



## CHALLENGING TASK

Actor Sara Ali Khan is all set to essay the role of freedom fighter Usha Mehta in 'Aye Watan... Mere Watan'

LEISURE P2



## DISASTER AVERTED

Ethiopian Airlines pilots fall asleep en route from Khartoum in Sudan to Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and missed the landing

INTERNATIONAL P10



## EYEING A NEW ROLE

Former India footballer Bhaichung Bhutia files nomination for the president's post in the upcoming AIFF elections

SPORTS P12

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't show me convicts' chargesheet. Tell me their caste

## BOI's lookout circular against lady fraudster

The sham firm owned by Nisha's husband had received ₹1.91 cr from 166 job seekers but later, it misappropriated the amount and shut the office

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 19: The Bureau of Immigration (BOI) has issued a lookout circular (LOC) against Nisha Kashyap, wife of Bhiku Bisoi who along with his aides had reportedly duped several youths of ₹1.91 crore on the pretext of providing them jobs and work from home assignments.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state police has requested the BOI to issue the circular to prevent the accused from fleeing the country or apprehend her upon entering into the country.

Notably, the BOI had also issued another lookout circular against Kashyap's absconding husband and his assistant Manikandan in July 2022. The EOW took over investigation into the job fraud after reg-

istering a case in this regard.

Earlier, Bhanjanagar police in Ganjam district that was investigating into the case had arrested four office bearers of the sham firm M/s Kinney Infotech Pvt Ltd. The fugitive fraudsters including Kashyap were co-directors of the firm.

"During 2021, accused persons namely Bhiku Bisoi, a native of Ganjam district, and Manikandan of Chennai being the Directors of M/s Kinney Infotech Pvt. Ltd. opened the firm's office at Bhanjanagar and employed some agents to persuade the common people to invest in their company with false assurance of providing the job/work from home etc. Being allured, a large number of unemployed youths had invested huge amounts in the company with the hope of getting jobs. In this way, the company had received ₹1.91 crore from 166 job seekers. But the accused misappropriated the amounts, closed the office and fled away," said the EOW in its press note.

The EOW suspected that the accused is hiding in Malaysia.



Nisha Kashyap

## BACK TO SAFETY



Fishermen sailing their boats ashore on Bhogra coast in Balasore following an alert over deep depression formed in Bay of Bengal, Friday

OP PHOTO

## Lightning: 10 kids injured in Deogarh



DEOGARH: At least 10 students were critically injured after lightning struck a school in Deogarh district Friday afternoon. The incident took place at Katurapasi Upper Primary School under Tileibani block. Reports said lightning struck when students of Classes IV and V were attending classes in a common room. Ten students sustained injuries. The fans, lights and other electrical equipment were damaged due to the lightning strike. The injured students were first taken to the local community health centre (CHC). Three of them were discharged after preliminary treatment while the remaining seven had to be shifted to the district headquarters hospital.

## Heavy rain lashes northern districts

The system crossed landmass between Balasore and Sagar Islands, close to Digha by 8pm Friday, says the Met office

POST NEWS NETWORK

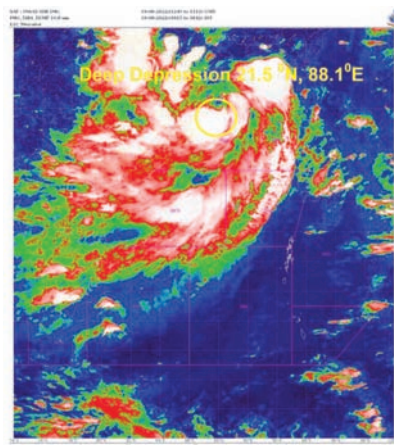
Bhubaneswar, August 19: The depression formed in the Bay of Bengal intensified into a deep depression bringing rainfall to north Odisha districts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday.

However, it has ruled out possibility of a cyclone. Social media was flooded with posts on the possibility of a cyclone following the US Joint Typhoon Warning Centre's (JTWC) warning Thursday that the system has the potential to intensify into a cyclone.

"There is no possibility of a cyclone this time. We have never said that the system will take the shape of a cyclone," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said. The system will move along the coast as a deep depression at a wind speed of 60 to 65 kmph and it is unlikely to intensify further, he said.

According to the Met office, continuing to move west-northwestwards, the deep depression crossed West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha coasts between Balasore and Sagar Islands, close to Digha between 7pm and 8 pm, Friday.

The system would continue to move west-north westwards across West Bengal, north Odisha and Jharkhand towards north



### CM'S APPEAL NOT TO PANIC

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik made a special appeal to the residents of four districts. "As per IMD forecast, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Boudh tonight. I appeal to people not to panic rather follow the instructions of the administration," he said. Stating that "every life is precious" for the Odisha government, he said everybody should stay safe and ensure safety of family members as well.

Chhattisgarh during next 24 hours and weaken gradually.

Under its influence, squally surface wind reaching up to 55-65 kmph is expected in coastal areas and 30-40 kmph in interior districts of the state, it said.

"North Odisha will receive the maximum rainfall Friday while rain intensity will increase in western districts tomorrow (Saturday)," Mohapatra said. The IMD has issued a red warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall, with isolated extremely heavy falls, for Keonjhar, Boudh, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts till 8:30am August 20.

It has also forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places in dis-

tricts like Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Boudh, Bolangir and Jajpur during this period.

An orange warning also continues for the subsequent 24 hours with a forecast for heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places in Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Subarnapur and Bolangir districts.

Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places in Mayurbhanj, Angul, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Nabarangpur and Dhenkanal districts, the IMD said.

Continued on P4

## CBI will find pencils: AAP

AAP says the Centre sent the CBI to raid Deputy CM Manish Sisodia after the New York Times highlighted the Delhi model of education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: The Narendra Modi government is "scared" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's 'growing popularity', the AAP claimed Friday after a CBI raid at Manish Sisodia's residence while the BJP hit back with corruption allegations.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and its Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said the CBI would find nothing but "pencils and geometry boxes" at the home of Sisodia who is also Delhi's education minister.

"When raids were conducted at Arvind Kejriwal's residence earlier, they found four mufflers. During raids at Sisodia's residence, they will get four pencils, notebooks and a



### RAID ON SISODIA

geometry box," he said.

The BJP was planning to jail the Delhi deputy chief minister, Chadha alleged, adding over 100 fake cases had been registered against AAP leaders but they came clean in courts every time.

Kejriwal said, "Many obstacles will be created in our mission. This is not the first raid on Sisodia; there were raids in the past too. There have been raids on many of our min-

### Liquor trader paid ₹1cr to Sisodia's aide: FIR

A liquor trader paid ₹1 crore to a company managed by an associate of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, the CBI has claimed in its FIR on alleged corruption in the framing and implementation of the excise policy 2021-22.

isters and me too. But nothing came out of them and nothing will come out this time as well."

Sisodia said the CBI officials seized his computer and mobile phone after several hours of search and also took away some files. He said that CBI officials behaved well during the raid.

Continued on P4

## Inflation unacceptably high: Das

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 19: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the retail inflation is "unacceptably and uncomfortably" high and proposed the 50 basis points hike in repo rate at the recent monetary policy review meeting.

The other members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had expressed similar views, according to the minutes of the meeting released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday.

At its meeting from August 3 to 5, MPC decided to increase the benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent with

a view to taming inflation.

The sequence of policy measures, Das said, "is expected to strengthen monetary policy credibility and anchor inflation expectations". "Our actions would continue to be calibrated, measured and nimble depending upon the unfolding dynamics of inflation and economic activity," he said.

According to RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra, frontloading of monetary policy actions "can keep inflation expectations firmly anchored, re-align inflation with the target and reduce the medium-term growth sacrifice as it is timed into the recovery underway."

### MGNREGS FUND BUNGLING

## Lokayukta orders recovery of fund

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharmashala, August 19: After Lokayukta detected embezzlement of fund sanctioned for a road project under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Gangadharpur panchayat under Dhamashala block of Jajpur, three engineers, one GRS and a former sarpanch were served notices for recovery of the fund.

Reports said ₹5 lakh was sanctioned for a road project at Imannagar under this block in FY 2020-22. The work order was issued in the name of the then panchayat executive officer (PEO).

As per official estimate, a 320-metre stretch cement concrete (CC) road was to be laid in the village. However, work for only 90-metre stretch was done while wages of 31 job card holders - nearly ₹2.94 lakh - was misappropriated by some dishonest officials.

Learning about the irregularities, RTI activist Sarbeswar Beura sought information from the block administration about the details of fund utilisation in the road project. He had also drawn attention of the Lokayukta towards the irregularities.

The Lokayukta registered a case April 13, 2022 and sought detailed report about the project from the BDO. However, the BDO in his report rubbished the allegations.

Continued on P4

## Gandhiji's statue vandalised in NY

NEW YORK: In a possible hate crime, unidentified persons have destroyed a handcrafted statue of Mahatma Gandhi with a sledgehammer at a Hindu temple here after vandalising it earlier this month, media reports said Friday. Surveillance video shows a person thrashing a statue of Gandhi with a sledgehammer Tuesday, before smashing the head off and toppling it over, according to cbsnews.com. Minutes later, a group of six stomp on it and take turns hammering the statue before taking off, the report said. "To see them coming after us like this is very painful," Lakshman Maharaj, the founder of Shri Tulsi Mandir, situated in South Richmond Hill was quoted as saying in the report. Maharaj discovered the Gandhi statue was reduced to rubble Wednesday morning. The word "dog" was spray painted both in front of the temple and down the block, it said.

| MARKET WATCH |          |           |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| INDEX        |          | VARIATION |
| SENSEX       | 59646.15 | ↓ 651.85  |
| NIFTY        | 17758.50 | ↓ 198.00  |
| DOLLAR       | 80.36    | ↑ ₹0.25   |
| EURO         | 80.43    | ↓ ₹0.66   |
| GOLD         | ₹51,480  | ↓ ₹123    |
| SILVER       | ₹55,546  | ↓ ₹897    |

| WEATHER  |                   |        |
|----------|-------------------|--------|
|          | BHUB              | CTK    |
| TEMP     | MAX 29.8°C        | 29.4°C |
|          | MIN 24.4°C        | 24.0°C |
|          | Forecast          |        |
| Humidity | 94%               | 92%    |
| Rainfall | 1.0mm             | 4.2mm  |
|          | Partly cloudy sky |        |

## Women have more sex partners than men in 11 states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: Women on average have more sex partners than men in 11 states and Union Territories (UTs) but the percentage of men who had sexual intercourse with someone who was neither their spouse or lived with stood at 4 per cent, much higher than that of women at 0.5 per cent, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data.

The NFHS which was conducted among 1.1 lakh women and 1 lakh men showed that the number of sex partners on average for women was higher than men in many states and UTs.



### NFHS DATA

- The NFHS which was conducted among 1.1 lakh women and 1 lakh men showed that the number of sex partners on average for women was higher than men in many states and Union Territories
- But the percentage of men who had sexual intercourse with someone who was neither their spouse nor live-in partner, in the 12 months preceding the survey, stood at 4%

These states and UTs are: Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and

Tamil Nadu. Rajasthan had the highest number of women who had on an average 3.1 sex partners as against 1.8 for men. But the percentage of men who had sexual intercourse with someone who was neither their spouse nor live-in partner, in the 12 months preceding the survey, stood at 4 per cent. For women, the number stood at 0.5 per cent.

The National Family Health Survey-5 conducted during 2019-21 surveyed 707 districts of the country from 28 states and eight UTs.

The national report also provides data by socio-economic and other background characteristics, useful for policy formulation and effective programme implementation.



# leisure



## DJ SNAKE TO EMBARK ON SIX-CITY INDIA TOUR

Multi-platinum producer William Grigahcine, professionally known as DJ Snake is set to kick off an expansive India tour, starting November 18. The *Turn Down For What* hitmaker will perform in Ahmedabad, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai and Bengaluru on November 27.

## HAYEK IN TALKS TO STAR IN BLACK MIRROR SEASON 6

Salma Hayek is in talks to star in the new season of *Black Mirror*. According to *Variety*, the dystopian Netflix series is slowly assembling a star-studded roster of talent for its long-awaited Season 6, with Hayek being the latest set to join the cast.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today, you will crave total freedom in whatever you are doing, says Ganesh. And sheer entertainment is on the cards for teenyboppers, like mall-hopping or going for a film. The kids will demand a Jumbo Berry ice cone. All in all, it will be a family day for you.

**TAURUS**  
Your think tank will be running on overdrive today. Your possessiveness might kick in to cause a conflict. Keep your anger under the carpet to avoid any unnecessary complications. Introspection will also play upon your thoughts, leading you to explore your problems and pry for solutions, predicts Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will find yourself caught in two minds repeatedly, owing to your unpredictable mood swings. This will be the cause of a lot of mental stress. You can reduce your anxiety by talking out your issues with family members and experts.

**CANCER**  
A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesh's blessings in tow.

**LEO**  
Most of your time will be spent at the work place. You will excel in all your tasks today. Professional relationships will be marked by co-operation. You will have cordial relations with your colleagues. It is an auspicious and progressive day for business, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Take up the gauntlet that promises to test your business acumen, especially those related to capital and finances. You are most likely to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to resolve issues, and Ganesh assures that this will work wonders.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says those of you who are married or in love will experience a good time today. As you spend more time with your life partner by going out for a drive or for dinner, you will come closer to them. Today is a day full of joy, vigor and happiness for you.

**SCORPIO**  
Today promises to be an exceptional day for those involved in business. With sheer brilliance, you will steer deals right to your door step, and will display great finesse in negotiations and bartering. Bring out the leader in you and take charge when you introduce new products or market them in business, suggests Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
It's time for invitations and grooving all night long. And even eat like a glutton. But, for a change you are not on a mood to party, though it is unlike you. You reject the idea of socialising and hitting the dance floor. And your friends do not like your changed avatar, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You want to enhance your knowledge by exploring foreign shores, but luck hasn't favoured you yet. Ganesh predicts today to be a favourable day for you to try again for higher studies. If associated with the Stock Market or speculation, you are likely to make profits. You will come across many opportunities, but you need to identify and explore them to the fullest.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today is a day of communication and associations. While at a family gathering, you will enjoy chatting nineteen to the dozen! But at work, you may be left teaching, explaining, negotiating, co-ordinating and arranging meetings. A productive but draining day, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Compromise is the name of the game when it comes to relationships, and you are adept at it. You realise the importance of losing an argument to win over a heart, and do so with panache. Indeed, this is an area where others emulate you, says Ganesh.

## Rashmika most followed south actress on Instagram

**Chennai:** Keeping up with the social media game is important these days for actors. To keep growing year to year, it is equally important to stay connected with fans on social media. South female actors like Samantha, Rashmika Mandanna, Pooja Hegde and Shruti Haasan among others have climbed their way into the hearts of the masses by posting interesting photos and videos on Instagram. Other actresses like Sai Pallavi, Anupama Parameswaran, Nazriya Fahadh, Nithya Menen, Krithi Shetty and Srinidhi Shetty are equally popular and slowly making their way into social media stardom. But it is *Pushpa* actress Rashmika Mandanna who is now the most followed actress on Instagram with 32.7 million followers. Samantha stands second with 24.3M followers followed by Kajol Agarwal with 23.4M followers. The next five actresses in the list are - Rakul Preet Singh, Pooja Hegde,

Shruti Hasan, Tamannah Bhatia and Keerthy Suresh. In just a short span of 6 years, Rashmika has not only emerged as one of the most bankable actresses in the industry but has also become the National Crush of India. From winning hearts with her cute expressions to treating her fans with adorable photos on social media, she is slaying it the right way. Apart from *Mission Mangal*, *Goodbye* and *Animal*, Rashmika has the sequel of *Pushpa 2* under her kitty along with *Varisu* opposite Vijay Thalapaty.



## Somy's fresh jibe at ex-bf Salman

The 'Anth' actress earlier dubbed him as the 'Harvey Weinstein of Bollywood' and threatened to expose him

**Mumbai:** Former actress Somy Ali was back to taking jibes at ex-boyfriend Salman Khan with her cryptic posts on social media.

She sent out a warning to the 'Harvey Weinstein of Bollywood' and threatened to expose him. Somy shared a silhouette still from Salman Khan and Bhagyashree's hit movie *Maine Pyar Kiya* and captioned it as, "A women beater, and not just me, but many. Stop worshipping him please. He's a sadistic sick \*#uk. You have no idea."



