SHRUTI'S OBSERVATION

Actor Shruti Haasan says mental health issues are something that one learns to live with whole life

LEISURE P2



#### **BORIS IN TROUBLE**

Britain's Johnson clings to power with support seeping away from the increasingly isolated PM

INTERNATIONAL P10



#### FIRST T20I TODAY

Rohit Sharma is all set to step on the field as India take on England in the first T201 without some big names

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, JULY 7 | 2022

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### PT Usha, Ilaiyaraaja nominated to RS

**NEW DELHI:** Legendary athlete PT Usha and music maestro Ilaiyaraaja were among prominent personalties nominated to Rajya Sabha Wednesday. Philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala temple Veerendra Heggade and noted screen writer V Vijayendra Prasad were also nominated to the Upper House of Parliament. Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his pictures with Usha and Ilaiyaraaja along with his congratulatory messages on Twitter. The Rajya Sabha had vacancies in the nominated category.

#### **Covid: Gap cut for** precaution dose

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Health Ministry has reduced the gap between the second and precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccine for all beneficiaries from nine to six months following a recommendation by NTAGI. Corresponding changes have been made in the CoWIN system to facilitate the new vaccine regimen. In a letter to states and Union Territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan Wednesday said the revision was made following a recommendation of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI).

#### **Naqvi, RCP Singh** resign from Cab

NEW DELHI: Union ministers Mukhtar Abbas Nagyi and RCP Singh submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term, sources said. During a Cabinet meeting earlier in the day, Modi lauded both Naqvi and Singh for their contributions to the country during their ministerial tenure, sources said. Former bureaucrat and once a confidant of Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar, Singh resigned on his birthday, one vear after joining the Union Cabinet from his party's quota. After Naqvi, there will be no Muslim minister at the Centre and the BJP will have no Muslim MP among its nearly 400 Members of Parliament.

#### RREGULAR by MANJUL



We'll have it after shopping. Hurry up! Otherwise, the grocery prices might go further up

SENSEX **53750.97**  616.62

15989.80

80.95

₹50,515

₹56,583

7.8mm 3.0mm

**VARIATION** 

178.90

₹0.06

₹0.97

Light rain

₹787

**MARKET WATCH** 

**INDEX** 

VIFTY

EURO

GOLD

**WEATHER** 

SILVER

DOLLAR **79.73** 

# 90.55% CLEAR EXAM; GIRLS OUTSHINE BOYS

MATRIC RESULTS OUT

Students of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir in Cuttack's Tulasipur check their Class X results on a smart phone, Wednesday

Girl gangraped

5-YEAR-OLD RAPED, MAN ARRESTED

Phulbani: A 33-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly raping a five-

year-old girl in Kandhamal district, police said Wednesday. The accused had

dragged the child from her neighbourhood in a village in G Udayagiri Police

room, an officer said. He was arrested and booked under sections of the

Code, G Udayagiri Inspector Rebati Sabar said. The child was medically

examined at the district headquarters hospital, where her condition was

stated to be stable. The Child Welfare Committee is examining the case.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and Indian Penal

Station area Sunday on the pretext of giving her chocolate and raped her in a

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) Wednesday announced the result of the annual High School Certificate (HSC) examinations 2022. 90.55 per cent students have passed the exam as per the BSE.

A total of 5,26,818 students had appeared in the exam which was held offline this year. Out of them, 5,17,847 have passed and 8,699 failed, School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said. "Though last year the pass percentage was 97, the result was prepared on the basis of assessment of class 9 performance. This year, the way students have scored is praiseworthy," Dash said.

Like last year, girls have outshined boys with pass percentage of 92.37% as against 88.77% of boys. Total 1,170 schools have scored cent percent results while two schools – one in Malkangiri and one in Angul district - recorded zero results, the minister said.

While, 8,119 students have secured A1 grade and 54,889 received A2 grade, 1,20,312 B1 and 1,42,599 B2. Only 1.41 percent students

#### **Girl sets self on fire** before results, dies

Berhampur: A class 10 student of a private residential school allegedly died by suicide in Ganjam district Wednesday, just an hour before the results of the annual High School Certificate (HSC) examinations were announced, police said. The 15-yearold girl set herself on fire by pouring kerosene at her home in Digapahandi they said. Police rescued her and took her to a hospital, where she was declared dead. "We suspect that she might have committed self-immolation over fears that she would be unsuccessful in the examination," a police officer said. The girl, however, passed with a B-1 grade and secured 421 out of 600 marks in the board examinations.

Meanwhile, students, who are not satisfied with their marks, can apply for rechecking next week. Board President Ramasish Hajra Wednesday informed that the students can apply for rechecking. Online applications will be invited for rechecking from July 11 to 25. However, students of Madhyama (Sanskrit) can apply for rechecking in offline mode, he said



# **LPG dearer by ₹50**

Oppn Cong terms the increase anti-people and asks if this is the cost of toppling the Maharashtra govt

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 6: Cooking gas by ₹50 per cylinder, the eighth increase in rates in the last one vear that took the cumulative rise to ₹244. Non-subsidised LPG now costs ₹1,079 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Bhubaneswar up from ₹1,029 and ₹1,053 in the National Capital, up from ₹1,003 previously, according to a price notification of stateowned fuel retailers.

Firming international energy prices have led to non-subsidised cooking gas (LPG) prices being increased on eight occasions in the past year. In all, rates have gone up by ₹244 per cylinder or 30 per cent. Common households pay nonsubsidised rates for the cooking gas they buy after the government restricted subsidy to just poor beneficiaries who got connections under the Ujjwala scheme.

This is the fourth increase in the LPG rate since the Ukraine war. The price was hiked by ₹50 per cvlinder March 22 and again by the same quantum May 7. Rates went up by ₹3.50 per cylinder May 19.

**EDIBLE OIL TO BE CHEAPER** Amid a fall in global prices, the government Wednesday directed edible oil manufacturers to further cut the maximum retail price (MRP) of imported cooking oils by up to ₹10 per litre within a week, and maintain a uniform MRP of the same brand of oil across the country. As India imports more than 60 per cent of its edible oil requirement, retail prices came under pressure in the last few months taking cues from the global market. This is the third In all, rates have increase in the LPG gone up by ₹244 per

cylinder or 30 per

cent in a year

Of the ₹244 per cylinder hike in the past year, ₹153.50 increase happened since March 2022

rate since May and

the fourth this year

Opposition Congress termed the increase anti-people decision and asked if this is the cost of toppling the Maharashtra government.

In a tweet in Hindi. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi

Vadra said the BJP spoke of the welfare of the poor at its national executive meeting while imposing a 5 per cent Gabbar Singh Tax (GST) on flour, cereals, curd and paneer, and then broke the back of the poor and middle class by increasing the price of domestic cooking Contd...4

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, July 6: A sevenyear-old girl was allegedly raped in Kendrapara district by six juveniles, police said Wednesday.

The Class III student was returning to her house at a village under sadar police station when she was forcefully taken to a deserted place by the teenage boys Monday evening and raped, a police official said.

The suspects had allegedly beaten up the victim after the sexual assault and threatened her of dire consequence if she informed anyone, according to an FIR.

The girl on her return home informed her mother, who filed a complaint with the police wherein



she named the six offenders.

The six were remanded in an observation home at Angul by the Kendrapara Juvenile Justice Board Wednesday, the police said.

They were booked under the the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Indian Penal Code, it added.

**VISTARA ENGINE FAILS,** 

An engine of a Vistara aircraft on way

from Bangkok failed after it landed at

the Delhi airport Tuesday but all pas-

sengers disembarked safely, DGCA said

Wednesday. The airline said one of the

engines had developed a "minor" elec-

Raipur-Indore flight observed smoke in

the plane after it landed at its destina-

trical malfunction. In a separate inci-

dent, the cabin crew of an IndiGo

tion Tuesday, DGCA officials said.

#### by six juveniles with ₹57 lakh POST NEWS NETWORK cash deposit van carrying cash to refill the ATMs in Boden and Sinapali blocks of this district decamped with ₹57 lakh cash and

ATM cash van

driver decamps

Khariar, July 6: The driver of a the vehicle, Wednesday.

Nuapada and Bolangir police started investigations after a complaint was lodged at Khariar police station. Scientific team and sniffer dogs were also pressed into service.

Reports said, money was loaded in the van (OR-BQ-6190) at the State Bank of India (SBI) main branch at Khariar engaged by the CMF company and it was supposed to refill several SBI ATMs in Boden and Sinapali blocks at 1.30 pm.

However, soon after the money was loaded, two of the employees accompanying the van went inside the bank for some work while the security guard went nearby to relieve himself. Taking advantage of their absence, the driver hijacked the vehicle and fled without taking the security guard and two bank employees.

The bank employees and security guard came back and found the van missing outside the bank. They immediately raised an alarm and lodged a complaint at Khariar police station.

Police were called in and they found the van abandoned at a place in between Sandhibahali and Bharuakani on the fringes of Nuapada and Bolangir districts. However, the driver had decamped with the cash before the police reached the spot.

# SpiceJet showcaused after 8 malfunctions

New Delhi, July 6: Aviation regulator DGCA issued a show-cause notice Wednesday to SpiceJet after it reported eight technical malfunction incidents involving its planes over the last 18 days, flagging safety oversight, inadequate maintenance and payment-related shortage of spares SpiceJet has failed to "establish

safe, efficient and reliable air services" under the terms of Rule 134 and Schedule XI of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the notice issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) stated.

"The review (of the incidents) transpires that poor internal safety oversight and inadequate maintenance actions (as most of the incidents were related to either com-

ponent failure or system-related failure) have resulted in degradation of the safety margins," it added. The DGCA has given the airline three weeks to respond to

Reacting to the DGCA notice, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia asserted that passenger safety is paramount. "Even the smallest error hindering safety will be thoroughly investigated and course-corrected," the minister said in a tweet.

In a statement Wednesday, the airline said it is in receipt of the DGCA notice and will be responding within the specified time period. "We are committed to ensuring a safe operation for our passengers and crew. We are an IATA-IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit) certified airline. SpiceJet successfully completed the meticulous audit program for recertification in October 2021," it mentioned.

The airline said it has been regularly audited by the DGCA. "All our aircraft were audited a month ago by the regulator and found to be safe. All flights of SpiceJet are conducted in compliance with the applicable regulations of the DGCA

JULY 2: A flight heading to Jabalpur returned to Delhi after crew observed smoke in the cabin

on SpiceJet planes in the last 18 days. The airline has been making losses for the last three years. It incurred a net loss of ₹316 crore, ₹ 934 crore

subject," it noted.

2020-21 respectively.

and ₹998 crore in 2018-19, 2019-20 and

Civil Aviation Regulations on the

At least eight incidents of tech-

nical malfunction have taken place

# E 19: SpiceJet flight for alpur had to return to Delhi



# leisure



#### **CHRIS EVANS TO STAR IN OTT FILM PAIN HUSTLERS**

Captain America star Chris Evans is set to join Emily Blunt in the streaming movie Pain Hustlers. The project was first reported out of Cannes by Deadline where the streamer landed global rights to the film.

#### **BLACKPINK TO DROP NEW ALBUM IN AUGUST**

Top K-pop girl group BLACKPINK will make a longawaited comeback in August. "BLACKPINK is now at the final stage of recording its new album. They will embark on the filming of a music video within this month and release new songs in August," YG Entertainment said in a press release.





GaneshaSpeaks.com

Today is an ordinary day, it is business as usual, but there will be some progress. You can while away your time doing petty chores. And, Ganesha says, while daydreaming think about that coveted home. as that's how the first plans materialise.

#### **TAURUS**

Religious sentiments will be ruling your thoughts today, great day for making a trip to a temple or a popular religious destination. You members along on this auspicious journey. Your parents are sure to pray shower their love and blessings upon you and pray for your well being.

#### **GEMINI**

You will be faced with household problems and worries about your children today. You will need to help your children with schoolwork in the morning. In the evening you will likely head out to dinner with family and friends and relax, says Ganesha.

**CANCER** Ganesha says that you will feel tiredness and weakness but in the office or business you will be relaxed, with less tension. Ganesha suggests that you should be careful to fulfil new responsibilities entrusted to you. You will spend on travel

You will attempt to reschedule your daily routine to be able to make the most of your day. While it is easy to make plans. implementing them and sticking to them depends on your own discipline and deter mination. You will become more aware about health issues and pay closer attention to your diet. You will spend an enjoy able time with your family, says Ganesha

Today is a day for introspection and you will find yourself in a pensive mood. Ganesha advises you to search for the inner peace that you want. Stay calm to discover the hidden treasures within you. In the evening you will be glad to help someone who is in need of it.

Ganesha says you will be able your loved ones and may even taken them out for lunch or dinner which will bring you more closer to them. You will even try to please them by shower ing them with gifts and presents today

#### **SCORPIO** There's always a first time,

and today is the day when you would seal a profitable deal for your new business venture. However, close the deal only if it is hene ficial for a long term. Be cautious and watch your steps carefully to avoid any unfortunate situation.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

A fresh and renewed you, today all your focus is on your kith and kins. This includes sneaking some time off for your beloved as well! Romantic conversations and intimacy will add some spark to the day. After family, friends too come to take their share. An exciting evening in store for you!

#### CAPRICORN

Mark this date on the calen dar as today is going to be one of the most important days of life, the reason being you are going to meet somebody who is will stay with you through out your life. Though it may some time bore you, but your relationships will keep you busy today. Visits to religious places are on the cards for you. Most of the day you will spend time with your friends and family.

#### AQUARIUS

You will try everything to please your colleagues and bosses, but they will still have something negative to say about your performance. In order to be in the good books of everyone you end up hurt-The second half of the day promises to be relaxing, thanks to your sweetheart who will make special efforts to lighten your burden of work.

#### PISCES

You will have difficulty in interpreting the behaviour of your life partner today. It is better to bring transparency in your relationship rather than to doubt it. Speak freely about your problems and communicate with your spouse. Business relationships will also face rough weather. Those who work will find a measure of success in their office.



on battling mental health issues

Chennai: Shruti Haasan recently opened up about battling mental health issues and how resolving them is not an easy affair. According to her, it is not like recovering from a bad knee in-In an interaction with a portal, Shruti said,

"Mental health like anxiety is not something you can just overcome like a bad knee injury. It is something that you learn to live with your Shutting down rumours of hospitaliation,

she says, "I am doing perfectly fine." Elaborating further, the actress added, "Anyone who understands mental health knows it is not a cure-all, fix-all and there are many triggers. I am aware of the triggers for the issues, and so I like to speak about mental health. The first step to fixing anything is being able to have a discussion about it. On the professional front, Shruti will

next be seen in *Salaar* co-starring

Prabhas. Spilling some beans on the same, the actress stated, "It is shaping up really good, I am in Hyderabad to shoot that and it is coming really well. It has a phenomenal director and I am just really happy to be a part of the Apart from Salaar, Shruti

also has NBK107, co-star-Nandamuri Balakrishna and Waltair Veerayya in her kitty.





Ranjan Dutt fought in World War II which lasted

6 years from 1939 to 1945 triggered by the

German invasion of Poland. Ayesha took to her social media handles to share rare photos of her father. Sharing the pictures on her Instagram handle, Shroff wrote, Tiger's grandfather training to fly Tiger Moths. I guess he was around 18 or 19 years old when he fought in World War II. True grit and true valour. Decorated for his bravery by his India. I'm proud to be his daugh-

ter. Jai Hind." In the black and white photos, Ayesha Shroff's father Ranjan Dutt is seen with his fellow fighter pi-

Tiger has earlier spoken about his roots when he appeared on Arbaaz Khan's celebrity talk



Ranjan Dutt(M) with fellow fighter pilots

dad's (Jackie Shroff) dad is

Gujarati, and my dad's mom is Turkmenistani, a Mongolian-Chinese, a Muslim. My mom's mom is French, and my mom's dad is Bengali, so I'm a mix of a lot of things, I don't know what that makes

Odisha, recorded a Jagannath Bhajan during Rath Yatra which was to be originally sung by legend Lata Mangeshkar. Preparations were almost finished for the recording of the Bhajan in Lata's voice but it couldn't be materialized first due to

Chakraborty, one of the most pop-

ular female play back singers of

Bhubaneswar:

said production house sources. The Bhajan was finally recorded

Covid restrictions and then due to

ill health of the legendary singer,



#### Antara records bhajan originally written for Lata

Antara

in Antara's voice at Ashis studio in Cuttack, According to sources, Lata was given 24 songs from which she chose To Sandhya Darshan Lagi Balichi Mana to lend her voice for.

"It was one of the best moments of her singing career," says an emotional Antara after the recording session.

The music of the Bhajan, written by Mohit Chakraborty, was scored by Devitosh Acharya. The album titled Sandhya Darshan will be released on the occasion of Bahuda Yatra.

### Alia talks about fitting into Kapoor clan

Mumbai: The seventh season of popular chat show Koffee With Karan is set to premiere July 7 on Disney+ Hotstar and will see stars Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt gracing the couch for the first episode.

During the episode, show host Karan Johar and Gully Boy co-stars Ranyeer and Alia touched upon celebrity relationship trajectories, supporting their partners and their lives after marrying the love of their lives.

Alia Bhatt took the conversation further with her experience of fitting into the Kapoor clan

Tracing her journey of shifting from a nuclear family and adapting to the majestic celebrations of Hindi film industry's First Family, she said, "I have been brought up between me, my mum, my sister and my father. That was it. Our interaction was very limited. We were a very close family, but we were not a big family. We did not have these massive celebrations or get-togethers." Chalking out the difference between her home and that of her in-laws, Alia mentioned, "Everybody did their own thing. Enter the Kapoor family, where everyone does everything together. You eat together, do aarti together, everything is done together. It was cute. I have been through so many moments of culture and family because of the Kapoor family that it has given me a totally new layer in my life."

#### **PEANUTS**



#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



#### BREVITY



#### POST

# **CROSSWORD** 22

#### Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com

25 First

22 Musical time

24 Parish priest

26 Wine bottle

27 Himalayan

kingdom

sizes

#### Across

- 1 Execrate 4 Type of seas, at
- times
- 9 Timeless, as of quality
- 10 Scene of the action
- 11 Lassitude 12 Stand of fruit
- 13 Desert sight
- 15 Major artery 20 Parachute part
- deal?

