**TOUGH TASK** 

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh starts preparing to essay the role of India's first female Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

LEISURE



### G-20 DIPLOMATS FAIL ON UNITY

Deeply divided top diplomats from all over world failed to find common ground over Russia's war in Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P10



### PRANNOY ADVANCES

HS Prannoy continues his impressive run at the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament, making into the semifinals

SPORTS P12

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Thousands of

devotees Friday

congregated at

the Srigundicha

'Sandhya Darshan'

temple for

of the Trinity

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, JULY 9 | 2022

# DEITIES' RETURN JOURNEY TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 8: Lord Jagannath and His siblings—Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are scheduled to return to the Lions' Gate of the Srimandir from Srigundicha temple on the occasion of Bahuda Yatra, Saturday.

The deities had reached Srigundicha temple for a nine-day sojourn on the occasion of Rath Yatra, July 1.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and Puri district administration have made elaborate arrange-

ments for the return car festival of the deities which is being organised with participation of devotees after two years of Covid hiatus.

The chariots of the Trinity-

Nandighosha, Darpadalana and Taladhwajahave been parked at the Nakachana gate of Srigundicha temple to bring back the deities to Srimandir. The Mangal Alati ritual of the deities would commence at 4am. The deities would be taken in a procession to their respective chariots from Srigundicha shrine through customary Pahandi procession soon after completion of Mangalarpan ritual. The chariots would be pulled towards Srimandir at 4pm.

Meanwhile, thousands of devotees Friday gathered at the Srigundicha temple for 'Sandhya Darshan' of the Trinity. However, the duration of 'Sandhya Darshan' was brought down till 4pm as against the usual 7pm.



The chariots of Lord Jagannath and His siblings at Saradhabali in Puri, Friday, on the eve of Bahuda Yatra

### Man kills father

POST NEW NETWORK

Bargarh, July 8: In a bone-chilling incident, a man killed his father and subsequently tried to burn the body to conceal his crime at Pipilipali village under Barpali police limits in the district Friday.

On being informed, police rushed to the village and seized the halfburnt body from the pyre. The accused was identified as Hari Pradhan, while his father Nama

According to police, Hari in an act of revenge killed his father over a land dispute. Later, he took the body to the village graveyard and tried to burn the corpse.

However, he was detained after locals alerted the cops regarding

### Tehsildar arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 8: Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested a tehsildar and an amin at Raruan tehsil office while accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 from a person to issue a land patta.

Vigilance sleuths said they have arrested Raruan tehsildar Satya Sundar Rout and Bhanjakia amin Lochan Patra while accepting Rs 15,000 from the complainant Chakradhar Mahanta for issuing the latter a land patta.

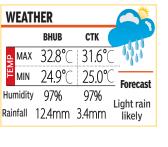
Soon after, simultaneous searches were conducted at Rout and Patra's residence, office and other properties when the last re-

### RREGULAR by MANJUL



Yes. I carry safety equipment with me. I travel with budget airlines

### **MARKET WATCH** VARIATION SENSEX **54481.84** 👚 303.38 16220.60 **1** 87.70 DOLLAR **79.83** ₹0.14 ₹0.32 EURO **1** ₹338 SILVER **1** ₹417 ₹57.356



# ABE ASSASSINATED

### Saddened beyond words, says PM Modi; national mourning today

Nara (Japan), July 8: Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving leader died Friday hours after he was shot while campaigning for a parliamentary election, shocking a country in which political violence is rare and guns are tightly controlled.

The shooter opened fire on Abe. 67, from behind as the former premier addressed members of the public on a drab traffic island in the western city of Nara. Japanese media reported that the weapon appeared to be a homemade gun.

This attack is an act of brutality that happened during the elections - the very foundation of our democracy - and is absolutely unforgivable," said Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Abe's protege, struggling to keep his emotions It was the first killing of a sitting

or former Japanese leader since a 1936 coup attempt, when several figures including two ex-premiers were assassinated.

Doctors were unable to revive Abe, who was taken to hospital in cardiopulmonary arrest and showing no vital signs. He was declared dead at 5:03pm (0803 GMT), about

five and a half hours

He bled to death from deep wounds to the heart and the right side of his neck, despite receiving more than 100 units of blood in transfusions over four hours. Hidetada Fukushima, the professor in charge of emergency medicine at Nara Medical University Hospital, told a televised news conference.

Police said a 41-year-old man suspected of carrying out the shooting had been arrested. NHK quoted the suspect, identified as Tetsuya Yamagami, as telling police he was dissatisfied with Abe and wanted to kill him. The suspect told police he had made multiple handmade explosives and guns in the past, NHK said.

Abe was making a campaign speech outside a train station when two shots rang out. Security officials were then seen tackling a man in a grey T-shirt and beige trousers.

'There was a loud bang and then smoke," businessman Makoto Ichikawa, who was at the scene, Contd...P4 told Reuters.

THE ASSASSINATION **OF THE FORMER JAPANESE PM** WITH SOME OF THE **STRICTEST GUN CONTROL LAWS** ANYWHERE IT WAS THE FIRST **KILLING OF A SITTING OR FORMER JAPANESE LEADER SINCE A 1936 COUP ATTEMPT, WHEN SEVERAL FIGURES INCLUDING TWO EX-PREMIERS WERE** ASSASSINATED

# in Amarnath cloudburst

13 dead, many missing

Srinagar, July 8: A flash flood triggered by a cloudburst near the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir swept away scores of people, killing at least 13 and swamping tents and community kitchens with mud and rocks hurtling down a hillside, police and NDRF officials said.

An official of the Union Territory administration said the Amarnath vatra, which began June 30, has been suspended following the tragedy and a decision on its resumption will be taken after rescue operations get over.

An official on the ground said about 30-35 people are missing while five have been rescued.

NDRF Director General Atul Karwal said a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was already based in the affected area and two more from nearby locations of Barari Marg and Panchtarni have reached there.

"We have three teams comprising about 75 rescuers in action right now," Karwal said.

The cloudburst that occurred around 5.30pm dumped copious rain and thick streams of sludge rolled down the mountain slopes into the valley.

According to the automatic weather station at the holy cave, the



area received 31mm rainfall from 4:30 pm to 6:30pm.

The gushing waters hit the base camp outside the shrine, damaging 25 tents and three community kitchens where the pilgrims are served food, according to officials.

Videos showed water running through the tents and people scampering to safety carrying gas stoves

A group of rescuers was seen digging the earth with bare hands as they gingerly looked for survivors under the rock-and-mud debris.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### **Phone tapping case: Ex-NSE CEOs booked**

New Delhi: Former NSE top brass

including Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramkrishna had allegedly roped in a company founded by retired Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey to snoop in on the stock market's employees by illegally intercepting their phones, the CBI has alleged in a recent FIR against them. The CBI Friday started a search operation in 18 cities after filing the FIR on a reference from the Union Home Ministry. The agency has booked Pandey, his Delhi-based company, NSE officials former MD and CEOs Narain and Ramkrishna and executive vice president Ravi Varanasi among others in the FIR. P7

### SC to hear fresh plea against Shinde July 11

faction and the BJP to form

government in Maharashtra. P9

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear July 11 a fresh plea of the Uddhav Thackeray led faction challenging appointment of Eknath Shinde as Maharashtra CM. A vacation bench of the SC said it will be listed before an appropriate bench July 11. Advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for Shiv Sena leader Subhash Desai, said they are seeking listing of the fresh plea along with other pending petitions which are coming up for hearing daughter of Odisha July 11. Desai has challenged the DROUPADI MURMU Governor's June 30 decision to invite a coalition of the Shinde

As Subhadra (sister), I had tied rakhi on the wrist of Jagannath (Patnaik). Before the sister could ask for anything, the brother declared his support for her. I am indebted to him (Patnaik) for this good gesture towards this

NDA PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 8: Emotional over the rousing welcome accorded to her in Odisha, her home state, NDA presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu Friday said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik kept his 'rakhi' promise by announcing his party's support for her candidature.

Officials had said Thursday that Murmu, a tribal resident of Mayurbhanj district, would be treated as a 'state guest' when she visited Odisha for her campaign.

Murmu, during her interaction with the MLAs and MPs of the BJD on Assembly premises, said, "As Subhadra (sister), I had tied rakhi on the wrist of Jagannath (Patnaik). Before the sister could ask for anything, the brother declared his support for her.

Naveen kept rakhi promise, says Droupadi

"I am indebted to him (Patnaik) for this good gesture towards this daughter of Odisha," she stated.

The CM hosted lunch for Murmu at his residence-Naveen Niwashere. Odia delicacies such as 'Baigan Bhaja', 'Alu Bharta' and 'Badi Chura were served with rice and dal for lunch, sources at the CM's residence said.

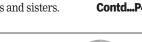
Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and BJD's Parliamentary Party Leader Pinaki Misra also



NDA presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and BJD's Parliamentary Party Leader Pinaki Misra having lunch at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Friday

joined Murmu for lunch at Naveen Niwas. Pointing out that she was elected to the Odisha Legislative

Assembly twice, Murmu (64) said all MLAs in the state were her brothers and sisters. Contd...P4





# leisure



### **SELMA BLAIR'S RESTRAINING ORDER** AGAINST EX-BOYFRIEND EXTENDED

Actress Selma Blair had filed for a protective order February 25 after she alleged her ex Ronald Carlson - whom she dated for around even years - attacked her February 22. Now the restrictions will stay in place until at least September 10.

### **KANYE WEST SUED FOR FAILING TO RETURN CLOTHES**

Kanye West is being sued for failing to return various rare pieces of designer clothing to fashion archivist David Cassavant. West loaned 49 garments in March 2020 and returned 36 of them. But he stopped paying the weekly fees on the remaining 13 pieces, claimed Cassavant.



### FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks,co™

accuracy • reliability • trust

Today, you may set out to please your beloved, and maybe even woo him/her a over again. There may be a bit of dissatisfaction regarding friends and relatives. but you can look forward to partying and new friendships this evening, says

### **TAURUS**

Today, you are likely to pay attention to your health issues and eating habits. Fortune may not favour your efforts. However hard you may try, you may still find yourself back to square one at the end of the day. Try until you taste the sweet fruit of success, suggests Ganesha

### GEMINI

You will be able to express your thoughts and opinions to the people you come in contact with today. They will also reciprocate and echo your feelings and emotions This will give you validation and satisfaction. The day should be filled with fun and entertainment overall, says Ganesha

### **CANCER**

Your career will reach a decisive moment. You can expect a transfer, promotion or pay hike. Alongside your responsibilities will also increase. A chance of new iob is also indicated. You can reject a

### **LEO**

Your expenses may shoot through the roof if you do not pay careful attention to your finances. You will want to splurge on expensive perfumes and clothing. You will be able to attract those of the opposite sex. You must guard against coming of

### **■ VIRGO**

Logic as well as emotions will hold sway in your relationships today. Emotionally you will feel a little confused and will swing between your feelings and what is actually expected of you. However, finally you will pay more heed to your inner voice rather than depending on the views

Ganesha says you will be more aware about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor. You will spend external beauty. Due to this you will not be able to pay attention to anything else other than your looks.

### **SCORPIO**

Despite a secured job and a harmonious home environment, you are still looking for something else. Long-term, financial security keeps bothering you. And your worries are solved to some extent as unexpected monetary gains are on cards today, predicts Ganesha.

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Tedious day in store for you as hectic work is likely to keep you one toes; this is not-so-good-news. And well, it's time for some good news now. You will do so much running around for your work, that you will actually shed a few kilos of weight. Celebrate by treating your tastebuds, but with low-cal food!

### CAPRICORN

You love your family and you will try your best to live up to the expectations of your family members. If you are student, you will finish up your existing projects and get on with some fresh assignments, foretells Ganesha. Don't block your imagination: give yourself some freedom so that you can test your creativity and talent.

### AOUARIUS

You may have to remain indoors today. But, don't think that you will get bored. You can do a lot of things, like play ing cards and other board games, reading, watching the natural world around, and what not. You will spend the day in a relax mood and look at life from a different perspective, feels Ganesha.

### **PISCES**

You will work hard to organize you day to day routine but due to the ill alignment of the planets you will not be able to sort things out successfully today. Ganesha advises you to be patient and let things be as they are but also to hold on to the sentiments of change.

# **Fatima** preps to play Indira

The actress previously garnered a lot of praise for her realistic portrayal of Indian wrestler Gita Phogat in hit movie 'Dangal'

Mumbai: Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, who received a lot of positive response for her work in the anthology Modern Love Mumbai, is set to focus on her upcoming movie based on the life of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw

Sam Bahadur where she will essay

costs Rs.11.490 and is from

Avneet chose a dewy

makeup look that gave her

a refreshed and glowing ap-

pearance without being over-

done. She went for flushed

cheeks, bare lips, and open

hair. She kept her accessories

simple, opting for sleek thread

On the work front, she is

all set to make her Hindi film

debut alongside Nawazuddin

Siddigui in Tikku Weds Sheru.

earrings

the racks of Pameen.

Indira Gandhi.

Friday saw the actress give a glimpse of her prep sessions for the film with director Meghna Gulzar on her social media. In her caption, she wrote, "Sinking my teeth in

Fatima had earlier said that she is

realistic portrayal of Indian wrestler Gita Phogat in hit movie *Dangal*.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Dhak along with

Dia Mirza Ratna Pathak Saniana

of India's first female Prime Minister

#SamBahadur @meghnagulzar"

watching former prime minister late Indira Gandhi's interviews and reading a lot of material on her. She had also said that though all this won't be shown on screen but it is really interesting to learn about eminent figures who have changed his-

Fatima has previously garnered a lot of attention and praise for her

Fatima is presently working in Taapsee Pannu's production Dhak



### Vellani's energy is infectious: Farhan the driving force when it comes Farhan Akhtar made his to the cast of Ms. Marvel. She Marvel Cinematic Universe is someone to look out for, she credibly talented."

THE ROCK ON ACTOR'S MCU DEBUT

debut with the fourth episode of Ms. Marvel. He praised actress Iman Vellani, who essays the titular role of Kamala Khan and Ms. Marvel in the series, and said

hat her energy is very

infectious.

Farhan essays the role of Waleed, the leader of the ancient order known as the Red Daggers. Waleed, who acts as a mentor to Kamala Khan when she lands in Karachi to meet her maternal grandmother, helps answer and uncover the mystery behind her superpowers and

her true identity. Sharing his experience with fellow debutant Vellani, Farhan said: "She is an absolutely wonderful person and that's the most important thing. Her is incredibly gifted and in-

Fronted by Pakistani-Canadian debutant Iman Vellani as Kamala Khan. Ms. Marvel is a coming-of-age story of a Muslim teenager who discovers that she has su-

perpowers and that her family history goes back to the India-Pakistan Partition in 1947. An avid gamer and a voracious fan-fiction scribe growing up in New Jersey, Kamala is a superhero megafan with an oversized imagination - particularly when it comes to Captain Marvel.

The series, which is inching towards the finale, has been directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, a two-time Oscar winner in the short documentary category, and Meera

# When Rishi called Taapsee a 'veteran'

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu remembers late actor Rishi Kapoor on the sets of Dance Deewane Juniors. She appeared on the show to promote her film *Shabaash Mithu*. Helmed by Srijit Mukherji, this movie is a biopic on for-

mer Indian cricketer Mithali Raj where Taapsee will be seen essaying the role of the cricketer. Talking about her experience of working the late actor, the Pink actress shared:

"Initially when I met him the first thing he said 'what kind of name is this, Taapsee?'in jest. She continued: "Rishi ji used to call me a veteran actor after knowing

that I have done 10 South Indian films During the Mulk shoot, we shared had a good time working together. I

used to call him a bully

tening to the compliments from him. Working with him and getting compliments will always be one of my greatest achievements. I will always flaunt the com-

SUDOKU

2

3

8 9

9

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORI

pliments that got from Rishi Ji and will rememher them Taapsee concludes

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

4

3

5

1

8

9

3

5

3

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

6

5

### **PEANUTS**



Avneet sets Internet on fire

Mumbai: Avneet Kaur has come a

long way since making her television

debut as a participant on DID Little

Masters. Despite having a relaxed de-

meanour, Avneet stands out thanks to her

ashion choices. She makes absolutely

stunning sartorial style statements as seen

on her social media handle. The actress's

stylish photos show why she is so well-liked

She has a sizable following on social

nedia. She carries every outfit with con-

idence and grace. Little wonder then that

the netizens are going crazy this time since

eeing her crushing the oomph game and conquering hearts with her black

ransparent attire. Avneet is dressed

in a black corset jumpsuit with

structured top and floral em-

bellishments. The jumpsuit

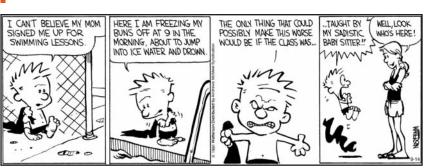
is distinguished by silver

lower embroidery on

mesh fabric. Her

jumpsuit

### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

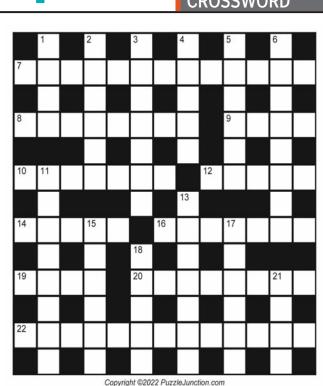


### BREVITY



### FUN POST

### **CROSSWORD**



### 20 Weatherstrip

7 Game room addition (8.5)

Across

- 8 Aura
- 9 Blessing
- 10 Tornado
- 12 Sudden short attack
- 14 Goldbrick
- 16 Fervency
- 19 Ablutionary vessel
- king

Down

2 Fife relatives

22 Internal layer

of a mollusk

shell (6-2-5)

- 1 Shipshape
- 3 Meal fit for a
- 4 Parting word 5 Cane material
- 6 Imaginary place of great wealth
- 11 Big name in
- pottery
- 13 Misrepresent 15 Like some
- humour 17 Flatware
- 18 Jewelled headdress
- 21 School session
- SUDOKU

# E M A I L F I UNEI

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



**FAIR VISIT** 

People visiting stalls at Pallishree Mela at Puri Saradhabali, Friday

222	COVID-19 TRACKER				
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
	World	55,88,53,551	53,22,98,444	63,69,510	
	India	4,35,85,554	4,29,37,876	5,25,343	
	Odisha	12,92,416	12,80,954	9,126	
		- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -			

# Cyber fraudsters target sr IAS officer PK Jena Dip in tourist footfall worrisome

### DECLINE IN TOURIST INFLOW AFFECTS HOTEL INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The Covid-19 pandemic has dealt a body blow to the tourism sector in Odisha.

