



## ROOTED IN TRADITION

Actor Ananya Panday seeks blessings from co-star Vijay Deverakonda's mother ahead of the release of their upcoming film 'Liger'

LEISURE P2



## 'HERE TO KILL THE QUEEN'

An Indian man arrested at Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle home last year has told the court he wanted to kill her

INTERNATIONAL P10



## DOUBTS DISAPPEAR

Men's hockey World Cup 2023 confirmed in Odisha after FIH rules out possibility of ban on HI

SPORTS P12

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## Sundarpada locals suffer as officials spar over authority

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 17:** The outskirts of the Odisha capital witnessed severe inundation Wednesday in Sundarpada locality as water from the Daya river entered many houses bringing normal life to a standstill.

Eye-witnesses said floodwaters entered and rose above the ground level in a large number of residences and flooded roads and cars. Locals said that power and drinking water supply was also disrupted due to the inundation. Fire services and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) personnel were seen rescuing residents on inflatable boats or carrying the marooned people physically on their shoulders in waist-deep water to safer locations.

Meanwhile, reacting to the problems put on social media by the Sundarpada residents, SRC PK Jena asked the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to intervene and take immediate



measures to pump out floodwater from the Sundarpada locality.

However BMC officials said that the area does not come under their jurisdiction and so they are not obligated to intervene. "We are prepared for any such adverse situation in the state capital or areas that are under the BMC's authority. The Sundarpada locality comes under Jatni tahsildar," a BMC official said.

ODRAF personnel informed that anti-venom kits in case of snakebites have been distributed in the locality. They added that drinking water is also being provided. Some of the affected people said that they will move to the homes of their relatives.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We provided Sri Lanka enough food aid, sir. But now they want to savour Chinese food as well!

## REMEMBERING THE WARRIOR KING



Artists from Maharashtra perform Wednesday in Agra as part of the Garuda Udan Yatra to pay tributes to Chhatrapati Shivaji

PTI PHOTO

## Over 4L students qualify in 1st phase of Plus-II admissions

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 17:** Among the 4,80,704 students who had applied online for admission to various streams in Plus-II courses, a total of 4,04,400 have been selected in the first phase. The first selection merit list for the 2022-23 academic session was released Wednesday by the School and Mass Education department.

While 2,49,713 students were selected for admission into Arts stream, 1,17,653 qualified for Science, 25,005 in Commerce, 7,001 in Sanskrit and 5,028 in Vocational courses. In the first phase of admission, 2,00,523 students are males while the remaining are females.

As per the list released by the department, Ravenshaw Higher Secondary School, Cuttack and the BJB Higher Secondary School in the Odisha capital were the top-ranking and most sought after institutions.

According to the marks uploaded in the Students' Academic Management System (SAMS) portal, Ravenshaw School posted the highest cut-off percentage of 94.33 in Science and 84.17 in Commerce.

The first round of admissions take place August 19 to August 25.

## Flood situation worsens

Close to 5 lakh people of more than 2,100 villages in 18 districts affected with no signs of situation improving soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 17:** Over 4.91 lakh people in 2,110 villages under 78 blocks and 18 ULBs of 18 districts have so far been affected by the flood and heavy rainfall. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said here Wednesday. Due to heavy rainfall and subsequent floods, over 2.5 lakh people in 425 villages have remained marooned while more than 60,000 people have been evacuated to safer places. Cooked food is being served to about 58,000 people at different shelters, Jena informed.

As per the preliminary reports, about 4.67 lakh people in 1,757 villages under 64 blocks and 10 ULBs of 12 districts have so far been affected by the flood while over 2.26 lakh people in 425 villages have remained marooned.

The worst flood affected districts are - Angul, Bargarh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagarh, Puri, Sambalpur and Sonepur.

Meanwhile the flood situation in Odisha's Mahanadi river system remained grim as it continued to swell, with around 1.5 lakh people in 237 villages being marooned, Engineer in Chief, Water Resources department, BK Mishra said.

"The water level in Hirakud dam



Houses lie marooned in Cuttack's Brajibiharipur locality after the Mahanadi river overflowed its banks Wednesday

## HOARDERS WARNED

**Bhubaneswar:** Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabvasachi Nayak warned of stringent action against hoarders and black marketers amid the flood situation in Odisha. Nayak has ordered for the formation of special squads to prevent hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities in flood-affected districts.

stands at 626.47 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet. The reading at Mundali barrage near Cuttack declined to 11,77,024 cusecs against 12 lakh cusecs Tuesday. We expect this water level to continue for another 24 hours," Mishra stated. He also added

## PURI SCHOOLS SHUT

**Puri:** Officials of the Puri district administration announced Wednesday that all schools, both government and private, will remain closed for two days (Wednesday and Thursday) due to flood situation. A copy of the order has been sent to all district and block education officers for necessary action, an official said.

that with the Mahanadi continuing to swell, the situation could turn worse in the districts of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Khurda.

Jena also informed that the flow of floodwater reached its peak in the Mahanadi delta region after

midnight of Tuesday. He said breaches have been reported at two places in the Mahanadi river system - one in Makara river in Puri district and the other at Rajua Raiki river in Khurda. Efforts are on at war footing to plug these breaches, Jena stated.

Meanwhile, the meteorological department has forecast the formation of a fresh low pressure area over northern Bay of Bengal and said there will be heavy rainfall Friday in many districts of the state. Yellow warning (very heavy rainfall) has been issued for 20 districts and orange (heavy) for 17 districts.

Continued on P4

## BJP rejigs apex board, axes Gadkari, Chouhan

■ Former Union Ministers Jual Oram and Shahnawaz Hussain also dropped as the party wants to portray a more regional face

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 17:** In a major shake-up Wednesday, the BJP dropped Union Minister and former party president Nitin Gadkari and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan from its parliamentary board, the apex organisational body. The saffron party brought in six new members, including former Karnataka CM, BS Yediyurappa and Punjab leader Iqbal Singh Lalpura.

The party also rejigged its central election committee (CEC) and named Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav among its new members. Gadkari and Chouhan also ceased to be CEC members after their ouster from the parliamentary board.

All apex board members, which include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh and BJP president JP Nadda, automatically become part of the CEC, which has some additional members as well. The omission of Gadkari and

Chouhan marks their diminishing stock within the party which has tried to make its key organisational bodies more socially and regionally representative by bringing in members of different communities.

Former Union Ministers - Jual Oram, Shahnawaz Hussain and former BJP 'Mahila Morcha' chief Vijaya Rahatkar have also been removed from the CEC.

The other new board members are K Laxman, Sudha Yadav and Satyanarayan Jatiya while the new entrants to the CEC are Rajasthan leader Om Mathur and BJP women wing chief Vanathi Srinivasan besides Fadnavis and Bhupendra.

This is the first time the BJP parliamentary board has been rejigged under Nadda, who took over as the party president in 2020. The board had several vacancies caused by the death of Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj while Venkaiah Naidu and Thawarchand Gehlot had to leave it after becoming Vice-President and state governor respectively.

Among the new board members, Sudha and Laxman are from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) while former Union Minister Jatiya is from the Scheduled Castes.

Yediyurappa's inclusion highlights BJP's efforts to reward the Lingayat leader whose community is critical to its poll prospects in the state Assembly elections next year.

## ED 'Kick' for Jacqueline over extortion

THE PROBE AGENCY IN ITS CHARGE SHEET HAS SAID THAT THE ACTOR RECEIVED GIFTS WORTH ₹10 CRORE FROM MONEY GENERATED BY CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

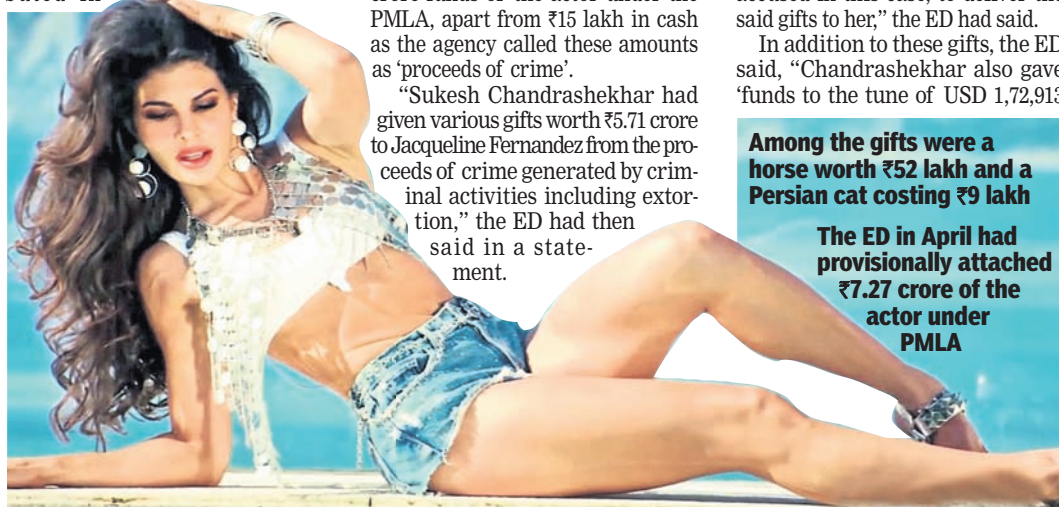
AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 17:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed Wednesday a charge sheet naming actor Jacqueline Fernandez as an accused in a multi-crore money laundering case linked to alleged conman Suresh Chandrasekhkar and others, official sources said.

The federal probe agency filed the fresh (second supplementary) charge sheet or prosecution complaint in this case Wednesday before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court here and sources said, the actor has been arraigned in it as an accused. The court will take up the charge sheet for taking cognisance August 31.

The 37-year-old actor has been questioned multiple times by the agency in this case, the last being in June.

Jacqueline, a Sri Lankan national, debuted in



Hindi films in 2009. Earlier the ED in April had provisionally attached ₹7.27 crore funds of the actor under the PMLA, apart from ₹15 lakh in cash as the agency called these amounts as 'proceeds of crime'.

"Suresh Chandrasekhkar had given various gifts worth ₹5.71 crore to Jacqueline Fernandez from the proceeds of crime generated by criminal activities including extortion," the ED had then said in a statement.

"Chandrasekhkar had put Pinky Irani, his long-time associate and co-accused in this case, to deliver the said gifts to her," the ED had said.

In addition to these gifts, the ED said, "Chandrasekhkar also gave 'funds to the tune of' USD 1,72,913

Among the gifts were a horse worth ₹52 lakh and a Persian cat costing ₹9 lakh

The ED in April had provisionally attached ₹7.27 crore of the actor under PMLA

(about ₹1.3 crore as per current exchange rate) and AUD 26,740 (approx. ₹14 lakh) to close family members of Jacqueline out of the proceeds of crime."

The actor had informed the ED, in her statement recorded in August and October last year, that she 'received' gifts like three designer bags from Gucci and Chanel, two Gucci outfits for gym wear, a pair of Louis Vuitton shoes, two pairs of diamond earrings and a bracelet of multi-coloured stones and two Hermes bracelets from Chandrasekhkar. She had also informed the probe agency that she returned a Mini Cooper car which had been gifted to her.

The ED however, said that she also received a horse worth ₹52 lakh and a Persian cat worth ₹9 lakh and the total amount of gifts to her had been to the tune of ₹10 crore.

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FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Go with the flow. At least that's what Ganesh suggests where relationships are concerned. You can be your assertive self some other time. Today, you can be large-hearted and fulfill your beloved's wishes, maybe even propose. What say?

TAURUS

You are likely to get into arguments today, predicts Ganesh. You should avoid any open confrontation. Legal disputes may bother you as well. Try your hand at meditation or resort to music of your preference to relax and unwind. It is best if you delay the start of any important activity today, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today, your house gets a facelift — a new rug, matching cushion covers, or a brand new kitchen. This will take up most of your time. First, you will be busy furnishing and setting up your home, and then you will spend your time flaunting it to your friends, relatives, neighbours, bosses, colleagues, acquaintances.

CANCER

A string of domestic responsibilities awaits you; today, you are about to realise that it is a long, long string. Chances are that this sudden rise in work pressure may also lead to blood pressure problems. Ganesh advises you to stop presuming how people may react to everything; also, avoid being too proud to avoid excess heartache.

LEO

Nothing will overshadow your love for your kids today, and they will be the number one priority for you. It seems like a good day to take time out and monitor their progress in school; so, do not skip that PTA meeting. Remember, there are various ways to teach children, so consider taking them out on a small picnic or a field trip to help educate them better.

VIRGO

A fear of the unknown will keep lurking in your mind today. The shadow will only grow larger as the day progresses. You may find yourself spending too much on your foreign friends. Ganesh advises you to be cautious in this regard today.

LIBRA

Ganesh says your children will gain achievements that will have you feel proud of them. You will get monetary benefit either by increment in salary or by inheritance. You will be able to gain substantial gains by investing in real estate or buying insurance policies.

SCORPIO

It's the same old rut today, says Ganesh. Nothing new, nothing exciting. People from the opposite sex, however, may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Your stars are aligned in a way that you may have to travel long distance, either for business or for leisure. Socially, you are active as you are likely to attend a function and take the centre stage. You may also participate in religious activities and give importance of rites and rituals, if need be, informs Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

You have sacrificed a lot on enjoyment with friends and family, done some back-breaking work and kept your focus to reach where you are right now. Ganesh gives you a pat on your back for all the hard work you've put in. Now, it is time to watch the tree bear fruits. With some additional responsibilities, promotion in terms of salary or position is on the cards for you.

AQUARIUS

You will not need a reason to party today. Be it the news of a friend getting married or you buying a new car, you are in a mood to celebrate life like anything! Apart from this, you will have a smooth sailing through out the day, foresees Ganesh. If you are a businessman or a professional, you will move one step closer to your target.

PISCES

Looking at your planetary positions for today, there is a likelihood that you will suffer from reversals in fortunes financially. Hence be wary when it comes to financial dealings.



ANNE HECHÉ NAMED MILEY CYRUS TO PLAY HER IN BIOPIC

Late actress Anne Heche had said that she would love to see Miley Cyrus play her if a movie was ever made about her life. She said this in an episode of the *Behind the Velvet Rope* with David Yontef podcast recorded seven months before her fatal car crash.

DE NIRO TO SHARE SCREEN WITH HIMSELF IN WISE GUYS

Robert De Niro is set to offer double bonanza to his fans as he is all set to star in a dual role in the upcoming gangster drama *Wise Guys*. The movie will be directed by veteran filmmaker Barry Levinson, who is known for *Rain Man* and *Wag the Dog*.



Deepika shares her on-set vibes

**Mumbai:** Deepika Padukone is one of the most successful Indian actresses with a career spanning more than a decade and a half. Apart from entertaining fans with her acting performances, Deepika also treats them to glimpses of her personal and professional lives on social media every now and then.

She recently treated fans to behind-the-scenes photos from sets. The pictures included in her post showed the actress getting ready for a shoot and her stylist helping her to look good for the camera. In it, she can be seen flaunting her million-dollar smile in a photo as she interacts with her cameraman. In other photos, she can be seen getting her hair styled by a hairstylist. Taking

to her Instagram, Deepika captioned the photos: "I always mean business on set! #setlife"

As soon as she shared the photos, they were flooded with likes and comments. Reacting to Deepika's photos, one of her fans commented, "#deepikapadukone the queen." While another user said, "I don't know why you always look beautiful in every situation." Another fan wrote, "#girlcrush." One more commented, "She is amazing with short hair."

Apart from her upcoming movie *Pathaan* with Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika will feature next in *Fighter*, *Project K*, and *The Intern*.