5 Mayhem

**Down** 

- 3 Japanese raw
- 1 Formal order 2 Retinue

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- allergen

port

19 Common 21 Like ghost

6 Signal flag

7 Concedes

haddock

14 Brandy flavour

16 Flightless bird

17 Garden tool

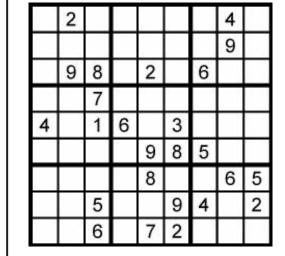
18 Old Roman

8 Young

- stories
- 23 Damp

#### SUDOKU

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



#### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD GAL ICYK

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

SUDOKU



Bhubaneswar, July 6: Opposition BJP and Congress Wednesday

slammed the state government for

its alleged failure to check liquor consumption and illegal drugs

The opposition members asked

the government to take exemplary action against the liquor mafia and drug traders. The BJP moved

an adjournment motion in the

Assembly over the growing drug

pendent on the revenue generated

from the authorised sale of excise

products. As a result, Odisha ranks

third in the country in terms of

In Odisha, 31 per cent people

aged between 10 and 75 years are

addicted to liquor or any other

contraband. Ganja and brown sugar

smuggling has gone up signifi-

Minister Naveen Patnaik gave a

call for the inclusion of Ahimsa

(non-violence) in the Preamble of

Indian Constitution and the Odisha

Assembly passed a unanimous res-

'On March 23, 2021, Chief

cantly in the state, he added.

addiction," Majhi said.

trade in Odisha.

# downtown

**Oppn slams govt over** 



#### **AUDIO RELEASE**

	200	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
AUDIO RELEASE			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
Dignitaries at the audio release of movie 'Bye Bye Dil' at Gitagobinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday		World	55,67,00,314	53,09,91,203	63,64,886
		India	4,35,47,809	4,29,07,327	5,25,270
		Odisha	12,91,518	12,80,382	9,126

# Thrust on timely rituals during Bahuda

AS PER TRADITION. **SRIMANDIR DEITIES RETURN TO THE LIONS' GATE OF THE 12TH CENTURY** SHRINE FROM SRIGUNDICHA TEMPLE BY RIDING THEIR **CHARIOTS ON THE OCCASION OF BAHUDA YATRA** 

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 6: The district administration and the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) have started preparation for the Bahuda Yatra of Srimandir deities scheduled to be held July 9.

The district administration has organised a meeting with the Daitapati servitors of Srimandir for smooth conduct of Bahuda Yatra.

As per tradition, Srimandir deities return to the Lions' Gate of the 12th century shrine from Srigundicha temple by riding their chariots on the occasion of Bahuda Yatra.

The deities had reached Srigundicha temple for a nine-day sojourn on the occasion of Rath Yatra July 1. "The devotees would be allowed to have a darshan of the deities at Srigundicha temple from 6 am to 4 pm of July 8. They would not be allowed to visit the shrine in the evening. A decision in this regard has been taken to ensure timely completion of rituals during Bahuda

Yatra," said Daitapati servitor Ramakrushna Das Mahapatra. According to him, the temple

authorities have made all arrangements for completion of rituals ahead of the schedule. "The Pahandi procession of Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra will begin soon after the completion of Khechedi Bhog ritual," Das Mahapatra said. Das Mahapatra further revealed

that the servitors have been told to complete the daily rituals of the deities by 12.30 pm July 10 for smooth conduct of Suna Besha ritual. The deities would be decoTHE DEITIES HAD REACHED **SRIGUNDICHA TEMPLE FOR A NINE-DAY SOJOURN ON THE OCCASION OF RATH YATRA JULY 1** 

Chariots being turned southward at Saradhabali as part of preparations for Bahuda Yatra, Wednesday

rated with gold ornaments on their respective chariots as part of the Suna Besha ritual.

"Lakhs of devotees usually throng the Holy City to witness

**MATRIC RESULTS** 

Suna Besha ritual. The devotees could not witness the unique ritual for the last two years due to the restrictions imposed by the state government to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. That is why we are expecting huge congregation of devotees to witness the ritual this year,'

Das Mahapatra said. Daitapati Niyog president Jagannath Das Mahapatra, meanwhile, said that no servitor would be allowed to click photos of the deities on the chariots during Suna Besha ritual. Similarly, servitors have been asked not to sit or loiter on the chariots unauthorisedly during the ritual, he added.



trade in the state. On March 23, 2021, Participating in the motion, Opposition chief whip Mohan **Chief Minister Naveen** Charan Maihi said the illegal drug Patnaik gave a call for the trade is flourishing in Odisha and inclusion of Ahimsa (nonmany youths are falling prey to violence) in the Preamble of drugs due to the incompetency of **Indian Constitution and the** the state government. **Odisha Assembly passed a** "The state government is deunanimous resolution in this

regard. The state government is saying that it has been inspired by the ideology of Gandhiji then it should explain why liquor traders are being rewarded for record sales

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | BJP CHIEF WHIP

olution in this regard. The state government is saying that it has been inspired by the ideology of Gandhiji then it should explain why liquor traders are being rewarded for record sales" asked the BJP chief whip.

Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra alleged that the Excise department is embroiled in corruption from top to bottom. Illegal brewing of liquor is also on the rise, he said, adding that exemplary measures should be taken to curb the illegal sale of liquor and banned drugs.

On the other hand, Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati alleged that BJD leaders are involved in the ganja smuggling. He alleged that the drug traffickers are participating in BJD meetings.

Replying to the motion, Excise Minister Aswini Kumar Patra said as many as 3,359 persons have been arrested for illegal liquor trade in 2021-22 while 1.97 lakh kg ganja and 61,636 grams of brown sugar were seized during the period. In 11 cases, properties worth Rs 21.09 crore have been confiscated, the



Girls of Puri Zilla School celebrate their success in the matriculation examination, Wednesday

he had

## 'Education has become more challenging during pandemic'

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) of Odisha announced the class 10 final examination results Wednesday, in which 90.55 per cent students were declared successful.

As many as 8,119 students scored A1 grade (90 per cent and above) to 90 percent marks, he said.

Orissa POST talked to some students who scored above 90 percent and asked them how they feel about the marks they got and what are the challenges they see for education

Rajranjan Sahoo of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Unit 3 who

97.83 per cent said that he was expecting marks as calculated it based



to improve their performances. Post-Covid time, the education has become more challenging but still we have to adjust and go for-

He said that the summative exam

format helps in getting good marks

as students get multiple chances

of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir

who scored 96 per cent said she was expecting to be topper in school but missed

However, she happy with the marks. She said

that education at the end must be more interactive and offline classes are only option of that. Online classes still has lot of challenges. She said that she will want to study medical and focus

Suhani Sahu of Vivekananda Shiksha Kendra who scored 90 per

cent said she was expecting little extra marks in Her opinion was that

giving summative assessment exam is better than not giving exam at all. She said

she will pursue science

Sai Om Biswal who scored 82 percent and is a student of Gopabandhu High School said that he was expecting little more but will

accept the



### PG entrance exam to commence August 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The Higher Education Department Wednesday released the schedule for Common PG Entrance Test-2022 for admission into State Public Universities and Colleges for Post Graduation (PG) Courses

According to the notification, the Common PG Entrance Test-2022 will start from August 1 and will continue till August 13

In the entrance test, there will be three sessions—Session-1 (from 10 am to 11.30 am), Session-2 (from 12.30 pm to 2 pm) and Session-3 (from 3 pm to 4.30 pm). However, differently abled students will be given additional 30 minutes to write the examination

Earlier, the department had released notification for the online Common Application Form (CAF) which was available in the website www.samsodisha.gov.in from June 27. The last date for applying online through the website is July 12. The entrance test will be held from August 1 to 13, except August

7,9 and 11. Hall tickets can be downloaded from the website till July 20. The Entrance Examination Conducting University will hand over entrance marks to Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) by August 22. After that, subjectwise merit list will be published August 25. Eligible applicants can make choice filling from August 25 to 30. The first round of allotment of seats will be accomplished September 5, while students will be reporting at allotted institutions for admissions from September 6 to 7.

The list for second round of provisional allotment will be released September 13. After second round admissions, the provisional vacant seats will be published on SAMS portal September 20. The final spot merit list for admissions will be published at 12pm September 28.

The researchers found evidence that antibodies -- proteins produced by the immune system in response to viruses and other invaders -- are involved in an attack on the cells lining the brain's blood vessels, leading to inflammation and damage

hile SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, does not directly affect the brain, the immune response triggered by the infection damages the brain's blood vessels, leading to short- and long-term neurological symptoms, according to a study

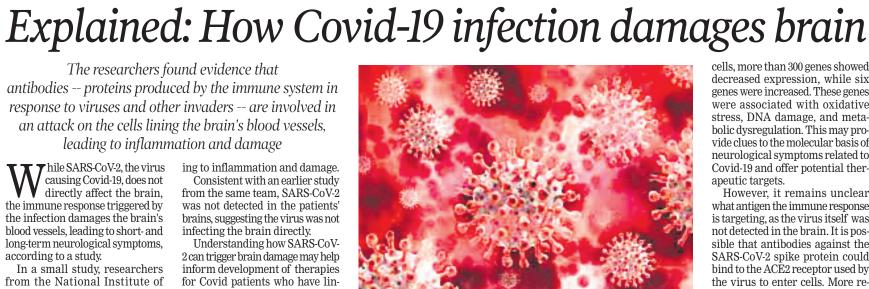
In a small study, researchers from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), a part of the US National Institutes of Health, examined brain changes in nine people who died suddenly after contracting the virus.

They found evidence that antibodies -- proteins produced by the immune system in response to viruses and other invaders - are involved in an attack on the cells lining the brain's blood vessels, lead-

ing to inflammation and damage. Consistent with an earlier study from the same team, SARS-CoV-2 was not detected in the patients' brains, suggesting the virus was not infecting the brain directly.

Understanding how SARS-CoV-2 can trigger brain damage may help inform development of therapies for Covid patients who have lingering neurological symptoms, the team wrote in the paper published in Brain.

According to the researchers, antibodies produced in response to Covid may mistakenly target cells crucial to the blood-brain barrier. Tightly packed endothelial cells help form the blood-brain barrier, which keeps harmful substances from reaching the brain while allowing necessary substances to



pass through. Damage to endothelial cells in blood vessels in the brain can lead to leakage of proteins from the blood. This causes bleeds and clots in some Covid patients and can increase the risk of stroke.

"Activation of the endothelial cells brings platelets that stick to the blood vessel walls, causing clots to form and leakage to occur. At the same time the tight junctions between the endothelial cells get disrupted causing them to leak," said Avindra Nath, clinical director at NINDS.

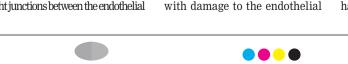
'Once leakage occurs, immune cells such as macrophages may come to repair the damage, setting up inflammation. This, in turn, causes damage to neurons.'

Researchers found that in areas

cells, more than 300 genes showed decreased expression, while six genes were increased. These genes were associated with oxidative stress, DNA damage, and metabolic dysregulation. This may provide clues to the molecular basis of neurological symptoms related to Covid-19 and offer potential ther-

apeutic targets. However, it remains unclear what antigen the immune response is targeting, as the virus itself was not detected in the brain. It is possible that antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein could bind to the ACE2 receptor used by the virus to enter cells. More research is needed to explore this hypothesis.

The study may also have implications for understanding and treating long-term neurological symptoms after Covid-19, which include headache, fatigue, loss of taste and smell, sleep problems, and "brain fog." Had the patients in the study survived, the researchers believe they would likely have developed long Covid. IANS



he added.

#### **Special trains for** Bahuda, Suna Besha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The Ministry of Railways has planned to run 205 special trains to and from Puri during Sandhya Darshan Bahuda and Suna Besha of Rath Yatra festival for smooth travel and convenience of the pilgrims. Keeping in view a rush of devotees, railways has also planned to run more special trains on the day after

On Sandhya darshan, i.e. on July 8, seven pairs (three pairs from Mahipur and four pairs from Khurda Road) of special trains will run towards Puri and vice versa.

On Bahuda Yatra, i.e. on July 9, 10 pairs of special trains from Paradeep, Mahipur, Cuttack, Brahmapur, Bhadrak, Khurda Road and Keonjhargarh will run towards Puri and vice versa

Similarly on Suna Besha day, i.e. on July 10, 11 pairs of special trains from Paradeep, Mahipur, Cuttack, Brahmapur, Bhadrak, Khurda Road and Keonjhargarh will run towards Puri and vice versa

On day after Suna Besha, i.e. on July 11, six special trains will leave Puri towards Gunupur, Rayagada, Bhadrak, Visakhapatnam, Kendujhargarh and Mahipur and one special train will run from Keonjhargarh to Puri. 08983 Puri-Sambalpur special will leave Puri at 1200hrs on July 11 towards Sambalpur:

02891/02810 Bhubaneswar-Puri-Bhubaneswar daily Rath Yatra Special will leave from Bhubaneswar at 1005hrs and in return will leave Puri at 1510hrs be-

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Altogether

245 wild elephants died of unnat-

ural causes in Odisha in just three

years, senior Congress MLA

Santosh Singh Saluja said in the

Assembly Wednesday and de-

manded action against those re-

The lawmaker from Kantabanji

in Bolangir district attacked the

BJD government during the Zero

Hour for its alleged lack of con-

cern for the safety of the pachy-

derms. "As many as 245 elephants

died in just three years. It indi-

cates that these animals are not

safe in Odisha," Saluja said, point-

ing out that a total of 784 elephants

While 82 jumbos died in 2019-

20, the figure was 77 in 2020-21 and

86 in 2021-22, the MLA said adding

that the reasons for their deaths are

road and rail accidents, poaching

"Recently, skeletal remains of

elephants were exhumed in

Athagarh forest division (in Cuttack

sponsible for their deaths.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# 722 drunk drivers held in 3 months



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: In a threemonth-long statewide drive, as many as 722 persons have been arrested and driving licenses (DLs) of 663 have been suspended for driving under the influence of alcohol, an official of State Transport Authority (STA) said Wednesday.

According to the STA official, as many as 2,176 people have been detected driving under the influence of alcohol during a statewide drive against drunk driving conducted by the STA from April to June.

With Covid-related restrictions lifted by the state government following a sharp decline in cases, the STA along with the state police resumed action to check drunk driving in April.

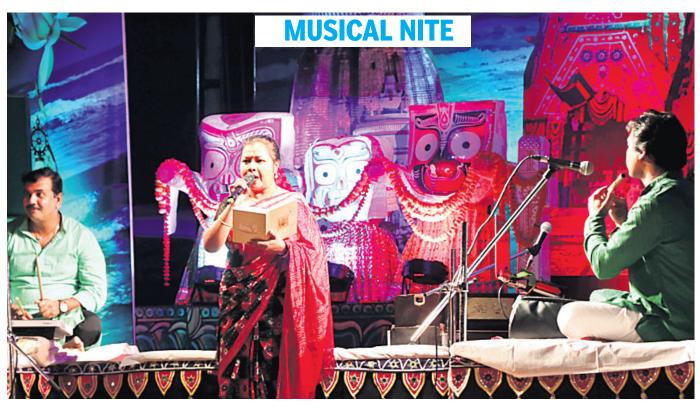
Official sources claimed that there has been a sizable increase in the number of accidents ever since the drive against drunk driving had gone slack owing to the In a statewide drive from April to June, the State Transport Authority has suspended the driving licenses (DLs) of 663 persons for driving under the influence of alcohol

"After going easy on drunk driving during Covid pandemic in view of the health hazards associated with breath analyser tests, the enforcement squads have been asked to conduct such drives at regular intervals," Additional Transport Commissioner (Enforcement and Road Safety) Lalmohan Sethi said.

As per the new Motor Vehicles Act, in the case of drunk driving, first-time offenders will face imprisonment up to six months and/or a fine up to Rs 10,000. The second offence can lead to up to two years prison term and/or a fine of Rs

Despite a set of strict laws and regulations, drunk driving continues to be one of the major reasons behind road accidents in India.

As many as 246 road accidents took place in Odisha in 2021 due to drunk driving in which 79 people lost their lives while 151 were in-



An artiste performs during Guhari, a musical event on Lord Jagannath, organised by Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

#### Single-day Covid cases go past 400



Bhubaneswar, July 6: Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 12,91,518 Wednesday as 401 more people tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

This was the highest single-day spike in Covid-19 cases since February 22, when the state had recorded 428 infections.

Odisha had logged 334 cases on the previous day.

The state's coronavirus death toll, however, remained unchanged at 9,126 as no fresh fatality was recorded in the last 24 hours.

Khurda, where the capital Bhubaneswar is situated, reported the highest number of fresh cases at 194, followed by 64 in Cuttack. Forty-four children were among the new patients.

The daily positivity rate was at 2.66 per cent as 15,907 samples were

tested for Covid-19. Odisha now has 1,957 active cases, while 12,80,382 people have recovered from the infection so far, including 139 Tuesday. Besides, 53 patients have died due to co-

## State GST mop-up rises 45 pc in June

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Odisha has recorded a 45.27 per cent growth in the collection of State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) in June this year as it collected ₹1,247.63 crore during the month against ₹858.83 crore collected in the corresponding period last year, an official said Wednesday.

The gross GST collection increased to ₹3,965.28 crore in June from ₹2,999.91 crore collected in the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 32.18 per cent. Similarly, the state has collected ₹1,063.33 crore in CGST with growth of 43.08 per cent, ₹847.93 crore in IGST with growth of 0.63 per cent and ₹806.39 crore in cess with growth of 45.22 per cent during June this year.

The total collection of VAT (petrol & liquor) stands at ₹1,094.33 crore in June 2022 as against ₹711.15 crore collected in June 2021, registering a growth of 53.88 per cent, the official said.

Of the total VAT collection, the state got ₹860.57 crore from petroleum products and ₹233.76 crore from liquor during June 2022.

There is a growth of 26.14 per cent in professional tax with a collection of Rs 23.66 crore during June 2022 as against a collection of Rs 18.76 crore during June last year.

#### **Major takeaways**

The gross GST collection increased to Rs 3,965.28 crore in June from Rs 2,999.91 crore collected in the corre-sponding period last year, registering a growth of 32.18 per cent

cent and Rs 806.39 crore in cess with growth of 45.22 per cent during June this year There is a growth of 26.14 per cent in nal tax with a coll

. ₹23.66 crore during June 2022 as against ₹18.76 crore collected during the corresponding period of 2021 State's Commercial Tax and GST Commissioner Sushil Kumar Lohani has instructed the field officers to ensure at least 90 per cent

return filing, return scrutiny of all suspected/big taxpayers as well as prompt demand and recovery in case of detection of irregularities, it was learnt. Lohani has also advised the tax officers to adhere to the principles

said Santosh's mother. of 5T and attend to the genuine On June 19, actress Rashmirekha grievances of the taxpayers was found hanging in her rented house in Nayapalli of Bhubaneswar.

#### After Rashmirekha, boyfriend kills self

Bhubaneswar, July 6: A few days after actress Rashmirekha Ojha was found hanging in her rented house in Nayapalli area here, her rumoured boyfriend Santosh Patra allegedly committed suicide at Basanti Colony in Rourkela, Wednesday.

Patra, who was earlier grilled by the Commissionerate Police in connection with the actress' death, is suspected to have committed suicide late Tuesday night. After being spotted hanging in

a room, he was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctor declared him brought dead. Uditnagar police have launched an investigation into the incident.

"We rushed Santosh to hospital immediately, but the doctors declared him brought dead," said a neighbour.