Moreover, the coastal state has failed to attract domestic as well as overseas tourists despite an improvement in the pandemic situation. As per the data available with the

Tourism department, the inflow of tourists from abroad has gone down significantly in the past two

The tourism sector used to be a prominent source of revenue for the state. As per an assessment by the World Travel and Tourism Council, the contribution of tourism sector to the GDP of Odisha is around 4 per cent and the sector has the potential to create employment opportunities for 2 lakh people.

However, the state has failed to tap its vast potential in the tourism sector. Apart from releasing some promotional posters and holding a few road shows, the tourism department has not introduced any concrete measures to attract tourists to the state, sources said.



File photo of tourists visiting Konark temple

The tourism department is yet to identify and develop hitherto unexplored tourism sites in Odisha. That is why the tourist inflow to state has come down significantly in recent years. This has also affected the hotel industry and employment sector, they added.

As per the available data, the state had witnessed the footfall of altogether 1,15, 128 overseas tourists in 2019 while the number came

ALTOGETHER 1,53, 07, 637 DOMESTIC TOURISTS VISITED ODISHA IN 2019. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER PLUNGED TO 46,22,273 IN 2020 AND 37,42, 223 IN 2021, REVEALED THE TOURISM **DEPARTMENT DATA** 

> other promotional events in last three years. However, it has failed to improve infrastructure and facilities for the tourists. Besides, no step has been taken to identify and develop new tourist sites, sources said.

THE STATE HAD WITNESSED THE

FOOTFALL OF ALTOGETHER

1.15, 128 OVERSEAS TOURISTS IN

2019 WHILE THE NUMBER CAME

DOWN TO 10,206 IN 2020 AND

2,269 IN 2021

Replying to the opposition members' queries in Assembly recently, Minister Aswini Kumar Patra said the pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the tourism sector and the state government is allocating land to private parties through Idco for establishment of hotels near tourist sites.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: Cyber fraudsters continue to cheat common people by creating fake social media accounts in the name of influential persons. Senior IAS officer and state development commissioner, Pradeep Kumar Jena is the latest target for the cyber crim-

Jena, through his official twitter handle, revealed that unknown cyber criminals have created a fake WhatsApp account in his name and have been sending messages to persons requesting for financial help.

"Someone is using my photograph in the WhatsApp profile and sending messages to some people asking for financial help. I would like to inform all that the mobile number 7320937877 from which such messages are being sent doesn't belong to me. It is a fake WhatsApp account created in my name to possibly defrauds people," twitted Jena.

In a series of tweets, Jena has sought help from the cyber crime Pradeep Jena IAS @ @PradeepJ... . 1h Someone using my photograph in the

WhatsApp profile is sending WhatsApp messages to some people asking for financial help. I would like to inform all that the mobile number 7320937877 from which such messages are being sent doesn't belong to me. It is a fake WhatsApp account set

1] 19 0 107 0

officials over the issue. He also urged people not to believe in such fake messages being sent from social media account with his picture as profile photo.

You are hereby requested to not act on any such request for financial favours. I shall never request anyone for financial help. I hope, all my friends and all well wishers take note of this and in case they receive any such messages, may kindly inform police to act. I'm also asking Cyber Crime Police of Odisha govrnmentt to immediately initiate a criminal case

Jena, through his official twitter handle, revealed that unknown cyber criminals have created a fake WhatsApp account in his name and have been sending messages to persons requesting for financial help

and find out the thug and take stern action to prevent such fraudulent WhatsApp messages. Thank you," added Jena.

Notably, the cyber criminals also created fake accounts of senior IAS, IPS and politicians of the state during the last couple of

Last week, Cuttack district collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani lodged a complaint with the crime branch alleging that unknown person was seeking money from different persons by creating a fake WhatsApp account in his

RUCHIKA RAGGING

### NHRC seeks ATR from HE secy, Police Commissioner



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Higher Education (HE) Principal Secretary and the Twin City Commissioner of Police to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) over Ruchika Mohanty's suicide in the hostel of BJB Autonomous College due to ragging.

While hearing a petition filed by advocate Radhakanta Tripathy, the commission has asked the authorities to submit the ATR within four weeks from receipt of the

The authorities have also been advised to intimate the commission if they received any notice or order from the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in this regard within four weeks. The commission has instructed the state rights body to inform the NHRC about the date of taking cognizance of the matter.

"The concerned authorities shall also intimate the commission, if any notice, order etc. has been received by him/them in the instant matter from the state human rights commission. If yes, a copy of such order be sent to the commission within four weeks. Let a copy of the complaint be also transmitted to the

The parents of deceased have been staging sit-in before the main gate of BJB College here for the last seven days demanding stringent action against the seniors responsible for their daughter's death

secretary of the concerned state human rights commission, calling upon him to inform this commission the date of cognizance, if any, taken at their end in the instant matter within four weeks", directed

Tripathy has urged NHRC to direct the state government for a fair enquiry into the matter and action against the wrongdoers, cordial atmosphere in educational institutions and adequate financial compensation to the next of kin of the victims in ragging cases.

The parents of deceased have been staging sit-in before the main gate of BJB college here for the last seven days demanding stringent action against the seniors responsible for their daughter's death.

### **Govt directs colleges** to join NATS training

down to 10,206 in 2020 and 2,269 in

2021. The inflow of domestic

tourists has also gone down sig-

nificantly. Altogether 1,53, 07, 637

domestic tourists visited Odisha in

2019 while the number plunged to

46,22,273 in 2020 and 37,42, 223 in

2021, revealed the tourism de-

It is learnt that the state gov-

ernment has spent around Rs 300

crore in holding road shows and

POST NEWS NETWORK

partment data.

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The Higher Education department Friday directed all the colleges of the state including professional colleges to attend the training of the graduates under National Apprentice Training Scheme (NATS).

NATS is one of the flagship programmes of government of India for skilling Indian youth. The apprentices are placed for training at Central, state and private organizations which have excellent train-

In a letter to the colleges, higher education department under secretary, Balabhadra Sahoo said the Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region) (BOPT-ER) is conducting webinar on skilling of graduates under NATS from July 4-13 and you were requested to attend the same. But as reported by BOPT-ER, only a few colleges have attended the webinar so far. You are therefore requested, once again, to attend the remaining dates of the scheduled webinar to know more about the scheme which will benefit our passed out graduates.

The National Apprentice Training Scheme in India is a one year programme which equips technically qualified youth with practical knowledge and skills required in their field of work. The Apprentices are imparted training by the organizations at their place of work. Trained Managers with well-developed training modules ensure that apprentices learn the job quickly and competently.

During the period of apprenticeship, the apprentices are paid a stipend amount, 50 percent of which is reimbursable to the employer from government of India. At the end of the training period, the apprentices will be issued a Certificate of Proficiency by government of India which can be registered at all employment ex-

### **SEEKING SUPPORT**





NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu meets BJD legislators at the Odisha Assembly conference room (Top) and BJP MPs and MLAs at state guest house in Bhubaneswar as part of her campaign for the July 18 election

### Larger than Antarctic ozone hole may up skin cancer risk Deo, Mangaraj take oath

huge hole in the Earth's Aozone layer, seven times larger than the Antarctic ozone hole, may increase the risk of skin cancers, and cataracts among humans and also affect agricultural productivity and aquatic organisms, warned a Canadian researcher.

The ozone layer is known to absorb most of the sun's ultraviolet radiation (UV).

Qing-Bin Lu, a scientist from the University of Waterloo in Canada's Ontario, revealed a large, all-season ozone hole -- defined as an area of ozone loss larger than 25 per cent compared with the undisturbed atmosphere -- in the lower stratosphere over the tropics comparable in depth to that of the well-known springtime Antarctic hole, but its area is roughly seven times greater.

"The tropics constitute half the planet's surface area and are home



to about half the world's population," said Lu, adding that "the existence of the tropical ozone hole

may cause great global concern". The depletion of the ozone layer can lead to increased ground-level UV radiation, which can increase risk of skin cancer and cataracts in humans, as well as weaken

human immune systems, decrease agricultural productivity, and negatively affect sensitive aquatic organisms and ecosystems," Lu noted, in the paper published in the journal AIP Advances.

According to Lu, the ozone hole is currently sitting over tropical regions and has been since the 1980s.

increased ground-level UV radiation, which can increase risk of skin cancer and cataracts in humans, as well as weaken human immune systems, decrease agricultural productivity, and negatively affect sensitive aquatic organisms and ecosystems

QING-BIN LU | SCIENTIST, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA

The depletion of the ozone layer can lead to

The observation of the ozone hole comes as a surprise to Lu's peers in the scientific community. since it was not predicted by conventional photochemical models.

As with the polar ozone hole, approximately 80 per cent of the normal ozone value is found to be depleted at the centre of the tropical ozone hole. Preliminary reports show ozone depletion levels over equatorial regions are already endangering large populations and the associated UV radiation reaching these regions is far greater than expected.

Lu said the tropical and polar ozone holes play a major role in cooling and regulating stratospheric temperatures, mirroring the formation of three "temperature holes" in the global stratosphere. He said this finding may prove crucial to better understanding

global climate change. "The present discovery calls for further careful studies of ozone depletion, UV radiation change, increased cancer risks, and other negative effects on health and ecosystems in the tropical regions,



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 8: Newly-elected Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs Sulata Deo and Manas Ranjan Mangaraj Friday took oath owing allegiance to the Constitution as required to commence their functioning as members of Raiva Sabha.

Deo and Mangaraj took oath in Odia in the presence of Rajya Sabha

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. At least 27 of the 57 members elected to the Rajya Sabha during the recently held biennial polls

took oath Friday. Naidu, meanwhile, clarified that



the newly-elected Rajya Sabha MPs, who are yet to take oath in the House, can cast their votes in the Presidential election July 18.

He further elaborated that the winners of the biennial polls to Rajya Sabha have already become the members of the Upper House of the Parliament and taking oath is only a prerequisite for the newlyelected MPs to participate in the proceedings of the House and of its Committees

Naidu also informed that the upcoing Monsoon Session of the-House will be held as per the Covid-19 protocol.

### **CONTINUED FROM P1**

### Abe assassinated

"The first shot, no one knew what was going on, but after the second shot, what looked like special police tackled him."

Kyodo news service published a photograph of Abelying face-up on the street by a guardrail, blood on his white shirt. People were crowded around him, one administering heart massage. Later in the day. members of the public laid flowers near the spot where Abe fell.

Senior Japanese politicians are accompanied by armed security agents but often get close to the public, especially during political campaigns when they make roadside speeches and shake hands with passersby.

Political violence is rare in post-war Japan. In 2007, the mayor of Nagasaki was shot and killed by a yakuza gangster. The head of the Japan Socialist Party was assassinated during a speech in 1960 by a right-wing youth with a samurai short sword. A few other prominent politicians have been attacked but not injured. Police said the suspected shooter was from Nara. Media said he had served in Japanese military for three years until 2005.

Kishida, who came to power last year, had been hoping to use the election to emerge from Abe's shadow and define his premiership, analysts have said. Kishida suspended his election campaign after the shooting. All main political parties condemned the attack

### Naveen kept rakhi promise: Droupadi

"I have worked with most of them. Those who became members of the House after I left are also my brothers and sisters. I may not know them personally, but technology has brought all of us close to each other. I seek support of all my brothers and sisters," she said

The NDA presidential candidate urged all lawmakers to keep working for Odisha's development.

"We must make Odisha a beau tiful and developed place. I request the chief minister, all MLAs and the people in general to work for the progress of Odisha," she said.

Shortly after her interaction with the BJD lawmakers, she held another meeting with BJP MLAs and MPs. where she thanked them all for the grand reception given to her.

Murmu also hoped that lawmakers of other parties, too, would back "this daughter of the soil".

### **CLASSIFIED**

### **AFFIDAVI**1

By virtue of an affidavit before the Judicial Magistrate, Bidhan Nagar, North 24 Parganas. My actual name is Akash Mishra, but my name has been recorded as Akash in my educational certificates and passport. Henceforth Akash Mishra and Akash both are same and one person.

I Shankhabati Bagha (existing name of spouse as per change of Next of Kin Record/Service document). Spouse of Sudhir Adabar (Name of the husband) resident of At: Tihiki Pali, P.O.: Gond Turum, P.S.: Bheden, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN -768115 (Address) have changed my name from Shankhabati Bagha (existing name of spouse as per change of Next of Kin Record/Service documents) to Shankhabati Adabar (proposed/adopted new name) vide affidavit dated 28.06.2022 (date of affidavit in DD/MM/YYYY Format) before Bheden (Name and place of the Court).

# 15 RTOs equipped with Smart Queue **Management system**

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The state Transport department Friday introduced the Smart Queue Management system at 15 Regional Transport Offices (RTOs).

The system ensures better customer engagement, less waiting time and catalysing higher customer satisfaction. This facility is the first of its kind in government departments of the state.

The facility has been implemented with an initial investment of ₹2.18 crore in 15 RTOs and work is underway in another 13 RTOs.

"It is hassle-free and robust for the end-to-end automation to manage the queue of the customers who come to avail different services. The system simplifies and fast tracks the process of issuing licence, registration of vehicles and tax payment," said Dhananjaya Senapati, Additional Commissioner, Transport (Technical).

Senapati further informed, "The system serves as a revolutionary tool in the hands of officials across the hierarchy. It acts as an effective crowd management tool for the executives while reducing and effectively distributing their load. Proving its multifaceted characteristics, the system emphasises the ease of governance and the accomplishment of high customer satisfaction.'

When an applicant comes, a token is generated at the office. The citizens need not stand in queue. They can comfortably sit inside the office for their turn. There would be display system at all the counters to announce the

and robust for

automation to manage the queue of the customers who come to avail different services. The system simplifies and fast tracks the process of issuing licence, registration of vehicles and tax payment

the end-to-end

DHANANJAYA SENAPATI | ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER, TRANSPORT (TECHNICAL)

token numbers. The applicants can know the approximate waiting time for getting the service through predictive forecasting by the system. The citizens will receive notification for their service from time to time.

The system acts as a catalyst in building a conducive environment wherein the RTO personnel and the applicants are at ease in playing their respective roles while rendering and availing services respectively.

The system was introduced in Bhubaneswar. Now it is functional in Cuttack (Track) and RTOs in Balasore, Bhadrak, Angul, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh and Sonepur.

Soon the system will be functional in Khurda, Nayagarh, Barbil, Baripada, Rairangpur, Koraput, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar-II, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Boudh, Jajpur, Chandikhol, Talcher, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Phulbani, Bhanjanagar, Gajapati, Sundargarh and Nabarangpur.



**ON GROUND** 

Cuttack Mayor Subhash Singh took stock of Covid situation at the MS Law University, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 8: Odisha reported 470 new Covid-19 cases Friday, the highest in nearly five months, as per the state Health department data

In the last 24 hours, active cases rose to 2,487, while 49 children were among those found infected in the state, the department revealed in a bulletin.

Khurda, where the state Capital Bhubaneswar is located, reported the highest number of new infections at 221, followed by 94 cases found in Cuttack.

The coastal state's test positivity rate (TPR) was 2.77 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing 16,968 samples. On February 20, the state had reported 492 cases.

So far, the state recorded 12,92,416 Covid cases. Since Thursday, up to 218 people have recovered bringing the total to 12,80,750. As there were no new deaths due to the virus, the toll remained at 9,126

# State logs highest Covid Experts suggest cases in nearly 5 months district-wise budget for better impact

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: Even as the state finance Minister Niranjan Pujari termed the state budget 'welfare, growth, development and investment-oriented, the development practitioners lamented that the social sector got a short shrift.

Departments like Health and Family Welfare; Women and Child Development, Rural Development; and Agriculture and Allied Sector have minimal increase in budget allocation or remained stagnant under capital expenditure, opined the experts during the post budget panel discussion titled – Value for Money: An Analysis of Odisha State Budget 2022-23.

The consultation was conducted by the Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) and Odisha Budget and Accountability Centre (OBAC) in City, Friday.

The state budget for FY 2022-23 is pegged at ₹2,00,000 crore with an increase of ₹30,000 crore, which is 17.6 per cent over 2021-22 budget estimation (BE) of ₹1,70,000 crore.

Addressing the panel, Former Union Secretary, Dept of Rural Development Jugal Mohapatra maintained that more emphasis should be on accountability than on estimation. "We should target to achieve at least 95 per cent budget expenditure. It is discouraging that savings or unspent budget has been a trend in the state," he said.

Proper planning needs to be there to increase efficiency in the budget expenditure. Mega projects which failed to be completed within the deadline put additional burden on

the state budget. The government should put the details of projects worth ₹50 crore or more in a public portal to promote better accountability, Mohapatra maintained.

He also suggested that budget discussion should be decentralised with participation of students, citizens and other stakeholders at state and district levels. It is laudable that Odisha is the

first state to bring in the nutrition budget, said Basant Kumar Kar Chief Advisor-cum-Mentor of Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security. However, it needs to focus on maintaining regional equity. Around 50 per cent of the state are scheduled areas and nutrition deficiency is high there, especially among the tribal communities. As high as 71.7 per cent tribal women and 72.9 per cent tribal children of the state are anemic, according to National Family Health Survey Report, Kar added

Economist Bhagabata Patro said short term and long term objectives need to be set while preparing state budget. More budget and efforts need to be there to make agriculture more profitable. He lamented that currently, social security pension amount ranges between ₹500 to ₹700 per month. It needs to be increased to meet the social security needs of the marginalised sections

In absolute terms, social sector budget has increased from ₹58,956.27 crore in 2021-22 BE to ₹65,339.73 crore in 2022-23. However, the sector shares 33 per cent of allocation in the current budget, a decrease by 2 per cent as compared to 2021-22 BE.