This time around, the *Anth* actress shared a poster of *Maine Pyar Kiya* and captioned it as, "A women beater, and not just me, but many. Stop worshipping him please. He's a sadistic sick \*#uk. You have no idea." The actress, however, did not mention Salman's name or tag him in her post. Early this year, Somy made headlines when

she sent out a warning to the 'Harvey Weinstein of Bollywood' and threatened to expose him. Somy shared a silhouette still from Salman Khan and Bhagyashree's hit movie *Maine Pyar Kiya* and captioned it as, "A women beater, and not just me, but many. Stop worshipping him please. He's a sadistic sick \*#uk. You have no idea." The actress, however, did not mention Salman's name or tag him in her post. Early this year, Somy made headlines when



## Kanishka Soni marries herself

The TV actor has followed Kshama Bindu of Gujarat, reported to be the first sologamist of India

**Mumbai:** Television actress Kanishka Soni, who is known for her work in *Diya Aur Baati Hum*, has married herself in India's second reported sologamy after Kshama Bindu from Gujarat did the same. Taking to her Instagram, she posted a series of pictures where she can be seen dressed in casuals and wearing sindoor in her forehead and a 'mangalsutra'. She penned a long note in the caption where she shared with her fans that she believes in Indian cul-

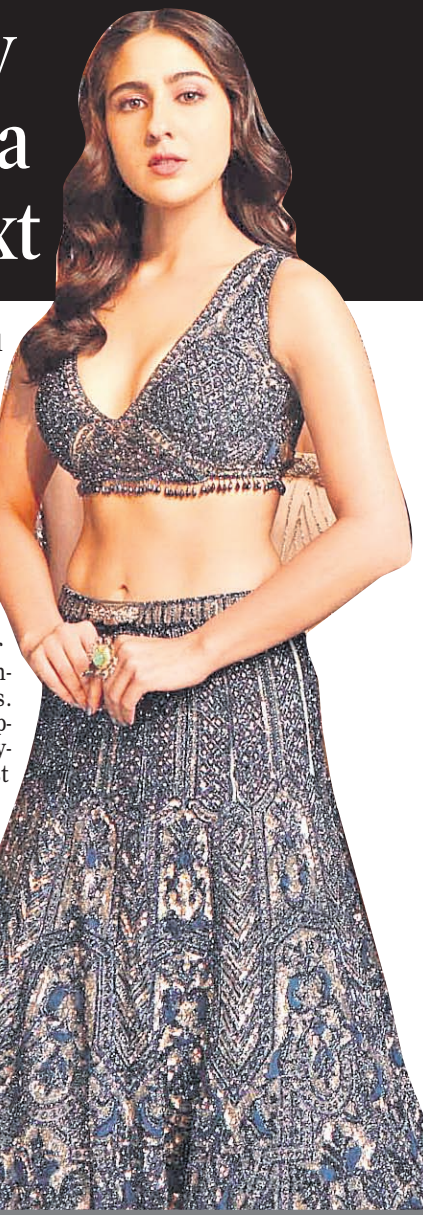
ture and marriage is not about sex, it's about love and honesty. She wrote, "Married to myself since I fulfilled all my dreams my own & the only person I am in love with is MYSELF answer to all questions I am getting I don't need any Man Ever .. I am happy always alone & in solitude with my guitar I am the goddess, Strong & Powerful, Shiva & Shakti everything is inside ME, Thank you (sic)." Shutting down the trolls, she said that she has taken the decision after thinking it through, "It wasn't my intention & also some people said I must have got drunk or have ganja while putting that post but let me tell you that I m so Indian by heart that I have never tried alcohol or any other stuff even after staying for long into film industry, it is a decision made by my full heart & soul with full conscious mind." AGENCIES

## Sara to play Usha Mehta in KJo's next

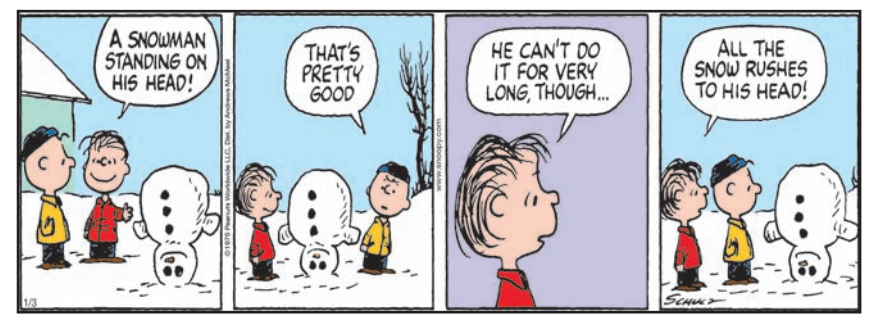
**Mumbai:** Actress Sara Ali Khan is all set to collaborate with Karan Johar for her next. Buzz is that the actress is all set to be a part of a patriotic film titled *Aye Watan... Mere Watan*, where she would be essaying the role of freedom fighter Usha Mehta.

According to sources, the film is all set to go on floors coming September 2022. Sara signed the film earlier this year, and now since she is done with her other commitments, she can now completely devote herself to this. Reportedly, the actress has been prepping for the film and is keen on essaying a real-life character for the first time. It is learnt that the film will primarily focus on Usha Mehta starting an underground radio station, called Congress Radio, which functioned for a few months during the Quit India Movement of 1942. That played a major role in the freedom struggle as it broadcast uncensored news and other information banned by the British government of India.

*Aye Watan... Mere Watan* will be directed by Kannan Iyer who was also supposed to look after the Abhinav Bindra biopic, starring Harsh Vardhan Kapoor and father Anil Kapoor. Apparently the film has been put on hold for time being. AGENCIES



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

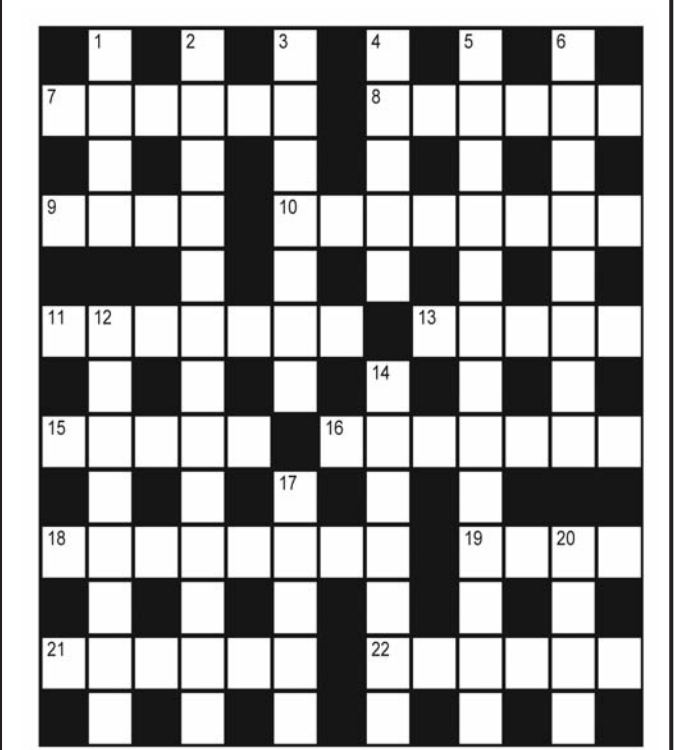


### BREVITY



### FUN post

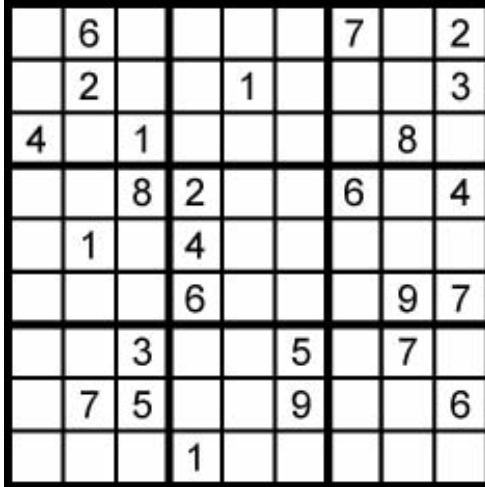
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Vicars and such
  - 8 Nitty-gritty
  - 9 Detailed account
  - 10 Sandwich filler (4,4)
  - 11 Maids' appliances
  - 13 Demon
  - 15 Shady spot
  - 16 Ambushed
  - 18 Sick headache
  - 19 Hot rum drink
  - 21 Promised land
  - 22 Decayed
- Down**
- 1 Seaweed (8,5)
  - 2 Pirates' hope (8,5)
  - 3 Methods
  - 4 Polecat
  - 5 Signals above the road (7,6)
  - 6 Finnish capital
  - 12 Mist maker
  - 14 Dessert wine
  - 17 Upright, e.g.
  - 20 Ready for business

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



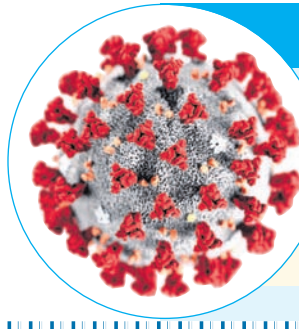
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





**IN NATURE'S LAP**

Painted storks search for food at Nandankanan Zoological Park in Barang, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Friday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

|        | INFECTED     | RECOVERED    | DEAD      |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World  | 59,92,55,474 | 57,32,27,387 | 64,67,264 |
| India  | 4,43,14,618  | 4,36,85,535  | 5,27,253  |
| Odisha | 13,24,454    | 13,12,901    | 9,161     |

**No letup in Sundarpada flood situation**

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** Many buildings on one side of Jatni-Sundarpada Road, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, appeared to be on an island as one drove along it.

A closer look revealed that scores of residential apartments were marooned amid inundated fields as the Daya river, a branch of the Kuakhai distributary of the Mahanadi, was in spate following heavy rain due to low pressure and subsequent depression.

Many areas of Sundarpada were flooded since Wednesday and people have been without electricity since then after the power supply was cut off due to the risks of short circuits.

"People are staying on the top floors, while others have left for safer places," Jyotiranjana, who lives near the Hi-Tech Plaza, said as he waded along a flooded road with a stick in hand to check any potential pits.

He said the water has receded a bit, but danger lies due to the possibility of heavy rain after the formation of a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal.

Over the past two days, personnel of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force rescued those who were in danger as they were living on the ground floor.

Pravesh Agarwal, a resident of Kalyani Plaza area, said his family shifted to the second floor of their double-storey building after floodwater gushed into the garage.

Agarwal, a father of two children, pointed out that some parts of the road were inundated in chest-



Residents of Sundarpada, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, wade through knee-deep floodwater

OP PHOTO

**The state govt has put the coastal districts on high alert as the low-pressure area intensified into a depression and then a deep depression**

**Many areas of Sundarpada were flooded since Wednesday and people have been without electricity since then after the power supply was cut off due to the risks of short circuits**

**According to Jyotiranjana, who lives near the Hi Tech Plaza, water has receded a bit, but danger lies due to the possibility of heavy rain after the formation of a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal**

deep water; and running into snakes was an acute risk.

The family did not get any relief material from the administration even as he dialled some helpline numbers, Agarwal said.

The 42-year-old's brother, Vikas, added that it would have been bet-

ter if the administration had provided them with a raft to navigate and buy essentials.

A worker of the TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL) said the situation was very bad as a vast area of Sundarpada was flooded. Power was being restored

where the water had receded, the TPCODL worker said.

They have been working for around 12 hours every day and doing patrolling also, the TPCODL worker said, adding that it was tough to give a timeline of when power in the area could be fully restored as there was a warning of more torrential rain.

The flood has affected over 5 lakh people in 13 districts. As many as 90,000 people were moved to 190 relief camps till Thursday.

The state government has put the coastal districts on high alert as the low-pressure area intensified into a depression and then a deep depression.

**Can't entertain PIL in disputes relating to service matters: HC**

PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, August 19:** The Orissa High Court (HC) has held that Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cannot be entertained in disputes relating to service matters, an official said Friday.

While adjudicating a matter relating to alleged irregularities in the appointment of primary school teachers in Jagatsinghpur, a division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice RK Pattanaik dismissed the PIL that sought the court's intervention into such 'illegal' appointment.

According to the case details, four residents of Jagatsinghpur had approached the HC alleging a large number of irregularities in the appointment of teachers for primary schools of the district in accordance with a resolution of the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department of March 12, 1996.

In the PIL, they alleged that the merit list of those eligible for appointment as primary teachers in Jagatsinghpur included less meritorious candidates, bypassing those who had secured more marks in the selection process. The S&ME department, however, realised its mistake and came out with a revised selection list in 2006, the petitioners said, pointing out that the fresh list too featured many candidates who secured less marks than those overlooked and some of them had even produced fake certificates.

The S&ME department, meanwhile, allowed such persons to avail the benefit of the Revised



**W**hile adjudicating a matter relating to alleged irregularities in the appointment of primary school teachers in Jagatsinghpur, the HC dismissed the PIL that sought the court's intervention into such appointment

Assured Career Progression (RACP) Scheme through order July 13, 2015, the petitioners said.

The petitioners urged the HC for a directive to the state for immediate removal of such teachers and a CBI probe into the issue.

While hearing the petition for the first time April 18, 2017, the HC observed that the writ petition in the nature of a PIL would not be maintainable as the matter relates to service of teachers.

Petitioners' counsel Ramakanta Sarangi argued that even though the general rule says PIL will not be entertained in service matters, the exception is where a writ of quo warranto is sought to quash illegal appointments. Sarangi cited the decision of the Supreme Court in Central Electricity Supply Utility of Odisha v. Dhobei Sahoo (2013).

On the other hand, S&ME department's counsel BA Prusty, while citing the decision in Girish Shrivastava v. State of Madhya Pradesh (2010), argued that PIL cannot be entertained in service related disputes.

While dismissing the PIL August 5 this year, the HC observed that there was an inordinate delay on the part of the petitioners to approach the court against the appointments. "The selection took place in 1996 and a revised selection list was published in 2006. Yet the present writ petition was filed only February 2, 2017," the HC bench observed.

The bench held that the petitioners did not offer any convincing explanation for the inordinate delay of nearly 11 years in approaching the court to challenge the appointments made way back in 2006.

Highlighting the Central Electricity Supply Utility of Odisha v. Dhobei Sahoo case, the HC said the SC actually allowed the appeal of the CESU and set aside the order of the HC interfering in a PIL on the alleged plea of disqualification of the incumbent and issuing a writ of quo warranto. The order of the HC was in fact quashed, the bench observed while holding that PIL cannot be entertained in disputes relating to service matters.

**State logs 385 new Cov cases, 1 death**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,24,454 Friday as 385 more people, including 58 children, tested positive for the virus, a health department bulletin said.

The state's coronavirus death toll rose to 9,161 after another patient succumbed to the disease.

The state had logged 482 infections and a fatality Thursday.

The bulletin said that 53 other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Odisha now has 2,791 active cases.

The bulletin said that 13,12,449 people have so far recovered from the disease, including 502 since Thursday.

The state's daily positivity rate is 2.08 per cent Friday.

**OSSC announces JE 2019 result**

POST NEW NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** The Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) Friday published the final result of Junior Engineer-(Civil) 2019 for Water Resources department and Directorate of Fisheries on its website— [www.osscc.gov.in](http://www.osscc.gov.in).

A total of 260 candidates (Water Resources department 257 and Directorate of Fisheries -3) found place in the list.

"The commission wishes all the candidates, who appeared for the post and participated in the recruitment process, best wishes in their future endeavors," said the OSSC.

Earlier, the OSSC had postponed and rescheduled several recruitment examinations scheduled to be held August.

As per the latest notification, the certificate verification for Technical Assistant 2021 (Director of Textiles) which was earlier scheduled to be held August 16 has been rescheduled.

The certificate verification will now be held August 23, 2022, it said.

Similarly, the certificate verification for Junior Clerk-cum-Typist which was scheduled to be held August 16 and 17 has been postponed.

As per OSSC, the revised dates will be notified shortly.

The candidates have been advised to check the official OSSC website for updates and latest information.

**Treat patients with respect: CM to new lab technicians**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday advised 550 newly-appointed laboratory technicians to treat patients with utmost respect.

While addressing the induction programme of 550 laboratory technicians, that was held at the Convention Centre of Loka Seva Bhawan here, on digital mode, Naveen outlined the significance of 5T initiative of the state.

"It should be a key principle of your career: People are the soul of democracy. Hence, our government attaches highest priority to the people's felt needs," he stated.

Highlighting the state government's commitment to provide universal access to quality healthcare services and bring down the out of pocket expenses of the people, the CM said large number of posts of medical officers and other healthcare workers have been created in order to strengthen the delivery of healthcare service.

Naveen expressed happiness over recruitment of as many as 550 laboratory technicians in one

go, besides the appointment of 510 medical officers last month. He also expressed confidence that it will improve quality and timely reporting of diagnostic services by strengthening NIDAN that provides free diagnostic testing. It will also improve the satisfaction of the people visiting the government facilities, he hoped.

The CM said that the guiding principle of his governance in healthcare is 'Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha'. The state is committed to achieve this, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das outlined the activities of his department conforming to the vision of the Chief Minister. He said that the state is improving health infrastructure at a very fast pace.

Sharing their experience in the recruitment process, three new recruits— Soumya Ranjan Behera, Liza Patnaik and Abhay Sasmal— said that they are highly impressed with the timely and transparent process of recruitment for such a huge number of posts.

Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian moderated the programme.

**550 lab technicians join state's healthcare services**

**Smoking, alcohol leading causes of cancer deaths: Study**

**S**moking, alcohol use, high body mass index (BMI), and other known risk factors were responsible for nearly 4.45 million global cancer deaths in 2019, according to study published in The Lancet journal Friday.

The findings can help policymakers and researchers identify key risk factors that could be targeted in efforts to reduce deaths and ill health from cancer regionally, nationally, and globally.

"This study illustrates that the burden of cancer remains an important public health challenge that is growing in magnitude around the world," said Christopher Murray, Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, US.

"Smoking continues to be the leading risk factor for cancer globally, with other substantial contributors to cancer burden varying," said Murray, a co-senior author of the study.

Using results from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors (GBD) 2019 study, the researchers investigated how 34 behavioural, metabolic, and envi-

ronmental and occupational risk factors contributed to deaths and ill health due to 23 cancer types in 2019.

Changes in cancer burden between 2010 and 2019 due to risk factors were also assessed.

Estimates of cancer burden were based on mortality and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs), a measure of years of life lost to death and years lived with disability.

In addition to 4.45 million cancer deaths which made up 44.4 per cent of all cancer deaths in 2019, risk factors included in the analysis accounted for 105 million cancer DALYs globally for both sexes in 2019 - 42.0 per cent of all DALYs in that year, the researchers said.

Behavioural risk factors such as tobacco use, alcohol use, unsafe sex, and dietary risks were responsible for the vast majority of cancer burden globally, accounting for 3.7 million deaths and 87.8 million DALYs in 2019, they said.



Using results from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors (GBD) 2019 study, the researchers investigated how 34 behavioural, metabolic, and environmental and occupational risk factors contributed to deaths and ill health due to 23 cancer types in 2019

**The leading cause of risk-attributable cancer death for both men and women globally was tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancer, which accounted for 36.9 per cent of all cancer deaths attributable to risk factors, they said**

cent of all female cancer deaths). The leading risk factors globally for cancer deaths and ill health for both sexes were smoking, followed by alcohol use and high BMI, the researchers said.

The leading cause of risk-at-

**NEW SESSION AHEAD**



Students taking admission to Sailabala Women's HS School in Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

The leading risk factors globally for cancer deaths and ill health for both sexes were smoking, followed by alcohol use and high BMI, the researchers said

tributable cancer death for both men and women globally was tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancer, which accounted for 36.9 per cent of all cancer deaths attributable to risk factors, they said.

This was followed by colon and

rectum cancer (13.3 per cent), oesophageal cancer (9.7 per cent), and stomach cancer (6.6 per cent) in men, and cervical cancer (17.9 per cent), colon and rectum cancer (15.8 per cent), and breast cancer (11 per cent) in women.

