the Supreme Court's guidelines on conducting independent inquiries in all the cases of encounters, including those resulting in injuries," Bhushan told the High Court during his recent appearance on the PIL.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma after assuming office May 10 last year announced a crackdown on militants, drug dealers, smugglers, murderers, cattle lifters and those accused of rape and crimes against women.

Sarma, who also holds the home portfolio, has emphasised on a 'zero tolerance policy' towards crime and criminals, giving the police 'full operational independence within the purview of law' to act.

Of the 51 people, some were killed in custody, some while 'trying to escape after snatching police's firearm' while several others were shot in the leg.

A few accused died 'after being hit by the police vehicles' while going to verify their (accused) statement at the crime spot.

Jwadder, who also earlier lodged a similar complaint about these alleged 'fake encounters' with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in his PIL said that all the victims were unarmed and handcuffed at the time of the encounter.

"Those people who have been killed or injured were not dreaded criminals. Above all, this petition raises the issue of violations of the rule of law and equality before the law and equal protection of law. Police personnel do not have a licence to kill, the whole idea of the CrPC is to apprehend criminals and bring them to justice, not to kill them."

Jwadder said that the NHRC had earlier taken cognisance of his complaint and asked for an action taken report from the Assam Police.

All the opposition political parties, including the Congress, different NGOs criticised the BJP government for the "killing and injuring of people through encounters."

# 85-yr-old woman asked to prove her citizenship again after 21 yrs

In 2001, the Foreigner's Tribunal court in Nalbari declared Bhanumati an Indian. But, after 21 years, the police again accused her of being a foreigner and a notice was sent to her house



Guwahati, July 31: An 85-year-old woman in Assam who was earlier declared Indian by a Foreigner's Tribunal court, has been sent a notice to prove her citizenship once again.

The lady, Bhanumati Baroi lives in the Boko area of Kamrup (rural) district and is alleged to be a foreigner by the border police. Due to old-age related illness and fracture in one leg, Baroi cannot walk normally by herself.

In 1998, the police made a similar allegation against Bhanumati.

That time, she appeared before a Foreigner's Tribunal court in the state and deposited the voter list of 1965 and 1971, where her father's name was mentioned. Along with that, she deposited Panchayat certificates and other relevant documents in support of her claim as an Indian citizen.

In 2001, the Foreigner's Tribunal court in Nalbari declared

Bhanumati an Indian. But, after 21 years, the police again accused her of being a foreigner and a notice was sent to her house from Boko's Chomoria police station.

Bhanumati hails from Jashedarpam village in the Barpeta district. She shifted to Boko after her marriage with Gopal Baroi of Trilochan village in the Boko area. She has two sons.

Sanjoy Sarkar, Kamrup district president of All Assam Bengali Parishad, said that the family lives in very poor condition and their sufferings have increased after they received the foreigner's notice recently.

He has also claimed that Bhanumati's name appeared in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and she has cast her vote in several elections.

Meanwhile, Assam Congress working president and MLA Kankalakhya Dey Purkayastha visited Bhanumati's house and took a jibe at the BJP. He alleged that though the BJP promised to give citizenship to Hindu Bengalis, the ground reality is exactly the opposite; and that in Assam, Hindu Bengalis are targeted in the name of NRC under the ruling dispensation.

# 3 PAPERLESS COURTS IN KERALA HC FROM AUG 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, July 31: With all in one touchscreen personal computers, where case files would be displayed automatically, being set up in the Kerala High Court ahead of three of its benches becoming paperless courts from August 1, lawyers have hailed the move, but are going to adopt wait and watch approach.

Lawyers old and young have welcomed the High Court's move saying it is primarily environment friendly, it would be time saving as well as cost effective and would do away with the need to avoid carrying around huge and bulky files.

However, at the same time lawyers, especially those used to arguing from physical files of cases for decades, are apprehensive how helpful the new system would be.

Advocate Philip T Varghese, who represents actor Dileep in the 2017 actress assault case, said it was a welcome initiative and there probably would be some teething problems.

Moreover, we all need to be able to adapt to the change in technology, he added.

"However, it would not mean a complete prohibition on use of paper or physical files. Those who



are not comfortable using the computers or other electronic devices would have the option to use physical files," he further said.

He also said that while he was more comfortable using the physical files, he would be giving the new system a try.

A similar view was expressed by advocate AK Preetha, who represents the victim in the rape case against actor-producer Vijay Babu, who said she feels more confident arguing from physical files.

At the same time she concedes that it was a move which would be

hugely environmentally friendly as in most cases lawyers have to make several sets of the judgement to be cited as well as other documents of a case.

She said that it would be very convenient for judges as they can avoid sifting through huge case files as all the details would be available to them at a click of a mouse button.

It would also be easier for the younger generation of lawyers who are already accustomed to using the latest technology and electronic devices, she noted.

# Challenges galore for Assam's flood-hit kids

This year's flood in two waves affecting 90 lakh people has been the worst in the state in terms of fatalities, claiming over 200 lives, of which 70 were children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 31: The flood waters have receded in Assam and the affected people are busy trying to rebuild their lives.

But the situation is challenging, particularly for the nearly 20 lakh children who have been severely hit by the deluge.

Schools have been damaged, books and learning material are destroyed by water, fear of being preyed upon by human traffickers is lurking, coupled with the trauma of witnessing the death of family members during the natural calamity.

This year's flood in two waves affecting 90 lakh people has been the worst in the state in terms of fatalities, claiming over 200 lives, of which 70 were children.

For 12-year-old Moina Biswas of Paschim Hatimora village in Hojai district, living in relief camps has been an annual ritual and this year it was particularly heartbreaking when her three-year-old sister was washed away in the



We lose household goods during floods every year but my sister's death is something I cannot come to terms with. We are devastated and I cannot even study with all my textbooks lost in the deluge

MOINA BISWAS | CLASS V STUDENT

flood waters as they were moving to safety in a small country boat.

"We lose household goods during floods every year but my sister's death is something I cannot come to terms with. We are devastated and I cannot even study with all my textbooks lost in the deluge," the class 5 student said.

Children of all ages, from newborns to adolescents, are particularly vulnerable during natural disasters and this year's floods are no exception, experts pointed out.

Education, health, hygiene, and security of children are the key areas of concern during natural calamities.

Incidents of trafficking increase in the post-flood period with parents facing a loss of livelihoods or the death of earning members in

many families.

In the severely affected Barpeta district, 14-year-old Samsur Rahman of Rupaikuchi village said he along with his parents had taken shelter in a relief camp and though they have returned home, he is yet to attend classes as he lost most of his books and his parents, who had no work for the last two months, trying to make ends meet.

"The state government has given us money to buy books but what will happen to the notes and assignments that I had prepared before the flood hit us? The deluge did not only wash away our belongings but all wiped away our efforts, along with the time lost in relief camps where we could not study at all," he added.

The state government has de-

posited Rs 1,000 each in the bank accounts of 1,01,537 students who had taken shelter in relief camps while the education department is planning to give additional free textbooks to the affected students by August 15.

Flood is an annual phenomenon and when it hit the state this year, the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) wrote to the state Chief Secretary to initiate urgent child-centric interventions keeping in mind the health, hygiene, and security of the children, its chairperson Sunita Changkakoti told PTI.

"We had asked the government to make necessary arrangements for providing adequate quantities of baby food, safe drinking water, sanitary napkins, and disinfectant items, to make arrangements for sufficient toilets and medical facilities for children, women, and adolescents in the relief camps," she said.

# NIA searches in Kerala in ICAMA Sathik case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 31: The NIA Sunday conducted searches in Kerala in connection with a case pertaining to the arrest of Sathik Batcha alias 'ICAMA Sathik', who along with four others had attempted to kill police personnel during a vehicle check in February.

The searches were conducted in the Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala and led to the seizure of digital devices and incriminating documents, a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said the case pertains to the arrest of Batcha who along

with four others was intercepted while driving in a black Scorpio at Nidur in Mayiladuthurai February 21.

They were stopped by a police team tasked to secure the accused in a case registered in the Mayiladuthurai Police Station and they attempted to run over the police party, the spokesperson said.