Congress party members met Chief Engineer at JICA office in Mahanadi Vihar in Cuttack and discussed the hindrances to JICA works, Friday

### Urgent need to refill gaps in Indian healthcare post-Covid

he Covid-19 pandemic laid bare the already failing health systems of India and people continue to suffer still. With the country now facing recurring infections post-Covid, there is an urgent need to refill gaps in the healthcare systems, suggested a report Friday

The 'Health Systems Resilience Index (HSRI)' report by global think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) offers insights into the state of the country's health systems at a disaggregated sub-national level, and the parameters that need to be addressed in the short term.

"There is no better time than now to invest in health systems. Today, as the world sees a likely future of recurring infections, state leaders will need to prioritise the building of knowledge systems and investment in human capital and critical infrastructure, and to put into place robust evaluative across-the-board consensus for action," Samir Saran, President, ORF, wrote in the report.

India's healthcare delivery system has historically suffered from ad-hoc regulation, poor monitoring, and modest budgetary allocations.

The report highlighted how during the pandemic some states and Union Territories (UTs) succeeded more than others in streamlining the resources rapidly to fight Covid. The key was aligning their

health systems with the needs of the population," Saran said. The report showed that in the domain of institutional support to the health sector, Meghalaya did exceedingly well, and Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and even small

& Kashmir leads among the UTs. In terms of managing Covid-related health outcomes, Himachal

states like Tripura, Goa, and

Mizoram did relatively well. Jammu



Pradesh, among the large states, and small states like Goa and Tripura did better than others. Among Union Territories, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands showed noteworthy results, even

outperforming all other states. Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh (among the larger states) and Goa (among the small states) have the best records in their general health profile, and among the UTs, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu are the leaders

In medical infrastructure, smaller states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Mizoram have the best population-level services as

As unprecedented as the Covid-19 crisis has been, it will not be the last.

We are required to strengthen our health systems and make them harmonious, equitable, and sustainable. It would do us well to start doing this now

SAMIR SARAN | PRESIDENT, OBSERVER

do larger states like Kerala and Maharashtra. Among UTs. Lakshadweep is the most equipped.

Goa, among the small states and Tamil Nadu and Kerala, among the large states fulfil the most number of criteria for technology infrastructure. Delhi leads among the UTs.

The report calls for better data infrastructures to drive policy, and

an aggressive push towards Universal Health Coverage to "fill the yawning gaps in the country's health systems"

It showed that only the states and UTs with higher per-capita income levels are significantly more resilient to combat a potential new wave of the pandemic or any other health crisis of similar magnitude. than the poorer regions.

Calling the Covid immunisation drive a "remarkable" achievement, the report advises the policy makers to "learn from the past three waves and ramp up investments in health and develop sound strategies

for expected future waves" "As unprecedented as the Covid-19 crisis has been, it will not be the last. We are required to strengthen our health systems and make them harmonious, equitable, and sustainable. It would do us well to start doing this now,'

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# Tehsildar, amin held for accepting bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 8: Vigilance sleuths Friday apprehended a tehsildar and an amin at Raruan tehsil office for accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 from a person in lieu of issuing a land patta.

**OrissaPOST** 

SATURDAY | JULY 9 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAI

Vigilance officials in plain clothes conducted a raid and made the arrest. The accused have been identified as Raruan tehsildar Satya Sundar Rout and Bhanjakia amin Lochan Patra in Mayurbhani district.

Soon after, simultaneous searches were being conducted at Rout and Patra's residence, office and other properties when the last report came in. According to sources. complainant Chakradhar Mahanta had applied for a land patta. However, the tehsildar and the



Upset with their repeated bribe demands, Mahanta had approached the Vigilance officials who laid a trap to nab the dishonest officials. As per the plan, Mahanta took chemical-laced notes of ₹15,000 and handed it over to the tehsildar at his chamber.

Meanwhile, the Vigilance officials in mufti reached the office and caught Rout red-handed.

The bribe amount of ₹15.000 was an installment of the entire sum of ₹40,000 which has been recovered from Rout. Following the trap, simultaneous searches have been conducted at four locations linked to Rout and one location associated with Patra," a senior Vigilance official stated.

Vigilance PS case (No-19/2022) under Section 7 of the PC Amendment Act, 2018 has been registered in this connection. A detailed probe is underway against



With the onset of monsoon, tribal women were seen selling wild mushrooms alongside a road in Keonjhar. Wild mushrooms are high in demand here.

### Cong alleges scam in renovation of schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 8: Congress workers have alleged massive irregularities in transformation of at least 20 high schools under 5T initiative in Jaleswar block and municipality areas of Balasore. They have taken up the issue with the Vigilance department, seeking a probe into the alleged irregularities.

Congress leader Sudarshan Das said stern action should be taken against the officials and contractors involved in the irregularities.

A delegation of Congress has met assistant Vigilance superintendent Maheswar Sethi at the Vigilance SP office.

They pointed out that eight junior engineers were issued work orders for school transformation without any tender process. Only Vigilance investigation would unearth the extent of irregularities, the Congress leaders said.

### **Manas Swain murder: CB files chargesheet**

Chandbali: The Crime Branch has submitted a chargesheet in Chandbali JMFC court Friday against eight accused involved in the sensational murder of cameraman Manas Swain. The 905page chargesheet names 34 people as witnesses. A four-member team of CB led by DSP Kalpana Sahu submitted this chargesheet in the court. Multiple sections of IPC like 360, 363, 364, 302, 465, 471, 201, 21 and 34 were slapped against the mastermind Sarmistha Rout, coaccused Niranian Sethi, Jhuna Bhoi Bhagyadhar Nayak, Krushnachandra Nayak and a minor

### 35 students hit by diarrhoea

Rayagada: At least 35 students of Dandapoda KBK hostel at Dumburinelai under Bisamkatak block in this district were affected by diarrhoea. The problem is suspected to be the fallout of eating a ripe jackfruit Thursday night. Many students were found vomiting followed by loose motion Friday morning. They were rushed to Bisamkatak CHC.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, July 8: The dream of the farmers has suffered a jolt as Brutanga irrigation project here has failed to take off reportedly due to lack of statutory environmental clearance and apathy of the state

Reports said the government has already spent ₹4.99 crore on survey, but the project has made lit-

Brutanga project is aimed at irrigating 30,920 hectare land in Daspalla, Khandapara, Nayagarh, Nuagaon and Odagaon blocks of Nayagarh district. The project will benefit 7.42 lakh people of 309 villages in the district besides supplying drinking water to Nayagarh town.

The project would irrigate 20,970 hectare land in Kharif season and 9.320 hectares in Rabi season, said sources. It was estimated that al-

together 680 families will be displaced by the project. However, no step has been taken to rehabilitate the probable oustees till date. On the other hand, the government has not been able to carry out the project work due to lack of environmental clearance.

The project is being dubbed as the lifeline of Nayagarh district, but its stage-I clearance has sparked concerns over submergence of a key elephant corridor. According to environmentalists, the project will destroy a route regularly used by elephants.

The order of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), granting stage-1 forest clearance to the project, included some conditions intended to safeguard the wildlife such as building overpasses to allow elephants to cross

The area that would be submerged is close to Baisipalli

# he project will benefit 7.42 lakh

Brutanga project is aimed at irrigating 30,920 hectare land in Daspalla, Khandapara, Nayagarh, Nuagaon and Odagaon Nayagarh town, but the project is in limbo blocks of Navagarh district

Brutanga project delay shatters ryots' dreams

due to lack of environmental clearance Wildlife Sanctuary. A study revealed that both the proposed submergence area and the canal (that will connect Brutanga and Kuanria

reservoirs) are being regularly

used by elephants during their

transit across the Mahanadi in

people of 309 villages in the district

besides supplying drinking water to

In protest against the delay in the project, farmers and project supporters had taken out a 40-km rally from Dasapalla to Navagarh town

in February 2021. They had staged protests in front of Nayagarh collectorate, seeking expeditious execution of the project.

They also demanded rehabilitation of the people identified for displacement first and include Ranpur, Bolagada and Begunia blocks under the project area.

President of Brutanga Jalasechana Prakalpa Sabha Committee and lawyer Manoj Kumar Sahu said that the project is a 50-year-old dream of the people of Nayagarh which is being shattered.

Ranjit Dalabehera, a farmer of Balugaon, said all parties should come together to put pressure on the government to carry out the project expeditiously.

Social activist Santosh Pradhan said the project work has been halted due to politics and there is need for holding talks with the

### **RSP** installs two canopy bridges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, July 8: In a first-ofits-kind in Odisha, the Rourkela Steel Plant has constructed two Canopy Bridges on the Tensa-Barsua Road to save the lives of monkeys and giant squirrels, who frequently cross the route and meet with accidents, an RSP official said.

The objective of the effort is to preserve and protect the natural habitats and wild life, in the Barsua Iron Mine area of SAIL.

The project developed along with the Bonai Forest Division of the state government, was inaugurated by Arun Kumar Mishra, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle in the presence of Prasanna Kumar Rath, CGM (Barsua-Taldih-Kalta Iron Mines), RSP said.

Stating that it is the first such endeavour in the state, an official said the main objective of the canopy bridge is to give the tree animals an overhead safe passage on the Barsuan-Tensa road that witnesses heavy traffic as thousands of trucks carrying iron commute on a daily basis along with the tourists who come to visit Tensa

### 4 held for daylight murder in Ganjam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kabisuryanagar, July 8: Police Friday claimed to have arrested four persons in connection with the murder of Raju Bisoyi, who was hacked to death in broad daylight at Khajapalli village under this block in Ganjam district May The accused have been identified

as Sangram Swain, Budhia Swain, Pintu Bisovi and Bhagban Swain. The cops have also seized a sword, a knife, four mobile phones and a Bolero from their possession.

According to the case diary, an en-

mity prevailed between the deceased and the four accused of the same village. In an act of revenge, the four chased Raju in the village street and hacked him to death May 18 in full public view. Since then they were on the run.

Based on a complaint by Raju's son, police registered a case and launched a manhunt to nab the four. Police finally arrested them after one and half months. The accused were forwarded to court and subsequently sent to judicial custody after the court rejected their bail pleas, Additional SP told a presser.

# Youth beaten to death over 'theft'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 8: In a bone-chilling incident, a 33-year-old man was beaten to death on the charges of theft at Inchudi village under Khantapada police limits in Balasore district Friday. Some locals alleged involvement of the sarpanch in the brutal 'lynching of the man.

Angry villagers and relatives of the youth reportedly set the On being informed, two platoons of police force were deployed at the village.

DSP Padarbindha Tripathy, Khantapada IIC Bimal Nayak and Sadar police IIC Ashok Nayak rushed to the village and took stock of the situation. Meanwhile, the investigating team detained the sarpanch's brother and

launched a probe. On Thursday evening, Sanjay Dalei, 33, son of Mukund Dalei, was allegedly caught stealing iron rods installed around a prawn gherry put up by a villager.

Infuriated over the theft, the



gherry owner along with Sridhar Mahakud, Chema Rout, Sarat Barik, Julia Pradhan, Bapi Mahalik, Tuku Barik, Bhagia Barik, Tuku Mahakud and five others tied the hands of Sanjay and beat him up before taking him to sarpanch Ramani Ranjan Mahalik.

The accused again thrashed Sanjay in the presence of the sarpanch. Later, they handed him over to the police. Seeing his condition, police admitted Sanjay to Khantapada hospital from where he was referred to the DHH, where he succumbed to the injuries.

Tension gripped the village as soon as the news of Sanjay's death spread. Irate relatives burnt tyres and staged a road blockade near the village demanding immediate arrest of the sarpanch and his henchmen who assaulted Sanjay.

"Situation is tense. Police forces have been deployed to avoid any untoward incident. Police are on a manhunt to nab the accused,' a senior police official said.

SL. NO. 01 TENDER NO. 05221006,

10V, QUANTITY: AS PERTS. SL. NO. 02: TENDER NO. 05221005, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: RED ASPECT MAIN LED SIGNAL 110V, QUANTITY: AS PER TS.

SL NO. 03 : TENDER NO. 05221003, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM : GREEN ASPECT MAIN LED SIGNAL 110V, QUANTITY: AS PERTS.

SL. NO. 04: TENDER NO. 04222274, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: V DEEP GROOVE ALTERNATOR PULLY, QUANTITY: 381 NOS. SL. NO. 05 : TENDER NO. 04215078B,

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: STEEL STRUCTURES OF DIFFERENT TYPES, QUANTITY: AS PER TS.

SL. NO. 05 : TENDER NO. 05221002, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM : SHUNT LED SIGNAL LIGHTING UNIT 110V, QUANTITY; AS PER TS.

SL. NO. 07: TENDER NO. 05221001, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: ROUTE LED SIGNAL LIGHTING UNIT 110V, QUANTITY: AS PER TS. SL. NO. 08 : TENDER NO. 03221992C

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: MODIFIED ELASTOMERIC PAD, QUANTITY: AS PER TS.

SL. NO. 09: TENDER NO. 04221001, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: VALVE REGULATED LEAD ACID BATTERIES, QUANTITY: AS PER TS. Tender Opening Date: For SI. No. 01 dt. 20.07.2022, SI. No. 02 to 05 dt. 25.07.2022, SI. No. 06 dt. 26.07.2022, SI. No. 07 dt. 01.08.2022, SI. No. 08 dt. 03.08.2022 & Sl. No. 09 dt. 05.08.2022. Regarding detailed notice, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender

conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in. Principal Chief Materials Manager PR-268/N/22-23

### Married woman caught with 'boyfriend', commits suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khallikote, July 8: In a shocking incident, a woman committed suicide Friday after she was caught with her alleged 'boyfriend' and humiliated by the villagers. The incident was reported from Tentuliapali village under this block in Ganjam district.

According to sources, the woman lived with her two minor children while her husband works abroad. Late Thursday night, a few villagers allegedly caught the woman with Santosh Swain, a youth from neighbouring Bagalpur village.

Suspecting the duo having an affair, the villagers locked them inside a house throughout the night. Early Friday morning, they assaulted Swain and paraded him in the village with a garland of shoes in public glare. Angry villagers brutally trashed him and tonsured his head before informing the police. On being informed, the police rushed to the spot and rescued the victim.

On the other hand, the woman, unable to bear the humiliation, consumed some poisonous substance. She was first rushed to Khallikote community health centre. However. doctors declared her brought dead

Police sent the body to Berhampur-based MKCG Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem. Meanwhile, Khallikote IIC Jagannath Mallick detained a few villagers and started interrogating them.

However, no case was registered till the last report came in.



### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR

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### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRIL.), KANDHAMAL DIVISION, PHULBANI PHONE NO. 06842-53857, Email Id: aaekandhamal.dag@nic.in

**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement** Bid Identification No./e-Procurement Notice No.- E.E. (A)-KANDHAMAL Division- 01/2022-2023 No.L-48:- 1. The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Kandhamal Division, Phulbani, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invit

SI. No.	Name of the work	Approximate Estimated cost put to Tender (Ex- cluding G.S.T.) (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Documents (In Rs.)		Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of additional room to STL Phulbani	8,09,721/-	4,000/-	C&D	120 Days
2	Extension Renovation and Modernization of FIAC Building K. Nuagaon	7,02,044/-	4,000/-	C&D	120 Days
3	Construction of boundary wall at Agriculture	8,09,749/-	4,000/-	C&D	120 Days

he bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. The web-site for "ONLINE BIDDING" is http://tendersorissa.gov.in. Bid locuments will be available in above Website from Dt 11.07.2022 at 10.00 AM up to 5.30 PM of Dt. 18.07.2022 for "ONmission Dt 12.07.2022 at 11.00 AM to Dt 20.07.2022 up to 5.30 PM (Except Holidays) through Government Speed Post/ Registered Post only, Personal submission/Private Courier service s not allowed. Online bids shall be opened at 11.30 AM & onwards on Dt. 21.07.2022. The bidder must possess n class compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Further details and other terms and conditions can be seen from DTCN i

N.B:Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above

Executive Engineer (Agri.), Kandhamal Division, Phulbani



Lawyers and members of various organisations took out a motorcycle rally from Burla to the RDC office in Sambalpur, Friday demanding a High Court bench in the western Odisha town



Difficulties were made to be overcome. If the Supreme Will is there, they will be overcome.

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



### Crisis Deepens

Taryana is facing a shortage of IAS officers in the state. The crisis is certainly severe enough for Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to raise the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the same time, Khattar is reportedly exploring the option of granting an extension to all IAS officers who are due to retire this year. The hitch, sources have informed DKB, is that the state government can only give a three-month extension; for a longer period, it needs the Centre's nod.

Sources say that 11 IAS officers in Haryana are scheduled to retire this year, which will create many vacancies at the top. Since the number of officers in subsequent batches is not sufficient, the government is rightly concerned that it will face a dearth of senior officers. Apparently, there is a precedent of officials continuing to hold office after retirement at the Centre, and Khattar is hoping to get the PMO's nod to replicate the same in Haryana to tide over the crisis.

Presently, due to the scarcity, most senior IAS officers are handling two or even three departments. If the 11 IAS officers are allowed to retire by the year-end, the remaining officers will be forced to handle five to eight departments. Clearly, that's not viable. So, the state government has now pinned its hopes on the Centre allowing it to retain the services of the retiring officers to keep the wheels of administration moving.

### **UP: Ex-babus to probe serving IAS officers**

Several state governments find it difficult to find a serving IAS officer to investigate another IAS officer who is facing an inquiry. Often such officers have to set aside their departmental duties to attend to the probe. There is

also the prickly question of finding an officer who is senior to the person who is facing an inquiry. But Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has found a solution that may circumvent such issues and ensure time-bound completion of such inquiries.



The UP government has now decided to form a committee of retired bureaucrats for the task. The state's Department of Appointment and Personnel has reportedly invited applications from retired IAS officers who would be interested in serving on the committee. A panel headed by the state Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, including other senior IAS officers, will recommend names of suitable candidates for the job.

Sources have informed DKB that the retired IAS officers will be assigned cases of departmental inquiries against their serving brethren, including principal secretaries, additional chief secretaries, and the chief secretary. All inquiries will have to be completed within 180 days. While Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, additional chief secretary of the Department of Appointment and Personnel is confident about the plan's efficacy, some fear that it may build more distrust among the bureaucrats. Serving officers may discover the benefits, beyond just cadre-respect, to actively listening to recently retired seniors. How this may warp decision-making, is an arena fraught with possibilities

### Punjab seeks ad hoc DGP

A classic feature of Indian bureaucracy is that it mirrors whatever political dispensation holds the reins of power. After the AAP victory in Punjab, several senior bureaucrats have been trying to find their feet in the new administration, or even outside it.