Ill health attributed to environmental and occupational, behavioural, and metabolic risk factors increased with age, peaking in the 70s depending on countries' socio-demographic Index (SDI), with countries on the higher end of the spectrum tending to peak at later ages. The five regions with the greatest cancer death rates due to risk factors were central Europe (82 deaths per 100,000 population), East Asia (69.8 per 100,000), high-income North America (66.0 per 100,000), Southern Latin America (64.2 per 100,000), and Western Europe (63.8 per 100,000).

Patterns of cancer deaths and ill health due to environmental and occupational, behavioural, and metabolic risks differed around the world, with unsafe sex a leading risk factor for ill health in locations at the lower end of the SDI spectrum.

Between 2010 and 2019, cancer deaths due to risk factors rose by

20.4 per cent globally, increasing from 3.7 million to 4.45 million, according to the researchers.

Ill health due to cancer increased by 16.8 per cent over the same period, rising from 89.9 million to 105 million DALYs, they said.

Metabolic risks accounted for the greatest percentage increase in cancer deaths and ill health, with deaths increasing by 34.7 per cent and DALYs by 33.3 per cent.

Professor Diana Sarfati and Jason Gurney of the University of Otago, New Zealand, noted that the primary prevention of cancer through eradication or mitigation of modifiable risk factors is our best hope of reducing the future burden of cancer. "Reducing this burden will improve health and well-being, and alleviate the compounding effects on humans and the fiscal resourcing pressure within cancer services and the wider health sector," the researchers, who were not involved in the study, said.

On links between cancer risk and poverty, they said, "it is no accident that behaviours associated with higher risk of cancer are patterned according to poverty, particularly within countries".



# Performance of ULBs in 3 districts reviewed



and ensure effective delivery of public service. WATCO and PHEO teams were instructed to ensure 100 per cent drinking water supply to all. "The satisfaction of the people is the real achievement," pointed out Mathi Vathanan during the meeting. He also directed collectors of the three districts to make field visits regularly and verify the quality of work and coverage.

The urban teams have made diverse accomplishments in last few years by introducing revolutionary initiatives like JAGA Mission, Drink from Tap Mission, MUKTA and the Decentralised Sanitation Strategy. These initiatives have not only attracted people within India, but have also received accolades and laurels from across the globe. It should be stated here that many officials from both within and outside India have been regularly visiting Odisha to gain firsthand experience of work and coverage.

The progress of implementation of various programmes including 'SUJAL' - drink from tap mission and universal piped water supply to all, JAGA Mission, MUKTA, Aahaar, urban sanitation and SMART LED Light initiative in the various ULBs, was reviewed at the meeting.

All ULBs were instructed to focus on enhanced citizen connect

The progress of implementation of various programmes including 'SUJAL' - drink from tap mission and universal piped water supply to all, JAGA Mission, MUKTA, Aahaar, urban sanitation and SMART LED Light initiative in the various ULBs, was reviewed at the meeting

### AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** The Housing & Urban Development department started Friday its cluster-wise performance review meeting for the urban local bodies (ULBs). This is being done with the aim to complete key projects that are currently underway under the 'Key Urban Agenda' to enhance community partnerships while executing various initiatives. Officials and representatives from 23 ULBs of three districts namely Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal attended the review meeting organised at the DRDA Conference hall in Chatrapur. The meeting was chaired by G

## Parents' association demands extension of Plus II admission

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** Due to the flood situation caused by heavy rains, the Odisha Parents Federation Friday demanded the extension of the admission process of Plus II streams for a week.

The parents body wrote to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, and School and Mass Education minister Samit Ranjan Dash saying that the students and their parents from flood affected areas will not be able to come to the institutions for participation in the admission process, so the process should be extended.

Meanwhile, the admission to Plus II streams in the first phase has begun from August 19.

Keeping the flood situation in view, permission has been sought from the Odisha government to extend the admission period, informed the director of Higher Secondary Education, Raghuram R Iyer.

Meanwhile, the list of the first phase of the cut-off percentage marks for admissions into Arts, Science and Commerce streams has been released. While Ravenshaw Higher Secondary School tops the list in Science and Commerce streams, Kandakhai Higher Secondary School at Krushnaprasad in Puri is at the top in Arts stream.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit I, Damayanti Parida declare that in my Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Bank Pass Book, Voter Card my name has been mentioned as Damayanti Parida, But in my daughter's Madhusmita Parida HSC Certificate my name has been wrongly mentioned as Gitanjali Parida instead of Damayanti Parida. Henceforth both Gitanjali Parida and Damayanti Parida is one & same person for all purposes.

Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, H&UD department, director of municipal administration, Sangramjit Nayak and joint secretary and director, SUDA, Sarada Prasad Panda. They reviewed the various ongoing schemes and projects.

The progress of implementation of various programmes including 'SUJAL' - drink from tap mission and universal piped water supply to all, JAGA Mission, MUKTA, Aahaar, urban sanitation and SMART LED Light initiative in the various ULBs, was reviewed at the meeting.

All ULBs were instructed to focus on enhanced citizen connect

## ECoR felicitates Rohidas for silver-winning feat at CWG

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** East Coast Railway (ECoR) general manager Sharad Kumar Srivastava felicitated senior sports officer and a member of the Indian men's hockey team Amit Rohidas at a function here Friday. Rohidas was a part of the team that finished with the silver medal in the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Others present on the occasion were East Coast Railway Sports Association (ECoRSA) president Manas Kumar Poddar and general secretary Ashok Kumar Mishra. They lauded the efforts of Rohidas for bringing laurels to the country and especially to the Railways.

"East Coast Railway feels proud for its senior sports officer and defender of the Indian men's hockey team Amit Rohidas for bagging silver medal in Commonwealth Games," ECoR said in a release.

Rohidas joined ECoR as a senior sports officer in September 2021.



Prior to his new assignment, he was working in Western Railway as an officer on special duty (OSD) in the sports department.

Rohidas was also a member of the Indian team that won bronze in the Tokyo Olympics last year. It was a historic medal as it came after a gap of 41 years. India defeated Germany 4-3 to win the bronze at Tokyo.

The ECoR also said it is proud of all the members of Indian women's hockey team and congratulates OSD/Sports/ECoR Deep Grace Ekka. She was also a key member of the national squad who won the bronze at the Birmingham CWG. Srivastava also congratulated Deep Grace for her outstanding feat.

## Heavy rain lashes northern districts

Continued from P1

Speaking to reporters here, the SRC said the low pressure area, which has now converted into deep depression, might have an impact on the rivers of Baramani, Baitarani, Budhabalanga and Bheden and is likely to affect Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts. He said strict vigil is kept on the situation and NDRF, ODRAF and Fire Service teams have been rushed to these areas to undertake rescue and relief operations if needed. Tourist places like Chandipur, Talasari, Kasafala, Dagara and Panchalingeswar

## CBI will find pencils, geometry boxes: AAP

Continued from P1

Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia had also demanded a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the policy. The searches by the CBI covered seven states and Union territories. As a CBI team reached Sisodia's residence in the morning, the deputy chief minister took to Twitter to welcome the CBI, saying conspiracies will neither break him nor deter his resolve to continue to work for providing good education. The BJP, on the other hand, launched a scathing attack on the Delhi deputy chief minister, with Union Information and

in Balasore district have been closed for visitors Friday and Saturday. Anganwadi centres and schools will remain closed in Bhadrak and Keonjhar districts Saturday. Balasore Collector Dattatreya Bhausaheb Shinde said senior officials have been appointed at various places to monitor the situation throughout the night. Additional NDRF and ODRAF teams have been mobilised to strategic locations while concerned departments have been asked to restore communication and power supply, if there is any disruption due to the depression, he added.

Meanwhile, the block administration has served show-cause notices (vide letter-3596, dated August 17, 2022) on assistant engineer Jatindra Mohan Swain, Junior engineers Prashanti Gadnayak, Nirmal Chandra Panda, GRS Chinmayi Kar and former sarpanch Rina Mallick. The BDO has now admitted that irregularities were committed in the road project.

## NMC NOD FOR 100 MBBS SEATS AT SUNDARGARH GMC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** In a boon for Sundargarh district, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has given the much-awaited approval for 100 MBBS seats at the newly-constructed Government Medical College (GMC) in Sundargarh. The seats will be functional from the 2022-23 academic session.

The approval was conveyed August 18 to Prof Dr Daitari Routray, Dean of the medical college in a letter signed by the Member/President of the Medical Rating and Assessment Board (MRAB), Undergraduate Section, NMC. With this approval, the state-of-the-art medical college is now ready to admit its first batch of students for the current academic session. It is certainly a step ahead for fulfilling the Odisha government's vision of promoting medical education in the tribal dominated district. Welcoming the NMC approval, District Collector, Sundargarh, Dr Parag H Gavali said, "Health sector in Sundargarh will get a major boost with the launch of this medical college. The college, with dedicated human resource and state-of-the-art equipment, will surely be among the top preferred medical destinations in Odisha by students."

In fact, GMC, Sundargarh, under Sambalpur University, is poised to take medical education and healthcare in western Odisha a step further with its world-class infrastructure and advanced super-specialty facilities. "With the approval of the NMC, we will now initiate the process for admitting the first batch of students who have qualified through NEET UG, 2022.

## Lokayukta orders....

Continued from P1

The RTI activist submitted detailed evidence of the scam to the Lokayukta following which the latter started an investigation August 16. The probe unearthed the irregularities and the Lokayukta ordered the block administration to recover the fund from the guilty.

Meanwhile, the block administration has served show-cause notices (vide letter-3596, dated August 17, 2022) on assistant engineer Jatindra Mohan Swain, Junior engineers Prashanti Gadnayak, Nirmal Chandra Panda, GRS Chinmayi Kar and former sarpanch Rina Mallick. The BDO has now admitted that irregularities were committed in the road project.

## LAB INAUGURATED



Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority, inaugurating an Advanced Industrial Lab at the Government ITI at Khapuria in Cuttack, Friday

## Paradip Port completes PPP projects worth over ₹3k cr

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, August 19:** Paradip Port has been at the forefront in successfully completing several public-private partnerships (PPP) projects worth over ₹3,000 crore recently, said Shantanu Thakur, MoS for Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

These PPP projects have led to capacity addition of 55 MTPA at the port, said Thakur while virtually addressing the Maritime Public-Private-Partnership Conclave 2022 organised by Paradip Port Authority here, Thursday.

He hoped that as a part of Vision India 2047, Paradip Port will evolve as a world-class mega port with over 750 MTPA capacity by 2047.

The port has recently been awarded the western dock project of 25 MTPA capacity at a cost of ₹2,392 crore. The first phase of the project for 12.5 MTPA capacity will be completed in three years and the overall project in five years, it was learnt.

On completion, it will enable Paradip Port to have facilities to handle large cape size vessels upto 18.5



Port has been awarded the western dock project of 25 MTPA capacity at a cost of ₹2,392 crore. It will enable the port to handle large cape size vessels upto 18.5 meters draft, said a port official.

Thakur reiterated that the Union government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi has been laying emphasis on attracting private investments to the port sector to induct latest technology, improve management practices and for addition of capacity and en-

hancement of functional efficiency to India's major ports.

Speaking at the event, PL Haranadh, chairman of Paradip Port Authority said that aiming for a \$5 trillion Indian economy in 2025, the port sector will grow to 2.3 billion tonne per annum (BTPA) traffic by 2026.

Haranadh further said that Paradip Port has been envisioned to become 750+ MTPA capacity by 2047. Around 80 MTPA capacity addition projects have been identified to be taken up in the recent 4-5 years period.

Further, capacity augmentation projects are being explored, driven by port-led industrialisation and adequate port connectivity, he added.

Eastern India has a lot of growth potential in steel, polymer and plastic. Ports at Dhamra, Gopalpur, Subarnarekha and Paradip, including the upcoming Mahanadi Riverine Port, have huge growth potential, said Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries department.

## Southern coast of Odisha shows high potential for wind energy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 19:** Though the solar and wind energy potential in India are likely to witness a negative trend in the future due to climate change, a new study by Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology says the southern coast of Odisha shows promising potential for wind energy.

The researchers used state-of-the-art climate models devised by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to analyse the wind and solar projections for the renewable energy sector over the Indian subcontinent.

The seasonal and annual wind speed is likely to decrease over North India and increase along South India. The southern coast of Odisha and the southern Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu show promising potential for wind energy in the climate change scenario, said the study titled 'Analysis of future wind and solar potential over India using climate models'.

The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal Current Science recently.

Regional analysis of wind potential indicates that the frequency of high energy producing wind speeds will decrease, whereas low energy producing wind speeds are likely to increase in the future.

"Solar projections for the future indicate that solar radiation will decrease during all seasons over



THE SEASONAL AND ANNUAL WIND SPEED IS LIKELY TO DECREASE OVER NORTH INDIA AND INCREASE ALONG SOUTH INDIA

REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF WIND POTENTIAL INDICATES THAT THE FREQUENCY OF HIGH ENERGY PRODUCING WIND SPEEDS WILL DECREASE, WHEREAS LOW ENERGY PRODUCING WIND SPEEDS ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE IN THE FUTURE

most of the Indian landmass. For future investments in the solar power sector, central and south-central India must be considered during pre-monsoon months, as the potential loss is minimal in these regions," it said.

"The present study shows that the renewable energy fields of solar and wind potential in India are likely to face a negative trend in the future... Expanded and more efficient networks of wind and solar farms are needed to increase renewable energy production," the report read.

Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, one of the researchers who conducted the study, said, "Our industry must adapt to the changing climate, and our technologies must keep pace. Such predictions should not be taken as facts, but

as possibilities. "The efficiency of renewable energy may be impacted by climate change in the Indo-Gangetic plains. The study emphasises the importance of being prepared for scenarios of this kind and addressing it," he said.

The forecasts are important since India has updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to fight climate change, incorporating two of the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Glasgow conference - reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from 2005 level, and achieving about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

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JEYPORE CUSTODIAL DEATH

CB starts probe 8 months after case registration



PNN & AGENCIES

Koraput, August 19: Nearly eight months after the state Crime Branch (CB) registered a case against four police officers for their alleged involvement in the custodial death of a person in Jeypore town of this district in 2017, the agency started a probe into the case.

A three-member CB team met the victim's family, visited the crime spot, talked to doctors at the hospital where the victim was admitted and gathered circumstantial evidence during a visit to Jeypore, an official said.

"Detailed inquiry into the case was made. If required, the CB team may come again in future," said a CB team member.

The CB registered a case into the matter in December last year. January 30, 2017, Akash Mahuria (28), a resident of Jeypore who was wanted for his alleged involvement in a few offences, was allegedly tortured and beaten to death inside the Jeypore town police station.

While the police claimed that Rakesh, who had a number of criminal cases against his name, died due to an accidental fall while being chased for arrest, the family members of the youth attributed custodial torture as the reason behind his death.

Later, the family of the deceased knocked the doors of the Odisha

CASE RECAP

JANUARY 30, 2017, AKASH MAHURIA (28), A RESIDENT OF JEYPORE WHO WAS WANTED FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN A FEW OFFENCES, WAS ALLEGEDLY TORTURED AND BEATEN TO DEATH INSIDE THE JEYPORE TOWN POLICE STATION

THE POLICE HAD ATTRIBUTED MAHURIA'S DEATH TO AN ACCIDENTAL FALL WHILE HE WAS BEING CHASED FOR ARREST

CB IN DECEMBER 2021 REGISTERED A CASE INTO THE MATTER AND BOOKED FOUR POLICE OFFICIALS

Human Rights Commission (OHRC) seeking stringent probe into the case. However, due to inordinate delay in justice, Rakesh's family approached the CB for investigation into the alleged murder.

The CB in December 2021 booked the police station's former inspector-in-charge Tapan Narayan Rath, ex-sub-inspectors Siba Prasad Sahu and Rajesh Baharsingh and former Jeypore Sub-Divisional Police Officer Rajendra Prasad Senapati for the alleged murder of Mahuria.

The four were charged under IPC sections 302 (murder), 342 (wrongful confinement), 325 (causing grievous hurt), 505 (criminal intimidation) and others, police sources said.

NUAKHAI RITUALS



Servitors of Brahmapura Jagannath temple in Sambalpur and pundits from various parts of the town busy fixing 'lagna' for Western Odisha's mass agrarian festival Nuakhai, Friday

MURDER NEAR BBMCH

Cousin among 4 arrested; killer hired for ₹1 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 19: Police Friday cracked the mystery surrounding the murder of a youth that had taken place in front of his mother on the premises of Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) in Bolangir district August 16. The deceased had been identified as Aju Dora (25) of Sudapada.

Police have arrested four persons including Aju's cousin who had given blood money of ₹1 lakh to a supari killer to eliminate Aju. Among the accused were mastermind of the crime and Aju's cousin Muna Dora (27) of Sudapada, Rahul Panigrahi (27) of Lalit Nagar, Some Punji (24) of Nuapada and Chandra Pradhan (27) of Brahmanipada in Bolangir.

SP Nitin Kusalkar said that Aju had arguments with his cousin about running a fruit shop on roadside two months ago. Muna had then hatched a conspiracy to kill Aju and had paid ₹1 lakh supari to Rahul Panigrahi. Rahul had involved his friend Chandra Pradhan and Some Punji in the plan, he added.

Aju and his mother were going to an eatery near the diarrhoea ward of BBMCH August 16. All of sudden, Punji attacked Aju with a sword killing him on the spot. Aju's mothers also sustained grievous injuries. Police have seized a sword, knife, ₹9,500 cash, five cell phones and a motorcycle from the accused.

Cashew farming under MGNREGS flops

BOTCHED UP POST-PLANTATION CARE, NON-RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE FUNDS HAVE SCUTTLED THE SCHEME PUTTING THE BENEFICIARY FARMERS IN A FIX

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 19: Cashew farming is being promoted through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to create scope of earning for people and enhance the income of interested farmers, but the initiative has allegedly been mired in irregularities in Keonjhar. The scheme has failed to achieve its objectives for the beneficiaries.

As per guidelines, cashew saplings are planted on the land of the beneficiaries under MGNREGS. The saplings are taken care of and maintained for two years before the plantations are handed over to beneficiaries.

Here is a case in point: In 2021-22 fiscal, the horticulture department planted cashew saplings on 8 hectares of land belonging to 12 beneficiaries at Sendakap vil-



lage under Sadar block. Around ₹19 lakh was spent for the project. Scores of job card holders were engaged in raising the plants and fencing.