The official said the case was initially registered February 21 and re-registered by NIA April 30 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Further investigations in the case are in progress, the NIA said.



# A lone battle to save a unique tradition

57 year-old Dr Thottam Sivakaran Namboothiri, one of the two remaining authorities of the Kerala style chanting of Jaiminiya Samaveda, has taken up it as a mission to preserve its unique oral tradition by starting a 'Gurukulam'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kottayam, July 31: It was the then Kanchi Shankaracharya Chandrasekharendra Saraswati's timely intervention that helped save a centuries old tradition of Samavedic chanting in Kerala which was on the verge of disappearance in the 1970s.

Five decades down the line, there were not many efforts to preserve the rich tradition of the southern state, which was taught and transmitted to Rishi Jaimini by revered sage Vedavyasa, despite it being inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

However, 57 year-old Dr Thottam Sivakaran Namboothiri, one of the two remaining authorities of the Kerala style chanting of Jaiminiya Samaveda, has taken up it as a mission to preserve its unique oral



Dr Thottam Sivakaran Namboothiri gives lessons of Jaiminiya Samaveda to his students.

tradition by starting a 'Gurukulam' at a village in this central Kerala district. Launched in April this year, everyday at 6 am, Namboothiri takes lessons of traditional way of chanting of 'Jaiminiya Samaveda' for four young students belonging to Namboothiri-Brahmin families-teaching them the complex recitation techniques that are based on tonal accents, a unique manner of pronouncing each letter and specific speech combinations.

The 'Gurukulam' classes are being held in a small classroom adjacent to the Lord Krishna temple in Kurichithanam village near Uzhavoor, the birthplace of former

President of India, KR Narayanan.

After ending the class at 9 am, the students go to the school in the neighbourhood everyday for their regular studies.

"It is a 12-year-long mission. Learning the Kerala style chanting of thousands of hymns from the Jaiminiya Samaveda is very tough and boring as we have to ensure that the sound of each word remains unaltered," Namboothiri told PTI.

A distant relative of legendary Communist leader and former Kerala Chief Minister EMS Namboothiripad, Sivakaran Namboothiri said Jaiminiya Samaveda, featuring musical

arrangements of 1,700 hymns from the Rig Veda and other sources, is on the verge of disappearance as currently there are two persons who have got complete knowledge about the unique tradition of chanting. Besides Sivakaran, it is his elder brother Thottam Krishnan Namboothiri who is settled in their traditional village Panjaal in Thrissur district, known for its rich vedic traditions.

"We learnt it from our father Thottam Subrahmanyam Namboothiri after ending our studies in school," Namboothiri said.

Now, an Ayurvedic physician by profession, Namboothiri, born in a family rooted in Samaveda tradition, said his four students, studying in fifth and seventh standards, are from the Namboothiri families rooted in Rig and Yajur vedic traditions.

"There are only around 20 Samavedis among Namboothiri families in Kerala. None of the new generation members from these families have shown any interest in learning the chanting of Samaveda in traditional Kerala style. So, I decided to approach some of the Brahmin families rooted in Rig and Yajur traditions. My students are from these families," Namboothiri said.

He said it will take at least 12 years for them to learn the skill of Kerala style chanting of 'Jaiminiya

Samaveda.'

Quoting from the UNESCO document of 2008, he said the value of this tradition lies not only in the rich content of its oral literature but also in the ingenious techniques employed by the Brahmin priests in preserving the texts intact over thousands of years.

According to him, when Vedavyasa classified ancient Vedic hymns into four parts based on their use in the sacrificial rites, Samaveda was taught and transmitted to Rishi Jaimini, who was one of his four disciples, and those who are following his tradition are called Samavedis in Kerala.

The Kerala tradition would have disappeared way back in the 1970s, had Kanchi Shankaracharya Jagadguru Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Mahaswamigal not taken the initiative to preserve it, Namboothiri said.

"During his visit to Lord Krishna temple, Guruvayur in 1974, Jayendra Saraswati, the disciple of then Kanchi seer Chandrasekharendra Saraswati, sent his emissary to my father Thottam Subrahmanyam Namboothiri, who was an expert in Kerala style oral tradition of Jaiminiya Samaveda. Jayendra Saraswati, as per the wishes of the then Kanchi seer, offered all sorts of financial assistance to my father to transmit the knowledge to the next generation," he said.

of the day quote

Heard that a training camp of the BJP is going on in Chitrakoot. Probably training will be imparted to hide irregularities pertaining to corruption and transfer-postings, persuade those who are sulking and give excuses on poor health services, the damaged Bundelkhand Expressway and inflation, so that the BJP can face the people

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

The National Education Policy-2020 has been drafted with an objective of providing holistic and multi-disciplinary education to students

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The TMC is an important member of the opposition bloc. Being 'neutral' in the crucial election of the VP of India, doesn't help the opposition. It only helps the ruling party

MARGARET ALVA | OPPOSITION'S VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

SHORT TAKES

Man ends life

Amroha: A 25-year-old man made a video in which he narrated the ordeal which he went through with his wife and in-laws, sent it to his family and friends and then allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison in Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district.

Flight attendant held in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: A flight attendant with a private airline company was arrested at Karippur airport in Kerala's Kozhikode Sunday. The arrested Mohammed Shamim was trying to smuggle in gold worth Rs 1 crore through the airport green channel after an international flight from a Middle Eastern country landed at the airport.

Gang of ATM breakers held

New Delhi: Two members of an interstate gang of Mewat-based robbers involved in robbing ATMs were arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police after a brief encounter in the national capital, an official said on Sunday.

Woman attacks bus driver

Vijayawada: A woman assaulted the driver of a bus of Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) in Vijayawada after an accident in which the bus hit her two-wheeler.



People bathe in swollen Ganga river following monsoon rains at Dashashwamedh Ghat in Varanasi

Kerala man with monkeypox-like symptom dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram., July 31: Will examine the reasons behind the death of a 22-year-old young man who recently returned from UAE and allegedly died due to monkeypox a day ago, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said Sunday.

With the swab results of the deceased patient yet to be reported, the health minister said that the patient was young, did not suffer from any other illness or health problems and therefore, the health department was looking into the cause of his death.

She said they will also be examining why there was delay in his hospitalisation after he arrived here from UAE on July 21.

"This particular variant of monkeypox is not as highly virulent or contagious like COVID-19, but it does spread. Comparatively, the mortality rate of this variant is low. Therefore, we will examine why the 22-year-old man died in this particular case as he had no other illness or health problems," the minister told media.

Since this variant of monkeypox does spread, therefore, all necessary measures have to be taken and have been taken to prevent the same, she added.

The minister also said that there were no studies available about this particular variant from other countries where the disease has been detected and thus, Kerala was carrying out a study on it.

The 22-year-old man died on Saturday morning at a private hospital in Thrissur allegedly due to monkeypox.

According to WHO, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals), with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe.

With the eradication of smallpox in 1980 and subsequent cessation of smallpox vaccination, monkeypox has emerged as the most important orthopoxvirus for public health.

Cong suspends 3 MLAs held in Bengal with cash



West Bengal police personnel detain three Jharkhand Congress MLAs after a huge amount of cash was found in their vehicle Saturday in Howrah district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 31: The Congress Sunday suspended three Jharkhand MLAs who were allegedly caught with a huge amount of cash in West Bengal's Howrah and accused the BJP of attempting to topple its coalition government in the state.

However, it asserted that the coalition government led by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is "completely secure and stable" and would complete its term. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, party

TB more deadly than Covid in Gujarat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, July 31: Tuberculosis (TB) has proven to be more deadly than Covid-19 in Gujarat between January-May 2022, with 2,675 deaths recorded due to TB in the state during this period.

During this five-month period, 825 people have lost their lives due to Covid-19 while more than 68,000 people have become victims of TB in the country. Though, there has also been a sharp rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in Gujarat with 1,128 new cases reported in the last 24 hours.

Three persons have died of Covid-19 in Ahmedabad during the last 24 hours with 400 of the total 902 people recovering from the disease reported in the city till Saturday. The overall recovery rate of Covid-19 in the state has reduced to 98.63 per cent.