AGENCIES



Ananya seeks blessings from Vijay's mother



**Mumbai:**

Actor Ananya Pandey seeks blessings from her co-star Vijay Deverakonda's mother at his residence in Hyderabad ahead of the release of her upcoming sports action film *Liger*.

Taking to Instagram, the *Khaali Peeli* actor dropped a string of pictures which she captioned, "Blessings from Vijay's amma @deverakonda and a pooja at his home in Hyderabad for #Liger #Thankful #Grateful #Blessed thank you auntyyyyy."

In the first picture, the *Liger* couple could be seen sitting on the sofa with joined hands, smiling faces and red shawls on their shoulders.

In a picture, a group of priests could be seen standing in front of Vijay and Ananya along with the *Arjun Reddy* actor's mother in a green saree.

Vijay also shared the post on his Instagram stories, which he captioned, "This whole month touring across India and receiving so much love already felt like god's blessing! But mummy feels we needed his protection :) as Pooja and sacred bands for all of us. Now she will sleep in peace while we continue our tour #Liger" AGENCIES

CHINTA O CHETANA'S MONSOON FESTIVAL

Fusion of dance, music marks 2nd evening of 'Barsha' Utsav

**BHUBANESWAR:** The second evening of 44th edition of 'Barsha', a four-day cultural event of dance, painting and music by Chinta O Chetana, witnessed a fusion of dance and music here at Rabindra Mandap, Wednesday.

The evening was dedicated to former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, one of the chief architects of modern Odisha.

The event opened with a mardala recital by eminent musician Jagannath Kuanr and group. Needless to say, the attendees were spellbound by Kuanr's magical performance.

The viewers were next treated to classical performance by eminent Odissi danseuse Ileana Citaristi and her group Art Vision showcasing the magic of monsoon.

Led by Guru Prabhat Kumar Swain and the members of Nritya Naivedya presented *Megha Malhar*; a recital in the glory of rain. It was the third perform-



ance of the evening.

Among the dignitaries who attended the event included Kadambini editor Itirani Samanta, National President of Chinta O Chetana Sashibhusan Behera, President Sahadeva Sahoo, Secretary Surendra Das and musician Laxmikant Palit.

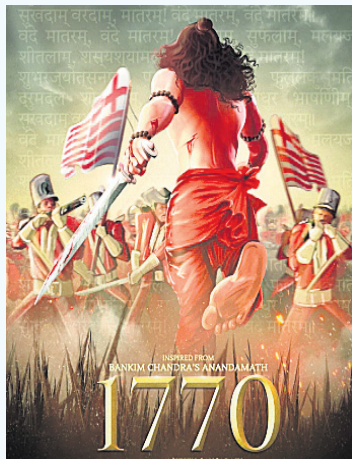
In the third evening the audience will get the opportunity to enjoy some soulful recitals by singers like Subash Das, Debasish Mohapatra, Bijay Jena, Abhijeet Mishra and Rabindra Palit, said the organisers.

PNN



Rajamouli's protégé to helm *Anandamath* adaptation

The iconic novel of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was last adapted for screen in 1952 titled 'Anand Math' starring Prithviraj Kapoor, Bharat Bhushan, Ajit and Geeta Bali



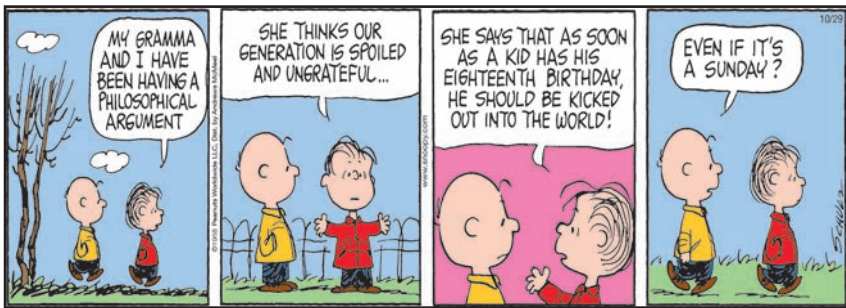
**Chennai:** Director S S Rajamouli's protégé Ashwin Gangaraju is to direct the magnum opus 1770, which will be based on Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's Bengali novel *Anandamath*.

The producers of the film -- Shhailendra Kumar, Sujayy Kuttij, Krishna Kumar B and Suraj Sharma -- released a motion poster of the film Wednesday to mark 150 years of Vande Mataram.

"This subject was a huge challenge for me, but with legendary V Vijayendra Prasad sir writing the adapted story

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

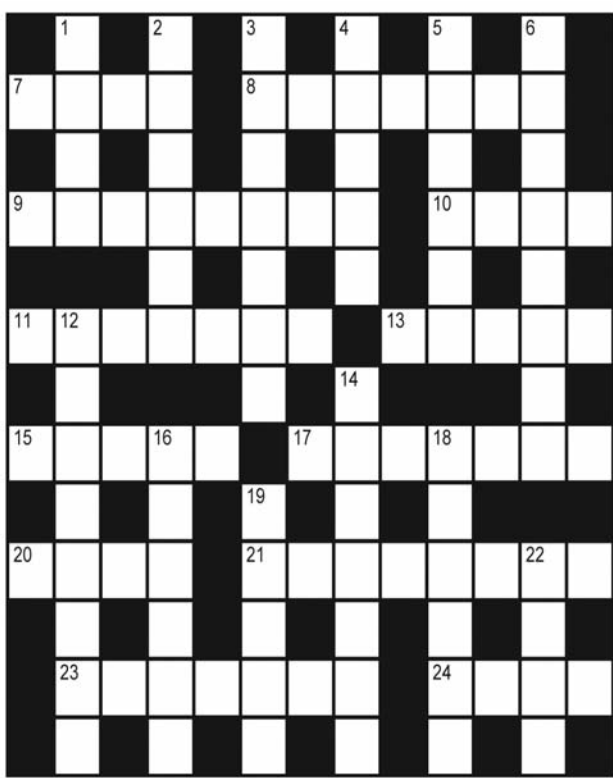


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 7 Bonkers
- 8 Tackle
- 9 Poured
- 10 Stately trees
- 11 Millstones
- 13 Wish granter
- 15 Flower holders
- 17 Narratives

- 20 Bone-dry
- 21 Expressive style
- 23 Gusher (3,4)
- 24 Knight fight

Down

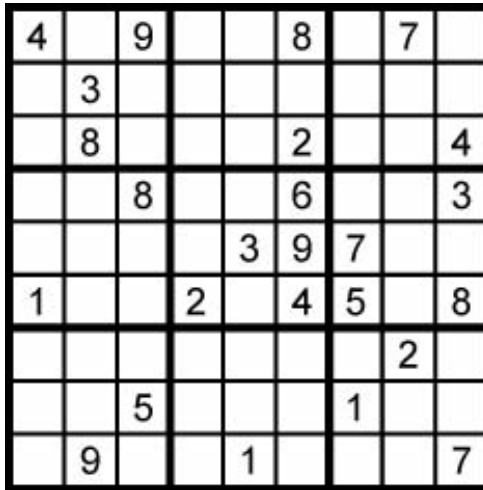
- 1 Stallion's mate
- 2 Within reach (2,4)
- 3 Durable

- 4 Author's room
- 5 Obstruct
- 6 Food poisoning
- 12 Kind of motive
- 14 Church tower
- 16 Be a busybody
- 18 Perches
- 19 Stream
- 22 Not engaged

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

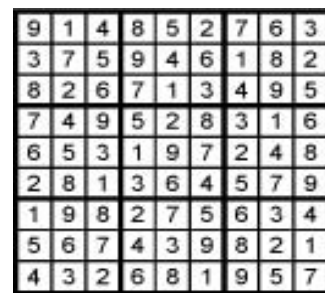


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU









RSP creates new production records

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 17:** The Hot Strip Mill (HSM)-2 of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has created new production records by rolling 7,073 tonne of slabs and producing 320 hot rolled (HR) coils worth 6,896 tonne August 15, an official said Wednesday.

The previous best single day rolling of 6,818 tonne of slab and 6,689 tonne of HR coil was achieved by the HSM-2 June 19, 2022.

This part, HSM-2 also clocked the record single shift HR coil production in 'B' shift of August 15 by rolling 2,735 tonne of slab and making 2,670 tonne of HR coil in the shift, said the RSP official, adding that the previous best record of rolling 2,600 tonne of slab and 2,524 tonne of HR coil for any single shift was achieved August 8, 2022.

RSP director (in-charge) Atanu Bhowmick has congratulated the HSM-2 collective and all the associated units stating that this be the beginning of a glorious journey of the mill in the 'Amrit Kaal'.



RSP executive director (Works) SR Suryawanshi visited HSM-2 August 16 to congratulate the collective for the remarkable performance. "The splendid performance signifies the spirit, determination and professionalism of the collective," he said.

With 3MTPA capacity, the HSM-2 is a state-of-the-art mill with few parallels in India and will be producing world-class HR coils. The mill was commissioned March 31, 2022.

Shot in the arm for state's skilling and employability

THE DIGITAL SKILLING PROGRAMS OF MICROSOFT AND ITS PARTNERS WILL EMPOWER STUDENTS FROM VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ENABLING THEM TO HAVE CAREERS IN TECHNOLOGY



EXTENDING HIS WISHES THROUGH A VIDEO MESSAGE, CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK SAID, "I'M HAPPY TO KNOW THAT OSDA IS SIGNING FORGING TWO NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN ITS PURSUIT TO MAKE 'SKILLED-IN-ODISHA' A GLOBAL BRAND"

WHILE AUTODESK WILL ENABLE OUR STUDENTS TO GET EXPOSED TO DIGITAL MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRY 4.0, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MICROSOFT WILL LEAD TO DIGITAL SKILLING ACROSS SOCIETY, OSDA CHAIRMAN SUBROTO BAGCHI SAID

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 17:** In a bid to boost the skilling and employability in state, the Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) inked pacts with tech giants Autodesk and Microsoft India besides launching three portals—GoSkill, Digital and PIA Payment Automation— during an event organised at the World Skill Center here, Wednesday.

Through collaboration with Autodesk, a company that specialises in 3D design, engineering and entertainment software de-

velopment, OSDA aims at upskilling the youths perusing technical courses in the state. The MoU was signed between OSDA Chief Executive Officer Reghu G and APAC Director Conway Goh.

OSDA has signed three MoUs with Microsoft and its non-profit partners. "The digital skilling programs of Microsoft and its partners will empower undergraduates, students from vocational educational institutions and youth/job seekers, enabling careers in technology sector," said an official, adding that the MoUs were signed between OSDA Chief

Executive Officer Reghu G and Microsoft India Director (Public Sector) Sumit Mukhaerjee.

Extending his wishes through a video message, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "I'm happy to know that OSDA is signing forging two new partnerships in its pursuit to make 'Skilled-In-Odisha' a global brand."

Speaking on the occasion, OSDA Chairman Subroto Bagchi said it is a historic day for OSDA. "While Autodesk will enable our students to get exposed to Digital Manufacturing & Industry 4.0, our relationship with Microsoft will lead to digital skilling across society. We hope that both Autodesk and Microsoft will create significant employment opportunities for our youth in the years to come," added Bagchi.

Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjana Gharai said the partnerships will open new windows for technical learning and education in Odisha. "Institutions, students and faculty across the state will be able to quickly and easily access world-class software. This will take technical learning to a next level," Gharai said.

The launch of the portals is a testament to state's journey of '5T' transformational initiatives to improve the effective delivery of skill development programs in Odisha, he said.

CM releases 'Bridging Centuries'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 17:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday released a collection of paintings by eminent artist Shyamsunder Pattanayak titled 'Bridging Centuries'.

The book is an artist's impression on the times of emperor Kharvela and Kalinga Empire as depicted in the carvings of Udayagiri cave. Appreciating the work of Pattanayak, the Chief Minister said that this great work will play a key role in highlighting ancient art, history and heritage of Odisha.

The book has been published by Ila Panda Centre for Arts (IPCA), with a mission for showcasing, promoting and conserving the visual arts of Odisha.

With this collection of paintings, Pattanayak has attempted to recreate the art and culture of ancient Kalinga by highlighting the images, inscription and carvings of Udayagiri.

HELPING HAND



Members of a social outfit distributing dry food packets to flood-affected people at Dhabaleswar Ring Road area in Cuttack, Wednesday

Does entitlement make you more likely to cheat?

Why do people cheat? An intriguing study by two Israeli researchers in 2016 put forward a possible reason that has since become well established in the scientific literature and popular media.

The researchers reported a series of experiments apparently showing that people told they have won a skill-based competition, such as a visual task, subsequently cheat more than others in games of chance, such as dice games. The proposed explanation was that winners experienced a sense of entitlement that induced them to cheat.

The paper has been highly cited by other researchers. One scientific comment paper even pointed out its significance in the light of tax evasion costing governments US\$3.1 trillion (£2.6 trillion) annually.

But does the finding hold up to scientific scrutiny? We decided to replicate the study and investigate more closely the reasons why people do or don't cheat.

Our new study, published in Royal Society Open Science, failed twice to replicate the original finding. We found that the original experiments were "statistically underpowered", meaning they used far too few experimental participants (43 in their main experiment) to sustain the conclusions that were drawn.

There were also problems of experimental design and methodology, notably a failure to randomly decide which participants were winners, losers, or part of a control group that weren't told how they had done in the skill-based competition.

We began by replicating the original research as closely as possible, but in a large-scale experiment (252 participants) to achieve adequate statistical power. We also assigned participants randomly to conditions.

To assign winners and losers, we used the perceptual judgement test used in the original experiment. The test involves the difficult task of estimating which of



Participants who dislike inequality cheated less than others. This is presumably because they had a stronger sense of fairness and considered cheating unfair

Research suggests people's feelings about inequality are one part of the explanation. There are also momentary circumstantial factors that encourage some people, but not others, to cheat

several different symbols is the most numerous in briefly displayed slides similar to the one shown below.

We put the participants in pairs and told them whether they had a better or worse score than their partner in the skill task. They were then put in new pairs and played a game of chance. The pairs

then played a game of chance, also identical to the game in the original research. This involved rolling two dice under an inverted cup and then peeking through a spyhole in its base to see the result.

The players were told to help themselves to money from an envelope provided depending on what numbers the dice showed – 25 pence for each dice spot. While it was impossible to tell who in particular cheated, collecting much significantly more than the average amount was evidence of cheating.

We also assigned one-third of the participants to a control group. They were not told whether or not they had beaten their partner in the visual task before playing the the dice game.

Comparing the results to what we'd expect to happen by chance, a small but statistically significant amount of cheating seemed to have occurred, as in the original Israeli experiment. But our results showed no evidence that winning (or losing) had any statistically significant effect what-

soever on cheating, as can be seen in the graph below, where the dotted line shows the value expected by chance, without cheating.

We also ran an even larger online experiment (275 participants) in which we assigned participants randomly to be winners, losers or control participants using the same perceptual test as before.

In this experiment, each participant tossed a coin ten times and claimed rewards (Amazon gift vouchers) depending on how many heads they tossed. The results were almost identical to our first experiment: we found a similar level of cheating and no evidence of any effect of winning or losing on subsequent cheating.

We used standardised psychometric tests designed to measure differences between people that might influence cheating, including a sense of entitlement, self-confidence, belief in personal luck, and a few other factors. But only one, turned out to be statistically significant in all treatment conditions.