According to sources, the current Director General of Police (DGP) VK Bhawra has applied for two months' leave, which paves the way for Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to appoint an acting DGP. Apparently, Bhawra has requested a Central deputation and the state government has accepted his request and forwarded it to the Centre.

Bhawra is yet another high-profile IPS officer who plans to move out of Punjab after the AAP government took charge. Former Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta was recently appointed as the new Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Gupta's wife, senior IAS officer Vini Mahajan who was Chief Secretary in the state, is now working as Union Secretary in the Ministry of Water Resources and River Development.

According to sources, there are several contenders for Bhawra's post in Punjab Police, with many punters betting on Prabodh Kumar, a 1988-batch IPS officer, who is the senior-most among IPS officers in Punjab. However, Harpreet Singh Sidhu, Gaurav Yadav and SS Chauhan are also being seen as frontrunners for the position of acting DGP. Or is there a dark horse among the contenders? We'll wait and see.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

### WISDOM CORNER

One is never afraid of the unknown; one is afraid of the known Coming to an end.

A ship which looms large in the river seems tiny when on the ocean.

SENEC.

Beauty in things exists in the mind which contemplates them.

DAVID HUM

### WORDS**WORTH**

### ■ Agrestic

Agrestic gained a melancholy moment in the news in 2008 when it was reported that it was one of 24 words that the English publisher Collins was proposing to drop from its dictionaries, on the grounds that newer and more common words needed the space. The root meaning is rural or rustic, hence a person who is uncouth or unpolished. It's from the Latin agrestis, itself derived from ager, a field, which makes it a close relative of agriculture and of agrestal, which refers to uncultivated plants that are growing on cultivated land — you might prefer to call those weeds (uncultivated plants that grow on uncultivated land, on the other hand, may be called ruderal). Another, extremely rare, relative is agresty, which was defined in one old dictionary as "rusticity; clownishness". In early 2009 Collins reprieved the word because it turned out to have a continuing usefulness in the perfumery business. It's one of the standard terms used to classify odours. The scent sense is of an aroma that reminds you of the countryside, such as hay, heather or meadow or may be described as earthy, herbal or woody.

### ■ Oyez

his cry rang around the US recently when, for the first time, a session of the Supreme Court was broadcast on the same day the hearing took place. It may be heard at the start of proceedings in courtrooms, but otherwise is now mostly the preserve of elaborately costumed town criers in the more heritage-minded of English towns who wish to call attention to their pronouncements. In Britain it's often spelled and shouted oyes, and at times people think that is what is being said (Richard Barham borrowed that in his Ingoldsby Legends in 1840: "But when the Crier cried, 'O Yes!' the people cried, 'O No!", though the joke was probably a wizened ancient even then, and it doesn't work for Americans, who say "oh yay!" instead). It's actually Norman French: oiez or oyez, the imperative plural of the verb oir, to hear. The verb turns up also in a slightly different spelling in the term oyer and terminer, a commission once issued to English judges on a circuit to hold courts, literally "hear and determine"; this phrase is almost obsolete, though in Pennsylvania the county criminal courts are known by it. What is actually being said when oyez is shouted is "Hear ye!" or, in modern English, "Pay attention, you lot", or "Listen up, you guys".

### FOCUS CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# **SLOGAN OR REALITY**

By Dhurjati Mukherjee

**CRITICS ARGUE** 

THAT CSR
DISTRACTS
FROM THE
FUNDAMENTAL
ECONOMIC ROLE
OF BUSINESS,
WHILE OTHERS
ARGUE THAT IT
IS NOTHING
MORE THAN
SUPERFICIAL
WINDOW

**DRESSING** 

ecently, Adani Group Chairman, Gautam Adani hit the headlines after he committed Rs 60,000 crore (\$7.7 billion) to social causes on his 60th birthday. It is understood that the Adani's corpus will be administered by Adani Foundation, making it one of the biggest transfers to a philanthropic trust in India. However, in fiscal 2021, Adani donated Rs 122 crore towards disaster relief, mainly for Covid-related work, ranking him eighth in the EdelGive Hurun India philanthropy list. Adani's contribution in the past three years has been just Rs 302 crore much below that of Azim Premji's Rs 18,070 crore or that of Mukesh Ambani (Rs 1437 crore) or even KM Birla (Rs 732 crore).

But though some of the figures may appear impressive, the question arises whether the funds are going in the positive direction, i.e. to the right projects and the right people? Though India is globally the first country to make corporate social responsibility (CSR) mandatory, following an amendment to the Companies Act 2013 in April 2014, businesses can invest their profits in areas such as education, poverty, gender equality, and hunger as part of any CSR compliance. However, it is necessary to know whether the funds are not manipulated by the corporate houses and projects are funded after judicious and transparent decisions.

The United Nations Industrial **Development Organisation** (UNIDO) describes CSR as a management concept, whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives, while at the same time addressing expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. It is important to draw a distinction between CSR, which can be a strategic business management concept, and charity, sponsorships or

The concept of CSR has emerged



In the western world, CSR was quite popular even a decade or two back but in countries such as India, the business community has been rather reluctant to contribute till only after the government came forward with the legislation

as a major buzzword for the last several years, the world over, with members of the business community, academicians, politicians and prominent activist groups. In the western world, CSR was quite popular even a decade or two back but in countries such as India, the business community has been rather reluctant to contribute till only after the government came forward with the legislation.

The practice of CSR is subject to much debate and controversy. It is argued by the protagonists of CSR that there is a strong business case for this responsibility, in that corporations benefit in multiple ways by operating with a perspective broader and longer than their own immediate, short term profits. On the other hand, the critics argue that CSR distracts from the fundamental economic role of business, while others argue that it is nothing more than superficial window dressing.

The question that arises at this juncture is whether the crores spent by corporates are in the right direction and benefit the section of population which has to struggle for a dignified existence. It has been found that most funds of corporate houses are channelised through trusts that are directly or indirectly known to them or to their associates. Thus, major

funding is not necessarily geared for the appropriate projects that would have enhanced the process of development.

Furthermore, companies un-

dertake such activities blindly which may not produce long-term benefits for the society. For example, they have no plan to enable the unemployed to earn a living. There have been suggestions that if the companies provide training for skilled work and identify areas where there is a need, they might be better off in the long run. It also needs to be mentioned here that in the fast-changing world, capacity building of the CSR workforce and re-skilling them are always relevant and key to CSR performance. One of the reasons for the un-

successfulness of the CSR legislation in terms of impact is the lack of knowledge of the officials of the company regarding social, economic and environmental issues. This leads to the company utilising CSR funds in an unsuccessful manner by typing up with non-professional NGOs or just throwing away the money at widely publicised social causes in an unregulated manner.

If the effective impact of the CSR legislation is examined, there may be many loopholes in the legislation due to which it is not pro-

ducing the desired impact. For example, Section VII which states the activities in which CSR funds may be utilised is very broad. This allows the companies to only engage in such CSR activities that are directly or indirectly beneficial to the organisation. This leaves out many activities that are not beneficial to the impoverished sections, as a result of which CSR funds go to specific sectors.

Concerted action needs to be taken to ensure better utilisation of CSR policies. These include: One, there should be greater awareness amongst directors, who work for companies which have to comply with Section 135 regarding CSR activities. This can be done by ensuring that these activities are widely publicised as being helpful to society. Two, companies can tie-up with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which align with the vision of the company or even otherwise. For example, there are many organisations raising funds through the CSR activities of the companies to help the environment and the underprivi-

Three, companies should engage in such activities which they are familiar with. For example, a company which is dealing with online education can provide such education packages to underprivileged children for free or give scholarships. Organizations which are in the business of energy can install power houses in rural areas where electricity is still not available and so on. Four, there is a need for active participation from the company to focus on not just immediate results but long term commitment towards social causes

It is critical for corporations to create a fine balance between earning profits and providing value to society. This not only helps in making the society a better place, but also ensures a better brand image and provides competitive advantage to the company. While the CSR legislation was introduced with a positive motive of helping the society, it is a long road ahead to successfully implement the provisions pertaining to CSR, so that the impoverished sections of society can benefit.

### SPECTRUM HEALTH FINANCING

# Fight against noncommunicable diseases



By Stephen Ogweno

ONCE WE LOOK
AT THE BIGGER
PICTURE, IT
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THAT REDUCING
THE GLOBAL NCD
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CANNOT AFFORD

TO MISS

such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, lung disease, diabetes, obesity, and mental disorders, are often chronic and develop over a long period. Collectively, NCDs account for about 70% of all deaths globally (and 60% of deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa, where they account for over 55% of hospital admissions in countries such as Kenya). Developing countries thus face a double burden of illness, with communicable diseases like malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis still presenting a huge challenge alongside the rising incidence of NCDs.

One might expect that the large and increasing burden of NCDs would lead to more funding and resources being channeled toward addressing them. But the fight is chronically underfunded and remains a low priority compared to efforts to tackle infectious diseases.

There is no global fund for any NCD: In 2019, over 40% of NCD development assistance came from private institutions. But efforts to combat communicable diseases, the burden of which has declined significantly over the years, have several dedicated international funding institutions, including the Global Fund, Gavi, the United

oncommunicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, lung disease, dies, obesity, and mental disorare often chronic and develop a long period. Collectively,

One reason for this disparity is the relative lack of evidence-based research into NCDs. Funding agencies with a duty to invest in datadriven strategies have therefore tended to focus elsewhere. Moreover, NCDs are still hugely misunderstood. Many people think that these diseases are caused only by the individual, and ignore all their other social, economic, and structural determinants. Weak grassroots action and poor public framing of the NCD problem has not helped, either.

Perhaps most significantly, NCDs were not part of the Millennium Development Goals and thus missed out on the momentum toward greater health funding in the period from 2000 to 2015. Even now, reducing premature deaths from NCDs is just one of 169 targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3.4), making this objective difficult to fund.

With the NCD burden likely to increase further, several urgent steps are needed to bring about a shift in global funding priorities.

the close connections between NCDs and communicable diseases so that some funds already being channeled to fight communicable diseases can be directed toward addressing these links. For example, many HIV patients have successfully managed their viral loads, and up to 40% now die of NCDs like ischemic heart disease and diabetes. Likewise, epidemiological evidence shows that NCDs contribute significantly to tuberculosis deaths. Focusing on only communicable diseases or NCDs without considering the other will result in lower long-term impact. Second, we must strengthen uni-

versal health coverage in order to focus first on the poorest, who are most affected by NCDs. Poor people with NCDs often cannot access medication or afford out-of-pocket costs and palliative care. Only when the poor benefit from universal health coverage can we begin to address the burden of NCDs effectively.

Third, countries should use relevant research and data to develop a financial case for investment at the national level. Funding priorities will vary by country and region. Some will take a disease-specific approach, while others will

The first step is to emphasize adopt a more preventive and prohe close connections between motional strategy.

NCDs and communicable diseases.

Fourth aligning an NCD strate

Fourth, aligning an NCD strategy with a broader national development strategy can enable countries to reap greater benefits from both. By linking infrastructure and built-environment projects to efforts to combat NCDs, we can create public spaces that encourage walking and other physical activities and reduce air pollution. Similarly, by working together with the food industry, we can improve package labeling, eliminate trans fats, and increase taxation of sugars, salts, and unhealthy foods to encourage people to adjust their diets.

Clearly, tackling NCDs calls for a partnership approach. Contrary to the widespread popular belief that NCDs are caused by individual behavior, research continues to demonstrate that the environment and government policies have a huge effect on these diseases as well.

All these suggestions underscore the importance of building robust health-care systems that can deliver the ultimate goal of a strong, healthy society in which NCDs are prevented, managed, and controlled.

The writer is Founder and CEO

of Stowelink Inc.

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# **T**etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Adopt renewable energy

Sir, India is ambitious for renewable energy, but now steps will have to be taken in this direction with a strong commitment. There is a lot of pollution due to which people are suffering from several diseases. Therefore, we need to see more cycles on the road instead of motor vehicles. According to official figures, the number of registered electric vehicles in Delhi as on March 21, 2022 is just 1, 39,945. We need to ensure 100% renewable energy to tackle the climate crisis. Renewable energy is the solution to the pollution caused by electricity generation from coal. If we use more and more renewable energy then it will help us control various types of pollution.

Garima Shrivaspat, UJJAIN

### Fall from grace

**Sir,** The curtains came down on the political drama in Britain, with Boris Johnson resigning as leader of Britain's Conservative party, paving the way for the selection of a new Prime Minister. Defence Minister Ben Wallace and Indianorigin Rishi Sunak, whose departure as Finance Minister sparked the cabinet exodus, are among the frontrunners for the top post. Mr Johnson said that the UK PM's post was the best job in the world and will stay on as caretaker Prime Minister till a successor is elected. But he is facing calls to leave 10 Downing Street at once. What a fall from grace!

N J Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

### Hygiene measures essential

rificial animals and temporary animal markets are being set up across the country. Given that people come in close contact with animals and each other at these markets, there is a risk of spreading disease if the animals are not healthy. Therefore, the government must take necessary steps to ensure that the animals being traded across the country, whether imported or local, are free of disease. Special teams of veterinary doctors and technicians should inspect the animal markets to ensure that this festive and blessed occasion doesn't become a source of spreading disease and illness. Also, the health ministries. federal and provincial, must ensure that the animals are slaughtered at designated places where a proper system is in place to remove the remains of the slaughtered animals. The lack of such a system not only leads to an unbearable stench of rotting remains but can also spread disease and contaminate water. So, we must follow strict precautionary hygiene measures and refrain from slaughtering animals and disposing their remains out in the open. Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI

Sir, As Eid-ul-Adha approaches, there is a high demand for sac-

# national



The nation needs a President who can protect the Constitution of the country

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE FOR

### **MANIK SAHA TAKES OATH**

**Tripura Chief Minister Manik** Saha, who was elected to the state Assembly following the June 23 by-election, Friday took oath as the member of the Tripura Assembly



project of Central Vista Avenue is almost ready. Some minor works are being carried out at one or two underpasses. The project will be completed by July 15

HARDEEP SINGH PURI UNION HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTER

People have been in favour of a Uniform Civil Code ever since the country adopted the Constitution on January 26, 1950. The

government's job is to introduce it if people are in favour of it. It is not against Muslims. It is for the country's benefit. The Government of India may bring it very soon as the

RAMDAS ATHAWALE UNION MINISTER OF





BHUPENDER YADAV UNION ENVIRONMENT

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Singla gets bail

Chandigarh: Sacked Punjab's Health Minister Vijay Singla was granted bail Friday by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in a bribery case. The bench of Justice Lisa Gill allowed his bail plea. Singla was accused of demanding "one per cent commission" in tenders and purchases by his department. In his bail petition through his counsels, Singla contended that the "first information report (FIR) was the outcome of political rivalry" and wreaking vengeance had "gathered unprecedented popularity among the masses."

### **GST** waiver on sale of tricolour

New Delhi: Sale of the Indian whether machine made or of polyester, is exempt from the Goods and Services Tax (GST). the finance ministry said Friday, Hand-woven, handsnun national flags made of cotton, silk, wool or Khadi are already exempt from GST. In an office memorandum, the Revenue Department clarified that polyester or machinemade tricolour too would be exempt from the levy following amendments to the 'Flag Code of India, 2002' in December last year.

### J&K cancels police SI recruitment

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Friday recommended a CBI probe into the police sub-inspector recruitment scam after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha cancelled the list of successful candidates issued last month. Sinha, while cancelling the recruitment process, said the culprits will be brought to justice soon. "JKP Sub-Inspector recruitment has been cancelled & a CBI probe has been recommended into selection process. Culprits will be brought to justice soon," Sinha said. "It's a first big step towards securing future of our youth & govt will soon decide future course of action for fresh recruitment," the LG added.

### Jawan drowns

Bijapur: A jawan of the CRPF CoBRA unit drowned in a rivulet during a search operation in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Friday, police said. The incident took place when the 210th battalion of the CRPF's elite unit Commando Battalion for Resolute Action was on a search operation in the forest of Silger area in the morning. an official said.

### ED summons Jain's wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked Delhi minister Satyendar Jain's wife Poonam Jain to be present before the agency next week while it extracts information from the digital devices seized in a money laundering case against him and others, officials said Friday.

Poonam is required to be present before the investigation officer at the ED headquarters here during the extraction of data from the devices which were seized during searches conducted in this case earlier, they said.

Satyendar Jain, 57, was arrested by the ED on May 30 under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and is in judicial custody at present. He is a minister without a portfolio in the Aam Aadmi Partyled Delhi government. Jain has held health, power and few other charges

The agency has conducted at least two rounds of raids against his family and associates after it arrested the minister in the PMLA case linked to alleged hawala dealings. It also arrested two of his business associates this month.

The agency had claimed to have seized "unexplained" cash worth Rs 2.85 crore and 133 gold coins after the first round of raids conducted on June 6 against Jain's family and others. The ED had alleged, that "during the period 2015-16, when Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the companies beneficially owned and controlled by him



received accommodation entries to the tune of Rs 4.81 crore from shell (paper) companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through the hawala route"

'These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for repayment of loan taken for the purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi." the ED had said. The money laundering case against the AAP minister stems from an August 2017 FIR filed by the CBI against him and others on charges of alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

A chargesheet was filed by the CBI in December, 2018, stating that the alleged disproportionate assets were worth Rs 1.47 crore, about 217 per cent more than his known sources of income, during 2015-17.

**PHONE TAPPING CASE** 

# **CBI books ex-Mumbai top** cop, former NSE top bosses

New Delhi, July 8: Former NSE top brass including Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramkrishna had allegedly roped in a company founded by retired Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey to snoop in on the stock market's employees by illegally intercepting their phones, the CBI has alleged in a recent FIR against them.

The CBI Friday started a coordinated search operation in 18 cities after filing the FIR on a reference from the Union Home Ministry. The agency has booked Pandey, his Delhi-based company. NSE officials former MD and CEOs Narain and Ramkrishna, executive vice president Ravi Varanasi and head (premises) Mahesh Haldipur among others in the FIR, officials said.