According to information shared by the Union government in the Lok Sabha, 18.05 lakh people were infected with TB in 2020 and around 21.35 lakh in 2021 across the country under the TB elimination programme.

general secretary and Jharkhand in-charge Avinash Pande said Congress president Sonia Gandhi has suspended the three MLAs with immediate effect. Acting on a tip-off, the West Bengal Police on Saturday evening intercepted a sports utility vehicle (SUV) in which Congress MLAs Irfan Ansari, Rajesh Kachchap and Naman Bixal Kongari were travelling, and allegedly found nearly Rs 50 lakh in cash in the car.

After questioning, the lawmakers were formally arrested on Sunday afternoon and subsequently remanded in the West Bengal CID's custody for 10 days. Pande said the three MLAs were allegedly involved in a plot to weaken the Congress Legislature Party in Jharkhand and also in "misleading" other legislators.

"The party leadership is aware of who all are part of the conspiracy and will take action at an appropriate time," he added. "We have information about everyone. In the coming days, be it any public representative, any office-bearer of the Congress or any worker, whoever is found connected to or involved in this, the party will take strict action against them," Pande added.

He asserted that the JMM-led government is completely "secure and stable" and the coalition MLAs, "barring a few black sheep", will fight such attempts in a united manner. Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to topple the Jharkhand government, Pande said democracy is being "shredded to pieces" as elected governments are being destabilised in a brazen manner. "Efforts are being made for the last two years to destabilise the government in Jharkhand and from time to time, legislators are being contacted, threatened and enticed," he alleged.

Enhance vigil at borders: Mann

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, July 31: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Sunday asked Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Pankaj Kumar to enhance vigil at the borders of the state for checking smuggling of drugs and weapons from across the border.

The Director General called on the Chief Minister here. During deliberations, the Chief Minister said Punjab being a border state Punjab faces numerous challenges in the wake of the smuggling of drugs and weapons from across the fence.

He said this needs to be checked with a heavy hand as it poses a grave threat to the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of the country. Mann said Punjab is fighting the country's war against drug menace as not even a single ounce of drug is produced in Punjab but as the state is on transit route of drug supply, so it is battling hard to prevent smuggling of drugs into the country.

The Chief Minister said that meticulous planning and flawless execution of strategy against drug

smuggling by the BSF and the state police can act as a 'barrier' to save the country from the poison of drugs.

He said this is the need of the hour to break the backbone of narco-gangster-terrorist nexus, which is trying to flex its muscles for disturbing the hard earned peace of state. Mann, however, assured full support and cooperation to the Director General for this cause.

Underlining the need for equipping the BSF and the state police with the latest weapons and gadgets to combat cross border terrorism and smuggling more effectively, the Chief Minister said he had already flagged this issue with the Union government.

He said both Punjab Police and the BSF are working tirelessly for checking the cross-border smuggling of weapons and drugs, adding that strenuous efforts on part of both the forces will bear the desired results. Mann also lauded the services rendered by the BSF for safeguarding the border of the country in general and the state in particular.



TN student held for IS links

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 31: A 22-year-old engineering student has been arrested for allegedly having links with Islamic State (IS) and planning a terror attack.

Meer Anas Ali, a resident of Masudi street in Ambur district of Tamil Nadu was arrested by the police on Saturday after Central intelligence agencies received information about him having regular contact with the IS groups through telegram and other social media platforms.

Ali, who is a third-year Mechanical Engineering student at a private college in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu, was taken to Anaicut police station in Vellore, police sources said. Ali has come

on the radar of Central Intelligence Bureau after some of his online activities raised suspicion in the police officers.

According to sources in the Tamil Nadu police, Ali was conspiring to kill an important personality in Tamil Nadu to instill fear among the non-Muslim communities in the state. Police have registered FIR against him under IPC Sections 121 (waging war, or attempting to wage war or abetting the waging of war against the Indian state), 122 (collecting arms, etc with the intention of waging a war against India, 125 (waging of war or abetting of war against any Asiatic power that is in alliance with India) and various other sections under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).



Dhankhar mystery

Contrary to popular perception that West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was told by the Prime Minister on July 16 when he called on him at the Prime Minister's office is completely misplaced. In fact, it was Dhankhar who had sought prior

appointment with the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah and also with the Prime Minister. He had sought the meeting as he was coming to attend Governors' customary dinner with the outgoing President, Ram Nath Kovind. He wanted to meet both the leaders to apprise them of the prevailing situation in West Bengal. When Dhankhar called on Modi, the entire discussion was confined to West Bengal only. Dhankhar was not given any clue either by Shah or Modi that he is going to be picked for the Vice President's job in the evening. Though Dhankhar's name had started doing the rounds in social media after photographs of his meeting with the Prime Minister were posted on Twitter by the PMO, he had no clue. Dhankhar was at the dinner table at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in the evening when he received several missed calls and

messages on his phone. Since it was a dinner engagement, he could neither take the calls nor look into messages. But an Orderly of the Rashtrapati Bhawan walked up to his seat and whispered that there is a message in his phone. Dhankhar later confirmed that he got to know about his candidature at the dinner in Rashtrapati Bhawan only.

Shah wants NCB

It's official now. What was being whispered in the corridors of powers till now is official. The Union Home minister, Amit Shah is keen that the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) be transferred to his ministry. The NCB has been under the Finance ministry from time immemorial. Now the Union Home Ministry wants NCB to be brought under its control for better control

of the menace and coordination of illicit drug trade and its spread.

BJP's big ambitions

Modi may be BJP's triumph card for winning elections after elections since 2014. But even then, the party machinery is working round the clock to fix nuts & bolts to ensure more and more states are brought under the saffron flag. It may be converting defeat into victory in some states by resorting to unfair practices to achieve the target. But that's the new BJP. The new BJP is promoting martial race in states wherever necessary. If it is keeping Thakurs as Chief Ministers in UP, Uttarakhand and Himachal it is retaining Rajnath Singh as number two in the Union Cabinet. If the party brought a Patidar in Gujarat, it installed a Maratha as CM in

Maharashtra. Eknath Shinde was brought to cut Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray to size at the cost of its own most trusted leader Devendra Fadnis. It is keeping Shivraj Singh Chouhan as CM to keep OBCs in good humour. But Jyotiraditya Scindia and Narendra Singh Tomar are Union Cabinet Ministers to woo the Rajputs. The BJP badly needs a senior Jat leader to help it in Haryana, Rajasthan and parts of UP.

BJP to hold welcome rallies

The BJP is contemplating to hold mega welcome programmes across the country particularly in the tribal dominated states for the President, as part of its tribal outreach programme. While the immediate focus would be four major poll-bound states of Gujarat,

Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, Murmu will be given rousing reception in Odisha and neighbouring Jharkhand too.

There are 109 Lok Sabha constituencies spread over 12 states including West Bengal, North East and North India. The BJP's Scheduled Tribes (ST) Morcha is already planning "Abhinandan Yatras" (welcome rallies) to encash politically installing India's first tribal woman President. It did not do so in 2017 when Ram Nath Kovind, a Dalit was elected as President. But Murmu is on a different pedestal and may help the BJP cross 350 Lok Sabha seats mark. The party managers are taking precautions not to send a signal either that they are misusing the office of the President for political gains. The ST Morcha will hold welcome rallies across India.

# international



Racism is not a factor in the Conservative Party membership's decision to vote for the next party leader and successor of Boris Johnson as British Prime Minister  
RISHI SUNAK | FORMER UK CHANCELLOR

## BIZARRE MOMENT

The Islamabad administration has sealed two cafeterias of Parliament House in the Pakistani capital after cockroaches were found in the food. Many of the Parliamentarians had already stopped having meals in these cafeterias owing to substandard food, Samaa TV reported



## of the day quote

There are hundreds of thousands of people, tens of thousands of children. Many people refuse to leave. But it really needs to be done. This decision will have to be made. And the sooner it is done, the more people leave Donetsk region, the fewer people the Russian army will be able to kill

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

I look forward to cooperating with the Algerian presidency so that Morocco and Algeria may work hand-in-hand and enjoy normal relations between the two brotherly countries' people

MOHAMMED VI | MOROCCAN KING

I have summoned Sergio Massa to join the government team. His vision, capacity and experience will allow us to continue working and improving the roadmap we set out

ALBERTO FERNANDEZ | ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Ex-Philippine President dies

**Manila:** Former Philippine President Fidel Valdez Ramos, a US-trained ex-general who saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars and played a key role in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising that ousted a dictator, has died. He was 94. It was not immediately clear what caused his death but one of his longtime aides, Norman Legaspi, told The Associated Press that Ramos had been in and out of the hospital in recent years due to a heart condition and had suffered from dementia.