BLOCKING FOR SAFETY



Police blocked Khurda and Bolangir National Highway 57 at Baghamari in Khurda, Wednesday, as a stretch of the road was inundated by the floodwaters

Govt signs MoU with BCKIC for technological infrastructure in state



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 17:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed Wednesday between Science and Technology Department, government of Odisha and Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) Foundation for upgradation of scientific, technological and innovation infrastructure by undertaking various joint collaborations.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister, Science and Technology who emphasized on the promotion of science and technology activities in the state.

Panda said that the initiative will help accomplish the 'Science to Society vision' of the Department in strengthening the scientific capability of the state and the Department will be more encouraged to enrich science education, research, innovation and communication in the state.

As per the MoU, Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) will be an implementation partner for executing some of the initiatives of the Department, such as formulation of science, technology and innovation policy, promotion of innovation and IP culture and technology transfer activities in the state.

Both the Department and BCKIC will work together with the objectives

The initiative will help accomplish in strengthening the state's scientific capability and will enrich science education, research, innovation and communication

of promoting networking knowledge and sharing to create impact of Science & Technology in education, health, hygiene and sanitation, communication and environment.

More emphasis will be put on training and capacity building, industry-academia collaborative activities, while setting up of innovation hubs and experiential learning labs at the school level to build scientific temperament.

Suresh Kumar Vashishth, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department said that the science and technology ecosystem will be strengthened by increasing interaction of the academic and research institutions of the state as well as with external stakeholders, such as industry, philanthropic organisations and entrepreneurs. The ecosystem will identify the areas of potential collaborations and cooperation, he added.

NCC's 'clean' drive under Puneet Sagar Abhiyan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 17:** National Cadet Corps (NCC) has initiated a nationwide flagship campaign 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' to spread awareness about clean sea shores/beaches, rivers and water bodies. NCC Directorate Odisha, which has been at the fore front of this campaign, had once again taken the initiative starting from World Youth Day, August 12.

The Campaign was carried out at various locations in the state and will culminate Thursday Under Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, NCC Group has adopted Paradip & Balasore Beaches as also Ballyatra Ground along Mahanadi River for cleaning by NCC Cadets.

Wednesday, around 450 Cadets belonging to NCC Units from Silver City along with volunteers, local NGOs and Creed Bull staff from Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) participated in clean the river-front event at Ballyatra Ground.



The event was organized in partnership with UNDP India & HDFC Bank and was graced by Cuttack Mayor, Subhash Chandra Singh. Those present on this occasion were Bhabani Shankar Chayani, District Collector and Magistrate Cuttack, Abha Mishra, Head of Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Odisha, Commodore Somen Banerjee, Deputy Director General Odisha Directorate, Arjuna Nanda Bag, Vice President, HDFC Bank and others.

Puneet Sagar Abhiyan aims to spread awareness to promote the idea of Plastic Free World and make significant contribution towards the Prime Minister's Dream of a Swachh Bharat.

Flood situation worsens

Continued from P1

Jena also said the next 24 hours will be crucial for Odisha. The SRC, however, claimed that flood-water flow in Mahanadi through Mundali near Cuttack has gone down by 17,000 cusecs Wednesday morning. However, it is expected that around 9/10 lakh cusecs of water will pass through Mundali tomorrow (Thursday), he informed.

"The Odisha government has deputed additional teams of NDRF, ODRF and Fire Brigade personnel to the flood-affected districts. The collectors of Keonjhar, Bhadrak and Jajpur have been asked to maintain high alert as Brahmani and Baitarani river basins are expected to receive rains in next few hours," Jena said.

The SRC also said the state government has asked the Health department to store adequate number of anti-venom kits in the flood-affected areas.

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Swirling floodwater gushes through a 100-metre breach on an embankment of Makara river, a distributary of Daya at Kaudiapur village under Kanas block in Puri district, Tuesday



Villages were marooned following a breach on Mahanadi river embankment at Teramanapur village under Sailo panchayat in Jagatsinghpur district



Houses remain submerged in floodwater following a 100-feet breach on an embankment of Kani river, a distributary of Baitarani at Brahmacharipatna village under Dasarathpur block in Jajpur district



Locals gather at the site after a bridge on NH-326 caved in due to incessant rainfall near Bangalaguda village in Koraput district, Tuesday. Vehicular movement on the Koraput-Laxmipur-Rayagada road was disrupted after the bridge's collapse



A local with his boat on a flooded street after rise in the water level of Luna river, in Kendrapada district, Wednesday



Slum dwellers of Dhabaleswar Gada have taken shelter on Mahanadi Ring Road after floodwaters entered their homes, Wednesday



Floodwaters from Vamsadhara river inundated hectares of farmland in Kashinagar block in Gajapati district, Wednesday

# Dengue spreads in 6 Malkangiri blocks

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, August 17:** Dengue has been spreading in six blocks of Malkangiri district for the last few months.

Reports said 23 people have tested positive for dengue in Malkangiri municipality amid awareness drives against the disease in Chitrakonda area and Balimela NAC area. Health officials have detected dengue patients in six blocks of the district.

However, dengue awareness drive is not being conducted in Malkangiri municipality. Chitrakonda area has reported 63 cases of dengue while 17 people were down with dengue in Balimela NAC.

Now, three dengue patients are under treatment at Pandripani CHC; 11 at Korukunda CHC; five at Balimela CHC; two at Mathili CHC; seven at Kudukuluguma CHC and three at the district headquarters hospital.

According to sources in the Health department, blood samples of 1,620 suspected cases had been collected and tested. Deputy Director of National Centre for vector-borne disease control, Dr Dhaneswar Mohapatra said that



**Chitrakonda area has reported 63 cases of dengue while 17 people were down with dengue in Balimela NAC. Three patients were admitted to Pandripani CHC**

special medical teams have been pressed into service in all the affected areas. ASHAs, anganwadi workers, SHG members and health workers have been visiting houses to make people aware of the winged menace. People are being advised to keep their surroundings clean to ward of the mosquitoes, he added.

# No letup in crime against women in Bhadrak

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, August 17:** There is no let up in crime against women and children in Bhadrak district despite the Centre and state governments launching a plethora of schemes for their protection and development, a report said.

The Centre and state have taken a series of steps towards women empowerment and spending crores to implement the schemes and on conducting awareness programme. However, despite all these efforts, the atrocities against women and children are on the rise in this district.

According to reports available from the women and child desk of Bhadrak police, over 8,139 cases have been registered in various police stations of the district out of 18,155 complaints filed in the police stations during the period between 2016 and 2022 June. These cases are related to crime against women and minor girls.

As many as 10,016 cases have been resolved. Over 1,953 cases in 2016, 2,544 cases in 2017, 2,477 cases in 2018, 2,471 cases in 2019, 2,701 cases in 2020, 2,931 cases in 2021 and 3,078 cases by June 2022 have been lodged in the police stations. Many cases without being filed in the police station are being resolved between the two opposite parties.

Four voluntary outfits -- Asiana, Fellowship, Onestop Centre and Sakhi are working towards rehabilitation of tortured women and children. These outfits have Swadhar homes and open-air shelters where the homeless, tortured, victims of atrocities, kidnapped minor girls and women abandoned by

their husbands are being rehabilitated and given training in various vocational course to make them self reliant and help them earn their livelihood on their own without depending on others.



Relief materials being despatched in a boat to flood-hit villages in Badas and Dokanda panchayats under Kanas block in Puri district, Wednesday

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
File No. DRMI/Engg/KUR/22-23/E-Tender/60, Dt.12.08.2022

1.Tender Notice No. eTender-Estate-KUR-150-2022, Dt.04.08.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF SHED OF SIZE 45 MTR X 25 MTR WITH COVER ROOF AND CONCRETE FLOORING WITH PALLET RACKING SYSTEM FOR KEEPING STOCKING AND HANDLING OF HEAVY MATERIALS OF CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP / MANCHESWAR STORES DEPOT INSIDE WORKSHOP.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 32.99 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 66,000/-

2.Tender Notice No. eTender-Estate-KUR-151-2022, Dt.05.08.2022

DESCRIPTION : PREPARATION OF PLAN FOR FOREST DIVERSION PROPOSAL AS PER FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980 FOR FOREST LAND IN RAIL VIHAR COLONY AND OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FOREST (GOVT.OF INDIA).

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 9.14 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 18,300/-

Completion Period of the work : 04 (Four) Months (For SI.No.01), 12 (Twelve) Months (For SI.No.02).

Date and time of closing of tender : At 1500 hrs of 26.08.2022 (For both the tenders)

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

NOTE : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.

Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website <http://www.ircps.gov.in>.

Divisional Railway Manager(Engg.) PR-388/N/22-23 Khurda Road

**CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**“e” PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Tender ID : 2022 ORULB 80148**  
**Bid Reference No. MC(CMC)/CTC\_Div-I\_No4/2022-23**  
**Tender Call Notice No. 4766 (PW) Date. 17.08.2022**  
**No. C-1015:-**  
**Name & No. of Works : Civil Works**  
**No. of Works : 17 Nos.**  
**Bid Value : Rs. 4.47 Lakh to Rs. 42.94 Lakh**  
**Period of Completion : One Calendar Month to Two Calendar Months**  
**Date and Time Schedule:**

Start	End	Opening
3.00 PM on dt. 20.08.2022	5.00 PM on dt. 30.08.2022	11.00 A.M. on dt. 05.09.2022

**Tender Details: can be seen from the procurement portal: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)**  
**Executive Engineer, City Div-I**  
**OIPR-13031/11/0043/2223**

# 2 die of diarrhoea; 7 affected in Koraput

**Dasmantapur:** After a brief hiatus, diarrhoea reared its head again and claimed life of two people at K Chandilguda village in A Malkangiri panchayat under this block of Koraput district, Wednesday. Seven persons have been affected by the disease. A medical team was immediately sent to the village to take stock of the situation. The deceased were identified as Maina and Nilakanth of the village. A five-member medical team has started treatment of the affected. Locals were advised to keep surroundings clean and use boiled and safe water. Water sources were chlorinated. Earlier, three had died of diarrhoea in this block.

# Man swept away in Baitarani floodwaters

**Aradi:** An elderly man was swept away in the floodwaters of Baitarani river near Muan village under Dhusuri police limits in Bhadrak district, Wednesday. The missing man was identified as Ghanashyam Das, 62, of the village. He was returning home after bathing in the river when his legs slipped and he was swept away. On being alerted, some villagers launched a search operation in the river with the help of country boats but failed to trace him. On being informed, fire brigade personnel from Dhannagar rushed to the spot and launched a search operation in the river.

# Youth electrocuted

**Berhampur:** A youth was electrocuted after he came in contact with a moving pedestal fan near here in Ganjam district. The deceased was identified as Muna Mallik, 25, of Nijepur village under Mohana police limits in neighbouring Gajapati district. He was working at a liquor shop on Bhabinipur-Lochapada road near this city. Muna's co-workers rescued him after disconnecting the power supply and rushed him to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here. However, a short while later he breathed his last.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

**भारत का राजपत्र**  
**The Gazette of India**  
सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ- 23072022-237487  
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असाधारण  
EXTRAORDINARY  
भाग II-खण्ड 3, ३-उप-खण्ड (ii)  
PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)  
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3181] नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, जुलाई 22, 2022/आषाढ़ 31, 1944  
No. 3181] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022/ASHADHA 31, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
NOTIFICATION  
New Delhi, the 22nd July, 2022

S.O. 3342(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under subsection (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 on the stretch of land from Km. 136.5 to Km. 150 (At/Po/PS- Simulia, Dist- Balasore, (Odisha)) in the district of BALASORE in the state of ODISHA

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Sambad" and "Orissa post" both dated 10.03.2022; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the Competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the Competent Authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH16 in the stretch of land from Km. 136.5 to Km. 150 (At/Po/PS- Simulia, Dist- Balasore, (Odisha)) in the district of BALASORE in the state of ODISHA.

Sr. No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Similia					
Village: Radhaballavpur					
1	1746	Government	Nayanjori	0.0647511	Rasta & Gruha Nirmana Bibhaga 1746
2	1775	Government	Gochar	0.3237556	Rakhita 1775
3	1832	Government	Adi	0.0202347	Rakhita 1832
4	1908	Government	Basti jogya	0.0404695	Rakhita 1908
5	1914	Private	Chaka 202	0.0141643	Radhaballavpur Prastabita Swastya Kendra parichalana commitee Marfat: Bhabagrahi Nayak, S/O- Ananda Nayak and Other 1914
Village: Similia-137					
6	43	Private	Nayanjori	0.0064751	Abhay Kumar Behera, Bijay Kumar Behera, S/O- Ramachandra Behera 43
7	54	Government	Rasta	0.0020235	Markona Grama Panchayat 54
			TOTAL	0.4718738	

[F. No. NHA/BOT/11012/58/2005/PL/LA/NH-16/3D1]  
RAJESH GUPTA, Director





# Bystanders No More

In March 1964, the New York Times reported that 38 witnesses saw or heard a brutal, drawn-out, and ultimately fatal attack on a woman called Kitty Genovese, but none did anything to help her, or even summoned the police. The report was later shown to be erroneous, but the “bystander effect” is real. As many psychology experiments have shown, an individual is less likely to come to the aid of another if they can see that other people who could help are not doing so.

Last month, in the middle of the day on a busy street in the Italian town of Civitanova Marche, Aliko Ogorchukwu, a Nigerian street vendor, was attacked and killed by a man using his bare hands. Although the police were called, and someone filmed the attack, no one intervened. Amid general outrage, an editorial in the Italian newspaper La Stampa took this as a sign that we are in “the twilight of civilization.”

If you had been there, would you have aided Ogorchukwu? Consider, before you answer, that to intervene would have involved some personal risk. The assailant was not using a weapon, but how could you know that he did not have one? And even without a weapon, he was evidently both enraged and strong.

Whatever you feel you would have done had you been present, a far bigger bystander effect is playing out right now. In this case, you can assist in saving the lives of others, without any danger to you. Moreover, some of those whom you may be able to save are Nigerians, which makes it possible to think of the assistance as a token of your opposition to the failure to help Ogorchukwu.

A report issued recently by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Program warns that between now and September, famine could affect 49 million people in 46 countries. The countries most at risk are Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. Civil strife is one major risk factor for famine in these countries, but the report also cites weather extremes, such as storms, flooding and drought, and rising food and energy prices stemming from the war in Ukraine.

And yet a disturbing trend has become evident: governments of affluent countries are giving less foreign aid. The most striking example is the United Kingdom, a country that gradually, with bipartisan agreement, worked its way up to the United Nations foreign-aid target of 0.7% of gross national income. That target was reached in 2013 and was met every year until 2020. In 2021, however, the UK’s foreign-aid budget was slashed to 0.5% of GNI, and it will most likely remain at that level in 2022.

As Mark Lowcock, a former permanent secretary of the UK Department for International Development, pointed out in a recent interview, his country, which used to be a world leader in making extreme poverty the clear priority of its aid program, is now placing less emphasis on helping the poorest and weakest countries. Aid to countries like Yemen, South Sudan, and Somalia has been cut, increasing the loss of life from humanitarian disasters. Instead, Lowcock says, aid is going to middle-income countries where its impact on people’s lives is not nearly as big as when it goes to those living below the World Bank’s extreme poverty line of \$1.90 per day.

There are two important ways in which you can avoid being a bystander to the avoidable deaths of millions of people in the coming months.

First, according to preliminary OECD figures, in 2021, only Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and Denmark have reached or exceeded the 0.7%-of-GNI target for foreign aid. The United States still lags near the bottom of the table of donor countries, giving only 0.18% of its GNI, while Australia, at 0.22%, is not much better. If you live in an affluent country that is not meeting the 0.7% target, contact your elected representatives and tell them that you are ashamed of your country’s failure to do its share to create a world in which everyone can meet their basic needs. Join with others to create a movement for more and better foreign aid.

