



## AGAINST BOYCOTT TREND

Giving the boycott call is like undermining audience's intelligence, says Taapsee Pannu

LEISURE P2



## ARTEFACTS COME HOME

Glasgow officially repatriates seven Indian cultural artefacts looted during British colonial rule, calling it a first for a UK museum service

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SAMAR BANERJEE DIES

Former India football team captain Samar 'Badru' Banerjee passes away after a prolonged illness

SPORTS P12

## Loss of faith in judiciary threat to democracy: CJJ

AGENCIES

Vijayawada, August 20: Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana Saturday said that if people lose faith and trust in the judiciary, the very survival of democracy will be at stake.

Justice Ramana, who is scheduled to demit office next week, said it was necessary to ensure that people do not lose faith and trust in the judiciary.

"If people lose faith and trust in judiciary and if the judiciary collapses, the very survival of democracy will be at stake," the CJI said.

Justice Ramana was speaking after inaugurating Vijayawada Court Complex here in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court Prashant Kumar Mishra, judges of the high court and other courts. He said during his tenure as the Chief Justice, he focused on filling up vacancies of judges and as many as 250 high court judges were appointed. The CJI said he ensured all sections of society, especially women and backward sections get proper representation in the judiciary.

## ASO written test to be held August 27

Bhubaneswar: The examination for the post of assistant section officer (ASO), which was postponed in view of the dislocation caused by heavy rainfall and flood, will be conducted August 27, the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) said Saturday.

The commission announced the new date two days after postponing the written exam, which was originally scheduled to be held Sunday.

The move came as a relief for thousands of job aspirants who were demanding to reschedule the examination.

► Glitch in CPSE Paper I (P3)

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It is not from cow protection groups but by govt. Milk prices have increased again

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.2°C	30.6°C
MIN	24.9°C	24.5°C
Humidity	93%	87%
Rainfall	Trace	2mm
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	



Mangled remains of a truck that was crushed under huge boulders following landslide triggered by heavy rain, near Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, Saturday

## WALL COLLAPSE KILLS 5 IN STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 20: At least five people died in wall collapse incidents during the ongoing flood and rain related incidents in three districts, said sources Saturday.

However, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena has confirmed four such deaths.

Briefing the media here, Jena said two persons died in wall collapse in Mayurbhanj district while Balasore and Keonjhar districts reported one such case each.

Meanwhile, reports said Priyanshu Bhatra, 9, elder son of Sumant Kumar Bhatra at Gandhi Nagar, Nua Sahi on Koraput outskirts, died after a wall of a latrine collapsed on him due to heavy rain, Saturday.

According to the latest government report, over 7 lakh people of 607 panchayats in 73 blocks of 13 districts have been affected due to the flood while 4.72 lakh people have been marooned. Cooked food is being served to 1 lakh people in 248 relief centres. Similarly, nearly 4,000 houses have been damaged in the floods. Jena said the deep depression has caused heavy rainfall in districts like Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Kandhamal. Three blocks of Balasore district received more than 200 mm rainfall, while 16 blocks of Mayurbhanj received over 100 mm rainfall followed by 50 to 100 mm in five blocks of Keonjhar district, he said.

Continued on P4

## Rain batters north

At least 26 people were killed as heavy rainfall caused landslides and flashfloods in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### Shimla/Dehradun, August 20:

At least 26 people were killed, 22 of them in Himachal Pradesh alone, as heavy monsoon rains triggered flashfloods, landslides, and house collapses, upending normal life across large swathes of the country.

Heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh since Friday caused landslides and flashfloods, with officials saying 22 people, including eight members of a family, died. Ten people were injured in the state which has reported 36 weather-related incidents.

As many as 743 roads, including the Manali-Chandigarh national highway at Mandi and the Shimla-Chandigarh highway at Shoghi, have been blocked for traffic.

In Mandi alone, 13 people died and six went missing in flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall, Deputy Commissioner Arindam Chaudhary said. Those missing are feared dead, he said.

The Chakki bridge in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra collapsed due to heavy rains Saturday, disrupting train services between Pathankot and Jogindernagar.

In Uttarakhand, a series of cloudbursts early Saturday killed four



Collapsed portion of a railway bridge over Chakki river in Himachal Pradesh

people, while 10 went missing as rivers breached banks, washed away bridges, and threw mud and waters inside houses, forcing evacuation of multiple villages.

As the gushing waters threatened more damage, a number of roads were blocked for traffic, while all Anganwadi centres and schools were ordered shut in the Pauri district of Uttarakhand.

In Jharkhand, heavy rainfall associated with high-speed winds since Friday evening uprooted scores of trees and electricity poles, and submerged low-lying areas in many districts. A woman died when a mud wall of her house caved in on her in West Singhbhum district Saturday morning as the deep depression that crossed the Odisha coast on the previous evening

brought incessant rainfall in several areas, an official said. Normal life was thrown out of gear with rain disrupting power supply in many areas for long hours and causing traffic jams in major cities.

Two flights have also been cancelled till 2pm due to bad weather Saturday, officials at Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi told PTI.

Meanwhile, the yatra to the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district resumed this morning on the old track after remaining temporarily suspended overnight following heavy rains.

However, the Himkoti (battery car) track which is also known as the new track, is still closed due to ongoing clearance operation, officials said.