### Quake jolts eastern Nepal

**Kathmandu:** An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale jolted eastern Nepal's Khotang district Sunday. However, there were no reports of any damage or casualties. The quake with its epicentre in Martinbirta hit Khotang, 450 km east of Kathmandu, at 8:13 am, the National Seismology and Research Centre said.

### Typhoon Trases approaches SK

**Seoul:** Typhoon Trases is approaching South Korea's resort island of Jeju, packing maximum winds of 18 metres per second, the weather agency said Sunday. The Korea Meteorological Administration predicted the typhoon to move the closest to the island around Monday, reports *Yonhap News Agency*.

### Joe Biden tests Cov +ve again

**Washington:** President Joe Biden tested positive for Covid-19 again Saturday, slightly more than three days after he was cleared to exit coronavirus isolation, the White House said, in a rare case of "rebound" following treatment with an anti-viral drug. White House physician Dr. Kevin O'Connor said in a letter that Biden "has experienced no reemergence of symptoms, and continues to feel quite well." O'Connor said "there is no reason to reinstate treatment at this time."

### Two fatally shot at salon

**Summersville (US):** A gunman fatally shot two people at a nail salon in West Virginia before officers fired at the shooter, killing him, police said. Summersville officers responded to an active shooter Thursday evening at Jo's Nails & Spa, police said in a Facebook post Friday. Two officers shot the gunman, who was pronounced dead at the hospital, police said.

## Ukraine drone explosion hits Russia's Black Sea Fleet HQ

**Kyiv, July 31:** A drone-borne explosive device detonated Sunday at the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, injuring six people, officials said.

The explosion at the headquarters in the city of Sevastopol on the Crimean peninsula that Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014 caused cancellation of observances of Russia's Navy Day holiday. The Black Sea Fleet's press service said the drone appeared to be home-made. It described the explosive device as "low-power" but Sevastopol mayor Mikhail Razvozhayev said six people were injured in the blast.

There was no immediate information on where the drone began its flight; Sevastopol is about 170 kilometers south of the Ukrainian mainland and Russian forces control much of the mainland area along the Black Sea.

Fighting continued elsewhere in Ukraine. The mayor of the major port city of Mykolaiv, Vitaliy Kim, said shelling killed one of Ukraine's richest men, Oleksiy Vadatursky, and his wife. Vadatursky headed a grain production and export business.

In the Sumy region in Ukraine's north, near the Russian border, shelling killed one person, the regional administration said.

Three people died in attacks over the past day in the Donetsk region, which is partly under the



Russian Navy members patrol in front of the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol in Crimea

AFP PHOTO

## US is main threat to Russia: Putin

Russia President Vladimir Putin Sunday signed a new naval doctrine which cast the United States as Russia's main rival and set out Russia's global maritime ambitions for crucial areas such as the Arctic and in the Black Sea. Speaking on Russia's Navy Day in the former imperial capital of St Petersburg founded by Tsar Peter the Great, Putin praised Peter for making Russia a great sea power and increasing the global standing of the Russian state.

control of Russian separatist forces, said governor Pavlo Kyrylenko. Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky, said Sunday on Twitter that im-

ages of a prison where at least 53 Ukrainian prisoners of war died in an explosion on Friday indicated that the blast came from within the building in Olenivka, which is under Russian control.

Russian officials have claimed the building was attacked by Ukraine with the aim of silencing POWs who might be giving information about Ukrainian military operations.

Satellite photos taken before and after the attack show that a small, squarish building in the middle of the Olenivka prison complex was demolished, its roof in splinters.

Podolyak said those images and the lack of damage to adjacent structures showed that the building was not attacked from the air or by artillery and contended the evidence was consistent with a hyperbaric bomb set off inside.

## NYC DECLARES MONKEYPOX PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, July 31:** Monkeypox has been declared a public health emergency in New York City, with officials declaring that the city is currently the epicentre of the outbreak and an estimated 150,000 New Yorkers may currently be at the risk of exposure.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Commissioner Ashwin Vasana on Saturday declared a public health emergency due to the monkeypox outbreak.

"Over the past few weeks, we have moved as quickly as possible to expand outreach and access to vaccines and treatment to keep people safe," the officials said. The declaration, effective immediately, will allow DOHMH to issue emergency commissioner's orders under the New York City Health Code and amend provisions of the Health Code to provide for measures to help slow the spread. The officials said that New York City is currently the epicentre of the outbreak, and it is estimated that approximately 150,000 New Yorkers may currently be at risk for monkeypox exposure.



## Pelosi begins Asia tour



REUTERS

**Beijing, July 31:** US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi starts a tour of four Asian countries Sunday her office said, without mentioning Taiwan amid intense speculation she might visit the self-ruled island claimed by China.

"Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading a Congressional delegation to the Indo-Pacific region, including visits to Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan," her office said in a press release.

The release said the visit would include those countries, but did not specify whether Pelosi, who is number 3 in the line of presidential succession, might make other stops.

"The trip will focus on mutual security, economic partnership and democratic governance in the Indo-Pacific region," it said.

Gregory Meeks, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was among the delegation listed.

China views visits by US officials to Taiwan as sending an encouraging signal to the pro-independence camp in the island. Washington does not have official

- Pelosi to tour Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan
- No mention of Taiwan on her agenda
- Chinese Air Force reiterates will to defend territory
- Chinese military drills in South China Sea

diplomatic ties with Taiwan but is bound by law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

A visit by Pelosi would be a dramatic, though not unprecedented, show of US support for Taiwan. Republican Newt Gingrich was the last House speaker to visit Taiwan in 1997.

President Xi Jinping warned his US counterpart Joe Biden on Thursday that Washington should abide by the one-China principle and "those who play with fire will perish by it".

Biden told Xi that US policy on Taiwan had not changed and that Washington strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

## 59 DEAD IN IRAN FLASH FLOODS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Tehran, July 31:** At least 59 people have died so far in the recent flash floods across Iran, an official from Red Crescent Society (IRCS) said.

Yaqub Soleimani, secretary general of the IRCS, told the media that 30 other people are still missing in the floods that started last week, reports *Xinhua* news agency.

Some 60 cities and 516 villages, as well as 85 connecting roads, have been affected by the recent floods, Soleimani was quoted as saying.

So far, 1,332 people have been transferred to safe places, 5,215 others are receiving accommodation, and 944 houses have been evacuated, he said.

President Ebrahim Raisi has ordered the ministers, heads of organisations and governor-generals across the country to mobilize all their facilities to manage the possible floods.



Fire fighters and Walla Walla Sheriff Deputies stand by at the corner of Lower Waitsburg Road and Bergevin Springs Road while battling a massive wheat fire north of Walla Walla, Washington

## Chinese rocket falls to Earth: NASA

*NASA administrator Bill Nelson criticized Beijing on Twitter, saying that the failure to share the details of the rocket's descent was irresponsible and risky*

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, July 31:** A Chinese booster rocket made an uncontrolled return to Earth Saturday, US Defense Department officials said, as they chided Beijing for not sharing information on the potentially hazardous object's descent.

US Space Command "can confirm the People's Republic of China (PRC) Long March 5B (CZ-5B) re-entered over the Indian Ocean at approx 10:45 am MDT on 7/30," the US military unit said on Twitter, referring to China's official name.