Meanwhile, Santosh's mother said her son was mentally disturbed and finally he took the drastic step. "Santosh was mentally disturbed after Rashmirekha's death and was trying to commit suicide. Somehow, we were able to keep him alive by consoling him. However, he continued to brood over Rashmirekha's death after returning from the police station and finally took the drastic step,'

#### district). This means these pachy-**LPG dearer by ₹50**

**Continued from P1** 

died in 10 years

**D**etrol and diesel prices, however, **C** continue to be on freeze for the third straight month. The pause followed rates being hiked by a record Rs 10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22. In May, the government cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 8 per litre and diesel by Rs 6 per litre to cool soaring inflation.

At that time, the government also stated that Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy on cooking gas will be limited to only 9 crore poor women and other beneficiaries who got free connections under the Ujjwala scheme and the remaining users including households will pay the market price (also known as nonsubsidised rate).

Originally, non-subsidised cooking gas was the one that consumers used to buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or belowmarket rates. However, the government stopped paying subsidy on LPG to households in mid-2020. Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 1,052.50 per 14.2kg cylinder in Mumbai, while it is priced at Rs 1,079 a bottle in Chennai and Rs 1.068.50 in Kolkata, Rates differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Prices are higher in states with



derms were poached for their tusks before being buried. The tusks are being sold in foreign countries,' Saluia alleged.

He sought to know the measures taken by the state government for the safety of elephants as well as their corridors.

"We demand that the government carry out an investigation and take stringent action against the poachers," he said.

A special investigation team (SIT) has been formed to probe into the recovery of skeletal remains of elephants from the

in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, to press for fulfilment of their demands

**HITTING THE STREETS** 

Athagarh forest division, official sources said.

Meanwhile, a report from Dhenkanal district said that an elephant died of electrocution at Asarada forest under Hindola Range on Wednesday. The 20-yearold animal was electrocuted after coming in contact with a wire fence laid down for wild boars.

In a related incident, a jumbo trampled a resident of Karnapur village under Hindola Range in Dhenkanal district to death during the day when he went to attend to the call of nature, officials said.

People under the banner of 'Odisha Rajya Milita Swabhalambi Karigar Sangha' stage a demonstration near PMG Square

morbidities so far.

# Dengue may become a major public health concern: Expert

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The Asian Institute Public Health (AIPH) University organised a series of programmes to spread awareness about Dengue in the city Wednesday. A series of programmes were organised on this occasion.

BN Nagpal, scientist, South-East Asia Regional Office, WHO delivered a talk on the topic 'Bioecology of Dengue Vector Aedes and Implications on its Control'.

Addressing the gathering Nagpal said, 'Dengue is a vector-borne disease which is spread by Aedes mosquito. It may prove fatal if not detected and treated at an early stage. So far, no vaccine has been developed to prevent Dengue neither are there any drugs available to treat the disease. Therefore, the solution lies in identifying the breeding places of the (Aedes) mosquito and destroying those, while keeping away from mosquito bites. Unless the necessary preventive measures are taken, Dengue may become a major publich health concern, he cautioned. He also elaborated on the symptoms and prevention of the disease

A live demonstration on sample testing of Dengue-infected blood



was held during the workshop. The students got hands-on experience of testing blood samples of Dengue infected patients using TruNat test kit provided by Molbio Diagnostics.

July is observed as the 'Dengue Awareness Month'. To mark the occasion, a 'Dengue Awareness Vehicle' was flagged off by the AIPH University. The vehicle, which started off from the University campus, toured several villages and the adjoining areas spreading public awareness about the disease. The University students carried out a community awareness programme on Dengue at Bilipada village under Balianta block in the vicinity of Bhubaneswar.

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Dean, School of Public Health and Niranjan Behera, Dean, School of Biological Sciences of the University were present on this occasion. Mohit Kumar Mittal of Molbio Diagnostics and faculty members were among others who participated in the programme.

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₹51crore scam whiff

in rural job scheme

#### **OrissaPOST** THURSDAY | JULY 7 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

# Tehsildar, addl tehsildar suspended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, July 6: The state government Wednesday suspended the Bolangir tehsildar and additional tehsildar for their alleged involvement in sale of land belonging to a dead person by forging documents.

The suspended tehsildar and additional tehsildar were identified as Maghaban Bagh and Harekrushna Rout respectively. Moreover, Sadar police also arrested the record keeper-cum-senior revenue assistant Makardhwaj Kalsai, 46, on the charge and produced him in court Wednesday.

Earlier, police had arrested three persons on charges of land grab. The two were suspended on the basis of a report submitted by the district Collector Collector Chanchal Rana said a complaint was lodged on land grab following which a twomember team comprising additional district magistrate and sub-collec-





**Tehsildar Maghaban Bag** 



Harekrushna Rout



Makardhwaj Kalsai

tor was formed to conduct a probe. The team submitted its report which was then sent to the state government for action. Acting on the report, the state government suspended the two senior revenue officials from their service, the Collector said. He added that further investigations are on by the dis-

trict administration and police. It was alleged that the tehsildar's digital signature, ID and password were used on holidays and 1.5 acre of land belonging to a dead person was sold off. The new land owner was also issued a patta (Record of Rights).

Presumably, Bagh is the mastermind of this land scam. The group prepared fake identity cards in the names of dead persons and in turn sold their lands, a senior official in Sadar police station said. After mutations, pattas were also prepared for the grabbed lands.

The scam came to the fore due to the case of Harsha Sandha. The police complaint lodged recently by Harsha's son Abdul Sandha states that he died in

He owned a patch of land behind Adarsh Vidyalaya under Dhumamara mouza. After his death, his family used to depend on the land for agriculture. The land was

the only source of in-

come for the poor family. However, Harsha's family was shocked to see that the land has been sold to Labani Prusty, wife of Madhab Prusty of Gopabandhu Nagar in Bolangir, and that it was done after his death.

signature, ID and

password were used on

holidays and 1.5 acre of

land belonging to a

dead person was

sold off

The sale deed was prepared December 11, 2021. One Uttam Nag of Sikabehenga identified himself as Harsha Sandha and submitted forged documents in the sub-registrar office and signed

on the sale deed of 50 decimal of land. The tehsildar's digital The probe revealed that

though

Harsha's family possessed his death certificate, the deceased's identity card was used to execute the sale

deed. Harsha's photo in the identity card was replaced with that of another elderly person. In place of seller's signature, tehsildar Bagh allegedly used a fake thumb impression on

in 1992. Initially, the OFDC was

making handsome profits by sell-

ing the milk from the rubber trees.

the OFDC floated a tender and as-

signed a contractor to collect rub-

ber milk with a security deposit

of Rs 10 lakh in 2006. The contrac-

tor started doing so from October

The OFDC and the contractor,

however, fell out as it was alleged

that the latter was not paying the

revenue to the Odisha government.

The OFDC directed the contractor

to stop collecting the milk, but the

latter did not pay heed and went on

collecting it and thereby earned a

worse. Even though the contrac-

tor has left the project, the rubber

mafia has taken over. They are ram-

pantly looting the rubber milk and

selling it allegedly with the help

of some OFDC officials. Locals

have demanded state government's

intervention in protecting the rub-

Now, the situation has turned

lot of money.

However, bad days arrived after

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh/Bhapur, July 6: Allegations of misappropriation of Rs 51 crore under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has come to the fore in Bhapur block of Navagarh district.

Locals alleged that the fund meant for supply of various construction materials has been misappropriated through vendors' accounts. They have taken up the issue with the block development officer (BDO) and demanded an investigation into the alleged scam.

They also demanded that 20 vendors whose names have been used for embezzling funds be blacklisted.

According to the complaint, various irregularities have been committed in the MGNREGS in the block in the past. Now, another scam has come to the fore. Several vendors' accounts have been opened in banks in the names of some individuals and organisations who had been entrusted to supply construction materials like steel rods, cement. chips, sand and gravel for MGN-REGS projects.

It was learnt that over 25 vendors have supplied construction items under MGNREGS between 2017 and 2022.

Of them, 20 vendors have been involved in irregularities in the

Shri Debasish Nayak,

S/o.: Rukmon Kumar Nayak, Plot No.: 287/1120,

Near Nuagaon Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar - 751002

Divya Nagar, Nuagaon Municipality Road,

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Square, Bhubaneswar - 751003 during office hours. Interested

owners should send their proposals in prescribed formats in two

separate and sealed covers superscribed as Technical Bid (cover-I)

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or reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof

Semi Govt. bodies or public sector undertakings.

block while in the last five years bills of several MGNREGS projects have been forged. In some projects, machines have been used in work while false muster rolls have been prepared to embezzle funds.

Funds were allegedly siphoned off without doing any work in most of the cases. Some of the irregularities have also been detected through investigations. Some other investigations are un-

Official records showing creation of workdays have been falsified while some vendors have been shown favouritism. Here is a glaring example of the irregularities: Bills of a single road project have been cleared 21 times and Rs 5.61 crore (including 18 per cent GST) has been embezzled. GST money was misappropriated by a vendor.

In another case, the husband of a gram rozgar sevak (GRS) has embezzled Rs 10.44 crore along with the 18 per cent GST. The brother of another GRS has bungled Rs 11.63 crore and most of the projects have not been executed

BDO Janmejay Sahu said that some allegations have been received. "Investigations have started. If there are other irregularities, people are told to come up with allegations. The allegations will be probed and action will be taken against the guilty," he added.

Shri Debasish Nayak,

**CHIEF MANAGER** 

**Punjab National Bank** 

Sd/- Chief Manager

Circle Office, Bhubaneswar

REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar

Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003,

Ph. No.: 0674-2397551, 2397199

#### 112 gram brown sugar seized; one arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 6: Acting on a tip-off, a team of Excise officials Wednesday arrested a drug peddler and seized 112 gram brown sugar worth over Rs 10 lakh from Godavarish Nagar in Silk City. The breakthrough came after intelligence inputs alerted Excise Deputy Commissioner (South) Ashok Kumar Satpathy of brown sugar trade in Berhampur. A special team was formed under his direction which raided Godarvarish Nagar. The team members intercepted a bike and during verification found 112 gram brown sugar in the bike pannier.

The accused was identified as Sandip Agarwal, 38, alias Sandy of Housing Board Colony in Prem Nagar locality. Agarwal admitted to have sold off 138 gram of brown sugar out of 250 grams he had brought from Khurda area. Deputy superintendent Kuber Sethi, inspector Hrudaya Chandra Samant, ASI Brajabihari Nayak were part of the raid team.

# Nayagarh rubber forest on the wane

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, July 6: A project to grow rubber by Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) near Dhani reserve forest in Nakithana under Ranpur block in this district is on the wane due to lack of supervision and proper maintenance. report said.

Over 10,000 out of the 16,000 rubber trees planted have been destroved while the remaining ones are awaiting the same fate. It is a matter of time before the area turns into a barren land. This has happened due to alleged connivance between the rubber mafia and some Forest department officials, sources said. They alleged that the mafia and the unscrupulous officials are making money by collecting and selling rubber milk while the state government is losing lakhs of rupees every year.

Reports said in view of the sharp demand for rubber products in Odisha, the OFDC identified 64



HIGHLIGHTS

OVER 10,000 OUT OF 16,000 RUBBER TREES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED WHILE THOSE ON A TWO-ACRE LAND ARE AWAITING THE SAME FATE

THIS HAS HAPPENED DUE TO ALLEGED CONNIVANCE BETWEEN THE RUBBER MAFIA AND SOME DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

LOCALS HAVE DEMANDED GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN PROTECTING THE

hectare land near Dhani reserve forest for rubber plantation. The OFDC planted over 16,000 rubber saplings between 1985 and 1987 as

part of the initiative.

The saplings soon grew luxuriantly and the OFDC started collecting rubber milk from the plants

#### Phulbani MLA clears Matric exam

ber forest.

Bhubaneswar: Phulbani MLA Angada Kanhar (BJD) cleared his Class X board examination, the results of which was declared Wednesday. The 58-year-old lawmaker secured 72 per cent marks. He had appeared for the examination at Rujangi High School in Pitabari village of Kandhamal district this year. Immediately after receiving news of his results, Kanhar offered prayers at a temple. People from all walks of life, including his voters, friends, and teachers of the examination centre congratulated him.

#### ጩ ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, NAYAGARH 🛭 🚓 OFFICE OF THE CDMO-cum-DISTRICT MISSION DIRECTOR, NAYAGARH TENDER CALL NOTICE

registered Travel Agency only having valid GSTIN/PAN for providing o rehicles on monthly/daily hiring basis in the undersigned office i.e. O/c CDM & PHO-cum-DMD, Nayagarh. The sealed tenders should reach at O/o. CDM & PHO, Nayagarh in any working day by Dtd.21.07.2022 till 5 P.M. along with all required documents by Speed Post/Regd. Post Courier only by super scribing on the top of the envelope "Tender for hiring of vehicles under CDM & PHO, Nayagarh". Details regarding tems and terms & conditions may be download from www.nayagarh nic.in. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or a the quotations without assigning any reason thereof. This is to inform a bidders that the earlier tender published for hiring of vehicle under ZSS, Nayagarh vide No. 06/Dtd.21.05.2022 is hereby cancelled.

Sd./- CDMO-cum-District Mission Director, Nayagar OIPR-10050/11/0007/2223

# An awareness vehicle on promotion of millets and its sale under Odisha Millets Mission being flagged off at Ramgiri Hatapada

under R Udayagiri block of Gajapati district, Wednesday

#### Couple abducts baby, bites her to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 6: In a shocking incident, a two-year-old baby girl was kidnapped by a couple, who later bit her to death at Sureidihi under Betanoti police limits in Mavurbhani district Wednesday, Police have detained the accused couple. Reports said, the deceased

is the daughter of Jadav Murmu, who died some years ago. Her mother left for somewhere. The couple has two daughters who stayed with Jadav's father Chandramohan Murmu. A couple, relative of Chadramohan, came to the village Wednesday and took away the baby, Rupali, secretly.

However, the baby was

crying and on the way some locals suspected something fishy and opposed them. The woman identified as Suni was infuriated and slammed the baby on the ground and later bit the throat of the baby who died at PRM Medical College and Hospital. Locals thrashed the couple and handed them over to police.

#### Man trampled to death; tusker electrocuted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, July 6: A man was trampled to death by a tusker while another tusker was electrocuted in two separate incidents of mananimal conflict in Dhenkanal district, Wednesday. In the first incident, a man identified as Bhramarbar Behera was trampled to death by the tusker at Dudurkote Karnapur village under Hindol forest range of the district. The incident occurred when Behera had been to his backvard to attend nature's call. He came face to face with a tusker which had strayed into its backyard. The animal trampled him to death. In the second incident, an elephant was electrocuted after it came in contact with live wire laid to hunt wild boars at Asarada jungle in this district.

#### Cops fail to crack minor girl's death mystery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, July 6: Nearly 20 days have passed since a 14-year-old girl student was found hanging from a tree near ITI under this police limits in Kandhamal district, but police have failed to crack the death mystery.

The death and police inaction have created resentment among locals who suspect that the girl was raped and murdered.

A delegation of Congress led by Mohana MLA Dasarathi Gamang met the bereaved familv members of Pratap Kanhar (father of the

deceased student) Monday at Gaudapada. Congress workers led by Anam Nayak met SP Vineet Agrwal Tuesday, seeking immediate arrest of those involved in the incident.

> Kahnar's daughter was studying in Class IX at Lembu Bagicha High school. She had come home during summer vacation and after staying for some days. she had gone to her friend's house at Dakangi. Two days later, her body was found hanging from a mango tree

near the Government

Other details

OIPR-25066/11/0013/2223

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK ee\_rwbdk2@yahoo.co.in

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification Online Tender 02/RWD/BDK-II/2022-23 Dtd.29.06.2022

Road work as per Annexure

at 3.00 P.M.

Name of the Work

Total Number of Works 4 Nos.

19.47 to 26.55 lakhs Approximate Estimated Cost

As per Annexure

Period of Completion As per Annexure

The details are as follows Other Details Bid Last Date & Time Availability of Tender Online Date & Time of Procurement Officer Identification for Bidding of seeking tender Opening of Bid clarification Superintending 12.07.2022 19.07.2022 18.07.2022 20.07.2022 Engineer, R.W.

Division-II, Bhadrak Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in" Any other changes/corrigendum may be seen only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. OIPR-25090/11/0004/2223 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak

upto 3.00 P.M.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Divn. BBSR

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER. RURAL WORKS DIVISION. BHUBANESWAR

upto 3.00 P.M

Ph. No. 0674-2301787, Fax No. 0674-2300965, E-Mail ID: eerw\_bbsr@yahoo.co.in

No. Tender-Online-BBSR Divn. - 09 e-Procurement NOTICE

Name of the work Repair/Maintenance of Road Works Total No. of Roads 8 Nos. of Roads Class of Contractor a) Estimated cost more than Rs. 40 lakh & "A" & "B" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of

not exceeding to Rs.1.50 Crore other licensing authorities. Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakh & "B" & "C" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities not exceeding to Rs.40.00 lakh

c) Estimated cost not exceeding to Rs.20.00 "C" & "D" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of lakh other licensing authorities Estimate cost of individual projects Rs.06.00 lakh to 25.00 lakh Time for completion 2 (Two) Calendar months

Bid Identification Availability of Tender Online for Bidding Date & Time of Procurement Officer Opening of Tender From To Executive Engineer, Rural Tender Online -22.07.2022 25.07.2022 11.07.2022 Works Division, Bhubaneswar BBSR Divn. - 09 at 11.00 A.M. at 11.00 A.M

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

at 11.00 A.M.

Date: 06.07.2022

Advt No: Apprenticeship/2022-23/01 NOTIFICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF APPRENTICES **UNDER THE APPRENTICES ACT, 1961** 

पावरग्रिड

**POWERGRID** 

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, A Maharatna Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, invites online applications from eligible candidates or apprenticeship in different trades for one year duration in ODISHA under The Apprentice Act, 1961 and its subsequent amendments.

The Detailed Advertisement/Notification is available in the Career Section in the Company website at www.powergrid.in Opening date of Online Application

Candidates who have applied in NAPS/NATS Apprenticeship Portal are required to submi their online application through POWERGRID website as mentioned above. Applications submitted on POWERGRID website shall only be accepted and considered for engagement.

in POWERGRID, the apprentice shall have no claim whatsoever for any employment in the organization. Any subsequent notification/amendment in the detailed advertisement shall be reflected

only on POWERGRID website. **POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED** 

Please note that on completion of the period of apprenticeship training

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Reg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016. Odisha Projects: Plot No. 4, Unit-41, Niladri Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751021 www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121

A Maharatna PSU



There is a knowledge in the heart of sleep

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



Kaushik Basu

**Providing poor** 

areas with an

change for the

better in the

among us

children in remote

innovative, quality

education can make

a big, cost-effective

lives of the poorest

## Beacons of Hope

he world is battling a deadly virus that refuses to go away. War and brutality have returned to Europe, thanks to an unhinged tyrant in the Kremlin. And climate-related disasters – floods, fires, extreme storms, and droughts – are occurring with greater frequency and intensity than ever in developed and developing countries alike.

