



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 T20I without some big names

SPORTS P12

NEWS IN BRIEF

PT Usha, Ilaiyaraaja nominated to RS

NEW DELHI: Legendary athlete PT Usha and music maestro Ilaiyaraaja were among prominent personalities 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. P7

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). P9

Naqvi, RCP Singh resign from Cab

NEW DELHI: Union ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi 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 year 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. P9



MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	53750.97	↑ 616.62
NIFTY	15989.80	↑ 178.90
DOLLAR	79.73	↓ ₹0.06
EURO	80.95	↓ ₹0.97
GOLD	₹50,515	↓ ₹787
SILVER	₹56,583	↓ ₹282

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	31.5°C
TEMP MIN	24.7°C	24.5°C
Humidity	97%	92%
Rainfall	7.8mm	3.0mm

Forecast: Light rain likely

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

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 per cent students have scored over 90 percent.

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

NEW DELHI, July 6: Cooking gas LPG price Wednesday was hiked by ₹50 per cylinder, the eighth increase in rates in the last one year 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 state-owned fuel retailers.

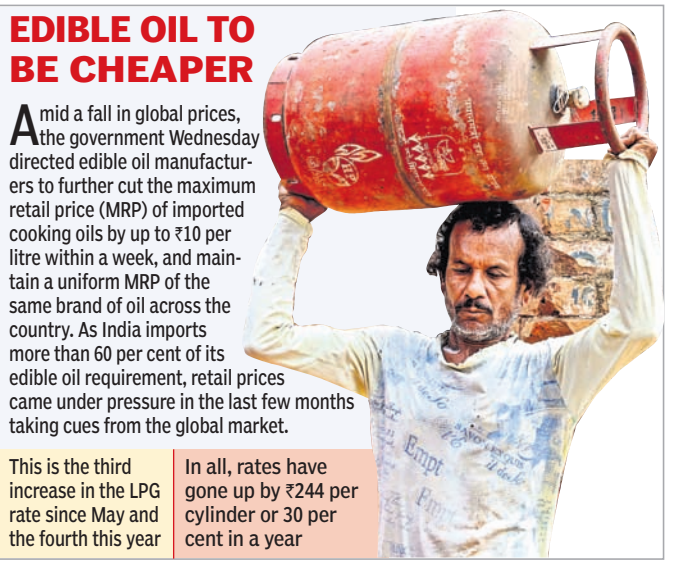
Firming international energy prices have led to non-subsidised cooking gas (LPG) prices being increased on eight occasions in the past year. In all, rates have gone up by ₹244 per cylinder or 30 per cent. Common households pay non-subsidised rates for the cooking gas they buy after the government restricted subsidy to just poor beneficiaries who get 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 cylinder March 22 and again by the same quantum May 7. Rates went up by ₹3.50 per cylinder May 19.

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

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



Girl gangraped by six juveniles

Kendrapara, July 6: A seven-year-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.



ATM cash van driver decamps with ₹57 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khariar, July 6: The driver of a cash deposit van carrying cash to refill the ATMs in Boden and Sinapali blocks of this district decamped with ₹57 lakh cash and 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.



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 component 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 the notice.

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 Civil Aviation Regulations on the subject," it noted.

At least eight incidents of technical malfunction have taken place 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 and ₹98 crore in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

VISTARA ENGINE FAILS, SMOKE IN INDIGO

An engine of a Vistara aircraft on way from Bangkok failed after it landed at the Delhi airport Tuesday but all passengers disembarked safely, DGCA said Wednesday. The airline said one of the engines had developed a "minor" electrical malfunction. In a separate incident, the cabin crew of an IndiGo Raipur-Indore flight observed smoke in the plane after it landed at its destination Tuesday, DGCA officials said.