"We refer you to the #PRC for further details on the reentry's technical aspects such as potential debris dispersal+ impact lo-



Information in advance," Nelson wrote, "to allow reliable predictions of potential debris impact risk, especially for heavy-lift vehicles, like the Long March 5B, which carry a significant risk of loss of life and property."

He added: "Doing so is critical to the responsible use of space and to ensure the safety of people here on Earth".

The Tiangong space station is one of the crown jewels of Beijing's ambitious space program, which has landed robotic rovers on Mars and the Moon, and made China only the third nation to put humans in orbit.

The new module, propelled by the Long March 5B, successfully docked with Tiangong's core module on Monday and the three astronauts who had been living in the main compartment since June successfully entered the new lab.

China has poured billions of dollars into space flight and exploration as it seeks to build a program that reflects its stature as a rising global power.

## Prince Charles accepted £1m from Laden's family: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, July 31:** A Charitable Fund founded by Britain's Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, accepted a donation from slain al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's family in 2013, a UK media report claimed Sunday.

According to *The Sunday Times*, Prince Charles met with the Al Qaeda founder's half-brother Bakr in London and allegedly agreed to accept GBP 1 million.

The report claims that several of the senior royal's closest advisers urged Charles - heir to Britain's throne - to return the money. However, his Clarence House office has denied that the royal was personally involved in the decision.

"The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund (PWCF) has assured us that through due diligence was undertaken in accepting this donation," a Clarence House spokesperson told *Sky News*. "The decision to accept was taken by the charity's



trustees alone and any attempt to characterise it otherwise is false," the spokesperson said. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund said the donation from Sheikh Bakr bin Laden in 2013 was carefully considered by PWCF trustees at the time.

"Due diligence was conducted, with information sought from a wide range of sources, including government. The decision to accept the donation was taken wholly by the trustees. Any attempt to suggest otherwise is misleading and inaccurate," PWCF said.

Osama bin Laden was the mastermind behind the September 11 terror attacks of 2001, which killed nearly 3,000 people in the US.

## of the day quote

Electric two-wheelers are going mainstream and the fire incidents will only help manufacturers to focus on quality, thus helping the industry mature

**TARUN MEHTA** | COFOUNDER & CEO ATHER ENERGY

I believe so because the pandemic and some of the uncertainties that were there globally are now all behind us. There is no reason why the commercial vehicle industry should not grow

**GOPAL MAHADEVAN** | WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR & CFO, ASHOK LEYLAND

IndiGo expects to be on the profitable growth path soon as the pandemic-triggered crisis seems to be ending and the airline is also working to address the issues of employees

**RONOJOY DUTTA** | CEO, INDIGO

## SHORT TAKES

### CAIT targets online product reviewers

**New Delhi:** Traders' body CAIT Sunday called upon the government to bring brand endusers, social media influencers and bloggers under the proposed framework to protect online consumers from fake reviews of products and services. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) also argued that rating of a product or service should be made a part of the policy framework for reviews. The government is working on a standard operating procedure (SoP) to protect online consumers from fake reviews of products and services. Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh in May held a virtual meeting with stakeholders to discuss the impact of fake and misleading reviews on online consumers and preparation of a roadmap to prevent such a situation.

### Pharma exports jump 8% in Q1

**Hyderabad:** Indian pharma exports registered a growth of eight per cent during the first quarter of the current financial year to \$6.26 billion, as officials hope for a 10 per cent growth by the end of the fiscal. Udaya Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexil), a body under the Department of Commerce said pharma exports to European Union and other CIS countries which were hit by the ongoing war in Ukraine and restrictions are expected to improve once the situation becomes normal. India clocked \$24.61 billion worth of pharma exports in FY22, registering one per cent growth over FY21. Further, the official said Covid-19 vaccine exports stood at 239 million doses to over 100 countries and they continue to grow.

### DLF reduces net debt by 16% QoQ

**New Delhi:** Realty major DLF's net debt reduced by 16 per cent during the April-June period to ₹2,259 crore from the previous quarter on the back of strong housing sales. Its net debt stood at ₹2,680 crore at the end of the last fiscal. In an investor presentation, DLF said the company is "committed to further debt reduction in the medium term". It asserted that the completed inventory and receivables from customers against sold units would be sufficient to discharge all current liabilities. "New products to generate healthy cash flows; consistent surplus cash generation to bolster cash position," the presentation said.

## BAJAJ FINANCE SHINES

### Mcap of eight of top 10 firms surges over ₹1.91 lakh cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** Eight of the top 10 valued firms added ₹1,91,622.95 crore to their market valuation last week, with Bajaj Finance and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as lead gainers.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,498.02 points or 2.67 per cent last week. From the winners' pack, the market valuation of Bajaj Finance rallied ₹57,673.19 crore to ₹4,36,447.88 crore at close Friday.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped ₹47,494.49 crore to ₹12,07,779.68 crore.

In the ranking of top 10 firms, Reliance retained the most valued company title, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank, State Bank, Bajaj Finance, HDFC and LIC

HDFC Bank added ₹23,481.09 crore to its valuation at ₹7,97,251.18 crore and the mcap of Infosys rose by ₹18,219 crore to ₹6,52,012.91 crore. The valuation of HDFC went higher by ₹14,978.42 crore to ₹4,31,679.65 crore and that of State Bank of India advanced ₹12,940.69 crore to ₹4,71,397.99 crore.

ICICI Bank's valuation climbed ₹12,873.62 crore to ₹5,69,400.43 crore and that of Reliance Industries Limited advanced ₹3,962.45 crore to ₹16,97,208.18 crore.

However, the valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) declined by ₹7,020.75 crore to ₹4,28,739.97 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever dipped ₹810.61 crore to ₹6,19,551.97 crore.

## Over 63.47L ITRs filed on last day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** Over 63.47 lakh income tax returns (ITRs) were filed till 10 pm Sunday, the last day for filing ITR for the 2021-22 fiscal by salaried individuals, the Income Tax department said.

The deadline for filing ITRs by those taxpayers who do not have to get their accounts audited for the fiscal that ended March 31, 2022 was Sunday. Taking the 63.47 lakh returns filed on the last day, the total number of ITRs for the 2021-22 fiscal filed till 10 pm went past 5.73 crore. ITR filing will go on till midnight, after

## BIZ BUZZ

### Taparia launches carpenter tools jack plane

**New Delhi:** Taparia Tools Limited, leading hand tools manufacturer of the country, has launched carpenter tools jack plane. A jack plane is a general-purpose woodworking bench plane, used for dressing timber down to desired smoothness. The highlight of the tool is that it is built with high-quality cast iron body, precision-machined base, carbon steel blade & brass adjusting screw. The tool's fine adjustment is controlled by adjusting screw; handle is given for impact-resistance and knob for comfort and control. The newly launched products are well balanced, lightweight and have ergonomic handle that makes gripping easy. The company's jack planes are widely acknowledged in the market for their high performances and value for money.



This is a silly comparison. Suggestions of any parallels between India and Sri Lanka currently are laughable. India has rarely borrowed abroad to finance its fiscal deficit

**ARVIND PANAGARIYA** | FORMER VC, NITI AAYOG

## AFTER 9 MONTHS HIATUS

# FPIs return to equities with ₹5K-crore in July

FPIs turned net buyers for the first time in July after nine straight months of massive net outflows, which started in October last year. Between October 2021 till June 2022, they sold a mammoth ₹2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** After nine consecutive months of relentless selling, foreign investors have turned net buyers and invested nearly ₹5,000 crore in Indian equities in July on softening dollar index and good corporate earnings.

This is in sharp contrast to a net withdrawal of ₹50,145 crore from the stock market seen in June. This was the highest net outflow since March 2020, when foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) had pulled out ₹61,973 crore from equities, data with depositories showed.

According to data with depositories, FPIs infused a net amount of ₹4,989 crore in Indian equities in July. They were buyers for nine days in the month.

The net inflow also propelled the equity markets northwards.

FPIs turned net buyers for the first time in July after nine straight months of massive net outflows, which started in October last year. Between October 2021 till June 2022, they sold a mammoth ₹2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity markets.