But the world is not completely without sources of inspiration and optimism. All it takes to appreciate this is a trip to Barandanga, a village adjacent to the small town of Para in the Purulia district of West Bengal. My aim during a recent four-day visit to the region was to study new initiatives to provide education, and particularly creative education, to the rural poor. But I gained much more. Largely cut off from the rest of the world with no newspapers or television, and visiting schools in one village after another, I felt a wonderful sense of hope

This remote corner of West Bengal, bordering the state of Jharkhand, is largely tribal land. Tribes and clans such as the Santals, Shabars, and Murmus arrived here from Africa thousands of years before the so-called Aryan invasion, which began a little over 3,500 years ago. These tribal people are often illiterate and very poor.

As I drove to Para, I passed through vast stretches of undulating, largely

uninhabited terrain punctuated with clusters of homes. The scenery looked like a cross between the American prairies and the nineteenth-century rural Britain described by the Brontë sisters. I had come to visit Nanritam, a voluntary welfare organisation that initially had little to do with education. The two women who founded Nanritam in 2002 – Ranjana Sengupta, an IT professional, and Bharati Bakshi, a doctor were troubled by the widespread incidence in the region of eye disease and blindness that could be easily corrected with modern medicine. So, they founded an eye hospital in the middle of this poverty-stricken area

Through a combination of missionary zeal and entrepreneurial savvy, the women soon had a modern hospital with a state-of-the-art operating theater. Excellent doctors, many of them volunteering for short stints, performed cataract and retinal surgery and treated people for glaucoma. Many of the patients brought in by vans from villages far and wide had never been to a hospital before.

There was a Maoist insurgency in the area at the time. But, as people regained the gift of sight and Nanritam's reputation spread, the revolutionaries left the organisation alone. Some of them even quietly slipped into the hospital to get their eyes tested. (After a one-day visit in 2012, I agreed to serve as a mentor and joined Nanritam's executive committee).

Nanritam also wanted to provide the region's children with a modern education, and later established the school in Barandanga that I visited on my recent trip. The students learn their mother tongue, usually Santal or Bengali, but the medium of instruction is English – the idea being that this will help them find a job anywhere in the world. They learn mathematics and poetry, physics and computing. The school believes that routine work is going to disappear in the future, and that children will therefore need creative skill.

Chatting with the students left me spellbound. They were talkative and full of fun, and the creativity of some of their mathematics and geometry exercises was comparable to what one sees in advanced economies. The first cohort of students completing grade ten will graduate next year.

The rapid adoption of new digital technology triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic drove home to Nanritam's managers the need for creative education rather than old-fashioned rote learning. So, in 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, Nanritam started the Education for All programme to spread creative learning to neighbouring villages and districts. The organisation regularly brought in teachers from other schools to conduct in-person or virtual training, and provided books for children in 150 schools in the region. It is now able to reach 40,000 students, including the poorest of the poor. This is a large number, but still small relative to India's population.

Moreover, as a striking 2005 paper by the economist Michael Kremer and his co-authors showed, teacher apathy and absenteeism is a major problem in India. Given this, the quality of the schools I visited came as a pleasant surprise. One of the most impressive was the Marang Buru Chacho Marshall School, which is nothing but a cluster of huts in Susunia Hill where Santal children live and receive an elementary education. The school is run by Lakshmi and Babunath Tudu, a Santal tribal couple. Babunath grew up in extreme poverty, at times eating only on alternate days. His parents had to choose which child to send to school, while the others worked to ensure the family's survival. It was magical to see how much the right mix of inspiration, empathy, and commitment can achieve. Economists typically advocate reducing teacher absenteeism through financial incentives - giving teachers an extra reward if they make it to their classes (that is, if they do what they are supposed to do) or cutting their pay if they do not.

But money does not determine all of our aims in life, many of which are "created targets" that reflect the fact we have a choice of goals. People who take pride in what they do work hard. People who develop the instinct to be helpful reach out to others and teach better. We pay too little attention to these larger dimensions of the human mind and human motivations.

What I am describing may seem overly reflective of the warm glow of my recent experience. But the glow can be long-lasting, which makes me believe it can also be far-reaching. If we think creatively and provide children, including the poor and the marginalised, with an innovative, quality education, we can make a big, cost-effective change for the better in the lives of the poorest among us.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

#### WISDOM CORNER

Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace.

Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced

It's not the daily increase but daily decrease. Hack away at the

#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### Trussell

t has been a long time since coins were made by hand in England. The language associated with it is as obsolete as the technique. Coin blanks were called flans. This is the same French word as the one we use in Britain for an open tart, which can be traced back to the old Germanic flado, a flat cake; we once had a relative, flawn, for a type of cheesecake or pancake, which led to the long-defunct proverb "as flat as a flawn". The flan was placed on an anvil called a pile. This is from Latin pila, a pillar, and is a close relative of the words for things piled in a heap and piles driven into the ground to support a structure. Trussell is from the same source as modern French trousseau and our truss, both at first meaning a bundle or package, though it isn't obvious how it came to be used for a die punch.

#### FOCUS THE US

# **DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK**

a constantly evolving was founded in 1776, but its survival as a democracy is now gravely endangered. A set of loosely interconnected developments at home and abroad is responsible for From abroad, the US is threat-

♥he United States has been

ened by repressive regimes led by Xi Jinping in China and Vladimir Putin's Russia who want to impose an autocratic form of government on the world.

But the threat to the US from the domestic enemies of democracy is even greater. They include the current Supreme Court, which is dominated by Far-right extremists, and Donald Trump's Republican Party, which placed those extremists on the Court.

What qualifies the majority of the Court as extremists? It is not merely their decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that recognised a woman's right to choose whether to give birth. What qualifies them as extremists is the arguments they used to justify their decision and the indications they gave of how far they might be willing to go in carrying out those arguments.

Justice Samuel Alito, the author of the majority opinion, based his ruling on the assertion that the Fourteenth Amendment protects only those rights that were generally recognised in 1868, when the amendment was ratified. But this argument endangers many other rights that have been recognised since then, among them the right to contraception, same-sex marriage, and LGBTQ rights.

Carried to its logical conclusion. this line of reasoning could even allow states to ban inter-racial marriage, as some did until 1967. It is also clear that this Court intends to mount a frontal attack on the executive branch. One of the most consequential rulings of the Court's just-completed term denied the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to issue regulations needed to combat climate change.

It doesn't take long to find the common denominator in the Court's recent decisions: support causes promoted by Trump's



The American public has been alarmed and aroused by the US Supreme Court's growing extremism. But voters need to recognise the Court's radical majority for what it is: part of a carefully laid plan to turn the US into a repressive regime

Republican Party and weaken or outlaw causes favoured by the Democratic Party. Consider gun laws. The Court's radical wing listens closely to the pro-gun lobby. So, though a recent epidemic of mass shootings created such a national outcry that even some Republicans supported a new federal gun law, the Court compensated the National Rifle Association for the loss by striking down a longstanding New York law that placed strict restrictions on carrying concealed handguns (New York State immediately passed new gun laws, that are likely to end up before the Supreme Court).

The Supreme Court used to be among the most highly respected institutions in the US. Through its recent decisions, the extremist majority has driven its approval rating to a historic low, and disapproval of the Court to new highs. The dissenting opinion in the case that overturned Roe flatly stated that the majority decision "undermines the court's legitimacy. Unfortunately, the minority is likely to remain in the minority for a long time, because the extremists are younger and hold a 6-3 majority.

There is only one way to rein in the Supreme Court: throw the Republican Party out of office in a landslide. That would allow

Congress to protect through legislation the rights that had been entrusted to the protection of the Supreme Court. It is now clear that doing so was a big mistake. Congress must act, starting with protecting a woman's right to choose. If the filibuster must be amended to achieve that, so be it.

But when it comes to organising a landslide victory against the radicalised Republicans, opponents face almost insuperable obstacles. Republicans have not only stacked the Supreme Court and many lower courts with extremist judges. In states such as Florida, Georgia, and Texas, they have enacted a raft of laws that make voting very difficult.

While these laws focus on disenfranchising African Americans, other minorities, and young voters generally, their ultimate goal is to help Republicans win elections. As a Florida federal judge recently wrote in striking down one of these laws, they were enacted 'with the intent to restructure Florida's election system in ways that favor the Republican Party over the Democratic Party.'

These laws would be bad enough if they only targeted who can vote. But Republicans are now going even further, by attacking the votecounting and election-certification process. From changing the

law to make subversion of the electoral system easier, to recruiting believers in Trump's big lie that the 2020 election was stolen from him to oversee the process we are watching Republicans attack our system of democracy from every angle. And here, too, the radical Supreme Court has done its part, gutting the federal Voting Rights Act and allowing naked partisan redistricting to weaken minority voting power.

Fortunately, I am not alone in claiming that the survival of democracy in the US is gravely endangered. The American public has been aroused by the decision overturning Roe. But people need to recognise that decision for what it is: part of a carefully laid plan to turn the US into a repressive regime.

We must do everything we can to prevent that. This fight ought to include many people who voted for Trump in the past. I am a supporter of the Democratic Party, but this is not a partisan issue. It is about reestablishing a functioning two-party political system which is at the core of American

> The writer is Founder and Chair of the Open Society

#### SPECTRUM DISASTERS

George Soros

**THERE IS ONLY** 

**COURT: THROW** 

**REPUBLICAN** 

**OFFICE IN A** 

**LANDSLIDE** 

**PARTY OUT OF** 

**ONE WAY TO** 

**REIN IN THE** 

**SUPREME** 

# Quakes are uncertain, but not unmitigable



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

**SOME 10,000 PEOPLE DIE IN EARTHOUAKE EVENTS ANNUALLY PRIMARILY DUE TO COLLAPSING BUILDINGS AND LANDSLIDES** 

tude earthquakes struck recently Afghanistan and Iran. The quake in Afghanistan struck the southeast province near the Pakistan border in the night of 21 June that left more than 1,100 people dead, 1,500 injured and 10,000 homes shattered with tremors felt in Pakistan and India. The quake was very destructive compared to its magnitude due to its shallow hypocentre underneath a densely populated area prone to landslides. The low-quality buildings made of wood and mud with poor infrastructure compounded the problem for a country ravaged by war and sanctions. More than 7,000 people in Afghanistan have been killed by earthquakes in the past decade, averaging 560 deaths a year! On the other hand, Iran experiences one earthquake a day on average.

Around 5 lakh quakes occur every year around the globe out of which only 100 are really catastrophic. The strongest earthquake in history occurred in Chile in 1960 measuring 9.5 on the Richter scale that killed nearly 6,000 people. The most devastating quake in India happened 15 January, 1934 in Bihar with an intensity of 8.1 that killed around 30,000 people. The earth-

1811 was so powerful that the river Mississippi started flowing backward. The most dangerous landslide event triggered due to an earthquake was in China in 1920 that killed around two lakh people. A powerful quake struck Peru in 1970 that triggered a deadly avalanche that moved at an alarming pace of 400 km/hr killing 18,000 people. An undersea earthquake near Indonesia in 2004 triggered violent tsunamis in the Indian Ocean that killed nearly 2.30 lakh people, and lasted for a record 10 minutes

While intensities below 5 in the Richter scale cause little damage to window sills and furniture, intensities from 5 to 7 could lead to collapse of houses. In case of quakes of intensity beyond 7 bridges and other heavy structures cave in, leading to complete destruction.

Earthquakes happen when there is sudden movement along the tectonic plates which make up our Earth's surface. Fractures called fault lines occur where the plates collide. Around four crore years ago, the Indian subcontinent plate collided with the Eurasian plate creating the Himalayan mountain range. The collision is continuing even today and, as a result, the every year. Afghanistan and Iran are very

prone to earthquakes because of their geology and geography. These regions are located on top of a number of fault lines where the Indian and Eurasian plates meet. These regions, including Kashmir and Ladakh. lie in and around the Hindu Kush zone, one of the most earthquake-prone belts of the world after the Ring of Fire in the Pacific. Slow collisions between the Indian subcontinent and the Eurasian tectonic plates are thought to be the prime cause of the extremely common earthquakes in this region. One of the most violent earthquakes in the region (magnitude 7.6) happened in October 2005, which resulted in 87,000 deaths and millions of people displaced. Another trembler (magnitude 7.8-8.1) jolted Nepal in 2015 that triggered an avalanche leading to nearly 9000 deaths

While almost all Himalayan states are in constant danger, the whole north-eastern region of India, as well as portions of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, north Bihar, and the Andaman & Nicobar

wo devastating 6.1 magni- quake that shook North America in Himalayas are rising by nearly 1 cm Islands, are included in the Zone 5 high risk region.

> On average, one 8 magnitude quake strikes somewhere every year around the globe and some 10,000 people die in earthquake events annually primarily due to collapsing buildings and landslides. Unfortunately, unlike other natural calamities like floods and cvclones, the occurrence of earthquakes cannot be predicted and, hence an early warning cannot be issued. The only clue to foretell its occurrence is to observe the anomalies in the behaviour of certain animals which the Chinese have greatly improved over the years. Certain animals like elephants are said to be capable of hearing the lowpitched rumbling sound of the lithosphere plates' motion and migrate to safer places. But this method of relying on animals' behaviour is not very accurate. Hence the only option to mitigate an earthquake's impact is greater human preparedness, efficient relief and rescue operation and designing of quake-proof houses.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal. Views are personal.

# etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST (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

rissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Pay parity

Sir, New Zealand Cricket's landmark decision to provide equal pay for male and female cricketers is laudable. This decision comes at a time when pay disparity has become a social menace and women are raising their voices against it. And this decision will have a positive impact across the globe. Especially in India, pay disparity exists in a wide range. When both men and women are doing the same job with the same amount of effort, responsibility and dedication then why is the question of difference in remuneration? According to the first estimates of gender inequality in global earnings presented in the World Inequality Report 2022, in India men earn 82 per cent of the labour income. One can comprehend the gravity of the problem by seeing this data. The gender pay gap is not limited to any particular sector. It works the same way across sectors. The time has come to kill this social menace and ensure equality. Susant Pal, BHUBANESWAR

#### The rupee's slump

Sir, This refers to "Rupee hits record low on current account deficit concerns," Orissa POST, July 6. A surge in imports combined with tepid growth in exports has pushed India's merchandise trade deficit to a record high of \$25.6 billion in June. While the government has taken a spate of measures, which include increasing the import duty on gold, levying taxes and imposing restrictions on exports of petroleum, these are unlikely to have a significant moderating influence on the deficit. The combination of slowing global growth, which will have adverse consequences for exports, and steady demand for imports, implies that the current account deficit will likely continue to widen in the coming quarters. In the current macro-economic environment, where private consumption and investment remain lacklustre, and the capacity of central and state governments to drive growth is constrained by their high debt burdens, exports could provide the much needed fillip to growth. However, a slowdown in global growth implies that the impetus from exports to India's growth may moderate. A weaker currency could provide some fillip. While in the near term, it may exert pressure on the trade deficit, a weaker currency will trigger the much needed correction in the current account. At the same time, it must be pointed out that even as the rupee has fallen against the dollar, it has risen against other currencies. While the stated policy of the RBI is that it intervenes in the currency markets only to smoothenout excess volatility, it should allow the currency to depreciate, and not actively intervene N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE to stem its slide.

# national

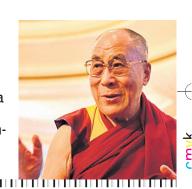


Tributes to Dr Syama Prasad **Mookerjee on his** Javanti. He is widely respected for his contribution to India's development particularly in sectors such as commerce and industry

M VENKAIAH NAIDU

#### **DALAI LAMA TURNS 87**

The Dalai Lama turned 87 Wednesday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishing the Tibetan spiritual leader on phone and his supporters celebrating at a grand event here To mark the occasion, the Dalai Lama inaugurated a library and a museum in Dharamshala, where the headquarters of the Tibetan 'government-inexile' and the residence of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate are located





reason why her MP made that outright insulting comment on Maa Kaali. TMC must suspend her, ask WB police to file FIR. Sonia Gandhi must also clarify Congress' stand on it after Shashi

AMIT MALVIYA WEST BENGAL BJP CO-INCHARGE

What corrections. what measures is the government of India taking to stop this depreciation of rupee, because mind

it, as rupee value depreciates viz-aviz dollar, our oil bill, our oil prices automatically increase without any movement in the international prices

GAURAV VALLABH CONG SPOKESPERSON



deceiving the country on every front. The prime minister, who once talked about showing red eyes to China, when will he show red eves to inflation, the country is waiting for it RAGINI NAYAK CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Sufi spiritual leader** shot dead in Maha

Nashik: A Sufi cleric hailing from Afghanistan was shot dead in north Maharashtra's Nashik district over suspected property disputes, police said on Wednesday. One person has been detained in connection with the murder which took place on Tuesday evening, they said. Khwaja Sayyad Zarif Chishti alias Zarif Baba (38), who was living in India as a refugee for the last four years and had a large following on social media, was shot dead in Yeola tehsil, some 300 km from Mumbai, police said. Search is on for four suspects, said Nashik Rural Superintendent of Police (SP) Sachin Patil at a press conference here. Chishti, who arrived in India from Pakistan four years ago and had obtained refugee status, lived with a woman, also believed to be an Afghan national, in Vavi area of Sinnar tehsil in the district, Patil said.

#### ICG rescues 22 crew members

Ahmedabad: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Wednesday rescued 22 crew members from a sinking merchant vessel off the Porbandar coast in Gujarat in a sea-air coordinated operation, officials said. The swift action of the ICG amid adverse weather saved the lives of 22 crew members, including a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan. who are safe and are being brought to Porbandar.

#### Lalu admitted to Delhi AIIMS

Patna: RJD president Lalu Prasad was admitted to the premier AIIMS in Delhi . Wednesday night after being airlifted from a Patna hospital where he underwent initial treatment for multiple fractures suffered due to a fall, party sources said. The 74-year-old former Bihar chief minister was accompanied by a team of doctors and his eldest daughter Misa Bharti, a Rajya Sabha MP who is also an MBBS.

#### Top Kerala **Minister resigns**

Thiruvananthapuram: A day after top Kerala CPI-M leader and State Minister for Culture and Fisheries, Saji Cherian slammed Indian Constitution leading to widespread criticism from various quarters, on Wednesday he tendered his resignation as a Minister of the Pinarayi Vijayan cabinet.



## Twitter pulls down director's tweet, MP faces FIR trouble



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: With Twitter pulling down her tweet and TMC MP Mahua Moitra facing an FIR for allegedly hurting religious feelings, Leena Manimekalai's documentary "Kaali" was again centrestage Wednesday.

The Toronto-based director, who is in the eye of the proverbial storm over the poster of her film "Kaali" showing the goddess smoking and holding an LGBTQ flag, is also facing separate FIRs in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

On Wednesday, an FIR was registered against Moitra in Bhopal. The row over her comment on

the goddess intensified with the West Bengal unit of the BJP demanding her arrest and

Moitra daring the saffron party to "bring it on" and saying she was not afraid of its "goons"

She also said she was a "Kali worshipper and not afraid of anything"

A day earlier, when asked about the controversy over the "Kaali" poster, Moitra said she has every right as "an individual to imagine Goddess Kali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting goddess". Every person has the right to worship

While Twitter pulled down Manimekalai's tweet on the matter in response to "a legal demand", the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto that was supposed to show "Kaali" at an event

expressed regret and

removed the documentary

from its list of films being

presented

own way, she said.