## Patient jumps to death at AIIMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 20: A 39-year-old patient Saturday committed suicide by jumping off the fifth floor of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Patrapada under Khandagiri police limits here.

The deceased, identified as Mahendra Swain, was a resident of Ketakipatna in Puri district. The deceased used to sell earthen lamps near a temple to eke out a living.

Swain was reportedly admitted to the surgery ward of the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar July 11 for the treatment of a wound in his leg. Hospital sources claimed that he was recuperating well after plastic surgery and was scheduled to be discharged Saturday.

Swain was also suffering from various other ailments like heart and urological diseases. He had also approached the administration seeking help for treatment in the past. We have provided all the required medical care for free under BSKY. However, he was undergoing immense mental pressure over financial problems," the AIIMS PRO told Orissa POST.

Saturday morning, Swain told his wife that he was experiencing stomach pain and asked her to take him to bathroom. Later, she took the deceased to the balcony upon his request for fresh air. Swain jumped off the building despite his wife's bid to prevent him from taking the extreme step. Police have started investigation into the incident.

## '26/11-style' terror threat rattles Mumbai

Police confirmed that one of the numbers in the WhatsApp chat messages seems to be from Pakistan while there are six Indian numbers in the communication

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 20: For the second time in two days, Maharashtra security forces went into a tizzy under a dark threat to carry out a '26/11-style' terror strike was received via social media messages monitored by the Mumbai Traffic Police Control late Friday night, officials said here Saturday.

Taking serious note, Mumbai Police immediately got cracking, formed three teams of Crime Branch to investigate while other state and central agencies are also being involved in the operations, said city Commissioner of Police Vivek Phansalkar.

The threats, warning of 'explosions' in the country's commercial capital, exceeding the effect of 26/11 (2008), were received in a WhatsApp chat at the Mumbai Traffic Police Control Room around 11pm Friday, sending the city's security apparatus into a state of high-alert early Saturday morning.

"Mumbaikars should not panic. We are probing the issue from all angles and the Crime Branch is investigating it. Nothing will happen, we shall keep the city safe," Phansalkar told the media.

He confirmed that one of the numbers in the WhatsApp chat messages seems to be from Pakistan while there are six other Indian numbers

## Want lasting peace with India: Pak PM

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan wants to have "permanent peace" with India through dialogue as war is not an option for either of the countries to resolve the Kashmir issue, according to a media report Saturday. Speaking to a delegation of students from Harvard University, Sharif also said that sustainable peace in the region was linked to the resolution of the Kashmir issue as per the UN resolutions, The News International newspaper reported. "Pakistan resolves to maintain peace in the region, and that sustainable peace in the region was linked to the resolution of the Kashmir issue as per the UN resolutions," he said during the interaction Friday evening.

in the communication which are being tracked by the probe teams.

"We are examining it from all possible angles and the Anti-Terrorism Squad will also be roped in. We are on high alert. People of Mumbai need not worry," Phansalkar assured.

The messages in Hindi claimed that the next strike would "revive the memories of the 26/11 (2008) terror attacks" in the city - which were carried out by 10 heavily armed Pakistani extremists.

Continued on P4

## Plan soon to protect wildlife in coal block areas

The prime objectives of the plan are protection and conservation of the wildlife and mitigation of the adverse impact of coal mining on movement of elephants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 20: The state government Saturday decided to prepare a comprehensive wildlife management plan through national level institutes for newly allotted coal block areas keeping in view the safety of wild animals including elephants.

The decision in this regard was

taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra here where it was agreed to engage reputed organisations like the Wildlife Institute of India or Indian Institute of Science, for preparing the plan as per national guidelines in a time bound manner, an official statement said.

Mahapatra directed the officials to expedite the preparation of a comprehensive wildlife (WL) management plan for newly allotted coal block areas. He gave this direction while reviewing the status of forest clearance and wildlife management in newly allotted coal blocks.

Additional Chief Secretary



Movement of elephants is likely to be disturbed due to diversion of forest lands for coal mining

The wildlife management plan will be prepared to address the issue and ensure that elephant habitation is not affected, said sources

Forest and Environment Satyabrata Sahu informed the meeting that the newly allotted coal blocks included the major reserves like Utkal E coal, Radhikapur East Coal, Radhikapur West coal, and Naini coal blocks.

Their probable impact areas included Chhendipada, Kaniha, Jarpada ranges of Angul forest division, and Reamal range of Deogarh forest division, Sahu said.

The Chief Secretary told the officials to work out the comprehensive plan for protection and conservation of wildlife, and mitigation of the adverse impact of coal mining on movement of elephants.



FILE PHOTO



**BOSEMAN TO RECEIVE DL AWARD: DISNEY D23 EXPO**

Disney's D23 Expo will kick start next month with the Disney Legends Awards ceremony honouring artists such as Anthony Anderson, Kristen Bell, Chadwick Boseman, Rob't Coltrin, Patrick Dempsey and Idina Menzel. "The Disney Legends Award is given to an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Disney legacy," the press release stated.