The turning point for the net



I believe that FPI flows will remain positive during August as the worst for the rupee seems to be over, and oil seems to be confining in a range. Also, earnings story still remains strong where sturdy revenue growth is offsetting contraction in profit margins

**HITESH JAIN** | LEAD ANALYST - INSTITUTIONAL EQUITIES, YES SECURITIES

The inflows is in sharp contrast to a net withdrawal of ₹50,145 crore from the market seen in June

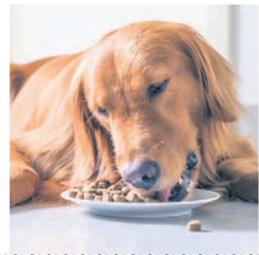
FPIs infused a net amount of ₹4,989 crore in Indian equities in July  
However, FPIs pulled out a net amount of ₹2,056 crore from the debt market

flows in July was US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's statement that currently the US is not in a recession helped improve sentiments and risk appetite globally, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said.

Vijay Singhania, chairman at TradeSmart, said strong corporate numbers also boosted the inflow. Also, softening of the dollar index and good quarterly earnings from financials have helped in improving the sentiments, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said. Additionally, the re-

## PET CARE INDUSTRY ON THE RISE

Increased pet adoption after the pandemic is driving the Indian pet care industry to touch ₹10,000 crore by 2025, prompting FMCG majors like Nestle India and Emami to enter the sector. The pet food market is currently around ₹4,000 crore and expected to grow significantly over the next five years. Mars Petcare and Himalaya Wellness Company, among others, are the two major companies operating in the segment



# 5G spectrum sale: Bids breach ₹1.50tn mark, firms fight for UP East

ALL THE THREE PRIVATE OPERATORS ARE SAID TO BE KEEN ON TOPPING UP THEIR HOLDINGS IN THIS BAND IN UP EAST, AS RADIO WAVES IN 900 MHZ BAND ARE NOT AVAILABLE



Up until Friday, about 71 per cent of the total spectrum put on the block had been provisionally sold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 31:** The auction of 5G spectrum capable of offering ultra-high-speed internet received bids worth ₹1,50,130 crore until Sunday amid pick-up in demand for radiowaves in the UP East circle, pushing the bidding to seventh day Monday.

Seven new rounds of bidding held on the sixth day of auction Sunday 'dialed in' an incremental ₹163 crore, propelling the cumulative spectrum sale beyond the ₹1.50 lakh crore mark.

The auction has fetched provisional bids worth ₹1,50,130 crore in the first six days, according to data released by the telecom department.

Sources said that after a relative easing of demand Saturday, the UP East circle - which includes Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Gorakhpur; Kanpur - saw bidding activity pick-up once again for 1800 MHz, a band primarily used by telcos for 4G services.

UP East - which has over 10 crore mobile subscribers - accounted for all of the incremental spectrum sales Sunday, amid a pitched battle for radiowaves among players such as Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

As on May, Reliance Jio had 3.29 mobile subscribers in UP East, Bharti Airtel (3.7 crore) and Vodafone Idea (2.02 crore).

The bidding intensity for 1800 MHz band in Uttar Pradesh East circle had peaked between Wednesday and Friday, then subsided somewhat Saturday. On Sunday, however, renewed interest was seen and demand flared once again outstripping the spectrum supply, sources said.

All eyes will be on this circle when bidding resumes Monday with 38th round, and the auction timelines would depend on how the bidding progresses through the day.

After a flying start Tuesday that saw players pouring in ₹1.45 lakh crore on the first day, the numbers have inched up incrementally since Wednesday, with players such as Jio and Airtel locked in intense bidding in Uttar Pradesh East circle for 1800 MHz band.

In all, 72 GHz (gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least ₹4.3 lakh crore is on the block in the 2022 auction.

## FUEL PRICE FREEZE

# IOC sold petrol at ₹10/L loss and diesel at ₹14/L

THE CURRENT FREEZE ON PETROL AND DIESEL PRICES, EXCLUDING THE REDUCTION DUE TO A CUT IN EXCISE DUTY, IS NOW 116 DAYS OLD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** Indian Oil Corporation sold petrol at a loss of ₹10 per litre and diesel at ₹14 a litre during April-June, leading to the firm reporting its first quarterly net loss in over two years, a report said.

The nation's largest oil refining and fuel retailing firm reported a net loss of ₹1,992.53 crore in April-June compared to ₹5,941.37 crore of net profit in the same period a year back and ₹6,021.9 crore in the preceding January-March quarter.

"IOC (Indian Oil Corporation) reported an 88 per cent year-on-year decline in its standalone EBITDA to ₹1,358.9 crore and a net loss of ₹1,992.53 crore, despite record high gross refining margins (GRMs) of ₹31.8 per barrel for the quarter. Earnings decline was driven by a



sharp fall in retail fuel margins for petrol and diesel with an estimated net loss of ₹10 per litre for petrol and ₹14 a litre for diesel for the quarter and inventory loss of ₹1,500-1,600 crore due to excise duty cut in the quarter," ICICI Securities said.

While fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily in line with cost, IOC and other state-owned firms Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) kept prices

on hold despite a rise in input cost. The basket of crude oil India imports averaged \$109 per barrel, but the retail pump rates were aligned to about \$85-86 a barrel cost.

This is the first quarterly loss in over two years. The company had reported a net loss in January-March 2020, but that was on account of inventory losses on processing costlier crude.

IOC, BPCL and HPCL stopped revising rates ahead of assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh last year. That 137-day freeze ended in late March, with prices being raised by ₹10 per litre each before another round of freeze came in force in early April.

The government in May cut excise duty on petrol and diesel, which was passed on to consumers instead of being used to square off mounting losses on the two fuel sales.

## 384 infra projects show cost overruns of ₹4.66 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** As many as 384 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4.66 lakh crore, as per a report.

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects of ₹150 crore and above, out of 1,514 projects, 384 reported cost overruns and as many as 713 projects were delayed.

"Total original cost of implementation of the 1,514 projects was ₹21,21,471.79 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹25,87,946.13 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of ₹4,66,474.34 crore (21.99 per cent of original cost)," the ministry's latest report for June 2022 said.

According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till June 2022 is ₹13,30,885.21 crore, which is 51.43 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

However, the number of delayed projects decreases to 552, if the delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion.

# After a 3-month lull, it's raining mutual fund NFOs in July

NFOs LEAD TO GOOD PARTICIPATION FROM INVESTORS AND ALSO INCREASED ACTIVITY FROM DISTRIBUTORS AS WELL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 31:** After a three-month halt, new fund offerings (NFOs) have made a strong comeback with asset management companies launching over two dozen mutual fund schemes in July.

The new funds have been launched across the board - actively managed equity funds, debt, index funds

and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Interestingly, passively managed funds, particularly ETFs, continue to dominate the NFO market.

There was a lull in the NFO space as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in April, had barred fund houses from floating new schemes till the time the industry complied with its norms concerning the pooling of investors' funds by intermediaries and distributors. The deadline for the implementation of the new guideline was July 1.

Also, the regulator had asked fund houses to implement guidelines like dual authentication for redemption, verification of source of accounts while mutual fund investments are made. These measures were aimed at safeguarding in-



In 2021-22, AMCs launched 176 new mutual fund schemes garnering ₹1.08 lakh crore -- which meant an average of less than 15 a month

In 2020-21, 84 NFOs were floated and cumulatively, these funds were able to mobilise Rs 42,038 crore

investors' interest and to boost investor confidence in mutual fund investing.

According to industry data, as many as 18 asset management companies (AMCs) launched a total of 28 mutual fund schemes in July. Of the 28 NFOs, 24 are underway and

the remaining four have been closed.

The NFOs, which are underway, include ICICI Prudential Nifty IT Index Fund, Aditya Birla Sun Life Nifty 200 Quality 30 ETF, Baroda BNP Paribas Flexi Cap Fund, Canara Robeco Banking and PSU Debt Fund.