However, it was alleged that post-plantation care was not taken up properly. Pesticides and fertilizers were not used to nurture the saplings. And as a result, saplings died off. Some saplings that had survived were eaten up by goats and

cattle in absence of fences.

With no sapling surviving, the plantation area now resembles a pasture land. Beneficiaries who had nurtured hope of earning from cashew farming were a distressed lot. Locals said that they used to raise crops from their farmlands earlier, but after the cashew plantation, the farmlands are unfit for farming. They blamed some officials of the horticulture depart-

ment for the mess.

"Some officials came to us and persuaded us to take up cashew plantation on our land for good income generation. They said they would maintain the plantation for three years and hand over fully grown trees to us only after those were ready for bearing fruits. ₹5.5 lakh was spent. But maintenance funds were not released later," some farmers alleged.

Later, as saplings did not survive, the horticulture department wrote to the DRDA not to release funds for maintenance.

Block overseer Prithviraj Mohant said that the work related to cashew farming has been stopped while top officials of the horticulture department were informed about it in December, 2021.

Deputy Director of horticulture, Jayant Kumar Nayak said that he can comment on the issue only after checking the related file.

Nine years on, Sona bridge nowhere near completion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, August 19: Nine years have passed since work on a bridge project was started at Ajodhya panchayat, a fringe area under Nilagiri block of Balasore, but it is nowhere near completion.

Locals alleged that despite allocation of funds, the construction work is moving at a snail's pace nearly a decade due to lethargy of the contractor and officials of the rural development department. Thousands of people in the region have been suffering on the communication front owing to non-completion of the bridge.

Reports said, people of Baliaapal, Narsinghpur and Tinidesh under Nilagiri block and several bordering villages in Mayurbhanj district have to negotiate through water in order to cross the Sona river on a daily basis.

The locals had long been demanding for a bridge across the river. Taking the demand into account, the state government sanctioned ₹9 crore for a bridge



project under Biju Setu Yojana in 2013. Its construction was started in 2014 with an agreement with the contractor to finish it within three years.

Nine years have passed after that, but the bridge is yet to be completed, lamented locals, adding that the contractor had been delaying the work citing various reasons, even though the rural development department has sent several reminders to the former to complete the work.

"We always face a lot of difficulties in commuting through the river to reach our farmlands across the river. Sometimes, to bypass the

river, we take a detour of 15 kilometre to reach our farmlands," they pointed out.

The bridge can directly provide a communication link to some pockets of Mayurbhanj district. In the monsoon, the riparian villages fail to venture out as the river remains in spate throughout the season.

SDO of the Rural Development division, Iswari Prasad Das did not pick up the phone when contacted.

Junior engineer Debabrata Garu attributed the delay of the bridge project to some technical problems. "We hope its work will be completed by next monsoon," he added.

12-hr Sundargarh bandh for state's second AIIMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, August 19: Local residents and members of Western Odisha Yuva Manch observed a 12-hour bandh in Sundargarh demanding the establishment of the second AIIMS in the town as proposed by the state government.

As the bandh started early in the morning, all shops and markets remained closed. The agitators blocked roads at Rani Bagicha bypass and Kirei bypass on the Biju Expressway. Vehicular communication to and from Rourkela and Jharsuguda went for a toss.

Notably, Health Minister Naba Kishore Das had in March 2021 written a letter to the then Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan for the establishment of state's second AIIMS in Sundargarh. Das stated that necessary infrastructure built for medical college and hospital is ready in the district. It was built by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) under its CSR.

Later in September 2021, MP Jual Oram had urged Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya for the establishment of the premier institute in his constituency. In a letter, he cited that the NTPC has completed the construction of the 100-bed medical college and 500-bed hospital in Sundargarh. But even after the lapse of over seven years after signing the MoU, not much has been done in this regard, Oram added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHORDHA. Invitation for Bids. Bid Identification No. EEMIDKHD 02/2022-23. The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Khordha, on behalf of the Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate Bids in Single Cover system in Online Mode only for civil works in MIPs under R & R Scheme as detailed in the table below from the eligible Class of Contractors.

Wall hanging on Dandi March lauded

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, August 19: Expert woman weaver Shantilata Meher has woven a wall hanging depicting Dandi March on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrating completion of 75 years of independence.

The wall hanging is drawing appreciation from various quarters where Meher has beautifully crafted the pictures of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 76th Independence Day celebration and the Dandi March taken out by Mahatma Gandhi on the lines of famous Sambalpur Bandha art. Meher herself has prepared the graphic designs and intricately stitched the Bandha designs on the wall hanging.

A resident of Sidhi Vinayak Nagar in Binika town, it took two and half months for Meher to prepare the wall hanging. The matter



came to the fore when Meher accompanied by her husband Akshaya Meher visited the district Collectorate at Sonepur and presented the wall hanging to Collector Aboli Sunil Naravane at her office. Collector Naravane appreciated the efforts of Bandha weavers like her and the intricate designs she

had put into the wall hanging.

She also asked her staff to put the wall hanging in the conference hall of the Collectorate. She also advised her to prepare more such wall hangings for Subarnashree with the assistance of ORMAS. Meher, an expert in Bandha art, had earlier drawn the attention of all by

Shantilata Meher, an expert in Sambalpur Bandha art, had earlier drawn the attention of all for making a saree depicting the various forms of Surya Namaskar on International Yoga Day, June 21

preparing a saree depicting the various forms of Surya Namaskar on the occasion of International Yoga Day, June 21.

When contacted, Meher said she will prepare two separate wall hangings on President Droupadi Murmu and Gandhi Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the coming days.

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FOCUS TALIBAN

# WAR ON WOMEN



One year after the Islamist group returned to power in Afghanistan, most of the country's girls' secondary schools remain closed

When Taliban leaders visited an elementary school in Kabul in October 2021, two months after retaking control of Afghanistan, several seven- or eight-year-old girls bravely stood up, one by one, to declare: "Our classes have resumed, but not for our older sisters. We have been promised that our older sisters will return to class, but this has not happened yet!"

Now, on the first anniversary of the Taliban's return to power, most of Afghanistan's 1,880 girls' secondary schools remain closed. And when women and girls demonstrated in Kabul this past weekend, calling for their educational opportunities to be restored, Taliban forces fired shots over the protesters' heads.

Islam's holy book, the Koran, encourages both women and men to read, contemplate, and pursue education. The Prophet Muhammad advocated education as a religious duty for males and females: "Seek education from the cradle to the grave," the Prophet instructed. But the Taliban's ban on schools for girls above sixth grade has made Afghanistan the only Muslim country to prohibit girls' secondary education.

In August 2021, the Taliban promised Afghans and the rest of the world that they would reopen all primary, secondary, and tertiary schools for both boys and girls. Girls' secondary schools were expected to reopen March 23 to coincide with the Persian New Year. But when the girls arrived at the school gates, armed Taliban guards refused them entry.

A few days later, dozens of female students protested near the Ministry of Education in Kabul. "Open the schools! Justice! Justice!" they chanted, holding banners declaring that "Education is our fundamental right, not a political plan." The Taliban, however, re-

main unconvinced. As a result, Afghanistan's girls, nearly one million of whom have no access to secondary education, are the world's most forgotten children and adolescents.

No one should remain silent in the face of this discrimination. Islam has 1.8 billion adherents, making it the world's second-largest religious group, comprising 24% of the global population. In Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority country, women's university enrollment has increased from 2% in 1970 to nearly 33% today. In Saudi Arabia, half of university-age women attend university, a higher rate than in Mexico, China, Brazil, and India.

According to a World Economic Forum report, 30% of the 450 million women in Muslim-majority economies are in paid work. Although women's labour-force participation rates vary widely — 74% in Kazakhstan, 53% in Indonesia and Malaysia, 42% in the United Arab Emirates, 33% in Turkey, 26% in Pakistan, and 21% in Saudi Arabia — they are increasing faster than for men in nearly all these economies. Muslim women's combined income of just under \$1 trillion would make them

the world's 16th most prosperous country.

After four decades of armed conflict and climate-induced natural disasters, Afghanistan is one of the world's poorest and least-developed countries. But the Taliban are denying the female half of the workforce the chance to help rebuild it. Afghanistan cannot afford to regress a quarter-century to the start of the Taliban's first stint in power in 1996, when the group prohibited women and girls from working outside the home, attending school and university, or leaving their homes unless accompanied by a mahram (husband, father, brother, or son). Back then, the Taliban's religious police meted out severe punishment, including stoning, for any infraction of their moral code.

Prior to the Taliban's 1996 takeover, 60% of Kabul University teachers (and nearly half the students) were women. In addition, women constituted 70% of school-teachers, 50% of civilian government workers (and 70% of the 130,000 civil servants in Kabul), and 40% of doctors.

Today, with Afghanistan facing economic collapse, soaring poverty, and increasing risks of starvation, and unable to survive with-

out humanitarian assistance, the Taliban are arguing that girls' current school uniforms are not Islamic. But most Afghans do not think long black tunics and pants and a white head scarf (hijab) designed in accordance with Hanafi jurisprudence will solve the country's many deep-rooted problems.

Nonetheless, the Taliban are threatening to close down those girls' secondary schools that have remained open in major provinces, such as Balkh in the north, unless they change their dress codes.

Meanwhile, some Taliban members who can afford to are sending their daughters abroad to study. Others are trying to convince the organisation's religious leadership in Kandahar to rethink the ban and let girls return to secondary school.

In March, the foreign ministers of the G7 countries and Norway, together with the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, issued a joint statement condemning the Taliban's refusal to reopen girls' secondary schools. "We call on the Taliban urgently to reverse this decision, which will have consequences far beyond its harm to Afghan girls," they said.

But more must be done. The international community, specifically countries in the region, and especially members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, should make Afghan women's and girls' rights central to their diplomatic and economic negotiations with the Taliban. Afghanistan and its people have suffered enough. Anyone who cares for the country's future must stand up for adolescent girls' right to an education — and women's right to work.

*Yasmine Sherif is Director of Education Cannot Wait. Gordon Brown is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.* #PROJECT SYNDICATE



Yasmine Sherif & Gordon Brown

**ANYONE WHO CARES FOR THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE MUST STAND UP FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION — AND WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK**

To love is not to possess, but to give oneself.

THE MOTHER



## Monitoring News

Additional Chief Secretary (Information) of Uttar Pradesh Navneet Sehgal has recently written to district/block/tehsil information officers to monitor the news that is published at the micro level. It says that the local news is damaging the Yogi government's image.

Suddenly, a kind of babu at the district level, who was otherwise largely irrelevant to the decision-making at the Centre or the state capital, is now brought into focus. Previously confined to merely distributing releases and trying to be a point of contact for district and sub-district level media, now his task seems to be more empowering.

But what's behind this sudden urge of the Yogi sarkar to scrutinise news emerging from the grassroots? Clearly, while the government seems to be confident in managing its image in most national and regional media, it is unable to extend its reach further into the heartland, where most unflattering coverage seems to emerge from. It now expects skilled 'crisis' manager Sehgal and the army of babus at the tehsil level to plug the gaps.

Interestingly, Sehgal played a similar role when the UP government faced fire over the Hathras rape case. He also played a similar role under two previous state governments.

**Ji, Mantriji**

Senior Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, besides his considerable administrative prowess, is noted for being a 'task master'. He seems to take his reputation seriously. Recently, the man in charge of transforming the road transportation sector, said that babus should only say "yes, sir" to whatever the mantris say since the government runs on the diktat of the minister. Perhaps he was emboldened by the result of a recent "Mood of the Nation" survey which named him as among the best performing ministers in the Modi sarkar.

But clearly, even the most innovative and dedicated mantris can sometimes feel dejected if the performance of the ministry dips. Of late, there has been a spate of reports showing that the pace of new highway construction has faltered while several newly built highways have developed potholes or craters that belie Gadkari's claims. Some months ago, Gadkari had similarly publicly chastised his babus for the delays in executing road projects. Clearly, that rebuke did not have the desired effect.

A peeved mantri pulling up the errant babus is understandable, but how far can it be pushed? While the babus are maintaining a prudent silence, Gadkari's remarks will not go unnoticed. Babus have honed their skills of dealing with mantris of all ilk and saying "Yes, Minister" requires the least effort on their part!



**BABUDOM BYTES**

Dilip Cherian

**IPS officers shy off from Central deputation**

Only three senior IPS officers have sought a posting on Central deputation, underlining the continuing shortage of All India Services officers in the Union government. This is despite 263 vacancies for IPS officers in at least 17 central organisations including CBI, IB and the central armed police forces. Most of these vacancies are of DIG and SP rank, besides openings in various Union ministries.

Sources have informed DKB that even the three officers who have shown interest are in the rank of superintendent of police. There is no offer from inspector general and above ranks of the IPS.

Perhaps the reluctance of senior IPS officers can be traced to the amended IPS tenure policy announced by the Home Ministry earlier in February, in which it did away with the mandatory requirement of empanelment of IPS officers at the DIG level. That several states are unwilling or slow to sponsor adequate numbers of officers for Central deputation is another aspect of the problem. And this one problem cannot be solved quickly, which means that the situation is unlikely to change in the near future.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

**WISDOM CORNER**

- Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present. **JIM ROHN**
- In order to change the world, you have to get your head together first. **JIMI HENDRIX**
- Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans. **JOHN LENNON**

**WORDSWORTH**

**Backronym**

A backronym (sometimes bacronym) is a reverse acronym. To create one, you take a word that isn't an acronym and create a fictitious expansion for it. Some backonyms are designed as mnemonics. A classic example is the Apgar score to test the health of newborns. It was named after the American physician Virginia Apgar but to help student doctors and nurses remember the system, it has been changed to the acronym "Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, and Respiration". Similarly, the US Amber Alert programme is said to mean "America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response", though it was actually named after a missing child, Amber Hagerman. Backonyms are frequently humorous — Microsoft's Bing, some quip, is actually an acronym for "Because It's Not Google!"; world-weary sailors say navy really means "Never Again Volunteer Yourself", some car owners hold that Ford stands for "Fix Or Repair Daily". Many of this type are actually reinterpreted acronyms, included by courtesy in the backronym collection because nobody has yet come up with a different -nym for them. For example, the name of the one-time Belgian national airline Sabena (which derives from "Société Anonyme Belge d'Exploitation de la Navigation Aérienne", bless the guy who shortened it) was said to be an acronym for "Such A Bad Experience, Never Again." Others are folk etymology: posh doesn't stand for "Port Out, Starboard Home". Wiki, the Hawaiian word that turns up in such sites as Wikipedia, doesn't mean "What I Know Is". Golf wasn't created from "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden". SOS doesn't mean "Save Our Souls" or "Save Our Ship", or indeed anything at all, since it was chosen as a particularly memorable and easily recognised Morse code sequence. Meredith Williams, in an entry to a competition in The Washington Post 8 November 1983, seems to have coined bacronym, as a portmanteau of back and acronym. Previously, lexicographer Ben Zimmer tells me, the form was called, somewhat clumsily, a prefabricated acronym as well as a reverse acronym. The word was popularised in July 1994 by another contest, in New Scientist, though it was then said to be a reinterpreted acronym, neither the original nor the current principal sense.

**LOL YOU WON'T GO TO JAIL**

A man who had been caught embezzling millions from his employer went to a lawyer seeking defence. He didn't want to go to jail. But his lawyer told him, "Don't worry. You'll never have to go to jail with all



that money." And the lawyer was right. When the man was sent to prison, he didn't have a dime.

**SPECTRUM DISRUPTION**

# Who will establish metaverse ethics?



Josh Entsminger & Mark Esposito

**MOST FIRMS PURSUING AI DEVELOPMENT HAVE BUSINESS MODELS THAT ARE IN OPEN CONFLICT WITH THE ETHICAL STANDARDS THAT THE PUBLIC WANTS THEM TO UPHOLD**

The 'metaverse' isn't here yet, and when it arrives it will not be a single domain controlled by any one company. Facebook wanted to create that impression when it changed its name to Meta, but its rebranding coincided with major investments by Microsoft and Roblox. All are angling to shape how virtual reality and digital identities will be used to organise more of our daily lives — from work and health care to shopping, gaming, and other forms of entertainment.

The metaverse is not a new concept. The term was coined by sci-fi novelist Neal Stephenson in his 1992 book Snow Crash, which depicts a hyper-capitalist dystopia in which humanity has collectively opted into life in virtual environments. So far, the experience has been no less dystopian here in the real world. Most experiments with immersive digital environments have been marred immediately by bullying, harassment, digital sexual assault, and all the other abuses that we have come to associate with platforms that "move fast and break things."

None of this should come as a surprise. The ethics of new technologies have always lagged behind the innovations themselves. That is why independent parties should provide governance models sooner rather than later — before self-interested corporations do it with their own profit margins in mind. The evolution of ethics in arti-

ficial intelligence is instructive here. Following a major breakthrough in AI image-recognition in 2012, corporate and government interest in the field exploded, attracting important contributions from ethicists and activists who published (and republished) research into the dangers of training AIs on biased data sets. A new language was developed to incorporate into the design of new AI applications the values that we want to uphold.

Owing to this work, we now know that AI is effectively "automating inequality," as Virginia Eubanks of the University of Albany, SUNY, puts it, as well as perpetuating racial biases in law enforcement. To call attention to this problem, computer scientist Joy Buolamwini of the MIT Media Lab launched the Algorithmic Justice League in 2016.

This first-wave response aimed a public spotlight at the ethical issues associated with AI. But it was soon eclipsed by a renewed push within the industry for self-regulation. AI developers introduced technical toolkits for conducting internal and third-party evaluations, hoping that this would alleviate public fears. It didn't, because most firms pursuing AI development have business models that are in open conflict with the ethical standards that the public wants them to uphold.

To take the most common ex-

ample, Twitter and Facebook will not deploy AI effectively against the full range of abuses on their platforms because doing so would undermine "engagement" (outrage) and thus profits. Similarly, these and other tech firms have leveraged value extraction and economies of scale to achieve near-monopolies in their respective markets. They will not now willingly give up the power they have gained.

More recently, corporate consultants and various programmes have professionalised AI ethics to address the reputational and practical risks of ethical failures. Those working on AI within Big Tech companies would be pressed to consider questions such as whether a function should default to opt-in or opt-out; whether it is appropriate to delegate a task to AI or not; and whether the data being used to train AI applications can be trusted. To that end, many tech corporations established supposedly independent ethics boards. However, the reliability of this form of governance has since been called into question following high-profile ousters of internal researchers who raised concerns about the ethical and social implications of certain AI models.