The CBI has alleged that during the period 2009-17, Narain, Ramkrishna, currently in judicial custody in the NSE co-location scam, Varanasi and Haldipur conspired to illegally intercept the telephones of NSE employees for which they hired iSEC Services Pvt Ltd, founded by Pandey in 2001.

The company received a payment of Rs 4.45 crore for the illegal tapping which was camouflaged as "Periodic Study of Cyber

Services Pvt Ltd, founded by

Vulnerabilities" at NSE, it alleged. The company also provided transcripts of the tapped conversations to senior management of the stock market, the FIR alleged.

...Top officials of NSE issued agreement and work orders in favour of said private company and illegally intercepted the phone calls of its employees by installing machines, in contravention of provisions under Indian Telegraph Act." a statement from the CBI said. The agency alleged that no permission for this activity was taken from the competent authority as provided under section five of the Indian Telegraph Act. "No consent of the employees of NSE was also taken in this matter," it said

The agency has also listed as accused the then directors of iSEC Services Pvt Ltd Santosh Pandey, Anand Narayan, Armaan Pandey, Manish Mittal, former Senior

Information Security Analyst Naman Chaturvedi and Arun Kumar Singh.

The search operation was spread across Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Lucknow, Kota, Chandigarh that started Friday morning at the premises of accused, they said. The company had done audit around the time the co-location irregularities are alleged to have taken place.

Pandey had resigned as police officer to start iSEC Services Pvt Ltd in March 2001 but his resignation was not accepted and he returned to police service quitting as company's director in May 2006. His son and mother later took charge. The police officer, who studied at IIT-Kanpur and Harvard University, was made Mumbai Police Commissioner during the MVA government headed by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

### IAS OFFICER **SUSPENDED**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, July 8: The Jharkhand government Friday suspended IAS officer Syed Riaz Ahmed, who was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a trainee IITian.

Ahmed, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Khunti, was arrested on Tuesday and sent to judicial custody for two weeks after the engineering student filed a police complaint against him.

"Chief Minister Hemant Soren has given direction to suspend Syed Riaz Ahmed, posted as SDM Khunti. The SDM was charged with sexual harassment case," a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

Ahmed is facing charges under IPC sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), police said.

A court July 5 remanded the officer to judicial custody for 14 days. Eight engineering students of an IIT, including the victim, had come to Khunti from outside the state for training, as per officials

They attended a dinner hosted at the Deputy Development Commissioner's residence on Saturday. When the SDM found her alone at the party, he allegedly sex ually harassed her there, the victim told the police. The police, prima facie, found the allegation to be true after Ahmed and some guests who attended the party were questioned.

Commuters wade through a waterlogged area after heavy rainfall in Ahmedabad

### 9 dead in Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nainital, July 8: Nine people, mostly tourists, drowned Friday morning when their car was swept off a bridge by an overflowing Dhela river following heavy rains at Ramnagar here, police said.

The accident occurred around 5:45 am when the car was returning to Punjab, SSP Pankaj Bhatt said from the spot. The bodies have been recovered. One person, 22-vear-old Nazia, a resident of Corbett Colony, was rescued alive and sent to a hospital in Ramnagar, the SSP said.

As the car had a Punjab registration number, officials initially presumed it was carrying tourists from that state only. Six of those killed were women and three men, the police said.

They were identified as Ashia of Corbett Colony, Ramnagar, Kavita and Jahnvi of Patiala, Sangeeta Tamang of New Delhi's East of Kailash, Pinky of Noida, Hina of Delhi's Bhajanpura, Amandeep Singh of Punjab's Bhawanigarh, and Pawan and Igbal of Patiala.

The bridge from where the car was swept down the river is low and accident-prone.

The river often flows over it when there is a surge in its waters. Evewitnesses said the driver of the vehicle attempted to cross the bridge at a high speed, ignoring warnings from onlookers who signalled him to stop.

The tourists were staying at Small Town Homestay and Restaurant in Dhela and had started from there around 5 am, the SSP said. The car had overturned after being swept off by the river and rescuers had to struggle for hours to retrieve the bodies,

### 27 RS members take oath

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 8: Twenty-seven newly elected Rajya Sabha members, including Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Pivush Goyal, took oath Friday.

Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Mukul Wasnik, RLD's Jayant Chaudhary and BJP's Surendra Singh Nagar are prominent names among the members who took oath.

The members elected to the Rajya Sabha during the recent biennial polls took oath in the presence of Chairman of the House M. Venkajah Najdu in the chamber of the Upper House. These 27 members from 10 states took oath in 10 languages - 12 in Hindi, four in English, two each in Sanskrit, Kannada, Marathi and Odia and one each in Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu. Four



of the 57 newly-elected members have taken oath recently.

During an interaction with some leaders and members of the House after the oath taking ceremony. Chairman Naidu clarified that those elected members who are still to take oath also can vote in the Presidential election on July 18. Naidu further elaborated that from the date of the notification of the winners in the elections to Raiva

Sabha, they are deemed to be Members of the House and making oath/affirmation is only a prerequisite for the newly elected members to participate in the proceedings of the House and of its Committees. Others who took oath are Vivek K. Tankha, K. Laxman, Laxmikant Vajpayee, Kalpana Saini, Sulata Deo and R. Dharmar. Fourteen of the 57 members were re-elected to the House.

### Men separated from women in classroom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur (Kerala), July 8: A controversy has erupted in Kerala over an Islamist outfit conducting classes on 'gender politics' for a section of medical students here by making male and female students sit separately, divided by a curtain.

Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad, Student Federation of India (SFI), the students wing of the ruling CPI(M), and others have strongly criticised the classes. The classes were held by the Islamist group - Mujahid Wisdom Islamic Organisation - on the topic LGBTQIA+: Behind the rainbow flags: Understanding LGBTQIA+

from an Islamic perspective". This came to light after an officebearer of the group which conducted the class posted a photograph of the same on social media. The office-bearer said the expenses of the classes were borne by the group which was of the view that they can put up a screen or curtain as they wished to segregate the two sexes.

"Just show your frustration and go babies." the office-bearer's post said in reaction to the criticism of the classes. Justifying the classes, he said they were held in a private

SFI State president Anusree said

This came to light after an office-bearer of the group which conducted the class posted a photograph of the same on social media

that it was a matter of concern\_\_\_ that highly educated students are taking part in the classes. "Students with high educational qualifications becoming part of such campaigns are a matter of concern. SFI views this as a major challenge," Anusree said.

The Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishad, a progressive people science movement in the state, condemned the classes and wondered why no one questioned as to why there was the curtain.

"Those who took the class did not explain why there was a curtain and those who attended the class did not question the need of a curtain, office-bearers of the Parishad told the media. As the incident was condemned on social media, the group defended its action saying there was nothing wrong.

The students union of the Government Medical College clarified that the class was not held on its campus.



# After 50 years, woman seeks citizenship in HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 8: A 66-year-old woman living in India for over 50 years without any citizenship documents or an Indian passport approached the Bombay High Court Friday seeking that the Union government be directed to grant her citizenship. The Indian-origin woman, Ila Popat, claimed in her plea filed before a bench led by Justice SV Gangapurwala that she was born in Uganda in East Africa and came to India on her mother's Indian passport in 1956 when she was ten years old.

She got married to an Indian cit-

izen 10 years later, and now has two

dren, all of them Indian citizens. She applied for an Indian passport

children and several grandchilthree times during these years but

her request was rejected each time because of lack of The Indian-origin woman, Ila Popat, claimed in her plea filed before a bench led by Justice SV Gangapurwala that she was

born in Uganda in East Africa and came to India on her mother's Indian passport in 1956 when she was ten years old

She told HC that only in 2018-19 she was told by officials she should have applied for Indian citizenship first before seeking an Indian passport

documents. She told HC that only in 2018-19 she was told by officials she should have applied for Indian citizenship first before seeking an Indian passport. Accordingly, in 2019, the petitioner applied for citizenship online but the same was rejected by the authorities because of an "inadvertent mistake"in her visa details.

The Union government's counsel, Advait Sethna, told HC Popat could be granted citizenship only if she submitted her birth certificate or any other requisite document proving her origins and how she came to India.

Sethna also suggested the petitioner could approach the embassy in Uganda and get the requisite documents from them. The HC will hear the plea further August 22.

# Over 375 houses, Delhiites may not get liquor of their choice buildings identified as 'unsafe' in Delhi

**BUILDINGS (112) WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE SADAR** PAHARGANJ ZONE THROUGH VISUAL INSPECTION



New Delhi, July 8: Civic agencies in Delhi have identified over 375 houses and buildings as dangerous or under structural stress and have undertaken demolition and repair exercises following the directions of Lt Governor V K Saxena, officials said

Saxena June 27 instructed the MCD and New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) to identify dangerous buildings prone to col lapsing during the rainy season and ensure their demolition or repair.

The NDMC had formed two teams under the supervision of its engineers for the survey conducted up to the first week of July that found 110 premises under "structural stress". It is taking appropriate action to prevent any incident during the rains, an officer said.

The MCD, till July 1, surveyed 24,73,179 out of 26,62,135 houses in the city of which 266 were declared dangerous and notices were issued to the owners, said an officer of the civic body.

In the erstwhile North Delhi Municipal Corporation zones over 10,32,393 houses were surveyed, of which 755 were found repairable and 265 declared dangerous. A total of 34 houses were repaired, official figures showed.

The highest number of dangerous buildings (112) were identified in the Sadar Paharganj zone

through visual inspection. Fourteen buildings were demolished in the zone, the figures showed

Further, 497 advisory notices were issued to the owners of the properties, directing them to carry out immediate repairs. The demolition and repair works were undertaken by the civic body as well as the owners, officials said.

In the erstwhile South Delhi Municipal Corporation zones, 1,05,684 houses were surveyed and one house was found dangerous in the Yusuf Sarai area but its demolition in May this year could not be carried out due to a court stay on it.

In the erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation zones, 3,83,102 houses were surveyed and none was found dangerous while 27 needed repairs, officials added.

The L-G had issued written directions to the special officer and commissioner of MCD and the chairman of NDMC to undertake the exercise and submit an action taken report within a fortnight.

He had asked the officers to ensure no untoward incident happens due to dangerous buildings during the rainy season.

The civic bodies were also directed to prepare an action plan for effective disaster management in consultation with district magistrates to prevent any tragedy in densely populated areas where access to fire tenders and other equip-

New Delhi, July 8: The residents of Delhi may face shortage of liquor of their choice as the national capital is witnessing a scarcity across various categories

in many outlets. Even some premium category whiskeys are not available in below one litre quantity at various outlets. Asked about the reason behind the shortage, the outlet keepers had a common reply, "supply chain problem".

Among many other reasons, one important factor causing shortage is the new liquor policy which has led to a sharp decline in the number of wine shops operating in Delhi currently.

Talking to IANS, Vinod Giri, Director General of the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), said that only 464 shops are in operation in the national capital currently, whereas a city like Delhi must have around 850 outlets to serve the residents.

"Around 460 to 464 outlets are currently in operation, whereas it should be around 850 shops. Even some posh areas like Connaught Place, Saket and Green Park hardly have any shop there," Giri told IANS, adding that this would naturally lead to the crisis.

Underlining some flaws in the policv. he said that around 11 to 12 licensees of the total 32 zones in the national capital have surrendered their retail licence, as a result of which these zones are without any liquor shops now. Talking about liquor shortage, Giri said the paucity of space at the outlets is an other reason as the liquor business runs on one or two-day stocks only. Due to the space crunch, the outlets cannot stock liquor which eventually leads to shortage

Giri added that the capital city doesn't have its own breweries, while some breweries in the neighbouring states too have stopped

### **SUPPLY SHORTAGE**



supplying to Delhi. "Delhi gets its supplies from Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and other states. But Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have stopped the supply in view of catering to their own domestic needs first," he said.

"The beer categories are experiencing a shortage because several brands could not produce additional stock in advance, in February and March. Additionally, the summer approached quite early this year, and major part of the stock got consumed earlier," Giri told IANS, adding that around 40 per cent of India's annual beer sales is recorded in the April-June period.

### **Licences of country** liquor suppliers extended in Delhi

New Delhi: The Delhi government

has extended the licences of those supplying country liquor in the national capital by a month, according to an official notification. For the extension, the licence-holders will have to pay a pro-rate licence fee for a month. The Excise Policy 2022-23 was approved by the Delhi Cabinet May 5. It is yet to be approved by the lieutenant governor, "Approval of the Competent Authority is hereby conveyed regarding extension of L-3/33 Licence for supplying country liquor in GNCT of Delhi for a further period of one month i.E. From 01.07.2022 to 31.07.2022. The extension is subject to payment of pro-rata fee for the extension period," read the official notification by the Excise department.

### **BAHUBALI SAMOSA** CHALLENGE

### Eat in 30 minutes and earn ₹51,000

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), July 8: Samosa is a perennial favourite. but now food bloggers are getting increasingly excited over the new challenge that this snack is offering them in Meerut.

A sweet shop in Kurti Bazaar Meerut has prepared a samosa that weighs eight kilograms and the challenge



is to eat it within 30 minutes. The winner will get cash prize of ₹51,000

The shop owner Shubham told reporters, "I had been wanting to do something different to bring the samosa into the news. We decided to make a 'Bahubali' samosa. We began by making a four kg samosa and then the eight kilogram samosa." He said that the eight kg samosa costs around ₹1,100 and the filling in it includes potato, peas, cottage cheese and dry fruits.

### Delhi govt sanctions village development schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: The Delhi government has sanctioned 49 schemes worth ₹70.68 crore for improving roads, drains, parks and other civic facilities in villages in the national

Development Minister Gopal Rai Thursday chaired a meeting of the Delhi Village Development Board at the secretariat where the members drew attention towards the pendency of proposals.

The minister stressed on the need for a time-bound action by the department concerned, and also directed the main executing agency of village development works -- Irrigation & Flood Control

Department -- to expedite preparation of project estimates and also execution of sanctioned projects.

The board sanctioned 49 schemes, including for improving roads, drains, water bodies, community centres, parks, cremation centres, playgrounds etc. to be implemented in the village areas worth ₹70.68 Crore.

"The Government will take all necessary steps to improve the condition of roads, parks, small drains and multipurpose community halls in all village areas, Rai said. The government will organise a special camp on July 22 for the speedy implementation of all schemes related to village development project.



Goats for sale Jama Masjid on the eve of Eid-al-Adha, popularly known as Bakri Eid, in New Delhi

# Green space shrinking in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, July 8: Come July, all government departments in the state will go full steam launching pompous plantation drives, but the net result hints at an alarming reduction in green cover across Uttar Pradesh.

This year, more than 35 crore saplings are to be planted in different areas of the state involving as many as 30 government departments.

To set a new Guinness World Record, UP's deputy chief minister has announced opening of 150 new high tech nurseries, two in each district. An amount of ₹150 crore has been earmarked. Taj city, Agra has been given a target of planting 51 lakh saplings. In 2018, the city planted 20 lakh, in 2019 the number was 28 lakh, in 2020 they planted 38 lakh, and in 2021, 45 lakh saplings



were planted. DFO Akhilesh Pandey claims 70 per cent plants have survived. Interestingly, Agra mayor Navin Jain had planted some 12,000 saplings on the Yamuna river bed, which were all washed away when the water level rose in August last year. An inquiry is still going on.

In the past years, huge plantation drives have been ordered by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and also by his prede-

cessor Akhilesh Yaday. However, the green activists remarked that these are "paper trees to be found only

in government files.' Despite such herculean efforts, the green cover in Uttar Pradesh remains a dismal 9 per cent, against the national target of 33 per cent.

Green activists in Agra doubt the government claims. "These are paper trees to be found only in gov-

# Delhi government schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: Delhi government schools will soon have CCTV cameras installed and the live feed will be shared with parents,

according to sources. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) dispensation had in 2019 announced to install CCTV cameras in all government schools and provide live feed of the classrooms to the parents. "The PWD is executing the project of construction of classrooms and schools and there is a plan of installing CCTVs in classrooms. There is also a plan to share the feed with the parents. This is all education department's brainchild we are merely executing it,"

a source told PTI. "The move is aimed at ensuring safety of students and also ensure



IDs and passwords.

PWD will update students' details and parents' mobile numbers, which will be collected and provided by all government schools, in its software.

transparency in teaching system. The education department's plan says that sharing feed with parents will ensure transparency and let them know what their kid is studying," the source added. According to officials, to make live CCTV video footage available, the parents will be given individual secured login credentials with individual

### to have CCTV cameras soon Bride calls off wedding, says groom is too 'dark'

**BIZARRE INCIDENT** 

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Etawah (Uttar Pradesh), July 8: In a bizarre turn of events, a bride took two 'pheras' at the wedding and then suddenly called off the ceremony saying that the groom was 'too dark'.

 $\label{eq:conding} According to reports, the incident$ took place in Bharthana in Etawah Thursday when the bride Neeta Yadav was all set to marry Ravi

The couple exchanged garlands and trouble began when the actual wedding ceremony began.

After taking two 'pheras' Neetu suddenly announced that she was calling off the marriage. She said that the groom shown

to her earlier, was not the one whom

she was marrying. She also stated that his complexion was too dark for her liking. She left the 'mandap' and did not return even after persuasion by her

Attempts to convince the bride continued for over six hours after which the groom and the 'baraat' agreed to return without solem-

family members

After taking two 'pheras' the bride suddenly announced that she was calling off the marriage. She said that the groom shown to her earlier, was not the one whom she was marrying

nising the wedding.

The groom's father has now lodged a complaint with the police saying that jewellery worth lakhs of rupees which had been gifted to the bride, had not been re-

turned to them. The groom Ravi said that his life had been jeopardised after the incident.

"The girl and her family had come to meet me several times and I do not know why they suddenly changed their mind. The incident has traumatized me," he said



### With wider edu reach, 1.90cr UP kids enrol in schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 8: Children studying in government schools in Uttar Pradesh will no longer have to travel long distances. The Yogi Adityanath government has provided school facilities within a radius of one to three km, so that no eligible child is deprived of education.

According to a government spokesman, the Adityanath government had made extensive reforms in the primary, secondary and higher education sector.

Special facilities are being provided to the children of poor families studying in the council schools.