Most of the NFOs launched recently applied for approval from the capital markets regulator long before the 3-month ban. There is now a huge rush amongst AMCs to fill their passive index funds or ETFs buckets and they don't want to lose their passive share for the absence of funds

**AMAR RANU** | HEAD (INVESTMENT PRODUCTS & ADVISORY), ANAND RATHI SHARES & STOCK BROKERS

Besides, DSP Nifty Midcap 150 Quality 50 Index Fund, HDFC Nifty 100 ETF, Motilal Oswal S&P BSE Quality Index Fund, IDFC Midcap Fund, Mirae Asset Balanced Advantage Fund, Quantum Nifty

50 ETF Fund of Fund, Union Gilt Fund and quant Large Cap Fund are underway.

In addition, half a dozen NFOs, which included one by Franklin Templeton MF that is floating a new scheme after a hiatus of two-and-half years, have been lined up for the next month. Several ETFs have been launched over the last few years and quite a few of these NFOs are either sector-oriented or have a thematic bend.

The Sebi's diktat impacted the launch of new schemes as the ongoing financial year 2022-23 till June saw the introduction of only four NFOs that garnered a total of ₹3,307 crore, with ICICI Prudential Housing Opportunities Fund taking the lion's share of ₹3,159 crore.

# Smriti, spinners ensure win

**EVES THRASH ARCH RIVALS PAKISTAN BY 8 WICKETS TO KEEP SEMIFINAL HOPES ALIVE**



**HAPPY LOT:** Indian cricketers celebrate after the dismissal of a Pakistan batter Sunday at Edgbaston

PTI PHOTO

**BRIEF SCORES**

Pakistan 99 in 18 overs (Muneeba Ali 32, Sneha Rana 2/15, Radha Yadav 2/18) lost to India 102 for 2 in 11.4 overs (Smriti Mandhana 63 n o) by eight wickets.

duced an outside edge off opener Iram Javed's bat with a ball that shaped away.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur went for the extra all-rounder in the playing XI, bringing in Rana at the expense of spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad. It proved to be a good decision. Rana made instant impact by removing a well set Muneeba Ali (32) and Pakistan skipper Bismah Maroof (17).

Renuka made it 64 for four in the 12th over by getting rid of Ayesha Nadeem. Even India opener Shafali Verma rolled her arm over and got a wicket of a sharp return catch. Overall, it was a dominant show by the Women in Blue

# India begin CWG hockey campaign on rousing note

Harmanpreet makes it a memorable 150th game with hat-trick in 11-0 rout of Ghana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, July 31:** The Indian men's hockey team decimated lowly-ranked Ghana 11-0 in their opening Pool B match of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) here Sunday. As expected, the Indians were relentless in their attacks and completely controlled the proceedings from start to finish.

The Indians played to their strength and scored five in the first half before pumping in four and two goals in the last two quarters. India converted six out of 13 penalty corners they earned in the match.

Vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh (11th, 35th, 53rd) scored a hat-trick to make it a memorable 150th game for him in India colours. Abhishek (second minute), Shamsher Singh (14th), Akashdeep Singh (20th), Jugraj Singh (22nd, 43rd), Nilakanta

Sharma (38th), Varun Kumar (39th) and Mandeep Singh (48th) were the other goal getters for India. Incidentally it was skipper Manpreet Singh's 300th game for India.

It was a completely dominating performance from the Indians as they hardly allowed Ghana into their 'D'.

Ghana had their occasional chances in the form of five penalty corners but the Indian defence was up to its best to deny its opponents.

The Indians were straightaway on the money, securing their first penalty corner in the very first minute of the match and Abhishek was at the right time at the right place to find the target on rebound.

The Indians kept up the pressure and secured another penalty corner in the 11th minute which was duly converted by Harmanpreet.

Shamsher extended India's lead by pushing home a brilliant move from Lalit Upadhyay and Abhishek. Akashdeep made the scoreline 4-0 with a fine reverse hit after receiving an accurate pass from Abhishek. India were awarded another penalty corner two minutes later and Jugraj was up to the task.

Five minutes after the change of ends, Harmanpreet scored his second goal from a penalty corner.

Three minutes later, Nilakanta joined the party as he put the rebound in the back of the net after Ghana goalkeeper Ofeii saved a shot from Jarmanpreet.

In the very next minute, Varun converted a penalty corner to get his first goal in the tournament. Jugraj also scored his second goal, this time from a penalty corner.

In the fourth and final quarter, Mandeep and Harmanpreet scored a goal each to round off the tally.



A player from Ghana takes evasive action during the match against India at Birmingham, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## Pooja available

**Birmingham:** India women's cricket team right-arm pace bowler Pooja Vastrakar will likely be available for the side's final group game August 3 against Barbados in the Commonwealth Games after the 22-year-old is believed to have returned a negative test for Covid-19. Ahead of the India team's departure, Vastrakar had tested positive for the virus. Now she has tested negative. Vastrakar posted images on social media at the airport with her luggage Sunday morning and wrote 'finally'. In another image, she is seen travelling business class to England.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, July 31:** India brought their desired 'killing attitude' to the fore under pressure as they put up a ruthless performance to beat arch rivals Pakistan by eight wickets and boost their chances of a semifinal berth at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) here Sunday. Pakistan's decision to bat first backfired as Indian bowlers put the choke on the opposition batters to bowl them out for a meagre 99 in the 18 overs-a-side contest after rain delayed the start of play. Spinners Sneha Rana (2/15) and Radha Yadav (2/18) stood out with their bowling show.

The chase was clinical too with Smriti Mandhana (63 n o, 42b, 8x4, 3x6), arguably the most attractive batter in women's cricket, flaunting her range of strokes on way to a fine unbeaten half century. The result was that India gunned down the target in just 11.4 overs.

India showed an approach that they have been trying to play with for the last couple of months and it would have most definitely pleased captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

Mandhana's special effort comprised three sixes, including a step out hit off spinner Tuba Hassan which took her to a half-century. A seemingly effortless loft over cover of pacer Diana Baig in the third over was also of the highest quality.

It was the second time this year that an Indo-Pak contest failed to produce a close game with India winning comfortably against their opponents even in the 50-over World Cup in New Zealand. However, the much-anticipated fixture of the CWG lived up to the hype off the field with fans turning up in big numbers at Edgbaston.

The Indian fans certainly got their money's worth in the first half of the game. Renuka Singh, who bowled a dream spell in a losing cause against Australia, started with a rare maiden in the T20 format.

Three balls later, Pakistan were one down with no runs on the board as pacer Meghna Singh in-

## SHORT TAKES

### Maiden WTA title

**Prague:** Eighth-seeded Marie Bouzkova cruised past seventh-seeded Anastasia Potapova 6-0, 6-3 here Sunday to win the Prague Open tennis tournament for her first WTA title. The 24-year-old lifted the trophy after playing in her fourth WTA final, the second this year after she lost to American Sloane Stephens in Guadalajara, Mexico in February. "I'm extremely happy I won right here," the Czech told the cheering crowd in Prague. The Wimbledon quarterfinalist broke Potapova seven times to win the final in 71 minutes. Bouzkova didn't drop a set during the hard-court tournament. Bouzkova and Potapova previously only met in qualifying for the Miami Open earlier this year with the Czech winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

### Bayern triumph

**Berlin:** German giants Bayern Munich clinched the first title of the season after overpowering resilient Leipzig 5-3 to lift their 10th DFL Supercup here Saturday evening. The goals for the winners were scored by Jamal Musiala, Sadio Mane, Benjamin Pavard, Serge Gnabry and Leroy Sane. The German Bundesliga champions led 3-0 at the interval. However, Leipzig fought back in the second half and reduced the deficit to 3-4 at one stage. However, it was the closest they could come to their rivals. Leipzig scored through Marcel Halstenberg, Christopher Nkunku and Dani Olmo. However, Bayern Munich were the much superior side on the day.

### Maini shines

**Budapest:** India's Kush Maini, in car number 12 and donning the Mumbai Falcons livery, drove a very mature and balanced race to secure his maiden podium in FIA Formula 3 in front of a packed crowd here Sunday. Showers just before the beginning of the sprint race which is run over 40 minutes made sure that it was declared a wet race and started under the safety car which did two formation laps to give the drivers a chance to understand the tricky conditions. The two safety car interventions made sure that Maini fought his way through and found himself in P5. Maini was a man on a mission in the second Motorsport car and overtook two others to grab third position.