**GOSLING TO JOIN MARGOT IN NEW 'OCEAN'S ELEVEN' MOVIE**

Hollywood star Ryan Gosling is in negotiations to reteam with "Barbie" co-star Margot Robbie for new "Ocean's Eleven" film set at Warner Bros. Robbie will also produce the film along with Tom Ackerly for LuckyChap. Roach and Michelle Graham will produce via their banner Everyman Pictures.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You are very apprehensive about your possessions today, and will not like to share them. This mood may be because of someone particular. Affairs regarding love, Ganesh says, are progressing fine, and your married life will bloom.

**TAURUS**  
You will wake up feeling determined and decisive today, says Ganesh. Be careful as your rigid views may make you seem stubborn. You may not be willing to come half way during a conflict and will make a habit of articulating your viewpoint. Tension at the workplace will eat through most of your time today, feels Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will feel blue and out of sorts today. You will feel that you are all alone in the world, emotionally. Your repressed desires and your philosophical streak will come to the fore today and will influence your dark mood, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will get a surprise gift or god news from your friends or relatives. You will enjoy with your family. You will get the affection and co-operation of family members. Happiness and rapport in domestic life is indicated. Ganesh's grace is upon you.

**LEO**  
You will relentlessly try to find means to progress at the workplace today. You will remain steadfast in your resolutions. You will not allow those working under you to slack. You will need to let go of your inhibitions and fears to be happy in life. You will receive the benediction of highly placed superiors, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Emotions that have been locked in the inner recesses of your heart might just surface today. You may develop an emotional attachment with your material possessions. However, Ganesh says, if you don't find your surroundings conducive, you will feel extremely restless.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today will be an auspicious day for starting any new work. In the office you will be assigned new positions and you shall excel in the same. Whatever work is undertaken by you will see you attain success in it. Today is a lucky day for you Ganesh says.

**SCORPIO**  
Ganesh predicts that you shall work towards building a better future. But do not expect radical or dynamic changes. Cruise control is the best way to go for now, says Ganesh. Patience in itself will reap rich benefits.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You need to increase your tolerance power as you may have to face criticism from close ones. However, it is not feasible to please everyone around. You may just be happy doing basic favours for your loved ones. Ganesh asks you to be patient.

**CAPRICORN**  
If you are planning to fly to foreign shores for further studies, start documentation and other preparations today, says Ganesh. Whether you are a student or not, on this favourable day, all you need to do is to make a priority list, follow it and finish off your work one by one. If you are associated with Stock Market, expect an advantageous day ahead.

**AQUARIUS**  
Cooperative and supportive, your colleagues will help you improve your performance at work. Also, your creativity will win you praises from one and all, foretells Ganesh. The day will have a perfect end as you will spend quality time with your friends and family.

**PISCES**  
You are going to be very emotional today. You will be able to express your love to your wife or other loved ones in a very unique and dramatic way. It is not a good day for putting forth marriage or love proposals, and if you do it could be disappointing.

**Boycott calls undermine viewers' intelligence: Taapsee**



**Mumbai:** Taapsee Pannu mocked at the recent trend on social media calling for boycott of Hindi films. Pannu, whose latest movie 'Dobaaraa' with filmmaker Anurag Kashyap hit the theatres on Friday, said she has passed the stage of "being bothered" by social media trends. "If something like this (boycott calls and trolling) happens on a daily basis, one ceases to be

bothered anymore. It becomes useless," Pannu said during a press conference. "I cannot talk about others in the industry, but for me and Anurag, it has become a joke," she added. The trend of hashtags calling for a film's boycott started with Aamir Khan's 'LSC'. Asked to comment on the social media trends, the LSC actor had said that he was saddened by the boycott calls and urged the audience to watch his film. "If the audience like they will go to watch a film. If they don't like, they won't. But giving the boycott call is like undermining my audience's intelligence," the actor said.

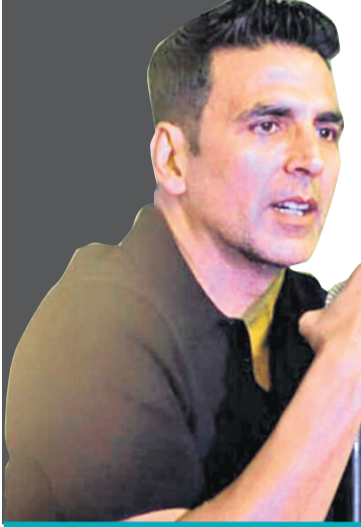
Pannu denied the rumours that 'Dobaaraa' is inspired by the 2018 Spanish movie 'Mirage'. "Our film's content was decided in March 2018 while the Spain picture was announced in November that year. 'Dobaaraa' is neither copied nor inspired," she said. She said 'Dobaaraa' is the "most gripping film" that Kashyap has made till date and nobody could dare to attempt such a subject in Hindi cinema as everyone wants to play safe.

**I'm an explorer at heart: Shriya**

**Mumbai:** Shriya Pilgaonkar considers travelling her soul food. The actor, who recently returned from a three-week vacation in Spain, says she's all charged up after the trip and is ready for her work commitments for the rest of the year. The Fan actor says that she is an explorer at heart, and adds, "The thrill of being in a new place and meeting new people is incomparable. Since acting is about observation, I feel that travelling is a necessity for me in order to gain perspective. I may take a luxury-filled or laidback trip with my family. But on solo trips or a holiday with friends, I like to bring out that adventurous side of mine and try offbeat stuff like hiking, scuba diving, cliff jumping etc. Since I am a foodie, discovering a place through its food is also an important part of my travels. Just go with the flow is my travel mantra." "The past six-seven months

have been incredibly busy in terms of work. Three of my projects were released and I finished shooting for two more. So, I needed to unwind. In Spain, I had the time of my life with my friends and am back with more energy and enthusiasm. It was a much-deserved vacation for me," shares Shriya. In a chat, the actress elaborates on her passion for travelling, exploring the OTT space and more.