Establishing a sound ethical foundation for the metaverse requires that we get ahead of industry self-regulation before it becomes the norm. We also must

be mindful of how the metaverse is already diverging from AI. While AI has been largely centered around internal corporate operations, the metaverse is decidedly consumer-centric, which means that it will come with all kinds of behavioural risks that most people will not have considered.

It would be better to overestimate the risks than to repeat the mistakes of the past 15 years. A wholly digital environment creates the potential for even more exhaustive data collection, including of personal biometric data. And since no one really knows exactly how people will respond to these environments, there is a strong case for using regulatory sandboxes before allowing a wider rollout.

Anticipating the metaverse's ethical challenges is still possible; but the clock is ticking. Without effective independent oversight, this new digital domain will almost certainly go rogue, recreating all the abuses and injustices of both AI and social media — and adding more that we have not even foreseen. A Metaverse Justice League may be our best hope.

*Josh Entsminger is a PhD student at UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose. Mark Esposito is a professor at Hult International Business School.* #PROJECT SYNDICATE

**Leadership issue**

Sir, This refers to "OPS offers olive branch, EPS defiant," **Orissa POST**, August 19. The Madras High Court order staying the decisions taken at a recent AIADMK (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) general council meet has given a fresh lease of life to the leadership question in that party. The HC order now restores the dual leadership that the AIADMK had adopted after the demise of J Jayalalithaa in December 2016 and the expulsion of her aide VK Sasikala from the party in 2017. But, the court-directed restoration of the dual leadership is unlikely to last since there is no sign of a patch-up between the two warring leaders. While Edappadi Palaniswami (EPS) seems to be in firm control of the AIADMK, the expulsion of Ottakara Panneerselvam (OPS) could weaken that party, and thereby the Opposition space in Tamil Nadu. EPS who helmed the AIADMK as CM - OPS served as Deputy CM — after Jayalalithaa's death, seems to have decided against the dual power centre model for the party. The decision to abolish it and the expulsion of OPS and his supporters from the AIADMK at the July general council meet indicate that EPS is aiming for complete control of the party. However, his leadership skills will be severely tested as the dissident factions — besides OPS, there is Sasikala and TTV Dinakaran waiting to take over the party — are likely to push back.

*N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE*

**Right to freebies**

Sir, Everyone is not born with a silver spoon. There will be rich and poor, haves and have nots till eternity. A perfect equal society is a contradiction in terms. There may be equality of status and opportunity. But, financial equality is an unattainable dream. The provision of freebies to the disadvantaged sections of the society is not impropriety. It is reasonable and legitimate. In a welfare state, the government is duty bound to provide freebies to the deprived and the underprivileged. It is 'raj dharma' of the government. But, only the targeted beneficiaries should be entitled to get the freebies and not the undeserving. When the selective and the needy will get freebies then, it will be understood that, it has served the purpose. Provision of freebies should be looked with a broad mind and a sympathetic heart in the larger sense of the term.

*Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR*

# 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**  
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# national

## of the day quote

Prior to 2014, the North Eastern region suffered economically due to myopic policies of the successive central governments. But, soon after the Modi government took over in 2014, the prime minister stated that every effort would be made to bring the region at par with more developed areas of the country

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

I want to share a story from my childhood. I also wanted to join the Army, and once I appeared for the examination of the Short Service Commission. I gave the written exam. But, because of certain situations in my family, including the death of my father, I couldn't join the Army

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

This is the sixth experiment (prayog) by Nitish Kumar in the last 10 years towards government formation. Do you think, this time, the people of Bihar stand to benefit?

PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST TURNED ACTIVIST

## SHORT TAKES

### Tenure extended

**New Delhi:** Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was Friday given one-year extension in service till August 22, 2023, a Personnel Ministry order said. This is his third extension in the post. Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as the Home Secretary in August 2019. He was to retire in November 2020 after attaining 60 years of age. His tenure was first extended on October 17, 2020 till August 22, 2021. Bhalla's tenure was extended by one more year on August 12 last year and was to end on Monday.

### Man arrested

**Ghaziabad (UP):** A 25-year-old youth was arrested after he allegedly kidnapped two girls, aged six and nine, from a village in Ghaziabad. According to police officials, the elder girl was found dead in a field, while the other girl managed to escape. The police suspect that the accused, who was reportedly in an inebriated state, intended to sexually assault the girls.

### Youth held in UP

**Fatehpur:** A Muslim youth has been arrested in a case of 'love jihad' for allegedly luring a Hindu girl and raping her. According to reports, the youth Nafees allegedly lured the girl from Amethi into a relationship. He then brought her to a hotel in Fatehpur where he raped her. When the girl resisted, he threatened her with dire consequences. A police team that had reached the hotel for a routine check, found the girl and rescued her. The police arrested Nafees from the spot.

### Man stabbed

**Jalaun:** A dispute over a biryani bill has led to a stabbing incident in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district. According to police reports, the victim Ramji went to a shop to eat biryani and paid Rs 50 to the owner Ram Singh. Later, he claimed that Ram Singh once again demanded Rs 50 from him for the food. When Ramji told him that he had already paid him the money, the latter denied having received the payment. This led to an argument that escalated into a brawl in which Ram Singh attacked Ramji and stabbed him. He later fled the spot. Reports said that Ram Singh was in an inebriated condition when the incident took place.



I don't feel a party like AAP or a leader like Sisodia will get perturbed by CBI raids, ED. The BJP is frightened that the AAP is going to upset their plans in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. That is why the BJP is using CBI, ED against opposition parties and leaders

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

## MADRAS HC JUDGEMENT

A single bench of the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court has in a recent judgment directed all law colleges in Tamil Nadu to install the photographs of Dr. BR Ambedkar



# Tikait warns of nationwide stir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), August 19:** Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait exhorted farmers to be ready for a massive nationwide agitation over their demands as a 75-hour sit-in by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha here seeking the removal of Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra and a law on MSP entered the second day Tuesday.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) leaders will share at an appropriate moment the time, place and nature of the nationwide agitation, Tikait told the protesting farmers and called for strengthening the morcha, an umbrella body of farmer unions. "If SKM gets weakened, governments will get the better of farmers," Tikait stressed as representatives of the BKU-Chaduni faction, which is not a part of SKM, reached the protest site to express solidarity with the agitating farmers.

Farmers from different states



Apart from sacking of MoS Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, there are other demands -- release of innocent farmers lying in jails, MSP (minimum support price for crops) guarantee law, withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill 2022, payment of pending sugarcane dues and land rights to farmers

RAKESH TIKAIT | BHARTIYA KISAN UNION LEADER

on Friday reached the dharna site -- Rajapur Mandi Samiti in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. Lakhimpur Kheri is represented in Lok Sabha by Mishra, the Union minister of state for home. His son Ashish Mishra is

Thursday with prominent leaders, including SKM core committee member Dharshan Singh Pal, Swaraj India national convener Yogendra Yadav and social activist Medha Patkar, addressing the dharna.

Prominent farmer leaders from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh also addressed the farmers. Lashing out at Minister Mishra, Tikait said, "The entire country is well aware about the Tikunia violence and it was also known to all as to who was the main instigator behind it."

"It's an irony that the minister was still holding his post," he said and added the minister should be considered an accused in the violence case under IPC section 120B, which relates to criminal conspiracy to commit an offence.

After this 75-hour sit-in, the farmers must be ready for a larger agitation to press their demands, he said.

## AFTER ASSAM, JE CROPS UP IN MIZORAM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Aizawl, August 19:** After Assam, where it has left 77 people dead so far, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) reached neighbouring Mizoram, where the first case of the vector-borne disease was detected in Aizawl, health officials said Friday.

Mizoram's nodal officer for Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) Pachuau Lalhalsawma said that the sample of a patient, tested at Trinity Hospital here and at the National Centre for Disease Control in Delhi, confirmed it to be Japanese Encephalitis.

He that the Director of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Delhi, has also been informed of the JE case in Mizoram.

The National Health Mission, Mizoram has issued a standard operating procedure and guidelines to tackle the situation arising from the outbreak and health workers have launched a massive awareness campaign against the disease throughout the state.

In Assam, at least 77 people died of Japanese Encephalitis since July 1 while 377 were infected, prompting the Health Department to undertake various measures to deal with the disease.



Japanese Encephalitis and malaria kill many people in Assam every year, specifically during the monsoon season that usually starts in May and stretches to October. According to the health officials, last year, at least 40 deaths were reported due to the disease, transmitted by infected mosquitoes, mainly during the monsoon.

## FESTIVE UNITY



Devotees pray before they form a human pyramid to break the dahi handi, an earthen pot filled with curd suspended in the air, as part of celebrations of Janmashtami at Dadar in Mumbai

## Serve notice to accused before enhancing sentence: SC to HCs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 19:** The Supreme Court has said that high courts are required to give notice to the accused before enhancing sentences so that they get an opportunity to defend their case.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and P S Narasimha set aside an order of the Rajasthan High Court which had awarded life term for the rest of their life to accused in a murder case. The top court noted that it was the appellants who had challenged their conviction by way of an appeal before the high court.

It also took into account that the State had not appealed against the order of the Sessions Judge not awarding death penalty to the appellants. "No doubt that the high court could have itself exercised suo moto powers and enhanced the sentence. However, prior to doing so, the high court was required to

give a notice to the appellants. Admittedly, the same has not been done. "As a result of the judgement and order of the high court, the sentence awarded to the appellants has been enhanced without the appellants having an opportunity to defend their case as to why the enhanced sentence should not be granted," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by two accused challenging an order of the Rajasthan High Court which observed that the case against the present appellant fell within the category of 'rarest of the rare cases'.

It was further held that the trial court has failed in not considering the present case to be falling in the category of 'rarest of the rare cases' for the purpose of awarding death sentence. The high court had directed that the appellants shall undergo imprisonment for the rest of their life for the offence punishable under Section 302 of the IPC.

## IAF contingent lands in Aus

The IAF contingent, led by Group Captain YPS. Negi, also comprises over 100 air warriors, deployed with the aircraft

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 19:** The Indian Air Force contingent, comprising four Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft and two C-17 transport aircraft, has reached Australia to participate in biennial, multi-national exercise 'Pitch Black 2022' scheduled to be held from August 19 to September 8 in Darwin, an official statement said.

Being held for the first time since 2018 as the 2020 edition of the exercise, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic, this year's exercise, with



the focus on 'large force employment warfare, will see over 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from various air forces taking part, the Defence Ministry statement said. The IAF contingent, led by Group Captain Y.P.S. Negi, also comprises

over 100 air warriors, deployed with the aircraft. They will undertake multi-domain air combat missions in a complex environment and will exchange best practices with the other participating air forces.

# Demolition teams race against time to rig Noida Twin Towers

THE ENGINEER SAID EXPERTS HAVE CHOSEN PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES OF A VARIETY USED IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR FOR HEAVY-DUTY BLASTING, AND NOT MILITARY-GRADE PRODUCTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Noida, August 19:** Teams of experts are racing against time to install four tonnes of explosives into the stripped down skeleton of Noidas Twin Towers marked for demolition on August 28 in the most daring such exercise in India's history.

Engineers from South Africa and Mumbai are working non-stop for the precision demolition of Apex and Cayenne towers, comprising 915 flats, which took three years to build but were deemed illegal by the Supreme Court, signalling zero tolerance for dodgy builders. The illegal towers rising up to 103



metres nestle between upmarket societies called ATS Village and Emerald Court residents in Sector-93A, but they are only nine metres from the latter's Aster-2 apartment block. Edifice Engineering, the Mumbai-based demolition agency

tasked with the job, said work is going on at full speed to pack some 7,000 drilled holes with explosives. "The charging (with explosives) of Cayenne is complete and so far we have rigged up to the 10th floor of Apex," Project Director Mayur

Mehta said. The engineer said experts have chosen plastic explosives of a variety used in the civilian sector for heavy-duty blasting, and not military-grade products. But anxiety was visible among Emerald Court residents, who must vacate their flats at 7 am for the better part of August 28 as a precaution against the inevitable cloud of dust and shooting stones.

Some residents joined a 'Kirtan' on Friday to seek divine aid for unflawed demolition, the second big one since 2020 when Edifice flattened four blocks comprising 350 flats in Kerala which were half the height of the Noida towers. "Some 40,000 tonnes of debris will come down in a matter of sec-



# Anti-CAA protests return

AT LEAST FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED IN THE PROTESTS AGAINST THE CAA IN ASSAM IN 2020, WHICH ALSO WITNESSED LARGE-SCALE VIOLENCE AND IMPOSITION OF CURFEW FOR SEVERAL DAYS



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, August 19:** The anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) agitations returned to the northeastern region after two years with the influential North East Students' Organisations (NESO) staging protests across the capitals

of northeastern states Wednesday in support of various demands including scrapping of the contentious law.

In Assam, a protest meeting was held by the All Assam Students Union (AASU) against the CAA. The AASU is one of the constituents of the NESO, an apex

students' body of eight organisations in the northeastern region. NESO Advisor and AASU leader Samujjal Bhattacharya said that NESO staged peaceful protests at all the state capitals.

The protest is also pertaining to issues related to floods, influx of migrants, complete scrapping of

the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, providing constitutional safeguards to the indigenous communities, the imposition of Inner Line Permit (ILP) to protect the indigenous people in all northeastern states and implementation of the Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, 1985.

The anti CAA protests had first started in Assam, parts of West Bengal and other northeastern states in 2019 and continued for some time till 2020 before the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

At least five persons were killed in the protests against the CAA in Assam, which also witnessed large-scale violence and imposition of curfew for several days.

Besides the NESO, AASU, various tribal organisations, political parties including Congress and Left parties have strongly opposed the CAA.

The CAA seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslims minorities - Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who have migrated from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014, after facing faith-based persecution.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 19:** Kerala's ruling CPI(M) Friday described as 'unconstitutional', Governor Arif Mohammad Khan's decision to stay the controversial appointment of a Malayalam Associate Professor in Kannur University and rejected his "favouritism and nepotism" charge over her nomination to the varsity.

The ruling party claimed nothing 'illegal' was committed by the university authorities in connection with the appointment of a CPI (M) leader's wife as the associate professor.

Rejecting charges of the Governor that the varsity's move appears to be a case of 'favouritism and nepotism', CPI(M) State Secretariat member AK Balan hit back at Khan, saying his appointment to the constitutional post was also a politically motivated decision.

"The stand taken by the Governor is unconstitutional, violation of the Kannur University Act and also against natural justice," Balan, who is also a former law minister, said in response to Khan's allegations.



Talking to reporters in New Delhi late Thursday, the Governor had also alleged that Kannur University's move to appoint Chief Minister's secretary's wife Priya Varghese as an associate professor in its Malayalam Department was 'political'.

"The process of the appointment...It appears to be a case of favouritism and nepotism. A person who is not qualified to be appointed as an assistant professor prima facie is being appointed because she is the spouse of the secretary to the chief minister. This is political. There is absolutely no

doubt," Khan had said. Varghese had been proposed to be appointed as an associate professor in the Malayalam Department by Kannur University, which triggered a huge political row as she had the lowest research score but the highest in the interview round and was declared first in the selection process.

Backing the Governor, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, VD Satheesan, has said Khan had actually used his power to prevent Kannur University's attempt to make an illegal appointment.

# Kerala HC refuses to quash conspiracy case against Swapna Suresh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kochi, August 19:** The Kerala High Court Friday refused to quash the conspiracy case registered against Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the gold smuggling case.

In June, she made a confessional statement before a local magistrate, parts of which were revealed by her that included a mention about the role of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his wife and daughter in smuggling of gold and currency.

Soon after this, a case was registered against her based on the complaint of legislator KT Jaleel that this was a revelation to destroy peace in the state and there was a deep rooted conspiracy against the Vijayan government.

It was against this that Swapna Suresh approached the high court. Friday in the court, the government counsel said the probe had just started and it was too premature to close the case. The court told Suresh that she can again approach the court at the appropriate time.

The counsel for Suresh said this was no setback for her as the court has said that she cannot be arrested.

"The real conspirators are Vijayan and at the moment this is no setback for Swapna as we got what we wanted and she cannot be arrested now. Let them go forward with the probe and we will deal



In June, she made a confessional statement before a local magistrate, parts of which were revealed by her that included a mention about the role of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

with the things at the appropriate time," said her counsel, Krishnaraj.

Consequent to this development, the special police team formed to unravel the 'conspiracy' can now go forward in their probe.

# Struggling KSRTC comes up with Mahabharata theme tour package

According to lore, Thrichittatt Maha Vishnu Temple, Puliur Mahavishnu Temple, Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram Mahavishnu Temple and Thrikodithanam Mahavishnu Temple in the state were built by Yudhishtira, Bheema, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva respectively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 19:** Kerala's cash-strapped state-run transport corporation, which is looking for diversified means for its survival, has now come out with a budget-friendly pilgrim tour package focussing on the epic Mahabharata to woo common passengers and tourists.

The new package, announced by the budget tourism cell of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), offers travel buffs and pilgrims a cost-effective opportunity to visit the famed Pancha Pandava Temples in the southern state and also to take part in the famous 'Valla Sadya', the ritualistic feast being served at the Parthasarathy Temple in Aranmula. The pilgrim tour is or-



ganised in collaboration with various devaswoms (temple managements) and Palliyoda Seva Samithis, outfits which manage the boats and rituals in connection with the Vallasadya, under the tagline "A Pilgrimage through the History of Mahabharata."

The KSRTC management Wednesday announced the package and invited interested persons to pre-book their travel from its respective depots. According to lore, Thrichittatt Maha Vishnu Temple, Puliur Mahavishnu Temple, Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram Mahavishnu Temple and Thrikodithanam Mahavishnu Temple are the five temples in the southern state, believed to have been built by five Pandava brothers- Yudhishtira, Bheema, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva respectively.

All the temples are located in Chengannur and Changanassery taluks of the erstwhile central Travancore on the bank of holy river Pamba. They are also known

as five Vaishnava Temples, a statement issued by the KSRTC management here said.