While Moitra's party, the Trinamool Congress, distanced itself from the comment and condemned it, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said he was "taken aback by the attack" on her and urged people to "lighten up and leave religion" to individuals to practice pri-

Demanding her arrest, the Bengal BJP said it would move the court if no action was initiated against her in 10 days by the police. Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu

complaints had been lodged against Moitra across the state.

Moitra also found support from Swara '@MahuaMoitra is awesome! More power to her voice!" she said. With her film grabbing headlines again, Manimekalai took to Twitter to respond to a news report about her post being taken down by the microblogging site. "This is hilarious," she said.

"Will @TwitterIndia withhold the tweets of the 200000 hate mongers?! These lowlife trolls tweeted and spread the very same poster that they find objectionable. Kaali cannot be lynched. Kaali cannot be raped. Kaali cannot be destroyed. She

is the goddess of death," she added. On Saturday, the Madurai-born filmmaker had shared the poster of "Kaali" on Twitter and said the film was part of the 'Rhythms of Canada' segment at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. This is the tweet that has been taken down. The original tweet has been replaced by a message from Twitter.

"This Tweet @LeenaManimekali has been withheld in India in response to a legal demand," read the message. It's not clear when this tweet was removed.

"Kaali" was showcased as part of the 'Under the Tent' project at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. Reacting to the row, the Aga Khan Museum said it "deeply regrets" causing offence to members of the Hindu and other faith communities and removed the presentation of the documentary. This was after the Indian mission in Ottawa urged the Canadian authorities to take down all "provocative material" related to the film.

Under attack for the poster, Manimekalai had Monday said she will continue to use her voice fearlessly till she is alive.

#### **FUN IN WATER**



## PT Usha, Ilaiyaraaja nominated to RS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: The government Wednesday nominated four noted personalities, including celebrated athlete PT Usha and music maestro Ilaiyaraaja, from as many southern states to the Rajya Sabha, in what is being seen as the ruling BJP's big outreach to recognise prominent figures from south India.

Veerendra Heggade, the head of the famous Dharmasthala temple in Karnataka and a philanthropist, and screenwriter K V Vijayendra Prasad, who is from Andhra Pradesh and is known for blockbusters like RRR, the Baahubali series and Bajrangi Bhaijaan, were the two other choices of the government for the Upper House



Ilaiyaraaja, a Dalit, is from Tamil The decision came days after

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at its national executive meeting in Hyderabad, identified south India as the territory for its next phase of growth. The saffron party has been traditionally weak in southern India, barring Karnataka.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated all four and cited their contributions in their re-

#### **Chhattisgarh cops** summon Zee officials to Raipur for probe PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**RAHUL GANDHI VIDEO** 

Noida, July 6: The Chhattisgarh Police have summoned Zee News anchor Rohit Ranjan and some of his colleagues for probe into allegations of airing a doctored video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, officials said Wednesday.

A team of the Chhattisgarh Police Wednesday stayed put in the national capital region for a second day as it continued its search with an arrest warrant for

FIRs have been lodged in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur and Raipur, in Uttar Pradesh's Noida, and in Rajasthan in connection with Rahul Gandhi's doctored video

Zee News anchor Rohit Ranjan. The visiting policemen went\_

to the TV anchor's home in Ghaziahad in the morning and later to his office in Noida Film City, the officials said. "A notice was pasted outside the

nome of the absconding Zee News anchor Rohit Ranjan while summons have been issued to his colleagues in the office. They have been asked to come

to Raipur now July 12 to get their statement recorded in connection with our probe," a visiting Chhattisgarh police official told PTI requesting anonymity.

The Chhattisgarh police team also informed the local Indirapuram police station in Ghaziabad in the morning and later went to the SSP office to lodge a complaint related to their probe, the official said.

In Noida, the visitors once again went to the Sector 20 police station to seek information like the FIR copy and whereabouts of Ranjan but claimed that they

on Wednesday afternoon shortly after their Chhattisgarh counterparts reached there.

#### Pawar reaches out to Oppn to bolster Sinha's Prez bid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: NCP chief Sharad Pawar Wednesday reached out to opposition leaders to bolster the presidential poll campaign of combined opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha who is pitted against NDA's Droupadi Murmu.

Pawar met Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI's Bhalchandra Kango and and A D Singh of the RJD, besides Sudheendra Kulkarni, who is managing Sinha's campaign, and other members of the campaign team.

The meeting, at Pawar's residence here, comes in the wake of the "lukewarm" response to Sinha's candidature from Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal after Murmu, a prominent leader from the tribal Santhal community, entered the fray for the July 18 presidential poll.

We all are standing strongly with our candidate Shri Yashwant Sinha to fight for the issues faced by our country," Pawar said on



Twitter, sharing pictures of the meeting with opposition leaders. Sources said Pawar has taken charge of Sinha's campaign strategy and reached out to opposition

leaders for their support to Sinha. An opposition leader admitted that Sinha's campaign was not getting the expected response, after the NDA named Murmu as its candidate. The change of the ruling dispensation in Maharashtra has further dampened the opposition's spirit.

Soren, who was among the early supporters of Sinha's candidature, appears to have had a change of heart after Murmu, a fellow Santhal, became the BJP-led NDA's nominee. Murmu was welcomed warmly by Soren and his father and JMM founder Shibu Soren

#### China hopes for fair probe The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided at least 44 places across India Tuesday in a money-

laundering investigation against Chinese smartphone manufacturer Vivo and related firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Beijing, July 6: China Wednesday expressed hope that India will conduct the ongoing investigations into the Chinese mobile manufacturer firm Vivo in accordance with the law and regulations and provide a "truly fair" and "non-discriminatory" business environment to China's firms.

Asked about the ongoing raids on Vivo offices in several locations in India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that the Chinese side is closely following the developments on this matter.

"As I have stressed many times, the Chinese government has always asked Chinese companies to abide by laws and regulations when doing business overseas," Zhao said.

"In the meantime, we firmly support Chinese companies in safeguarding their lawful rights and interests," he said."We hope the Indian authorities will abide by



ment for Chinese companies investing and operating in India," the spokesman said. The searches were carried out

under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at locations in several states including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Maharashtra. A Vivo India spokesperson

said they're cooperating with authorities.

The action is being seen as part

of the Union government's steps to tighten checks on Chinese entities and the continued crackdown on such firms and their linked Indian

**ED RAIDS ON VIVO** 

ous financial crimes like money laundering and tax evasion while operating in India. The stepped-up action against

operatives that are al-

legedly indulging in seri-

the Chinese-backed companies or entities operating in India comes in the backdrop of the military stand-off between the two countries along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh has been ongoing for more than two years now.

did not get any help. Meanwhile, the Noida police also went to the Zee News office

# Student Credit Card scheme losing appeal in Bengal?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 6: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee's pet project, the West Bengal Student Credit Card (WBSCC) scheme, seems to be losing appeal among the students and their parents who have shown reluctance in attending a programme where Banerjee herself is scheduled to distribute such cards.

Sources in the education department said that although 18,000 recipients were slotted for attending the programme Thursday, till Wednesday afternoon, only 6,000 have applied for attendance, which is just one-third of the tar-

The district-level officials of the department are now personally calling up the prospective recipients and asking them to be present at the

programme on Thursday.

A senior official in the education department told IANS on condition of anonymity that the reluctance has been probably caused by large-scale rejection of loan applications under the WBSCC scheme. "After the scheme was

launched following the Assembly elections last year, around 1.25 lakh loan applications have been received. However, till date, only around 18,000 such loan applications, which is just 14 per cent of the total applications, have been sanctioned.

"For example, an engineering student who is currently in his third semester applied for a bank loan under the scheme when he was in the first semester last year, but his application is yet to get



sanctioned." he said. In almost all the meetings of the State Level Bankers' Committee

state government had been in-

sisting on larger participation of the

■ The state education department will hold a camp in Kolkata Thursday, where the **Chief Minister will** handover the cards to the students

However, with less than 24 hours left for the programme, the response from the students and their guardians has been weak

banks in the WBSCC scheme.

The state government had assured the bankers that since the loan scheme will contain a state government guarantee, there is no possibility of the loans turning into bad loans or non-performing assets (NPA). However, all these efforts have failed and the banks have shown reluctance in partici-

Former secretary of the State Bank of India Staff Association, Ashoke Mukherjee, told IANS that sheer state government guarantee is not an assurance for sanction of loans.

"There have been instances of loans carrying state government guarantee becoming NPAs. Secondly, if the loan amount exceeds a certain limit, there is a requirement of collateral security irrespective of the state government guarantee. At times loan applications are rejected because of lack of supporting documents. There canbe many reasons for rejection of bank loans," he said.

stringent laws in place to prohibit it, liquor apparently flows free in "dry" Gujarat.

In June, the sarpanch of Bhesan in Junagadh district (Saurashtra) announced that if anyone is caught intoxicated, he/she will be punished by the village panchayat.

Defending the decision, Sarpanch Jaysingh Bhati said alcoholism had increased in the village, 15 to 20 women have become widows because of alcohol, as their husbands died because of addiction in the last two years.

On Sunday night, Valsad police arrested some BJP leaders and workers partying in Dharampur. A day after, police arrested Lunavada's former MLA Hirabhai Patel's son Maharshi with 39 bottles of IMFL and beer. Hirabhai has recently joined BJP.

These examples are just the tip of an iceberg indicating how the liquor is flowing in Gujarat, where prohibition is implemented in the name of Gandhiji, but the government and police are never serious in implementing the policy in letter and spirit, alleged political opponents.

"Gandhiji never believed in enforcing prohibition by law, as he saw



ON SUNDAY NIGHT, VALSAD POLICE ARRESTED SOME BJP LEADERS AND WORKERS PARTYING IN DHARAMPUR

Parmar, noted Gandhian.

Empowering police to raid and

search liquor dens or illegal man-

ufacturing has worsened the situ-

ation, they are least interested in

implementing the prohibition, on

the contrary they encourage and

threaten bootleggers to continue the

business and pay them hefty bribes

"Intentionally the policy is loosely

for the same, alleged Parmar.

LUNAVADA'S FORMER MLA HIRABHAI PATEL'S SON MAHARSHI WITH 39 **BOTTLES OF IMFL AND BEER** 

a law and order issue, he was aware holes have created a parallel econthat women are sufferer of male's omy, from the bottom of the poliquor addiction, so he encouraged lice department to top brass inwomen for picketing at liquor dens, cluding politicians are making which worked successful, the true huge money, so why will they imsense of picketing was never unplement it strictly," questions Arjun derstood," expressed Uttambhai Modhwadia, senior leader of Congress party.

Parmar and Modhwadia are against lifting prohibition, both strongly believe even for namesake the prohibition is implemented, it is moral binding giving a hope of social security to women.

Disagreeing with the above two, veteran politician Shankersinh Vaghela firmly believes, "Government has no right to decide what should people eat, drink or then why prohibition in Gujarat only?, when liquor is not prohibited in neighbouring states like Raiasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and union territory Dadra Nagar Haveli and Diu-Daman, it is next to impossible to strictly implement prohibition in

Vaghela strongly advocated, "Majority members of the legislative assembly should pass resolution lifting prohibition." He proposed that the government should give license to educated tribal youths to manufacture liquor from Mahuda, the same way in Saurashtra koli community should be licensed to manufacture liquor; these liquors can be marketed with labels of Mahuda, rice, Molasses. This will make them self-reliant.

Women are safe even in the states where there is no prohibition, a myth is marketed in Gujarat about women's safety, on the contrary more people are dying in the state because of drinking spurious al cohol, argues Vaghela

When IANS contacted Minister of State for Home and Prohibition Harsh Sanghyi, his office assured to revert, but till this report is filed. there is no communication from

# Liquor flows free in 'dry' Gujarat NGO sacks gold smuggling wear," and he questions, "Was Gandhiji only of Gujarat, he is an international icon and influencer, where the international icon and influencer, wear," and he questions, "Was kingpin Swapna Suresh

Palakkad, July 6: Prime accused in the gold smuggling case, Swapna Suresh has been terminated from her job in an NGO with alleged RSS links, alleging that the Kerala government was "crucifying" the organisation for providing her em-

Palakkad-based HRDS, in a statement issued to the media, said even though Suresh has been terminated from her current post as Director of Women Empowerment and CSR, she will be retained as the Chairperson of its Women Empowerment Advisory Committee, which is a position without any salary.

High Range Rural Development Society (HRDS) said it has decided to annul the appointment of Suresh after considering the allegation of the CM in the state Assembly that the NGO was protecting the gold smuggling case accused.

On June 28, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in a reply to an adjournment motion in the assembly, had said that Suresh was supported by an organisation affiliated with RSS.

The NGO pointed out that the "co-



Swanna Suresh

accused in the case" and former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, M Sivasankar was allowed to join service.

"We hope that the government which crucifies the HRDS for employing an accused in the gold smuggling case, will dismiss Sivasankar, who is a co-accused in the case, from service," it said in a release.

Suresh was appointed as Director, Women Empowerment and CSR of HRDS February 18.

The NGO alleged that the po-

lice, vigilance, crime branch and other law enforcement agencies were frequenting its offices and questioning its staff.

'Even though we have terminated her from the post, after considering her request to work with the organisation for free of cost, we have decided to appoint her as the chairperson of the women empowerment committee. The organisation does not give any salary to those who are in chairperson/chairman posts," HRDS said in the statement.

In the termination letter, it said the Kerala government was completely against the organisation by all means..

However, there was no immedi-

ate reaction from the state government. The Kerala State Commission

for SC/STs had earlier initiated proceedings against the NGO over complaints that they constructed 'uninhabitable houses' for Adivasis in Attappadi and elsewhere.

Suresh was released from jail a few months ago after securing bail following her arrest by central agencies in July 2020 in connection with the case of smuggling gold through diplomatic channels

# it as socio-economic issue and not implemented, because the loop-HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### Heavy rain disrupts life in Gujarat

Ahmedabad, July 6: Heavy and incessant rain disrupted normal life in several parts of Gir Somnath and Junagadh districts in Gujarat, with Sutrapada taluka in Gir Somnath recording 300 mm downpour in 30 hours till Wednesday noon, officials said

The Meteorological Centre here said monsoon is now active in Gujarat as a low pressure area was formed over Kutch region, and more downpour is likely over the next five days across the state.

Gir Somnath and Junagadh districts have been witnessing heavy rains since Tuesday, the officials said.

As per the data shared by the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC), Sutrapada taluka received 300 mm rainfall in the last 30 hours that ended at 12pm of Wednesday, including 132 mm rainfall between



6am and 12pm.

Similarly, neighbouring Kodinar taluka of the same district received 119 mm rainfall between 6am and 12pm Wednesday, Veraval taluka 106 mm, Mangrol taluka of Junagadh 82 mm, followed by Bhuj(Kutch) with 51 mm, Hansot (Bharuch) with 42 mm and Kalyanpur (Devbhumi Dwarka) with 33 mm, the SEOC said.

Normal life was affected in Mangrol, Kodinar and Veraval towns as well as several villages in Sutrapada and Kodinar talukas due to heavy downpour as lowlving areas, agricultural fields, housing societies and several roads were submerged in knee-deep water, officials said.

Gujarat Revenue Minister Rajendra Trivedi visited the SEOC in state capital Gandhinagar to take stock of the situation and review the preparedness of the authorities as more rainfall is predicted in the next five days.

"Most parts of Gujarat are likely to receive normal rainfall in the next five days," said Manorama Mohanty, director of the Meteorological Centre in Ahmedabad.

Heavy to very heavy showers, and at some places extremely heavy rains, are likely at isolated places in Gir Somnath, Devbhumi Dwarka, Surat, Valsad and Navsari districts during the next 24 hours.

## Anti-Constitution remarks rock Kerala House Thiruvananthapuram, July 6:

Kerala Minister Saji Cheriyan's controversial remarks against the Constitution rocked the state Assembly Wednesday with the agitating opposition UDF forcing an adjournment for the day while the ruling CPI(M) held parleys at various levels on the issue.

Though the Congress-led UDF came prepared to take up the matter as an adjournment motion in the Assembly and raised slogans against Cheriyan charging him with 'humiliating' the Constitution and its architects, Speaker M B Rajesh suddenly announced that the House was adjourned for the day.

Terming the Speaker's action as "unprecedented", the Opposition leaders later met him at his office and conveyed their displeasure over his sudden decision for the early adjournment and alleged that the government and the ruling front were trying to avoid their

Amidst mounting pressure from the opposition for the resignation of Cheriyan, a senior leader who holds Cultural Affairs and Fisheries portfolios in the cabinet, top leaders of the CPI (M) met at the AKG Centre here to take stock of the situation. At the same time, party general secretary Sitaram Yechury told reporters in New Delhi that the matter was being discussed by the state leadership and "appropriate action" would be taken. "The matter is under discussion...An appropriate action will be taken and an announcement will be made. Yechury said. However, senior party leader and Local Self-Government Minister MV Govindan later said the available state secretariat of the party, which met at the party headquarters here.

took no decision in this regard. The meeting was attended by a handful of top leaders including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, party state secretary Kodiyeri



In the visuals aired by the TV channels, minister Saji Cheriyan could be seen saying the Constitution of the country "condones exploitation" and is written in a way helping to "plunder" the people of the country

Balakrishnan, A Vijayaraghavan, Cheriyan himself and so on. Emerging from the meeting. Cheriyan responded to questions on whether he would be resigning with a query of his own - 'why?' What is the problem? I already said what I had to say yesterday,' he said in response to repeated queries by reporters outside the party headquarters on whether he would resign or if his resignation had been sought. Meanwhile, KPCC Chief K Sudhakaran attacked Marxist party and its government for not taking any action against the Cultural Affairs Minister despite widespread criticism and said his party would intensify its protest pro grammes and would soon initiate legal action seeking Cheriyan's ouster from the cabinet. "The CPI(M) should be ready to take action against Cherivan who insulted the Constitution and violated the oath of office. Otherwise, we will take together our protests as well as legal measures pressing for

this," he said. The Congress also called to observe 'Save Constitution

As soon as the news reports regarding the controversial speech of Cherivan came out Tuesday the Congress-UDF had sought his resignation and boycotted his speech in the Assembly. The House witnessed strong opposition protests today also as they raised slogans against the minister and the government since the speaker arrived in the house to commence the proceedings in the morning. The Opposition members claimed they raised slogans from their respective seats and demanded Speaker Rajesh to take up the issue as adjournment motion after suspending the other businesses of the day.

They also claimed that it was some of the ruling front MLAs who first left their seats and only after that did some Opposition

members leave their seats. It was only when the speaker suddenly announced the suspension of the session for the day that the UDF members realised that their adjournment motion over the issue was not going to be taken up, an opposition member told PTI later. Then only they trooped into the well of the House marking their protests, he claimed. After staging a brief sit-in protest

at the portal of the hall with placards, the UDF members later gathered in front of the statue of BR Ambedkar at the Assembly campus and raised slogans accusing Cheriyan of 'insulting' the architect of the Indian Constitution through his harsh remarks. Shouting 'jai bhim' slogan, they marched out of the Assembly complex. Addressing reporters, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly VD Satheesan alleged that the CM and the CPI(M) leadership were protecting the minister, who had insulted the Constitution and humiliated its architects. "They did not allow us to seek even the notice for the adjournment motion. We will not surrender before such an autocratic stand by the government The opposition will continue its fight till Saji Cheriyan submits his resignation," he said. The remarks of Cheriyan against the Constitution were similar to the views of RSS, the LoP further alleged.

Saji Cheriyan, the minister for Cultural Affairs and Fisheries, Tuesday landed in trouble for his remarks against the Constitution, triggering a huge political row in the state, but expressed regret soon claiming that he is a public servant upholding the noble constitutional values. In the visuals aired by the TV channels, the minister could be seen saying in a recent event that the Constitution of the country "condones exploitation" and is written in a way helping to "plunder" the people of the country, drawing sharp reaction from the opposition parties which sought his immediate removal from the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF cabinet.

#### **Rural polls: BJP to field OBC** candidates on general seats

Gandhinagar, July 6: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat has decided to field Other Backward Class (OBC) candidates on general seats for the panchayat

The decision came after the State Election Commission (SEC), following a Supreme Court directive, dereserved 10 per cent seats meant for OBC candidates in the village panchayats.

Now political parties can field general category candidates on these seats. Elections to 3,252 village panchayats, which were put on hold in April, will now be held under the new norms, said NK Damor, Joint Commissioner of

The BJP has decided to go with the SEC decision and also ensure that OBC representation does not

decrease in the village panchayats. To achieve balance, the party will nominate OBC candidates on general category seats that were reserved for OBC nominees till the last elections, said Yagnesh Dave, the party's media coordinator.

Meanwhile, the Congress has demanded to restore reservation for OBC candidates.

Congress MLA Punja Vansh in a letter addressed to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has expressed

concern over the SEC's decision. He said that in January, the Supreme Court had directed all states to constitute a commission that will prepare a new rotation policy for the OBC category based on its population and vote share, but Gujarat never bothered to constitute such a commission, because of which OBC candidates will lose its 10 per cent reserved seats in the village panchayats.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 6: The apex decision-making body of the Maharaja Sayajirao (MS) University in Gujarat's Vadodara city has rejected an appeal filed by a former fine arts course student against his rustication over an "objectionable" artwork, an official of the institute said Wednesday.

The student's lawyer said he will take legal recourse and also approach the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to get the decision overturned. Kundan Kumar Mahato, a first year post-graduate student from the Faculty of Fine Arts, was expelled by the university in May following a controversy over his artworks, which even led to an FIR against him for allegedly hurting religious sentiments. It was alleged by some right-wing outfits that he had made photos of Hindu gods and goddesses by pasting newspaper clippings of different rape incidents in the country.

In June, Mahato, a native of Bihar, had filed an appeal before the authorities urging them to reconsider their decision as per rules of the MS University Act and give him a chance to present his side of the story, said his lawyer Hitesh Gupta. However, the appeal was rejected by the MSU Syndicate during its meeting Tuesday.

The Syndicate, or Executive Council, is the highest decisionmaking body of universities in the state. "Mahato's appeal has been rejected with the council upholding the university's decision to rusticate him," said senior Syndicate member Jigar Inamdar. On learning about the decision, Gupta said he will knock on the doors of the Gujarat High Court and also write to the PMO and the President seeking

revocation of Mahato's rustication. "The artwork in question was not a part of a public exhibition. Someone took its photos and made



■ SOME RIGHT-WING OUTFITS HAD ALLEGED THAT THE FINE ARTS STUDENT HAD MADE PHOTOS OF HINDU GODS AND GODDESSES BY PASTING NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS OF RAPE INCIDENTS

them viral. My client's intention was never to hurt anyone's sentiments. That artwork was a private matter between the student and his ex-

■ HE WAS EXPELLED BY THE UNIVERSITY IN MAY FOLLOWING A CONTROVERSY OVER HIS ARTWORKS. WHICH EVEN LED TO AN FIR AGAINST HIM FOR ALLEGEDLY HURTING RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS

> aminer and it does not fall into the category of indiscipline as defined in the MSU Act," maintained Gupta. After the photos went viral in

May, activists of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the Hindu Jagran Manch and some other right-wing outfits staged a protest on the campus of the faculty, alleging Hindu gods and goddesses were depicted in an "objectionable" manner in some of the artworks made by students (Mahato's name came to light later). The viral photos suggested the artworks were displayed in an exhibition held at the faculty May 5 as part of the exam assessment exercise. Days later, based on a complaint given by local ABVP activist Jayvirsinh Raulji, Vadodara's Sayajigunj police had registered an FIR against

He was booked under Indian Penal Code sections 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion) and 298 (uttering words with deliberateintent to wound religious feelings of any person).



# national



The greatest threat to democracy and which we cannot allow to happen, is extreme appeasement

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR

#### **MANN TO GET MARRIED TODAY**

Starting his second personal 'innings', Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is going to tie knot for the second time Thursday at a private ceremony amidst the presence of AAP's top leadership, including national convenor Arvind Kejriwal





I have held discussions with Deputy Commissioners of rain affected districts. Already rescue works are on and I have directed to take up relief work. Because of heavy and incessant rains houses and properties have got damaged in coastal districts and Kodagu, and the rains have continued

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI KARNATAKA CM

development, it is necessary to control anarchy and 'iron rai' of law is



one can say anything publicly about any aspect of religion without someone claiming to be offended

SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS LEADER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### 2 ultras surrender during encounter

Srinagar: Two recentlyrecruited local Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists surrendered before the security forces during an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, officials said. The encounter broke out in the Hadigam area of the south Kashmir district during the night, police said. "During the #encounter, 02 local terrorists #surrendered on the #appeal of their parents and police. #Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition recovered," Police said in a tweet.

#### **Tailor killing: NIA** arrests 6th accused

Jaipur: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday arrested a sixth person in connection with . the killing of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor, in Udaipur in Rajasthan and took him into custody till July 12, officials said. Wasim Ali, who ran a meat shop opposite the tailoring shop of Kanhaiya Lal, was picked by the federal agency Tuesday night and questioned for his alleged role in helping other accused carry out a recce of the area. He was placed under arrest on Wednesday and produced before a designated court which remanded him in the custody of the NIA till July 12.

#### Flood situation in **Assam improves**

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam continued to improve Wednesday although two more persons lost their lives taking the toll to 186 and over 9.68 lakh people in 15 districts are still reeling under the deluge, an official bulletin said.

# SC stays Madras HC order

The apex court order virtually comes as a shot in the arm for the dominant Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) camp which is aggressively pushing for the single leadership to be helmed by him

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 6: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the Madras High Court order, which restrained the passing of resolutions in the AIADMK General Council meeting and Executive Councils in connection with the single leadership of the party.

A vacation bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Krishna Murari said: "In view of the facts and circumstances of case and subject matter of litigation and high court orders, it is considered appropriate that operation and effect of order June 23, 2022 shall remain stayeda. "The top court also issued notice on the plea of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K

Palaniswami (EPS) against the Madras High Court order.'

In the order, the top court said: "It may be clarified that though the meeting dated 23.06.2022 (forming the subject-matter of the orders aforesaid), has already been taken place but, in view of the further steps/proceedings taken up or likely to be taken up pursuant to the impugned order and pursuant to the observations/directions made therein, and looking to the questions raised in these petitions, it appears necessary and expedient that the operation of the impugned order should remain stayed until further orders of this court.'

The bench added so far as the meeting of the General Council.



slated to be held July 11, is concerned, the same may proceed in accordance with law and in that relation, the other aspects of any interim relief ought to be projected and presented before the single judge dealing with civil suit(s) on

the original side. The bench said: "We do not consider it necessary to pass any other order of interim nature and all other aspects are to be examined at the appropriate stage.

"It is made clear that pendency of these petitions in this court shall not be of any impediment for the learned single judge dealing with the civil suit(s) to examine the prayer for any other interim relief and/or to pass any other necessary order, as may be required in the facts and circumstances of the case. The respondents may file counter affidavit within two weeks. List these matters after two weeks.'

On July 4, senior advocate CS Vaidyanathan mentioned the plea before a vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari and urged the court for an urgent hearing in the matter. Vaidvanathan contended the high court held an extraordinary sitting at midnight at the residence of one of the judges on the bench and an order was passed restraining the general council from passing any resolutions

## Punjab Cabinet nod to free power promise



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 6: The Punjab Cabinet Wednesday accorded approval to giving 600 units of free power to every household per billing cycle in the state with effect from

A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting of the council of ministers held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, an official statement said.

Punjab has a two-month billing cycle for power supply. "All domestic consumers in the state will be eligible to get zero bills if their consumption is up to 600 units in every billing cycle. This will give a big reprieve to the domestic consumers who have to hitherto shell out huge money every month in form of power tariff," the statement said.

"As per the decision, Scheduled Castes (SC), non-SC BPL and Backward Class (BC) domestic consumers who are currently eligible for free 400 units (per billing cycle) of power will also get subsidy of 600 units now,"said the statement.

Freedom fighters of Punjab and their successors up to grandchildren who are domestic consumers and currently eligible for free 400 units of power will also get subsidy of 600 units per billing cycle.

In case, the consumption of SC, non-SC BPL, BC and Freedom Fighter categories exceeds units per billing cycle then they will pay only for units consumed in addition to 600 units along with full fixed charges, meter rentals and government levies as applicable, it

Bhagwant Mann had last week said his government is fulfilling a guarantee made to people of the state as from July 1 each household will be getting 300 units of\_\_\_ free electricity every month.

#### AIADMK LEADERSHIP ROW



#### **Opposition to decide** on its V-P candidate

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 6: Much like the strategy for the presidential election, the Opposition is working on a joint candidate for the Vice Presidential poll. Though deliberations are going on among the like-minded parties, no candidate has been finalised yet.

When asked, Congress spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh said, "We will tell you at an appropriate time.

The opposition is contemplating putting up a joint candidate so that it can pose some challenge to the ruling party candidate. Sources in the opposition said a joint candidate will be fielded for the post.

However, the opposition has very less chance to do so since in this election the voters are the members of Parliament only and the BJP has a huge mandate in the Lower House while in the Upper House it is the single largest party having more than 95 seats. The opposition in the Presidential election has fielded Yashwant Sinha but not all the opposition

# **BUSINESS TIME**

A goat-seller is waiting for customers ahead of the upcoming Eid al-Adha festival, at a market in Chennai

# Himachal: 5 killed in flash floods, landslides NAQVI, RCP SINGH RESIGN

AGENCIES

Shimla/Manali, July 6: Five people were killed and five others went missing in flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu and Shimla Wednesday, officials said.

Several roads, including the Ferozepur-Shipki La National Highway-5 at Jhakri in Shimla district, remained blocked. Power and water supply was also hit in several areas. The Kullu administration has banned water sports and camping near rivers.

According to the officials, three people were confirmed dead in Kullu. Five people who went missing are also feared dead. Over 25 employees working at the Malana power project there were rescued from a building that was damaged by flash floods. A landslide on the outskirts of Shimla city killed a 14year-old girl while two others were critically injured. A man drowned



in a water body in the district. The Shimla District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) said the landslide that killed the girl occurred at Dhalli. She and the two others persons were buried under the debris and it took several minutes to rescue them. They were sent to the IGMC hospital where the girl was declared brought dead. In Kullu, at least five people were washed away and the bridge across Parvati River damaged in

flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Manikaran, the officials said. State Disaster Management Director Sudesh Mokhta said at least five people went missing after the cloudburst at Chojh village in Challal panchayat of Kullu around 6 am.

In yet another incident in Kullu, two people were injured following a landslide at Salot in Nirmand tehsil. They were referred to the

#### **Mumbai remains** soaked in showers

Mumbai: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a heavy rainfall alert for Maharashtra Wednesday and the next two days, as state capital Mumbai continued to witness heavy downpour for the third consecutive day, resulting in a landslide near a chawl, water-logging at many places and traffic disruptions. Three persons were injured in the landslide, an official said, as Mumbaikars continued to face hardship due to flooding on roads. A citizen in a tweet said they now need a boat to commute, instead of a car. A landslide also occurred on a road leading to the Pratapgad Fort in western Maharashtra's Satara district Wednesday following heavy rains. There was no report of any casualty and no one was trapped in the debris, the Public Works Department's executive engineer, Sanjay Sonawane, said.

# AS CABINET MNISTERS



Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and R C P Singh resigned from the Union Cabinet Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term.

Minority Affairs Minister Naqvi and Steel Minister Singh submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who lauded their contributions to the country during their ministerial tenure.

President Ram Nath Kovind accepted their resignations and assigned the minority

affairs ministry to Smriti Irani and the steel ministry to Jyotiraditya Scindia, in addition to their existing portfolios. With Naqvi re-

signing Wednesday and his Rajya Sabha term ending a day later, there will be no Muslim face in the Union Council of Ministers and among

the BJP's 395 Members of Parliament.

Naqvi was among the three BJP Muslim MPs whose term ended

during the recent round of Rajya Sabha polls to 57 seats across 15 states but none of them were renominated by the party. It will be after a long time that the

BJP will not have any Muslim MP.

With the Rajya

Sabha term of

**Mukhtar Abbas** 

Naqvi ending

Thursday, the

BJP will have no

Muslim MP among



will not have a Muslim member. After Nagyi was denied a nom-

ination in the recent Rajya Sabha polls, there has been speculation that he is being considered for the post of vice president, the election for which is scheduled to be held on August 6, or some other key position. R C P Singh, a former bureaucrat and JD(U) leader, resigned on his birthday, one year after joining the Union Cabinet from his party's quota. He was wished by Prime Minister Modi on his birth-

day in the morning. Once a confidant of Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar, Singh had fallen out of favour with him and was denied a Rajya Sabha ticket.

With his resignation, there are only two ministers at the its 395 Members of Centre from BJP allies -- Ramdas Athawale from the

**Parliament** RPI(A) and Anupriya Patel from the Apna Dal.

With the Union Cabinet now having two more vacancies and no representation from the BJP's biggest ally JD(U), there is a possibility of a cabinet expansioncum- reshuffle in near future. However, there was no official word

on it so far.

#### Booster dose gap reduced to 6 months for all adults "For beneficiaries aged above 60 years and above as well as the New Delhi, July 6: The Union healthcare and frontline workers, precaution dose would be admin-



aged above 60 years and above as well as the healthcare and frontline workers, precaution dose would be administered after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose at government CVCs, free of charge

RAJESH BHUSHAN | UNION HEALTH SECRETARY

Health Ministry has reduced the gap between the second and precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccine for all beneficiaries from nine to six months following a recommendation by NTAGI. Corresponding changes have

been made in the CoWIN system to facilitate the new vaccine regimen.

In a letter to states and Union Territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan Wednesday said the revision was made following a recommendation of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) which was arrived at keeping in view the evolving scientific evidence and global practices.



The recommendation has also been endorsed by NTAGI, Bhushan said. "Therefore, it has now been decided that the precaution dose for all beneficiaries from 18-59 years will

be administered after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose at Private Covid Vaccination Centres.

istered after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose at government CVCs, free of charge," Bhushan said. Instructions in this regard may be issued to all the officials concerned and it may also be publicized

widely, the Union health secretary "I look forward to your support

and leadership for extending the benefits of the precaution dose to all due beneficiaries at Covid vaccination centres as well as household level during the ongoing Har Ghar Dastak 2.0 campaign, he said in the letter addressed to chief secretaries and administrators of all states and Union Territories.

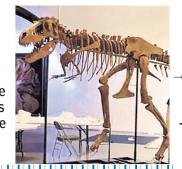
# international



Japan is taking a very unfriendly position towards Russia. In any case, such an unfriendly stance does not help to facilitate relations on trade and the economy, including the energy dialogue DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESMAN, KREMLIN

#### **DINO SKELETON ON AUCTION**

A huge skeleton of a Gorgosaurus is up for auction, according to an announcement made by auction house Sotheby's. The Tyrannosaurus rex relative roamed the world around 76 million years ago. The Gorgosaurus skeleton will be the centerpiece of Sotheby's natural history auction in New York July 28 HOROLOGICO DE LO COMO DE LO COMENCIO DE LO COME



(Russian President Vladimir) Putin continues to use energy as a weapon. This is why the Commission is working on a European emergency plan

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | CHIEF, EUROPEAN

Washington observes international rules only as it sees fit. NATO must renounce its blind faith in military might



allow anyone to use our territory to threaten the security of other countries. We also want other countries not to interfere in our internal affairs

MULLAH HAIBATULLAH AKHUNDZADA

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Secretary-General** of OPEC no more

Abuja: The Secretary-General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has died, Nigerian authorities and the oil cartel announced Wednesday. Only hours before his death, he'd met with Nigeria's president and spoken in defense of the energy industry amid increasing climate change pressure. Mohammad Barkindo, 63, died late Tuesday in Abuja, a spokesman for Nigeria's petroleum ministry told The Associated Press.

#### **Lavrov in Vietnam** ahead of G20 meet

Hanoi: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited Vietnam Wednesday as part of an effort to bolster ties with a country that has not openly condemned its invasion of Ukraine, Lavroy, on his way to the Indonesian island of Bali for a G-20 meeting, sought to strengthen ties with Vietnam. which also has a strong relationship with the United States, Lavrov is currently on a trip to Asia to seek support amid his country's diplomatic isolation by the West and punishing sanctions levelled over its invasion of Ukraine.

#### **Lanka Aviation** Minister resigns

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Cabinet was Wednesday thrown into turmoil by the resignation of **Aviation Minister Nimal** Siripala De Silva while another senior minister demanded that Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe should quit as the finance minister alleging that he halted all the projects that could bring in the much-needed forex to the country facing worst economic crisis. De Silva, Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Aviation, resigned following an allegation made by main Opposition SJB leader Sajith Premadasa in Parliament Tuesday that a Cabinet Minister had solicited a bribe from Japan's Taisei

#### Homes of 85K at risk in Oz floods

**Sydney:** Floodwaters inundated or were threatening the homes of 85,000 people around Sydney Wednesday as rivers started to recede and the heavy rains tracked north of Australia's largest city. While rain was easing across Sydney, several waterways including the Hawkesbury-Nepean rivers system on Sydney's northern and western fringes remained at major flood levels **Emergency Services Minister** Steph Cooke said.

#### **SUPPORT EBBS AMID FLURRY OF RESIGNATIONS**

# **UK PM leadership hangs in the balance**

Johnson, a former iournalist and London mayor who became the face of Britain's departure from the European Union, won a landslide election victory in 2019. His leadership has been mired in scandals and missteps over the last few months, with the PM fined by police for breaching Covid lockdown laws and a damning report published about the behaviour of officials at his Downing Street office who breached their own lockdown rules

London, July 6: Britain's Boris Johnson was clinging to power Wednesday, with support seeping away from the increasingly isolated prime minister, badly wounded by the resignation of a stream of senior colleagues who said he was not fit to govern.

Johnson's finance and health secretaries quit Tuesday following the latest scandal to hit the government, triggering the departure of around 15 lower-ranking politicians and the withdrawal of support of once loyal lawmakers.

With the tide of resignations rising, some questioned whether the prime minister could fill the

Solicitor General Alex Chalk, the government's second-most sen-



 OUTGOING MINISTERS CITED JOHNSON'S LACK OF JUDGMENT. STANDARDS, AND INABILITY TO TELL THE TRUTH FOR THEIR DECISION

■ THE TIMES OF LONDON NEWSPAPER SAID JOHNSON'S "SERIAL

DISHONESTY" WAS "UTTERLY CORROSIVE" OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

■ AT LEAST 13 BRITISH LAWMAKERS HAVE LEFT PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON'S GOVERNMENT IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS

ior legal adviser, said the cumulative effect of a series of scandals meant the public no longer believed the government could uphold expected standards of candour. "I regret that I share that judgment," he said. "I suspect we will have to drag

him kicking and screaming from Downing Street," one Conservative lawmaker told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But if we have to do it that way then we will."

The latest bout of drama at the heart of British power comes as the economy deteriorates rapidly, with some economists warning the country could tip into recession.

#### **LOST CONFIDENCE**

The latest scandal saw Johnson apologising for appointing a lawmaker to a role involved in party welfare and discipline, even after being briefed that the politician had been the subject of complaints about sexual misconduct.

Downing Street's narrative changed several times over what the prime minister knew of the past behaviour of the politician, who was forced to resign, and when he knew it. His spokesman blamed a lapse in Johnson's memory

That prompted Rishi Sunak to quit as chancellor of the exchequer the finance minister - and Sajid Javid to resign as health secretary, while others left their junior ministerial or envoy roles

A snap YouGov poll found 69% of Britons thought Johnson should step down as prime minister but for the time being the remainder of his top ministerial team offered their backing.

"I fully support the prime min-

After all the sleaze, the scandals and the failure, it's clear that this government is now collapsing

KEIR STARMER LEADER, UK

I firmly believe the public are ready to hear that truth. Our people **know that if something** is too good to be true then it's not true. They need to know that whilst there is a path to a better future, it is not an easy one

RISHI SUNAK | EX-CHANCELLOR, UK

It is clear to me that this situation will not change under your leadership and you have therefore lost my confidence too

SAJID JAVID | EX-HEALTH

#### Increasingly isolated, Boris to fight on

**LONDON:** Britain's Boris Johnson pledged Wednesday to fight on, saying he would not quit as Prime Minister despite support visibly seeping away from him with a stream of resignations. Johnson, who was looking in-

creasingly isolated, used a weekly question-and-answer you'd expect the session in parliament to try to tough it out, repeating his justifications for the latest scandal that triggered resigna-

ernment. Earlier, he tried to reassert his authority by quickly appointing Nadhim Zahawi, a rising star in the Conservative Party

widely credited for the successful

formance at prime minister's questions was met with a muted response and, on occasion, open laughter. One member of Johnson's own party When asked if there would times are tough is be any circum-

rollout of Covid-19 vaccines, as fi-

nance minister. But his per-

exactly the moment that stances in which he should regovernment to continue with sign? He reits work, not to walk away...to sponded that get on with our job and to he would only focus on the things that auit if the govmatter to the people of ernment could this country 'not carry on tions from his gov-BORIS JOHNSON | UK PM Even some of his own colleagues in his

cabinet of top ministers struggled to contain their laughter as the main opposition Labour leader poked fun at his cabinet for being the "the lightweight brigade".

Jack said. "I am sorry to see good colleagues resign, but we have a big job of work to do."

A month ago, Johnson survived a confidence vote of Conservative lawmakers, and party rules mean he cannot face another such challenge for a year.

However, some lawmakers are seeking to change those rules, while he is also under investigation by a parliamentary committee over whether he lied to parliament about Covid-19 lockdown breaches

#### **US** parade shooting suspect charged with 7 counts of murder

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Highland Park, July 6: A prosecutor in suburban Chicago said Tuesday that the gunman accused of attacking an Independence Day parade has been charged with seven counts of first-degree murder.

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart promised that dozens more charges would be sought. He added that the suspect, if convicted of murder, would receive a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

The gunman who attacked an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago, killing at least seven people, legally bought two high-powered rifles and three other weapons despite authorities being called to his home twice in 2019 after he threatened suicide and violence, police said Tuesday

A spokesman for the Lake County Major Crime Task Force told a news conference that the suspected shooter, Robert E Crimo III, who was arrested late Monday, used a highpowered rifle "similar to an AR-15 to spray more than 70 rounds from atop a commercial building into a crowd that had gathered for the parade in Highland Park, an affluent community of about 30,000 on the Lake Michigan shore.

Police said they were called to the suspect's home in September 2019 after a family member called to say he was threatening "to kill everyone" there. Task force spokesman Christopher Covelli said police confiscated 16 knives. a dagger and a sword, but said there was no sign he had any guns at the time.

The day after the shooting, authorities reported the death of a seventh person. More than three dozen other people were wounded in the attack, which Covelli said the suspect had planned for several weeks

# 12 killed in Ukraine as Russia shells Donetsk

The attacks indicated the city, which is located close to the Russian border, is unlikely to get a reprieve as the war grinds on into its fifth month



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kramatorsk, July 6: Russian shelling killed at least eight civilians in Ukraine over the past 24 hours and wounded 25 more, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday. Pro-Russia separatists said attacks by Ukrainian forces killed four civilians.

The Ukrainian presidential office said Russian forces targeted cities and villages in the country's southeast, with most civilian casualties occurring in Donetsk province, where Russia stepped up its offensive in recent days

Gov Pavlo Kyrylenko said in a Telegram post that two people died in the city of Avdiivka, which is located in the centre of the province. and the Donetsk cities of Sloviansk, Krasnohorivka and Kurakhove each reported one civilian killed.

"Every crime will be punished." he wrote.Kyrylenko urged the province's more than 350,000 remaining residents to flee late Tuesday, saying that evacuating Donetsk was necessary to save lives and allow the Ukrainian army to put up a better defence against the Russian advance.

Donetsk is part of the Donbas, trial area where Ukraine's most experienced soldiers are concentrated. Russian President Vladimir Putin Monday declared the complete seizure of the region's other province, Luhansk, after Ukrainian troops withdrew from the last city under their country.

Luhansk Governor Serhiy Haidai denied Wednesday that the Russians had completely captured the province. Heavy fighting continued in villages around Lysychansk, the city Ukrainians soldiers withdrew from and which Russian troops took on Sunday, he said.

Up to 15,000 residents remain in Lysychansk and some 8,000 in the nearby city of Sievierodonetsk, which Russian and separatist fighters seized last month. Haidai said.

Separatist authorities in Donetsk said Wednesday that four civilians were killed and another 14 wounded in Ukrainian shelling over the past 24 hours. News reports said shelling hit an ammunition depot Tuesday, triggering massive explosions.



Thousands of revellers wearing white clothes and red scarves filled the streets of Spain's Pamplona Wednesday as the bang of a firecracker kicked off the first San Fermin bull-running festival since the Covid-19 pandemic struck

#### China puts millions under lockdown again

AGENCIES

Beijing, July 6: Tens of millions of people were under lockdown in China Wednesday as businesses in a major tourist city were forced to shut their doors and fresh clusters sparked fears of a return to blanket restrictions.

Health authorities reported over 300 infections Wednesday, with clusters found in the historic northern city of Xi'an -- home to the



Terracotta Army -- as well as the country's biggest city Shanghai. The fresh cases and the official response to them have deepened

fears that China may be set to return to the kinds of strict restrictions seen earlier this year, when Beijing's hardline zero-Covid policy saw tens of millions locked down for weeks on end.

Officials launched a new round of mass testing in over half of the city's districts after a rebound in cases since the weekend, closing all karaoke bars Wednesday after some infections were linked to six

# Pope to give women a say in appointment of bishops

THE MOVE, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED, IS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE WOMEN WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE A SAY IN THE APPOINTMENT OF THE WORLD'S BISHOPS, WHO ARE ALL MEN

REUTERS

Vatican City, July 6: Pope Francis said he wants to give women more top-level positions in the Holy See and disclosed that for the first time he would name women to a previously all-male Vatican committee that helps him select the world's bishops.

The role of women in the Vatican hierarchy was one of the many Church and international topics the 85-year-old pontiff discussed in an exclusive interview with Reuters in his Vatican residence July 2.

A new constitution for the Holy See's central administration that came into effect last month allows any baptised Catholic, including laymen and women, to head most Vatican departments.

"I am open to giving (women) an opportunity," he said in the part of the 90-minute interview that discussed the new constitution for the central administration, known as the Curia.

He mentioned that last year, for the first time, he named a woman to the number two position in the governorship of Vatican City, making Sister Raffaella Petrini the highest-ranking woman in the to elect bishops in the Congregation for Bishops," he said. **NEW CONSTITUTION** 

Francis did not name the women or say when their appointment would be announced officially. Members of the committee,

which is now made up cardinals, bishops and priests, usually meet twice a month in Rome. Last month, Irish-American Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell,

Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, joked that with the promulgation of the new



■ CURRENT COMMITTEE TO HELP POPE SELECT BISHOPS IS ALL-MALE

■ NEW RULES ALLOW EVEN LAY CATHOLICS TO HEAD MOST VATICAN OFFICES

■ POPE HAS ALREADY APPOINTED SOME WOMEN TO HIGH-LEVEL POSITIONS

by male clerics.

Francis has already named a number women, both nuns and lay women, to Vatican departments.

Last year, he named Italian nun Sister Alessandra Smerilli to the number two position in the Vatican's development office, which deals

with justice and peace issues. In addition, Francis has named Nathalie Becquart, a French member of the Xaviere Missionary Sisters, as co-undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, which prepares major meetings of world

bishops held every few years. Lay women already holding top jobs in the Vatican include Barbara Jatta, the first female director of the Vatican Museums, and Cristiane Murray the deputy director of the-Vatican Press Office. Both were

department for Catholic Education constitution, he may likely be the partment conceivably be headed by world's smallest state. "Two women will be appointed last cleric to head that department. a layman or woman, Francis sugand Culture and the Apostolic for the first time in the committee Asked which other Vatican degested that they could include the Library. They are currently headed appointed by Francis.

# business



The company has exceeded the benchmark of all-time high traded volumes set last year. PTC has traded over 87 billion units for the financial year 2021-22

RAJIB K MISHRA | CMD IN-CHARGE AND DIRECTOR

#### **SKODA LOGS RECORD H1 SALES**

Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Wednesday said it has witnessed a significant increase in sales at 52,698 units in the first half of the current year, driven by the India 2.0 project and new launches. The sales volumes for Skoda and Volkswagen have been robust, with the former recording its highest ever sales in India in June, the group said in a statement





matters is how we give MSP to farmers. MSP has to be there as long as markets are not competitive and efficient

RAMESH CHAND | MEMBER, NITI AAYOG

We are ready to work with existing employees and restart the plant which has been

closed for almost 2 years. We hope to get the production started in the next 3 months and ramp up to the rated capacity over the next 12 months

TV NARENDRAN | CEO & MD, TATA STEEL



400 crore from sales of television and audio products. We will be diversifying our portfolio to achieve the larger target

AJAY MEHTA MD, AIWA INDIA

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Revenue deficit grant to 14 states

New Delhi: Finance ministry Wednesday released the fourth instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 7,183 crore to 14 states for the current fiscal. The states for which Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant has been recommended by the 15th Finance Commission during 2022-23 are Andhra Pradesh. Assam, Himachal Pradesh. Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya Mizoram, Nagaland, Puniab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

#### June coal output grows 32 per cent

New Delhi: Domestic coal production rose sharply by 32 per cent to 67.59 million tonne (MT) in June 2022 compared to 50.98 MT in the same month last year, the Coal Ministry said Wednesday. "Coal India Ltd (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) and captive mines/others registered a growth of 28.87 per cent, 5.50 per cent and 83.53 per cent by producing 51.56 MT, 5.56 MT and 10.47 MT, respectively," the ministry said. Of the top 37 coal mines, as many as 22 mines produced more than 100 per cent, and production at another nine mines stood between 80 per cent and 100 per cent, it said.

#### **Amazon faces UK investigation**

London: Britain's competition watchdog is investigating whether Amazon is harming competition and hurting consumers by giving an unfair advantage to merchants that pay for extra services. The Competition and Markets Authority's forma investigation said Wednesday that it will look into concerns that the ecommerce giant is abusing its dominance to undermine rivals, echoing similar investigations carried out by the European Union's executive Commission and Germany's antitrust agency.

#### Crypto co Voyager becomes bankrupt

Washington: Voyager Digital has filed for bankruptcy, the crypto lender said in a statement Wednesday, a week after suspending withdrawals, trading and deposits to its platform as it sought additional time to explore strategic alternatives. In its Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing Tuesday. Toronto-listed Voyager estimated that it had more than 100,000 creditors and somewhere between \$1 billion and \$10 billion in crypto assets.

# RBI unveils measures to check ₹ fall industry reels as new

RBI flagged that the global outlook is clouded by recession risks and that high risk aversion has gripped financial markets, producing surges of volatility, sell-offs of risk assets and large spillovers, including flights to safety and safe haven demand for the US dollar

Mumbai, July 6: Reserve Bank of India took a slew of measures Wednesday to boost foreign exchange inflows, including allowing overseas investors to buy shortterm corporate debt and opening of more government securities under the fully accessible route.

The steps came after the Reserve Bank of India's foreign exchange reserves fell by more than \$40 billion over the past nine months, largely due to the RBI's intervention in the currency market to cap

The Indian currency has shed about 6% of its value against the dollar since the beginning of this vear. The rupee closed trading Wednesday at 79.3025 per dollar, not far from its record low of 79.3750 touched Tuesday.

The RBI said it would allow for-

eign investors to buy 7- and 14-year tenure government bonds without any upper limits under its "fully accessible route", along with previously opened-up 5-, 10- and 30-year tenure securities.

"While it is difficult to ascertain the quantum of flows, the measures are attractive for banks and FPIs," said Suvodeep Rakshit, senior economist at Kotak Institutional Equities.

Rakshit said India's macro situation is better than during the 2013 taper tantrum period but these measures would alleviate and preempt the adverse impact on the external sector balance

The RBI said it was taking the new measures to "enhance forex inflows while ensuring overall macroeconomic and financial stability" **TEMPORARY SOLUTION** 

It also allowed banks to raise deposit rates for non-resident Indians NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AT HIGHER RATES FROM JULY 7 UNTIL OCT 31 RBI RAISED THE EXTERNAL

BANKS CAN ACCEPT DEPOSITS FROM

**COMMERCIAL ANNUAL BORROWING** LIMIT FOR INDIAN CORPORATES UNDER THE AUTOMATIC ROUTE TO \$1.5 BILLION PER COMPANY FROM \$750 MILLION

All the measures announced are temporary with in-built sunset clause. We believe these measures can provide some stability to the rupee. However, they are unlikely to alter the trajectory of weakness perpetuated by global factors

VIVEK KUMAR | ECONOMIST, QUANTECO RESEARCH

to levels higher than prevailing domestic deposit rates for a limited period. Banks can accept deposits from non-resident Indians at higher rates from July 7 until Oct 31.

"These measures, including raising the borrowing limits for companies as well as liberalising offshore ownership in government debt, are intended to ease onshore dollar tightness and support the rupee," said Radhika Rao, economist at DBS Bank.

HIT HARD BY INFLATION

the external commercial annual borrowing limit for Indian corporates under the automatic route to \$1.5 billion per company from \$750 million.

A senior executive at a staterun bank said the RBI measures could also bring down short-term borrowing rates, now very high, and though they might not lure immediate inflows, they are a signal to the market that the RBI is there to come up with innovative measures as and when needed.

Further, the central bank raised

#### Mumbai, July 6: India's new cryptocurrency tax has dealt a heavy

blow to the country's crypto exchanges, adding to broader sectoral woes and sending trading volumes plunging by up to 90%. The 1% tax on Indian cryp-

tocurrency trades from the start of this month has been a further disincentive for investors in a market where a burdensome regulatory regime and a 30% digital income tax had already knocked volumes by 60-70%, traders and industry executives said. 'We are scraping the bottom of

the barrel as far as volumes are concerned," said Rajagopal Menon, vice president of the WazirX crypto

While Indian exchanges

have been hit, trading

volumes globally have

edged higher as prices

of cryptocurrencies

have come down

"The amount of regulatory tangles, lack of ease of doing business and paperwork that has been created on every single trade has made investors and traders wary

and we are seeing that people are moving to international exchanges or to the grey market."

tax hammers trading

Top-tier exchanges traded a maximum daily volume of \$137 billion when the bitcoin price fell sharply May 11, up 84% from April, specialist research company CryptoCompare said in a report.

Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurency, has had the worst quarter on record, with the price down 56% and the outlook still chal-

Lower trading volumes have dragged down revenues for Indian exchanges, which have cut back on marketing and hiring while formulating strategies to ride out any protracted downturn.

"Several companies are laying off people after hiring a huge number last year and now have to look at operational and other corporate cost-cutting measures," said Kumar Gaurav, founder of digital bank Cashaa.

The recent woes for the Indian crypto exchanges could also prompt consolidation, some executives have said.

"A bear market is a cleansing process and weak businesses will perish while companies with the right business model will emerge stronger," said CoinSwitch CEO Ashish Singhal.



REUTERS

New Delhi, July 6: Gold hovered near a fresh seven-month low Wednesday, with the dollar perched at a two-decade peak, as investors continued to snub bullion and look to the greenback for safety amid growing anguish over a worsening global economic outlook.

Spot gold was last up 0.1% at \$1,766.54 per ounce at 11:53 am, after it dipped to \$1,762.45, its lowest since mid-December. US gold futures firmed 0.1% to \$1,764.60.

After dropping through support around \$1,790-\$1,800 Tuesday, gold could head lower in the medium term, said Michael McCarthy, chief strategy officer at Tiger Brokers, Australia. The dollar index consolidated near its highest since 2002 - levels which sent greenback-priced gold as much as 2.6% lower Tuesday.

Spot gold may test a support at \$1,756 per ounce, and a break could trigger a drop to \$1,748, Reuters' technical analyst Wang Tao said.

Spot silver dipped 1.2% to \$18.96 per ounce, its lowest level in twoyears. Platinum fell 1.3% to \$853.67, and palladium slipped 0.1% to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 6: The mega \$60-bil-

lion merger of the HDFC twins,

\$10.5-billion Adani-Holcim deal

along with \$2.7-billion LIC share sale

in the June quarter pushed the

deal market to an all-time high of

\$130.3 billion in the first half of

Deals worth \$130.3 billion was

more than double than the value

recorded in the year-ago period,

making it the highest semi-annual

period since records began in 1980,

according to the data tabulated by

2022, a report said Wednesday.