**Akshay blames himself for disaster at box office**



**New Delhi:** Superstar Akshay Kumar, who's last 3 films, 'Bachchan Paandey', 'Samrat Prithviraj' and 'Raksha Bandhan' have not made a good figure at the box office was seen attending the trailer launch event of his upcoming thriller film, 'Cuttpulli'. During the media interaction, Akshay opened up about the poor performance of the films

in theatres. His recent release 'Raksha Bandhan' failed to impress the audience. The boycott trend and cancel culture in Bollywood led to poor box office performance.

Akshay addressed the issue and said that he wants to understand what the audience wants. He said, "Films are not working, it is our fault, my fault. I have to make changes, understand what the audience wants and there is nobody else to be blamed for it but me."

His upcoming film, 'Cuttpulli' also stars Rakul Preet Singh, Sargun Mehta and Chandrachud Singh in key roles.

**Sonam, Anand blessed with baby boy**

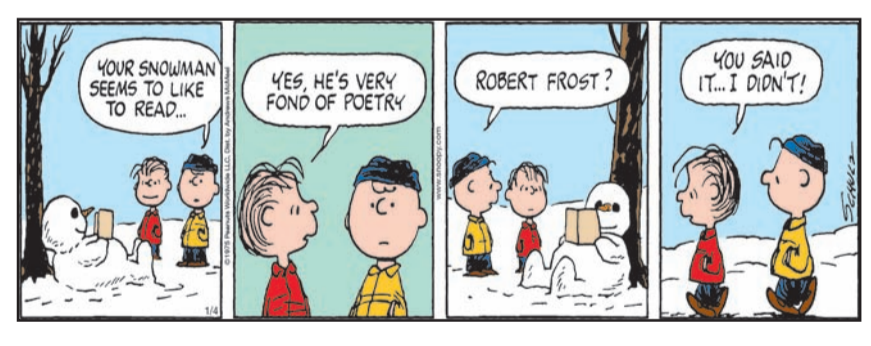
**New Delhi:** Actor Sonam Kapoor and businessman Anand Ahuja have welcomed their first child together. Their son was born on August 20, as shared in a note sent by the new parents to their friends. "On 20.08.2022, we welcomed our beautiful baby boy with bowed heads and hearts. Thank you to all of the doctors, nurses, friends and family who have supported us on this journey. It's only the beginning but we know our lives are forever changed. - Sonam and Anand," it read. Earlier, Sonam took to her Instagram and dropped a few pictures in ethnic attire and she spoke about her pregnancy, sharing the pics, she wrote, "On the cusp of motherhood and at the brink of my birthday, I'm choosing to dress how I feel - Pregnant & Powerful, Bold & Beautiful... Meanwhile, on the work front, Sonam will be next seen in her upcoming film Blind directed by Shome Makhija, starring Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak and

Lillete Dubey in prominent roles.

Actor Neetu Kapoor took to Instagram to share her good wishes with Sonam's parents Anil and Sunita Kapoor. Kareena, Farha and Jacqueline shower their wishes to the new parent! During an Instagram live, KJo congratulated Sonam and Anand alongside Anil Kapoor and Sunita Kapoor who have now turned grandparents. He said, "I can't believe Sonam is a mother now. I don't think Anil will like being called a nana (grandfather) because he is jawaan as hell."



**PEANUTS**



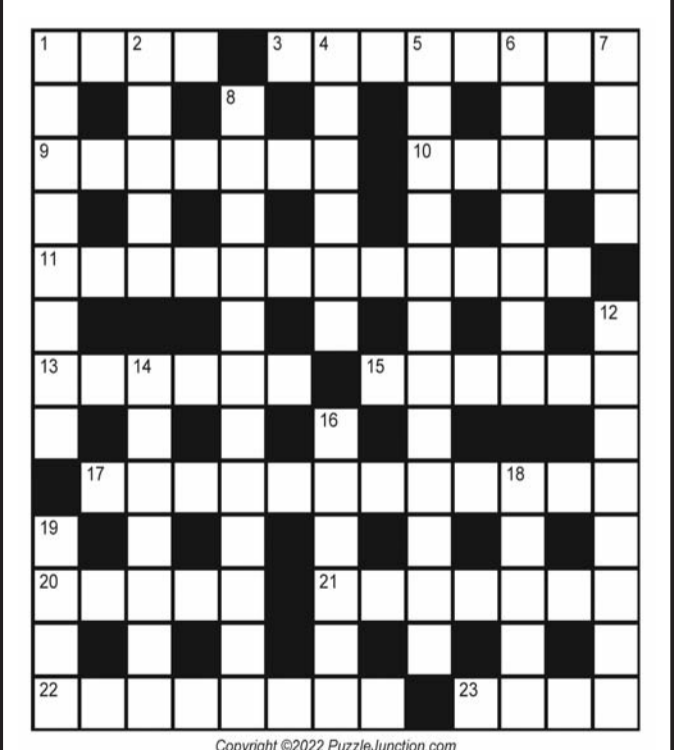
**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**BREVITY**