RISKY FLIGHTS

- JUNE 24 & 25:** Fuselage door warnings lit up on two separate planes while taking off, forcing the aircraft to abandon their journeys and return
- JUNE 19:** SpiceJet flight for Jabalpur had to return to Delhi due to cabin pressurisation issues
- JUNE 19:** An engine on Delhi-bound aircraft carrying 185 passengers caught fire soon after it took off from the Patna airport
- JULY 5:** A freighter aircraft heading to Chongqing in China returned to Kolkata as its weather radar was not working
- JULY 5:** Delhi-Dubai flight was diverted to Karachi due to a malfunctioning fuel indicator and its Kandla-Mumbai flight did priority landing in Mumbai after cracks developed on its windshield mid-air
- JULY 2:** A flight heading to Jabalpur returned to Delhi after crew observed smoke in the cabin

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 long-awaited 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.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

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 day-dreaming think about that coveted home, as that's how the first plans materialise.

TAURUS

Religious sentiments will be ruling your thoughts today, says Ganesha. This is a great day for making a trip to a temple or a popular religious destination. You should take your parents and other family 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.

LEO

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 determination. You will become more aware about health issues and pay closer attention to your diet. You will spend an enjoyable time with your family, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

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.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will be able to spend ample time with 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 showering 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 beneficial 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 calendar 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 hurting your own interests, feels Ganesha. 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.

SHRUTI

on battling mental health issues

Chennai: Shruti Haasan recently opened up about battling mental health issues and how solving them is not an easy affair. According to her, it is not like recovering from a bad knee injury.

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 whole life."

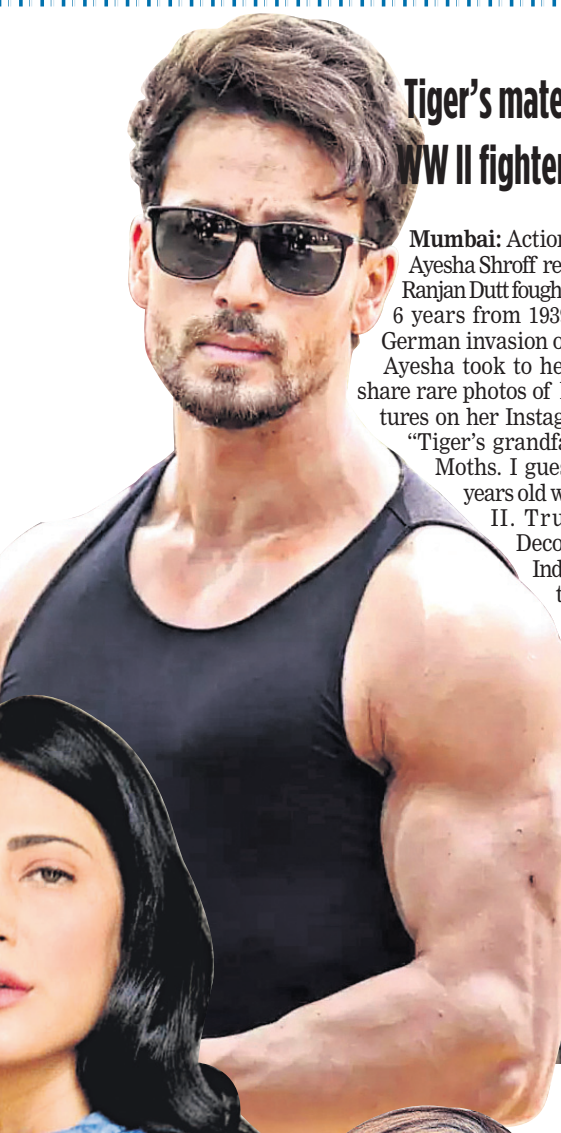
Shutting down rumours of hospitalisation, she says, "I am doing perfectly fine."

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 film."

Apart from *Salaar*, Shruti also has *NBK107*, co-starring Nandamuri Balakrishna and Waltair Veerayya in her kitty.

AGENCIES



Tiger's maternal grandpa was a WW II fighter pilot, reveals mom

Mumbai: Action star Tiger Shroff's mother Ayesha Shroff recently shared that her father 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 daughter. Jai Hind."

In the black and white photos, Ayesha Shroff's father Ranjan Dutt is seen with his fellow fighter pilots.

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



Ranjan Dutt(M) with fellow fighter pilots

show Pinch. He had said, "My 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 me."

IAN S



Antara records bhajan originally written for Lata

Bhubaneswar: Antara Chakraborty, one of the most popular female play back singers of 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 Covid restrictions and then due to ill health of the legendary singer, said production house sources. The Bhajan was finally recorded 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.

PNN

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.

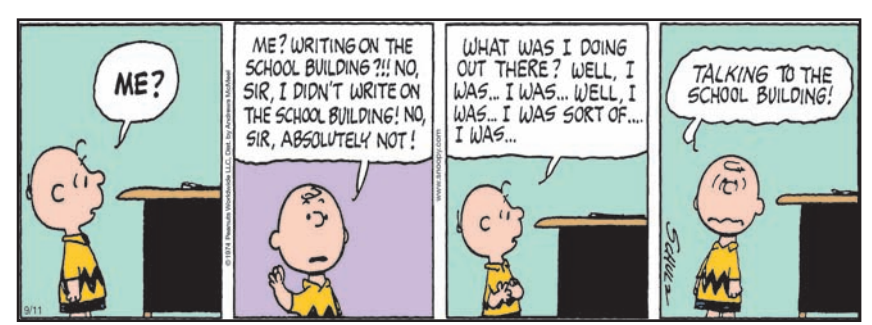
During the episode, show host Karan Johar and *Gully Boy* co-stars Ranveer and Alia touched upon celebrity relationship trajectories, supporting their partners and their lives after marrying the love of their lives.

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."

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

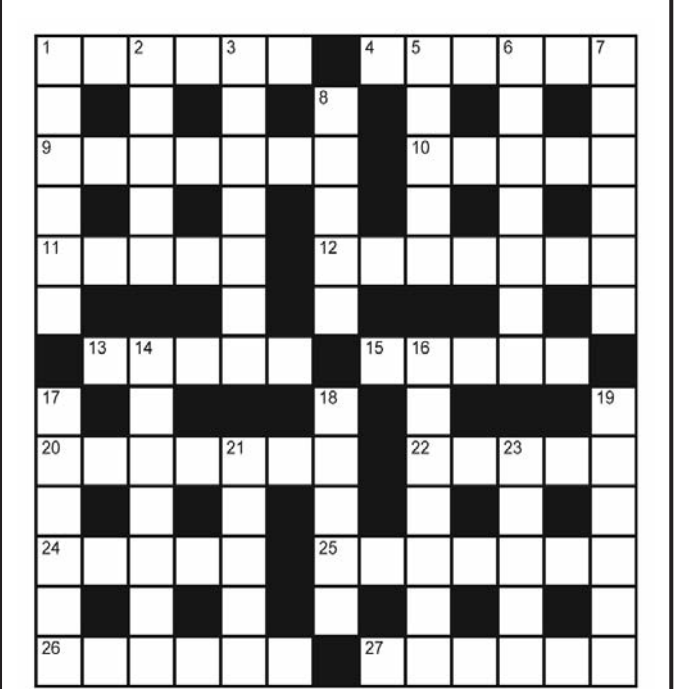


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Excerate
 - 4 Type of seas, at times
 - 9 Timeless, as of quality
 - 10 Scene of the action
 - 11 Lassitude
 - 12 Stand of fruit trees
 - 13 Desert sight
 - 15 Major artery
 - 20 Parachute part
 - 22 Musical time
 - 24 Parish priest
 - 25 First
 - 26 Wine bottle sizes
 - 27 Himalayan kingdom
 - 6 Signal flag
 - 7 Concedes
 - 8 Young haddock
 - 14 Brandy flavour
 - 16 Flightless bird
 - 17 Garden tool
 - 18 Old Roman port
 - 19 Common allergen
 - 21 Like ghost stories
 - 23 Damp
- Down
- 1 Formal order
 - 2 Retinue
 - 3 Japanese raw deal?
 - 5 Mayhem

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.

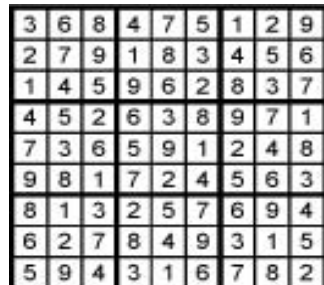


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



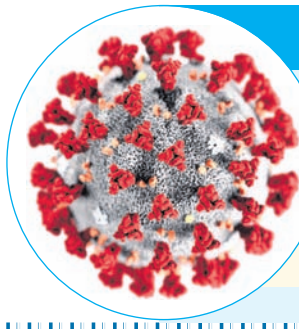
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



AUDIO RELEASE

Dignitaries at the audio release of movie 'Bye Bye Dil' at Gitagobinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
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

Oppn slams govt over illegal drugs trade

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Opposition BJP and Congress Wednesday slammed the state government for its alleged failure to check liquor consumption and illegal drugs trade in Odisha.

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 trade in the state.

Participating in the motion, Opposition chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi said the illegal drug trade is flourishing in Odisha and many youths are falling prey to drugs due to the incompetency of the state government.

"The state government is dependent on the revenue generated from the authorised sale of excise products. As a result, Odisha ranks third in the country in terms of addiction," Majhi said.

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 significantly in the state, he added.

"On March 23, 2021, Chief 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 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



“On March 23, 2021, Chief 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 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 Minister added.

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



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

OP PHOTO

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 deco-

THE DEITIES HAD REACHED SRIGUNDICHA TEMPLE FOR A NINE-DAY SOJOURN ON THE OCCASION OF RATH YATRA JULY 1

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

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.



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

OP PHOTO

MOMENT OF GLORY

MATRIC RESULTS

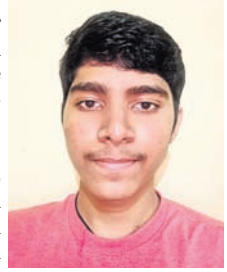
'Education has become more challenging during pandemic'

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) while 54,889 secured A2 grade -- 80 to 90 per cent marks, he said.

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

Rajranjan Sahoo of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Unit 3 who scored 97.83 per cent said that he was expecting such marks as he had calculated it based on exam.



He said that the summative exam format helps in getting good marks as students get multiple chances to improve their performances. Post-Covid time, the education has become more challenging but still we have to adjust and go forward with it.

Priyanka Priyadarsini Behera of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir who scored 96 per cent said she was expecting to be topper in school but missed it. However, she is 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 now on NEET exam.



Suhani Sahu of Vivekananda Shiksha Kendra who scored 90 per cent said she was expecting little extra marks in science subjects. 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 per cent and is a student of Gopabandhu High School said that he was expecting little more but will accept the mark.



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 on-

line 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, subject-wise 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.

Explained: How Covid-19 infection damages brain

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

While 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.

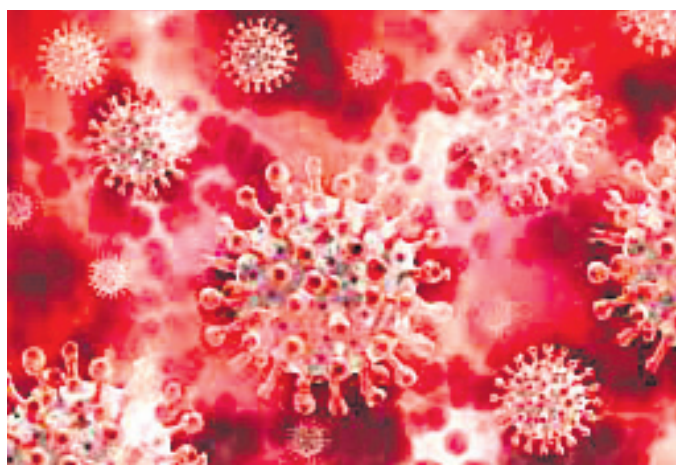
In a small study, researchers from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), a part of the US National Institutes of Health, examined brain changes in nine people who died suddenly after contracting the virus.

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," he added.

Researchers found that in areas with damage to the endothelial

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 therapeutic 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. [www](#)

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.

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 Keonjhar 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 Keonjhar will run towards Puri and vice versa.

On day after Suna Besha, i.e. on July 11, six special trains will leave Puri towards Gumpur, Rayagada, Bhadrak, Visakhapatnam, Kendujhar and Mahipur and one special train will run from Keonjhar to Puri.

02891/02810 Bhubaneswar-Puri-Bhubaneswar daily Rath Yatra Special will leave from Bhubaneswar at 1005hrs and in return will leave Puri at 1510hrs between 1st to 11th July, 2022.

722 drunk drivers held in 3 months



POST NEWS NETWORK

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

Bhubaneswar, July 6: In a three-month-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

pandemic. "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 15,000.

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 injured.



An artiste performs during Guhara, 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



AGENCIES

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 comorbidities so far.

State GST mop-up rises 45 pc in June

PNN & AGENCIES

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 ₹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 corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 32.18 per cent

Odisha has collected Rs 1,063.33 crore in CGST with growth of 43.08 per cent, Rs 847.93 crore in IGST with growth of 0.63 per 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 professional tax with a collection of ₹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 of 5T and attend to the genuine grievances of the taxpayers promptly.

Elephants unsafe in Odisha: Saluja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Altogether 245 wild elephants died of unnatural causes in Odisha in just three years, senior Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said in the Assembly Wednesday and demanded action against those responsible for their deaths.

The lawmaker from Kantabanji in Bolangir district attacked the BJD government during the Zero Hour for its alleged lack of concern for the safety of the pachyderms. "As many as 245 elephants died in just three years. It indicates that these animals are not safe in Odisha," Saluja said, pointing out that a total of 784 elephants died in 10 years.

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 and others.

"Recently, skeletal remains of elephants were exhumed in Athagarh forest division (in Cuttack district). This means these pachy-



derms were poached for their tusks before being buried. The tusks are being sold in foreign countries," Saluja 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

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-year-old 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.

LPG dearer by ₹50

Continued from P1

Petrol and diesel prices, however, 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 non-subsidised rate).

Originally, non-subsidised cooking gas was the one that consumers used to buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates. However, the government stopped paying subsidy on LPG to households in mid-2020. Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 1,052.50 per 14.2-kg 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 higher taxes.



People under the banner of 'Odisha Rajya Milita Swabhalambi Karigar Sangha' stage a demonstration near PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, to press for fulfilment of their demands

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 public 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 dis-

ease. 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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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

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



of the day quote

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

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

We assure our neighbours, the region and the world that we will not 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

SUPPORT EBBS AMID FLURRY OF RESIGNATIONS

UK PM leadership hangs in the balance

Johnson, a former journalist 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



- 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.

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.

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

KEIR STARMER | OPPOSITION 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 SECRETARY, UK

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, increasingly isolated, used a weekly question-and-answer session in parliament to try to tough it out, repeating his justifications for the latest scandal that triggered resignations from his government. Earlier, he tried to reassert his authority by quickly appointing Nadhim Zahawi, a rising star in the Conservative Party widely credited for the successful

rollout of Covid-19 vaccines, as finance minister. But his performance at prime minister's questions was met with a muted response and, on occasion, open laughter. One member of Johnson's own party asked if there would be any circumstances in which he should resign? He responded that he would only quit if the government could not carry on. 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".

When times are tough is exactly the moment that you'd expect the government to continue with its work, not to walk away...to get on with our job and to focus on the things that matter to the people of this country

BORIS JOHNSON | UK PM

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 chal-

lenge 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.

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, a mostly Russian-speaking industrial 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 control.

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.

BULL-RUNNING FIESTA



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

NEW COVID OUTBREAKS



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 such venues.

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 world's smallest state. "Two women will be appointed for the first time in the committee

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 of 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 constitution, he may likely be the last cleric to head that department. Asked which other Vatican de-



- 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

partment conceivably be headed by a layman or woman, Francis suggested that they could include the

department for Catholic Education and Culture and the Apostolic Library. They are currently headed

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 Beccuq, 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 appointed by Francis.