During the tour, the passengers can also take part in Vallasadya, the ritualistic offering to Lord Parthasarathy of Aranmula temple in which the oarsmen of the snake boats are offered a sumptuous feast, from August 4 to October 9. They will also get a chance to directly see the making of the historic Aranmula Kannadi, a unique mirror made in the region by the skilled craftsmen.

Another attraction of the package is the availability of an audio guide, comprising a detailed account of the history of the temples, rituals and offerings there, KSRTC sources added.

The objective of the budget packages was to provide affordable tours to the common people and also to generate a handsome revenue consistently they said.

The KSRTC has been organising similar budget-friendly tours for the last several months.

# Assam to spend ₹300cr to upgrade judicial infra

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma urges people to move courts only for serious matters and not overburden the judiciary with frivolous cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, August 19:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday said that his government will spend Rs 300 crore in the next three years for developing and upgrading the infrastructure of the district and sub-divisional courts in the state.

He also urged people to move courts only for serious matters and not overburden the judiciary with frivolous cases.

"The state government will spend a total of Rs 300 crore in the next three years to develop and upgrade the infrastructure of the district and sub-divisional judicial courts," Sarma said at the inauguration of the newly constructed court building of Barpeta district.

Gauhati High Court Chief Justice RM Chhaya was present on the occasion.

Sarma appealed to the people to opt for out-of-court, traditional system of solving disputes through



mediation by family elders in less serious matters so that the formal judicial system can dedicate its workforce and time to issues of serious nature such as murder and rape.

"Cases of less serious nature are burdening the judiciary, leading to justice for victims of heinous crimes getting delayed," he said.

Referring to ancient religious scriptures, the chief minister emphasised the need for all to work towards achieving a society that is just, lawful and humane.

# CHILDREN TO PLAY ROLE IN GARBAGE-FREE KERALA DRIVE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kottayam, August 19:** Now children from the anganwadi level will soon be a part of the ambitious 'garbage-free Kerala' drive of the state government.

Seeking to achieve the larger objective of keeping the entire state free of waste, the Co-operative Department has launched a campaign to impart the basic waste management lessons to children and make them part of the process of waste management.

Minister for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs VN Vasavan marked the state-level inauguration of the "cleanliness-cooperation" programme at a function here Thursday.

The minister, during the function, said the programme envisages to inculcate the habit of waste management among children from the anganwadi to the lower primary school level.

Stating that cleanliness is a major factor that leads a land to

progress, he said developing a habit of treating the garbage at its source is significant.

"The objective of the initiative is to inculcate a new culture of hygiene and waste management through different groups of people including through children," he said.

Under the initiative, waste bins would be set up in anganwadis and schools and waste management methods would be taught to teachers, official sources said.

Lessons would be given to them on how to segregate and treat the waste scientifically.

Children, who see different types of waste being deposited in different bins on a daily basis, would naturally imbibe the basic lessons of scientific waste management, they explained.

Such systems would also be encouraged to be used in homes, the sources added.

It would instill the idea in the minds of children that it is our responsibility to dispose the waste we create, the minister said.



# K9 dog squad tracking down poachers in Assam

The nation's first dog squad for wildlife crimes was set up in Assam under the initiative of biodiversity organisation 'Aaranyak' in 2011 with one male Belgian Malinois named Zorba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, August 19:** A trained dog squad in Assam, billed as the first of its kind in the country, is helping to track poachers in the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries of the state and assist forest security personnel in their conservation efforts.

The nation's first dog squad for wildlife crimes was set up in Assam under the initiative of biodiversity organisation 'Aaranyak' in 2011 with one male Belgian Malinois named Zorba.

The dog squad known as the 'K9 unit' has over the years evolved into a "very efficient and well-trained one" in tracking down wildlife crimes, said Bibhab Talukdar, the secretary general of the body which has undertaken the effort.

The squad, set up in 2011 by Aranyak with just one Belgian Malinois, now has seven dogs with more than one handler for each of them. Two other dogs are under-

going training here, Talukdar told PTI.

Zorba, the first canine of the squad, is credited with helping to nab 60 poachers, 50 of them in Kaziranga National Park, which is known globally for its one-horned rhinos. The dog had served mostly in KNP from 2012 till his retirement from service in 2019. On Independence Day that year he was honoured with a traditional 'gamosa' and a citation.

He was also deployed on various occasions in other national parks. One incident of his expertise in tracking poachers stands out in Orang National Park in the state. He had then given vital clues from the scene of crime leading to the identification of the suspect's house outside the Park. Later the accused was arrested by forest and police officers, Talukdar said.

Principal chief conservator of forest and head of forest force MK Yadava said that he was very fortunate to have worked with Zorba at Kaziranga.



"Those were difficult days as poaching was at its height and the K9 team made so much difference in dealing with wildlife crimes," he said.

Zorba's lone handler Anil Das said that he is enjoying a retired life at the K9 camp here with no duty in harsh field conditions and better health care.

It is now the turn of his suc-

cessors - Leon, Jubi and Emy to keep guard in the different ranges of Kaziranga. Then there is Misky in Pobitora wildlife sanctuary, Sheela in Raimona and Veera in Orang National Park

The transformation of the unit into an efficient and dedicated force took almost a decade of adopting innovative techniques and approaches learnt from nu-

merous training sessions under the watchful eyes of internationally reputed trainers, Talukdar said.

"Members of our K9 squad, including Zorba, have assisted the forest officials with vital clues of poachers' exit routes after the rhino poaching incidents, leading to arrest of culprits in different cases," he said.

The Belgian Malinois breed was selected for the purpose due to their extreme prey drive capability, Talukdar said. "Once they pick up a scent, track and come to a lead, they have the capability of out-running and bringing the suspect down if the person tries to escape," Talukdar said.

This breed has been successfully used as military dog by American and European forces and has also shown exemplary performance in sniffing out explosives and drugs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The K9 unit has been running with generous support received from the UK-based organisation, the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation since 2011 and NABU-Germany since 2017, he added.



of the day quote

The BJP doesn't need any 'mission' (targeting constituencies) as people have started accepting the saffron party and are standing firmly behind it

A number of people died in a boat tragedy due to an incomplete bridge over the Yamuna river in Banda. An undertaker who had been brought to Hapur for a hearing was shot dead, and now the painful incident of gangrape in Hamirpur. These incidents prove there is jungle raj in Uttar Pradesh and the drumming of development is only a deception

Sougata Roy is a veteran politician. He was a professor once upon a time. But we are stunned to hear the language he used to attack the opposition. He is telling his party cadres that shoes will be made by peeling off the skin. The day is not far away when people will beat him up with shoes. The TMC leaders will be beaten up with shoes in various parts of the state

SHORT TAKES

Couple found dead in UP

Shamli: The body of a 15-year-old girl has been recovered from her boyfriend's relative house in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district after she went missing a day earlier, police said, adding the boy also died later. According to police, the boy was lying unconscious close to the girl's body and was still alive when found. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, officials said. The incident took place in a village in Shamli where the girl used to live with her maternal grandfather's family.

Cop loses ₹7.5L in online fraud

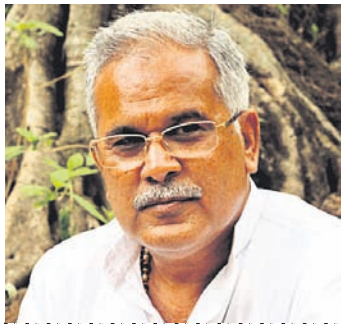
Chennai: An assistant commandant of Tamil Nadu Special Police II Battalion, Manimuthur lost Rs 7.5 lakh in online fraud by a Nigerian cybercriminal gang. Karthikeyan, the Assistant Commandant, who is a Superintendent level police officer, fell into the trap of the Nigerian cybercriminal after he introduced himself as Tamil Nadu Director General of Police, C. Sylendrababu. The commandant purchased online Amazon gift cards through phone and other social media platforms according to the instructions of the Nigerian criminal believing that he was buying this for the state DGP.

Sex racket busted, 4 held

Gurugram: Gurugram police have arrested four people, including two women, for allegedly operating a sex racket from a spa centre here. The arrested, which also includes the spa centre's owner Bhagat Singh and manager Yogesh, have been booked under different sections of the Immoral Trafficking Act and an FIR has been registered at the Sector 50 police station.

Two killed in blast

Amaravati: Two workers were killed and nine injured in an explosion in a sugar factory near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh Friday. The incident occurred at Parry Sugar Refinery in Vakalapudi industrial area on the outskirts of Kakinada. The blast took place apparently due to a short circuit when the workers were trying to give power connection to the conveyor belt while loading sugar bags.



The Central government is least bothered to provide relief to citizens from this inflation which has resulted in increases in the price of daily use products and a high cost of living. We are protesting against it

JAISHANKAR MEETS ENVOYS

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Friday met envoys of Latin America and the Caribbean countries, with a focus on boosting overall bilateral ties



Hawala operator for LeT, Al-Badr arrested

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 19: In a joint operation, Delhi Police and Jammu and Kashmir police in assistance with central agencies arrested a Hawala operator for funding terror outfits LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) and Al-Badr.

The accused was identified as Mohammed Yaseen. Inspectors Sunil Kumar Rajain and Ravinder Joshi under ACPs Lalit Mohan Negi and Hridaya Bhushan were working on an information. They held Yaseen, a resident of Turkman Gate in Delhi. He was working as an agent in Hawala transactions related to funding of terror outfits LeT and Al-Badr.

August 17, Yasin gave around Rs 10 lakh to a terror operative Abdul Hamid Mir of J&K for further use in terrorist activities in J&K. In this regard, J&K Police registered a case and had arrested Abdul Hamid Mir from Jammu Bus Stand along with the terror funding amount of Rs 10 lakh," said HGS Dhaliwal, the DCP of Special Cell.

The official said that on August 18, information was received from central agencies and J&K police regarding a person engaged in funding of terrorist activities and operating from Meena Bazar, Delhi itself.

After receiving the information, a raiding team was constituted and deployed in and around area of Meena Bazar. Yaseen was finally held. The police said that they have recovered cash Rs 7 lakh and a cell phone from him.

"Yaseen is a garment trader by profession and was operating from Meena Bazar. He worked as a conduit of Hawala money, collected



funds received from sources based abroad and further delivering to terror operatives in J&K," the official said. During interrogation, Yaseen disclosed the police that the Hawala money was being sent to Surat and Mumbai through South Africa.

Yaseen was the Delhi link in this Hawala chain and from Delhi this amount was further transferred to J&K through different couriers. This amount is further given to operatives of banned terror outfit LeTs and Al-Badr in J&K.

"Yaseen is an important link for transporting funds from different parts of India to J&K. Recently, he received Rs 24 lakh sent via Hawala from South Africa, out of which he transferred Rs 17 lakh through two different couriers to terror operatives in J&K. Arrested accused Abdul Hamid Mir was given Rs 10 lakh by him. This Rs 10 lakh was seized by J&K whereas the remaining Rs 7 lakh was recovered from his house during search," said the police. Further investigation in the matter is on.

Row over Lalu's son-in-law joining meetings

Notably, both the meetings were presided over by Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav, who was sworn in as a minister earlier this week with environment, forestry and climate change portfolio

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 19: The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar was Friday embarrassed as video footages surfaced wherein a son-in-law of Lalu Prasad, founding president of the RJD that helms the new ruling coalition, was seen at two official meetings.

Notably both the meetings were presided over by Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav, who was sworn in as a minister earlier this week with environment, forestry and climate change portfolio. According to video clips, at the first meeting of officials that Yadav attended in his capacity as minister on July 17, Shailesh Kumar, married to his eldest sister Misa Bharti, a Rajya Sabha MP herself, was seen seated in the back row.

However, a day later, Kumar was again present at a meeting of the pollution control board, seated next to his brother-in-law minister. The course of events drew strong condemnation from the BJP, which has lost power following the volte-face by the chief minister last week. "Tej Pratap Yadav remains in



news for all the wrong reasons. Now, as a minister he seems to have outsourced his duties to his brother-in-law," said Sushil Kumar Modi, a senior BJP leader who had served as the state's deputy CM for over a decade.

"Lalu ji's son-in-law was not just present at the meetings. The meet-

ings, where he had no business to be present, were in fact being conducted (sanchaalit) by him," alleged Modi in a statement. It is for the chief minister to answer the people of Bihar on this, he said.

"His new government has a large number of ministers with criminal records which confirms fears of the return of jungle raj in the state. The incident involving Lalu ji's son-in-law is a clear sign that the RJD supreme will try to interfere in the workings of the new government," Modi, now a Rajya Sabha MP, added.

RJD leaders were, predictably, tight-lipped over the embarrassing episode while those in the chief minister's JD(U) said they could comment only after it became clear why Shailesh Kumar was present at the two meetings.



Fishermen wait for customers on their boat in the Ganga river during monsoon in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

Speed-boat 'scare': ATS files FIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 19: After probing the drifted 'speed-boat scare' on Raigad shores, the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) has filed a complaint against unknown persons, officials said here on Friday.

ATS chief Vineet Agarwal, who rushed to Raigad along with his team, and the Raigad Police have investigated the matter; and a possible terror angle has been discounted for the present.

On Thursday, the state security apparatus went into a tizzy after the severely damaged yacht washed up on Harihareshwar beach, around 200 km south of Mumbai, as the fisherfolk alerted the local authorities.

The UK-flagged 53-feet-long yacht 'MY Lady Han', owned by an Australian couple, was found with some documents, three AK-47 rifles and boxes containing live ammunition, sparking a major security scare in the state.

The Navi Mumbai ATS Unit is handing the probe and has filed a first information report invoking various sections of the Arms Act against unknown persons.

Later, a Dubai-based Neptune P2P Group announced that it had provided security to the yacht in June 2022.

The Maharashtra government informed the legislature that the speedboat suffered an engine failure in the high seas on June 26 and the crew on board were rescued



The Navi Mumbai ATS Unit is handing the probe and has filed a first information report invoking various sections of the Arms Act against unknown persons

by a Korean warship.

Later, after drifting in the Arabian Sea for 52 days, it finally washed up on Harihareshwar Beach on Thursday afternoon.

The Neptune P2P Group said that after the yacht was damaged during monsoon, an emergency

was declared, the crew members were rescued though they could not salvage the vessel owing to extreme weather conditions.

The yacht was slated to sail from Oman to Europe with its owner Hannah Laundergun and her husband James Robert sailing it, along with at least one unidentified crew member, when the mishap took place.

The security provider said it had presumed the vessel to have sunk but after it was found on Raigad shores, the Neptune P2P Group is coordinating with the vessel owners, and the authorities in India and United Kingdom for the official recovery procedures of the vessel and the 'controlled items' (weapons) on board.

Teen killed by inmates at children's home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 19: A 16-year-old boy was allegedly beaten to death by four inmates at a children's home in central Mumbai, police said Friday.

The police have detained four minors for the incident that took place at David Sassoon Children's home at Matunga on Tuesday evening, an official said. The victim, Hansvaan Rajkumar Nishad, was assaulted by four children, in the age group of 12 to 17 years, in the isolation room of the facility, he said.

Nishad fell unconscious and was rushed to the civic-run Sion hospital, where doctors declared him dead before admission, the official said. The Shivaji Park police had initially registered a case of accidental death, but after examining the CCTV footage from the isolation room, they found that Nishad was brutally assaulted, he said.

The boys allegedly kicked and punched the victim, the official said.

A case under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the minors, who were detained and lodged at the Dongri correction centre, he said.

Nishad was found roaming at Girgaum Chowpatty in south Mumbai and was brought to the children's home by the police on August 6, he said.

The police had suspected him to be mentally unstable, he said.

BSF jawan killed in militant attack

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, August 19: In the first incident of terrorist violence in Tripura this year, a Border Security Force (BSF) head constable was gunned down by militants of the outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) on Friday, police said.

The BSF has sought the help of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) to nab the NLFT militants, belonging to Biswa Mohan faction.

A police spokesman said that the NLFT cadres fired on a BSF patrolling party at Simna Two along the India-Bangladesh border in north Tripura district, injuring Head Constable Girjesh Kumar Uddey, 53, who was shifted

to an Agartala hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

"The NLFT extremists fired from the Bangladesh territory and immediately after the ambush, fled deep inside the mountainous forest of the neighbouring country after the BSF troopers retaliated," the spokesman said.

A huge contingent of Tripura State Rifles (TSR) led by Inspector General of Police, Law and Order, Arindam Nath and senior BSF officials have rushed to the mountainous areas for taking further course of action. A BSF official said that massive operations are underway in close coordination with the BGB to track down the insurgents responsible for the attack.



MONKEYPOX: SERO-SURVEY PLAN ON CARDS

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: The Indian Council of Medical Research may conduct a sero-survey among contacts of monkeypox patients to check for the presence of anti-

bodies and find out how many of them were asymptomatic, official sources said Friday.

As of now, it is not known what is the proportion of people who stay asymptomatic of the viral infection, they said. India so far has reported ten cases of monkeypox. "We are thinking of conducting a sero-survey among close contacts of monkeypox-affected people in India to check for the presence of antibodies in them. "The idea is to find out how many of them contracted the disease due to exposure to the infected and did not show symptoms. The discussions are at a very nascent stage as of now," a source said. According to WHO, monkeypox



is a viral zoonosis -- a virus transmitted to humans from animals -- with symptoms similar to smallpox although clinically less severe.

Monkeypox typically manifests itself with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications.

It is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting for two to four weeks.

The Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease' issued by the Centre stated that human-to-human transmission occurs primarily through large respiratory droplets generally requiring prolonged close contact.

It can also be transmitted through direct contact with body fluids or lesions, and indirect contact with lesion material such as through contaminated clothing or linen of an infected person. Animal-to-human transmission may occur by bite or scratch of infected animals or through bushmeat preparation. The incubation period is usu-

ally from six to 13 days and the case fatality rate of monkeypox has historically ranged up to 11 per cent in the general population and higher among children. In recent times, the case fatality rate has been around 3 to 6 per cent.

The symptoms include lesions which usually begin within one to three days from the onset of fever, lasting for around two to four weeks and are often described as painful until the healing phase when they become itchy. A notable predilection for palm and soles is characteristic of monkeypox, the guidelines stated. The World Health Organisation has declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern.