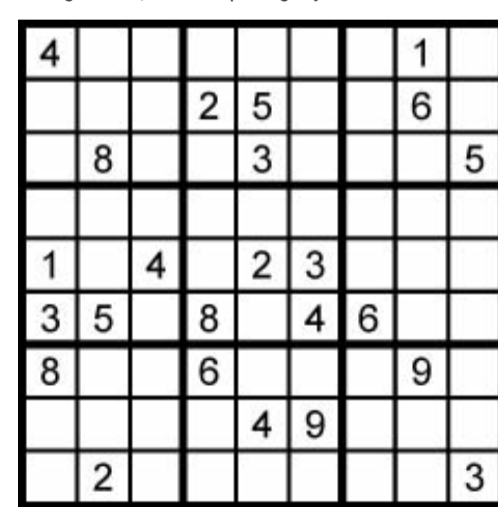


**FUN post CROSSWORD**

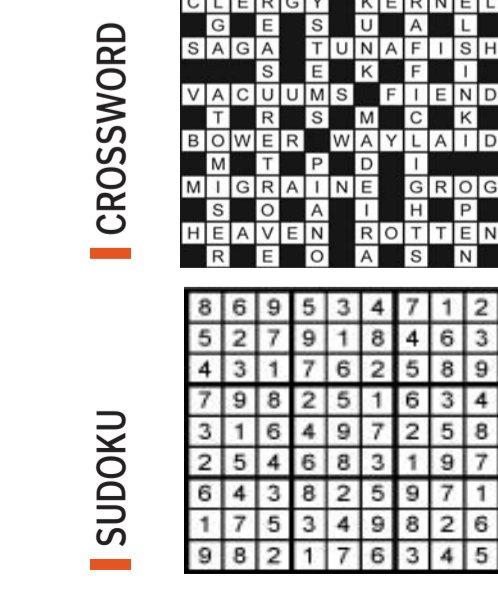


- Across**  
1 Fair  
3 Scandalous  
9 Storm  
10 Kind of jar  
11 Disobedient plus  
13 Require  
15 Medicinal shrub  
17 Lacking tolerance (6-6)
- Down**  
20 Break open  
21 Repairing  
22 Poke fun at, in the movies  
23 Render speechless
- Down**  
1 Discard  
2 Poison plant  
4 Type of balloon (3,3)
- Across**  
5 Some digests  
6 Invectives  
7 Clique  
8 Household appliance  
12 Knitted jacket  
14 Brochure  
16 Hindu teachers  
18 Wander  
19 Horned goddess

**SUDOKU**



**SOLUTIONS**



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## Veggie prices soar as state reels under flood



**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** Prices of vegetables have shot up in the markets of the Capital City here as several districts of the state have been reeling under flood, leading to crop damage and supply chain disruption.

In downtown Bhubaneswar, tomatoes were being sold at Rs 25 per kg, up by around five bucks from a week ago, according to vegetable vendors.

While cucumber is being sold

at Rs 60 a kg from Rs 40 a week back, the price of brinjal increased to Rs 100 from Rs 60 a kg seven days ago.

Pointed gourd which was available at Rs 40 per kg last week is now being sold at Rs 80 per kg. Prices of capsicum, ladies finger, ridge and bitter gourd, potato and onion have also soared, they said.

A vegetable seller said the cost of food items that were being imported from states like Andhra Pradesh remained stable, but the prices of essentials produced locally went up due to flood.

The supply chain from Athagarh and Banki areas of Cuttack, which is a major hub for vegetable production, was badly affected as the Mahanadi river was in spate following incessant rain.

The cost of food items that were being imported from states like Andhra Pradesh remained stable, but the prices of essentials produced locally went up due to flood.

The supply chain from Athagarh and Banki areas of Cuttack, which is a major hub for vegetable production, was badly affected as the Mahanadi river was in spate following incessant rain.

went up due to the flood.

He also mentioned that the supply chain from Athagarh and Banki areas of Cuttack, which is a major hub for vegetable production, was badly affected as the Mahanadi river was in spate following incessant rain.

Seasonal vegetables and crops were damaged as swathes of agricultural fields were inundated by the floodwater.

Around 4 lakh people are marooned across 12 districts, including Cuttack.

A fresh flood in northern Odisha is expected as many parts of the region were pounded by torrential rain Friday night, following which many rivers have swollen.

## Two held with illegal drugs

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police has arrested two persons from Nayagarh district on the charges of possessing and transporting prohibited drugs.

STF sources here Saturday said on the basis of intelligence input, a raid was conducted by

During a raid near Chakradharpur village under Dasapalla police station of Nayagarh district, two persons were apprehended for possessing and transporting prohibited manufactured drugs.

STF identified the accused as Sankarsan Panda of Khandapada under Dasapalla police station and Pravat Kumar Parida of Jagannath Prasad under Gania police station of Nayagarh district.

## CPSE Paper I postponed

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** Odisha Police Recruitment Board chairperson Sudhanshu Sarangi said the Paper I of the Combined Police Service Examination (CPSE) for recruitment to the posts of sub-inspectors, which was scheduled to be held Saturday, has been postponed owing to 'software issues'.