## Colts hammer Nepal to keep semis hopes alive



Tankadhar Bag (18), who is from Odisha, celebrates Sunday after scoring India's sixth goal against Nepal

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 31:** India colts hammered Nepal 8-0 in a match of the SAFF U20 Championships at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday to keep alive their chances of qualifying for the semifinals. This was India's second successive win after their defeat to Bangladesh in the opening encounter. India now have six points from three matches and will play Maldives in their last group league match August 2.

Taison Singh (32nd and 66th), Parthiv Gogoi (50th and 52nd) scored a brace each, while Himanshu Jangra (70th), and substitutes Tankadhar Bag (78th), Gurkirat Singh (89th), and Shubho Paul (90+3) scored one goal apiece for the hosts.

India completely dominated the

game and even though they just scored once before the interval, they completed the rout in the second session. Shanmugam Venkatesh's boys were quick to interchange positions and exploited the weak Nepalese defence to the full. To add to the joy was local boy Bag getting on the list of scorers.

The first goal however, was a gift. Nepal goalkeeper Ishwor Gurung, failed to collect a routine cross from off Maheson Singh from the left, and the ball was headed into the net by an unmarked Taison.

After the breather the flood gates opened as goals came in quick succession. Gogoi got a brace in two minutes and the match was as good as over for the visitors. Then Taison got his second and Jangra, a thorn in the flesh of the rival defence added to the tally from the spot.

## INDIA IN OTHER SPORTS AT BIRMINGHAM CWG

# Nikhat, a bout away from medal

AGENCIES

**Birmingham, July 31:** World Champion Nikhat Zareen sailed into the women's 50kg quarterfinals but it was curtains for Shiva Thapa as he crashed out of the men's 63.5kg round of 16 boxing competition at the Commonwealth Games here Sunday. While Zareen knocked out Helena Ismael Bago of Mozambique to storm into the last eight round of the women's lightweight category winning by RSC (referee stopping the contest), Thapa lost 1-4 to World Championship bronze medalist Scotland's Reese Lynch to make a disappointing exit from the Games.

Zareen will next face reigning CWG bronze medalist Troy Garton of New Zealand in the quarterfinals, where a win will secure her podium finish. Zareen however, said she won't settle for anything less than a gold medal from the event. "I am feeling happy that I won my first bout and I am looking forward to performing well in the next rounds. I am looking to win gold from here," Zareen said after her bout.

### Joshna in quarterfinals

Ace Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa outwitted New Zealand's



Nikhat Zareen

Kaitlyn Watts 3-1 to progress to the women's singles quarterfinals at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) here Sunday. The 18-time national champion kept her calm to recover from a mid-game slump to prevail 11-8, 9-11, 11-4, 11-6 against Canada's Hollie Naughton who beat Malaysia's Aifa Azman 3-0 in another match.

### Natraj qualifies

Swimmer Srihari Natraj clocked 25.52 seconds to qualify for the semifinals of men's 50m backstroke. The 21-year-old Indian from Bangalore was the second fastest swimmer in his heat and eighth fastest overall. He has a personal best of 24.40s in the men's 50m back-

stroke, having achieved it at 15th FINA World Swimming Championships last year in UAE. In men's 200m butterfly, Sajan Prakash finished fourth in his heat after clocking 1:58.99s and was put in the reserve list.

### Singh fails to impress

Gymnast Yogeshwar Singh finished 15th in the men's all-around final of artistic gymnastics event here Sunday. The Haryana gymnast, who had participated in three World Championships, finished with an overall score of 74.700. England's Jack Jarman won the gold with total score of 83.450, while the silver and bronze medal was bagged by countrymen James Hall and Marios Georgiou.

## Indian teams maintain their winning record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mamallapuram, July 31:** Indian teams continued their winning run in the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad with all three posting easy victories over their respective opponents here Sunday. While the second-seeded India 'A' rode on wins from GMs P Harikrishna and Arjun Erigaisi for a 3-1 victory against Greece, India 'B' swept past Switzerland 4-0 and the third team got the better of Iceland 3-1.

Harikrishna speaking after beating Dimitrios Mastrovasilis, said his opponent put up a good resistance and towards the end, he had got a good combination of moves.

In the women's event, the three Indian teams were victorious for a third straight day. The A team rested top player Koneru Humpy but came through 3-1 against England, courtesy wins from R Vaishali and Bhakti Kulkarni.

The 'B' team recorded a 3-1 win against Indonesia with Vantika Agrawal and Soumya Swaminathan beating Irine Kharisma Sukandar and Fariba Mariroh respectively. The third host team won 2.5-1.5 against Austria.

# LIVERPOOL DRAW FIRST BLOOD

**REDS WIN COMMUNITY SHIELD AFTER A GAP OF 15 YEARS AS MAN CITY STRUGGLE**

AGENCIES

**London, July 31:** The epic rivalry between Manchester City and Liverpool last season had become global discussion. Well it seems that the 2022-23 season will not be any different either. Liverpool struck first blood against Manchester City ahead of the new Premier League season as Darwin Nunez made an instant impact for Jurgen Klopp's men to win the Community Shield 3-1. In a tale of two big summer signings, Nunez came off the bench to win a penalty and score his first goal since a 75-million euro (\$77 million) move from Benfica, while Erling Haaland had a City debut to forget.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's blistering strike gave Liverpool a deserved half time lead in Leicester at the King Power Stadium. But it was City's other new forward who hauled Pep Guardiola's men back into the game after the break as Julian Alvarez equalised.

Tying down Mohamed Salah to a new three-year deal was Liverpool's other major piece of summer business and the Egyptian



**MOMENT TO CHERISH:** Darwin Nunez (No 27) of Liverpool celebrates with teammates after scoring against Manchester City, Saturday in the Community Shield game

AP PHOTO

was deadly from the penalty spot after Nunez's header was handled by Ruben Dias. The Uruguayan then got his own glory moment by stooping to head home in added on time before tearing off his shirt in celebration.

Victory saw Liverpool win the traditional season curtain-raiser for the first time since 2006 and lay

down an early marker in what is expected to be another battle between the sides for the Premier League title. City held off the Reds to win the Premier League for a fourth time in five years by a point in a thrilling finale to last season.

Salah was the provider for the opening goal as he laid Thiago Alcantara's cross-field pass back to

the edge of the box and Alexander-Arnold smashed in off the post with the aid of a slight deflection off Dias.

Haaland was denied by Liverpool stand-in goalkeeper Adrian with his first sight of goal. Then in added on time he was again guilty of blasting the ball over the bar with an open goal.

# Men in Blue target complete dominance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Basseterre (St. Kitts and Nevis), July 31:** Rohit Sharma's buoyant India will look to continue the winning run and extend their domination over the West Indies when they clash in the second T20 International here Monday. The visitors are coming off a comprehensive victory in the opener of the five-match series.

What separated the two teams in the first match was not only its all-round performance but also smart captaincy by Rohit who fielded three spinners Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi. All of them proved to be quite a handful for the hosts.

Another victory would only boost India's confidence further as they look to gain momentum ahead of the marquee T20 World Cup later this year. With KL Rahul still recuperating from injury, it will be interesting to see who walks out with Rohit at the top of the order. In the last game it was Suryakumar Yadav while in the recent past, Rishabh Pant has also opened the innings.

**There are small boxes we still need to tick off and we intend doing that to do well at the T20 World Cup**

DINESH KARTHIK

Over the years, a quality left-arm pacer is something the Indian team have missed, but that could change with the emergence of the promising Arshdeep Singh, who left a mark in the first game with his tight spell. He bowled well at the back of the innings as well as with the new ball.

And then how can one forget the 'finisher' Dinesh Karthik. While the visitors were on course to finish at around 170, veteran Karthik had other ideas, helping the team set a target in excess of 190. The 37-year-old once again aced the finisher's role (41 off 19 balls) to help the team amass 36 runs off the last two overs. Given Karthik's prowess, he would fancy his chances of doing an encore and the hosts would certainly be wary of that.