Second, after you have done that, don’t just sit around waiting for your government to do the right thing. Do it yourself. If you are affluent enough to go to a café and order a cup of coffee there, you are probably spending more doing that than nearly one in ten people on this planet have to live on for an entire day.

If you don’t know how to get the best value for what you are able to give, help is available online. Go to [www.thelifeyoucansave.org](http://www.thelifeyoucansave.org) or [www.givewell.org](http://www.givewell.org), and select one of the charities listed there. All have been independently assessed as being highly effective and offering excellent value for money. Then you won’t be a bystander anymore, and Ogorchukwu will not have died in vain.

*Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University.*

## WISDOM CORNER

- Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

ALBERT EINSTEIN
- The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don’t want, drink what you don’t like, and do what you’d rather not.

MARK TWAIN
- All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come.

VICTOR HUGO

## WORDSWORTH

### Willy-nilly

One modern meaning of this common but odd-looking expression is “without direction or planning; haphazardly”: We’ve got to make it a physical game and we are not going to go there and chuck the ball about willy-nilly. We’ve got to go there with a purpose and that purpose is to win the game (Doncaster Free Press, 15 Nov. 2011). Its original sense appeared at the beginning of the seventeenth century, when people used it to suggest that something must be done no matter whether one is willing or unwilling, whether one wants to or not. It’s a modified form of an older phrase that is variously expressed as will I, nill I or will ye, nill ye, or sometimes as nilling willing. Will here is used in its sense of wanting to do something, to wish or desire that something should happen (when you make your will, you are using the same sense: you are expressing your wishes for the distribution of your goods after you die). Nill is very old, known before the Norman Conquest, but has long since vanished from the language. It was the opposite of will, so to nill is to want not to do something, to refuse or reject some course of action. So will I, nill I can be expanded into “be I willing, be I unwilling”, combining the two sentiments with the implication that it doesn’t much matter what you feel, you’re stuck with doing something. More recently, this conflict gave rise to an implication that a person was not sure whether to do something, and so suggested he was undecided or indecisive. Even more recently, the associated sense has grown up of embarking on some project without direction or planning or in a disorganised way. There is an equivalent Latin phrase *nolens volens*, which is formed from two Latin participles that mean “unwilling, willing”. It is sometimes said that willy-nilly is actually a translation of the Latin phrase. It may have been an influence, but it’s hard to tell.

## FOCUS NATION

# IS BJP THE NEW CONGRESS?

The answers to the header of this column are both yes and no. First the caveats - while the BJP that is the subject of comparison here is the present day BJP being led by the triumvirate of Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and JP Nadda (in that order of control and influence over the BJP), the Congress Party that will be discussed about is the current one led by the Gandhi family members (officially and unofficially) as also the Congress of the 1970s and early 1980s (up to the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984).

Many keen watchers of the Indian political scenario might balk at the prospect of comparing BJP with Congress, which according to them are as similar as chalk and cheese. However, as time passes, the BJP increasingly resembles the Congress in quite a few respects.

First is the unbridled devotion to the numero uno figure. In case of the Congress, in the 1970s and early 1980s up to her death at the hands of her bodyguards, Indira Gandhi commanded the unquestioned loyalty of her partymen, which reached the zenith (or nadir) of sycophancy in the statement of DK Barooah that “Indira is India and India is Indira.” It was easy for Barooah to equate the nation with its leader as only the letter ‘r’ was the difference between the two. The task is not easy for the men and women of BJP as the words ‘India’ and ‘Modi’ have very few letters in common and they don’t rhyme well like ‘India’ and ‘Indira’. Increasingly, BJP looks like the party of the present PM rather than a party led currently by Modi. It would be pertinent to share a personal anecdote. This columnist is a member of a school WhatsApp group where one of the spokespersons of the state BJP happens to be a member. On selection of Droupadi Murmu as the NDA candidate for the office of the President, he posted a message in Odia whose loose English translation goes like this: “It is a matter of pride and respect for all the residents of Odisha that Honourable Prime Minister Modiji



Many keen watchers of the Indian political scenario might balk at the prospect of comparing BJP with Congress, which according to them are as similar as chalk and cheese. However, as time passes, the BJP increasingly resembles the Congress in quite a few respects

has selected respected Droupadi Murmu for the office of the President. This clearly proves how much respect, love and importance Modi ji has been paying to Odisha. Thank you Modi ji!” As can be seen, in this post, the person who was selected as the candidate (this being a watershed moment for all Odias as she eventually became the first Odia to reach the highest office of the land) got mentioned once whereas the PM got mentioned thrice. This is symbolic of the nauseating personality cult that a party like BJP (which along with its ideological fountainhead RSS prided on the principle of collective leadership and abhorred too much emphasis on the person) has descended to. The only difference here between BJP and Congress is that there is no Modi family to carry forward some sort of a dynastic rule afterwards.

The second factor that increasingly shows the BJP as the new age Congress is the quest to diminish, disregard and demolish its political opponents by encouraging defections, splits and dissidence in the ranks of the latter. Like the Congress of Indira Gandhi’s times, which had the distinction of conversion of a state government of Janata Party to

in the aftermath of its shoddy withdrawal from Afghanistan. Last but not the least, BJP like the Congress of yore wishes to be branded as the ‘Party of Natural Governance.’ That’s the reason why BJP doggedly pursues the prospect of forming governments in all those states where it can, by allying with disparate parties or by facilitating defections from other parties. However similar to Congress the BJP may look like, there are some aspects where there won’t be any meeting point between the two.

First is the issue of Hindutva which also is intertwined with the concepts of secularism and attitude towards religious minorities (especially Muslims). BJP accuses the Congress of being anti-Hindu and of practicing the policy of appeasement towards religious minorities. Congress, on the other hand, considers BJP to be anti-Muslim and accuses it of running a majoritarian (read Hindu) agenda.

Another aspect that the two parties have different approaches to is the factor of dynastic politics. Though BJP is not immune to dynastic succession as exemplified by Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Anurag Thakur and many others who are scions of former Union Ministers/Chief Ministers, it makes efforts to not encourage it for two reasons: (a) to enforce its image of a ‘party with difference’ and (ii) to put the Gandhi family led Congress on the mat.

Indian politics to a great extent is characterised by greater influence of personalities rather than policies. The way things are going, there are indications that the BJP may veer away from certain positions that it held earlier. This will be driven by change in personal views of Modi and Shah than anything else. A case in point is the BJP top brass downplaying killings of Hindu activists in certain states. However, seeing the political morass the Congress finds itself in, any significant change in the policies of the party seems remote or impossible.

*The writer is an ex-banker. Views are personal.*

## SPECTRUM HEALTH

# Disturbing trends in malnutrition

As India celebrated its 75th anniversary of Independence, it’s distressing to note the huge mismatch between the country’s creditable economic growth rate and rising curve of anaemia and abysmal quality of early childhood education and care. The NFHS V report (2019-21) brings out how 38% of our children are stunted and 57% are anaemic. The percentage of those afflicted with anaemia on an all India basis has increased from 53% (2015-16) to 57% (2019-21). The situation is particularly disconcerting in states like Bihar (63.5%), Odisha (64.3%) and Gujarat (65%). This has a cascading impact on IMR, MMR and low birth weight babies. In Bihar, Odisha and Gujarat, the IMR is as high as 46.8%, 36.3% and 31.2% respectively, whereas in Kerala it’s only 4.4%. As regards Early Childhood Education, the ASER survey by Pratham shows that only 16% of students in Class I can read textbooks, while 40% cannot recognise letters.

The ICDS programme unveiled in 1975 has today 16 lakh Anganwadi centers with 22 lakh workers to provide supplementary nutrition like protein, vitamin A, IFA and deworming medicines, basic health care and early childhood education to about 70 million children and

15 million pregnant and nursing mothers with a budgetary allocation of ₹20,135 crore. However, such programmes have failed to contain the proliferation of anaemia barring states like Kerala. The Poshan Abhiyan was launched by the PM in 2018 to reduce anaemia amongst adolescent girls by 3% per year. The NFHS V report, however, shows that none of the states has been able to achieve the target. While there is a lot of hype for promoting awareness through Jan Andolan, there is very little action on the ground to improve supply chain management and to connect stakeholders technologically.

As per the NFHS report, the deprivation in Vitamin A, IFA, and deworming for females is as high as 54%, 86% and 72% respectively. The deprivation is particularly high for poor girl children where the deficiency in intake of vitamin A, IFA and deworming is as high as 62%, 92% and 76% respectively. This leads to the question as to why the existing supply chain management is not able to meet the timely provision of supplements to adolescent girls and women. In an interesting study in UP, project UMANG was launched in 2003 amongst school children and it was found that be-

tween 2003 and 2006 anaemia went down from 73% to 25%. Interestingly 80% of the beneficiaries regularly consumed the supplements and the additional per head cost was found to be only \$0.36 dollar. This experiment clearly shows that a vigilant programme with empathetic stakeholders can significantly reduce anaemia in a time bound manner. Deficiency in Vitamin A, iodine and iron causes disability, premature death and reduced productivity. In adolescent girls’ iron requirement increases by two fold to meet the loss of iron from the body with the onset of menstruation. Traditional diet is not able to make good the loss of blood. Therefore, IFA supplementation is critical to reduce anaemia amongst girls in the reproductive age group.

There is also a necessity to revisit the nodal system for providing nutrition through the Anganwadi system which has been existing since 1975. Quite clearly 7 crore children who are provided supplementary nutrition as well as 1 crore pregnant and nursing mother who get the benefit of vitamins, IFA are not being provided the critical nutrition requirement at critical stage up to the age of 3 years for a child and prenatal and post-

natal period for women. Article 47 of the Constitution mandates “the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health as among its primary duties.” It also implores the states to provide early childhood care and education. The Gender Gap report, the NFHS V report and ASER survey very clearly show that in our quest for high growth through free market mechanism, we have put the challenge of containing anaemia amongst children, adolescent girls and mothers and proper informal learning of children in the age group of 3-6 years in the backburner. Technology can be a powerful enabler in reducing malnutrition as has been proved by the Community Application Software being used in Angul district since 2015 in connecting all stakeholders through smart technology. We have shown how the UMANG initiative has been a game changer in containing malnutrition amongst school children in UP. This would require a community led approach where the state, the corporate and local community work as partners.

*The writer is Professor Emeritus, KSOM. Views are personal*

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,  
Bhubaneswar-751010

## Weed out corruption

Sir, In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that corruption is eating India like termite. Throwback, in 1985, on a visit to drought-affected Kalahandi district in Odisha, Rajiv Gandhi had said that of every rupee spent by the government, only 15 paise reached the intended beneficiary. Despite sharp observations by two popular prime ministers, the menace of neck deep corruption continues to thrive in the system even after 75 years of Independence. Going forward, politics and elections are major causes of corruption. The candidate in the election spends huge amounts of money as investment, disregarding the limits set by the Election Commission, with a scheme in mind to make profits after getting elected. The eye-popping swell in the wealth of netas explains unknown source of the income. Corruption continues to percolate down the line in the administration siphoning off the funds meant for the development. Add to this, there seems to be no end to the woes of the common man compelled to grease the palms of the official to obtain even the basic services provided by the government agencies. However, one can find no reason to not deploy sophisticated and cutting edge technology, which is miraculous in solving several complicated problems, to weed out corruption. Political will and commitment are need while tackling the dreadful termite.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## Bribing voters

Sir, The Supreme Court has said that it can’t derecognise political parties that promise freebies, as it feels that such an act is ‘undemocratic.’ On its part, the Election Commission of India had informed the Supreme Court in April this year that it cannot regulate state policies and decisions, and added “such an action, without enabling provisions in the law, would be an overreach of powers.” If both the judiciary and the powerful constitutional body of the country cannot exercise powers over political parties for their flagrant violation of election norms, who else can? When the ECI is vested with powers to supervise, direct and control the entire election process in an upright and honest manner, does it not include restraining the political parties from bribing the voters in the form of ‘freebies’? If the monstrous evil of freebies cannot be controlled, India could be soon on its way to becoming another Sri Lanka.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



of the day quote

Those who raped a five-month pregnant woman and killed her three-year-old daughter were released during 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. What message is being given to the women of the country by those who peddle lies about Nari Shakti?

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

UP and Bihar share the border and a number of times, when there was no alliance (of the JDU) with the BJP (in UP). Nitish ji used all his might and fielded some candidates but they forfeited their deposits

KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA | DEPUTY CM OF UP

Strong legislations are the only way to ensure Judiciary can deliver swiftly & perform at its best

KT RAMA RAO | TRS WORKING PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Guj: Man stabbed to death by wife's beau

**Rajkot:** A day after getting married August 15, a man named Kamlesh Chavda was stabbed to death by his wife's paramour, police said. Rajkot rural police registered a murder case against the attacker, identified as Yashwant Makwana, who is on the run. Sections of the Atrocity Act have also been added, said Deputy Superintendent of Police PA Zala.

Two held for raping sister

**Kanpur:** Two brothers have been arrested and sent to jail for allegedly raping their 16-year-old "adopted" sister in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district. During police investigations, it came to light that the parents of the accused had illegally adopted the victim from the orphanage in 2013 but no documents related it have been shown. The accused brothers had also made an obscene video of the minor. Both the step brothers used to threaten the girl that they would make the video viral. They repeatedly used to rape the victim by blackmailing her.

Lightning kills four

**Amaravati:** Four farm workers were killed and three others injured due to a lightning struck in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru district. The incident occurred in Bhogole village Tuesday. The victims were working in an eucalyptus farm and had been resting in a tent in the field. They had come for work from Annavararam in Kakinada district. The injured were rushed to a government hospital at Eluru and were later shifted to Vijayawada for treatment. The deceased were identified as Kondababu (35), Raju (28), Dharmaraju (25) and Venu (19). The bodies were taken to a hospital in Eluru for autopsy.

Stalin calls on Modi

**New Delhi:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here Wednesday, a meeting which was described as a "courtesy visit" by official sources. During his nearly 20-minute meeting with Modi, Stalin is learnt to have raised issues related to Cauvery river, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Mekadatu dam and the National Education Policy (NEP). Sources aware of the development, however, refused to comment on whether Stalin broached these issues with the Prime Minister, and maintained that it was purely a "courtesy visit".



100 years ago my father Babu Jagjivan Ram was prohibited from drinking water in school from the pitcher meant for Savarna Hindus. It was a miracle his life was saved. Today, a nine-year-old #Dalit boy has been killed for the same reason. 75 long years after Independence, caste system remains our greatest enemy

MEIRA KUMAR | FORMER SPEAKER OF THE LS

'Z' SECURITY TO GAUTAM ADANI

Billionaire industrialist and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has been accorded a 'Z' category VIP security cover of CRPF commandos by the central government, official sources said Wednesday. They said the all-India cover will be on a "payment basis" and is expected to cost about ₹15-20 lakh per month



AIADMK POWER STRUGGLE

Madras HC orders in favour of OPS



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 17:** The power struggle in AIADMK has taken a turn with the Madras High Court giving an order in favour of former Chief Minister and coordinator O Panneerselvam (OPS). The court Wednesday ordered maintenance of the status quo as of June 23 in the AIADMK. The July 11 General Council (GC) meeting of the party had elected Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) as the interim general secretary. Justice G Jayachandran of the Madras High Court passed the order on a petition filed by O Panneerselvam and party General Council member, P Varimuthu, who had challenged the legality of the GC meeting held July 11 in which Panneerselvam and those close to him were ousted from the party. The single-bench judge of the Madras High Court ordered that the coordinator and joint coordinator can convene the GC again in the presence of a commissioner to oversee the council meeting. Advocate Guru Krishnakumar appearing for OPS said that the General Council was a small body and it was made to appear as if the decision of the GC was the opinion of the entire party Aravind Pandian, another advocate representing OPS argued that the party

presidium chairman cannot convene the GC meeting, but only can conduct it. He said that there was no rule under the party bylaws that allows any other person other than the general secretary or the coordinator of the joint coordinator to convene the General Council meeting and, hence the GC was convened by the presidium chairman under Rule 19 and 20 of the AIADMK bylaw stands nullified. However, the Palaniswami side represented by former Advocate General of Tamil Nadu, Vijay Narayanan, and two other lawyers argued that there were no illegalities or violations of the party code in calling the meeting. They said that the actual announcement of the meeting was made on the floor of the June 23rd General Council meeting by the presidium chairman and the invitations were sent by the headquarters' office-bearers as the post of coordinator and joint coordinator had lapsed following a decision taken by the party executive committee in December 2021. Justice Jayachandran after hearing both sides passed the order of maintaining the status quo of June 23 and treated the General council meeting of July 11 as null and void. The judgment will lead to OPS returning as the coordinator and EPS as the Joint coordinator.

No order to give flats to Rohingya migrants: MHA

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 17:** The Union Home Ministry Wednesday denied any move to shift Rohingya Muslims in Delhi to economically weaker section (EWS) flats and directed the Delhi government to ensure the "illegal foreigners" remain in detention centres pending their extradition. The ministry's clarification came hours after Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri put out a tweet saying India has always welcomed those who have sought refuge in the country and announcing that all Rohingya refugees would be shifted to EWS flats in east Delhi's Bakkarwala area. The Home Ministry issued a statement clarifying its position. "Illegal foreigners are to be kept in Detention Centre till their deportation as per law. The Government of Delhi has not declared the present location as a Detention Centre. They have been directed to do the same immedi-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

According to a Home Ministry estimate, around 40,000 Rohingya migrants live in different parts of the country, including Delhi

Noting that the Delhi government proposed to shift Rohingya Muslims to a new location, the Home Ministry said it has directed the Delhi government to ensure "these illegal foreigners" remain at their present location

Last year, the government informed the Rajya Sabha that "illegal Rohingya immigrants" are staying in 12 states and union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Karnataka and Kerala

ately," a spokesperson said in the statement on Twitter. "With respect to news reports in certain sections of media regarding Rohingya illegal foreigners, it is clarified that the MHA has not given any

directions to provide EWS flats to Rohingya illegal migrants at Bakkarwala in New Delhi," the spokesperson said. Puri tagged a news agency story in his posts and said those who had made a ca-

GODLY TOUCH



An artist applies colour to an idol of Lord Krishna ahead of the Krishna Janmashtami festival in Bangalore PTI PHOTO

Govt approves ₹50K-cr credit support to hospitality sector

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 17:** The government Wednesday approved an additional ₹50,000 crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to ensure low-cost credit flow to hospitality and related segments hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Union Cabinet has approved the enhancement in the limit of ECLGS by ₹50,000 crore from ₹4.5 lakh crore to ₹5 lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur told reporters here. The increase has been done on account of the severe disruptions suffered by hospitality and related enterprises due to the pandemic. The enhancement is expected to provide much needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivising lending institutions to



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

provide additional credit of up to ₹50,000 crore at low cost, an official statement said. The ECLGS was announced in May 2020 in wake of the outbreak of Covid-19 to help various sectors, especially in the MSME segment, to get credit at a concessional rate of 7 per cent. Loans of about ₹3.67 lakh crore have been sanctioned under ECLGS till August 5, 2022. In Union Budget 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced extending the validity of ECLGS till March 2023 and an increase in the limit of guaranteed cover by ₹50,000 crore.

SIT to probe death of six in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, August 17:** Six people, including five members of a family, were found dead under mysterious circumstances here Wednesday, prompting police to set up a special investigation team to probe the turn of events. The bodies of the victims, including three women, were recovered from two adjoining houses in the posh Tawi Vihar in Sidhra area around 1 am, police said, adding that prima facie, it appears that they were poisoned. Noor Ul Habib, Sakina Begum, her daughter Naseema Akhter and grandson Sajad Ahmad Magrey were found dead inside Habib's house. The bodies of Sakina's other daughter Rubina Bano and son Zafar Salim were recovered from the nearby house, the official said. "A four-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjay Sharma has been formed to investigate the incident," Senior



Police personnel stand guard outside the house

Superintendent of Police (Jammu) Chandan Kohli said. A police spokesperson said a call was received from Habib's sister Shahzada, a resident of Srinagar's Barzulla locality, wherein she expressed apprehension that her brother might have committed suicide as he was not answering her calls. After reaching Habib's house, police found it bolted from inside and noticed a foul smell emanating from it. The doors of the house were broken down and four semi-decomposed bodies were found inside. Local people informed police that the nearby house belonged

to Sakina, a widow who originally hailed from Doda district and was living with her family. When the police reached the other house, they found two more bodies there, the spokesman said, adding "Prima facie, it appears to be a case of poisoning. It is being ascertained whether it is a case of forced poisoning or the victims committed suicide." SSP Kohli also rushed to the spot and ordered a thorough probe into the incident. The bodies have been shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital here for post-mortem examination, Kohli said.

World's biggest cities face worst air quality: Report

India is home to 18 of the 20 cities with the most severe increase in fine particle pollutants (PM2.5) from 2010 to 2019, according to a comprehensive and detailed analysis of air pollution and global health effects for over 7,000 cities released Wednesday

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 17:** The world's biggest cities and urban areas face some of the worst air quality on the planet, a new report published by the US-based research organization Health Effects Institute (HEI) said on Wednesday. The report, Air Quality and Health in Cities, released by HEI's State of Global Air Initiative, provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of air pollution and global health effects for more than 7,000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the

most harmful pollutants; fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). In 2019, 1.7 million deaths linked to PM2.5 exposure occurred in the 7,239 cities included in the analysis, with cities in Asia, Africa, and Eastern and Central Europe seeing the greatest health impacts. By the year 2050, as much as 68 per cent of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas. This rapid urbanisation places the world's top cities at the forefront in the battle to reduce the health effects of air pollution, especially in low- and middle-income coun-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

tries. The report, using data from 2010 to 2019, found that global patterns for exposures to the two-key air pollutants are strikingly different. While exposures to fine particulate, or PM2.5 pollution tend to be higher in cities located in low- and middle-income countries, exposure to nitrogen dioxide, or NO2,

is high across cities in high-income as well as low- and middle-income countries. NO2 comes mainly from the burning of fuels often in older vehicles, power plants, industrial facilities, and residential cooking and heating. As city residents tend to live closer to busy roads with

According to the WHO's Air Quality database, only 117 nations currently have ground-level monitoring systems to track PM2.5, and only 74 nations are monitoring NO2 levels

dense traffic, they are often exposed to higher NO2 pollution than residents of rural areas. In 2019, 86 per cent of the more than 7,000 cities included in this report exceeded the WHO's 10 Ig/m3 guideline for NO2, impacting about 2.6 billion people. While PM2.5 pollution tends to get more attention on known hotspots around the world, less data has been available for NO2 at this global scale.

Susan Anenberg of George Washington University, one of the project collaborators, said: "Since most cities around the world have no ground-based air quality monitoring in place, estimates of particulate and gas pollution levels can be used to plan air quality management approaches that ensure the air is clean and safe to breathe." The report also highlights data gaps in low- and middle-income nations, a key aspect to understanding and addressing the health effects of air pollution. Strategic investments in ground-level air quality monitoring systems and expanded use of satellites and other emerging technologies in targeted regions can provide critical first steps toward cleaner air. The report combined ground-based air quality data with satellites and models to produce air quality estimates for cities around the world.







I thank Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, Shri @JPNadda Ji and Shri@AmitShah Ji for giving me the opportunity to serve on @BJP4India Parliamentary Board & Central Election Committee. It is an honour to serve on the highest decision-making body of the party

B S YEDIYURAPPA | FORMER KARNATAKA CM

Goons have no place in Maharashtra politics. If MLAs, who threaten people are walking around freely, then you can guess what will happen to the law and order situation in the state

ADITYA THACKERAY | SHIV SENA LEADER

Today we are producing vaccines not just for our needs but we are also helping other countries thanks to the efforts of our research institutes and scientists

G KISHAN REDDY | UNION MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE

SHORT TAKES

Bhim Army chief detained at airport

**Jodhpur (Rajasthan):** Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad was detained at the Jodhpur airport for over three hours Wednesday while on his way to Jalore to meet the family of a Dalit boy who died allegedly after being beaten up by his schoolteacher. Police said he was allowed to leave the airport at around 7.30 pm after he assured them he would not go to Jalore, around 150 km from the airport. Indra Meghwal, a student of a private school in Surana village of Rajasthan's Jalore district, was beaten up by his teacher July 20 for allegedly touching a drinking water pot. The boy succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Ahmedabad August 13.

Jailed LeT terrorist fatally shot

**Jammu:** A jailed Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist was fatally shot after he snatched the rifle of a policeman and fired at a police team that had taken him to a spot near the International Border for a weapons recovery operation, officials said. Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh said a policeman was also injured in the incident and was hospitalised. He identified the terrorist as Mohd Ali Hussain alias 'Qasim' alias 'Jehangir' who lodged at the Kot Balwal Jail. The officer said the terrorist's name surfaced during the investigation of an arms dropping case through drone from Pakistan February 24 in Arnai sector.

Female teacher burnt alive dies

**Jaipur:** A female teacher, who was burnt alive August 10 at a village near Jaipur, succumbed to her injuries at the SMS Hospital here late Tuesday night. Videos of the incident have now gone viral on social media with netizens questioning the role of the police and the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Protests against CAA resume

**Guwahati:** After a gap of over two years, protests against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) resumed across Assam Monday. Protests by members of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), a part of the North East Students' Organisation (NESO), was held in all the district headquarters of the state amid heavy security arrangements.



To make India number one in the world, the first thing that we have to do is provide free and quality education to every child of this country

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

MASK MUST

In light of the rising Covid cases in several parts of the country, the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Wednesday made it mandatory for passengers to follow Covid protocols and wear masks inside the aircraft



Now taste local flavours as vendors return on trains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** Bringing back the nostalgia of buying local wares from hawkers and gorging on regional cuisines, the Railways will now allow vendors to sell their goods on trains, as part of its efforts to boost local businesses.

The Railways will also provide them designer carts and kiosks to sell their wares at stations and on trains. Part of the "One Station One Product" policy announced this year in the Union budget, the Railways aims to promote a local product at each railway station.

Earlier, hawkers used to board trains at stations selling local products, mostly food items to passengers. However, they were illegal and raised both safety and hygiene concerns. The Railways conducted large scale eviction drives which eventually making them a rarity on board trains and even at stations.

Now, however, the variety on offer would range from food products to handicrafts to household goods to decorative items, and would be sold with permission of the national transporter.

This is not all. To ensure that the platforms on which the vendors



Railways has tied up with Ahmedabad-based National Institute of Design, which has designed kiosks on wheels having different compartments to hold varied products and built-in areas to store additional goods

PTI PHOTO

sell their goods are not crowded with carts hampering passenger movement, the Railways has tied up with Ahmedabad-based National Institute of Design, which has designed kiosks on wheels having different compartments to hold varied products and built-in areas to store additional goods. The design even has areas where products can be displayed.

Presently only IRCTC-approved vendors are allowed to sell goods on stations and trains.

Taking the concept further of vendors selling local wares at stations, they will also have permis-

sion to board trains and travel up to one station to offer their goods to passengers on board.

"The plan is to get in touch with local business associations and offer them a chance to take up places at railway platforms to sell local products, be it handicrafts, food, clothes. Each vendor will have to pay a fee of ₹1,500 each and they can sell their wares for 15 days, after which the space will be replaced by another vendor. These vendors can also travel in trains and sell their products by travelling up to one station on board," an official said.

CATTLE SMUGGLING CASE

CBI FREEZES ANUBRATA'S FDS WORTH ₹16.97CRORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** The CBI has frozen fixed deposits worth ₹16.97 crore allegedly belonging to TMC leader Anubrata Mondal and his family members in connection with a case of cattle smuggling across the Indo-Bangladesh border, officials said Wednesday.

The agency detected the fixed deposits in State Bank of India, Axis Bank and Bank of India during the questioning of several close aides of Mondal and other witnesses during its ongoing probe in the case, they said.

The probe has found that Mondal allegedly gave cash to his aides who used to deposit it in bank accounts and later set up fixed deposits in his name, they said.

The central agency kept the heat on Mondal and grilled his accountant Manish Kothari for over two hours at its temporary camp office in Bolpur.

The agency also recorded statements of two bank officials of the bank where the Mondal has accounts, the CBI officials said.

The CBI suspects that several



bank accounts belonging to Mondal's daughter Sukanya were used for financial transactions in the scam, they said.

A four member agency team on Wednesday visited Mondal's Nichupatti residence in Bolpur to question Sukanya, a primary school teacher, but left within 10 minutes after she refused to talk to them.

The team had gone to question Sukanya about the alleged wealth accumulated by her which does not look justified going by her salary and profession. The team returned after she said she was

not in an "emotionally good shape" due to the recent death of her mother and arrest of her father. The CBI officials said she did not cooperate in the investigation.

Under scanner are several properties in the name of Sukanya, who is also director in some companies.

Mondal (62), who is currently TMC's Birbhum district president and member of the party's national working committee, rose to prominence in the 11 years of the TMC regime in Bengal, mostly for his audacious statements and browbeating.

KASHMIRI PANDIT MURDER

PROTEST HELD IN JAMMU

PRES TRUST OF INHIDIA

**Srinagar/Jammu, August 17:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration Wednesday initiated the process of attaching the house of a terrorist who killed a Kashmiri Pandit in Shopian, even as the minority community held a massive protest in Jammu against the latest killing.

Police have also arrested father and three brothers of Adil Wani, a categorised terrorist of Al-Badr outfit, for sheltering him after he killed the Kashmiri Pandit and injured his brother Tuesday.

Earlier this year, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had announced that it would start the process of "attachment of some immovable properties which have been used for purpose of terrorism as per section 2(g) and 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act" and asked people not to shelter or harbour terrorists/terror associates. Meanwhile, Kashmiri Pandits serving in the Valley held a massive protest against the killing of their community member in Shopian and demanded that the employees in Kashmir under the prime minister's package be relocated to Jammu in view of selective and targeted killings.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** Political parties and individuals cannot be prevented from making poll promises aimed at fulfilling the constitutional mandate and the term "freebie" should not be confused with genuine welfare measures, the Supreme Court said Wednesday.

Observing that the voters are not looking for freebies, the top court referred to the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and said, "Given an opportunity, they will look for dignified earning".

"We all must remember the good old saying: 'There is no free lunch', the apex court said, adding the "concern is about the right way of spending public money".

"There has to be a distinction between the offer of ornaments, television sets, consumer electronics free of cost and real welfarist offers. The promise of free coaching for professional courses cannot be compared with the promise of free white goods," a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said.

The bench, also including justices J K Maheshwari and Hima Kohli is mulling and setting up an expert panel to brainstorm the issue of freebies announced during elections.

It said that the issue of regulating freebies is "getting increasingly complicated" and asked all the stakeholders to give their suggestions on the proposed panel while fixing the PIL for hearing August 22. At the outset, the bench said the expression 'freebie' should not be confused with genuine welfare measures" and gave illustrations to distinguish between freebies and "real welfarist offer".

"As rightly pointed out by some of you, Article 38 (2) of the

Constitution mandates the State to 'strive to minimize inequalities in income, and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities, and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

"You cannot prevent a political party or individual from making promises that are aimed at fulfilling this constitutional mandate if elected to power. The question is what exactly qualifies as a valid promise," the CJ observed. "Can the promise to provide free and compulsory education to all be termed as a freebie," the bench asked.

"Can we describe the promise of subsidy on power, seeds, and fertilizers to small and marginal farmers to make agriculture remunerative as a freebie? Can we describe the promise to provide free and universal health care as a freebie? Can we describe the promise to provide safe drinking water free of cost to every citizen as a freebie," it observed.

The CJ gave another illustration asking can the promise of providing a few minimum essential units of electricity free of cost to the needy be held as a freebie.

"I don't think voters are looking for freebies. Given an opportunity, they will look for dignified earnings. We have examples of schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which offered dignified earning and also created public assets in rural India," the CJ said.

The CJ said the promises alone are not deciding the outcome of elections and there have been instances of parties that promise more compared to others losing the elections badly.



AIMING HIGH: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal waves the National Flag during the launch of the mission Make India No. 1, at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

CUET-UG: Exam cancelled at 13 centres on day 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** Technical glitches continued to mar the fourth phase of the Central University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG Wednesday forcing the National Testing Agency (NTA) to cancel the exam at 13 centres affecting over 8600 candidates, according to officials.

The affected candidates will get a chance for retest August 25, they said. "Due to some unavoidable technical reasons, examination scheduled for today was cancelled in 13 centres in Shift 1 and Shift 2. A total of 8,693 candidates were affected out of 1.45 lakh candidates. All the affected candidates will get a chance for a retest August 25," UGC chairman Jagadesh Kumar said.

72 % of Bihar ministers face criminal cases: ADR

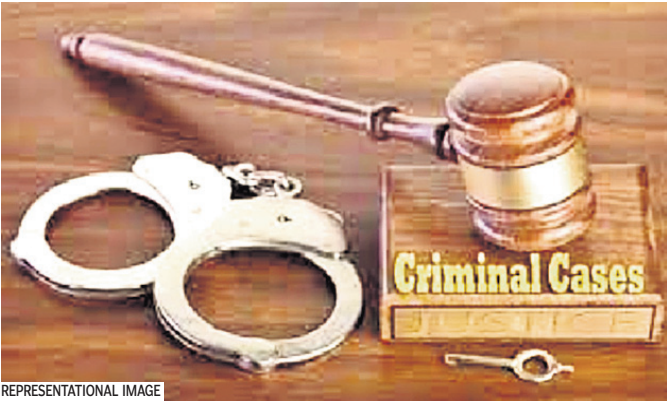
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** More than 70 per cent of the newly sworn-in ministers in Bihar have declared criminal cases against themselves, the poll rights body ADR said.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav also have cases registered against them.

Kumar, who recently severed ties with the BJP and joined hands with the RJD to form the government in Bihar, expanded his new cabinet Tuesday by inducting 31 new ministers. Kumar and Deputy CM Yadav had been sworn in earlier August 10.

Consequent to the reconstitution of the Bihar Council of Ministers, the Association for Democratic Reforms and the Bihar Election Watch have analysed the



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

self-sworn affidavits of 32 out of 33 ministers, including the chief minister, submitted during the 2020 Assembly polls.

One Cabinet minister, Ashok Chaudhary of JD(U), who is a nominated member of the Legislative

Council, is not required to submit his affidavit, hence his information on criminal, financial and other details are not available in the public domain, the ADR said in its report. The minister with the highest declared total assets is

According to the report, 23 ministers (72 per cent) have declared criminal cases against themselves and 17 ministers (53 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves

Out of the 32 ministers, 27 (84 per cent) are crorepatris and the average assets of 32 ministers analysed is ₹5.82 crore

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav also have cases registered against them

Samir Kumar Mahaseth from the Madhubani constituency with assets worth ₹. 24.45 crore and the minister with the lowest declared total assets is Murari Prasad Gautam from the Chenari (SC) constituency with assets worth ₹17.66 lakh.

A total of 23 ministers have declared financial liabilities. The

minister with the highest liabilities is Lalit Kumar Yadav from the Darbhanga Rural constituency at ₹2.35 crore.

Eight ministers (25 per cent) have declared their educational qualification to be between 8th and 12th standard, while 24 (75 per cent) have declared having an educational qualification of graduate or above. A total of 17 ministers have declared their age to be between 30-50 years while 15 have declared their age to be between 51-75 years. The Council of Ministers has three women.

Of the Council of Ministers, 11 are from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), 16 from the RJD, two from the Congress and one from former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM, besides an Independent.



of the day quote

It is a situation today where every country will try to get the best deal possible for its citizens, to try to cushion the impact of these high energy prices. And that is exactly what we are doing

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

I really want us to know that the expectations of the people of Kenya are huge. We don't have the luxury of wasting time

WILLIAM RUTO | PRESIDENT-ELECT, KENYA

I believed it was necessary to have authority, to have what were effectively emergency powers, to exercise in extreme situations that would be unforeseen, that would enable me to act in the national interests

SCOTT MORRISON | FORMER PM, AUSTRALIA

SHORT TAKES

China, US spar over climate on Twitter

**Beijing:** The world's two biggest emitters of greenhouse gases are sparring on Twitter over climate policy, with China asking if the US. Can deliver on the landmark climate legislation signed into law by President Joe Biden this week. On Tuesday night, China's Foreign Ministry responded with its own tweet: "Good to hear. But what matters is: Can the US deliver?" The exchange, part of a longer back and forth on Twitter on the issue, is emblematic of a broader worry: US-China cooperation is widely considered vital to the success of global efforts to limit rising temperatures.

Iran ready to swap prisoners with US

**Dubai:** Iran is ready to swap prisoners with the United States, its foreign ministry spokesman was quoted as saying Wednesday, calling on President Joe Biden's administration to "act instead of performing theatrical shows". "We are ready to swap prisoners with Washington. The US must release jailed Iranian citizens without any conditions," the semi-official Fars news agency quoted foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani as saying.

Many feared dead in Kabul mosque blast

**Kabul:** Many worshippers are feared dead following an explosion inside a mosque in the northern part of the Afghan capital Kabul. The blast occurred during evening prayer in the Kotal-e-Khairkhana area of the city, Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran was quoted as saying by dpa Wednesday. Zadran said the exact number of casualties was not clear but security forces were investigating the incident. Unconfirmed reports suggested that at least 20 people, including the mosque Imam Mawlawi Amir Mohammad Kabuli, were killed in the blast and 40 others were injured.

5 Islamist ultras get death sentence

**Dhaka:** A Bangladeshi tribunal Wednesday handed down death sentences to five militants from the banned JMB outfit, including a former navy soldier, for a bomb attack at a mosque inside a major navy installation near southeastern port city of Chattogram seven years ago. Chattogram Anti-Terrorism Tribunal Judge Abdul Halim pronounced the verdict as four of the five convicts were on the dock, court officials said.

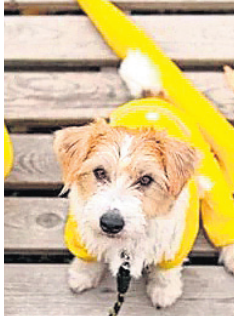


I am disgusted by the outrageous remarks made by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. For us Germans in particular, any relativization of the singularity of the Holocaust is intolerable and unacceptable

OLAF SCHOLZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

MONKEYPOX CAN SPREAD TO PET DOGS

The World Health Organization called Wednesday for people infected with monkeypox to avoid exposing animals to the virus following a first reported case of human-to-dog transmission. A first case of human-to-dog transmission of monkeypox -- between two men and their Italian greyhound living together in Paris -- was reported last week in the medical journal The Lancet



REVENGE FOR JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

Here to kill Queen: Windsor Castle intruder told police

Indians have long demanded a formal apology from Britain for what is also known as the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, when British troops opened fire on unarmed civilians who had gathered to protest against a colonial law



REUTERS

**London, August 17:** A man arrested at Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle home on Christmas Day last year wearing a mask and holding a crossbow told security "I am here to kill the queen", a British court heard Wednesday. Jaswant Singh Chail, 20, who has been charged under Britain's Treason Act, had spent months planning the attack and trying to gain access to the royal family, London's Westminster Magistrates' Court was told. Prosecutors said Chail, from Southampton in southern England, recorded a video before he entered the grounds of the castle to the west of London where the 96-year-old monarch mostly resides. She was there on the day of the intrusion. "I am sorry for what I have done and what I will do. I am going to attempt to assassinate Elizabeth,

queen of the royal family," he said in the video, in which he was seen holding a crossbow and wearing a face covering.

"This is revenge for those who died in the 1919 massacre," Chail said, referring to an incident when British troops shot dead nearly 400 Sikhs in their holy city of Amritsar in northwestern India. "It is also revenge for those who have been killed, humiliated and discriminated on because of their race," he said.

Queen Elizabeth laid a wreath at the site of the massacre during a visit to India in 1997 and referred to it as a "distressing example" of "difficult episodes" in the past.

**'SUPERSONIC X-BOW'** Chail, who appeared at Wednesday's court hearing via videolink, spoke briefly to confirm his name, his date of birth and gave his address as Broadmoor, a high-security psychiatric hospital. He did not enter a plea.

- Prosecutors say man spent months planning attack
- Intruder was found in grounds of Windsor Castle with crossbow
- 'Revenge for those who have been killed, humiliated and discriminated'

The queen was at the castle on the day of the intrusion with her son and heir Prince Charles and other close family members.

The prosecution said Chail had entered the grounds at 8.10 am and was spotted by a protection officer in an area where the intruder would have access to the private quarters of the castle.

The officer, who said Chail looked like something out of a vigilante film or dressed for Halloween in a hood and mask, asked: "Can I help you?"

The court heard that Chail responded: "I am here to kill the queen". The officer drew his taser and shouted at Chail to get on his knees and drop the crossbow. Chail complied.

The recovered crossbow was a "Supersonic X-bow", the discharged bolt from which has the potential to cause serious or fatal injuries, the prosecution said.

Searches of Chail's home found a gas mask, rope and electronic devices which showed he had previously applied to the Ministry of Defence and the Grenadier Guards in an effort to make contact with the royal family.

Chail has been charged with making threats to kill, possession of an offensive weapon and an offence under section 2 of the Treason Act 1842, which details punishment for having a weapon with intent "to injure or alarm Her Majesty".

Prominent Vatican Cardinal named in sexual assault suit

REUTERS

**Rome, August 17:** Vatican Cardinal Marc Ouellet is the highest-ranking clergyman accused in a court document in Canada made public Tuesday as part of a class action lawsuit against the Quebec Catholic diocese alleging sexual assault, the complainant' lawyer said.

The lawsuit represents more than 100 people, including minors, who were alleged to have been sexually assaulted by 88 priests and staff working at the Quebec diocese starting in 1940, according to a court document and a news release issued by the Arsenault Dufresne Wee firm which filed the class action.

In the filing in Quebec Superior Court, an anonymous complainant alleges Ouellet inappropriately touched her, including by rubbing her shoulders and back, and made comments that made her feel uncomfortable.

The document states the interactions took place between 2008 and 2010 when Ouellet was archbishop of Quebec and head of the diocese and she was working as a 23-year-old intern. Ouellet faces no criminal charges.

Ouellet now heads the Vatican's powerful Congregation for Bishops which advises the pope on which priests should be made bishops. He is on many experts' short lists of candidates to succeed Pope Francis after the pontiff dies or resigns.

One of two resident Canadian cardinals at the Vatican, he accompanied Pope Francis on his trip to Canada last month.

The woman's complaint against Ouellet was filed directly to the Vatican in 2021 and assigned to priest Jacques Servais, a theologian tasked with looking into the matter; the woman said she had yet to learn of any conclusions, the filing said.

The class action was authorized in May to proceed. Arsenault said he expects the number of victims in the class action will grow after the filing Tuesday.

Prez Putin blasts US 'hegemony'



Putin also drew parallels between the US backing Ukraine and a recent visit to Taiwan, charging that both were part of an American attempt to foment global instability

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Moscow, August 17:** Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the United States of trying to encourage extended hostilities in Ukraine as part of what he described as Washington's alleged efforts to maintain its global hegemony.

Addressing a security conference attended by military officials from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Putin reaffirmed his long-held claim that he sent troops into Ukraine in response to Washington turning the country into an "anti-Russia" bulwark.

"They need conflicts to retain their hegemony," Putin charged. "That's why they have turned the Ukrainian people into cannon fodder. The situation in Ukraine shows that the US is trying to drag the conflict out, and it acts in exactly the same way trying to fuel conflicts in Asia, Africa and Latin America."

The speech represented the latest attempt by the Russian leader to rally support amid bruising

The era of the unipolar world order is nearing its end

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

Western sanctions that targeted the Russian economy and finance along with its government structures, top officials and businesses for Moscow's action in Ukraine.

"The American adventure in Taiwan wasn't just a trip by an irresponsible politician. It was part of a deliberate and conscious US strategy intended to destabilize the situation and create chaos in the region and the entire world, a blatant demonstration of disrespect for another country' sovereignty and its own international obligations," Putin said.

The Russian leader claimed that "Western globalist elites" were trying "to shift the blame for their own failures to Russia and China," adding that "no matter how hard the beneficiaries of the current globalist model try to cling to it, it's doomed."

China to send troops to Russia for 'Vostok'

**Beijing:** Chinese troops will travel to Russia to take part in joint military exercises led by the host and including India, Belarus, Mongolia, Tajikistan and other countries, China's defence ministry said Wednesday. China's participation in the joint exercises was "unrelated to the current international and regional situation", the ministry said in a statement. Last month, Moscow announced plans to hold "Vostok" (East) exercises from August 30 to September 5, even as it wages a costly war in Ukraine. It said at the time that some foreign forces would participate, without naming them. Its last such exercises took place in 2018, when China took part for the first time. China's defence ministry said its participation in the exercises was part of an ongoing bilateral annual cooperation agreement with Russia.

Pak makes currency declaration by all int'l passengers mandatory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Islamabad, August 17:** The Pakistan government has made currency declaration by all international passengers mandatory, as part of the measures taken to curb money laundering to fulfil the condition of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), according to a notification issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The notification came as an FATF team was expected to arrive in Pakistan next month for "on-site" visit to verify steps taken by Islamabad to curb money laundering and terror financing. The Express Tribune reported. A successful on-site visit would pave the way for Pakistan getting out of the FATF grey list.

The CAA issued the notification on the instructions of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The notification said that a declaration form would have to be filled and handed over to the airline staff, in which the passenger would show details of domestic and foreign currency.

No international passenger would be able to board the flight or leave the airport without submitting the declaration, it said.

The notification added that the passengers would be required to submit the currency declaration form to the customs staff before checking in for the flight.

The authority had issued instructions that currency declaration forms should be made available at booking offices of the airlines.

It added that domestic and foreign airlines, pilots and staff had been informed about the details regarding the provisions of the customs declaration form, The Express Tribune reported.



INDONESIA INDEPENDENCE



Military members wearing traditional Dayak attire walk toward the Presidential Palace from the National Monument during the country's 77th Independence Day celebrations in Jakarta, Indonesia August 17

REUTERS

RECORD HEATWAVE

China races to alleviate drought, power cuts

China has repeatedly warned that it faces a proliferation of extreme weather events in coming years as it tries to adapt to climate change and rises in temperature that are likely to be more severe than elsewhere

REUTERS

**Shanghai, August 17:** China is scrambling to alleviate power shortages and bring more water to the drought-hit basin of the Yangtze river as it battles a record-breaking heatwave by deploying relief funds, seeding clouds and developing new sources of supply.

For more than two months, baking temperatures have disrupted crop growth, threatened livestock and forced industries in the hydropower-dependent regions of the southwest to shut down so as to ensure electricity supplies for homes.

On Wednesday, China's southwestern province of Sichuan said it would ration power supplies to

homes, offices and shopping malls, after having already ordered energy-intensive metals and fertiliser producers to curb operations.

In what appears to be an official call to cut back use of electricity, government offices were asked to set air conditioners no lower than 26 degrees Celsius (78.8°F) and use more staircases instead of lifts, the Sichuan Daily, run by the provincial government, said.

Fountains, light shows and commercial activities after dark are to be suspended, it added.

Hydropower makes up about 80% of Sichuan's power capacity, but dwindling water flows on the Yangtze and its tributaries led to a struggle to meet mounting demand



for air conditioning as temperatures soared to 40 degrees Celsius (104 F) and beyond.

Drought throughout the Yangtze river basin was also "adversely affecting" drinking water for rural people and livestock, as well as the growth of crops, the water resources ministry said in a notice.

To boost downstream supplies, China's biggest hydropower project, the Three Gorges dam, will

step up water discharges by 500 million cubic metres over the next 10 days, it said Tuesday. Water flows there this week were about half those of a year earlier.

Some livestock from drought-hit areas had been temporarily moved elsewhere, the finance ministry said this week, promising disaster relief of 300 million yuan (\$44.30 million).

On Wednesday, the central

Southwestern Sichuan widens power rationing to homes, malls. Farm ministry warns of impact on crops, livestock

Cloud seeding programmes launched in central Hubei and elsewhere

Heatwave, at 64 days, is the longest since records began

province of Hubei became the latest to unveil an effort to induce rainfall, by sending airplanes to fire the chemical silver iodide into the clouds.

Other regions on the Yangtze have also launched "cloud seeding" programmes, but with cloud cover too thin, operations in some parched areas have stayed on standby.

China's heatwave has run for 64 days, making it the longest since full records began in 1961, state media said, citing data from the National Climate Center.



of the day quote

Retail businesses across the country are looking good as healthy growth in sales over pre-pandemic level continues. Key categories like garments and footwear are showing traction

KUMAR RAJAGOPALAN | CEO, RAI

All our internal estimates show that the market will grow at a healthy number and we will outpace at 2x

ADITYA BABBAR | MARKETING HEAD, SAMSUNG

One of the criteria to make that decision (EV production) is the kind of subsidies we may get from the state governments. So, we are waiting to go through that process and will keep two-three options open before firming up our manufacturing strategy

RAJESH JEJURIKAR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (AUTO AND FARM SECTORS), M&M

SHORT TAKES

FPIs' stock holding slips 14% to \$523bn

**New Delhi:** The value of the foreign portfolio investors (FPI) holdings in the domestic equities dropped 14 per cent to \$523 billion in the three months ended June 2022 from the preceding quarter, according to a Morningstar report. This was the third consecutive quarterly decline in the value of FPIs' investments in Indian equities. Foreign investors were cautious since the start of the year and it intensified as the year progressed, following the influence of worrying trends in both global and domestic markets.

MFI sector's loan portfolio grows 24%

**Mumbai:** Microfinance (MFI) industry witnessed a growth of 24 per cent in its loan portfolio at Rs 2,75,750 crore during the April-June quarter against Rs 2,22,307 crore in the year-ago period, a report said Wednesday. The portfolio of all lenders stood at Rs 2,62,599 crore as on March 31, 2022, according to the report released by Sa-Dhan, an RBI recognised Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for microfinance institutions. Barring banks, the portfolio of all lenders recorded double-digit growth.

CCPA fines Flipkart for faulty cookers

**New Delhi:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Wednesday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 1,00,000 on e-commerce player Flipkart for allowing the sale of substandard domestic pressure cookers on its platform. Flipkart has also been directed to notify consumers of all 598 pressure cookers sold on its platform, recall the pressure cookers and reimburse money to the consumers, CCPA Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare said.

Jetstar, Indigo sign interline agreement

**New Delhi:** Passengers of Australian low-cost airline Jetstar can now book seats on Indigo flights as an interline agreement between the carriers went live Wednesday, according to a statement. "As demand for air travel continues to recover, Jetstar customers looking for low-cost travel options can now access Indigo's low fares from Jetstar's hub in Singapore to key Indian destinations including Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, and Tiruchirappalli via jetstar.Com," the carriers said in a joint statement.



Over the decades India has made remarkable contribution. Nearly 60 per cent of all the vaccines which are used in the world are produced in India. India has singular contribution to make to the world in terms of vaccination and that which is being produced and supplied to the entire world

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

AKASA AIR'S BIG EXPANSION PLAN

India's Akasa Air said Wednesday it would keep adding one new aircraft every two weeks after the country's newest budget carrier received its third plane. Founder and Chief Executive Officer Vinay Dube said the airline was well-capitalized to induct 72 aircraft over the next five years



1ST TIME IN 40 YRS

Britain inflation touches double digits

Inflation is expected to fall back a little in August; however, according to estimates it could soar to 13.3 per cent in October. The Bank of England thinks this could push the UK into a recession

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**London, August 17:** In Britain, the cost of living soared again in July, putting further strain on under-pressure families across the UK. Consumer Prices Index inflation (CPI) reached 10.1 per cent last month, beating expectations,



CPI REACHED 10.1% IN JULY; IT WAS AT 9.4% IN JUNE

RETAIL PRICE INDEX INFLATION REACHED 12.3% IN JULY

toothbrushes, it said. The measure had been expected to reach 9.8 per cent, according to an average of analysts' estimates calculated by Pantheon Macroeconomics, reports dpa news agency. It is the biggest jump in the cost of living since

A wide range of price rises drove inflation up again this month. Food prices rose notably, particularly bakery products, dairy, meat and vegetables, which was also reflected in higher takeaway prices. Price rises in other staple items, such as pet food, toilet rolls, toothbrushes and deodorants also pushed up inflation in July

GRANT FITZNER | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ONS

February 1982, when CPI reached 10.4 per cent, according to ONS estimates. It is also a massive jump from the 9.4 per cent inflation in June.

ONS chief economist Grant Fitzner said: "Driven by higher demand, the price for package holidays rose, after falling at the same time last year, while air fares also increased. "The cost of both raw materials and goods leaving factories continued to rise, driven

by the price of metals and food respectively."

Chancellor Nadhim Zahawi said: "I understand that times are tough, and people are worried about increases in prices that countries around the world are facing. Getting inflation under control is my top priority, and we are taking action through strong, independent monetary policy, responsible tax and spending decisions, and reforms to boost productivity and growth.

FASTEST PACE IN THE WORLD

India's oil demand to rise 7.7% in '22



INDIA IS THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST OIL IMPORTING AND CONSUMING NATION BEHIND THE US AND CHINA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** India's demand for petroleum products like petrol and diesel will grow by 7.73 per cent in 2022, the fastest pace in the world, an OPEC report said. India's demand for oil products is projected to rise from 4.77 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2021 to 5.14 million bpd in 2022, OPEC said in its monthly oil report.

The growth in demand is the fastest in the world ahead of 1.23 per cent of China, 3.39 per cent of the US and 4.62 per cent of Europe.

For 2023, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) projected a growth of 4.67 per cent in India's demand to 5.38 per cent. This, however, will be lower than 4.86 per cent growth in China.

The demand for petroleum products in India is supported by the healthy economic growth of 7.1 per cent, continuing economic reopening amid ease of Covid restrictions and easing of trade-related bottlenecks supporting both mobility and industrial sector activity. The report said the oil demand

Demand is projected to rise from 4.77 million bpd in 2021 to 5.14 million bpd in 2022

Growth in demand is ahead of 1.23% of China, 3.39% of the US and 4.62% of Europe

OPEC projected a growth of 4.67% in India's demand to 5.38% for next year

India's economy continuing on a recovery path: OPEC

will see a dip in the third quarter (July-September) due to the arrival of the monsoon but will pick up the following quarter on the back of the festival and holiday season.

"Overall, based on the most recent trends, demand for diesel and jet kerosene would likely account for a bigger part of the growth in demand in H2 as consumption of these two products had fallen sharply due to the pandemic," it said. India's crude imports edged higher averaging 4.7 million bpd in June, with Russian oil flows up 0.9 million bpd, the report said quoting secondary sources.

"In terms of crude imports by source, Kpler data shows Russia moving up to be the top supplier of crude to India in June, securing a 24 per cent share. Iraq fell to second with a share of 21 per cent, followed by Saudi Arabia which was stable at 15 per cent," it said. The report of OPEC - an or-

First time since March, Russian oil buying drops

**New Delhi:** India's crude oil imports from Russia in July fell for the first time since March along with its overall purchase while supplies from Saudi Arabia rebounded for the first in five months, data obtained from trade and industry sources showed. Indian refiners lifted more term supplies from Saudi Arabia as prices were attractive while prices for Russian supplies have climbed on robust demand. India shipped in 877,400 barrels per day (bpd) oil from Russia in July, a decline of about 7.3% from June, with Moscow continuing as its second biggest oil supplier after Iraq. Overall India shipped in 3.2% less oil in July at 4.63 million bpd from June as some refineries planned maintenance turnaround from August, the data showed. India's oil imports from Saudi Arabia rose by 25.6% to 824,700 bpd in July, the highest in three months, the data showed, after the producer lowered official selling price in June and July compared with May. Saudi Arabia stayed at No 3 spot among India's suppliers.

ganisation of the world's major oil exporting nations such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq, stated that India's crude imports are likely to remain close to current levels in July, with Russian inflows remaining above 1 million bpd and with expectations for slightly lower flows from elsewhere.

It saw India's economy continuing on a recovery path, supported by pent-up demand for services and higher industrial output.

"India's economy may maintain its upward recovery momentum, but it would be moderate given several risk factors, including high inflation, less accommodative monetary conditions and a deteriorating external environment", it said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 17:** The BSE Sensex maintained its winning run for the fourth session on the trot Wednesday to reclaim the 60,000-level after a gap of over four months as investors remained upbeat amid softening crude oil prices and persistent foreign fund inflows.

A strengthening rupee and positive Asian markets further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 417.92 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 60,260.13 - closing above the psychologically key 60,000-mark for the first time since April 5 this year.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty spurred 119 points or 0.67 per cent to finish at 17,944.25, marking its seventh straight session of gains.

Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 5.74 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, NTPC, HUL and Wipro.

On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Maruti, Tata Steel, Kotak Bank, Power Grid and Titan closed with

BIZ BUZZ

BoB celebrates 76th Independence Day

Bhubaneswar:

Bank of

Baroda,

Bhubaneswar

Regional office

celebrated

76th

Independence

Day at its

office

premises. RK

Mohanty, Network -I,

Patna Zone stationed at Bhubaneswar

hoisted the national flag and addressed the gathering on the occasion.

Mohanty delivered the brief key note about our freedom fighters and vital role towards the development of the country's economy.

Meanwhile DK Jha, DRM Bhubaneswar Region, Jyotirmaye Jena, Branch Head, Cuttack Road discussed about the roles and responsibilities of bankers for the poor and for our country. All staff members of Regional Office, Bhubaneswar as well as branch staffs were present on the occasion.



ATM relocation of PNB

**Bhubaneswar:** Relocation of ATM at Daruthenga inaugurated by Member of Parliament Aparajita Sarangi, MLA Suresh Kumar Routray in presence of A Udaya Bhaskar Reddy, Zonal Manager Bhubaneswar, and other staffs of branch. During the programme local Sarpanch, SHG groups, BDO and other officials present.



DESPITE HEATWAVE

Govt projects record foodgrain output this crop yr

The wheat production is estimated to have declined due to heatwave that resulted in shrivelled grains in the northern states of Punjab and Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** India's wheat production is projected to have declined nearly 3 per cent to 106.84 million tonne while the overall foodgrain production is estimated to have touched record 315.72 million tonne in the 2021-22 crop year.

Releasing the fourth advance estimate for the 2021-22 crop year; the Union agriculture ministry on Wednesday said a record output is also estimated for rice, maize,

gram, pulses, rapeseed and mustard, oilseeds and sugarcane.

The crop year 2021-22 was from July 2021 to June 2022.

The country's overall foodgrain production is estimated to be record 315.72 million tonne in the crop year that ended in June 2022, according to the ministry.

In the 2020-21 crop year, the country's foodgrain output, comprising wheat, rice, pulses and coarse cereals, stood at record 310.74 million tonne.

As per the data, wheat produc-



tion is pegged lower at 106.84 million tonne in the 2021-22 crop year as against 109.59 million tonne in the previous year.

However, rice production is pro-

jected at record 130.29 million tonne in the crop year under review as against 124.37 million tonne in the year-ago period.

The ministry said the output

Record production is a result of the farmer-friendly policies of the Central Government under the leadership of PM Modi as well as tireless farmers and diligent scientists

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

of coarse cereals is likely to decline to 50.90 million tonne from 51.32 million tonne. Pulses output is estimated to be at record 27.69 million tonne compared to 25.46 million tonne in the 2020-21 crop year.

In the non-foodgrain category, the production of oilseeds is projected to be record 37.69 million

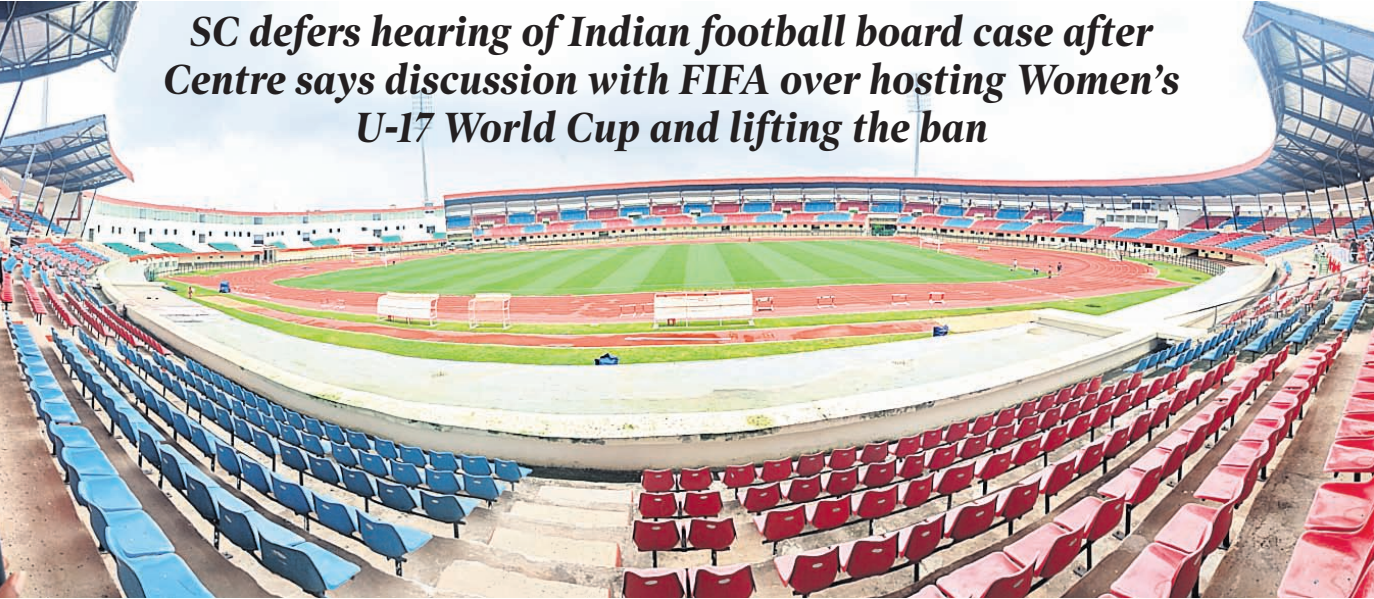
tonne in the 2021-22 crop year as against 35.94 million tonne in the previous year.

Rapeseed/mustard seed production is pegged at record 17.74 million tonne for the 2021-22 crop year. According to the data, sugarcane production is estimated at record 431.8 million tonne compared to 405.39 million tonne in the previous year while cotton output is expected to drop to 31.2 million bales (170 kg each) from 35.24 million bales.

Production of jute/mesta is estimated to be 10.31 million bales (180 kg each) in the 2021-22 crop year as against 9.35 million bales in the previous year. In a crop year, he government releases four estimates before the final one at different stages of crop growth and harvesting period.



# Ray of hope for AIFF



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** The Supreme Court Wednesday deferred till August 22 hearing on the All India Football Federation (AIFF) matter after the Centre said it is in discussion with FIFA over holding of the U-17 Women's world cup in India.

The court also asked the Centre to take proactive steps to hold the world cup in India and lift the suspension of AIFF.

Meanwhile, FIFA's ban on AIFF came as a surprise for the Odisha government. The iconic Kalinga Stadium was scheduled to host six group matches, including India's that were to be played October 11, 14 and 17.

Sources informed that the state government has already spent nearly Rs 70 crore on building infrastructure for the mega event.

The state government has already upgraded the football stadium in accordance with FIFA standards. Four practice pitches, including one inside the Kalinga Stadium and three in different parts of Bhubaneswar, have been developed, which can also be used in future for hosting other tournaments.



An artificial grass pitch has also been developed for practice. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, AS Bopanna and JB Paridwala was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that two meetings have been held by the government and committee of administrators with FIFA and efforts are being made to "break some ice" on the holding of the U-17 Women's World Cup in India.

He requested that the matter be

side is trying to interfere with it, it would not be tolerated, it said.

The bench asked the Centre to play a proactive role in the matter and facilitate the lifting the suspension of AIFF.

Tuesday, the FIFA had suspended India for "undue influence from third parties" and stripped the country of the right to host the U-17 Women's World Cup. The country was scheduled to host the FIFA tournament from October 11-30.

This is the first time that the AIFF has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year-old history. A ban on India was on the cards after the Supreme Court removed Praful Patel as AIFF president May 18 for not holding elections due in December 2020.

The court had appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA), headed by former apex court judge AR Dave, to manage the affairs of the national federation.

The CoA, which has former Chief Commissioner of India SY Quraishi and ex India captain Bhaskar Ganguly as other members, also had to frame its constitution in line with the National Sports Code and model guidelines.

# Odisha remains host for FIH WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** Odisha 'will' play host to 2023 Men's hockey World Cup after international hockey federation (FIH) made it clear that it "does not consider the court as third party", ruling out the possibility of a ban with only months left for the World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

A two-member delegation from the FIH is in the national capital to discuss the way forward and avert a possible suspension of Hockey India (HI), currently placed under a CoA on the directive of the Delhi HC.

The meeting was attended by FIH's acting president Seif Ahmed, CEO Thierry Weil and the members of the CoA - Justice Anil R Dave, former Judge of the Supreme Court, SY Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India and Zafar Iqbal, a former Olympian.

Speaking in context of the Delhi HC order with respect to HI, Ahmed said, "We don't consider the court as a third party and respect the judiciary. We believe that the order of a court is not an interference."

Dave said, "The interaction was extremely positive and encouraging. We have been able to conclude and agree on some important next steps to ensure the continued smooth



functioning of Hockey in India keeping in mind the foremost importance of the spirit of the sport and best interest of our athletes."

In another development, HI's election process will be completed by October 9, the CoA-managed sports body said Wednesday after submitting the first draft of its modified constitution to the FIH.

In a joint statement, the FIH and CoA said the final draft of the constitution will be delivered to the FIH headquarters at Lausanne "within the next 10 days".

"The first draft of the modified constitution of Hockey India, as directed by honourable Delhi High Court, has been submitted today to FIH and the CoA, Hockey India will have a final draft delivered within the next ten days. Additionally the process of elections for HI was mutually decided to be

completed by October 9th, 2022," the joint statement read.

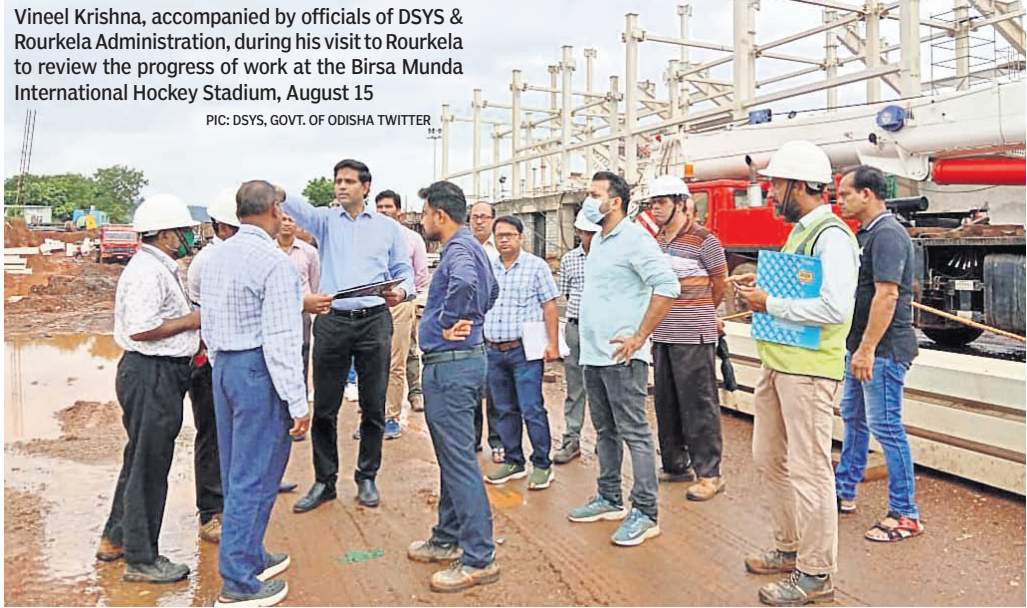
Tuesday, the visiting FIH delegation also met Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi. "This was a positive meeting and the conversation with her is in alignment with the outcomes from today's discussions with the CoA, Hockey India," the statement read.

Vineel Krishna, the Odisha government's commissioner-cum-secretary in the state's sports and youth services department, also met with the visiting FIH delegation and made a presentation on the upcoming World Cup.

"The development of infrastructure for the prestigious tournament was appreciated by all and it was agreed upon to conduct a site visit to Rourkela September 7th, 2022 by the members of FIH and the CoA, Hockey India.

"This visit will be followed by the official draw for the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 to be announced from Bhubaneswar on September 8th, 2022."

This comes after the FIH last month sought a "detailed timeline" from the CoA on adoption of an amended constitution and holding of fresh elections at HI. The FIH CEO had last month also said they were hopeful of hosting the WC in India.



PIC: DSYS, GOVT. OF ODISHA TWITTER

# 138 matches for India in 2023-27 FTP cycle

ICC MEN'S FTP	
2019-2023	2023-2027
151 TESTS	173 TESTS
241 ODIs	281 ODIs
301 T20Is	326 T20Is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 17:** The Indian men's team will be playing a whopping 138 bilateral international matches during the next five-year Future Tours & Programme (FTP) Cycle between May 2023 to April 2027, the ICC said Wednesday.

Most sought-after team commercially, the 'Men In Blue' will play 38 Tests, 39 ODIs and 61 T20Is in the five-year period and focus on shortest format is an indicator how priorities across formats will be changing. The ODI bilaterals will remain but mostly be three-match series.

India expectedly has a choc-a-bloc calendar but as usual there won't be any bilateral cricket series with Pakistan due to obvious political reasons.

The 12 Members will play a total of 777 international matches - 173 Tests, 281 ODIs and 323 T20Is - in the 2023-2027 FTP cycle compared to the 694 in the current one.

This includes the next two cycles of the ICC Men's World Test Championship, multiple ICC events and a host of bilateral as well as tri-series action.

As far as India's schedule is concerned, the traditional India versus Australia Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, that used to be a four-match affair for a long

time will become five-Test series.

India will be playing five-Test series against both England and Australia and also on the T20 front, there are a lot of five-match series which is on expected lines with the broadcasters demand with premium advertisement rates for short-form matches.

The Indian team will play 27 ODI games before the 2023 50-over World Cup in India scheduled in October-November next year. The run starts with India's series against Zimbabwe in Harare from Thursday. The chunk among the 27 ODIs is from the previous FTP cycle which also include home three-match series against South Africa and an away three-match event against New Zealand just after T20 World Cup.

During the next FTP cycle, India to visit West Indies (July-Aug 2023) for a full series including 2 Tests, ODIs and 3 T20Is.

The 5-Test home series against England will be tentatively held between Jan-March in 2024.

India's trip Down Under is in December-January, 2024-25 when they play Australia in a 5-Test series for the first time since 1991.

India will host Bangladesh for a 2-Test series in September 2024.

Australia and England during the same five-year phase will be playing 40 and 43 Tests respectively.

The inaugural World Test Championships New Zealand in the next cycle have 32 Tests earmarked, while South Africa in the same duration play only 29 Tests. They mostly play two and some 3-Test series.

Pakistan have only 27 Tests between May 2023-April 2027 while Sri Lanka and West Indies play 25 Tests each respectively.

# PSL to clash with mighty IPL in 2025

**NEW DELHI:** The Pakistan Super League (PSL) is set to clash with the mighty Indian Premier League (IPL) in the summer of 2025 due to Pakistan's packed home season, which sees them host the ICC Champions Trophy. The IPL's two and half month window starts from March and goes on till the beginning of June. However, the Pakistan Cricket Board has been forced to push back the 10th season of its T20 league from its regular January-February window to between March and May as the country is set to host the Champions Trophy in February 2025. It will be the first time that a T20 League will go head-to-head with the cash-rich IPL. It will be interesting to see which tournament the players, plying their trade in both leagues, pick. The 2025 Champions Trophy will be the first ICC event to be held in Pakistan in almost 30 years. Due to security-related issues, Pakistan had missed out on hosting top teams in the previous three Future Tours and Programmes Cycles (FTP). However, that has changed in the latest cycle, which will see Pakistan play 13 Tests, 26 ODIs and 27 T20Is at home in addition to the Champions Trophy, leading to a packed calendar.

# Eyes on Rahul as India face Zimbabwe



KL Rahul bats at the nets ahead of first ODI against Zimbabwe, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Harare, August 17:** Skipper KL Rahul's form and fitness will be observed keenly when India take on Zimbabwe in a three-match ODI series, starting Thursday, in 50-over format.

Supposed to be one of the most vital cogs in India's T20 World Cup top-order, Rahul would like to make full use of the game time he gets as an opener during the three games against Regis Chakabva's side.

Rahul's immediate task at hand after a two-month lay-off, during which he underwent a sports hernia surgery, is to keep his opening slot in T20 cricket and adapt to the

team's philosophy of going hell for leather from ball one.

It won't just be about runs that skipper Rohit Sharma or coach Rahul Dravid would be looking at when they monitor Rahul's performance in Zimbabwe.

Rather they would like to check out his approach and the manner in which he is scoring runs, something he would need to tweak before that first Asia Cup game against Pakistan August 28.

On the Harare Sports Club batting belt where Zimbabwe chased down Bangladesh's 300 plus and 290-odd targets in successive games in the recently-concluded series, India's batting line-up with Rahul,

Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda and Sanju Samson will certainly prove to be more than a handful for hosts.

And unlike Bangladesh, a bowling attack comprising Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Deepak Chahar, Kuldeep Yadav along with all-rounders Shardul Thakur and Axar Patel has more potency in any conditions against this Zimbabwe line-up.

For Zimbabwe, the aim would be to become the proverbial banana peel on which Rahul and his men can slip as a series win for 'Men in Blue' would hardly win them any accolades but a defeat would invite sharp criticism.

India's tours of Zimbabwe are normally a kind of gift from 'big brother' to help a 'younger' gain financial stability. The TV and digital rights revenue from three India games will cover Zimbabwe cricket's more than half the costs for the year. So this earns BCCI a goodwill gesture.

## THE SQUAD

KL Rahul (C), Shikhar Dhawan (vc), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd Siraj, Deepak Chahar & Shahbaz Ahmed.

# SERENA GOES DOWN TO RADUCANU

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Mason, August 17:** The second stop on Serena Williams' farewell tour was a short one. The 40-year-old Williams fell to 0-2 in matches since announcing 'the countdown has begun' on her career, losing 4-6, 0-6 to US Open champion Emma Raducanu in the Western & Southern Open Tuesday night.

Williams said last week in a Vogue magazine essay and an Instagram post that her career was winding down, although she did not explicitly say the US Open, which begins August 29 in New York, would be her last tournament.

The Cincinnati event was the second US Open tune-up for Williams, and the next time she takes the court will be at Flushing Meadows.

Williams is a 23-time Grand Slam champion, most recently in 2017 at the Australian Open, when she was pregnant with daughter Olympia. She said wanting to expand her family was a big reason



MUTUAL RESPECT Serena Williams and Emma Raducanu shake hands after their match, Tuesday

she plans to step away. Raducanu, World No.19, was sharp as she dispatched Williams - and quieted the vocally pro-Williams

crowd - in 1 hour, 5 minutes. "I can't believe I just played Serena Williams," the 19-year-old Raducanu said. "It's something

that I think I'm really fortunate to have been able to do, and for our careers to have crossed when there's such a big (age) gap and watching her growing up, it was an amazing experience to just play her."

Williams did not speak to reporters after the match. Fans cheered heartily when Williams was introduced, and again when she won her first point on a Raducanu error in the second game. She briskly left the court after the match, waving to the crowd as she exited.

Raducanu will face veteran Victoria Azarenka in Wednesday's second round. Among others, four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka was eliminated by Shuai Zhang, 6-4, 7-5. Karolina Pliskova advanced with a 7-5, 6-1 win over Williams' older sister, Venus.

In the men's draw, top-ranked Daniil Medvedev of Russia advanced to the third round, beating Botich van de Zandschlop 6-4, 7-5. Nick Kyrgios beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 7-5, 6-4.

# Jerry's brace helps OFC thrash NEUFC 6-0 in Durand Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, August 17:** Odisha FC (OFC) rode on a first-half brace by Jerry Mawihmingthanga to demolish NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) 6-0 in their Durand Cup opener here Wednesday.

Jerry opened the scoring in the 15th minute. Eleven minutes later goalkeeper Lalthuammawia Ralte got into the act with an accurate throw-out across the field to find Nandhakumar Sekar on the left before the latter extending the lead.

Jerry got his second in the 37th minute. Isak scored with a brilliant header off a Nandha corner in the 81st minute, and then, Diego Muricio found the net with a wonderful free-kick (87th).

Thoiba Singh (90th) in the final minute of the game tapped in to make it a day to forget for the team from the northeast.