Protests erupted after candidates failed to download the question paper on the computers at many examination centres.

Regretting the inconvenience, Sarangi said that no candidate would be denied the opportunity to appear for the examination.

"We've served a show cause notice on the central agency which was assigned the task of conducting the exam," he said.

About the glitch, Sarangi said question paper is usually downloaded 15 minutes before the exam.

Regretting the inconvenience, Odisha Police Recruitment Board chairperson Sudhanshu Sarangi said that no candidate would be denied the opportunity to appear for the examination.

"Today, we faced a host of issues while downloading the question paper. Desperate attempts of the company's engineers didn't materialise, forcing us to postpone the exam," Sarangi said, adding that efforts are on to conduct the exam within 15 days.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) Saturday announced that the examination for the post of Assistant Section Officer, which was postponed in view of the dislocation caused by heavy rainfall and flood, will be conducted August 27.

The commission announced the new date two days after postponing the written exam, which was originally scheduled to be held Sunday.

## Plus II admission date extended

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** In view of the dislocation caused by heavy rainfall and subsequent flood, the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Saturday extended the Plus II admission date.

The first phase of the admission to various higher secondary schools (HSSs), which began August 19 and was scheduled to continue till August 25, was extended till August 30. Similarly, the second phase of admission, which was to start September 5 and conclude September 7, will now begin September 8 and end September 10.

The spot admission date has also been rescheduled. Earlier, it was scheduled to be held September 15 and 16, now it will be held from September 17 to 20, said an official.

Notably, the Odisha Parents' Federation had urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and S&ME Minister Samir Ranjan Dash to extend the Plus II admission process as it would help numerous students and their parents of the state which has been bearing the brunt of the flood.

## Mother's Public School wins 12th Aditya Memorial Quiz '22



## Plus II admission date extended

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** The 12th edition of Aditya Memorial Quiz 2022 organised by Aditya Memorial Foundation and Loyola School, Bhubaneswar at Xavier Institute of Management University here Saturday saw as many as 196 students from 25 schools facing brain-teasers by ace quiz masters Anirudh Choudhury and Anurag Samantaray.

Mother's Public School, Bhubaneswar won the quiz contest, while Delhi Public School, Ranchi and DAV Public School, Unit 8, Bhubaneswar finished as the first and second runners-up respectively.

While Mother's Public School won a cash prize of Rs 12,500, Delhi Public School and DAV Public School won Rs 7,500 and Rs 5,000 respectively. A special cash prize of Rs 1,000 for each finalist and semi-finalist girl participant was also given by Uma Charan Rath of Mumbai. This apart, audience who actively participated in the quiz contest also won prizes.

Renowned marketing personnel, entrepreneur and India Liver Patient Foundation brand ambassador Naina Das graced the occasion as chief guest, while state award winner as best actor for

Odia movie 'Suka Asuchi' Pritiraj Satpathy graced the event as guest of honour. Loyola School, Bhubaneswar Principal Fr. Victor F. Misquith SJ and Rector Fr. Augustine Ezhakunnel SJ as well as members of Aditya Memorial Foundation attended the event.

According to Fr. Victor, children should consider life as an opportunity and should use it to create something new and hence make it more meaningful.

The quiz competition is being held every year in the loving memory of Aditya Manish Sahu, an avid quizzier and a Loyola student, with an indomitable spirit.

## TAKING STOCK



Officials, including CMC commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan and mayor Subhash Singh, take stock of Netaji Bus Terminal construction in Cuttack, Saturday

## Plans on to become alternative to BJD, BJP in Odisha, says AAP

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said it is preparing a strategy to strengthen itself as an alternative to the BJD and BJP in Odisha.

The party also said the state workers' conference would be held here Sunday.

The event will be addressed by Delhi Cantonment legislator and Odisha in-charge Virender Singh Kadian.

It will discuss the present flood situation in the state, among



the combined politics of the BJD and the BJP hindered the progress of the people of the state," it said in a release on Friday.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party is determined to provide free electricity, water, universal education and healthcare, and employment to every youth in Odisha like it has done in Delhi and Punjab, the release said.

Around 1,200 workers from all the districts of Odisha are expected to participate in the state conference, it added.

**320 new Covid-19 cases, one fatality**

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,24,774 Saturday as 320 more people, including 41 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

The toll rose to 9,162 as a 72-year-old woman succumbed to the disease in Bhubaneswar. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

Odisha had logged 482 infections and a fatality Friday.

The state now has 2,658 active Covid-19 cases, while 452 more people were cured of the disease in the last 24 hours.

## MLA arranges hearse to help man carry wife's body on 370-km journey

**Berhampur, August 20:** BJD MLA Bikram Kumar Panda has helped a family from southern Odisha by arranging a hearse to carry the body of a 30-year-old woman after her death in Ganjam district.

Roji Santa was admitted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur five days ago after being referred from a hospital in tribal-dominated Koraput district as her condition was critical after delivering a girl child. The resident of Bagderi village died during the treatment on Friday morning.

Her husband, Narula Santa, was anxious about how to carry the body, which was lying for several hours in the hospital, for such a long distance of around 370 km as they had no money to hire a hearse.

"We rushed to the medical college immediately after getting in-

formation about the lying dead body and met the deceased's husband," Panda said.

"We arranged a van of the Berhampur Municipal Corporation to carry the dead body to his village," the Berhampur MLA said.

Panda also offered monetary help to the man, who did not have money to feed the baby during such a long journey. The baby is in a good condition now.

The MLA had donated four hearses from his local area funds to assist people in carrying dead bodies to the cremation grounds.

During the COVID-induced lockdown, the legislator had extended helping hands to several families in Berhampur for the cremation of their family members who succumbed to the infection, when their relatives did not come for help.

"As a people's representative, it is my duty to help the needy," he added.

## Brain cyst could be behind chronic headache, nausea

**H**eadache, one of the most commonly encountered but often-ignored health problems, could be pointing towards a more serious condition such as a cyst in the brain, according to doctors.

Brain cysts are fluid-filled sacs that appear due to the build-up of fluid in the brain.

Approximately 1.2 per cent of the population is affected by brain cysts. In India's context, this is a big number given the country's population size is 1.3 billion, said Dr Manish Vaish, the director of the neurosurgery department in Max Super Speciality Hospital at Vaishali in Ghaziabad.

Cysts are often seen in children, however, can also be present in adults with men being 59 per cent more likely to develop brain cysts compared to women, Vaish said.

"Symptoms of brain cyst depend on its location and size. Sometimes small cysts may not show any symp-



tom but often become troublesome once their size increases.

"Symptoms can either be because of the pressure put by a cyst on brain tissue or disruption of normal flow of the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), a protective fluid that creates a cushion around the brain," he said.

Headache is the most common symptom of brain cysts. Therefore, it is extremely important that if a chronic headache is accompanied by any other symptom, one should consult a specialist, Dr Vaish said.

Diagnosis of cysts is often

through the work-up done for some other reason. However, in patients where the quality of life is affected by cysts, diagnosis is done through physical examination and imaging like CT scans and MRI.

"Brain cysts with no symptoms are often not treated with any intervention and your doctor is likely to monitor these through scans. Depending on the size, symptoms, and location, the available option for management is image-guided cyst drainage, surgical cyst removal or placement of a shunt. The shunt is a bypass created for

the continuous flow of CSF," Dr Vaish added.

Dr Kunal Bahrani, Director of Neurology at Fortis Escorts Hospital Faridabad, said, "A brain cyst containing pus, blood, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or other tissue materials."

"Though usually benign (non-cancerous) and localised, these fluid sacs can cause brain and nervous system problems that require intervention for common symptoms like headache, nausea, vomiting, balance problems, seizures and vision loss, among others

Explaining the management of brain cysts, Dr Yashpal Bundela, senior neurosurgeon at Max Super Speciality Hospital in Vaishali, said, "Arachnoid cysts are often drained with the support of imagery. The dermoid and epidermoid cysts are surgically removed. Colloid cysts lead to CSF build-up; therefore, a shunt surgery is performed to treat the symptoms."

"These types of cysts are quite deep in the brain. Therefore, to remove these cysts a special surgery is performed. Pineal cysts often cause no problem and therefore these are managed by watching for any changes," the doctor added.

**Though usually benign and localised, these fluid sacs can cause brain and nervous system problems that require intervention for common symptoms like headache, nausea, vomiting, balance problems, seizures and vision loss, among others**

**KUNAL BAHRANI | DIRECTOR OF NEUROLOGY AT FORTIS ESCORTS HOSPITAL IN FARIDABAD**

# 24-hour water supply to all households in BeMC by '23



Drinking water problem has been persisting throughout the year, not only in summer, in the areas under this civic body. Currently, piped water is being supplied from Rushikulya river near Janibili on the outskirts of Chhatrapur town

**Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary G Mathi Vathanan.** Planning for the 24-hour water supply is underway and the facility will be available in Berhampur Town in 2023. He added that such facility has already been made available by Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri civic bodies. Drinking water problem has

been persisting throughout the year, not only in summer, in the areas under this civic body. Currently, piped water is being supplied from Rushikulya river near Janibili on the outskirts of Chhatrapur town. However, G Mathi Vathanan asserted that areas under all the 23 urban local bodies in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts are being supplied with piped water. He was all praise for the engineer of the public health and engineering organisation for the piped water supply. At the meeting he announced that anyone who shows a household in all these urban local bodies without taps will be rewarded by him. He revealed that funds of 15th Finance Commission which were allocated for drinking water supply projects have been deposited in the bank accounts of some NACs, municipalities and municipal corporations. He warned that if the funds are not released by August 23, action will be taken. He directed the Collectors of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts to keep a close watch on the development.