In order to ensure that every child gets benefitted, the Yogi government has given free uniforms, sweaters, schools, bags and shoe stockings to the students studying from class one to eight during its tenure. So far, a total of 1.57 crore children have



benefited by the campaign. In the past five years, there has been a lot of emphasis by the government on the transformation of

the council schools. Under the Kayakalp Abhiyan, have come into a position to com-

19 basic facilities have been made

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE available in 1.30 lakh schools. Some industrial houses adopted some of their own schools and taken the initiative to transform them. As a result of this, many council schools

pete with the convent schools.

Under 'Operation Kayakalp', which is being run to enhance the facilities at government schools, more than 1.30 lakh schools have been transformed

As a result, the number of children enrolled in these council schools has reached over 1.90 crore

The state government has also made arrangements to maintain the sanctity of the Uttar Pradesh Board exams, which was once infamous for copying and cheating.

For this, arrangements were made for online assessment of centres, online registration, online recognition and online duplicate marksheets

To ensure cheating-less examinations, every centre of the Uttar Pradesh Board is being equipped with CCTV surveillance. As a result of this, the sanctity of examinations has been maintained.

The spokesman said that the government has given a lot of emphasis in the field of higher education. The construction of three state universities is going on at a rapid pace in the state. These include Maa Shakumbhari University in Saharanpur, Maharaja Suheldev State University in Azamgarh and Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh.

Apart from this, 75 new government colleges are also under construction.

The government has established research units for research on great men and historical events. Under this, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shodhpeeth has been established in 15 state universities, Bhaurao Deoras, Atal Sushasan Peeth and Mahatma Gandhi International Employment unit in Lucknow University, whereas the Chauri Chaura Study Centre has been established in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University.

# national



**Education** standards in Bengal have improved a lot, with state board students now obtaining scores on par with those of CBSE and ICSE

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

### RAHUL VISITS AILING LALU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday visited AIIMS to meet ailing RJD chief Lalu Yadav. The RJD chief was airlifted to AIIMS in an air ambulance from Bihar Wednesday, three days after he suffered a fracture due to a fall





Don't ever play with the sentiments of constitutional authorities. Congress party has been constantly attacking

constitutional institutions from the beginning not realising that judiciary is not subservient to them

KIREN RIJIJU UNION LAW MINISTER

The Assam government will spend Rs 810 crore to resolve issues concerning two defunct paper mills

of Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM Prime Minister

has given an opportunity to Murmu to become the country's President. It is a matter of pride and honour. I am also proud that a tribal community member has been nominated for the post

Narendra Modi

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

### **SHORT TAKES**

### 6 killed in TN

Chennai: Six passengers, including two women, were killed and ten others injured in a road accident near Madurantakam in Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu Friday. The accident occurred when a Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) bus rammed into rear side of a container truck on the national highway between Chennai and Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu at around 7.45 a.m., an eye witnesses said. The bus was en route Chidambaram from Chennai. The impact of the collision was such that the left portion of the bus was ripped away.

### 3 held in UP

Moradabad: Three persons have been arrested for allegedly threatening a supporter of former RIP spokesperson Nupur Sharma in this Uttar Pradesh district. The complainant had uploaded a social media Sharma following which the accused allegedly threatened to kill him. All the three accused are in police custody for questioning, officials said.

### Jawan dies

Srinagar: An intruding terrorist and a soldier were killed after the Army foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kahmir's Kupwara district Friday. Defence sources said alert Army soldiers noticed a suspicious movement in Tangdhar sector of the LoC in Kupwara district Friday

### Four drown

New Delhi: Four people, including minors, drowned while swimming in the Yamuna river here, an official said Friday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said they received a call around 1.20 a.m. about the incident stating that four people have gone missing."It was found that around noon on Thursday four persons aged 14-20 year had come from Loni to swim in Yamuna at Thokar number 7. Sonia Pushta, Burari," he added. At the instance of one of the friends of the missing people, a motorcycle was found at the Yamuna bank along with some clothes.

### Student killed

Chandigarh: A student was killed and 14 others were injured when a 250-year-old peepul tree fell on them at the all-girls Carmel Convent School in Sector 9 here. The about 70-feet tall tree uprooted naturally and fell on the students when they were playing under it.

# Uddhav demands mid-term poll Jagan's mother Jagencies AGENCIES THACKERAY SAID THE SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON THE THACKERAY SAID THE SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON THE

Mumbai, July 8: Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray Friday said nobody can take away his party's 'bow and arrow' symbol, a remark made in the wake of the rebel Sena faction's assertion that it was the real claimant of the symbol.

Addressing reporters at his residence 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra, he also dared the party rebels and the BJP to face midterm elections in Maharashtra, saying that people should be allowed to take a stand on the toppling of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led by him. He said if people do not favour his party in the elections, he would accept it.

Thackeray said the Supreme Court's verdict on the disqualification plea of 16 rebel MLAs scheduled to be given on July 11 will decide not just the future of the Shiv Sena, but also of Indian democracy. Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde now the chief minister of Maharashtra - had last month raised a banner of revolt against the party leadership, a move that subsequently led to the fall of the MVA government comprising Sena, NCP and Congress. A day after Thackeray resigned as the state chief minister on June 29. Shinde took oath of the top post with BJP's Devendra Fadnavis being sworn in as his

Students fined for

reciting Hanuman

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

pus hostel.

ministration

inal offence".

mission.'

be leading the group.

Chalisa in MP college

Bhopal, July 8: A private college

in Madhya Pradesh has penalised

seven students for gathering

without permission and recit-

ing Hanuman Chalisa in the cam-

A fine of Rs 5,000 was also levied

As per the reports, around 20

students of Management of Vellore

Institute of Technology (MVIT)

located in Kothri Kalan area, about

60 km from Bhopal, had gathered

in hostel room where they chanted

Some other students living in

Subsequently, taking cognizance

of the matter, the management

acted upon the complaint and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 each on

seven students who were found to

The incident has sparked an out-

rage on social media with users

wondering if chanting Hanuman Chalisa in college hostel is a "crim-

The college administration de-

fended the action saying, "Students

can pray as they please, but no

group event is permitted even in-

side hostel rooms without per-

As the incident sparked a con-

troversy, Madhya Pradesh Home

Minister Narottam Mishra jumped

into action and defended the stu-

Briefing the press on this issue

on Friday, Mishra said that he has

asked to college (MVIT) adminis-

tration not to impose fine on stu-

dents for chanting Hanuman

Chalisa. "Where will students re-

cite Hanuman Chalisa if not in

will be no fine. They should make

students understand the issue. I

have also told the District Collector

to conduct an inquiry on this mat-

'We have asked the college there

Hindustan?" Mishra said.

ter." Mishra added

adjoining rooms objected to it

and informed the college ad-

Hanuman Chalisa on July 4.

on the seven students each.



deputy. Shinde enjoys the support of 40 rebel MLAs of the Sena.

Hardening his stand against the rebels, Thackeray asked how they can claim to love the 'Matoshree' and Thackerays if the dissidents align with those who have subjected him and his family to the worst kind of criticism and even attempted to

"destroy his sons' lives" "According to the law, no one can take away the bow and arrow symbol from Shiv Sena. I am saying this after talking to constitutional experts," he said. Rebel Shiv Sena MLA Gulabrao Patil had on Wednesday said the faction led by Shinde was the real claimant of the party's 'bow and arrow' poll symbol. Seeking to assuage the concerns of his party workers, Thackeray said people do not just

RISKY JOURNEY

look at the party symbol while voting, but they also look at the person and also whether the candidate belongs to the Shiv Sena.

The Shiv Sena as a political party and the legislature party are two separate identities, he said, adding that even if just one, 50 or even 100 MLAs leave the party, it does not cease to exist.

"Confusion is being created. Legislature party and registered party are two different identities. No one can take along the party workers with them," Thackeray said. He also demanded mid-term elections in Maharashtra, saying that people should be allowed to take a stand on toppling of the MVA government led by him.

"There should be mid-term polls. If we have made a mistake,

COURT'S VERDICT ON THE **DISQUALIFICATION PLEA OF 16** REBEL MLAS SCHEDULED TO BE **GIVEN JULY 11 WILL DECIDE NOT** JUST THE FUTURE OF THE SHIV SENA, BUT ALSO OF INDIAN **DEMOCRACY** 

THE SHIV SENA AS A POLITICAL PARTY AND THE LEGISLATURE PARTY ARE TWO SEPARATE IDENTITIES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT EVEN IF JUST ONE, 50 OR **EVEN 100 MLAS LEAVE THE** PARTY, IT DOES NOT CEASE TO **EXIST** 

EARLIER THIS WEEK, SENA LEADER SANJAY RAUT CLAIMED THAT HIS PARTY WILL WIN OVER 100 SEATS IF MID-TERM POLLS ARE HELD IN THE STATE

people will not favour us and that will be acceptable to us," he said.

Earlier this week, Sena leader Sanjay Raut claimed that his party will win over 100 seats if midterm polls are held in the state. Thursday, the rebel faction's spokesperson had said that if there was any possibility of reconciliation with the parent party, then Thackeray should also talk to the BJP as the dissidents have aligned with that party.



Vijayamma told YSRCP plenary that she was with her son during difficult times and her conscience tells that if she stands by him during the happy times, it would amount to doing injustice to her daughter Sharmila



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guntur, July 8: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's mother and YSR Congress Party's honorary president Y. S. Vijayamma Friday announced her resignation from the party saying she needs to stand with her daughter Y. S. Sharmila, who has floated a political party in neighbouring Telangana.

Vijayamma made the announcement at the inauguration of the two-day plenary of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

The development came a couple of hours after Jagan along with Vijayamma paid tributes to his father and former chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy at his grave at Idupulapaya in Kadapa district on the occasion of his 73rd birth anniversary.

Sharmila, who launched YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) in Telangana on this day last year against the wishes of her brother, was also present during the prayers at YSR Ghat.

Vijayamma told YSRCP plenarv that she was with her son during difficult times and her conscience tells that if she stands by him during the happy times, it would

amount to doing injustice to her daughter Sharmila. Making a brief but emotional

speech, Vijayamma said she was taking the step to avoid controversies and speculations. While apologising to the party cadres, she said she would remain close to the heart of Jagan Reddy and people of Andhra Pradesh. After Vijayamma concluded the

speech, Jagan Reddy hugged her to convey the message to the party leaders and cadres that there is no bitterness in the family. Both Vijayamma and Sharmila had stood by Jagan Reddy when he quit Congress party and floated YSR Congress party. They had also campaigned for YSRCP when he was in jail in cases relating to alleged disproportionate assets.

After Rajasekhara Reddy's death in a helicopter crash in 2009, Vijayamma was elected unopposed to the Assembly of then undivided Andhra Pradesh from Pulivendula constituency in Kadapa district.

In the by-elections held in 2011 following resignation of Jagan Reddy and Vijavamma from the Congress party, they were elected from Kadapa Lok Sabha and Pulivendula Assembly constituencies respectively by record

# SC grants 5-day interim bail to Zubair

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing Zubair, submitted that his client was promoting secularism and not promoting any enmity among religions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 8: The Supreme Court Friday granted interim bail for five days to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in connection with a case registered against him by the Uttar Pradesh Police for a tweet, where he allegedly called Hindu seers 'hatemongers'.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and J.K. Maheshwari said: "The petitioner shall be granted interim bail in

connection with FIR... June 1, 2022 lodged at P.S. Khairabad, District Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh for a period of five days from today or until further orders of the Regular Bench on terms and conditions to be imposed by the Judicial Magistrate I, Sitapur, which shall include the conditions that the petitioner shall not post any tweets and shall not tamper with any evidence, electronic or otherwise in Bengaluru or anywhere else."

Passengers hang from the doors of an overcrowded train while travelling ahead of the Eid-al Adha in Patna PRIPHOTO

"It is made clear that this order pertains to FIR dated 01.06.2022 lodged at PS Khairabad, District Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh only," it

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves. representing Zubair, submitted that his client was promoting secularism and not promoting any enmity among religions. "I capture hate speeches... I am defending the Constitution and I'm in



iail...And for what?'

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Uttar Pradesh government, submitted that the petitioner was a habitual offender and it was not a matter of one tweet or another, and instead whether he was part of a syndicate which puts out tweets to desta-

Gonsalves said his client admitted the tweet, therefore there was no need for police investigation. "Where is the offence? If there is no offence, there is no investigation required..."

Ōpposing Zubair's plea, Mehta contended that there was multiple suppression of facts in the petition filed by the petitioner. "Two orders of police remand and rejection of bail by different courts (UP and Delhi) have been suppressed... this shows his conduct,' said Mehta. A case is registered against Zubair in connection with a separate tweet. On July 2, a Delhi court rejected the bail plea of Zubair in connection with an 'objectionable tweet' allegedly posted against a Hindu deity, and granted his 14-day custody as sought by the Delhi Police. He will be next produced before the court on July 16.

### **RAHUL VIDEO CASE BIG RELIEF TO NEWS ANCHOR**



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 8: The Supreme Court Friday granted protection from arrest to news anchor Rohit Ranjan on his plea seeking quashing of multiple FIRs or clubbing them in a single case, in connection with a doctored video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

A vacation bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and J.K. Maheshwari issued notice to the Central government, the office of the Attorney General, and others on the petition by Ranjan.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing Ranjan, sought protection from coercive action against his client

After hearing arguments, the bench directed the authorities not to arrest or take any coercive action against Ranjan. Luthra was assisted by advocates Ruby Singh Ahuja, Samarjit Pattnaik, and a team of advocates from Karanjawala & Co.

The plea filed under Article 32 of the Constitution sought quashing of FIRs in connection with the telecast, and in the alternative, clubbing of the multiple FIRs filed with the first FIR and also urged the court to provide protection against coercive measures.

The plea said that multiple FIRs arising out of the same cause of action were not permissible under law.

### Toxic chemical found in drinking water: Report such as water, soil etc. In India,

A total of 15 drinking water samples were collected from different parts of the country and sent to Delhi's Shriram Institute of Industrial *Research for testing* 

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 8: High levels of a toxic chemical have been detected in drinking water samples collected from across the country whose exposure can disrupt the endocrine, reproductive and im-

As per a study, the toxic chemical has been found to be 29 to 81 times higher than the prescribed limit. The research has found 29.1 to 80.5 ppb (parts per billion) of 'Nonylphenol', a toxic chemical used as a formulant in pesticides and lubricating oil additives, in drinking water samples collected from across India, Delhi-based NGO Toxics Link said in a report.

A total of 15 drinking water samples were collected from different parts of the country and sent to Delhi's Shriram Institute of Industrial Research for testing. The highest concentration was observed in a borewell water sam-



ple from Bathinda (80.5 ppb), while the lowest (29.1 ppb) was found in the tap water from government supply in Indraprastha, New Delhi, as per the report.

"Nonylphenol is a toxic chemical and a well-known endocrine disruptor associated with a number of adverse effects on human health. Daily intake of Nonylphenol through drinking water can have adverse health impacts on citizens," said Piyush Mohapatra, Senior Programme Coordinator, Toxics Link.

Nonylphenol is commonly used in the production of Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPEs). NPEs are used as surfactants as well as in day-today consumer products such as detergents, wetting agents, dispersants etc.

NPEs enter the environment and ultimately break down to Nonvlphenols that can enter different environmental matrices

lic compounds in drinking water (1 ppb) and surface water (5 parts per million). However, at present. there are no standards exclusively for Nonylphenol in drinking and surface water in India. "Countries like the US, European Union, Japan and China have already acknowledged the dangers of this chemical and have come up

the Bureau of Indian Standards

(BIS) has set standards for pheno-

with regulations to phase out its use in many of the products, including detergents, for minimising the risks at the downstream level. said Omkar Gaonkar, Programme Coordinator of the research.

# international

JAPAN STUNNED

BY ABE KILLING



I am stunned. outraged, and deeply saddened by the news that my friend Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, was shot and killed while campaigning. This is a tragedy for Japan and for all who knew him

JOE BIDEN US PRESIDENT

### KEIR STARMER CLEARED IN **'BEERGATE' POLICE PROBE**

The UK's Opposition leader, Sir Keir Starmer, and his deputy were Friday cleared in a police investigation into alleged Covid lockdown rule breaches at a gathering in April last year



and sadness Friday, trying to come to terms with the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in a nation where firearms are strictly regulated and political violence extremely rare.

Abe was shot while giving a campaign speech on a street corner and taken to hospital by helicopter. His death was announced late Friday. From Abe protege Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to ordinary people on social media, there was an outpouring of grief in a nation where political violence is so rare the last time a former or sitting prime minister was killed was nearly 90 years ago.

"I am incredibly shocked," Tokvo Governor Yuriko Koike told a regular news conference before Abe's death was announced. fighting back tears and sniffling audibly. "No matter the reason, such a heinous act is absolutely unforgivable. It is an affront against democracy.

Koki Tanaka, a 26-year-old IT worker in downtown Tokyo, voiced a similar view: "I was simply astonished that this could happen in Japan.'

Shootings, when they occur, typically involve "yakuza" gangsters using illegal weapons. In 2021, there were 10 shooting incidents, eight involving gangsters, according to police data. One person was killed and four

Japan has had mass killings, but they usually have not involved guns. In 2016, 19 residents of a facility for mentally disabled people were murdered in their beds by a knife-wielding assailant, while in 2019 34 people were killed in an arson attack on an animation studio.

Attacks on politicians, though, are unusual. There have been only a hand ful in the last half century, most notably in 2007 when the mayor Nagasaki was shot and killed

by a gangster - an incident that resulted in still further tightening of gun regulations.

The last time a former prime minister was killed was in 1936 during Japan's pre-war militaristic buildup, one of a series of similar assassinations.

The man arrested for allegedly shooting Abe is a former member of the Japanese military who fired a homemade firearm, according to media reports. Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi, Abe's brother, declined to comment on those reports.