# international

## of the day quote

Israel has committed 50 massacres in 50 Palestinian locations since 1947

Schools are more than places of learning, they are safe havens for children traumatised by a succession of events: the Covid-19 pandemic, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake, and pervasive insecurity and poverty

As President Biden said in Buffalo after the horrific mass shooting earlier this year, in the battle for the soul of our nation we must all enlist in this great cause of America

## SHORT TAKES

### Wind drives major wildfire in Spain

Madrid: A wildfire burning out of control in the eastern province of Valencia has become one of the biggest this year in Spain, having already scorched more than 19,000 hectares (47,000 acres) along a 120-kilometre (75-mile) perimeter, authorities said Friday. Some 35 aircraft have been deployed as the blaze entered its fifth day. Rain boosted hopes the fire could be brought under control Thursday, but strong winds have made it "very aggressive", the Valencian regional government's justice chief said. Five people remain in hospital after suffering severe burns when several passengers tried to jump off a train Wednesday that stopped and tried to go back amid surrounding flames.

### China jails Canadian tycoon for 13 years

Beijing: A Chinese-born Canadian tycoon who disappeared from Hong Kong in 2017 was sentenced Friday to 13 years in prison for a multibillion-dollar string of financial offences and his company was fined \$8.1 billion, a court announced. Xiao Jianhua was convicted of misusing billions of dollars of deposits from banks and insurers controlled by his Tomorrow Group and offering bribes to officials, the Shanghai No. 1 Intermediate People's Court said on its social media account.

### Market blast in north Syria kills 15

Beirut: A rocket attack on a crowded market in a town held by Turkey-backed opposition fighters in northern Syria Friday killed 15 people and wounded dozens, an opposition war monitor and a paramedic group reported. The attack on the town of al-Bab came days after a Turkish airstrike killed at least 11 Syrian troops and US-backed Kurdish fighters. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, blamed Syrian government forces for the shelling Friday, saying it was in retaliation for the Turkish airstrike.

### US jobless claims slightly drop

Washington: Initial jobless claims in the US last week dropped slightly to 250,000, hovering around nine-month high as the labour market shows signs of cooling, the Labour Department said. In the week ending August 13, the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits decreased by 2,000 from the previous week's downwardly revised level of 252,000, according to a report released Thursday by the Department's Bureau of Labour Statistics.

# China backs EAM's remarks

Responding to a series of questions Thursday, Jaishankar said the relationship between India and China was going through an "extremely difficult phase" after what Beijing had done at the border and emphasised that the Asian Century would not happen if the two neighbours could not join hands



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, August 19: China Friday concurred with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's observation that an Asian Century cannot happen if India and China don't join hands and emphasised that the two countries have "far more common interests than differences." The troops of China and India are engaged in a prolonged standoff in eastern Ladakh. The two sides have so far held 16 rounds of Corps Commander Level talks to resolve the standoff which erupted May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake areas. India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were key for the overall development of bilateral ties.

Asked for his reaction to Jaishankar's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that "as a Chinese leader put it, "Unless China and India are developed, there will be no Asian

Century. No genuine Asia-Pacific Century or Asian Century can come until China, India and other neighbouring countries are developed." "China and India are two ancient civilisations, two major emerging economies and two neighbouring countries, we have far more common interests than differences. Both sides have the wisdom and capability to help each other succeed instead of undercutting each other," he said.

To a question on whether China will hold talks with India on the disengagement at the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, Wang said, "China and India maintain smooth communication over the boundary question. And our dialogue is effective."

He expressed the hope that India will work with China to act upon the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries, i.e. "China and India are not each other's threats, but cooperation partners and development opportunities, bring China-India relations back to the track of steady and sound development at an early date and safeguard the common interests of China, India and our fellow developing countries," Wang said.

On Jaishankar's remarks on reservations to the Quad alliance, apparently by China, the foreign ministry spokesman reiterated China's objection to the four-nation bloc comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia.

"Our position on Quad is consistent and clear. I would like to reiterate that in today's world, building exclusive groups is against the trend of the times and will not get any support or get anywhere," he said.

# Pak seeks peaceful ties with India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 19: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed his desire for peaceful relations with India based on the principles of "equity, justice and mutual respect" and the resolution of the Kashmir issue, according to a media report Friday.

Sharif also urged the international community to play a "facilitative role" to ensure durable peace and stability in South Asia, it said, amidst a chill in Indo-Pak bilateral ties over the Kashmir issue and cross border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Sharif expressed these views during a meeting with the newly-appointed Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, Thursday, the Dawn Newspaper



quoted the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as saying.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence. India has said the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility.

Sharif's remarks came days after India decided to allow non-locals who are living ordinarily in Jammu and Kashmir to be able to



I have taken a drug test for my own legal protection, the results of which will come in about a week

SANNA MARIN | FINLAND'S PRIME MINISTER

## HUMAN MILK BANK IN NEPAL

Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari Friday inaugurated the Himalayan nation's first-ever human milk bank at a maternity and women's hospital here to give premature and other at-risk infants access to the vast benefits of breast milk when they need it the most



Commuters queue for buses outside Victoria Underground station, which is closed as London Underground workers strike over pay and terms in London, Britain

## Putin warns Macron of risk of 'catastrophe' at Ukraine nuclear plant

REUTERS

Moscow, August 19: Russian President Vladimir Putin warned his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron that shelling of the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, which he blamed on Kyiv, could result in a large-scale disaster.

Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of shelling Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which was captured by Russia in March but is still run by Ukrainian technicians. Only two of the facility's six reactors are working.

"Vladimir Putin, in particular, stressed that the systematic shelling of the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant by the Ukrainian military created the danger of a large-scale catastrophe that could lead to radiation contamination of vast territories," the Kremlin said in a readout of the call, which it said had been initiated by Macron.

## Britain likely to face public health 'crisis' from energy bill hike



AEGNCIES

London, August 19: Britain's public health leaders appealed to the government Friday to urgently tackle soaring energy prices, warning that the steep rise in household bills will lead to more people falling sick and increase the number of annual deaths linked with cold homes.

In a letter sent to government officials, the National Health Service Confederation said surging costs mean many people will have to choose between skipping meals to heat their homes or living in cold and damp conditions this winter.

The group's chief executive Matthew Taylor said health leaders took the step to make an "unprecedented intervention" and write to the government because the UK was "facing a humanitarian crisis" due to the public health risks linked to rising fuel costs.

The average UK Household fuel bill has risen more than 50% so far in 2022 as Russia's war in Ukraine squeezes global oil and natural gas supplies. A further increase is due in October, when the average bill is forecast to hit 3,500 pounds (\$4,300) a year. Official figures this week showed that U.K. inflation hit a new 40-year high of 10.1% in July.

Taylor said inability to heat homes and afford food will "lead

## Sunak visits temple on Janmashtami

London: Britain's Prime Ministerial candidate, Rishi Sunak, took some time out of a hectic campaign schedule to make a visit to a Hare Krishna temple on the outskirts of London to celebrate Janmashtami. Sunak, 42, who swore his oath of allegiance on being elected member of Parliament in the House of Commons on the 'Bhagavad Gita', has often spoken about his Hindu faith giving him strength.



to outbreaks of illness and sickness around the country and widen health inequalities, worsen children's life chances, and leave an indelible scar on local communities." He warned that this will compound pressure on hospitals and public health services, which are already under stress and are bracing for a difficult winter.

## Apple warns of 'serious' security flaw for iPhones, iPads and Macs



ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, August 19: Apple disclosed serious security vulnerabilities for iPhones, iPads and Macs that could potentially allow attackers to take complete control of these devices.

The company said it is "aware of a report that this issue may have been actively exploited."

Apple released two security reports about the issue on Wednesday, although they didn't receive wide attention outside of tech publications. Security experts have advised users to update affected devices — the iPhones6S and later models; several models of the iPad, including the 5th generation and later; all iPad Pro models and the iPad Air 2; and Mac computers running MacOS Monterey. It also affects some iPod models.

Apple's explanation of the vulnerability means a hacker could get "full admin access to the device" so that they can "execute any code as if they are you, the user," said Rachel Tobac, CEO of SocialProof Security. Those who should be particularly attentive to updating their software are "people who are in the public eye" such as activists or journalists who might be the targets of sophisticated nation state spying, Tobac said.

## WHO recommends use of two antibody drugs against Ebola

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, August 19: The World Health Organisation said Friday that two existing treatments dramatically reduced deaths from Ebola and should be given to people of all ages suffering from the often-fatal haemorrhagic disease.

Publishing its first-ever guidelines on which therapeutics to use against Ebola, the UN health agency strongly recommended using two monoclonal antibodies, mAb114, also known as Ansuvimab or Ebanga, and REGN-EB3, or Inmazeb. Studies had showed that the two treatments significantly "reduced mortality," Janet Diaz, lead of the clinical management unit in the WHO's Health Emergencies programme, told reporters in Geneva. Depending on the standard of care, she said they could save between 230 and 400 lives for every 1,000 people infected.



## MAJOR DISASTER AVERTED

# Pilots fall asleep at 37,000 feet, miss landing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Addis Ababa, August 19: Two pilots are believed to have fallen asleep and missed their landing during a flight from Sudan to Ethiopia, media reports said.

The incident took place onboard an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737-800 enroute from Khartoum to Addis Ababa, according to a report by commercial aviation news site Aviation Herald, CNN reported.

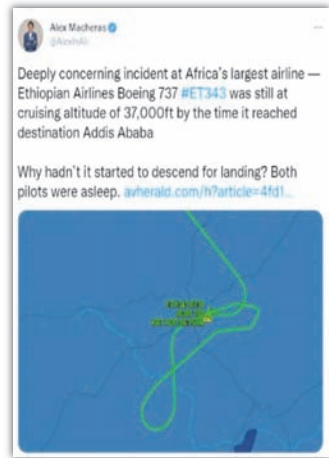
Data obtained by the website indicates that the aircraft was cruising at 37,000 feet on autopilot when it failed to descend at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, its scheduled destination, August 15. Air traffic control were apparently unable to reach the crew despite making several attempts at contact. However, an alarm was triggered when the plane overshot



The air traffic controllers tried to contact the pilots but they were asleep only to wake up with the sound of the disconnection wailer

the runway and continued along the route, CNN reported. The aircraft subsequently began

to descend, landing safely around 25 minutes later: Automatic Dependent



Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) data shows the aircraft overflying the runway, before beginning its descent and maneuvering for another approach. Aviation analyst

Alex Macheras has since taken to Twitter to express his shock at the "deeply concerning incident," which he suggests may have been the result of pilot exhaustion.

"Pilot fatigue is nothing new, and continues to pose one of the most significant threats to air safety -- internationally," he tweeted Thursday.

The report comes just months after pilots at Southwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines warned airline executives that pilot exhaustion was on the rise and urged them to treat fatigue and the resulting mistakes as a safety risk.

"Fatigue, both acute and cumulative, has become Southwest Airlines' number-one safety threat," the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, or SWAPA, told airline executives in a letter back in April, CNN reported.





**The company plans to expand its tyre sales network in places with population of 5,000-10,000 via its FMCG style of distribution, aiming to double outlets to 1 lakh in two to three years**  
ARNAB BANERJEE | COO, CEAT

## RAJ ACCOUNTS FOR HIGHEST SHARE IN COST OF PROJECTS

Rajasthan accounted for the highest share in the total cost of projects sanctioned by banks and financial institutions in 2021-22, retaining the top place for two consecutive years, as per an article published in RBI bulletin. Rajasthan was followed by Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu



## of the day quote

Due to Covid-19 and other issues our foreign business has not grown to that extent. We are trying to build on our strength in some countries where we have a presence. Like we are working in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia. We are also working in Nepal, Myanmar

YOGESH KUMAR | CMD, IRCON INTERNATIONAL

We are quite optimistic about both short and mid-term outlook and expect the audio segment to grow robustly at an upward pace of 20 per cent in the next few years

GYANENDRA SINGH | HEAD - AUDIO MARKETING, SONY INDIA

The Indian higher education system is at the brink of a long overdue transformation. Sunstone is well positioned to enable this change and impact the lives of millions of students

ASHISH MUNJAL | FOUNDER, SUNSTONE

## SHORT TAKES

### Sebi tweaks demat accounts norm

**New Delhi:** Markets regulator Sebi Friday made it mandatory for investors to block securities on their respective demat accounts for sale transactions. Currently, the facility is optional for investors. The block mechanism in the demat accounts of clients undertaking sale transactions would become mandatory from November 14, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said. Under the mechanism, shares of a client intending to make a sale transaction will be blocked in the client's demat account in favour of the clearing corporation concerned.

### Adani to buy DB Power for ₹7,017cr

**New Delhi:** Adani Power Friday said it will acquire DB Power Ltd, which owns and operates a 2 x 600 MW thermal power plant at district Janjgir Champa in Chhattisgarh, at an enterprise value of Rs 7,017 crore for cash consideration. DB Power has long- and medium-term power purchase agreements for 923.5 MW of its capacity, backed by fuel supply agreements with Coal India, and has been operating its facilities profitably, it said.

### SGB price fixed at ₹5,197/gm of gold

**Mumbai:** The issue price for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from Monday, has been fixed at Rs 5,197 per gram of gold, the Reserve Bank of India said Friday. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 Series II will be open for subscription from August 22-26, 2022. The central government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram, less than the nominal value, to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

### Future defaults on payment for NCDs

**New Delhi:** Debt-ridden Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) said it has defaulted on payments of interest of two non-convertible debentures totalling Rs 12.68 crore. The due date for payment was August 17, 2022, FEL said in a regulatory filing. The interest amount was payable for the period between February 16 and August 17, 2022, it said.

## BULLS TAKE A BREATHER

# Sensex, Nifty fall over 1%

Equity benchmarks snapped the latest winning streak, dragged by heavy selling pressure in banking and financial stocks on profit-taking and weak global market trends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 19:** BSE benchmark Sensex nursed losses Friday as investors pocketed gains after a five-session winning streak amid a bearish trend overseas.

A depreciating rupee and foreign fund outflows further soured risk sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share gauge, which had started the trade on a firm note, soon gave up all the gains and finally ended 651.85 points or 1.08 per cent lower at 59,646.15.

The broader NSE Nifty snapped its eight-day rally to close at 17,788.45, down 198.05 points or 1.10 per cent.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, dropping 3.82 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, SBI, NTPC, Maruti, Reliance Industries and HUL.

Only three counters managed to close in the green - Larsen & Toubro, Infosys and TCS, climbing up to 2.20 per cent.



Profit-booking amid weak global cues impacted domestic indices as concerns about interest rate hikes hung over the markets. Additionally, the recent rally of the dollar index and FIIs turning net sellers has surprised bulls. Broad-based selling was witnessed with the index heavyweights dragging the index further down

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GJEIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

In the holiday-shortened week, the Sensex rose 183.37 points or 0.30 per cent, while the Nifty gained 60.30 points or 0.34 per cent.

Amol Athawale, Deputy Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd, said interest-rate-sensitives such as banking, auto and realty stocks witnessed heavy profit-taking in Friday's session and halted benchmark indices' winning streak.

"Investors pressed the sell button after the recent US FOMC minutes indicated that the Federal Reserve may go for rate hikes in its next meeting, which prompted

local investors to prune their holdings after the recent run-up," he noted. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 1.27 per cent and the smallcap index shed 0.93 per cent.

Sectorally, BSE realty fell by 2.14 per cent, followed by metal (1.84 per cent), FMCG (1.24 per cent), finance (1.63 per cent), oil & gas (1.62 per cent) and bank (1.61 per cent). Utilities, capital goods, power and tech were the gainers.

World stocks traded lower amid concerns over the health of China's economy and rate hikes by global central banks. In Asia, markets in

## Rupee falls 20 paise to 79.84 against \$

**Mumbai:** The rupee depreciated by 20 paise to close at 79.84 against the US dollar Friday amid a strengthening greenback overseas. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.75 and moved in a range of 79.73 to 79.84 during the day. It finally ended at 79.84 against the American currency, down 20 paise over its previous close of 79.64. Forex traders said the US dollar index witnessed an uptick after comments from US Federal Reserve officials over the quantum of rate hikes weighed on investor sentiments. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to 107.67. Foreign fund outflows from Indian equities also dragged the local unit down. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market Thursday as they offloaded shares worth ₹1,706.00 crore, as per exchange data.

Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo ended lower, while Hong Kong settled in the green.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.38 per cent lower at \$95.25 per barrel.

## NHPC to develop Nepal hydropower plant left by China

REUTERS

**Kathmandu, August 18:** Nepal has signed a pact with an Indian company NHPC to develop a hydroelectric plant in the west of the nation years after a Chinese firm backed out, officials said Thursday.

Nepal has opened its rivers, which it sees as having a combined potential to generate more than 42,000 megawatts of hydroelectric power, to foreign players to develop its economy and export electricity to narrow the trade deficit of more than \$13 billion.

Officials said India's NHPC Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Thursday allowing it to study details like feasibility, environmental impact, inundation of land and construction costs for two projects - West Seti (750 megawatts) and SR6 (450 megawatts). China's biggest hydropower developer, Three Gorges International Corp, was previously lined up to develop the West Seti plant, but Nepal scrapped the deal in 2017 amid haggling over the terms, officials said.

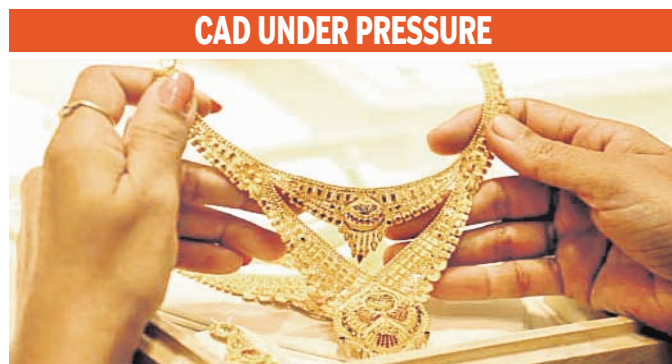
"After decades of delays we would not have plunged into another uncertainty," chief executive officer Sushil Bhatta of the state-run Investment Board Nepal said.

"NHPC has a good track record of developing such projects in similar terrain in neighbouring areas in India and has the potential to ensure India's market for electricity," he said, adding that he hoped for more projects in the region.

Abhay Kumar Singh, managing director of NHPC Ltd, was similarly optimistic. "When we enter a project, we complete it," he said.

## Gold imports up 6.4% in April-July

Increase in gold and oil imports during the first four months of this fiscal contributed to a record trade deficit of \$30bn, against \$10.63bn in April-July 2021



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 19:** India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's Current Account Deficit (CAD), rose 6.4 per cent to \$12.9 billion during April-July this fiscal due to healthy demand, according to government data.

The imports stood at \$12 billion during the same period a year ago.

In July 2022, however, imports of the precious metal fell sharply by 43.6 per cent to \$2.4 billion, as per the latest data released by the commerce ministry.

Increase in gold and oil imports during the first four months of this fiscal contributed to a record trade deficit of \$30 billion, against \$10.63 billion in April-July 2021.

India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after

China. The imports mainly take care of the demand by the jewellery industry.

The gems and jewellery exports during the first four months of the current fiscal grew by about 7 per cent to \$13.5 billion.

A wider trade gap during 2021-22 expanded the country's current account deficit at 1.2 per cent of GDP against a surplus of 0.9 per cent in FY21, according to the Reserve Bank data released in June.

For the January-March 2022 quarter, the CAD narrowed on a sequential basis to \$13.4 billion or 1.5 per cent of GDP against \$22.2 billion or 2.6 per cent of GDP in the October-December 2021 quarter.

Current account deficit occurs when the value of goods and services imported and other payments exceeds the value of export of goods and services and other receipts by a country in a particular period.

## BIZ BUZZ

### ICL Fincorp opens 12 new branches across Odisha on first anniv

**Bhubaneswar:** South India's prominent Non Banking Finance Company (NBFC), ICL Fincorp, launched 12 new branches in Odisha here at Mayfair to mark one-year celebration of its first expansion programme in state Friday. The Odisha launch which marked the beginning of ICL Fincorp's Pan India with aim to make its services accessible to people all over India launched 12 new branches at Balasore; Berhampur, Jajpur Town, Khorda, Link Road, Niali, Nimapada, Saheed Nagar, Sakthigopal & Salipur. Chairman and Managing Director KG Anil Kumar inaugurated the new branches.



# Basic needs not freebies; poor entitled to them: Ghosh

PM HAS IN RECENT DAYS HIT OUT AT THE COMPETITIVE POPULISM OF EXTENDING FREEBIES WHICH ARE NOT JUST WASTAGE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY BUT ALSO AN ECONOMIC DISASTER THAT COULD HAMPER INDIA'S DRIVE TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 19:** Economist Jayati Ghosh said that 'basic needs' like nutrition, healthcare, housing and education, which the government should provide for its citizens, are not freebies, while asserting that the poor are more entitled to receive their basic needs.

Ghosh noted that the word 'freebies' indicates the class position of those who use it.

Observing that if the political

process makes political parties respond to such needs, these should not be seen as freebies, Ghosh said, in fact, the poor in India pay a larger share of their income in taxes than the rich because of the dominance of indirect taxes in tax collection.

"So they are more than entitled to receive their basic needs," the eminent economist asserted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has in recent days hit out at the competitive populism of extending re-



waris' (freebies) which are not just wastage of taxpayers' money but also an economic disaster that could hamper India's drive to become Atmanirbhar (self-reliant).

His comments were seen directed at parties like the Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) which have in the run-up to assembly election in states like Punjab and more recently Gujarat promised free

## Retail inflation for farm, rural workers surge in July: Govt



### IN JUNE RETAIL INFLATION FOR FARM AND RURAL WORKERS STOOD AT 6.43 PER CENT AND 6.76 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 19:** Retail inflation for farm and rural workers increased to 6.60 per cent and 6.82 per cent, respectively, in July mainly due to higher prices of certain food items.

"Point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers) stood at 6.60 per cent and 6.82 per cent in July, 2022 compared to 6.43 per cent & 6.76 per cent respectively in June, 2022 and 3.92 per cent and 4.09 per cent respectively during the corresponding month (July 2021) of the previous year," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, food inflation stood at 5.38 per cent & 5.44 per cent in July, 2022 compared to 5.09 per cent & 5.16 per cent respectively in June, 2022 and 2.66 per cent & 2.74 per cent respectively during the corresponding month of the previous year, it stated.

The All-India Consumer Price

Index Number for Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers for July, 2022 increased by 6 points each to stand at 1131 and 1143 points respectively. The CPI-AL was 1125 points in June 2022, while CPI-RL was 1137 points in the month.

The major contribution towards the rise in general index of Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers came from food group to the extent of 4.41 & 4.07 points respectively mainly due to increase in prices of rice, wheat, atta, bajra, pulses, milk, fish fresh, onion, chillies green/dry, ginger, mixed spices, vegetables & fruits, tea readymade, etc.

The rise in the index varied from state to state. In the case of Agricultural Labourers, it recorded an increase of 1 to 13 points in 20 States. Tamil Nadu with 1301 points topped the index table, whereas Himachal Pradesh with 890 points stood at the bottom.

In the case of Rural Labourers, it recorded an increase of 1 to 13 points in 20 States. Tamil Nadu with 1290 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 942 points stood at the bottom.

Amongst states, the maximum increase in the Consumer Price Index Numbers for both Agricultural and Rural Labourers was experienced by Assam (13 points each) mainly due to rise in the prices of rice, chillies green, vegetables & fruits, etc, it stated.

## FOREX RESERVES DIP TO \$570.74BN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 19:** The country's foreign exchange reserves fell \$2.238 billion to \$570.74 billion in the week ended August 12, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

In the previous week ended August 5, the foreign exchange reserves declined \$897 million to \$572.978 billion.

The fall in the reserves in the reporting week ended August 12 was on account a decline in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by RBI Friday.

FCA declined \$2.652 billion to \$506.994 billion, the data showed. Expressed in dollar terms, FCA



includes the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves surged \$305 million to \$40.618 billion. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) increased \$102 million to \$18.133 billion.

The country's reserve position with IMF also rose by \$7 million to \$4.994 billion in the reporting week, as per the data.

but further depreciation is likely, which will add to inflationary pressures in a low growth scenario," she said, adding that fudging output figures may satisfy some policy makers, but the economic laws will operate in any case.

On some politicians comparing the current economic situation of Sri Lanka with India, she noted that India will not face a Sri Lanka-type crisis because our external debt, is not as high as Sri Lanka's. "And we still have relatively large forex reserves. But some major economic difficulties are inevitable in the near future," the economist noted.

Sri Lanka is grappling with a severe economic crisis and India has been at the forefront of extending economic assistance to the island nation.

India has one of the highest rates of multidimensional poverty in the world, and has done a poor job of ensuring that all its people receive adequate food and nutrition, healthcare, housing, education access, etc. In most other countries, universal access to reasonable quality goods and services that constitute basic needs is seen as the responsibility of the state, not as freebies

JAYATI GHOSH | PROMINENT ECONOMIST



# Rahul seeks game time

# CANDIDATES WITH POLITICAL AFFILIATION HEAT UP FOOTBALL TURF WAR AIFF Polls: Bhutia files nomination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 19:** The legendary Bhaichung Bhutia Friday filed his nomination for the president's post in the upcoming AIFF elections but getting through won't be easy for the former footballer as several candidates with political affiliations have also thrown their hats in the ring.

There are ex-footballers turned politicians and politicians who aspire to enter sports administration in the fray along with long-time sports administrator, who want to grab the top job in All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The deadline to file nominations for the post expired Friday. The much-delayed elections are scheduled for August 28.

Bhutia's name has been proposed by his former national team colleague Deepak Mondal and seconded by "eminent woman player" Madhu Kumari.

However for him to succeed it is imperative that electoral college is not without former players. As of now FIFA statutes do not allow their presence. A clear picture will emerge when Supreme Court resumes its hearing on the issue Monday.

Former Mohun Bagan and East Bengal goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey, a BJP leader from West Bengal, who has unsuccessfully fought one general and one state assembly elections, will be the biggest threat to Bhutia.

Chaubey as a footballer is no match to Bhutia but a look at the former custodian's proposer (Gujarat Football Association and Arunachal Pradesh) explains the impact his presence could make to the outcome of these elections.

Gujarat is the state of two of India's biggest political leaders (PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah) while Arunachal Pradesh is former sports minister and current Law Minister Kiren Rijiju's home state.

There Ajit Banerjee, who is IFA (West Bengal) president but his primary identity is him being the elder brother to West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee. He wouldn't



have entered the fray had he not had the go-ahead from the party leadership.

The third footballer in the list and youngest candidate is 36-year-old former India midfielder Eugeneson Lyngdoh, who is now an MLA. He represents regional heavyweight United Democratic Party in Meghalaya.

Lyngdoh, who played for India alongside Sunil Chhetri, entered active politics when his father passed away and won the election from Mawphlang constituency.

There is NA Haris from Karnataka State Football Association, who is a local Congress MLA and a very active participant in AIFF politics.

There is a second Congress member and a surprise nominee in Rajasthan's Manavendra Singh, who was formerly with BJP. He has been a member of Parliament in Lok Sabha and also happens to be former defence minister Late Jaswant Singh's son.

Football Delhi president Shaji Prabhakaran, who has worked in FIFA has also filed the nomination papers for president's post but even he knows that it would be an uphill task to seek votes in case of an election.

It is often witnessed that when prominent name emerges, a lot of candidates withdraw their nomination. While Bhutia has filed his nomination as an "eminent player", the inclusion of which is debatable, he could turn out to be a unifying figure if right-minded people come together to break the impasse.

"I have filed my nominations as representative of eminent players. In the wake of the SC decision to allow players I hope the players can have a chance to serve Indian football. We want to show we can be good not only as players but also as administrators," Bhutia told this agency.

Bhutia had contested the state assembly elections in Bengal for Trinamool Congress and in 2019 formed his own party 'Humro Sikkim'. Hours before the FIFA ban on AIFF earlier this week the Committee of Administrators (CoA) running football in India had agreed to hold the sports body's elections without giving voting rights to 'eminent' players as per the world body's wish.

Chaubey had been a petitioner in the case to remove Praful Patel for overstaying his tenure and not someone who has filed papers for the heck of it.

For Banerjee, the mere mention of his younger sister invoked a sharp response. "People may say whatever but I've no political connection. For over 50 years I've been serving football and she (Mamata Banerjee) has never interfered," Banerjee told PTI when asked how much active support she will receive from the CM.

If the eminent players are allowed, then Bhutia could well be a runaway winner with bulk of 36 votes enough to swing it in his favour. However if it is only the state units as per FIFA rule, then Chaubey has more than a better chance of pulling it through with blessings from right people.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Harare, August 19:** Skipper KL Rahul would hope to get some valuable batting time as the Indian team is expected to recalibrate its goals to create some challenge for itself in the remaining two ODIs against Zimbabwe.

The gulf between the two teams would always make these kind of bilateral contests lopsided but bigger goal for the 'Men In Blue' would be to push the limits. The immediate

target for the side would be to try and bat first in case Rahul wins the toss in Saturday's second ODI.

The early start on a bouncy track and sufficient nip in the air would pose some challenge for the batters. There won't be any Jimmy Anderson or Josh Hazlewood in operation but even then battling the conditions would be a good test for Rahul and his players.

Deepak Chahar had pointed out after the first game that there is little help for the bowlers during the

second session and the only time there's some challenge for batters is the first hour of the match.

Before facing the might of Shaheen Shah Afridi in Asia Cup, a morning session with deliveries moving both sides, albeit with a gentle pace, would be decent enough extended net session for Rahul.

While 'Captain Rahul' showed his elder statesman like qualities by letting Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill open in the first game, the 'Batter Rahul' also needs to get his

## Fourth win in a row for Praggnanandhaa



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Miami, August 19:** Indian prodigy R Praggnanandhaa handed World No.6 Levon Aronian a 3-1 thrashing in the fourth round to notch up his fourth consecutive win in the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of Champions Chess Tour, Friday.

The 17-year old Indian is in joint lead with 12 match points along with World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, who defeated Quang Liem Le of China 3-1.

Praggnanandhaa won the third game with white pieces after the first two in the four-game match ended in a stalemate. First, he won with white pieces to take a 2-1 lead after game three and stormed to victory in 44 moves in the fourth to seal an emphatic win over the acclaimed American star.

Having started his campaign with victory over Alireza Firouzja, the Indian GM has subsequently beaten Anish Giri and Hans Nieman. Carlsen, meanwhile, secured a similar result, winning games three and four after the first two were drawn.

Praggnanandhaa and Carlsen have a four-point lead over Alireza Firouzja, the World No.4 and the top-ranked junior.

Firouzja edged out Poland's Jan Krzysztof Duda 2.5-1.5 in another fourth-round clash while Dutchman Anish Giri scored his first win in the tournament, beating Hans Nieman by a similar margin.

Three more rounds remain to be played in the eight-player tournament. The eight-player all-play-all tournament is the American finale of Champions Chess Tour. There is USD 7,500 at stake for each match win at the event. Each match will be played over four rapid games, with blitz tie-breaks in case of a 2-2 draw.

# KEYS OUSTS WORLD NO.1 SWIATEK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Mason, August 19:** American Madison Keys upset No.1 Iga Swiatek 6-3, 6-4 to reach the Western & Southern Open quarterfinals. Swiatek, a two-time Grand Slam champion, hasn't gotten past the round of 16 in four tournaments since winning the French Open in June.

The win was the 24th-ranked Keys' first in six matches against a top-ranked opponent. She had never won a set against a No.1 player.

After dropping the first set and losing the first five games of the second, Swiatek rallied to win four straight, fighting off one match point before Keys clinched with a forehand winner to the ad court off a shot that clipped the net.

Swiatek won her first two matches against Keys, including 6-1, 6-0 this year at Indian Wells. "Obviously, there were a couple of games where I had match point," Keys said in an on-court interview. "She beat me pretty badly the last



time we played, so I was happy to get the win."

Keys is scheduled to next meet Wimbledon champion Elena

and 10th-seeded Emma Raducanu, who earlier beat Serena Williams in what likely was Williams' second-last career event, fell to seventh-seeded Jessica Pegula, 7-5, 6-4.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova advanced to the women's quarterfinals with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-0 win over 2022 Wimbledon finalist and fifth-seeded Ons Jabeur.

Men's World No.1 Daniil Medvedev advanced to the quarterfinals with a 7-5, 7-5 win over Denis Shapovalov. Medvedev is trying to shake off a second-round loss to Nick Kyrgios last week in Montreal and hone his game for the upcoming US Open.

"In general, I managed to be pretty constant," Medvedev said. "I got a lot of break opportunities. I served pretty well, even in the game where I lost my serve. In general, I'm happy with my level and looking forward to the next matches."

Medvedev will meet 11th-seed Taylor Fritz, who edged sixth-seeded Andrey Rublev, 6-7(4-7), 6-2, 7-5.

## Antil, Kathuniya create new WRs in Para Nat'ls



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, August 19:** Tokyo Paralympics champion Javelin thrower Sumit Antil and silver medalist discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya created new world records at the ongoing fourth Indian Open National Para Athletics Championships at the Sri Kanteerava stadium here Friday.

Sumit, picked up from here left off in Tokyo, and created a new



world record after hurling the spear to a record distance of 68.62m in his event.

The 24-year-old para athlete's previous world record throw of 68.55m in the F64 category came at the Tokyo Games last year. He also broke the world record thrice during his six attempts.

Yogesh, on the other hand, also created a new world record in the discus throw event with a throw of 48.34m.

# United in maelstrom ahead of Liverpool game

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, August 19:** Frenzied talk of billionaires wanting — or, in the case of Elon Musk, not wanting — to buy Manchester United has topped the sports agenda in Britain this week.

A future without the Glazer family as owners? Yes please, many increasingly disheartened United fans would say after nearly a decade of underperformance by one of the world's most storied sports teams.

And however unlikely that immediate prospect is — after all, the club is not for sale despite Jim Ratcliffe, one of Britain's richest people, expressing an interest this week — it's something many of those supporters will be calling for during an anti-Glazer march planned by a fans' group ahead of United's game against Liverpool at Old Trafford on Monday.

The last time such a protest took place before a home match against Liverpool, in May last year, thousands filled the concourse outside Old Trafford, flares were set off, the stadium was stormed and one

of world soccer's biggest fixtures was called off.

For some, a repeat scenario would not be unwelcome. There cannot be many United fans looking forward to the prospect of Liverpool, the team's fiercest rival, coming to Old Trafford given what has transpired in the opening two rounds of the season.

In fact, it's enough to fill them with dread. Two games. Two losses. Six goals conceded. Only one goal scored, and even that was an own-goal. Oh, and to top it off, United is in last place.

If the 1-2 opening-weekend loss at home to Brighton was bad, the ensuing 0-4 thrashing by Brentford Saturday was widely deemed to be one of the worst results in United's recent history.

Hence, the inevitable hysteria. Is Erik ten Hag, who joined from Ajax in the offseason, the wrong appointment as manager? Is Lisandro Martinez the wrong signing at center back? Why hasn't United signed a defensive midfielder yet? Is this the end for Cristiano Ronaldo at United?

Over the past week, a slew of



GOING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES: Manchester United players look disappointed during their last match against Brentford

players in a number of different positions have been linked with United in the final days of the transfer window, including holding midfielder Casemiro from Real Madrid and American winger Christian Pulisic from Chelsea.

Ronaldo has teased on Instagram about his future, saying the media

has been "telling lies" and, rather cryptically, that "they know the truth when they interview in a couple weeks."

Then there was the drama of Musk tweeting he was buying United before saying several hours later that it was a joke, and Ratcliffe emerging as a potential buyer if

the club that the majority shareholder of chemical group Ineos has supported since childhood was put up for sale.

It's rarely quiet around United, whether the team is doing well or badly. And imagine if United is beaten again Monday, to open a season with three straight defeats

for the first time in the Premier League era (from 1992). How huge would the fourth game — against Southampton away — be for Ten Hag then?

If United was to win, suddenly a lot of the heat might switch to Jürgen Klopp. On current form, though, that looks unlikely. Stretching back to the end of last season, United is on a four-match losing run and its players are still getting used to Ten Hag's methods.

It will be interesting to see, for example, if United continues to play out from the back — the approach which backfired badly against Brentford — or takes a more pragmatic view against a Liverpool team so strong at pressing from the front.

And will Ronaldo start again? He was rushed back against Brentford, despite not being match-sharp after missing much of preseason, and there's still so much uncertainty over his future.

First of all, though, let's see if the match regarded as the biggest in English football actually goes ahead this time.