## SADBHAVANA DIWAS



ADGP (L&O) Radha Kishan Sharma administers oath to officials on the occasion of 'Sadbhavana Diwas' at state police headquarters in Cuttack, Saturday

## OASME to celebrate 36th foundation day with ProPack and MSME meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** The Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME), which is set to celebrate its 36th foundation day, will organize Odisha MSME Meet-2022 along with a national level exhibition ProPack Odisha-2022. With the Odisha government giving emphasis to development of packaging and food processing sector, the OASME has decided to organize ProPack Odisha-2022. The event will be organized from 25th to 28th August 2022 at Janata Maidan Exhibition Ground here. The exhibition will focus mostly on packaging and food processing sector industries. "These events will provide great opportunities to the MSME of Odisha to connect with national and international brand and showcase their products and services to a wide audience. We expect large numbers of visitors will visit the exhibition. Odisha MSME meet



will provide great insight about opportunities lies in this sector," said Satwik Swain, General Secretary, OASME. It should be mentioned that more than 40 industries from packaging and food processing sector of India and a multinational company from Iran will participate in the event. Along with them more than 100 SMEs from across Odisha will also participate in the exhibition.

## Wall collapse kills 5...

**Bhograi in Balasore** received the highest rainfall of 226 mm, followed by 211 mm in Phiringia in Kandhamal and 196.4 mm in Nawana in Mayurbhanj from 8:30pm Friday to 8:30am Saturday. Heavy rainfall also reportedly pounded Jharkhand following which seven gates of Galudih barrage were opened. Currently, 1.50 lakh cusec water is being released through the barrage. The water level of Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga rivers is on a rising trend till evening due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment area. The water level of Subarnarekha at Jamsholaghat has been increased from 45.62 metres reported at 6am to 48.72 metres till 6 pm, against the danger level of 49.15 metres. Similarly, the water level of Budhabalanga at NH-5 rose to 7.46 metres from 3.22 metres during the period. The danger level of the river at this point is 8.13 metres. The administration has put Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga rivers under close monitoring for next 30 hours, the SRC said.

## '26/11-style' terror...

Continued from P1

"Mubarak Ho... (Congratulations). There is going to be an attack on Mumbai. It will remind you of the 26/11 attacks. Everything is in place, only the timing is left to be decided... and it can be done anytime," reads the chilling message - just 95 days before the Mumbai mayhem's oncoming 14th anniversary. The unknown sender added: "If the police try to trace my number, the location will show out of India. Six people will be executing this blast, and preparations are on to blow up Mumbai. This is not just a threat, it will be a reality." For further effect, the message said: "I am in Pakistan. Some Indians are with me who also want to blast Mumbai. What if Osama Bin Laden, Ajmal Kasab or Ayman Al-Zawahiri was killed, there are many more." The message also has sentences like: "UP ATS wants to carry out the blasts", "Udaipur-style beheading can also take place", "This attack will be better than 26/11", "We people have no fixed address", "It can also be Punjab's Sidhu Moosewala." Among the first to react, Nationalist Congress Party's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar said the state government must take the threat seriously and probe. Ranked among the worst terror hits in the world, the 26/11, 2008 assault left 166 dead, over 300 injured when 10 desperadoes gunned down people at multiple locations and ended after a 60-hour mini-war with the capture of Ajmal Kasab, who was later tried and executed.

## Guv inaugurates 9th KIIT International MUN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 20:** Governor Ganeshi Lal shared his vision for a society with an integrated model of education, with active engagement of parents, students and teachers, while inaugurating the 9th edition of KIIT International School's Model United Nations, 2022, Saturday. The Model United Nations (MUN), first of its kind in Odisha, was started in 2013, offering students a simulated platform to engage and deliberate on issues of national and international importance such as climate change, disarmament and world peace. KIIT International School is the only institute in the state that is a partner in this UN mis-



sion. The theme of the 9th edition is refugee challenges. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, the Governor said that education should be inclusive and it should promote harmony. Knowledge should embody the highest values of human development and carry simplicity and humility. He also mentioned the huge role teachers play in shaping the "inner consciousness" of students that helps them in being truthful in their deeds and actions.

## VOICING DISCONTENT



Members of SUCI (Communist) stage a demonstration condemning the release of convicts in the Bilkis Bano case near the Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

## Training at Shanti Memorial Hosp on hernia surgical care

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 20:** A two-day training session on hernia surgical care by Shanti Memorial Hospital under the aegis of AWR Surgeons Community was inaugurated at the premier healthcare facility here Saturday, an official said. The AWR: Looking East, a live operative surgery conference, will see participation of at least 150 renowned surgeons. The conference showcases 14 different operations from simple to complex, covering laparoscopic, open and robotic hernia surgeries.

## AM/NS India lends helping hand to flood-hit in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paradip, August 20:** ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), under its CSR initiative, has provided assistance to the flood-affected people in Kujang block of Jagatsinghpur and Mahakalapada as well as Marsaghai blocks of Kendrapara, an official said Saturday. Officials of AM/NS India have distributed relief materials, including flattened rice, jaggery, biscuits, baby food, candles, poly-ethylene sheets, match boxes and cattle feed in the flood-affected areas in association with the district administrations. The district collectors of Jagatsinghpur— Parul Patwarij-and Kendrapara— Amrit Raturaj- have appreciated AM/NS India's timely support in this crucial



junction. AM/NS India (Odisha Asset) Executive Director Suresha G said, "As a responsible corporate, it's our duty to reach out to the flood-hit people and to lend support to the district administrations at time of need. We're working closely with the district administrations and extending full support as required."

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Binod Kumar Karnani spouse of Kiran Devi Karnani presently residing at Flat No. - AA/2, Block-A, 2nd Floor, Cantonment Road, Shree Jagannath Homes, Buxi Bazar, Cuttack, