



## COMING OF AGE

Actor Janhvi Kapoor says it was earlier believed that she bagged movies because of her parents' reputation

LEISURE P2



## TRAVEL BAN EXTENDED

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court extends until August 4 the overseas travel ban on Mahinda Rajapaksa and his brother Basil Rajapaksa

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SHEULI SECURES GOLD

Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli clinches India's third gold at the Commonwealth Games claiming the yellow metal in men's 73kg category

SPORTS P12

### SHORT TAKES

#### 10 killed as fire breaks out in Jabalpur hospital

**JABALPUR:** At least 10 people have been killed after a massive fire broke out Monday in a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, officials said. Several fire tenders were rushed to the New Life Multispecialty Hospital to bring the blaze under control, an official said, adding the rescue operations were underway. Many people including patients and hospital staff are said to be present inside the building. According to sources, the fire broke out due to a short-circuit on the ground floor. **P9**

#### ATF price cut by 12%; commercial LPG ₹36

**NEW DELHI:** Jet fuel (ATF) prices Monday were cut by the steepest ever 12 per cent, the second reduction in as many weeks, on softening international oil prices amid recessionary fears. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were cut by ₹16,232.36 per kilolitre, or 11.75 per cent, to ₹121,915.57 per kl in the national capital, a price notification of state-run retailers showed. This is the steepest ever reduction in rates and follows a ₹3,084.94 per kl (2.2 per cent) reduction effected July 16. Parallely, the rates of commercial LPG - the one used by hotels, restaurants and other business establishments - was cut by ₹36 to ₹1,976.50 per 19-kg cylinder.

#### Kerala confirms India's 1st monkeypox death

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The Kerala government Monday confirmed that samples of a 22-year-old man, who died July 30, tested positive, making him India's first monkeypox-related fatality. Meanwhile, India reported its sixth monkeypox case Monday - a Nigerian man living in Delhi with no recent foreign travel history - as the Centre formed a task force to monitor the emerging situation. Rajasthan also reported its first suspected case of the disease Monday with a 20-year-old man being admitted to a government hospital with a fever for the past four days and rashes on body. **P7**

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	58115.50 ↑ 545.25
NIFTY	17340.00 ↑ 181.70
DOLLAR	79.73 ↓ ₹0.19
EURO	81.03 ↓ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹51,395 ↓ ₹31
SILVER	₹58,197 ↓ ₹173

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.3°C
MIN	27.7°C
Humidity	80%
Rainfall	52.6mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky

## JERSEY FOR JUGGERNAUTS



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the jersey of Odisha Juggernauts, the state's franchise in the first edition of the Ultimate Kho Kho League at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

# HOUSE ADJOURNED SINE DIE

The CAG report was laid in the House on the last day while the Assembly unanimously passed a resolution congratulating Droupadi Murmu for becoming the first from Odisha to occupy the topmost Constitutional post in the country

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** The Monsoon Session of the state Assembly was Monday adjourned sine die three days ahead of its schedule, amid ruckus by opposition members in the House over discussion on chit fund and farmers' issues.

The session was scheduled to continue till August 4. The House witnessed pandemonium as Opposition legislators created noisy scenes protesting rejection of their notice for discussion on chit fund case, leading to adjournment of the House till 4pm.

The opposition BJP members staged agitation as Speaker BK Arukha rejected the notice for a discussion on the admissibility of adjournment motion on chit fund scam on the ground that the matter was sub-judice in the High Court and was being investigated.

The Speaker cited an earlier ruling issued in the Assembly in 2014 following suggestions given by the advocate general that there will be no discussion in the House on



chit fund case. Irked over the rejection, the saffron party members raised slogans against the decision and proceeded to storm into the podium. Similarly, Congress members who sought a discussion on "drought-like" situation in Bolangir

**THE HOUSE PASSED SEVEN BILLS OF THE TOTAL 8 BILLS PRESENTED IN THE ASSEMBLY**

and its nearby areas, also created uproarious scenes. Facing protest from both the opposition parties, the Speaker adjourned the House till 4pm. Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi alleged discussion was not being allowed in the House sim-

#### 3-month-old baby dies after faulty jab

PNN & AGENCIES

**Jajpur, August 1:** A three-month-old baby died after allegedly being administered a faulty vaccine in Jajpur district, police said Monday.

Babu Sethy, a resident of Sankha village in Dharmasala block, had taken her son to an anganwadi centre July 20 for a pentavalent vaccine, which provides protection to a child from five life-threatening diseases.

After the vaccine and a pulse polio drop, they returned home. The boy started crying uncontrollably and developed high fever.

The boy was rushed to the Anganwadi centre, where the health workers said it was only because of the pain that the baby was crying. "They also said the fever would remain for 48 hours and advised me not to give any medicine to her baby," she alleged. With no sign of remission of fever even after two days, Sethy admitted her baby to the Badachana community health centre July 22. The baby was shifted to a private nursing home in Cuttack where he succumbed during treatment last Friday.

A case has been lodged and the boy's body was exhumed and sent for autopsy, Dharmasala police station inspector Rakesh Tripathy said.

## MINOR GANGRAPED; 6 DETAINED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 1:** A minor girl was gangraped near a roadside dhaba at Godbhaga area under Burla police station limits in Sambalpur district, police said Monday.

Police registered a case and detained six persons including a woman over a complaint filed by the survivor's family members. Among the accused, four are youths, one of them is the dhaba owner and another is a woman. The car

used in the crime has also been seized. Police said the incident occurred July 30 night. A woman acquaintance of the survivor called her for dinner to a roadside dhaba near Godbhaga. When they were leaving the dhaba after dinner, four youths in a car reached the place. Later, they took the girl to an isolated place and took turns to rape her. The accused youths and the woman fled the scene after the incident.

On being informed by locals, Burla police rescued the survivor from the

place and dropped her at home. The girl narrated her ordeal before her family members the next day following which her family members lodged a complaint at the police station. Police raided various places and detained the six persons. Hirakud SDPO SK Dash said a case has been registered at Burla police station over a complaint by the girl's family members. The matter is being probed from all angles and stringent action will be taken against those found responsible for the crime.

## Modiji, you have caused immense price rise: Class I girl's plaint to PM

AGENCIES

**Kannauj (UP), August 1:** A six-year-old girl studying in Class I has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the 'hardship' she is facing due to price rise.

The girl, Kriti Dubey, of Chhigram town in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district wrote in her letter; "My name is Kriti Dubey. I study in Class I. Modiji, you have caused immense price rise. Even my pencil and rubber (eraser) have got costlier and the price of Maggi has been increased too. Now my mother beats me for asking for a pencil. What shall I do? Other kids steal my pencil."

The letter written in Hindi has gone viral on the social media. Her father Vishal Dubey, who is an advocate, said, "It is my



daughter's 'Mann Ki Baat'. She got annoyed recently when her mother scolded her when she lost her pencil in school."

**My name is Kriti Dubey. I study in Class I. Modiji, you have caused immense price rise. Even my pencil and rubber (eraser) have got costlier and the price of Maggi has been increased too. Now my mother beats me for asking for a pencil. What shall I do? Other kids steal my pencil**

Chhigram town SDM Ashok Kumar told reporters that he came to know about this little girl's letter through social media platforms. "I am ready to help the child in any way and will also try my best to ensure that her letter reaches concerned authorities," he said.

### SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN

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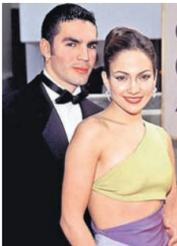
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# leisure



## MARRIAGE WITH BEN AFFLECK WON'T LAST: JLO'S FIRST HUBBY

Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez's first husband Ojani Noa fears her fourth marriage to movie star Ben Affleck could fail. Cuban-born dishwasher-turned-occasional actor Ojani Noa stole the singer's heart 25 years ago. After a whirlwind romance, the pair wed in February 1997, but by the following year, their marriage crumbled.

## AMBER HEARD SECRETLY SELLS HOME FOR BIG PROFIT

Actress Amber Heard has secretly sold her home in Southern California for a big profit after the defamation trial loss. Heard's Yucca Valley home in the California desert fetched her \$1.05 million, a profit of about \$500,000 for her, with a July 18 closing date, says a report.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Without apparent reason you may go into your shell today. No doubt you will acknowledge the contribution of others, but Ganesh says you have to do more than that; you will have to share your knowledge with your peers. Besides this, Ganesh says you need to cut down on your spending.

**TAURUS**  
Ganesh sees you being very planned and focuses, poised and practical in handling your affairs today. You'll be able to take identify the best strategy, course of action that the situations demand. This day you would be performing like a specialist, a real expert and will not fail to accomplish whatever you have set out to do. Most likely you will be taking up several projects and assignments in course of the day.

**GEMINI**  
You are on your way to falling in love. Your parents or children are likely to fetch you substantial gains, financially or otherwise. You may want to make a few changes at work, probably a new business strategy.

**CANCER**  
A shopping spree with your darling is likely to be the highlight of the day, even though you will be paying for almost everything. Though you have decided to be this lavish out of sheer love, your sweetheart will more than return the favour with a sweaty thank you 'return gift' in the evening.

**LEO**  
Seems today is just one of those days when things simply refuse to go your way. It happens to the best of us, says Ganesh, and there isn't much one can do about it except slog it out and find that hidden reserve of moral support. On a brighter note, Ganesh observes the possibility of you meeting the right person who shall help you rekindle your imagination.

**VIRGO**  
Today is the right time to start a new project, while older projects which had been postponed will be finished. Over the next week you will try to boost your energy levels. Parties will lead to a lot of entertainment and joy, Ganesh says children will bring home pride which will put you in even higher spirits.

**LIBRA**  
Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening.

**SCORPIO**  
Life is the best teacher, they say. And today, you even experience this. You may learn to survive the neck-tight competition in the market. This may invite a lot of envy, but nothing shall bother you. Ganesh reminds you of the adage, 'To err is human, to forgive is divine', so, it's fine even if you commit some errors.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Going to private parties is a high probability today. All in all, make the most of it as you get nostalgic with old friends and make plans with new ones. Moreover, relatives will be pleased to meet you after a long time.

**CAPRICORN**  
It's time to prove your extraordinary skills as a professional, says Ganesh. You will go out of your way, and even double your efforts to accomplish set goals, and chances are that you might succeed. Family and friends will be glad that could take out time to spend some happy hours with them. You will also let them know that they mean the world to you, and no matter what, you will be there whenever they need you.

**AQUARIUS**  
It's a day you may want to spend with yourself. But it may still not bring the desired peace and tranquility. An unpleasant situation may force you to deal with reality, says Ganesh. You now realise how much strength you derive from your devotion to God.

**PISCES**  
Of late, the harder you try, the more it seems you have to do. You are likely to put your foot down today and spend some time taking care of yourself and playing truant with your responsibilities. Recharge your batteries fully while you are at it, says Ganesh.



## I didn't get everything on a platter: JANHVI

Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor has talked about how initially in her acting career she was made to feel that she got everything on a platter and got things she does not deserve. Recalling the same, Janhvi in

B4U podcast *Hear It Here* with Suchitra Pillai and Sudhi Sachdev, said: "During *Dhadak* and *Gunjan*, I have been made to feel that I got everything on a platter which was not the case. It was also believed that I got things I don't deserve, which means that I am technically worthless, and I am getting opportunities because of the work my parents have done."  
"At the same time, I also felt an overwhelming respect and love for my parents, and I am being given love and work because of that. But the truth is that I love acting and I live for it. I work my ass off to give it back to them for what they have done for me, and because I am doing what I do because of their love. And then I realised that what I can do is to enjoy my work."  
The daughter of late veteran actress Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor added: "I do have respect for the fact that other people have lost out on the opportunity. But no thanks. I realised that what I can do is to make sure that I can give it more than my best and my everything."

## 'Kids with autism must be treated with sensitivity'

Earlier, there were a lot of misconceptions about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a neurological and developmental disorder. However, they have come down significantly thanks to a massive campaign launched by Zain Foundation, a charitable trust founded by Gargi Bhattacharya and her husband Zishan Ali, to spread awareness on the condition. As part of the campaign, the foundation has been organising drama shows, involving eminent film and theatre artistes of India, for the last six years. This year the signature event, titled 'One On One', will be staged at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, August 5. For the uninitiated, the couple had lost their elder son Zain to brain cancer at the age of 15 while young son Rean is having ASD. Ahead of the show, Orissa POST had a breezy talk with foundation's managing trustee Gargi over the event and other issues. **Excerpts:**

in top cities in Odisha like Bhubaneswar and Cuttack as well as in metros like Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune to sensitise people. We started off at a time when deaf and mute kids were considered autistic. But now, the knowledge on autism among the mass has increased drastically. They know how to treat and behave with these kids.

**How should one treat people/children with autism?**  
I bat for the inclusion of autistic children in schools, hospitals, parks and all other public places. However, they need to be treated specially; we must treat them with sensitivity as their brains function little differently than others. We must understand their problem and what is the main objective of the foundation?

Our ultimate goal is to set up a residential centre for teenagers and young adults with autism. Many of them find themselves without a caregiver when their parents age or pass away. The centre would help people with autism to become independent.

**What role do drama shows or movies play in understanding autism?**  
Unfortunately, very few films have portrayed the cause with sensitivity. *Barfi*, a film made on autism, made mockery of the condition. However, Aamir Khan's *Taare Zameen Par* was a good movie on the subject. I hope his next movie *Laal Singh Chaddha* will also be in the same league.



**Gargi Bhattacharya**  
What are the changes you have noticed since you launched the foundation in 2015?  
We have been organising events

## Giorgia shares how she was taken for a ride

Mumbai: Giorgia Andriani, who is now one of the most loved celebrities in town, has always amazed the audience with her stunning and endeavoring personality. The Italian-born actress shares her experience how people actually took advantage of her and swindled her over money.

Speaking to a portal, the actress who has been living in Mumbai for 5 years, revealed, "When I came to India, I had one maid that used to come every day and, as I was not aware of the salary on what one charges, she used to charge me for two hours, like a lot of money, so I was taken a little advantage in the beginning, and even though sometimes in the beginning, a rickshaw could tell me, like I am going to take you here, but it would be triple the price, but not that much also in Mumbai because in Mumbai, there is a lot of honesty, like people won't take you for a ride just because you are not from here. It happened in Delhi when I came here, not in Mumbai" exclaims the actress.

On the work front, Giorgia will make her Hindi film debut alongside Shreyas Talpade in *Welcome To Bajrangpur*.



### How is the play *One On One* different from the plays presented in the past?

Earlier, no national-level theatre artiste had performed in Bhubaneswar and we started with Kaifi Aur Main (Shabana Azmi in the lead) in 2015 as a fundraiser for ASD. It was a ticketed show and the proceeds were used to create awareness on autism and for the welfare of autistic people. After bringing single plays for five years to the City, we have planned something different this year. *One On One* is not a single play but an anthology of seven plays. We expect more people will attend the show to watch big names of stage and screen such as Rajit Kapur, Shikha Talsania, Vrajesh Hirjee, Sumeet Vyas and others perform.

## Aamir urges not to boycott his film

Mumbai: Aamir Khan has finally spoken his mind on the 'boycott Laal Singh Chaddha' trend on the micro-blogging site Twitter. The film is getting flak on social media for comments that the actor made about India a few years ago.

This resulted in many asking for a boycott of the film. According to a leading news-magazine report, when asked if such campaigns against his films make upset him, Aamir said that it makes him 'sad'.

The PK actor said: "Yes, I feel sad. Also, I feel sad that some of the people who are saying this, in their heart, they believe that I am someone who doesn't like India. In their hearts they believe, but it is untrue. It is rather unfortunate that some

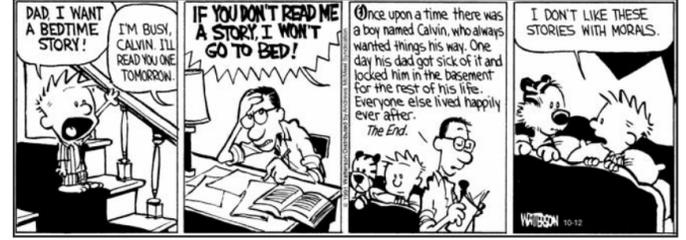


people feel that way. That's not the case. Please don't boycott my film. Please watch my film." *Laal Singh Chaddha* is a remake of Hollywood classic *Forrest Gump*. It also stars Kareena Kapoor and has Aamir in the role of a simple, kind man, played originally by Tom Hanks' 1994 iconic film. Twitter users went down memory lane to dig up Aamir's controversial "India's growing intolerance" statement and circulated it on Twitter.

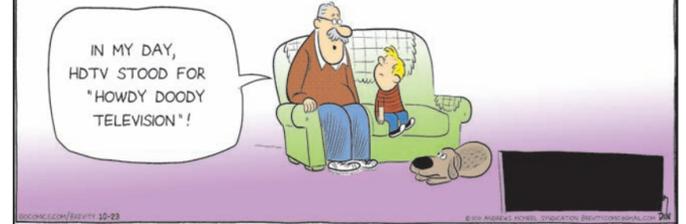
### PEANUTS



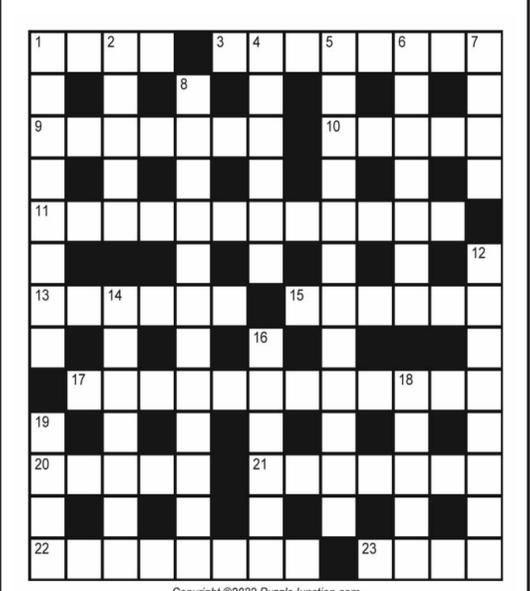
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



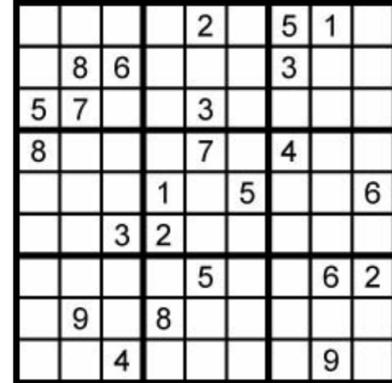
### FUN post CROSSWORD



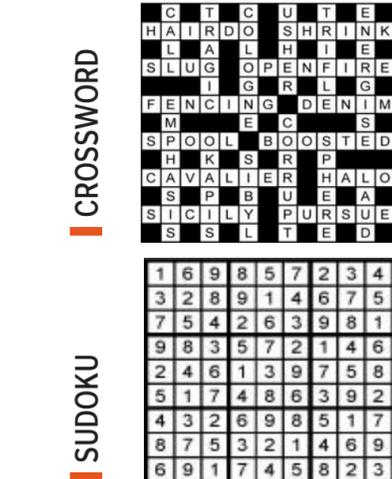
- Across**
- 1 Food grain
  - 3 Work force
  - 9 Spitz family member
  - 10 Museum piece
  - 11 Lacking adequate food
  - 13 Aristocrats
  - 15 Rock dove
  - 17 Favourites (5-7)
  - 20 Stench
  - 21 Flooring
  - 22 Slaughter
  - 23 Basilica area
  - Down**
  - 1 South Dakota monument
  - 2 Caravan beast
  - 4 Common vipers
  - 5 The flock
  - 6 Blue pike
  - 7 Full-bodied
  - 8 Cause of many doctor visits
  - 12 Liqueur-flavoured liqueur
  - 14 Jumping rodents
  - 16 Appropriate
  - 18 Outfit
  - 19 Lens type

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## 8,506 drowned in 6 yrs

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** Odisha has recorded 8,506 drowning deaths in the last six years, with an average of almost 1,417 deaths per annum, Minister of State for Home Tusharkanti Behera told the Assembly Monday.

In a written reply to a question of BJP MLA Sukant Kumar Nayak, Behera said 935 cases of drowning deaths were reported in 2016, which went up to 1,079 in 2017 and 1,406 in 2018. Similarly, 1,441 drowning cases were reported in 2019, 1,840 in 2020 and 1,805 in the 2021, he added. Behera said the highest number of drowning cases (121) was reported from Cuttack urban police district in 2016 followed by 57 in Mayurbhanj district and 54 in Balasore district in the same year.

The data also showed that Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Ganjam reported more drowning deaths compared to other districts every year.

## Diarrhoea claimed 17 lives in 7 dists

As many as 17 people have died of diarrhoea in seven districts of the state since July 13 this year, Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das said Monday.

Making a statement in the state Assembly under the direction of



In 2021, the highest number of deaths—167, were reported from Mayurbhanj district, followed by Keonjhar (145), Ganjam (111), Bhadrak (98), Kendrapara (95), Puri (80) and Jagatsinghpur (80).

Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha, Das said 432 people in the state have been infected with diarrhoea since July 13, of which 17 people died.

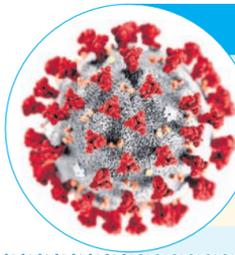
The first case of diarrhoea outbreak was noticed in Kashipur block of Rayagada district July 13, 2022. Till now, 159 persons of 11 villages spread over 5 panchayats in Kashipur block of the district have been infected with the disease, of which 10 died.

Similarly, two persons died in Jharsuguda while Koraput, Nabarangpur, Sonepur, Nuapada and Cajapati districts have recorded one death each due to the disease, he said.

The state government has included drowning deaths in the list of state specific disasters in order to provide financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to kin of the victims.

### SAFETY FIRST

Food Safety commissioner Brundha D addresses the media on an awareness campaign against adulterated food in Bhubaneswar, Monday



### COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	58,25,27,379	55,28,47,228	64,20,527
India	4,40,36,275	4,33,65,890	5,26,396
Odisha	13,13,942	12,98,872	9,141



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik waves at the newly-appointed teachers at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Monday. School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash is also seen

### ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

## 'NEW-AGE RESEARCH TO BRING HOPE IN LUNG CANCER'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** New developments in lung cancer research with genetic testing, stereotactic body radiotherapy, linking targeted cancer drug delivery mechanism and immunotherapy could lead to more survival and recovery for the patients who have lung cancer, says Bidhu Kalyan Mohanti, renowned oncologist and Director at newly inaugurate Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Cancer Centre.

Speaking on the occasion of World Lung Cancer Day, Mohanti said, "Overall lung cancer now ranks within the top five cancers in Odisha as it comes in the rank of five followed by stomach, mouth,

### WORLD LUNG CANCER DAY 2022

breast and cervical cancers. However, in males, while stomach and mouth come in the top two ranks, lung cancer comes the close third." He also elaborated on the disease progression, detection and the trend.

He added that there is no population-based cancer registry in Odisha to know exactly how many are suffering from what type of cancers in the state. However, now the Government of Odisha has started the move to make it happen so that we can get a correct picture of the cancer burden and cancer types in near future."

Mohanti has long years of experience in cancer management while serving at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi and top Indian oncology centres. He also served as an expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna, Austria and European Commission's Health-Cancer area activities, Brussels, Belgium.

Mohanti, who is also a founding member of the Indian Association of Palliative Care, said lung cancer mainly affects people aged 50 years plus (in 80 per cent cases).

Lung cancer is mainly caused by smoking activity, tobacco chewing and occupational hazards like chemicals, environmental pollution and genetic factors which combine fly influence the disease progression. He, however, added that "all these combined take several years to develop the disease the reason for which it is commonly diagnosed at 50 years or higher in a person."

However, in the Western population, as per Mohanti, lung cancer cases are rising in non-smokers and non-tobacco users and it has become a concern that could, perhaps, be linked to pollution, genetic and other lifestyle external factors.

On the survival of the lung cancer patients, he informed that relating to other cancer patients like mouth, breast and cervix the survival rate is very less and 50 percent of the lung cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis. Providing the reason for it, the expert said "70 to 80 percent lung cancer patients are detected very late and the diagnosis is done either at advanced Stage-III or Stage-IV. However, if someone is diagnosed very early then survival rate might be within 60 to 70 percent."

## Biswal denies links with Noida-based media firm

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** Former Cuttack-Choudwar MLA, Pravat Ranjan Biswal Monday issued a clarification denying any links with the Noida-based media firm, Media Guru Consultants whose properties worth over Rs 3.67 crore have been attached by Enforcement Directorate (ED) along with Rs 25 lakhs of movable property belonging to Biswal.

The ED took the action in a money laundering case against Seashore Group of companies accused of duping investors of crores of rupees through ponzi schemes.

Biswal expressed displeasure over news reports that he owned the entire property including Rs 3.67 crore of the media firm attached by the ED recently.

He said a letter sent to his residence clearly mentioned that he possessed movable property of Rs 25 lakhs.

According to the letter, the ED has also directed the bank at Nua Bazar in Cuttack to make 'stop payment' in his account.

He also revealed that the letter has mentioned about the Media Guru Consultants Pvt. Ltd in Noida, whose assets worth Rs 3,67,20,000 were confiscated by the ED.

## Take teaching as a resolution: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday advised the 6,891 newly-recruited school teachers to take teaching as a resolution and not just a job.

While attending the orientation programme for the newly-recruited teachers at Kalinga Stadium here, Naveen said, "You're all young and very enthusiastic. So, don't take teaching as a job but as a resolution. I believe you'll play an important role in brightening the future of the children of my Odisha."

On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that the state government has appointed more than 14,000 teachers in the last 3 years. Congratulating the newly-ap-

**You're all young and very enthusiastic. So, don't take teaching as a job but as a resolution. I believe you'll play an important role in brightening the future of the children of my Odisha**

NAVEEN PATNAIK, CHIEF MINISTER

pointed teachers, the CM said that teachers are the builders and glory of the nation. "You're taking the sacred responsibility of building the future generation of the country, Patnaik said adding "education not only changes an individual or a family or a society but also changes the destiny of a nation".

Highlighting the 5T initiatives of the state government, the Chief Minister said that education is the most powerful way of transfor-

mation. "Teamwork, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit are the mantras of our administrative system," he said.

Speaking on the high school transformation programme, the CM said that the transformation of 4,000 schools in the state has been completed so far and another 4,800 schools will be transformed by December 2023.

Industries Minister Pratap Deb and Water Resources and

Commerce & Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu participated in the programme and expressed the view that the school transformation program has created new opportunities for children and a new identity in the field of education.

Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari expressed his gratitude and said that due to the transformation of schools, the education system of the state has become world-class.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, School and Mass Education Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi, Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian and other senior officers were also present in the orientation programme.

## 797 FRESH COV CASES, 1 DEATH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** State recorded 797 new Covid-19 cases and one death due to the infection Monday, the health department said.

There are 6,732 active cases, out of which 1,546 are in Sundargarh and 1,240 in Khurda, according to the bulletin issued by the department.

The test positivity rate was 4.31 per cent with the new cases detected out of 18,475 samples.

As many as 134 children were among the new patients. Sundargarh reported the highest number of 176 infections, followed by 113 in Khurda, where Bhubaneswar is located, it said.

The toll rose to 9,141 as an 85-year-old woman succumbed to the infection in Bhubaneswar.

Fifty-three other Covid patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

The state had logged 1,029 cases Sunday, the bulletin said.

The infection tally rose to 13,13,942, including 12,98,016 as 672 more people recuperated in the past 24 hours, it added.

## LinkedIn feat for Silver City youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** US professional networking platform LinkedIn has named Cuttack's Sindhu Biswal among the '5 creators to follow' in its global newsletter.

LinkedIn's Editor-in-Chief and Vice President Daniel Roth made the announcement a few days back.

Born to Babita Biswal and Pravat Biswal in Roxy Lane of Cuttack's Badambadi, the 26-year-old MBA graduate aims at contributing to the startup ecosystem in Odisha.

A well-known speaker on startups and marketing, Sindhu said he had created a video series on ways to grow a startup last year. "Of these, one video which was on 'things that first time founders should do' got a good traction. It was picked up by LinkedIn," he said, adding that it came as a surprise for him. "I would like to thank LinkedIn for the ranking."

After completing MBA from a Noida-based institution, Sindhu worked with a host of startups.



**The 26-year-old MBA graduate aims at contributing to the startup ecosystem in Odisha**

Currently, he works as the digital head of a Bangalore firm. Sindhu has been actively guiding startup entrepreneurs with valuable life and professional advice. He said, "An entrepreneur, irrespective of his/her background, must have clarity about the product or service."

## BATTLING BLAZE



Firefighters douse a blaze that broke out at a shop in Kesora area of Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

## 'Current monkeypox symptoms different from previous outbreaks'

People infected with monkeypox during the ongoing global outbreak are displaying symptoms not typically associated with the viral infection, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal. The findings are based on 197 confirmed monkeypox cases at an infectious disease centre in London, UK, between May and July 2022.

Some of the common symptoms they described include rectal pain and penile swelling (oedema), which differ from those described in previous outbreaks, the researchers said.

They recommend that clinicians consider monkeypox infection in patients presenting with these symptoms. According to the researchers, those with confirmed monkeypox infection with extensive penile lesions or severe rectal pain "should be considered for ongoing review or inpatient management."

All 197 participants in the study were men (average age 38 years), of

whom 196 identified as gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men. All patients presented with lesions on their skin or mucosal membranes, most commonly on the genitals or in the perianal area.

Most (86 per cent) of patients were reported systemic illness (affecting the entire body). The most common systemic symptoms were fever (62 per cent), swollen lymph nodes (58 per cent), and muscle aches and pain (32 per cent).

In contrast with existing case reports suggesting that systemic symptoms precede skin lesions, 38 per cent of patients developed systemic symptoms after the onset of mucocutaneous lesions, while 14 per cent presented with lesions without systemic features.

A total of 71 patients reported rectal pain, 33 sore throat, and 31 penile oedema, while 27 had oral lesions, 22 had a solitary lesion, and 9 had swollen tonsils. The researchers noted that solitary lesions and swollen tonsils were not previously



known to be typical features of monkeypox infection, and could be mistaken for other conditions.

Just over a third (36 per cent) of participants also had HIV infection and 32 per cent of those

screened for sexually transmitted infections had a sexually transmitted infection, they said. Overall, 20 (10 per cent) of participants were admitted to hospital for the management of symptoms, most

Some of the common symptoms they described include rectal pain and penile swelling (oedema), which differ from those described in previous outbreaks, the researchers said

The researchers noted that solitary lesions and swollen tonsils were not previously known to be typical features of monkeypox infection, and could be mistaken for other conditions

The authors acknowledge some limitations like observational nature of the findings, the potential variability of clinical record keeping, and the fact that the data are limited to a single centre

commonly rectal pain and penile swelling. However, no deaths were reported and no patients required intensive hospital care.

Only one participant had recently travelled to an endemic re-

gion, confirming ongoing transmission within the UK, and only a quarter of patients had known contact with someone with confirmed monkeypox infection, raising the possibility of transmission by people with no or very few symptoms.

The study authors acknowledge some limitations, such as the observational nature of the findings, the potential variability of clinical record keeping, and the fact that the data are limited to a single centre.

However, they said these findings confirm the ongoing unprecedented community transmission of monkeypox virus among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men seen in the UK and many other non-endemic countries.

"Understanding these findings will have major implications for contact tracing, public health advice, and ongoing infection control and isolation measures," the researchers added.

PTI

# State incurred ₹13.17 crore loss due to improper plantation: CAG



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** The Comptroller Authority General (CAG), Odisha, Monday revealed that the state government incurred a loss of ₹13.17 crore through Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department due to improper planning and coordination in increasing green cover of the state.

The level of DFOs and District Rural Development Authorities (DRDAs) in planning the plantation projects executed under MGNREGA in a division. Neither the DFOs nor the Department had the information on total job card holders available in a division which affected the plantation execution," the CAG observed.

in the middle of dense forest un-planted. Even though few teak species survived, the quality of growth in respect of height attained was not up to the mark. It was observed that soil moisture conservation activity like digging staggered trenches were either not taken up or have been executed inefficiently. Thus, the plantations failed plantations with unfruitful expenditure of ₹68.36 lakh.

The variation in performance of different plantations was attributed to variation in site quality, species taken and level of management. Selection of wrong sites and poor management had resulted in the failure of plantations in 251 sites, as found in Audit.

## UNICEF provides kits for Cov awareness in tribal districts

**Bhubaneswar:** The State Institute of Health and Family Welfare (SIHF) and the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) received three sets of communication equipment viz. megaphones, jukeboxes and projectors for creating awareness about Covid appropriate behaviour, COVID vaccination and other child health related issues in the tribal and aspirational districts of Odisha. These critical communication equipments were provided by UNICEF through the generous support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). "These communication kits would be used by the ASHAs, Anganwadi workers and the ANMs during their community engagement with the adolescent girls and mothers and during the mass event organized in the community. It will amplify the messages of our frontline workers among bigger audience in the communities," informed Sourav Bhattacharjee, Officer in Charge (OIC), UNICEF State Office for Odisha.

## Varsha seeks OHRC intervention in marital discord

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** Popular Odia movie actress Varsha Priyadarshini Monday approached the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) here reportedly seeking its intervention in the ongoing marital discord with her husband Anubhav Mohanty. Sources claimed that Varsha has allegedly lodged a

complaint urging the commission to direct Anubhav stop posting videos tarnishing her image on social media platforms. However, the actress who reached the OHRC at Toshali Bhawan Monday morning did not reveal anything to the media regarding the reasons for her visit to the commission. Anubhav had recently posted another video on social media.



Members of the 'Odisha Sabuja Patrika Mahasangh' staged a demonstration over non-fulfillment of their 7-point charter of demands at Master Canteen, Bhubaneswar, Monday

# Workshop for golden grass artisans

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** A series of workshops were recently conducted in Kendrapara for the golden grass artisans of the district under Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Kendrapara project. The workshops were part of the ongoing project: 'Skill & Entrepreneurship Development of Women in Golden Grass Craft' in Kendrapara district.



The workshops focused on lesser-taught yet important skills such as sustainability, conscious production, brand feedback, consumer feedback, modern day banking, GST and taxation, and basics of everyday financial management. The workshops were conducted by Sutapa Pati, dean, School of Sustainability and Abhimanyu Sahu from School

of Commerce, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar. The brand feedback and interaction workshop was executed in six sessions with six different brands that deal in the retail of handmade products. The six brands were a mix of local and national brands- Ikai Asai, Crafts Council India, Ficci Flo, Vintage Vistara, Simply Crazy's, and DPR Artlife. The next series of workshops will be held later in the year and will focus on e-commerce, retail and social media and phone photography.

ment of Odisha, and district administration, Kendrapara, Odisha. The project focuses on the execution of comprehensive interventions across the Golden Grass (natural fiber) cluster in Kendrapara district of the state. The impact numbers are 3000+ female artisans across 30+ villages. The skilling and intervention areas of the project have been divided into: craft skilling, design and quality skilling, entrepreneurship skilling, soft skilling, marketing interventions, technology interventions, exposure and infrastructure. The artisans have been receiving regular orders via their social media handles and also through exhibitions and meets. The nuanced skills taught during the workshops aim at aiding the artisans to expand their market and become self-reliant.

## CLASSIFIED LOST

I, Syamsunder Sahoo, S/o Late Dharmu Sahoo, At-Balisahi, PS-Puri Town is hereby conveying to the general public for acknowledgement that on 29.07.2022 at about 4.00 PM while I was proceeding towards sterling Resort, I lost the RoR bearing khata No.232, Plot No.491, Lost anywhere on the way. I have lodged complaint in the Baliapanda Police Station in this respect. If any benevolent person get the aforesaid RoR, Kindly inform to the Baliapanda Police Station or to the Advocate Dipti Ranjan Baral Mob (7008424871) within seven days.



CITU, AIKS and AIAWU activists demonstrate, as part of a nation-wide campaign seeking fulfillment of various demands under MGNREGA, at Master Canteen, Bhubaneswar, Monday

## WHO acknowledges Odisha's Polio vaccination programme

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 1:** Odisha's Polio vaccination programme and routine immunisation have been acknowledged as good practices by World Health Organisation (WHO) which stated that Odisha's good practices can be learning experiences. It also appreciated tracking children in reproductive and child health registers and monthly reporting in HMIS.

The children in the age group 0-5 years were provided with polio drops till March 1 across the state. The polio immunisation drive was organised in Polio booths. This apart, the health workers moved door-to-door for giving polio drops to kids to ensure that no one is left. As per reports, this year about 1,85,901 kids were given polio drops under polio immunisation drive. The health workers visited about 3,68,805 houses to provide polio drops. In the urban areas, about 55,100 kids got polio immunisation while in the rural areas the total number of kids who got polio drops is 1,30,801. It is to be noted that Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Saturday launched the National Polio Immunisation Drive for 2022 by administering polio drops to children below five years of age at the health ministry.

# Cautious approach needed for AI use in medical research, say experts

One week social-media users are generating and sharing amusing images using Artificial Intelligence (AI), the next we hear AI can predict the structure of over 200 million proteins. AI is particularly well placed to revolutionise medical research. The technology helps in two vital ways: it optimises research, and it can make discoveries that humans have not. AI is unshackled from the limitations that come with human researchers: it can trawl deep datasets exponentially faster, never needs to take a break, and never succumbs to illness or fatigue.

derstanding of the human mystique of how we think or it will lead to more breakthroughs, leading to super intelligence... It took 40 years, but I think we're basically there." None of this means the rise of the machines is imminent. Despite its advances, AI is still encumbered by technical limitations. AI pioneer Yosua Bengio said in 2021 that deep learning was not "anywhere close today to the level of intelligence of a two-year-old child". A study by Pugliese et al (2021) finds that more and more medical research is mentioning "machine learning". "But maybe we have algorithms that are equivalent to lower animals, for perception. And we're gradually climbing this ladder in terms of tools that allow an entity to explore its environment," he said. Much more work needs to be done to perfect the technology, and there is no foreseeable date by which humans will be superfluous to the



world of medical research. There is also the matter of ethics in AI, in which legislators will have to parse a minefield of questions about issues ranging from data collection to intellectual property and beyond. In the meantime, leading minds continue to use machine learning and AI to innovate and expand the horizon of what's possible in med-

ical research. Between 2000 and 2019, the research community became much more interested in AI: the global output of AI research grew from 52,000 journal publications and conference papers in 2000 to roughly 403,000 in 2019. AI is projected to contribute US\$15.7 trillion to the 2030 global economy. Nine in 10 of the 100 healthcare executives surveyed in

Much more work needs to be done to perfect the technology, and there is no foreseeable date by which humans will be superfluous to the world of medical research. There is also the matter of ethics in AI, in which legislators will have to parse a minefield of questions about issues ranging from data collection to intellectual property and beyond

ment, many unknowns will become known. What causes diseases to spread, worsen and change, and additional early signs or symptoms that research has yet to uncover, should reveal themselves with the new frontiers made possible by automated AI," Hiroaki Kitano, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. "The use of AI in making medical decisions is still new and many barriers need to be overcome before it is used widely in clinical practice. For it to reach its full capacity, wider research and more rigorous approaches are needed to grapple with the ethical issues it raises." Alexander Merkin, Auckland University of Technology said

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SELFIE TIME



Girls taking a selfie at Jail Square in Sambalpur on the occasion of Sambalpuri Din, Monday

OP PHOTO

Rare black tiger wows Twitterati

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 1: A rare black tiger was sighted at Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district the video of which has gone viral on social media.

The 16-second video captured in a trap camera and shared on Twitter shows a black tiger trying to climb a tree and later leaving the place in the wildlife sanctuary. The video has been shared by Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Parveen Kaswan with a caption and additional details on the rare species. Kaswan wrote, "The black tigers of #India. Do You know there are pseudo-melanistic tigers found in Similipal. They are due to genetic mutation & highly rare."

The video has gained instant traction as Twitter users admired the rarely seen wild animal. Similarly, another IFS officer Susanta Nanda has also shared the video on his Twitter page with a caption - "Tigers are symbol of sustainability of India's forests... Sharing an interesting clip of a rare melanistic tiger marking its



territory on international Tigers day. From a Tiger Reserve poised for recovery of an isolated source population with a very unique gene pool. Kudos."

Notably, the Royal Bengal Tigers (RBTs) living in jungles scratch

the tree trunks to prevent other tigers from straying into their areas. The black or pseudo-melanistic tigers - with distinctive dark stripe pattern on a light background of white or golden - are rare and have only been camera-trapped in Similipal till date. These species have been living in Similipal wildlife sanctuary for the last 30 years.

The reason behind the majestic black stripes of melanistic tigers is mutation. They are RBTs with a single base mutation in a particular gene.

This mutation causes the tigers' distinctive black stripes to enlarge and spread into the orange background.

Experts are of the opinion that different mutations in this particular gene cause identical changes in the coat colour of other species of cats including cheetahs.

'DREAM COME TRUE'

Berhampur cyclist on expedition to Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 1: Passion for cycling took K Tirumal Kumar to Ladakh's Khardung La Pass, one of the highest motorable roads in the world.

The resident of Berhampur city of Ganjam district had pedalled around 500 km from Manali in Himachal Pradesh to Khardung La from July 2 to 12.



During their 10-day rigorous cycling, they traversed through Rohtang, Baralacha and Nakeela paths and finally reached Khardung La. Several other cyclists and motorists from other states also travelled on the road during their journey. "After reaching Khardung La, I felt like the dream came true for me," he said in Berhampur Sunday during a felicitation by the Ganjam Chamber of Commerce.

"It was a challenging and an adventurous trip," Kumar said, adding that he neither changed the bicycle during the journey nor required any medical assistance.

Kumar, who undertook such an adventure for the first time, cycled around 50 km daily on an average and took rest near any spring before dusk.

For Kumar, cycling has been his passion from childhood. Once he pedalled from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur - about 170 km - in an eight-hour journey.

The purpose of the Khardung La journey was to promote cycling, especially among youngsters. "Age is no bar for a person for cycling, but a strong willpower is necessary for this," he said.

Pact with NIOT soon to combat coastal erosion



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, August 1: At a time when surging tidal waves are eating into the land mass in coastal areas of Ganjam district, the state government has decided to tie up with Chennai based-National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to curb the menace, a report said.

The state government has approved a proposal for signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NIOT which functions under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences. The pact will be inked soon with NIOT, which will provide necessary technical assistance to combat erosion along the coast.

The matter came to the fore when Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida informed the mediapersons, Monday, about the district administration's plan to establish a model colony for the erosion-hit residents. The state government will work jointly with NIOT to prepare a long term, effective and climate conducive action plan, said sources.

A survey will be conducted at erosion-prone places and a model colony will be established to rehabilitate the residents, the Collector said. A technical team will conduct a survey in the areas where coastal erosion is taking place.

"Arrangements are being made to immediately provide houses to the residents whose houses have been washed away," the Collector added.

Reports said the surging sea waves are constantly eroding the coastal areas of five seaside blocks in Ganjam district for which the residents are in a state of panic. The complete washout of six houses by surging sea waves at Podampeta village under Palibandh panchayat of Ganjam block, Sunday, has caused panic. Now, only seven houses are left in this area, said sources.

Aryapalli village under Chhatrapur block and Podampeta village under Ganjam block bear the testimony to continuous coastal erosion taking place in the district.

According to the residents, earlier the sea was at a distance of 2 km from their village but now it has come closer to their villages with only a

ACTION PLAN

The state govt will work jointly with NIOT to prepare a long-term, effective and climate conducive action plan

A survey will be conducted in erosion-prone coastal areas and a model colony will be established to rehabilitate the residents

A technical team will conduct a survey in the areas where coastal erosion is taking place

few metres left to touch the habitations. They claimed that frequent occurrences of low-pressure triggered cyclonic storms have resulted in surging sea water lashing the beach and sometimes approaching towards their villages.

The residents have urged the state government and district administration to intervene in the issue. Several houses, boats and properties of residents have been destroyed after being hit by the tidal ingress recently.

On the other hand, environmentalists have held global warming responsible for the prolonged erosion of the coast. Earlier, houses have been built and provided to the residents in the seaside villages and Chilika lake under Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP). Even people from Podampeta have been evacuated and rehabilitated in houses built at New Podampeta.

Notably, several houses in the coastal areas were destroyed during cyclonic storm 'Phailin' in 2013. Later, the state government with the assistance from World Bank constructed 16,290 houses under ODRP scheme in Chhatrapur, Ganjam, Khallikote, Chikiti and Rangellunda blocks to rehabilitate the affected residents.

Drought fear looms large in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, August 1: Though heavy rains lashed various parts of the state a week ago, insufficient rainfall in many pockets of Ganjam district has affected the growth of paddy saplings, raising concern over the Kharif production of the staple crop, a report said.

It said many areas of the district have not received rainfall since a week. Farmlands are dry while paddy saplings have started wilting due to lack of water under a scorching sun.

Farmers are apprehensive that such a condition is a prelude to drought while agricultural activities have already been delayed in many localities.

"Farmlands are dry now. If there

is no rain in a week, paddy saplings will definitely die. In many areas, irrigation facility is still a dream. Saving the saplings will be a difficult task. The paddy saplings badly need water at this point of time," some farmers said.

Meanwhile, a group of farmers from 'Rushikulya Ryot Mahasabha' has submitted a memorandum to the Collector, apprising him of the ground situation. Farmlands where seedlings have been sown have cracked open. The farmers have urged the Collector to ensure that all lift irrigation points, be it government or private, are made operational.

They also sought intervention of the Collector to direct the irrigation authorities to release water through Jaymangala, Hiradharbati and Rushikulya canals.

185 high schools to be upgraded

Balasure: Altogether 185 high schools in Balasure district will be transformed under 5T initiative of the state government, as per a decision taken during the district-level review meeting of headmasters and headmistresses. District Collector Shinde Dattatraya Bhausaheb deliberated on various plans and programmes to transform the high schools and make them more student-friendly.

Close shave for Talsara ex-MLA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, August 1: Former Congress MLA from Talsara Prafulla Majhi had a close shave when his car met with an accident at Katangidih near Subdega in the district, Monday morning.

Sources said the former legislator was travelling in a car to somewhere on some work, when another vehicle suddenly came in front of his car. The mishap occurred after the driver lost control over the wheels.

The vehicle skidded off the road and overturned.

The car has been severely damaged in the mishap while Majhi and his driver were rescued safely, said sources.

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**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property) [Rule- 3 (1)]

Publication of Notice regarding possession of Properties u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice under section 13(2) was issued on the date mentioned against below accounts and stated hereinafter calling upon the following Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest 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 and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the date mentioned against below accounts. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, for an amount stated below with interest, costs and expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Account / Name & Address of the Borrowers	Owner of the Property	Description of the Properties Mortgaged / Charged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Dues Amount
<b>Borrower: Sri Abhiram Sahoo,</b> Plot No.: 797/B, Talasahi, Laxmi Sagar, Bhubaneswar-751006, Dist.: Khurda	<b>Sri Abhiram Sahoo</b>	All that Part and Parcel of the property situated at Mouza: Panchagaon, Tahasil: Jatni, P.S.: Bhubaneswar, Hal P.S.: Airfield, P.S.No.: 30, Sub Registrar: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda, In Khata No.: 469/409, Plot No.: 390, Area: Ac.0.555 Dec., Khata No.: 469/408, Plot No.: 392, Area: Ac.0.115 Dec., Total Area: Ac.0.670 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, out of which undivided impartible interest measuring Ac.0.010.04 Dec.i.e. 437 Sq.ft, Flat No.: 608, Carpet Area: 926 Sq.ft., Built up Area: 1056 Sq.ft, Supper Built up Area: 1350 Sq.ft. in 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Block-B, Type-2BR of the apartment named and styled as "BAISHNODEVI ENCLAVE" title in the name of Abhiram Sahoo. Bounded by North: Flat No.: 609, South: Pathway, East: Pathway, West: Corridor.	16.04.2022	29.07.2022	₹34,17,972/- as on 13.04.2022 + further interest from 13.04.2022, costs, etc. thereon
<b>Borrower: Mr. Mohammad Gulam Mahiuddin,</b> S/o.: Mohammad Ali Raza Quadri, At: Rathipur, P.O.: Kania, Via: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda, PIN- 752050	<b>Mr. Mohammad Gulam Mahiuddin</b>	All that Part and Parcel of the property situated at Mouza: Panchagaon, Tahasil: Jatni, P.S.: Bhubaneswar, Hal P.S.: Airfield, P.S.No.: 30, Sub Registrar: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda, In Khata No.: 469/409, Plot No.: 390, Area: Ac.0.555 Dec., Khata No.: 469/408, Plot No.: 392, Area: Ac.0.115 Dec., Total Area: Ac.0.670 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, out of which undivided impartible interest measuring Ac.0.008.81 Dec.i.e. 384 Sq.ft Flat No.: 607, Carpet Area: 833 Sq.ft., Built up Area: 943 Sq.ft, Supper Built up Area: 1226 Sq.ft. in 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Block-B, Type-2BR of the apartment named and styled as "BAISHNODEVI ENCLAVE" title in the name of Mohammad Gulam Mahiuddin. Bounded by North: Corridor, South: Pathway, East: Pathway, West: Pathway.	16.04.2022	29.07.2022	₹30,54,592/- as on 13.04.2022 + further interest from 13.04.2022, costs, etc. thereon

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Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004,  
Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha

**VEHICLE AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

Applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank on "As is where is basis" as per terms and conditions listed below. This public notice will be treated as a notice to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of the loans. They are hereby advised to be present at the auction venue on the auction date and are free to liquidate their entire dues before the auction date, failing which the vehicles will be auctioned and balance dues, if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost.

Sl No.	Branch/ Contact Number	Name of Borrower	Vehicle No.	Make & Model	Month / Year of Manufacturing	Reserve Price
1.		Pradeep Mishra	OR 16 C 7353	BAJAJ AUTO	12/2017	₹72,000/-
2.		Sukumari Dila	OR 16 D 9472	ATUL AUTO	01/2017	₹89,000/-
3.		Sumanta Dung Dung	OD 16 D 5434	ATUL AUTO LTD	10/2017	₹82,500/-
4.	SUNDARGARH / 7609973329	Sarojini Minz	OD 14 N 6290	ATUL AUTO LTD	12/2017	₹77,000/-
5.		Shankar Sekhar Deo	OD 16 E 4463	ATUL AUTO LTD	04/2018	₹85,000/-
6.		Khetra Minz	OD 16 D 5705	ATUL AUTO LTD	11/2017	₹57,500/-
7.		Naba Soren	OD 16 G 7312	ATUL GEM	04/2018	₹90,000/-
8.		Md Azad Khan	OD 23 F 5700	BAJAJ	08/2017	₹85,000/-
9.	AMBAGOAN/ 8407004382	Pramod Kumar Tanty	OD 14 R 9976	BAJAJ AUTO	03/2019	₹1,22,200/-
10.		Sagir Khan	OD 14 P 2412	ATUL AUTO LTD	06/2018	₹95,900/-
11.		Ghanshyam Suna	OD 14 T 6725	PIAGGIO	12/2019	₹1,23,900/-
12.		Ghanshyam Suna	OD 14 P 9058	PIAGGIO	08/2018	₹1,03,800/-
13.	CHHEND/ 7061898776	Gurua Bhumi	OD 14 L 3151	PIAGGIO	08/2017	₹75,200/-
14.		Manoranjan Sethi	OD 14 L 6110	PIAGGIO	09/2017	₹87,300/-

Auction Date & Time : 17.08.2022, 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M., Auction Venue: At the Concerned Branch as stated above, EMD is 10% of the Reserve Price mentioned above.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1) Applications accompanied by ID/address proof copy (originals to be verified) and EMD as applicable for each vehicle in shape of Banker's cheque/Draft drawn in favour of Union Bank of India, payable at Concerned Branch should reach on or before 16.08.2022 upto 11.00 A.M. 2) However the bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction process of any/all vehicles at its own discretion at any point of time without assigning any reason whatsoever. 3) Bid amount does not include any statutory tax pending and applicable RTA fees. All these cost are additional and must be borne by the successful bidder. 4) Dispute pertaining to year of manufacture, documents, condition of vehicle/assets, etc. will not be consider after successful bid. 5) Entry to the event is strictly restricted to the registered bidder only. 6) The refund of EMD will be made immediately after the closure of the bidding process to the unsuccessful bidders. 7) Successful Highest bidder has to deposit a minimum amount of 25% of the bid amount inclusive EMD on the same day, failing which the bid taken will not be considered as EMD amount will be forfeited without further intimation. 8) The balance should be paid by the successful bidder within next 15 days from the date of auction. 9) Delayed interest @18%p.a. will be charged against any amount due and payable by the successful bidder beyond 15 days from the date of the event, subject to a maximum waiting period of 22 days from the date of auction. 10) Default in payment beyond the stipulated 22 days, will lead to deal cancellation and forfeiture of EMD paid and the vehicle/equipment/machinery will be resold without further information. Acceptance of payment on later date will be sole discretion of Bank. 11) Successful Bidders are fully responsible for taking delivery of all vehicles or equipment from Stockyard after full payment is made. 12) Successful bidders must remove the vehicles/equipments within 7 days from the date of release order along with RC Transfer in to their name.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 01.08.2022

Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

FOCUS POLITICS

# PRESSURES OF PATCHWORK



This new combination guided and aided by the BJP today sits uneasy. It faces a host of pressures from those who have switched sides with many hopes and promises that will not be easy to meet

It is now more than a month since the Maharashtra government led by Uddhav Thackeray of the Shiv Sena was ousted after a dramatic coup and mass desertions, including by as many as nine ministers. Something was happening inside the party that neither the Chief Minister then, nor his politician-son Aaditya or the particularly vocal party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut had a clue about. The inner rumblings were evidently unseen and unheard, if they were noticed at all.

Now, other kinds of rumblings are troubling the new patchwork alliance of a breakaway Shiv Sena and the BJP, with rebel Eknath Shinde as the Chief Minister. This new combination guided and aided by the BJP today sits uneasy. It faces a host of pressures from those who have switched sides with many hopes and promises that will not be easy to meet. A sign of this has been that the state government had not been able to announce a cabinet yet, one month into the formation of the new government. Since June 30, when Shinde took office, Maharashtra has been run by a micro non-cabinet of two (the rebel Shiv Sainiks, the CM and the BJP's Devendra Fadnis as the deputy CM) as the new power structure balances pressures and decides how to distribute the rewards of the coup. There are other uncomfortable adjustments that are taking time to work out. Among them is that the BJP has the largest share of MLAs (106 in a house of 288) and while it wants to prop Shinde its eventual goal is to build its people and their power bases. The BJP will look for a bigger share in power. Further, accommodating as many as 29 independent MLAs who support the Shinde faction with political positions will be difficult if not impossible.

At the heart of this is the weak political position of the new CM, who certainly has enough BJP support but very little of his own story that he can take to the people of Maharashtra while all the other key players have their interests and stories at work.

The BJP has divided and broken the Shiv Sena. Within it is a "we-told-you-so" story from the BJP - they promised to and have taught the son of Bal Thackeray, Uddhav,

has his story on how Shinde, a man he trusted, stabbed him in the back, just when he was recovering from surgery in hospital - an act not of rebellion but of betrayal of the worst kind that is not usually the stuff of the Shiv Sena. Aaditya, who has attracted a lot of attention of the youth and liberals given his support on environment issues has a subtler story of his own - the story of a new generation, learning and taking humble bows as he goes across the state to connect with the masses. Some of the responses have been powerful - people tearing up to welcome those who were betrayed. The only one who does not have a powerful story yet is Shinde, who will find it difficult to escape the obvious story that he got a berth by selling out to the BJP.

Making it worse for the victors is the fact that even the BJP local leader and former CM Devendra Fadnis, who evidently had a hand in orchestrating the coup, was "asked" at the last minute to join the new government as Deputy CM. Fadnis had told reporters he would stay out of the government, but joined as Shinde's deputy when the party directed him to do so.

This gives a new potential fillip to the idea on which the Shiv Sena

was formed and rocketed upward in the public mind in the first place and even came under police watch given the violent approach it advocated - the politics of the so-called "sons-of-the-soil." In the early days, the party led agitations to ask that Maharashtra youth be employed by banks, railways, other large PSUs and private sector companies. The party has led countless hyper local agitations - in bank branches, sometimes in the Western region headquarters in Mumbai, at the offices of the railway recruiting boards and others. On the other hand, was the Shiv Sena's working for the ordinary person - fighting to get water connections re-started, roads fixed, even selling at low cost when others fleeced on ordinary goods and commodities - leading the BJP leader Pramod Mahajan to once comment that the Shiv Sena does the right things the wrong way.

Rebellion is not unknown in the Shiv Sena. The party has seen rebellions - three of them big - even during the time of Bal Thackeray. Among them was Uddhav's cousin Raj Thackeray, who quit in 2005, when Bal Thackeray was alive. The party survived what looked then like tremors but turned out to be hiccups because of the way Thackeray moved crowds. "I have the remote control of politics and

the remote control will remain with me," Thackeray said in an editorial in the party newspaper Saamna when he turned 84, some two years before he passed away. The throngs of mourners at the funeral in Shivaji Park showed how much people loved him.

Aaditya has started touring the state with a "Shiv Samvaad" yatra. The message that is being taken to the people is about the backstabbing and betrayal of Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena. The attempt by the Thackerays is to re-connect with the people, to paper over charges of distance and inaccessibility and to re-establish the connection that Bal Thackeray had with the Maharashtra masses. In doing so, the Shiv Sena will somewhere be going back to its nativist roots, and at the same time signalling that they will fight back with force and vigour - something that will be difficult now that all the resources of the government are trained against them. But betrayal for personal gain is a powerful story that has an emotional connection, and the Thackerays will be going all out to build it further in the hinterlands of Maharashtra.

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press.



Lekha Rattanani

REBELLION IS NOT UNKNOWN IN THE SHIV SENA. THE PARTY HAS SEEN REBELLIONS - THREE OF THEM BIG -- EVEN DURING THE TIME OF BAL THACKERAY

The existence of poverty is the proof of an unjust and ill-organised society, and our public charities are but the first tardy awakening in the conscience of a robber.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Arab Spring Over

It is a pity that Tunisia, the cradle of the Arab Spring movement that led to the fall of autocratic rule, violence and beginning of democracy across much of the Arab world about a decade back, is now back to virtual dictatorship by its President Kais Saied through a so-called constitutional route. Saied has got the seal of approval to constitutional change he has proposed in a referendum in which nearly 93 per cent of the country's voters have given the "yes" vote. Tunisia was the last bastion of the movement for democratic rule after some other Arab countries that had embraced democracy had given way to autocracy.

Exactly a year before the referendum, Saied had sacked a democratically elected government and froze the parliament. According to the Opposition parties, this was nothing short of a coup. Though the final results will not be known before a month, unofficial figures show an overwhelming 92-93 per cent of those who voted supported the new constitution. Soon after it became clear the verdict was going in his favour, Saied told his supporters Tunisia "has entered a new phase."

Only around a third of 9.3 million registered voters exercised their franchise for which the Opposition alliance has questioned the legitimacy of the reforms with nearly 70 per cent of the voters staying away from the exercise. Even then the turnout was higher than many observers had expected, which only suggests Saied continues to enjoy personal popularity almost three years after sacking the government. Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, head of the National Salvation Front that includes Saied's main rivals, accused the election commission of falsifying the figures of votes cast. In fact, the President has seized control of the election machinery, appointing three of the seven members, including the chief. He has also sacked several judges of the country's Supreme Court. Saied's critics have warned the new constitution would give enormous powers in the hands of the President signalling Tunisia's return to dictatorship. The new constitution seeks to invest the President with the powers to command the army, allow him to appoint a government without parliamentary approval and make it virtually impossible to remove him from office. He can also present draft laws to parliament, which would be obliged to give its approval.

Sadly, the Arab Spring movement crashed after the revolutions were overturned first by military coup in Egypt, then by Saudi intervention in Bahrain and eventually by Gulf support for Syria's government. Tunisia has so long been seen as the last hope to make the people and not autocrats the supreme in managing the country's affairs. But, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have lent their support to Saied after the political parties let the people down by indulging in corruption and failing to tackle the severe unemployment crisis. The political parties are to blame for the hybrid parliamentary system being replaced by a presidential model that gives Saied unfettered powers to rule.

Arab watchers, however, say the transition from dictatorship to democracy has never been smooth anywhere in the world. Apathy and fatigue have crept in Tunisia's political discourse due to the failure of the political parties to stem the economic rot. President Saied could become entrenched in power because of the disillusionment of the people with the political parties. The support of 30 per cent of the population is no mean figure.

The referendum in Tunisia is definitely a setback for the fledgling, hybrid democracy. But, the trajectory of revolutionary change across the world follows the pattern of one step forward and one step backward. The Arab Spring seems to be no exception.

### WISDOM CORNER

- All our knowledge begins with the senses, proceeds then to the understanding, and ends with reason. There is nothing higher than reason. **IMMANUEL KANT**
- Take a chance! All life is a chance. The man who goes farthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. **DALE CARNEGIE**
- Time changes everything except something within us which is always surprised by change. **THOMAS HARDY**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Viatical

This adjective is first cited in the OED from 1847, deriving from the Latin viaticum, related to via, "way; road", which has been used in English since medieval times in the Roman Catholic Church for the Eucharist given to someone dying or in danger of death; in more general usage, though it is a rare and rather formal word, it retains the original Latin sense of "articles for use on a journey; travelling expenses". Since about 1991, viatical has taken on a new figurative sense referring to the purchase of a dying person's insurance policy to give immediate cash for medical treatment and living expenses; the full term is viatical settlement. The scheme developed to help people with AIDS but has since been extended to any terminally ill person needing money. The technique can bring valuable benefits to those helped but unscrupulous operators have sometimes taken unfair advantage and there are ethical implications when health organisations or doctors become involved. The purchaser of the policy has to continue to pay the premiums until the subject of the policy dies, so he is in effect betting on how long the seller will survive. For this reason, such purchases have been dubbed death futures. A person selling a policy in this way is sometimes called in legal English a viator. The popularity of the scheme has waned in recent times as the success of treatments for AIDS has extended life expectancy.

#### Vilipend

Vilipend is a verb meaning to regard as worthless or of little value or to despise or vilify. Etymologically speaking, to define vilipend using vilify is to commit a tautology, since both derive from Latin vilis, vile or worthless, which is also obviously enough the source of English vile. Vilipend also includes the verb pendere, to weigh or estimate. To vilipend is to weigh somebody in the balance and find them not worth considering. It appeared in English in the fifteenth century and was a popular term right down into the nineteenth, though it has since dropped out of sight. In 1771 Tobias Smollett put it into the mouth of a character in Humphry Clinker: "I would not willingly vilipend any Christian, if, peradventure, he deserveth that epithet". Sir Walter Scott employed it in Waverley in 1814: "He became a gay visitor, and such a reveller, that in process of time he was observed to vilipend the modest fare which had at first been esteemed a banquet by his hungry appetite, and thereby highly displeased my wife." If you would like an obscure deprecatory term and for some reason calumny and contumelious don't meet your needs, you could do worse than the related word vilipenditory.

### LOL

#### I did all of that?

After a particularly poor game of golf, a popular club member skipped the clubhouse and started to go home. As he was walking to the parking lot to get his car, a policeman stopped him and asked, "Did you tee off on the sixteenth hole about twenty minutes ago?" "Yes," the golfer responded. "Did you happen to hook your ball so that it went over the trees and off the course?" "Yes, I did. How did you know?" he



asked. "Well," said the policeman very seriously, "Your ball flew out onto the highway and crashed through a driver's windshield. The car went out of control, crashing into five other cars and a fire truck. The fire truck couldn't make it to the fire, and the building burned down. So, what are you going to do about it?" The golfer thought it over carefully and responded... "I think I'll close my stance a little bit, tighten my grip and lower my right thumb."

### SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

## Not an arena for politics



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

SINCE THE END OF THE COLD WAR, THE ISS HAS BEEN A MAJOR PLATFORM FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE WEST AND RUSSIA

The new Russian space agency chief announcing to pull out of the International Space Station (ISS) project by 2024 on the ground of the Western sanctions against Russia due to its invasion of Ukraine, has come as a disappointment for the scientific community of the world as the space station is a platform for furthering scientific pursuits and not an arena for politicising an event. Russia's space agency already ran into controversy when it recently show-cased images of its cosmonauts onboard the ISS celebrating Moscow's capture of the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk.

Since the end of the Cold War, the ISS has been a major platform for cooperation between the West and Russia. The ISS was an international collaborative effort of the USA (NASA), Russia (Roscosmos), Europe (European Space Agency), Japan (Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency) and Canada (Canadian Space Agency). The station served as a space based lab in which scientific research in various fields such as astrobiology, as-

tronomy, meteorology and physics could be carried out in zero-gravity conditions which normally is not possible on the Earth. The data was used to test human endurance in space for long duration stays that would ultimately pave the way for building permanent human colonies in space. As of 2010, the total cost of the project was 150 billion USD.

The ISS is the ninth space station to be inhabited by crews following the Russian Mir and the American Skylab space stations. It is the largest man-made object put into space and the largest satellite in low Earth orbit to be regularly visible to the naked eye. It maintains an orbit with an average altitude of 400 km circling the Earth in about 93 minutes.

One of the most complex engineering projects ever attempted, the ISS is made up of two primary segments: one managed by the NASA and the other by Roscosmos. While the Russian segment incorporates six modules, the US segment includes ten modules. The ISS consists of pressurised habitation modules for humans, structural

trusses, photovoltaic solar arrays, thermal radiators, docking ports, experiment bays and robotic arms for scientific explorations. Major ISS modules have been launched by Russian Proton and Soyuz rockets and various US space shuttles. The station is regularly serviced by a variety of visiting spacecrafts from stakeholder nations mainly the Russian Soyuz and Progress and the US Space X. As of April 2022, 251 astronauts, cosmonauts and space tourists from 20 different nations have visited the space station, many of them multiple times.

The ISS was launched from Baikonur cosmodrome of Russia in 1998, and the first long-term human residents arrived on 2 November 2000. The station has since been continuously occupied for more than 21 years, the longest continuous human presence in low Earth orbit, having surpassed the previous record of nine years and 357 days held by the Mir space station. Although ISS was initially agreed upon by parties to function upto 2024, it was later decided to extend its operation till 2030 through

additional funding.

If Russia does leave the project, this would, no doubt, seriously jeopardize the activity of the space station as the Russian side provides the crucial propulsion mechanism that keeps the platform afloat in orbit. Regular cargo and crew missions by Russia's Soyuz and Progress rockets supply the necessary fuel to the propulsion engines of the spacecraft that boost its height periodically to compensate the height loss due to atmospheric air drag. Without these periodical boostings, the space station would dangerously spiral into the Earth's atmosphere eventually burning out in air. As the US side simply looks after the power and communication system of the space station, it seems unlikely that the US and its partner nations would quickly find a solution to the vital propulsion system to keep the aging spacecraft get going in the event of a Russian withdrawal.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

## 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  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### ED jolt to Raut

Sir, The Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena received yet another jolt to the Enforcement Directorate detaining the party's chief spokesman and four-time Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut in connection with the ₹1,034-crore Patra Chawl redevelopment scam. It is alleged that the firebrand Shiv Sena leader arranged chawl developer Pravin Raut's meetings with developers in Dubai and funnelled the kickbacks into his wife's bank account. Raut was also ignored two ED summons for questioning, citing the Parliament session.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

#### Hazardous tie

Sir, Recently I read a nice article on how and why wearing a tie is not conducive in Indian conditions, and the attire is no longer considered a social status in our country. Indian professionals are rather happy to get rid of the necktie. Studies reveal that wearing a tie results in a significant dip in blood flow to the brain. And, as a trial, when an MRI scan test was made on men wearing ties to measure the blood flow to the head, it was found that their brains, on average, received 7.5% less "cerebral blood flow." Scientists attributed the lower blood flow to the narrowing of the carotid arteries which carry blood away from the heart, under the pressure of the tie. Also, the British Journal of Ophthalmology says that wearing ties could raise the risk of glaucoma, cataracts and other injuries.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

#### Whither quality

Sir, The majority of engineering colleges in our nation are owned by politicians, celebrities, businessmen. These colleges are only in operation to make money and do not offer their students a quality education. As a result, engineering graduates remain unemployed. All engineering colleges are connected with technological varisities and accredited by the AICTE. For any college of engineering the Center of Excellence (CoE) promotes collaboration between business and academia. CoE will benefit process and product by assisting students to get actively participating in real-world difficulties. CoE must be suggested in each and every engineering college in order to address the skill demand-supply gap, maintain a steady flow of skilled engineers, and spread best practises. Every engineering college should be made mandatory to incorporate CoE in order to improve quality of education by AICTE, UGC, and all technological varisities.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

# national

## of the day quote

An AI roadmap has also been finalised for each defence PSU under which 70 defence specific AI projects have been identified for development. Out of these projects, 40 projects have been completed

**AJAY BHATT** | MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

The government is going to present the budget for the fiscal 2022-2023 in the next few weeks. The Chief Minister has not made it clear as to how much of grants the Centre has sanctioned

**V NARAYANASAMY** | CONGRESS LEADER EX-PONDICHERRY CM

Raja (the king) gets angry when asked questions on unemployment. The truth is this - he is not capable of providing employment. The youth are an 'asset' of the country, BJP is showing them as 'liability'

**RAHUL GANDHI** | CONGRESS LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Maha Guv apologises

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, facing flak over his "Mumbai will have no money if the Gujaratis and Rajasthanis were to leave" remarks, Monday apologised for the same. Koshiyari made the controversial comments during a function to name a chowk (intersection) in suburban Andheri Friday evening. 'I tell people here that if Gujaratis and Rajasthanis are removed from Maharashtra, especially from Mumbai and Thane, you will be left with no money and Mumbai will not be a financial capital,' he had said. A statement issued by Raj Bhavan Monday evening quoted Koshiyari as saying that he is confident that people of Maharashtra will display their large heart and forgive him for his recent remarks. Koshiyari said he may have committed a mistake while speaking about the contribution of some members of society, during his Andheri speech.

### 7 from Punjab drown in HP lake

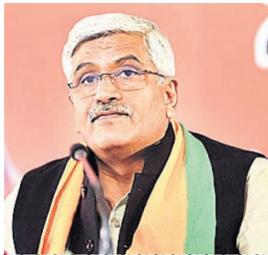
**Shimla:** Seven men belonging to Punjab drowned Monday in the Gobind Sagar lake on the Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh's Una district while swimming, police said. A majority of the victims were aged between 16 and 18 years.

### Three railway officers held

**New Delhi:** The CBI has arrested five persons including three senior railway officers over an alleged bribery racket wherein vendors paid regular kickbacks to get preferential goods rake allotment at Bihar's Hajipur, officials said Monday. The agency said the three arrested railway officials are Sanjay Kumar, from the Indian Railways Traffic Service's 1996 batch, Rupesh Kumar and Sachin Mishra (both from the 2011 batch).

### Solih begins 4 day India visit

**New Delhi:** Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih began a four-day visit to India Monday to inject a new momentum to the close and expanding strategic partnership between the two countries. Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan welcomed Solih on his arrival at the Delhi airport. The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and the overall bilateral ties, including in areas of defence and security, have been on an upward trajectory in the past few years.



Based on water quality monitoring results, pollution assessment of rivers has been carried out by CPCB from time to time  
**GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT** | UNION MINISTER FOR JAL SHAKTI

## NTR'S DAUGHTER DIES BY SUICIDE

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao's daughter Kanthamaneni Uma Maheswari allegedly committed suicide in Hyderabad Monday. Maheswari, 52, hanged herself at her residence in upmarket Jubilee Hills



# Normal monsoon in Aug-Sept: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** India will receive normal monsoon rains in August-September, particularly in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand - regions that have received the lowest rainfall in 119 years, the weather office said Monday.

Rainfall in the east and north-eastern regions, the rice bowl of the country, has been 45 per cent lesser than normal in July, but the forecast for the next two months has raised hopes for better showers, at least in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, Director General of India Meteorological Department (IMD) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during a virtual press conference. "There is some scope for recovery of high rain deficiency in Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal and East Uttar Pradesh. But some deficiency may remain in Bihar and some northeastern states," he said.

The earlier lowest rains for the east and northeastern region was in 1903 when the deficiency was 41.3 per cent below the normal level for the season.

He said rainfall across the country during the August-September period of the southwest monsoon season was most likely to be normal, i.e., 94 to 106 per cent of Long Period Average (LPA).

India has received seven per cent excess rains this season between June 1 and July 31, but the distribution has been uneven, with rice producing states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Gangetic West Bengal reporting deficient rainfall.

"For August, the monthly rain-



Representational image

India is the world's biggest exporter of rice, a staple for Asia, and monsoon rains determine the size of the country's rice crop

Good output would help India maintain its preeminent position in the global rice market, but a prolonged spell of lower or uneven rains could hit the crop

India's top rice regions in the east - Bihar, Jharkhand and some parts of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh states - have recorded a rainfall deficit as high as 48%

As a result, rice planting has dropped by 13% so far this season

fall across the country as a whole is most likely to be normal, that is, 94 to 106 per cent of LPA," Mohapatra said.

He said 'normal' to 'above normal' rainfall is very likely in most parts of southeast India, northwest India and adjoining west central India, while the west coast and many parts of east central, east and northeast India may get lesser than expected showers.

Southwest monsoon had entered the break phase with the monsoon

trough, the band of low pressure area from west to east, shifting to the foothills of the Himalayas last week.

This monsoon trough is expected to shift southwards by August 5 and rainfall activity is likely to get revived in central India.

The weather office has forecast normal to above normal rainfall in most parts of southeast India, northwest India and adjoining west-central India for this month. However, below normal rainfall is likely in the west coast and many areas of east-central, east and northeast India, it said.

The maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal in many parts of east-central, east and north-east India and parts of northwest and south interior peninsular regions, the weather office said.

Hill areas in northwest parts of the country are likely to experience above normal minimum temperatures, it said, adding below normal minimum temperatures are likely to prevail over many parts of northwest, west central and southern India.

## Indian Antarctic Bill passed in RS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 1:** The Rajya Sabha Monday passed the Indian Antarctic Bill 2022 amid sloganeering by the opposition MPs which forced the adjournment of the House.

The Lok Sabha had given its approval to the Bill July 22.

The Indian Antarctic Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha by Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh. The bill was passed with a voice vote after a brief discussion amid protests by the opposition members.

The bill seeks to protect the environment of the Antarctic along with dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty. India has two active research stations in the Antarctic - Maitri and Bharti.

The bill proposes to prohibit Indian expedition to Antarctica without a permit or written authorisation of another party to the Antarctic Treaty. It also provides for inspection by an officer appointed by the government and for a penalty for contravention of certain provisions of the legislation.

The Upper House also listed the widely-demanded price rise issue for discussion Tuesday. Both the Houses witnessed repeated adjournments Monday amid protests by the opposition members.



## MONKEYPOX IN INDIA

# Govt forms task force to monitor situation



Representational image

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** A task force on monkeypox has been constituted to closely monitor the emerging situation in the country and decide on response initiatives to tackle the spread of the disease, official sources said on Monday.

It will also provide guidance to the government on expansion of diagnostic facilities in the country and explore emerging trends related to vaccination for the disease, the sources told PTI. Samples of a 22-year-old man, who died in Kerala last week, have come out positive for monkeypox Monday.

The man had recently returned from the UAE where also his samples had tested positive for the disease, official sources said. India has reported a total of five cases of the disease so far.

The decision to constitute the task force was taken at a high-level meeting held July 26 at the level of the principal secretary to the prime minister to review the ongoing public health preparedness in the country. The task force will be headed by Dr V K Paul, NITI Aayog member (health).

The National Aids Control Organisation and the Directorate General of Health Services in the

Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported from 75 countries

The Union Health Ministry has undertaken a number of initiatives which includes strengthening of health screening at Points of Entry and operationalisation of 15 laboratories under the ICMR to undertake testing for monkeypox disease

According to the WHO, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis -- a virus transmitted to humans from animals -- with symptoms similar to smallpox although clinically less severe

Health Ministry have been asked to work on a targeted communication strategy to promote timely reporting, detection of cases and management of cases, an official source said. Instructions were given to operationalise the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) network of labs and make arrangements for requisite diagnostics of monkeypox disease. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern.

# LS Speaker withdraws suspension of four MPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** A week after suspending them from the House for "unruly" behaviour, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Monday revoked the suspension of four Congress members, after seeking assurance from the Opposition that they will not bring placards to the House.

Birla also warned the members that he will take stringent action against those who violated the rules of procedure, which bars members from bringing any "exhibits" to the House.

Four Congress members -- Manickam Tagore, Ramya Haridas, T N Prathapan and S Jothimani were suspended last Monday from LS for the rest of the monsoon session for carrying placards and raising slogans inside the House.

The monsoon session of Parliament has seen scant business since it began July 18 as the House remained deadlocked over protests by the opposition which in-

sisted on taking up discussion on price rise and other issues. In addition, the suspension of the MPs also became an issue between the opposition parties and the government, causing disruptions.

With the revocation of suspension, the House resumed normal business. The ball for revocation of suspension was set rolling with the Speaker convening a meeting of floor leaders on Monday to end the stalemate in the House.

As the House re-convened at 2:00 pm, Birla said he was hurt by the incidents that took place in the House over the past two weeks and urged members to work towards upholding the dignity of the Lok Sabha.

"There should be a consensus that we do not get placards in the House. I will urge all political parties not to bring placards to the House. I am giving a final warning, if anyone gets placards to the House I will neither listen to the government nor the opposition and will take action," the Speaker said.

## PROTEST TURNS UGLY



Public Health Engineerings (PHE) daily wage employees scuffle with police personnel as they conduct a protest march demanding regularisation of their jobs in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

# Covid infection may accelerate brain ageing

COVID-19 IS KNOWN TO INVADE AND INFECT THE BRAIN, AMONG OTHER MAJOR ORGANS. SEVERAL BRAIN IMAGING STUDIES ON COVID VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS HAVE CONFIRMED THE FORMATION OF MICROBLEED LESIONS IN DEEPER BRAIN REGIONS RELATED TO OUR COGNITIVE AND MEMORY FUNCTIONS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi/New York, August 1:** Covid-19 infections may predispose individuals to developing irreversible neurological conditions, finds a study.

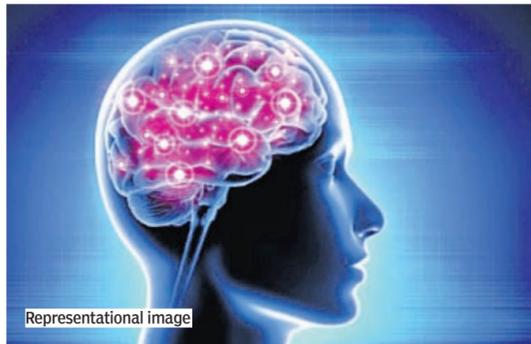
The study by Houston Methodist researchers showed that Covid infection may increase the likelihood of strokes and may increase the chance of developing persistent brain lesions that can lead to brain bleeding.

Covid-19 is known to invade and infect the brain, among other major organs. Several brain imaging studies on Covid victims

and survivors have confirmed the formation of microbleed lesions in deeper brain regions related to our cognitive and memory functions.

In the review study, published in the journal Ageing Research Reviews, researchers have critically evaluated the possible chronic neuropathological outcomes in ageing and comorbid populations if timely therapeutic intervention is not implemented.

Microbleeds are emerging neuropathological signatures frequently identified in people suffering from chronic stress, depressive disorders, diabetes and



Representational image

age-associated comorbidities.

Based on their earlier findings, the investigators discuss how Covid-induced micro-haemorrhagic lesions may exacerbate DNA damage in affected brain cells, resulting in neuronal senescence and activation of cell death mechanisms, which ultimately impact brain microstructure-vasculature.

These pathological phenomena resemble hallmarks of neurode-

generative conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and are likely to aggravate advanced-stage dementia, as well as cognitive and motor deficits.

Further, the review includes Covid's predispositions for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and related neurodegenerative diseases, as well as cardiovascular disorders due to internal bleeding and blood clotting-induced lesions in the part of the brain that regu-

lates our respiratory system, following the Covid symptoms.

In addition, cellular ageing is thought to be accelerated in Covid patients. A plethora of cellular stresses inhibit the virus-infected cells from undergoing their normal biological functions and let them enter into "hibernation mode" or even die completely.

The study also suggests various strategies to improve some of these long-term neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative outcomes, as well as outlines the importance of the therapeutic regimen of the "nanozyme" in combination with various FDA-approved drugs that may prove successful to fight against this catastrophic disease.

However, given the ever-evolving nature of this field, associations like the ones described in this review show the fight against Covid is far from over, said the researchers, and reinforce the message that getting vaccinated and maintaining proper hygiene are key in trying to prevent such long-term and detrimental consequences.



Representational image

There are over 20,000 pigs spread in 222 pig farms in Wayanad alone. Samples will be collected from these farms as part of surveillance, he said.

Kerala had in July tightened biosecurity measures following an alert from the Centre that African swine fever had been reported in Bihar and a few northeastern states.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), African swine fever is a highly contagious and fatal viral disease of domestic pigs.

It was first detected in Kenya, East Africa, in 1921 as a disease that killed settlers' pigs. Contact with warthogs was proven to be an important factor in transmission of the virus.



## 'Patronage' to drug mafia in Gujarat: Rahul, Priyanka



Is there law and order in Gujarat? Does mafia has no fear of law? Or is this the government of mafia?  
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER



Silence in the media; sluggish government; all the agencies of the government silent  
PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

### CONGRESS SLAMS BJP OVER GUJARAT HOCH TRAGEDY

NEW DELHI : The Congress Monday targeted the BJP over multiple issues related to Gujarat such as the hooch tragedy, rape charge against a state minister and the spread of lumpy disease, claiming it was not being allowed to raise such important matters in Parliament.

Addressing a press conference outside Parliament House, Congress spokesperson Shaktisinh Gohil claimed that 75 people lost their lives in the Gujarat hooch tragedy with many others losing their eyesight or kidneys after drinking spurious liquor despite the imposition of prohibition and strict laws on chemicals in the state.

According to officials, at least 42 people from Botad and neighbouring Ahmedabad district died after consuming the toxic brew July 25.

"The sarpanch had written to (the Gujarat) home minister and also had gone to police station flagging illegal alcohol sale. But since they (BJP leaders) were taking money, nothing happened. The sarpanch complained again, but no action was taken," Gohil, who is a Rajya Sabha member, alleged.

Gohil demanded that compensation be given immediately to those affected by the tragedy.

Alleging collusion of BJP leaders and those indulging in illegal alcohol trade, Gohil said 600 litres



of "methyl alcohol" (methanol) was brought from Ahmedabad to Botad district and it would not have been possible without political patronage.

He also cited drugs being found from Mundra port thrice within a year and asked why "no action" had been taken by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation. Gohil alleged that it is like "playing with the future" of Gujarat.

He claimed a debate is not being allowed inside the House on the important issue.

Another Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat Ameer Jajni raised the issue of Gujarat Rural Development Minister and BJP MLA Arjunsinh Chauhan accused of raping and illegally confining a woman.

She said the voice of the opposition MPs was not being heard in Parliament.

Gujarat MP Naranbhai Rathwa slammed the BJP government in the state over the spread of lumpy skin disease, which he claimed had killed about 8,000-9,000 head of cattle.

## 4 Guj youths with high IELTS scores fail to speak in English

On the request of American authorities, police in Mehsana district launch probe to unearth alleged racket in which ineligible students are getting help to acquire high IELTS score to obtain admission in colleges in Canada



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, August 1: On the request of American authorities, police in Mehsana district in Gujarat have launched a probe to unearth an alleged racket in which ineligible students are getting help to acquire high International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score to obtain admission in colleges in Canada so that they can be then smuggled into the US, an official said Monday.

The probe so far has revealed no transparency was maintained by the agency which took the exam, as CCTVs of the hall were turned off during the exam held in September last year, said Inspector Bhavesh Rathod of the Mehsana police's Special Operations Group (SOG), who is leading the probe here.

In March this year, US border authorities had arrested six youths from Gujarat during a failed attempt to get them unauthorised entry into the country from Canada.

"These six Indian nationals from Gujarat, in the 19-21 age group, were

apprehended from a sinking boat in the Saint Regis river in Akwesasne, US, close to the Canadian border. Four are from Mehsana, and two are from Gandhinagar and Patan," said Rathod.

"When they were produced before a court in the US, they failed to answer in English the questions asked by the judge. The court had to take the help of a Hindi translator. The court was baffled as these students had scored 6.5 to 7 bands in IELTS, an English proficiency test," Rathod said.

Later, citing a news report on the incident, the criminal fraud investigation unit of the US Consulate General in Mumbai sent a mail to Mehsana police to conduct an inquiry to find out how these four students from Mehsana received very high scores and which agency or agents were involved, Rathod informed.

The IELTS is an international standardised test of English language proficiency for non-native English language speakers, with a good score being necessary for admission in good colleges in several countries.

"Even brilliant students need to

work hard to get 5 or 6 bands in the IELTS. These four students, residents of different villages of Mehsana, managed to score between 6.5 and 7, and yet could not communicate in English," Rathod said.

Primary probe has revealed the four students - Dhruv Patel, Neel Patel, Urvis Patel and Savan Patel - appeared for the IELTS exam at a centre in south Gujarat's Navsari town September 25, 2021, and went to Canada on student visa March 19, nearly two weeks before they were caught at the US-Canada border.

"The manager of the banquet hall in Navsari, which was hired for the exam, said the exam supervisors had turned off CCTV cameras before the exam. This proves there was no transparency and something was definitely suspicious. The agency which was authorised to conduct the exam is based in Ahmedabad," said Rathod.

Owners of the agency, located in Sabarmati area of Ahmedabad, have been directed to appear before Mehsana SOG within 48 hours with related documents as part of the probe.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 1: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Monday attacked the BJP over alleged 'patronage' to drugs mafia in Gujarat, asking whether there is any law and order in the state or not.

In a tweet in Hindi, Rahul Gandhi said, "Drugs recovered at Gujarat's Mundra port - September '21, 3000 Kg worth Rs 21000 Crore; May '22, 56 Kg worth Rs 500 crore and July '22, 75 Kg worth Rs 375 crore."

"Who are the people sitting in the double engine government who are constantly giving 'patronage' to the drug-liquor mafia, Gandhi asked.

"Why are the youth of Gujarat being forced into drugs?" he said. In another tweet in Hindi, Rahul

## AAP's poll promise: Job to every youth, ₹3k unemployment dole

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Veraval (Gujarat), August 1: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal Monday promised Rs 3,000 monthly unemployment allowance and guaranteed a job to every youth in Gujarat if his party was voted to power in the state in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Kejriwal's new jobs promise comes days after he assured free electricity up to 300 units per month if voted to power in the BJP-ruled state where polls are due by the year-end.

Addressing a public rally at Veraval town of Gir Somnath district in the Saurashtra region, the Delhi Chief Minister said if the AAP forms a government in Gujarat, his party will ensure that each and every unemployed youth gets a job in the next five years.

"Until we provide them jobs, every jobless youth will get Rs 3,000 per month unemployment allowance," he announced. As part



of his party's pre-poll "guarantees," Kejriwal promised to create 10 lakh government job vacancies.

The AAP leader also promised a law to curb leaking of question papers of government recruitment examinations and punish the culprits. There have been several cases in the recent past of question papers of competitive exams getting leaked.

"We will ensure the mafia behind the paper leak gets punished strongly and the system of paper leak stops in Gujarat," he said. The Delhi CM said an AAP government will improve the recruitment process in the cooperative sector and make it transparent so that youths are not placed there via recommendations or bribery as is the case now.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 1: The Supreme Court Monday asked the Uttarakhand High Court to expeditiously consider a plea against the felling of 2,057 trees of different species for the road widening in a dense green stretch of Dehradun Valley for facilitating the traffic movement from Mussoorie.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Sudhanshu Dhulia said: "It would be appropriate if the bench hearing PIL matters in the high court takes up the matter on an expeditious basis so that the submissions which the petitioner has can be duly considered by the high court."

In its order, it said: "We permit the petitioner and the State to mention the proceedings tomorrow, 2 August 2022, before the High Court so that the appropriate Bench of the High Court considering PIL petitions can list the proceedings expeditiously, preferably within a period of a week. All questions are



kept open to be urged before the high court."

The top court granted liberty to petitioner Ashish Kumar Garg, who was represented by senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, to raise all appropriate issues before the high court in the pending proceedings,

including on the feasibility of transplantation and the need for felling of trees.

"Since the writ petition is pending before the high court, the issues which have been raised before the high court are left open for being addressed before the high court,"

it said. The apex court noted that a division bench of the high court by its order dated 22 June 2022, modified an earlier interim direction dated May 11, 2022, which restrained felling of trees for the purpose of a proposed road widening in Dehradun.

"The high court, acting on the premise that it is well-known that eucalyptus trees have adverse effect on soil conservation and soil texture, and on the water table, modified the interim order so as to permit the felling of eucalyptus trees. The high court observed that while the widening of the road would continue, out of 2,057 trees that were proposed to be felled, 1,006 eucalyptus trees were allowed to be felled by the authorities," it said in its order.

The high court had directed that the first report would be submitted in the second week of December 2022 and listed the proceedings after six months awaiting the report of the concerned authorities.

## Man dispels myth of moving to cities for job

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, August 1: When Balak Ram Nautiyal gave up a job in town to return to his village and take up farming, he was not sure whether it was the right decision. Four years on, he does not regret it as a rich crop of marigold in his fields is making him earn in lakhs.

People of Uttarkashi who had to travel to Rishikesh and Dehradun to buy flowers for special occasions like a marriage, a public function or a religious ceremony can now get them in plenty in their home district itself.

Nautiyal (29) quit his job at the Jolly Grant airport in 2018 to return to Tulyada, a picturesque village in the Chinyalisaur block of Uttarkashi district. At that time, his primary aim was to lend a helping hand to his ageing parents in farming. But now, flower growing has become his full-time business.

"Looking at his success. People in Uttarkashi have begun to question the age-old belief that migrating to urban areas was necessary to earn a living," says Yamunotri MLA Sanjay Dobhal.

"A variety of flowers grow in Uttarakhand's hills but their commercial cultivation had never been



a viable livelihood option for the hill people. However, Nautiyal has proved that it is possible," the legislator said.

At a time when continued migration from Uttarakhand's hills and depleting population in the villages are a cause for concern for authorities, they can cite Nautiyal's success story to lure migrants back to their villages. After graduation, Nautiyal left

his home and his ageing parents four years ago to take up a job at the Jolly Grant airport. However, after some years he decided to quit his job and return home to help his parents in farming.

He initially sowed tomato, brinjal, cucumber, okra, and lemon. The yield was so impressive that he was enthused to make forays into horticulture.

Nautiyal's vegetables and fruits

always sold well in the local markets but when his aloe vera juice hit the shops it caught the attention of the authorities.

While he was still planning to approach them to seek help, officials of the horticulture department and the Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan met him to find out how they could help him.

At his request, they set up a poly-

house and dug a compost pit for him.

Nautiyal began growing flowers a year ago. In the very first season, he made a good income out of it and extended it from half a hectare to one which has now turned into a beautiful bed of marigold which is much in demand for all festive occasions and ceremonies.

Uttarkashi municipality chairperson Bina Bisht, Dunda block chief Shailendra Kohli and Yamunotri MLA Sanjay Dobhal are all praise for Nautiyal, saying people of the area have benefited a lot from his flower production.

People from all over the district come to Nautiyal to buy his flowers that are fresh and cheaper, they said. Flowers which cost Rs 70-Rs 90 per kg in Dehradun and Rishikesh are available just for Rs 50 to Rs 60 a kg in Tulyada. In the marriage season, Nautiyal gets orders in bulk.

"Balak Ram Nautiyal is a progressive young farmer who is making a handsome profit from farming. In place of wheat and paddy he emphasises growing flowers and medicinal plants," says Pankaj Nautiyal, an officer of Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan.

## Underground tunnels for parking problem in hills

AGENCIES

Dehradun, August 1: The Uttarakhand government has decided to construct small underground tunnels to address the perennial problem of parking in the hills.

A proposal to this effect moved by the Public Works Department (PWD) got the state cabinet's nod.

The tunnels will serve as parking lots in the hills, Uttarakhand Chief Secretary SS Sandhu told reporters.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, Tehri Hydro Power Development Corporation and Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited have been roped in to construct the tunnels, he said.

Geographical surveys will be conducted before the construction of the tunnels begins, he said.

In another major decision, the Cabinet gave its approval to Uttarakhand Landslide Mitigation and Management Centre manual, officials said.

The institute will be the first of its kind in the country and work on landslide mitigation and management in the disaster-prone state, they said.

According to officials, the cabi-



net gave its approval for speeding up implementation of the Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project which has been stuck since 2019 due to lack of clarity about its height.

The Cabinet has also decided to give 100 acres of land free of cost to the Centre to establish a satellite centre of AIIMS near Kichcha in Udham Singh Nagar District, officials said.

It also decided to impose a fee on mobile companies installing their towers in the state, they said.

## of the day quote

I am proud of Sanjay Raut. What crime has he committed? He is a journalist, a Shiv Sainik, is fearless and speaks what he does not approve of

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA PARTY CHIEF

We have taken monkeypox seriously, tomorrow I have called an important meeting with the Health Minister and Health department officials, to discuss how to check the travellers, setting up labs and other measures that need to be taken

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

There is an urgent need to consider how impact and risks of climate change can be reduced for sustainable development, especially in developing nations like India which are vulnerable to climate change, and for that it is crucial to share what worked and what did not

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Bengal to carve out seven new districts

**Kolkata:** West Bengal is set to get seven new districts with the cabinet giving its nod to the proposal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Monday. The new districts -- Berhampore, Kandi, Sunderbans, Bashirhat, Ichamati, Ranaghat and Bishnupur -- will take the total number to 30. "The state cabinet okayed the proposal today," Banerjee told reporters here. "The decision was taken to ensure smooth administrative operations," a senior official of the state government said.

### Red alert in seven districts of Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram:** As heavy rains continued to lash Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday issued a red alert in 7 districts of the state for the day. IMD issued red alerts for Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Idukki districts. In view of the development, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has called a meeting of the District Collectors to assess rain damage and coordinate relief work, a release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

### Salman Khan gets gun licence

**New Delhi:** The Mumbai Police have granted a licence for a personal gun to Bollywood star Salman Khan following death threats in June against him and his father, veteran writer Salim Khan, official sources said here Monday. In late July, Salman Khan had called on Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar with a request for the gun licence, though the police had vehemently denied the same. The application was routed through the proper channel, and after all formalities were completed last week, the licence papers were handed over Sunday. In early June, a note was recovered with a threat to the Khan celebs, "you will meet the same fate as Moosewala", the Punjabi singer who was killed in May.

### 9 kids died due to diarrhoea

**Itanagar:** At least nine children died due to diarrhoea in the remote Lazu area of Arunachal Pradesh's Tirap district, health officials confirmed Monday. Tirap District Medical Officer (DMO) Obang Taggu said that the children who died were aged between 3-10 years while many others have fallen ill in the past one week following the outbreak of diarrhoea.



**We have to reshuffle our Cabinet. But (I) do not have any plan to dissolve the Cabinet and come up with a new one**

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

### ISRO TO FLY NEW ROCKET SSLV AUG 7

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will fly its small rocket with a long winding name, Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), for the first time August 7. According to the ISRO, the rocket SSLV-D1 (Developmental Flight 1) will blast off from the launch pad at Sriharikota at 9.18 a.m



## 10 dead in Jabalpur hosp fire



AGENCIES

**Bhopal, August 1:** At least 10 people have been killed after a massive fire broke out Monday in a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, officials said.

Several fire tenders were rushed to the New Life Multispeciality Hospital which eventually managed to bring the blaze under control.

Many people including patients and hospital staff were inside the building when the fire had broken out. Madhya Pradesh Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said though the exact cause of fire is yet to be ascertained, a short-circuit is being suspected as one of the reasons.

Saying that that fire has been doused and people trapped inside the hospital have been evacuated, he said: "At present, I can't say why many people have lost lives, as the operation is still underway. I am in touch with the Jabalpur district collector, who is on the spot and leading the rescue operation."

All the patients are being shifted

The fire erupted at New Life Multi-speciality Hospital near Damoh Naka under the Gohalpur police station area of Jabalpur around 2.30 pm, Superintendent of Police (SP) Siddharth Bahuguna told PTI

Prima facie it appears an electrical short circuit caused the blaze

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed grief over the tragedy and announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the family of the deceased and Rs 50,000 per injured person

to the nearby hospitals. Jabalpur SP Siddharth Bahuguna said at least 10 casualties have been reported so far. He said the fire possibly broke out due to short circuit during changeover of electricity supply from the generator after a power cut.

The fire broke out on the ground floor of the hospital around 4.30 p.m., and engulfed the entire three-storey building. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, expressing grief over the incident, has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of the deceased.

Former Chief Minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath also consoled the unfortunate incident, and demanded an investigation into the matter.

In a tweet, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that he is in constant touch with the local administration and collector. "The Chief Secretary has been directed to keep an eye on the entire matter. Every effort is being made for relief and rescue," he added.

"In this hour of grief, the bereaved family should not consider themselves alone, I and the entire Madhya Pradesh are with the family," the Chief Minister said.

He further said that the Madhya Pradesh government will provide assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50 thousand to the seriously injured. "The government will also bear the cost of complete treatment of the injured," Chief Minister Chouhan said.

## 10 electrocuted in West Bengal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, August 1:** Ten people were electrocuted while they were travelling in a pick-up van in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, authorities said, adding that six others were also critically injured.

Initial probe has revealed that the electrocution was likely triggered due to the short-circuit of a copper wire of the generator installed at the rear side of the carriage vehicle.

A total of 36 passengers on board the van were heading towards the Alpeh temple near Maynaguri in Jalpaiguri district.

Some of the survivors have informed the Mathabhanga Additional Superintendent of Police, Amit Barma that the short-circuit happened when the vehicle was crossing the Dharala Bridge on the Jamalghata-Changrabandha state highways. "As per information that we have received from the surviving passengers the short-circuit somehow happened, following which many passengers were electrocuted. The driver of the carriage vehicle without wasting time rushed towards the Jalpaiguri district hospital," Barma told mediapersons.

However, after reaching the Jalpaiguri district hospital, the driver of the van went missing and the police are trying to locate him. The victims were mainly residents of Sitalkuchi area in Cooch Behar.



## Parliament passes Bill to ban funding of WMD



*The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022, was passed by the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** Parliament Monday passed a Bill which seeks to ban funding of weapons of mass destruction and also empowers the Centre to freeze, seize or attach financial assets and economic resources of people engaged in such activities.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022, piloted by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, was passed by the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote even as opposition parties continued their protest over various issues, including the arrest of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut in a money laundering case. The Bill was approved by the Lok Sabha in April.

Replying to a debate on the Bill,

Jaishankar said all members who spoke on the proposed legislation recognised that terrorism is a serious threat and so are weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

He said that the current law only covers trading and does not cover financing of weapons of mass destruction. "This gap needs to be filled because recommendation...Of the Financial Action Task Force requires all countries, including us, to ensure that assets financing for WMD-related activities is prohibited." "So keeping in mind this lacunae of the current law we have brought this amendment. This is good for the security of the country. This is good for the reputation of the country," Jaishankar said. The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, passed in 2005, only banned manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

The amendment bill seeks to insert a new Section 12A in the existing law which states that "no person shall finance any activity which is prohibited under this Act, or under the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1947 or any other relevant Act for the time being in force, or by an order issued under any such Act, in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems."

## Sanjay Raut sent to ED custody till Aug 4

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, August 1:** A special court here Monday sent Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut to the custody of Enforcement Directorate for 3 days, till Thursday, in a money laundering case arising out of the Patra Chawl land scam.

Special PMLA court judge M.G. Deshpande pronounced the order as Raut was produced before it, hours after he was arrested by the ED here early this morning.

While ED's special counsel Hiten Venegaonkar sought 8 days custody, Raut's lawyer, senior counsel Ashok Mundargi opposed it on various grounds including the health problems of his client who



On July 1, the ED had summoned and questioned Sanjay Raut for over 10 hours and then called him again on three occasions, but he had sought time till August 7

The ED raided Raut's Bhandup bungalow at dawn July 31, and he was questioned for over nine hours

was a cardiac patient.

Venegaonkar argued that Raut was not cooperating with the investigations and hence his custodial interrogation was necessary and the agency wanted to probe other aspects of the Patra Chawl scam and related issues.

He contended that co-accused Pravin Raut was merely a front-man and all deals pertaining to the Patra Chawl scam were perpetrated by Sanjay Raut.

Opposing the ED's contentions, Mundargi said that Raut's arrest was politically motivated and pleaded for minimum custody for his client.



Commuters wade through a waterlogged road during monsoon rains in Kochi, Kerala

PTI PHOTO

## CON CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

**F**aking an Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket series in a north Gujarat village to con punters in far off Russia may be audacious but what it has brought into sharp focus is the emergence of India as the con capital of the world.

The fake IPL caught the fancy of the media worldwide, but what has evaded attention is the steady rise of con-call centres, betting bookie-syndicates and bit coin scam set-ups with the financial muscle to rival corporate India and all in pure black money proceeds.

According to a US based group which has been researching the field, just one group of scammers on Telegram has 55,000 members in India. The group which penetrated a fake call centre in India found that it made 18 million US dollars a year through such dubious means or \$60,000 USD per day working a six day week. And if there are 55,000 members (fake call centres) scattered countrywide, the cash involved adds up to a huge sum. Official agencies may take time coordinating but for con-call centres time is money so exchange of information amongst their network is fast-paced. Such

is the cohesion that the penetration of just one centre led to a countrywide shut-down of all of them almost immediately, re-opening cautiously after a week. Nothing had changed, life was usual and the business brisk.

On May 9 this year US based You Tuber, Mark Rober had created a furor with a 26 minute video that exposed four call centres, three in Kolkata and one in Gurugram as being key players in a scam that had seen 60 million people across the world being swindled of almost USD 20 billion in savings. Rober had collaborated with two other You Tubers and hacked into the offices of these call centres to unravel how they pulled off the scam and demonstrated it in graphic detail. The con-call scamsters impersonate officials from various government tax and commerce bodies and coax the victims into transferring money using the ploy of pending taxes or incorrect refunds.

Again, according to a study by Truecaller, a Swedish company founded in 2009 to identify callers and now helping fight such crimes, nearly \$39.5 billion were stolen from 68.4 million American citizens by scam centres like



these in the last 12 months alone. This means that one in three Americans report having fallen victims to phone scams, with 20 per cent more than once, points out its US Spam and Scam Report for 2022. The plight of the gullible targeted in other Western countries is no better.

The report has some incredible information on India. Over 202 million calls were made by just one spammer in India this year. That's over 6,64,000 calls every day and 27,000 calls every hour of the day. What about the rest? It beats understanding how telecom operators allow such call volume. Almost 93.5 per cent of all spam in India are sales or telemarketing calls and one of the most common remains the KYC (Know Your Customer) wherein the RBI mandated rule is used

to secure these documents posing as a bank or digital payments service. Another ruse is to lure the gullible to download a remote access application (OTPs, online sales, lotteries) which eventually leads to huge loss of money from banks, cards and digital mobile wallets. Average number of calls per user per month stands at 16.8 while total spam volume received by Truecaller users alone is in excess of 3.8 billion calls in just the month of October, 2021.

As things stand the police in the states are hard put to match the speed, financial clout and tech-savvy ways of the con-call consortium. The con-call conglomerate in India operates both inter-country as well as intra-country.

It was in 2016 that it first came to light that a call centre racket operating out of India has been conning gullible Americans. Though initially detected in Maharashtra in 2016 it was Gujarat which emerged as the epicentre of this totally fraudulent operation when it was learnt that a module operating out of India was conning gullible Americans. The amount then, it was believed, to have crossed an estimated \$500 million. From here it soon spanned out

countrywide. It was the American government which brought matters to the notice of the Indian authorities. Five Ahmedabad based call centres and 61 individuals were named in the initial indictment by the US Justice Department which sought their extradition. The modus operandi involved sending across a voice mail regarding dues or tax lapse, providing a number to call back. After the targeted victim chosen with care, do so he would be threatened with fines, imprisonment even deportation. The indictment stated that in one case \$136,000 was extorted from a single victim in Hayward, California.

In fact, this was not the first instance of con-call centres being run from Gujarat. In February 2012, the US Federal trade Commission had informed the Indian authorities that an Ahmedabad-based call centre had made 8.5 million threat calls in less than an year and conned American citizens of \$5 million.

Nothing much seems to have changed with the network still functioning from various parts of the state, now even the country, though the organisers, 'oil' well and cover their tracks better.

# international



This government is not keen on rejoining the International Criminal Court  
FERDINAND MARCOS  
| PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

## STUDY DISCLOSURE

Adding strawberries to your cereal, salad or smoothie can likely help protect your brain from Alzheimer's disease, suggests a study



## of the day quote

The EU cannot be conceived without the Balkans  
PEDRO SANCHEZ | SPAIN'S PM

With the continued spread of monkeypox, we will expect to see more deaths  
CATHERINE SMALLWOOD | SENIOR EMERGENCY OFFICER AT WHO EUROPE

I have decided not to travel to provincial regions on a vacation and will instead remain in Seoul to mull how to navigate through the current political turmoil  
YOON SUK-YEOL | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### 9 dead, 76 injured

**Cairo:** A fuel tanker truck caught fire and exploded Monday in central Libya, killing at least nine people and injuring 76 others, health authorities said. The incident took place in the central town of Bent Bayya when the tanker truck overturned before catching fire and exploding, the state-run Libya News agency reported. The agency said residents in the area rushed to collect leaked gasoline despite warnings of possible fire and explosion, causing the high casualty tolls.

### Two bodies found

**Yreka (US):** Two bodies were found inside a charred vehicle in a driveway in the wildfire zone of a raging California blaze that is among several burning in the western US amid hot, dry and gusty conditions that boost the danger that the fires will keep growing, officials said Monday.

### Imran's Instagram account hacked

**Islamabad:** The Instagram account of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was briefly hacked on Monday by crypto scammers who shared a post lauding Tesla Motors Founder Elon Musk for "donating" three bitcoins, according to media reports. The Instagram account of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief was recovered soon with the help of Meta — Facebook and Instagram's parent company, PTI social media head Arslan Khalid said.

### 17-year-old killed, 4 hurt in stabbings

**Somerset:** A Minnesota teenager died and four other people were seriously hurt after being stabbed while tubing down a Wisconsin river, authorities said. St. Croix County Sheriff Scott Knudson said the victims and suspect, a 52-year-old Prior Lake, Minnesota man, were all on the Apple River when the attack happened Saturday afternoon.

# First grain ship leaves Ukraine under Russia deal

REUTERS

**Kyiv, August 1:** A ship carrying grain left the Ukrainian port of Odesa for Lebanon Monday under a safe passage agreement, Ukrainian and Turkish officials said, the first departure since the Russian invasion blocked shipping through the Black Sea five months ago.

Ukraine's foreign minister called it "a day of relief for the world", especially for countries threatened by food shortages and hunger because of the disrupted shipments. The sailing was made possible after Turkey and the United Nations brokered a grain-and-fertiliser export agreement between Russia and Ukraine last month - a rare diplomatic breakthrough in a conflict that is grinding on with no resolution in sight.

"The first grain ship since #RussianAggression has left port," Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said. "Today Ukraine, together with its partners, makes another step to prevent world hunger." The Sierra Leone-flagged ship Razoni will head to Lebanon

## 'RELIEF FOR THE WORLD'



REUTERS

after transiting through the Bosphorus Strait. Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24 has led to a worldwide food and energy crisis and the United Nations has warned of the risk of multiple famines this year.

Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat exports. But Western sanctions on

Russia and fighting along Ukraine's eastern seaboard had prevented grain ships safely leaving ports. The deal aims to allow safe passage for grain shipments in and out of Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter: "The day of relief for the world, especially for our friends in the

- FIRST UKRAINE GRAIN SHIP BOUND FOR LEBANON
- TURKEY SAYS MORE SHIPS TO FOLLOW
- RUSSIAN MISSILES POUND PORT OF MYKOLAIV

Middle East, Asia, and Africa, as the first Ukrainian grain leaves Odesa after months of Russian blockade."

Moscow has denied responsibility for the food crisis, blaming Western sanctions for slowing exports and Ukraine for mining the approaches to its ports. The Kremlin called the Razoni's departure "very positive" news.

Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said the vessel would anchor off Istanbul Tuesday afternoon and be inspected by a joint team of Russian, Ukrainian, United Nations and Turkish representatives. "It will then continue as long as no problems arise," Akar said.

Ukrainian presidential officials have said 17 ships are docked in Black Sea ports with almost 600,000 tonnes of cargo, mostly grain. More

ships would follow, Kubrakov said. A junior engineer on the vessel, Abdullah Jendi, said all the crew were happy to be moving after their prolonged stay in Odesa. He had not seen his family in more than year, said Jendi, who is Syrian.

"It is an indescribable feeling to be returning to my home country after suffering from the siege and the dangers that we were facing due to the shelling," he said. "The great fear knowing that at any moment something could happen to us because of the airstrikes."

Of the voyage ahead, he said: "I am scared from the fact that there are naval mines. We need around two to three hours to exit regional waters. We hope that nothing will happen and that we will not commit any mistake."

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv welcomed the shipping resumption, saying: "The world will be watching for continued implementation of this agreement to feed people around the world with millions of tons of trapped Ukrainian grain." U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he hoped it would be the first of many such shipments.

# POPE TO VISIT KAZAKHSTAN

REUTERS

**Vatican City, August 1:** Pope Francis will attend a meeting of religious leaders in Kazakhstan in September, the Vatican said Monday, a gathering where he has said previously he hoped to meet with the Russian Orthodox patriarch, who backs the war in Ukraine.



REUTERS

Francis is set to be in the capital Nur-Sultan from September 13-15 to attend the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, the Vatican said. The Pope has said in several recent interviews that he hopes to meet in the Kazakh capital with patriarch Kirill, who has given his full-throated backing to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which began February 24.

Francis had planned to meet Kirill June 14 in Jerusalem but cancelled that meeting on the advice of Vatican diplomats.

If the September meeting takes place, it would be only their second after they met in Cuba in 2016. The latter was the first such meeting between a pope and a leader of the Russian Orthodox Church since the Great Schism in 1054.

The Vatican statement announcing the trip did not mention Kirill. It was released in Russian, Italian and English.

Kazakh and Russian are the country's two official languages. The Ukraine war has caused a rift between the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC).

In an interview published in May in an Italian newspaper, Francis said Kirill "cannot become Putin's altar boy". The ROC later chided the pope over the remark.

## CHINA WARNS

# Pelosi visits Singapore

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kuala Lumpur, August 1:** US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi held talks with officials in Singapore Monday at the start of her Asian tour, as questions swirled over a possible stop in Taiwan that has fueled tension with Beijing.

While there have been no official announcements, local media in Taiwan reported that Pelosi will arrive Tuesday night, becoming the highest-ranking elected US official to visit in more than 25 years. The United Daily News, Liberty Times and China Times — Taiwan's three largest national newspapers — cited unidentified sources as saying she would arrive in Taipei after visiting Malaysia and spend the night.

Such a visit will spark fury in Beijing, which regards Taiwan as its own territory and has re-

- BEIJING REITERATES FIRM WARNING AGAINST A PELOSI VISIT TO TAIWAN
- PELOSI WOULD BE FIRST US SPEAKER TO VISIT TAIWAN SINCE 1997
- PELOSI ASIA TRIP TO INCLUDE SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, S.KOREA, JAPAN
- TAIWAN WAS NOT INCLUDED ON ITINERARY RELEASED SUNDAY

peatedly warned of "serious consequences" if the reported trip goes ahead. "If Pelosi insists on visiting Taiwan, China will take resolute and strong measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in Beijing, without giving details.

"Those who play with fire will perish by it," Zhao said. "We would like to once again admonish the US that we are fully prepared for any eventuality and the PLA will never sit idly by." The People's Liberation Army is China's military.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also warned the U.S. against meddling in Beijing's dealings with the island in a phone call last week with President Joe Biden. China has been steadily ratcheting up diplomatic and military pressure on Taiwan.

We would like to tell the United States once again that China is standing by, the Chinese People's Liberation Army will never sit idly by, and China will take resolute responses and strong countermeasures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity  
ZHAO LIJIAN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN



US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi shakes hands with Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore  
REUTERS

## COLOURFUL CELEBRATION



Fireworks explode over the Neva river as Russia's corvette Merkuriy (Mercury) is seen in the foreground during Navy Day celebrations in Saint Petersburg, Russia  
REUTERS

# SL top court extends travel ban

Sri Lanka has seen months of mass unrest over the worst economic crisis and many blame the former government led by Rajapaksa and his family for mishandling the island nation's economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, August 1:** Sri Lanka's Supreme Court Monday extended until August 4 the overseas travel ban on former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his younger brother and former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa, who are widely blamed for the current economic crisis in the island nation.

A five judge bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya announced the Monday's decision in a petition filed against the brothers of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by a group including former Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Chandra Jayaratne, former Sri Lanka swimming champion Julian Bolling, Jehan Kanagaratna and Transparency



International Sri Lanka.

The direction was issued when a motion related to the petition requesting the court to issue an order for an investigation against the people responsible for the current economic crisis came up on Monday.

The petition claimed that three persons - Basil, Mahinda and former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal - were directly re-

sponsible for the unsustainability of Sri Lanka's foreign debt, its debt default and the current economic crisis leading to an acute shortage of basic commodities such as food, fuel, and medicines.

July 15, Sri Lanka's apex court had barred the trio from leaving the country till July 28, the report said. The ban was later extended till August 2. Earlier this month, Basil was prevented from leaving Sri Lanka following protests from passengers and officials at the Bandaranaike International Airport here.

Mahinda and Basil's brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the former Sri Lankan President, arrived in Singapore on July 14 on a "private visit" from the Maldives after he fled his country to escape a popular uprising against his government's economic mismanagement.

# NZ BORDERS FULLY OPEN

REUTERS

**Wellington, August 1:** New Zealand's borders fully re-opened to visitors from around the world Monday, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic closed them in March 2020.

New Zealand's borders started reopening in February first for New Zealanders and restrictions have progressively eased. The process of reopening the borders ended Sunday night with visitors who need visas and those on student visas now also allowed to return to New Zealand. New Zealand is now also letting cruise ships and foreign recreational yachts docks at its ports.

Most visitors arriving in New Zealand still need to be vaccinated against COVID and must take two COVID tests after arriving. However, there are no quarantine requirements. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday during a speech at the China Business Summit in Auckland that the final staged opening of the borders had been an enormous moment.

"It's been a staged and cautious process on our part since February as we, alongside the rest of the world continue to manage a very live global pandemic, while keeping our people safe."

International students were a significant contributor to New Zealand's economy and educational providers are hoping the reopening of the borders will again provide a boost to schools and universities around the country.

New Zealand Tourism Minister Stuart Nash said the return of cruise ships will also be a boost for local industries. "Most cruise visits are during the warmer months of October to April, and summer is our bumper tourism season overall. This means it will be full steam ahead for the industry," said Nash.

# Global forest area decreased by over 60% in six decades: Study

THE RESEARCH, PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS, FOUND THAT THE GLOBAL FOREST AREA HAS DECLINED BY 81.7 MILLION HECTARES FROM 1960 TO 2019, WITH GROSS FOREST LOSS OUTWEIGHING GROSS FOREST GAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tokyo, August 1:** The global forest area per capita has decreased by over 60 per cent over the past 60 years, a loss that threatens the future of biodiversity and impacts the lives of 1.6 billion people worldwide, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Environmental Research Letters, found that the global forest area has declined by 81.7 million hectares from 1960 to 2019, with gross forest loss outweighing gross forest gain.

The researchers from the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) in

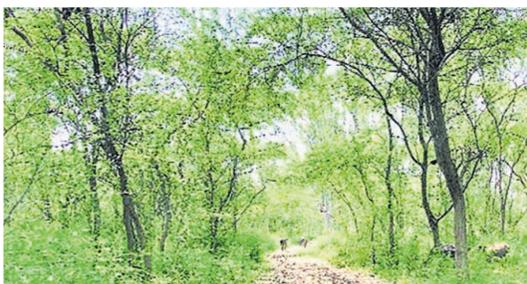
Japan used global land use dataset to examine how global forests have changed over space and time.

They found that decline in global forests combined with the increase in global population over the 60-year period has resulted in a decrease of the global forest area per capita by over 60 per cent, from 1.4 hectares in 1960 to 0.5 hectares in 2019.

"The continuous loss and degradation of forests affect the integrity of forest ecosystems, reducing their ability to generate and provide essential services and sustain biodiversity," the researchers said.

"It also impacts the lives of at

## CONTINUOUS LOSS



least 1.6 billion people worldwide, predominantly in developing coun-

tries, who depend on forests for various purposes," they said. The

results also showed that the change in the spatiotemporal pattern of global forests supports the forest transition theory, with forest losses occurring primarily in the lower-income countries in the tropics and forest gains in the higher-income countries in the extratropics.

"Despite this spatial pattern of forest loss occurring primarily in the less developed countries, the role of more developed nations in this said forest loss also needs to be studied more deeply," said Ronald C. Estoque, the lead author of the study.

"With the strengthening of forest conservation in more developed countries, forest loss is dis-

placed to the less developed countries, especially in the tropics," Estoque said. The researchers noted that monitoring of the world's forests is an integral part of various global environmental and social initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

To help achieve the goals of these initiatives, there is a profound need to reverse, or at least flatten, the global net forest loss curve by conserving the world's remaining forests and restoring and rehabilitating degraded forest landscapes, they added.

## of the day quote

Railways have a pivotal role to play in the country's efforts to reduce emissions and our collaboration would further the effort in the decarbonisation initiative of REMC and the Ministry of Railways

**VIBHA DHAWAN** | DIRECTOR GENERAL, TERI

VBL delivered an all-time high performance during the quarter. On the demand front, we are seeing enhanced consumption trends across markets. Directionally, we continue to implement strategic initiatives to solidify our market position as a key player in the global beverage industry

**RAVI JAIPURIA** | CHAIRMAN VARUN BEVERAGES LTD

There is every reason to believe that there will be rapid expansion of electric vehicles and therefore tyres for such models. We will be expanding the lineup as we move ahead

**SATISH SHARMA** | PRESIDENT (ASIA PACIFIC MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA), APOLLO TYRES

## SHORT TAKES

### Monsoon limits July fuel demand

**New Delhi:** Petrol and diesel sales in the country fell in July over the previous month as the onset of monsoon chipped away demand in some sectors and restricted mobility, preliminary industry data showed. Diesel, the most widely used fuel in the country, saw consumption drop 13.1 per cent to 6.44 million tonne from 7.39 million tonne of demand in June. The arrival and intensity of monsoon weigh heavily on diesel demand in the country and consumption traditionally is lower in July-September than in April-June.

### July power usage grows 3.8% YoY

**New Delhi:** India's power consumption grew marginally by 3.8 per cent year-on-year to 128.38 billion units (BU) in July amid widespread rains in the country, according to data. Power consumption in July last year was recorded at 123.72 BU, which was higher than 112.14 BU in the same month of 2020. However, the peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, during July dipped to 190.38 GW. The peak power supply stood at 200.53 GW in July 2021 and 170.40 GW in July 2020.

### CIL's coal output rises 11% in July

**New Delhi:** State-owned CIL Monday said that it produced 47.3 million tonne (MT) of coal last month, registering a growth of 11 per cent from the year-ago period. The production of domestic coal usually dips during monsoon every year due to disruptions in mining activity. The company's output in the corresponding month of previous fiscal was 42.6 MT, the coal behemoth said in a BSE filing. Coal India Ltd (CIL) said it maintained the double-digit rising streak for four consecutive months of the current financial year.

### ICICI ups lending rate by 15 bps

**New Delhi:** ICICI Bank, the second-largest private sector lender, Monday raised its lending rates by 0.15 per cent across all tenors in anticipation of a rate hike by the RBI later this week. The rates have been increased across all tenors under the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) system, a move that will make EMI expensive for those who availed loans benchmarked against MCLR.



We expect RBI to hike the policy repo rate 25-30 bps in the August policy review and another one in October, but the quantum of that increase will depend on the data prints on the domestic inflation and the shape of the US economy, which is more likely to enter a recession

**TANVEE GUPTA JAIN** | CHIEF INDIA ECONOMIST, UBS SECURITIES

## \$ SINKS TO LOWEST AGAINST YEN

The US dollar declined to its lowest level in more than six weeks against the Japanese yen Monday as investors ramped up bets that aggressive Federal Reserve monetary policy would tip the economy into a recession



# Jio leads 1st 5G spectrum sale

The mop-up from the 5G spectrum is almost double at ₹77,815cr worth 4G airwaves sold last year and triple of ₹50,968.37cr garnered from a 3G auction in 2010

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** India's biggest ever auction of telecom spectrum received a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with an Rs 88,078 crore bid.

Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group, whose entry in the auction was billed by some as another flash point in the rivalry with Ambani, paid Rs 212 crore for 400 MHz, or less than one per cent of all spectrum sold, in a band that is not used for offering public telephony services.

Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel made a successful bid of Rs 43,084 crore, while Vodafone Idea Ltd bought spectrum for Rs 18,799 crore.

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said of the 72,098 MHz of spectrum offered across 10 bands, 51,236 MHz, or 71 per cent, was sold.

In all, bids worth Rs 1,50,173 crore were received, he said, adding the government will in the first year get Rs 13,365 crore.

Barring the 1800 MHz band, for which Jio and Airtel engaged in fierce bidding, spectrum in all bands was sold at reserve (base) price, he noted.

The mop-up from the 5G spectrum, capable of offering ultra-high speed mobile internet connectivity, is almost double of Rs



## RECORD ₹1.5TN BIDS

<b>MUKESH AMBANI'S JIO TOP BIDDER WITH WINNING BID OF ₹88,078CR</b>	<b>BHARTI AIRTEL BIDS FOR 5G SPECTRUM WORTH RS 43,084CR</b>
<b>NEW ENTRANT ADANI GROUP BIDS FOR SPECTRUM WORTH ₹212CR</b>	<b>VODAFONE IDEA BIDS FOR AIRWAVES WORTH RS 18,784CR</b>
	<b>5G SERVICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE ROLLED OUT FROM OCTOBER</b>

77,815 crore worth 4G airwaves sold last year and triple of Rs 50,968.37 crore garnered from a 3G auction in 2010.

Reliance Jio was the top bidder, offering a cumulative bid of Rs 88,078 crore for 24,740 MHz of airwaves across five bands capable of offering speeds about 10 times faster than 4G, lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share

data in real-time.

It acquired the coveted 700 MHz spectrum that can provide 6-10 km of signal range with one tower and forms a good base for offering fifth generation (5G) services, in all 22 circles or zones in the country.

Adani group bought spectrum in the 26 GHz band, which is suitable for setting up a private network for end-to-end communication, in six states -- Gujarat, Mumbai,

Spectrum purchased is good enough to cover all circles in the country. Coming 2-3 years, we will have good 5G coverage. With better availability of the spectrum, call quality is expected to improve," he said.

**ASHWINI VAISHNAW** | TELECOM MINISTER

Now, with a bigger ambition and stronger resolve, Jio is set to lead India's march into the 5G era

**AKASH M AMBANI** | CHAIRMAN, RELIANCE JIO INFOCOMM

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

Airtel bought a total of 19,867.8 MHz of spectrum across five bands but none in 700 MHz. Vodafone Idea acquired 6228 MHz of airwaves. The government had put on offer spectrum in 10 bands but received no bids for airwaves in 600 MHz.

In the auction conducted last year - that had lasted two days - Reliance Jio picked up spectrum worth Rs 57,122.65 crore. Bharti Airtel bid about Rs 18,699 crore, and Vodafone Idea bought spectrum worth Rs 1,993.40 crore.

## 5.83cr ITRs filed; close to last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** A record 72.42 lakh income tax returns were filed on the last day of such filing July 31, taking the cumulative returns to 5.83 crore, near to the same levels of last year. While initially income tax returns (ITRs) filing was slow, the pace picked up as the deadline neared.

"The surge of filing ITRs peaked on July 31, 2022 with over 72.42 lakh ITRs being filed on a single day," an official statement said.

The total ITRs filed till July 31, 2022 for assessment year 22-23 is about 5.83 crore, it said. Last fiscal (2020-21), about 5.89 crore ITRs were filed by the extended due date of December 31, 2021. Over the last two financial years, the government had extended the deadline for filing ITRs to ease compliance for taxpayers battling Covid pandemic. But this year the deadline was not extended by even by a day.

# Factory growth hits 8-month high

JULY PMI DATA POINTED TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN OVERALL OPERATING CONDITIONS FOR THE 13TH STRAIGHT MONTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** India's manufacturing sector activity gained momentum in July, hitting an eight-month high driven by a significant uptick in business orders, a monthly survey said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 53.9 in June, to 56.4 in July, highlighting the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in eight months.

The July PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 13th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.



"The Indian manufacturing industry recorded a welcome combination of faster economic growth and softening inflation during July," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

Lima further said that "output expanded at the fastest pace since

last November, a trend that was matched by the more forward-looking indicator of new orders. Although the upturn in demand gained strength, there were clear signs that capacity pressures remained mild as backlogs rose only marginally and job creation remained subdued."

"The latest increase was in fact the most pronounced since last November, with quicker expansions recorded in all three broad areas of the manufacturing industry," as per the survey.

# Patanjali begins int'l conference on modernisation of traditional medicines

**Haridwar:** Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna Monday inaugurated the four-day international conference on 'Modernisation of Traditional Indian Medicines' organised by Patanjali Research Institute at Haridwar. The international conference aims to bring together agriculture experts, traditional and herbal medicine practitioners, professionals, researchers, ayurveda and healthcare experts from all over the world to share their knowledge and experience. On the first day, Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna along with other dignitaries launched medicinal plant journal which, Balkrishna said, contains the name of all herbal plants. Swami Ramdev said that a world herbal encyclopaedia comprising over 5 lakh couplets and over one lakh pages has also been developed under the guidance of Acharya Balkrishna. During the conference, Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna also launched the soil testing kit and Soil ka Doctor app developed by the Patanjali. Swami Ramdev advocated for adoption of organic farming for better future and well-being of soil. "There is a need to change the pattern of farming. We need to adopt organic farming and we need to go back to natural herbs," Swami Ramdev said. He said that Patanjali has been doing research to save the land as the excess use of fertilisers have deteriorated the condition of the soil. Acharya Balkrishna said that the app has been developed as part of e-Aatma Nirbhar Bharat with an objective to increase farmers' income.



# PV sales on upward terrain driving on better chip supply track

THE INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED TO CROSS 37 LAKH UNIT SALES MARK THIS FISCAL, WHICH IS GOING TO BE THE HIGHEST EVER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** Improvement in semiconductor shortage issue helped auto makers, including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra, report single to high double-digit growth Monday in their domestic passenger vehicles sales in July.

Other manufacturers, Kia India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), Honda Cars India, Skoda Auto India, also reported robust growth in their domestic passenger vehicle sales with the auto industry estimated to have achieved the highest-ever passenger vehicle wholesales in July this year.

Maruti Suzuki India said its domestic passenger vehicle sales

rose 6.82 per cent last month to 1,42,850 units compared to 1,33,732 units in July 2021.

"The shortage of electronic components had a minor impact on the production of vehicles, mainly in domestic models," the company said in a statement.

The company's sales were driven mainly by compact cars, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, Tour S, and WagonR, which rose to 84,818 units in July 2022 from 70,268 units in the year-ago month.

The previous best wholesales stood at 3.34 lakh units in October 2020, he said, adding, it has been possible due to better production as chip shortage eased a bit.

Another major player Hyundai Motor India said its domestic sales were at 50,500 units last month, 5.1 per cent higher than 48,042 units



sold in July 2021.

Tata Motors posted a 57 per cent increase in its domestic passenger vehicles sales at 47,505 units as compared to 30,185 units in the year-ago month. The company's passenger electric vehicle sales

also rose to 4,022 units last month from 604 units in July 2021, the company said.

Another automobile manufacturer Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) reported its highest-ever dispatches in a month at 19,693 units

## 2ND HIGHEST EVER

# GST mop-up rises 28% to ₹1.49L-cr

This is the sixth time that the monthly GST collection crossed the ₹1.40-lakh-crore mark since the inception of GST and fifth month at a stretch since March 2022, the ministry said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** GST collection rose 28 per cent to touch the second-highest level of Rs 1.49 lakh crore in July on the back of economic recovery and steps taken to curb tax evasion, the government said Monday.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection stood at Rs 1,16,393 crore in the same month a year ago. GST, introduced in July 2017, touched a record high of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April, 2022.

During July, revenues from import of goods were 48 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) were 22 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

Of the Rs 1,48,995 crore GST collected in July, Central GST is Rs 25,751 crore, State GST is Rs 32,807 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 79,518 crore (including Rs 41,420 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,920 crore (including Rs 995 crore collected on import of goods).

The government has settled Rs 32,365 crore to CGST and Rs 26,774 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of July 2022 after regular settlement is Rs 58,116 crore for CGST and Rs 59,581 crore for the SGST, it said.

During June 2022, 7.45 crore e-way bills were generated, which was marginally higher than 7.36 crore in May 2022.

The growth in GST revenue till



GST collection touched a record high of ₹1.68 lakh crore in April this year

Of the ₹1,48,995cr GST collected in July, CGST is ₹25,751cr, SGST is ₹32,807cr, IGST is ₹79,518cr

The collections reported a healthy trend, rising for the second month in a row, with a 28% YoY

With the headline GST collection in July 2022 exceeding the monthly average forecast of Rs 1.45 lakh crore for this year, we foresee an upside of Rs 1.15 lakh crore relative to the FY2023 BE for CGST collections

**ADITI NAYAR** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

July 2022, over the same period last year, is 35 per cent and displays a very high buoyancy, according to the statement.

"This is a clear impact of various measures taken by the GST Council in the past to ensure better compliance. Better reporting coupled with economic recovery has been having a positive impact on the GST revenues on a consistent basis," it said.

According to Abhishek Jain, partner Indirect Tax, KPMG in India, these consistent high collections indicate recovery from the pandemic hit slowdown and can also be attributed to inflation and tight check and balances implemented by the government.

# Zero probability of India getting into recession or stagflation: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 1:** India is facing no risk of recession or stagflation as macroeconomic fundamentals of the economy are strong, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Monday.

Replying to a debate on price rise in the Lok Sabha, she said the GST collection and Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) are indicating that the Indian economy is getting more robust.

The GST collection rose 28 per cent to touch the second-highest level of Rs 1.49 lakh crore in July. GST, introduced in July 2017, touched a record high of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022.

She also said that the banking sector in the country is also healthy compared to other countries.

Gross NPAs of scheduled commercial banks have reached a six-year low of 5.9 per cent, she said, adding that government debt to



GDP ratio has come down to 56.29 per cent in FY22.

Efforts are being made to bring down retail inflation below 7 per cent, the minister said. Prices of edible oils have corrected sharply following steps taken by the government, she added.

Sitharaman also said GST compensation to states till May 2022 has been paid and only June month's dues are pending.

Not happy with the reply of the Finance Minister on the price rise, Congress members walked out of the House.

# SHEULI JOINS GOLDEN PARTY

## Judoka Shushila settles for silver, Vijay gets bronze

**COVENTRY:** Indian judokas L Shushila Devi and Vijay Kumar Yadav signed off with a silver and a bronze medal in women's 48kg and men's 60kg respectively at the Commonwealth Games here Monday.

The 27-year-old Shushila fought hard before losing the final via 'Waza-Ari' in the 4.25-minute final against South Africa's Michaela Whitebooi, while Yadav dished out a dominating show to take down Petros Christodoulides of Cyprus with a 'Ippon' in the bronze medal match.

For Shushila, it was her second silver medal at the showpiece event. She had finished runners-up at the 2014 Glasgow games as well.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 1:** Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli (73kg) lived up to his top billing as he clinched India's third gold at the Commonwealth Games here.

Favourite to win the event, debutant Sheuli heaved 313kg (143kg+170kg) to grab the gold at NEC Hall here Sunday. Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad, who gave Sheuli a tough competition, ended as the second best lifter in the event. He had a best effort of 303kg (138kg+165kg). Canada's Shad Darsigny was third with a total

**I WISH TO DEDICATE THIS MEDAL TO MY LATE DAD (WHO DIED OF HEART ATTACK), MY BROTHER AND MY COACH VJAY SHARMA WHO SLAPS ME IF I DO A MISTAKE, KEEPS SCOLDING ME LIKE I'M HIS OWN CHILD**

**ACHINTA SHEULI**

lift of 298kg (135kg+163kg). "I'm very happy about this, I've worked hard for this medal. A lot of sacrifices of my brother, mother,

my coach and the Army have gone into this medal," Sheuli said after the win.

"This was the first major event in my life and I'm thankful for them to help me reach here. This medal will help me in every aspect of life. There should not be looking back from now on."

Asked to whom he would dedicate his gold medal, Sheuli said, "I wish to dedicate this medal to my late dad (who died of heart attack), my brother and my coach Vjay Sharma who slaps me if I do a mistake, keeps scolding me like I'm his own child."

## Ajay Singh misses medal by whisker

**BIRMINGHAM:** A low snatch total and a fluffed clean and jerk lift cost Ajay Singh (81kg) dear as the Indian weightlifter missed the bronze medal by a whisker in his maiden Commonwealth Games appearance, here Monday. The 25-year-old managed a total effort of 319kg (143kg+176kg) to finish fourth best in the men's 81kg event. To the crowd's absolute delight, home favourite England's Chris Murray 325kg (144kg+181kg) grabbed the gold in a sensational manner as he broke the Games record in total lift. Australian lifter Kyle Bruce (143kg+180kg) 323kg clinched the silver while Canada's Nicholas Vachon 320kg (140kg+180kg) finished with a bronze.

Sheuli, a junior world championship silver medallist, executed three clean lifts - 137kg, 140kg and 143kg - in the snatch section. His 143kg effort helped him smash the Games record and improve his personal best.

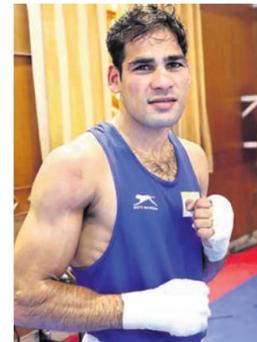
Heading into clean and jerk with a five kilogram advantage, the Kolkata lifter started with a 166kg lift, which he hoisted easily. Sheuli then faltered his 170kg attempt only to heave the weight in the third attempt and create a new Games record in total lift (313kg).

The Indian lifter had to wait patiently towards the end to find out what medal he'd take home as the Malaysian attempted a 176kg lift in his last two attempts only to fail.

Asked what his coach Sharma told him before the final clean and jerk attempt, Sheuli said, "He told me this gold belongs to me just keep calm and go for it. I was a bit nervous but his performance was way below me and I went for it."

With the gold from Sheuli, the Indian weightlifting contingent has bagged its sixth medal of the Games.

## Panghal, Hussamuddin cruise into quarterfinals



**BIRMINGHAM:** Indian boxer Amit Panghal began his campaign at the Commonwealth Games with a facile win as he stormed into the men's flyweight (51kg) quarterfinals here Monday. Panghal, a World Championship silver medallist, Vanuatu via a unanimous verdict.

Featherweight boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin made it two out of two as he also advanced to the quarterfinals with a similar 5-0 win over Mohammad Salim Hossain of Bangladesh in the round of 16.

Panghal, who is participating in his first big tournament after the disappointing show at the Tokyo Olympics, looked in control throughout the three rounds. He used his combination of right and left punches effectively and fought from a distance, compelling Berri to come forward and attack.

Panghal was quick to land a flurry of punches in each of the three rounds as Berri was no match for the Indian. With the opening two rounds going in his favour, Panghal was content with defending in the

final three minutes, saving his energy for the tougher challenges ahead.

He is now one win away from securing his second CWG medal. In the last edition in Gold Coast he had clinched a silver. He will face 20-year-old Lennon Mulligan of Scotland.

"It was a good workout but it was easy. My opponent was good but never gave me any problems," Panghal said after his win.

"I could have stepped it up but there is a long way to go and I am here for gold. I won silver at Gold Coast and I am here to go one better. I am only interested in the gold medal. That's why I took it on points, to get a good bit of work in the ring," he added.

Last edition's bronze medallist, Hussamuddin also put up a dominant display in his fast-paced bout. The 28-year-old Indian was at his counter-attacking best as he landed sharp punches while dancing across the ring.

He will fancy his chances of a second CWG medal as he faces Namibia's Tryagain Morning Ndevelo in the quarterfinals.

## INDIA LAWN BOWLS EVES ENSURE HISTORIC MEDAL



**BIRMINGHAM:** India lawn bowls team assured itself a historic first ever Commonwealth Games medal after defeating New Zealand 16-13 in the semifinal of the women's fours event, here Monday. This will be India's maiden final appearance in the women's fours format of the competition.

The women's fours team comprising Lovely Choubey (lead), Pinki (second), Nayamoni Saikia (third) and Rupa Rani Turkey (skip) will face South Africa in the gold medal clash Tuesday.

"We cannot express our feelings in mere words. We have fought as a team and now our journey doesn't end here," an emotional lawn bowler Turkey said. "We have to play in a similar fashion against

South Africa and do what hasn't been done before," she added.

Against New Zealand, after conceding a 0-5 lead after the second end, the Indian team made a strong back against the Kiwi team of Selina Goddard (lead), Nicole Toomey (second), Tayle Bruce (third) and Val Smith (skip).

After end-9, they were tied 7-7 and after end-10, India took 10-7 lead. But it was a close contest between the two sides, as New Zealand was marginally 13-12 ahead after end-medal clash Tuesday.

The Indian men's pair was knocked out of the competition Sunday after going down 8-26 to Northern Ireland in the quarterfinal.

## Narrow escape for Vishavjeet

**BIRMINGHAM:** Indian cyclist Vishavjeet Singh, who qualified for the final in the men's 15km scratch race, made a narrow escape from the horrific crash that grabbed the spotlight at the Commonwealth Games.

The incident happened in the afternoon on Sunday when the cyclists were into their final leg of the 10-lap qualifying scratch race. Eight riders collided on the track at the Lee Valley Velo Park in London.

The 24-year-old Olympic champion Matt Walls of England suffered stitches, scrapes and bruises after crashing over the barriers. Isle of Man's Matt Bostock and Canada's Derek Gee were also taken to hospital following minor injuries, said an official here.

Spectators were also injured, with one being taken away in a wheelchair as cyclists and bikes flew into the crowd, said team India cycling coach Dayalram Jatt.

Narrating the incident Jatt said Singh was just behind the pack but he showed presence of mind and moved away by braking in time.

"It requires tremendous skill to brake in time in that rush of blood and he did exactly that to stop behind as bikes flew into the barriers. It was simply horrific. I never saw such an accident. We were left shaking in fear for some time," Jatt told PTI from London.

Vishavjeet, however, made sure that he reached a historic final for the first time in a multi-sport event. In



the final consisting of 60 laps, Singh was going strong but fell behind in the final lap and incurred a penalty point to be labelled "did not finish (DNF)". "But overall, I'm happy for Singh to have survived the crash and make the final," the coach said.

## Indian gymnast Pranati finishes 5th in vault final

**BIRMINGHAM:** India's Pranati Nayak finished fifth in women's vault final of artistic gymnastics event at the Commonwealth Games here Monday.

The 27-year-old from West Bengal, who has won bronze medals at the 2019 and 2022 Asian Championships, scored 13.633 in her first vault attempt and 11.766 in her second go for an average of 12.699 at the Arena Birmingham. Pranati, who scored 13.275 in the qualification, was handed a penalty of 0.1 and 0.3 in her two attempts.

Australia's Georgia Godwin won the gold medal with a score of 13.233, while Canada's Laurie Denommee (13.233) and Scotland's Shannon Archer (13.083) claimed the silver and bronze medals respectively.

**JOSHNA SUFFER DEFEAT**

Ace Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa bowed out of the women's singles event after suffering a loss to Canada's Hollie Naughton in the quarterfinals of the CWG here Monday. Joshna couldn't produce her best, losing 9-11, 5-11, 13-15 to the 27-year-old Haughton.

## Chess Olympiad: Tania shines India's victory over Hungary

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mamallapuram (Chennai), August 1:** Tania Sachdev battled long and hard to rake in a precious point as India A registered a sensational 2.5-1.5 win against Hungary in the fourth-round match of women section at the 44th Chess Olympiad here Monday.

After Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika and R Vaishali ended with a draw in their respective encounters, Sachdev rose brilliantly to the occasion. She thrashed Zsoka Gaal to earn a decisive point as well as the match for the team.

The 11th seeded Indian women B team also edged past Estonia with a similar 2.5-1.5 score. Vantika Agrawal, extending her winning run, clinched the winning point for the team while the other three games ended in draws.

Meanwhile in a major upset of Day 4, former World Championship Challenger Fabiano Caruana of USA was beaten by Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan. With the help of the 17-year-old prodigy

## Great sportsmanship

**Great sportsmanship** was displayed at the Olympiad Sunday by a Jamaican player. Estonian chess player Kanep Meelis, 39, fainted while playing against Jamaican Shaw Jaden. Meelis was in a winning position when he fainted after Jaden's 39th move. He was rushed to a private hospital where his condition was said to be stable. Rather than letting the clock run out of time and win the game, Jaden offered a draw which was accepted by the team captain. Estonia won the match 3.5-0.5.

Abdusattarov's efforts, Uzbekistan held the top-seeded star-studded USA to a 2-2 draw.

In the other open section fourth round matches, India B emerged victorious by 3-1 against Italy. Gukesh and Nihal Sarin scored victories while R Praggnanandhaa and Raunak Sadhwani conceded draws.

The second-seeded India A, on the other hand, held to a 2-2 draw by France with all the four board splitting points while India C lost to Spain by a 1.5-2.5 score.

## India play out draw vs England



Mandeep Singh celebrates a goal against England during their match at the Commonwealth Games, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 1:** India squandered a three-goal advantage and were held to a 4-4 draw by hosts England in their second Pool B match at the Commonwealth Games men's hockey here Monday.

The Indians started brilliantly and dominated the first two quarters to enjoy a comfortable 3-0 lead at halftime. But the Englishmen

came out hard in the final two quarters to stun the Indians.

England were also helped by three cards to India's Varun Kumar twice, one for five minutes in the first half and then again 10 minutes in the second half, besides a 10-minute suspension for Gurjant Singh in the final quarter for dangerous play.

The Indians scored through Lalit Upadhyay (3rd minute), Mandeep Singh (13th and 22nd) and

Harmanpreet Singh (46th) from a penalty corner. England produced a valiant fightback in the second half and scored through Liam Ansell (42nd), Nick Bandurak (47th, 53rd) and Phil Roper (53rd).

Both India and England have faced each other four times in CWG history, winning two matches each. In their last meeting, England came out on top in the bronze medal match at Gold Coast 2018, winning 2-1.

## Odisha Violet, Odisha Yellow win in Women's T20 tourney

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 1:** Odisha Violet and Odisha Yellow opened their Odisha Women's T20 Cricket 2022 tournament campaigns on winning notes at the DRIEMS Ground here, Monday.

Violet played the tournament opener against Odisha Red, where they came out on top with a comfortable 23-run win. Violet posted 100/6 after winning the toss and opting to bat. Alipsa Biswal was the top scorer with 19 runs to her name. Nivedita J Naik (2/9) was pick of the Red bowlers.

In response, Red were bowled out for 77 with two balls to spare in their innings. Laxmipriya Naik (14 runs) was the top scorer. SB Lorence bowled a brilliant four-over spell ending with figures of 3/12. Sushree Dibyardarshini (2/9 in 3.4 overs) also bowled well.

In the second match, Odisha Purple posted 97/5 after winning the toss and elected to bat against the Yellow. Subhra N Swain (36) was the top scorer and she was

ably supported by Pragyan P (27). Sonali Hembram (1/11) was the best among the Yellow bowlers.

In response, Yellow notched up the win having five wickets in hand and with five balls to spare. Kajal Jena (39) was the top scorer for the winners. Swarnalata Nayak (2/11) and Subhra (2/12) shared four wickets between them.

## STEWART SPORTS ACADEMY INAUGURATED

The Stewart Sports Academy was recently inaugurated in the premises of Stewart School, Cuttack for the benefit of all the institutions under the Diocese of Cuttack, CNI.

Founder of the Academy, Subasish Sahu gave a brief introduction of the Stewart Sports Academy attended by guests Pinak Mishra, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cuttack as well as shuttlers Rutaparna and Swetaparna Panda.

Senior Coordinator D Martina and Principal FC North of Stewart School, Cuttack gave away the vote of thanks and conducted the event.