Responses to the shooting flooded social media, with "Abesan" the top-trending topic on

Japanese Twitter by afternoon. "I can't stop shaking. This is the end of peaceful Japan," wrote

WITH A POPULATION OF 125 MILLION, JAPAN HAD ONLY 10 GUN-RELATED CRIMINAL CASES LAST YEAR, RESULTING IN ONE DEATH AND FOUR INJURIES, **ACCORDING TO POLICE** 

EIGHT OF THOSE CASES WERE GANG-RELATED. TOKYO HAD NO GUN INCIDENTS, INJURIES OR DEATHS IN THE SAME YEAR, ALTHOUGH 61 GUNS **WERE SEIZED** 

JAPAN'S GUN-OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW PRIVATE CITIZENS TO HAVE HANDGUNS, AND LICENSED HUNTERS MAY OWN ONLY RIFLES

**GUN OWNERS MUST ATTEND CLASSES, PASS A WRITTEN TEST AND** UNDERGO A MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION AND A BACKGROUND CHECK

Twitter user Nonochi.

Twitter and Facebook parent Meta said Friday they're deleting any videos of the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that break their rules on harmful content. Multiple

videos of the attack showing a gunman firing a double-barreled weapon twice at Abe were circulating on social media. Some only show the moments before and after the attack while others showed

### **CAREER MOMENTS**

Born into a prominent political family, *Shinzo Abe had been the country's* longest-serving Prime Minister.

Here is a look at some key dates in Abe's life and career.

SEPT. 21, 1954: Abe is born in Tokyo, the son of Shintaro Abe, who served as Japan's foreign minister, and grandson of Nobusuke Kishi, a

1979: Begins working at Kobe Steel as the firm was expanding its presence abroad.

1982: Leaves the company to pursue new positions at the Foreign Ministry and with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

1993: First elected as a LDP legislator representing the southwestern prefecture of Yamaguchi.

2005: Abe is appointed chief cabinet secretary under Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, during which he leads negotiations to return Japanese citizens abducted to North Korea. The same year, he is elected head of the LDP, putting him in line to take over as Prime Minister.

Sept. 26, 2006: Abe becomes Japan's Prime Minister for the first time, overseeing economic reforms while taking a hard line on North Korea and seeking to engage with South Korea and

2007: Following electoral defeats that saw the LDP lose control of the legislature for the first time in 52 years, Abe resigns as Prime Minister,

2012: After again being elected LDP president, Abe becomes Prime Minister for the second time.

**2014-2020:** Re-elected LDP leader, he serves two additional terms as Prime Minister for a total of four, during which he develops close relations with then-president Donald Trump, holding summits and golfing together.

Aug. 28, 2020: Announces he will step down as Prime Minister, again citing health reasons, after his ulcerative colitis flares up again.

2021: Despite leaving office, Abe shows he can still rile up Beijing with comments on Taiwan, the self-governing island China claims as its own territory and threatens to attack. In a speech, Abe warned that "military adventure would lead to economic suicide.

July 8, 2022: Abe is fatally shot while giving a speech at a campaign event in the city of Nara.



Not only has the international community lost an important leader, but Taiwan has also lost an important and close friend

TSAI ING-WEN | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN



bereaved families and Japanese people who have lost the longest-serving prime minister and respected politician in Japan's constitutional history YOON SUK-YEOL | PRESIDENT, SOUTH



The assassination of Abe is **shocking and profoundly** disturbing. He was as a leader of great vision

ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE



life to his country and worked to ensure order in the world EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, Incredibly sad news about Shinzo



through unchartered times will be remembered by many. My thoughts are with his family, friends and the Japanese BORIS JOHNSON | PM, UK



**OLAF SCHOLZ** | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY The tragic death of former

**Japanese Prime Minister Abe** 



Shinzo is devastating news. Mr Abe was one of Australia's closest friends on the world stage ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM. AUSTRALIA



Shinzo Abe lies on the ground after apparent shooting during an election campaign



A man, believed to be a suspect shooting Shinzo Abe, is held by a security agent

### India loses a dear friend

ith a 'tilak' on his forehead and a 'puja thali' in his hands, Shinzo Abe's picture attending the 'Ganga Aarti' alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the fabled Dashashwamedh Ghat in Varanasi in 2015 symbolised his 'India connect' and reflected the very special bond he shared with the

Minister's special bond with India is also evident from the fact that he was given the Padma Vibhushan -- India's second-highest civilian award - in 2021.

Over the years, the camaraderie between Abe and Modi was always on display as the two were often seen sharing a light moment and paying each other compliments. Abe had described Modi as one of his most "dependable" friends

In 2007, Abe became the first-ever Japanese PM to address a joint session of the Indian Parliament. Addressing the MPs, the Japanese leader recalled the time India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru hosted Abe's maternal grandfather the then Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi in New Delhi in 1957.

Abe was also the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi in 2014. Then came a series of annual summits where the bonhomie between Abe and Modi was there for everyone to see. Prime Minister Modi visited Japan in 2014



Strategic and Global Partnership'.

In subsequent visits, Abe and Modi included personal touch and cultural messaging to deepen the ties between the two nations further.

Abe's 2017 India visit during which he visited Ahmedabad also saw the laying of the foundation of India's km Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed corridor is being built at an estimated cost of Rs 1.1 trillion and will have 12 stations in Maharashtra and Gujarat

The bullet train may still take some time to become operational but Abe ensured that his country's ties with India remain on a fast track

### G-20 diplomats fail Biden signs executive order on Sunak bids to be UK PM on unity over Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kuala Lumpur, July 8: Deeply divided top diplomats from the world's richest and largest developing nations failed to find common ground Friday over Russia's war in Ukraine and how to deal with its global impacts, leaving prospects for future cooperation in the forum uncertain.

At talks that were were knocked off balance by two unrelated and unexpected political developments, including the shocking assassination of a former Japanese prime minister, far from the Indonesian resort of Bali where they were meeting, Group of 20 foreign ministers heard an emotional plea for unity and an end to the war from their Indonesian host.

Yet, consensus remained elusive amid deepening East-West splits driven by China and Russia on one side and the United States and Europe on the other. There was no group photo taken nor a final communique issued as has been done in previous years, and acrimony appeared pervasive, especially between Russia and Western participants.

Although they were present in the same room at the same time for the first time since the Ukraine war began, US Secretary of State



Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pointedly ignored each other.

Lavrov walked out of the proceedings at least twice: once when his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock spoke at the opening session and again just before Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba was to speak by video at the second session, according to a Western diplomat present.

The meeting opened only hours after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced his resignation Thursday prompting his foreign secretary, Liz Truss, to depart Bali, and was just underway when former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot. Abe later died of his wounds

Both Johnson and Abe are well known to the G-20 family, having participated in numerous similar conferences and leaders' summits in the past. One goal of Friday's meeting was to lay the groundwork for the upcoming G-20 summit that Indonesia will host in November.

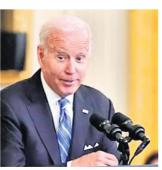
Biden has been under pressure from his own party to take action after the landmark decision last month to overturn Roe v Wade, which upended roughly 50 years of protections for women's reproductive rights

AGENCIES

Kuala Lumpur, July 8: US President Joe Biden said the Supreme Court decision overturning the right to an abortion was an exercise in "raw political power" and signed an executive order on Friday to help protect access to services to terminate pregnancies.

The actions he outlined are intended to mitigate some potential penalties women seeking abortion may face after the ruling but are limited in their ability to safeguard access to abortion nationwide

Biden acknowledged the limitations facing his office, saying it would require an act of Congress to restore access to abortion in the more than a dozen states where strict limits or total bans have gone into effect in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling. About a



abortion, contraception access

dozen more states are set to impose additional restrictions in the coming weeks and months.

"The fastest way to restore Roe is to pass a national law," Biden said. "The challenge is go out and vote. For God's sake there is an election in November: Vote. Vote. Vote. Vote!"

Biden formalized instructions to the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to push back on efforts to limit the ability of women to access federally approved abortion medication or to travel across state lines to access clinical abortion services. He was joined by Vice President Kamala Harris, HHS secretary Xavier Becerra and Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco in the Roosevelt Room as he signed the order.

His executive order also directs agencies to work to educate medical providers and insurers about how and when they are required to share privileged patient information with authorities — an effort to protect women who seek or utilize abortion services. He is also asking the Federal Trade Commission to take steps to protect the privacy of those seeking information about reproductive care online and establish an interagency task force to coordinate federal efforts to safeguard access to abortion.

Biden is also directing his staff to convene volunteer lawyers to provide women and providers with pro bono legal assistance to help them navigate new state restrictions after the Supreme Court ruling.

The order, after the high court's June 24 ruling that ended the nationwide right to abortion and left it to states to determine whether or how to allow the procedure, comes as Biden has faced criticism from some in his own party for not act ing with more urgency to protect women's access to abortion.

The decision in the case known as Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned the court's landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling.

Since the decision, Biden has stressed that his ability to protect abortion rights by executive action is limited without congressional action, and stressed that Democrats do not have the votes in the current Congress to do so.

### INDO-ASIANN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 8: Rishi Sunak, the former UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, Friday formally launched his bid to succeed Boris Johnson as the new Conservative Party leader and future Prime Minister with a promise to lead the UK in the "right direction", becoming the highest-profile Tory Member of Parliament yet to throw his hat in the ring for the leadership race.

The 42-year-old British Indian minister resigned from the UK Cabinet earlier this week, setting off events in motion that ultimately led to Johnson's resignation. His #Ready4Rishi campaign kicked off with a message on Twitter, accompanied by a video made up of images of his Indianorigin grandparents and parents who migrated to the UK via East Africa. "I'm standing to be the next leader of the Conservative Party and your Prime Minister. Let's restore trust, rebuild the economy and reunite the coun-

try," said Sunak "Someone has to grip this moment and make the right decisions." he said in the video. "Do we confront this moment with honesty, seriousness and determination or do we tell ourselves comforting fairy tales that might make us feel better in the moment but will leave our children worse off

tomorrow," he questioned. The MP for Richmond in



promise to lead the country in the right direction based on "nonnegotiable values" of "patriotism, fairness and hard work". "Family is everything to me and my family gave me opportunities they could only dream of. But it was Britain, our country, that gave them and millions like them the chance for a better future," he said. "I got into politics because I want everyone in this country to have those same opportunities, to be able to give their children a better future. Our country faces huge challenges, the most serious for a generation and the decisions we make today will decide whether the next generation of British people will alsohave a chance of a better future,' he added.

# business



In the current circumstances, the pharmaceutical sector has emerged as an essential industry, with an ever-more critical role in today's evolving world

AJAY G PIRAMAL I CHAIRMAN, PIRAMAL ENTERPRISES

### **GREECE INFLATION HITS 30-YR HIGI**

Greece's annual inflation rate reached 12.1 per cent in June, hitting a 30-year record high in the country, the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) said Friday. The figure was up 0.8 percentage points from that in May. Greek inflation merely stood at one per cent in June 2021





The company is continuously looking at acquisition and lease opportunities and proposals in the



HOLIDAYS & RESORTS

We have set more ambitious goals to expand our global footprint with a strategy to enter North America and & Manufacturing

Europe as an Original Design (ODM) solutions provider VIR S ADVANI VC & MD. BLUE STAR

The idea behind introducina TradeIndia (TI) Lending is not just to offer SMEs the ease of doing business, it is majorly done to help them with much required financial assistance so that they can pursue their growth

SANDIP CHHETTRI | CEO, TRADEINDIA

strategies

### **SHORT TAKES**

### **Forex reserves** fall \$5.008bn

Mumbai: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$5.008 billion to \$588.314 billion in the week ended July 1, according to RBI data released Friday. In the previous week ended June 24, the reserves had increased by \$2.734 billion to \$593.323 billion. Foreign Currency Assets decreased by \$4.471 billion to \$524.745 billion in the week ended July 1, as per the Weekly Statistical Supplement, released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday. The gold reserves fell by \$504 million to \$40.422 billion in the reporting week.

### TCS Q1 profit rises 5.2% to ₹9,478cr

Mumbai: The country's largest software exporter TCS Friday reported a 5.2 per cent rise in the June quarter net profit to ₹9,478 crore, restricted by the impact of annual wage hikes and promotions that took operating profit margins to multi-quarter lows. The Tata Group company, which is the first in the country's over \$220 billion software exports industry to report earnings, however, said that it does not see any adverse business impact because of worries around recession in its key markets.

### Tata Motors global wholesales up 48%

New Delhi: Tata Motors Friday said its global wholesales. including that of Jaguar Land Rover, rose 48 per cent to 3,16,443 units in the first guarter of the current fiscal. The auto major had dispatched 2,14,250 units to dealers in the April-June quarter of 2021-22. Global wholesales of all Tata Motors' commercial vehicles and Tata Daewoo range in the first quarter stood at 1,03,529 units as compared with 52,470 units a year ago, the company said in a statement.

### HDFC Bank hikes lending rate

Mumbai: The country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank announced a 0.20 per cent hike in its marginal cost of funding based lending rate across all tenors. This is the third such move by the lender in as many months since May, and takes the overall quantum of the rate hikes to 0.80 per cent. The RBI has hiked rates by a cumulative 0.90 per cent since shifting to rate tightening in the first week of May as it saw its core objective of inflation management getting under trouble.



# June equity MFs attract ₹15,498cr

The latest inflow comes at a time when the domestic equity market is reeling under severe pressure. Besides FPIs dumped *Indian shares worth* Rs 50,203 crore in June, making it the worst net outflow in over two years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: Investors continue to back-up equity mutual funds in June as such schemes attracted a net inflow of ₹15.498 crore on strong flows from systematic investment plans (SIPs) despite volatility in the stock market and relentless selling by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) Inflows into equity mutual funds

in June was lower compared to the net inflow of ₹18.529 crore seen in May, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Friday.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021, highlighting the positive sentiment among investors. Prior to this, such schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore.

All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in June with the Flexi-cap Funds category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹2.512 crore. This was followed by the



The decline in the prices of bitcoins and Ethereum, a relatively lower return offered in other traditional investment products and an increased awareness towards long-term investing among investors has likely led to continued flows

KAVITHA KRISHNAN | SENIOR ANALYST - MANAGER RESEARCH, MORNINGSTAR INDIA

MF industry registered a net outflow of ₹69.853cr last month, as compared to a net pull out of ₹7,532cr in May This marked the 16th straight month of positive inflow in equity schemes

| lexi-cap Funds category biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹2,512cr

Gold exchange traded funds experienced a net Ginflow of ₹135 crore in June

multi-cap fund that witnessed ₹2,130 crore net infusion.

This positivity is in spite of the capital markets regulator Sebi's ban on launch of new mutual fund schemes during the June quarter.

Inflows through SIPs were at ₹12,276 crore in June as compared to ₹12,286 crore in May. Besides, the number of SIP accounts reached an all-time high at 5.54 crore in June.During the month, index funds and other ETFs combined received net inflows of ₹12,660 crore as passively managed funds have gained prominence amongst investors over recent times, and

they have been actively adding these funds in their portfolio from a diversification perspective.

However, redemptions from debt mutual funds were at a higher level, with a net outflow of ₹92,247 crore in June, as compared to a net withdrawal of ₹32,722 crore in the preceding month. Overall, the mutual fund industry registered a net outflow of ₹69,853 crore last month, as compared to a net pull out of ₹7,532 crore in May.

The outflow pulled down the average assets under management to ₹36.98 lakh crore in June, from ₹37.37 lakh crore at May-end

### RECORD HIGH

### **Defence exports at** ₹13K-cr in 2021-22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: India exported defence items and technology worth a record ₹13,000 crore in 2021-22, an impressive 54.1 per cent rise over previous year, a top defence ministry official said Friday.

The country's defence exports are chiefly to the US, the Philippines and other countries in the South-East Asia, the Middle-East and Africa.

"In 2021-22, we have recorded ₹13,000 crore of exports which is the highest ever exports number that we have recorded in defence," Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary in the Department of Defence Production (DDP), told a press briefing.

The exports in 2021-22 were almost eight times of what they were about five years back, he added.

India's defence exports were worth ₹8,434 crore in 2020-21, ₹9,115 crore in 2019-20 and ₹2,059 crore

"There has been good progress. Of course, two years of Covid-19 was a bit of a setback. But this year, we have been able to record this number (of ₹13,000 crore)," he noted.

At an event titled "Artificial Intelligence in Defence" Monday, the defence ministry will reward a private sector organisation and another from the public sector that performed the best in defence exports, he said.

Generally, he said, private sector companies dominate the defence exports market with a share of almost 90 per cent. Last year, Indian public sector companies also did well contributing 30 per cent to the country's defence exports, he added.



UK's BII to invest ₹1,925cr

in M&M's electric SUV biz

### Centre rolls back excise burden on ATF for int'l flights



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: The government has exempted domestic airlines flying overseas from paying excise duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), bringing them at parity with international carriers.

Airlines will, however, continue to pay an 11 per cent excise duty on ATF used for flying aircraft domestically.

In a notification dated July 7, the finance ministry said the exemption from both basic excise duty and special additional excise duty would be applicable retrospectively from July 1.

Domestic carriers flying abroad previously didn't pay excise duty on ATF bought from oil marketing companies. But this exemption was seen as being withdrawn when the July 1 notification slapping an export duty on ATF alongside petrol and diesel was issued

The aviation industry approached the government citing oil companies denying excise exemption to them since July 1.

The finance ministry's clarification that excise duty would not be applicable on domestic carriers for foreign flights brings them

*The finance ministry's* clarification that excise duty would not be applicable on domestic carriers for foreign flights

brings them back at par with foreign airlines for which the fuel is exempt from duty as per the Chicago convention

back at par with foreign airlines for which the fuel is exempt from duty as per the Chicago convention.

KPMG Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said, "the potential levy of excise duty on ATF supplies to a foreign going aircraft has proactively been exempted by the government, with no excise duty (basic or special) being applicable on such supplies.

"This alignment to the taxability as existent pre-imposition of excise duty on exports is a much welcome move for the airline industry, specifically in the backdrop of increasing ATF costs,

### **PRODUCTION & EXPLORATION**

### ONGC, OIL, GAIL emerge winners of OALP-VII bid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: State-owned with most of the eight blocks offered for exploration and production of oil and gas in the OALP 7th bid round even as the government launched the next bidding round, expecting \$600-700 million investment in the 10 areas on offer. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

(ONGC) won three blocks in the OALP-VII round while Oil India Ltd (OIL) won two, according to information posted by the DGH. GAIL walked away with one block in Rajasthan while Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd won the remaining two blocks.

Separately, the oil ministry said a new policy for finding and producing oil and gas, called the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), was promulgated March 30, 2016.

Since then, seven bid rounds of the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) have been concluded and 134 exploration and production blocks awarded. These



blocks cover 2,07,691 square kilometers of area across 19 sedimentary basins

"In continuation of its zeal to accelerate E&P activities, the government has now launched the OALP Bid Round-VIII, offering 10 blocks, for international competitive bidding," the ministry said in a statement. The bids are due by September 6.

"Successful award of Round-VIII Blocks would add a further 36,316 sq km of exploration acreage and cumulative exploration acreage under OALP regime will be increased to 2,44,007 sq km," it said.

"It is expected that OALP Round VIII would generate immediate exploration work commitment of around \$600-700 million," the state-

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 8: UK's development istitution British International Investment (BII) will invest up to ₹1,925 crore in Mahindra & Mahindra's electric SUV business as the automaker embarks on strengthening its presence in the fast-growing electric vehicles market.

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) will also invest up to ₹1,925 crore in its new subsidiary and it expects that electric SUVs will account for 20-30 per cent of its total SUV volumes by 2027, which translates into two-lakh cars per year, the company said Friday

BII will invest up to ₹1,925 crore in the form of compulsory convertible instruments at a valuation of up to ₹70,070 crore, resulting in 2.75 per cent to 4.76 per cent ownership in EV Co, as per the agreement between BII and M&M.

The British impact investor will initially invest ₹1,200 crore and the remaining ₹725 crore will be pumped in once EV Co achieves certain milestones. The investments The subsidiary · EV CO -- IS envisaged to have a total capital infusion of around Rs 8.000 crore between fiscal 2024 and 2027



by the entity will be only for the passenger four-wheeler segment.

M&M said it expects the first round of BII's capital investment to be completed no later than June 2023 on fulfillment of conditions precedent and the balance, post completion of certain milestones in FY24.

The funds will be utilised pri-

tric SUV portfolios with advanced technologies, the statement said.

"We are extremely delighted to have BII as a partner in our SUV electric journey. In BII, we have found a like-minded long term partner who is committed to combating the climate emergency. The Mahindra Group aims to be Planet Positive by 2040," Anish Shah, MD & CEO of M&M, said.

### marily to create and market elec-Why India ramped up Russian oil imports

Economic necessity is also behind the shift to buy Russian oil as inflation is hitting hard. Indian refiners have bought Russian oil at a lower cost although the discounts are now shrinking, while Indian govt often takes a dig at oil production strategies of OPEC

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 8: Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the United States and its allies have leaned on countries to buy less Russian oil in a bid to punish Moscow for its



Indian refiners have done the opposite, snapping up more Russian crude while the government explores ways to protect domestic oil firms from punishment should they fall foul of sanctions.

The result has been a huge leap in volumes from Russia. In May,

India imported 819,000 barrels per day (bpd), from 277,000 bpd in April and 33,000 bpd a year ago. Russia is now the second biggest supplier to India, replacing Saudi Arabia, while Iraq continues to be the largest.

European countries and the United States have imposed heavy sanctions on Russia since Moscow

India has the attitude that if China is buying, why wouldn't we? India doesn't want to be in the same position again when China continued to buy Iranian oil and India stopped it

ROBIN MILLS | CEO, QAMAR ENERGY

sent troops into Ukraine Feb 24. An Indian government official said India plans to continue with purchases of Russian oil, available at a discount that is now narrowing. "If India stops buying oil from Russia, the entire world will be chasing the same pieces of oil and that will further push up oil prices," he said.

After China, India has done more than any country to compensate for the drop in demand for Russian oil from elsewhere, undermining

Western efforts to isolate Moscow and hasten an end to the war in Ukraine.

The officials say New Delhi wants to avoid repeating what it sees as the mistakes of the past: abiding by sanctions on Iran and winding down oil imports, only to see its main regional rival China continue unpunished and benefit economically.

While PM Narendra Modi's government values good relations with Washington and the West, Indian officials say domestic needs come first and argue that Russia has been a better friend than the United States in energy cooperation.

Indian officials counter that what refiners are doing is legal and some European nations are still buying Russian oil and gas. Executives at state-owned and private refineries do not expect purchases of Russian crude to slow any time soon.

### **TAX EVASION Huawei transferred**

₹750 crore abroad INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 8: Chinese technology company Huawei has been accused by the Income Tax Department of transferring ₹750 crore to its foreign-based parent firms sources in the department have said.

The I-T had in February accused the firm of huge tax evasion and frozen its bank accounts. The I-T department has reportedly found discrepancies in its income tax declaration.

"The I-T declaration of the last two years has discrepancies. The revenue of the company was decreasing, but we have found that even in this crisis they repatriated ₹750 crore abroad," the I-T sources claimed.

Huawei had said that they were following all the norms and law of the land. The compnay had also said that due to the action of I-T department they suffered huge losses and it badly affected their business.

Huawei had moved the Delhi High Court seeking relief. The court in April stayed the attachment of the accounts of the firm. Huawei had also mentioned in its petition that the I-T department didn't give them any notice and took action which affected their business.

The I-T department has said that they have recovered incriminating evidence against the firm and on the basis of these documents they took the action.

The department had also alleged that the firm was hiding its account books. It said that the firm had given them dump transactions which were not account books and they were unable to identify the

veracity of their income. The I-T officials also wanted to access the email of Yang Yi, the Chief Financial Official of the firm, but the request was denied by



# RAFA paves way for NICK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon (UK), July 8: Rafael Nadal withdrew from Wimbledon because of a torn abdominal muscle on Thursday, a day before he was supposed to play Nick Kyrgios in the semifinals.

It is the first time since 1931 that a man pulled out of the oldest Grand Slam tournament before a semifinal or final. "I made my decision be cause I believe that I can't win two matches under these circumstances,' Nadal said at a news conference at the All England Club. "I can't serve. It's not only that I can't serve at the right speed, it's that I can't do the normal movement to serve.

The 22-time major champion sighed occasionally while answering questions in English, then Spanish, for more than 20 minutes total. He twice described himself as "very sad." Nadal said trying to continue to compete could make the injury worse. The only other time in his career that Nadal gave a walkover to an opponent by pulling out of a Grand Slam tournament prior to a match came at the 2016 French Open, when he withdrew before the third round because of an iniured left wrist

The 40th-ranked Kyrgios, a 27year-old from Australia, advanced

to his first title match at a major tournament and becomes the first unseeded men's finalist at Wimbledon since Mark Philippoussis, who lost to Roger Federer in 2003.

Kyrgios will meet either threetime defending champion and No.1 seed Novak Djokovic or No.9 Cam Norrie of Britain for the championship Sunday.

The second-seeded Nadal, a 36year-old from Spain, is 19-0 in Grand Slam action in 2022, including trophies at the Australian Open in January and the French Open in June. That put him halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam for the first time in his career.

Nadal has been bothered by a stomach muscle for about a week, and the pain became nearly unbearable in the first set of his 4-hour, 21-minute victory via fifth-set tiebreaker against Taylor Fritz in the quarterfinals Wednesday

After that match, Nadal said he had considered stopping before it was over — and could not be certain whether he would feel well enough to play again

He wore two strips of athletic tape on his lower stomach and took a medical timeout to take painkilling from the stands for him to quit. Thursday's off day, Nadal went to the All England Club for a light practice session. He was signed up on the official schedule to train on one of the competition

courts but did

not show up there, instead opting for practice courts to which fans don't have ac-

Mostly content to hit forehands and backhands, Nadal did attempt a few serves — the part of his game



Those practice serves Thursday were generally tapped in, by Nadal's standards. not with any of the body-torqueing effort

he usually uses. "I was thinking during the whole day about the decision to make," Nadal said.

It's not far from what went on with Nadal at Roland Garros, where he took repeated injections to numb the chronic pain in his left foot and insisted he had no idea when he might reach the point of not being able to take the court.

He tried a new treatment after leaving Paris, and that worked well enough, Nadal said, to allow him to walk without limping. His level of play through five matches on Wimbledon's grass was such that he thought he had a chance to win a third title at the tournament, after those in 2008 and 2010.

The injury changed things, of course. "I don't want to go out there, not be competitive enough to play at the level that I need to play to achieve my goal," he said. Nadal said he thought he might be sidelined for about a month or so. The year's last Grand Slam tournament, the US

# Historic firsts for Rybakina, Jabeur

Wimbledon, July 8: Thursday turned out to be historic ones for Elena Rybakina and Ons Jabeur as both the players became the firsts from their country to reach Grand Slam final.

Rybakina became the first player from Kazakhstan to reach a major final after defeating 2019 champion Simona Halep of Romania in straight sets 6-3, 6-3 at Wimbledon.

Earlier on the day, Jabeur's steady progress from year to year had carried her to a Grand Slam singles final, the first woman from Africa to make it that far in the professional era. The No.3-seeded Jabeur, a 27year-old from Tunisia, got past her good friend Tatjana Maria 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 in an up-and-down semifinal at a sun-splashed Centre Court.

Now both the players will face off for the title, Saturday. Jabeur leads their head-to-head record 2-1, with Rybakina winning their first encounter in 2019 but Jabeur taking both meetings last year.

This week, Rybakina became the first player representing Kazakhstan, female or male, to reach a Grand Slam singles semifinal, and she has now gone one step further to break more new ground for that nation.

Rybakina, who becomes the youngest Wimbledon finalist since Garbine Muguruza in 2015, is seeking her third career singles title, but

her first in two-and-a-half years. Rybakina won titles at 2019 Bucharest and 2020 Hobart, and she reached four finals in her first five tournaments of a breakthrough 2020. However, Rybakina is 2-6 in finals overall, including a loss to then-World No.1 Ashleigh Barty at Adelaide in January of this year

Rybakina has taken the mantle of 'Ace Queen' this season, leading



the WTA Tour in that statistic. She added five aces Thursday, bringing her total for the year to 219. But Rybakina has exhibited a variety of exceptional shots all tournament, not just the serve. She did so again versus Halep, taking charge from all sectors of the court and hit-

Halep saw her 14 winners undone by eight double faults, two of which came while facing break point. Former World No.1 Halep had not lost a set en route to the semifinals, but she could not blunt the

ting 17 winners.

fiery hitting by Rybakina, losing a completed match to the Kazakh

Jabeur, on the other hand, is on quite a run right now. She has won 11 consecutive matches and 22 of her past 24. Since pro players were first admitted to major tennis tournaments in 1968, never had an African been to a final. She also is the first Arab woman to get that far.

Jabeur has been rising in the tennis world in recent seasons. In 2020, at the Australian Open, she became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals at a major. Last year produced all sorts of milestones: first Arab player to break into the top 10 of the men's or women's rankings, first Arab to win a WTA title and a quarterfinal appearance at Wimbledon. Now she's done that two steps better.

When she closed out the biggest victory of her career, she and Maria -a 34-year-old mother of two from Germany who is ranked 103th met at the net for an extended hug.

Jabeur whispered something in her pal's ear. Then, after depositing her racket on the sideline, Jabeur returned to the middle of the court for the usual victor's wave to the crowd — except, instead of going alone, she playfully tugged Maria along with her, an uncom-

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

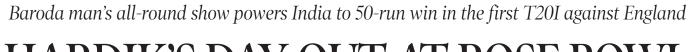
9 from Khurda district named for Wushu meet



BHUBANESWAR: Nine players from Khurda district have been selected for the forthcoming Junior Wushu National Championships, The event is going to be held from July 9-15 at Luhanu Sports Complex in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. Pradyumna Behera, the general secretary of Wushu Association of Odisha here notified the participants, which include Biswajit Pani, Lavanya Pati, Divyanshi Mohanty, Akash Nanda, Rudra Pratap Rout, Pratigyan Behera, Ayush Bose, Subhasree Patra, Vanishaka Pati from the district.

### **India to tour Zimbabwe**

**NEW DELHI:** India are set to tour Zimbabwe for a three-match ODI series next month. The dates are vet to be officially announced, but 'Cricbuzz' has reported that the three games, which will be part of the ICC One-Day Super League, have been tentatively scheduled for August 18, 20 and 22 respectively. The matches are significant from Zimbabwe's point of view as the points from the series will count towards qualification for next year's ODI World Cup.



# HARDIK'S DAY OUT AT ROSE BOWL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Southampton, July 8: Hardik Pandya (51, 33b, 6x4, 1x6; 4/33) reigned supreme with one of the finest all-round performances in recent times as India bossed England to emerge winners by 50 runs in the first T20I here. The swashbuckling all-rounder

led India's aggressive batting display, propelling the visitors to 198/8 after they opted to bat first. Hardik then destroyed England's batting with his full quota of four overs. He became only the fourth player from full member nations to score a fifty and take four wickets in a T20I match. England's innings ended at 148 in 19.3 overs.

This was Hardik's first T20I half century, helping India score at a brisk pace in the middle overs after Rohit Sharma (24, 14b, 5x4), Deepak Hooda (33, 17b, 3x4, 2x6) and Suryakumar Yadav (39, 19b, 4x4, 2x6) set it up with their enterprising knocks.

Motoring along at 178/5 at the end of 17th over, India failed to finish their innings with a flourish on a belter of a pitch. But that did not matter in the end, despite India

spilling a few catches. Defending 199, India had a dream



A PERFECT SHOW: Hardik Pandya celebrates after dismissing Liam Livingstone (not in pic), Thursday

start as Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/10) bowled skipper Jos Buttler with a beautiful inswinger, having tested Jason Rov with four outswingers.

Coming off his fine show with the bat, Hardik delivered with the ball in his very first over not once, but twice, removing Dawid Malan (21) and Liam Livingstone (0) to leave England at 29/3 in the fifth

Hardik was not done yet as he ended Roy's painstaking stay in

the middle when he had the opener caught at third man after a thick edge. He capped off a memorable outing by taking the wicket of Sam Curran. The left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who made his international debut, finished his 3.3 over spell with 2/18.

Earlier, seeking to make up for the lost time after missing the fifth Test against England owing to COVID-19, Rohit got India off to a brisk start. However, Moeen Ali,

after being hit for a couple of boundaries, came back strongly to dismiss the India skipper just when he was beginning to look ominous.

Coming off his maiden century against Ireland, Hooda started from where he left off in the previous game at Malahide, smashing Moeen high over long-on for two massive sixes. That he opened his account with a maximum showed the kind of confidence that the man from Rohtak carried into The Rose Bowl, also known as the Ageas Bowl.

And even though Moeen enjoyed his second breakthrough in the form of Ishan Kishan, who did not look to be in control of his pull shots, India continued with their attacking approach.

Hooda and Suryakumar then continued to be aggressive and by the time the duo got out, India were 126/4 inside 12 overs. Pandya then got into the act before a late collapse

restricted India below 200. BRIEF SCORES: India 198/8 (Hardik Pandya 51, Suryakumar Yadav 39, Deepak Hooda 33; Chris Jordan 2/23, Moeen Ali 2/26) beat England 148 (Moeen Ali 36, Harry Brook 28, Chris Jordan 26 n o; Hardik Pandya 4/33, Arshdeep Singh 2/18)

# against New Zealand

India eves suffer loss-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen, July 8: A wasteful India lost 3-4 to New Zealand in their final Pool B match but still remained in contention for a quarterfinal berth of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup after finishing third in their group here.

New Zealand topped Pool B with seven points ahead of England (4), while India and China finished on two points apiece but progressed on account of a better goal difference.

According to the tournament format, the top four sides from four pools will directly qualify for the quarterfinals, while the second and third placed teams will feature in the crossovers.

The winner of the crossover matches will grab the remaining four quarterfinal spots. India will play the second placed team of Pool C, co-hosts Spain, in their crossover match at Terassa Sunday.

India should have sealed the game in regulation 60 minutes if not for an uncountable missed chances, including as many as 15 penalty corners, out of which they converted just one.

Vandana Katariya (4th minute), Lalremsiami (44th) and Gurjit Kaur (59th) were the goal scorers for India on Thursday, while New Zealand sounded the board through Olivia Merry's brace (12th, 54th), Tessa Jopp (29th) and Frances Davies (32nd).

The Indians started brightly, enjoying early possession and their efforts bore fruit when a diving Vandana deflected in Lalremsiami's bush after a quick turn from inside the D in the fourth minute.

New Zealand secured their first penalty corner in the 12th minute and Olivia Merry found the net with a routine shot through the legs of India skipper and custodian Savita to level the scores.

India were punished by New Zealand for lapse in concentration a minute before halftime when an opportunist Jopp scored from a goal-mouth melee

New Zealand came out attacking after the change of ends and secured back-to-back set pieces, the second of which was converted by Davies. It was all India thereafter as they secured penalty corners in numbers but failed to utilise the chances.

Lalremsiami pulled a goal back for India in the 44th minute neatly deflecting in Sushila Chanu's pass. India went on the offensive in the final quarter and secured a barrage of PCs. only to waste them again.

New Zealand got their two goal lead back when Merry scored from another set piece. But Gurjit finally scored from a set piece when she converted India's 13th penalty corner in the 59th minute.

# Prannoy in semis, Sindhu fails to crack Tai Tzu code



Kuala Lumpur, July 8: A fighting HS Prannoy edged out Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama to progress to the semifinals but two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu couldn't find a way to get past her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tour-

nament here Friday. Prannoy, a former top 10 player, continued his consistent run an weathered the storm against World No.14 Tsuneyama to emerge victories 25-23, 22-20 in the 60-minute quarterfinal clash, which ebbed

and flowed throughout.

One of the heroes of India's monumental Thomas Cup win in May, Prannoy will face Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus, seeded 8th, in

the last four. A week after being outwitted by Tai Tzu Ying at Malaysia Open, seventh seed Sindhu once again fell short against the World No.2

Taiwanese, losing 13-21, 21-12, 12-21. It was Sindhu's 17th career defeat to the Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, who has prevailed over the Indian in all their last seven meetings. The last time Sindhu had defeated Tzu Ying was en route to her 2019 World Championship gold in Basel, Switzerland.

The men's singles contest turned out to be a game of cat and mouse as the two highly-skilled players engaged in a battle of one-upmanship, with Prannoy showing better nerves as he saved game points twice to come up trumps against Tsuneyama.

In the women's competition, it was business as usual for Tzu Ying as she rode her precision and deceptive game to get past Sindhu, who once again flattered to de-



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