Deal street hits all-time high in H1

The number of deals grew 30.3 per cent on-year and saw the busiest-ever period

New Delhi, July 6: Demand in in the June quarter, with major players Dabur, Marico and Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) stating that consumers have titrated consumption as unprecedented inflation continued to impact the share of their income available for spending on consumer staples.

The domestic FMCG industry continued to be "hit hard by inflation levels" leading to successive price hikes as well as impacting volumes during the three months ended June, said the leading FMCG players in their update for the first quarter.

Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) and Marico expect a volume

Refinitiv, an LSEG business.

The April-June quarter of 2022

saw the strongest deal making ac-

tivity, pushing the total deal value

to a record \$130.3 billion in the first

half of the year, which is more than

double of the year-ago period and

sets an all-time semi-annual record

by value and number of announced

deals since 1980, the report said.

bers to the significant growth op-

portunities in the overall market

and domestic consolidations bol-

stering Mergers and Acquisitions

(M&As), which was led by the \$60.4-

The report attributes the num-

decline "in mid-single digits" in its India business as the sector continued to witness "tepid demand" with rising retail inflation exerting pressure on the share of wallet

"The Indian FMCG industry continued to remain soft during the quarter. It continued to be hit hard by inflation levels aggravating due to geopolitical tensions, leading to successive price increases and impacting volumes.' GCPL said in its quarterly update.

According to Marico, current trends indicate that consumers "titrated consumption" in some non-essential categories and either "downtraded among brands or switched to smaller packs" in the essential categories.

"In the given context, India busi-

billion merger between HDFC Bank

and its parent Housing Development

Finance Corporation, making it

the largest-ever deal on record in

A notable theme is the growing

ness volumes declined in mid-single digits. The performance was particularly dragged by a sharp drop in Saffola Oils. Excluding Saffola Oils, the India business posted marginal volume growth. Parachute Coconut Oil recorded a minor volume decline," Marico said in its quarterly update for Q1 FY23

Godrej Group FMCG arm GCPL expects to deliver early doubledigit sales growth on a high base in India and the growth will be mostly "price-driven" in Q1 FY23.

The company would have "midsingle digit volumes drop on a high base, with a 3-year volume CAGR close to mid-single digits," in the domestic market, GCPL said.

While Dabur said its India business has been "fairly resilient" in this challenging macro environment and is expected to report "high single-digit revenue growth" on a very high base of 35.4 per cent revenue growth in Q1 FY22, it added

However, FMCG players reported growth from international business and their consolidated revenue in Q1 FY23 marginally higher on a year-on-year basis.

and sustainable sectors, which totalled \$11.5 billion so far this year,

which is 41.7 per cent more than last

year's. And the biggest among them

is the \$10.5-billion deal struck by the

Adani group to buy out the Indian

assets of the global cement major

However, inbound M&As fell 14.6

per cent to \$21.5 billion. The US

was the most active foreign ac-

quirer in India with \$11.3 billion

worth of deals, which was down 7.9

per cent on-year and accounted for

52.3 per cent of the inbound M&As.

Holcim-

Ambuja Cements.



#### **LATEST RETAIL BET**

## RIL to partner with Gap for India stores

The announcement comes days after the firm declared a plan to open outlets of popular British sandwich and coffee chain Pret A Manger in India

REUTERS

Bangalore, July 6: Reliance Retail, part of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's conglomerate Reliance Industries, Wednesday tied up with Gap Inc to bring the American clothing retailer's brands to India.

Gap's previous attempt to woo Indian customers turned sour after the jeans and casual clothing retailer terminated its deal with a unit of Arvind Fashions in 2020, when strict lockdowns in the country resulted in near-zero footfalls across malls and shopping centers.

For Reliance, the deal with Gap is the latest among many ventures by the conglomerate, and comes davs after announcing a plan to open outlets of popular British sandwich and coffee chain Pret A Manger in India.

The various partnerships also



come as Mukesh Ambani, among India's richest men, is all set to trigger leadership changes in his conglomerate, with daughter Isha rumored to be the next chairper son of the retail business.

The unit already has partner ships with luxury brands Burberry and Jimmy Choo. Reliance Retail will sell Gap merchandise in the country through a mix of exclusive brand stores, multi-brand store expressions and digital commerce platforms, the company said.

# If history repeats itself, equities set for brief relief in July

WORLD STOCKS HAVE SHED MORE THAN \$20 TRILLION IN VALUE SINCE HITTING RECORD HIGHS IN JANUARY

REUTERS

London, July 6: If history is any indicator of the future, the first two weeks of July could bring relief to investors after a bruising first half of the year.

Most major markets are firmly entrenched in bear market territory as policymakers struggle to check soaring inflation without crushing fledgling growth.

However, half-month price changes since 1930 figures show that the first two weeks of July have historically offered the best returns of the year

for S&P 500 (.SPX) investors. After three consecutive quar-

ters of declines for S&P 500 stocks, with the index declining 20% since the beginning of the year, some investors said they are ready to buy the dip. The S&P 500 has edged up 0.16% so far this month. While volatility continues to be

a drag for global stocks, a JP Morgan survey showed two-thirds of investors are likely to increase their equity exposure in July. In the last week of June, another

\$5.8 billion left global equities, with outflows from developed stock markets outpacing emerging markets, figures from BofA showed. NO PLACE TO HIDE

The first six months of the year



were brutal for investors. Goldman Sachs analysts said a 60/40 portfolio strategy, which follows a standard portfolio technique of keeping 60% of its assets in equities and 40% in fixed income, posted its worst first-half

**History offers** grounds of shortterm hope amid a bleak backdrop for stocks. We see record shorting, we see a really big equity rebalancing happening, probably in Europe and the **US naturally just rebalancing** because we've had such a big drop in equities PAUL O'CONNOR | HEAD OF MULTI-ASSET,

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS

return since 1932, declining 17%. UBS suggested using the equity sell-off and volatility to selectively build longer-term positions. In a high inflation environment, the Swiss bank said value stocks including energy and UK equities could continue to outperform, especially if confidence rises that corporate earnings can stay resilient. But markets participants advise caution, anticipating a stormy few months ahead for risk assets. amid rising interest rates and economic growth concerns.

Recession fears, rising cost of living keeping consumers wary, while a surge in natural gas prices and a slew of economic indicatorshave reignited worries about the health of the global economy.

# INDIA AIM FOR BEST XI

# Time for experimentation over, India to start identifying team for T20 World Cup as they play England in first T20I today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Southampton, July 6: Experimentation will go out of the window as India will get down to finalising their best eleven for the World Cup during the three-match T20 series against an ultra-aggressive England, beginning here Thursday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, who missed the fifth Test in Birmingham after contracting COVID-19, will be travelling to the port city Wednesday and is expected to feature in the series-opener.

Test players including Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant will join the T20 squad from the second game onwards. Their absence would give fringe

players like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson one more game to make a statement though they seem to have fallen in the pecking order in India's list of probables for the World Cup in Australia.

A niggle meant Gaikwad could not open alongside Ishan Kishan in the two games in Ireland and if Rohit is back, he will have to warm the bench once again.

Kishan has done reasonably well in the chances that he has got and he will look to strengthen his position in the team as a reserve opener with a substantial knock against the mighty England.

With Kohli expected to be back at number three from game two, Deepak Hooda will be aiming for another match-winning effort to keep himself in the mix. With a century and 47 not out against Ireland, Hooda has certainly made it tougher for the team management to keep him out of the eleven.

The uncapped duo of Rahul Tripathi and Arshdeep Singh have not been included for second and third T20 and it is unlikely they will get a look in Thursday.

Suryakumar Yaday, who made a comeback from injury against Ireland, could not get going in the games in Malahide and will be backing himself to get back to his innovative best. He and Hooda were amongst the runs in the warmup against Derbyshire last week.

In the bowling department, pacer Umran Malik will be brimming with confidence after defending



17 runs in the last over of a highscoring second T20 against Ireland. However, he remains a work in progress and needs to improve on his accuracy.

The pacers including the seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar and wily Harshal Patel were stunned by the Irish attack and against a tougher opposition, they will have to be at their best. Yuzvendra Chahal will be expected to replace Ravi Bishnoi in the playing eleven.

India have about 15 T20 games to play before the T20 World Cup in Australia in October – three against England in the current series, five against the West Indies (July 29-August 7), about 5 in Asia Cup (August-September) and three against Australia (September).

The England series will mark the beginning of the process to

# Eves eye Sri Lankan whitewash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pallekele, July 6: A confident India will look to complete the formalities and assert their supremacy by completing a whitewash of Sri Lanka in the third and final women's ODI here Thursday.

Playing ODI cricket for the first time since the talismanic Mithali Raj retired from the game, the Indian team won the opening two games in contrasting fashion to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The visitors had bagged the preceding T20I series 2-1. Chasing similar targets, India looked much more confident in the second ODI as they galloped to 10-wicket win Monday. India controlled all aspects of the game. It was the kind of dominant display expected out of Harmanpreet Kaur and her troops throughout the tour of the island nation.

After an underwhelming tour by their standards, star openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali



Verma finally joined the party with unbeaten half centuries. The duo, that had struggled to build a decent partnership and provide electrifying starts in the first ODI and the T20 series, would be keen for an encore in the final game.

New full-time skipper Harmanpreet has been India's most consistent player this series. The all-rounder has shone with the bat, her innings often turning out to be the difference between the two sides While, Indian spinners were ruling the roost on the slow tracks in the T20s, the ODI series has belonged to pacer Renuka Singh, who has picked seven wickets in the two 50-over matches, including a career best 4/28.

In the absence of veteran Jhulan Goswami, who has often been the side's best pacer, Renuka's performance shows that that young and relatively inexperienced Indian pace unit has potential.

A 3-0 series win will also boost the visitors' confidence for their next assignment – the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Sri Lanka will, once again, be keen to pick up a conciliatory win like they did in the T20 series. Let down by its batters this series, the Chamari Athapaththu-led side would hope it can navigate the Indian bowling attack better in the dead rubber. On the bowling front, the spin duo of Inoka Ranaweera and Oshadi Ranasinghe have been the stand-out players, doing most of the heavy lifting.

#### DHAWAN TO LEAD INDIA IN WI ODIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Shikhar Dhawan was Wednesday named India captain for the three ODIs against the West Indies in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, while Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant were among those who have been rested for the series beginning July 22 in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Two other senior players, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami have also been rested. Hardik Pandya, who recently made his India comeback following a successful IPL, is also not a part of the side.

Deepak Hooda, Sanju Samson, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Avesh Khan, who are not part of ODI squad for the series in England beginning July 12, have been included in the 16-member team for the West Indies tour.

Shubman Gill, who last played an ODI in December 2020, has also got the selectors' nod. Ravindra Jadeja has been named Dhawan's deputy for the series.

Dhawan, who only plays ODI, had first captained the side during the tour of Sri Lanka last year when the Test specialists were in



England. There has been criticism from some quarters regarding the appointment of too many captains of the Indian team over the past one.

year with Bumrah, Pant, Rahul, Hardik, Dhawan leading the side due to scheduling and injury issues, and as part of workload man-

#### THE SQUAD

Shikhar Dhawan (C), Ravindra Jadeja (vc), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh.

agement.

All the three games will be played in Port of Spain. The games in the West Indies are the only ODIs India will play before the T20 World Cup in Australia and therefore, senior players being rested doesn't come entirely as a surprise. After the ODIs, India will play five T20Is against the West Indies in the Caribbean and the United States, the squad for which is yet to be announced.

Considering every T20I game is

important before the World Cup in Australia, the senior players are likely to return for the five-match series to be played from July 29 to August 7. The T20I matches will be played in Trinidad, St Kitts and Lauderhill in Florida.

#### 1ST ARAB EVE TO REACH SEMIS AT SW19

# Ons Jabeur makes more history at Wimbledon



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon, July 6: To the many firsts' filling Ons Jabeur's résumé, add a new one: First Arab woman to reach the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament.

The third-seeded Tunisian improved on last year's quarterfinal run at Wimbledon by doing one better on Tuesday at the grasscourt Grand Slam tournament. She beat Marie Bouzkova 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 on Centre Court.

"It means a lot," said the 27-yearold Jabeur, who is ranked No.2 in the world. "I was hoping that I could get to this stage for a long time already. I was talking a little bit to (former Moroccan player) Hicham Arazi, and he told me, 'Arabs always lose in the quarterfinals and we are sick of it. Please break this.' I was, like, I'll try, my friend."

She tried and it's true, she did it. In the semifinals, Jabeur will face another newcomer to this stage at a major tournament — Tatjana Maria. The 34-year-old German, who twice took breaks from tennis to have a child, became the oldest

first-time Grand Slam semifinalist in the Open era in her 35th appearance at such a tournament. She defeated 22-year-old Jule Niemeier 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 on No. 1 Court.

Jabeur has been setting record after record for Arab players in recent years. She became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam tournament in 2020 at the Australian Open. In 2021, she was the first Arab player to break into the top 10 of the men's or women's rankings, then became the first Arab to win a WTA title, and topped it off with her record run to the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Simona Halep's first appearance at Wimbledon since winning the title three years is going just as

good as it did the last time.

The 16th-seeded Romanian reached the semifinals and stretched her winning streak at the All England Club to 12 matches by beating Amanda Anisimova 6-2, 6-4 Wednesday on Centre Court. In the semifinals, Halep will face Elena Rybakina, who beat Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-2, 6-3

# India eye win to stay in hunt for direct QF spot

quee event. For England, the se-

ries marks the beginning of the

Jos Buttler era following the re-

India: Rohit Sharma (C), Ishan

Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju

Samson, Suryakumar Yadav,

Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi,

Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik

Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra

Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi,

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal

Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh

England: Jos Buttler (C), Moeen

Ali, Harry Brook, Sam Curran,

Richard Gleeson, Chris Jordan,

Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan,

Tymal Mills, Matthew Parkinson,

Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Reece Topley

tirement of Eoin Morgan.

The squads:

and Umran Malik

and David Willey.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen, July 6: A lacklustre Indian women's hockey team need to tick all boxes against New Zealand in its final Pool B match to seal a direct quarterfinal place in the FIH World Cup, here

Thursday.

The Indians, who achieved a historic fourth place finish in last year's Olympics, drew 1-1 against Tokyo bronze medallist England and China in their first two pool

The Savita-led side is currently placed third in Pool B with two points below China and leaders New Zealand, who defeated England 3-1 Tuesday.

According to the tournament format, the 16 teams are divided in four pools of four teams each. The top four sides from each pool will directly qualify for the quarterfinals, while the second and third placed teams will feature in the crossovers.

The winner of the cross over matches will grab the remaining

four quarterfinal spots. So, India would look for an outright win against New Zealand and hope for a Chinese draw or a loss against England to top Pool B. But going by the way they played in the first two matches, it would be easier

said than done.

While the Indian defence has impressed in both the matches, denying England a single penalty corner in the first game, it is the performance of the forwardline and midfield which was found wanting.

Barring Vandana Katariya, who scored India's two goals, no other striker could live upto expectations so far with the likes of Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi and Navneet Kaur cutting a sorry figure.

It is not that the Indians didn't create chances, but they failed to grab those opportunities. The midfield too needs to raise their game as it looked rusty against China.

Penalty corner conversion is also an area of concern for Schopman as India made use of just two out of the 12 earned in two games, and that too both the goals coming through indirectly from the sticks of Vandana.

While against England, Vandana scored from a rebound, against China she got a beautiful deflection to Gurjit's flick to draw India level.

Gurjit Kaur too needs to polish her skills and raise her conversion rate if India have to progress far in the tournament. In terms of rankings, there is hardly anything to separate the two sides as New Zealand are placed eighth while India are a rung below.

## Sindhu, Prannoy in 2nd round OFC sign Meitei on

PRESS TRUST INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, July 6: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu had to toil before emerging victorious in the opening round of the Malaysia Masters while compatriot Saina Nehwal made a second consecutive first-round exit here Wednesday.

The seventh-seeded Sindhu took close to an hour to knock out China's He Bing Jiao 21-13, 17-21, 21-15 and move to the second round.

With this win, world number seven Sindhu exacted revenge for her first-round exit from the Indonesia Open Super 1000 last month, when Bing Jiao had defeated her in straight games. The Chinese though still leads the head to head 10-9.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina, on the other hand, squandered a one-game lead to go down 21-16, 17-21, 14-21 to Kim Ga Eun of South Korea. The World No.24 Indian had also made a first-round exit from the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament last week.

In the men's singles, HS Prannoy sailed into the second round after he claimed a comfortable 21-19, 21-



14 victory over Frenchman Brice Leverdez.

In the other men's singles events, B Sai Praneeth and Parupalli Kashyap also moved to the second round, but with contrasting wins.

round, but with contrasting wins. While Praneeth hardly broke a sweat against Kevin Cordon, registering an easy 21-8, 21-9 win over the Guatemalan in less than half an hour, Kashyap came back from a one-game deficit to beat local favourite Tommy Sugiarto

16-21, 21-16, 21-16. Praneeth will take on Li Shi Feng in the prequarterfinals.

However, it was the end of the road for Sameer Verma, who went down fighting to fourth seed Chinese Taipei shuttler Chou Tien Chen 21-10, 12-21, 14-21.

The women's doubles pair of N Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 19-21, 21-18, 16-21 to the Indonesian duo of Fabriana Kusuma and Amalia Pratiwi.

# loan from Blasters

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Indian Super League (ISL) side Odisha FC Wednesday announced the signing of Denechandra Meitei on a year-long loan from Kerala Blasters for the upcoming season.

The 28-year-old defender, who hails from Manipur, has played for multiple clubs in both the I-League and ISL and also represented India at the U-23 level in a tournament held in Bangladesh.

"Ready for the Juggernauts! Denechandra Meitei signs for Odisha FC on a season-long loan from Kerala Blasters," Odisha FC said in a tweet.

According to the club, the versatile defender, who can also fill in at a defensive midfield position will add more strength and depth to the OFC backline for the upcoming season.

Meitei, who started playing football at the age of 10 years, initially trained at a local stadium to improve his technical ability. Then he even-

tually managed to make it to his district team and then the Manipur football team in the youth nation-

In 2008, Meitei signed with Mohun Bagan AC to join their academy. A year later, he joined the Sambalpur Academy in Odisha. After going back to Manipur, Meitei got recommended for a trial at Pune FC and got selected for the academy. While with the Pune FC Academy, he won the I-League U19 twice.

Meitei joined Kerala Blasters from TRAU FC August 5, 2020 and made his first appearance for the club against Chennaiyin FC. After a year, the footballer signed a new three-year contract with Kerala Blasters, keeping him at the club

until 2024.

Meitei was included in the Kerala
Blasters squad for last year's
Durand Cup and played his first
match against Bengaluru FC. He
played his first match of the ISL
2021-22 season as a substitute for
Nishu Kumar against BFC.

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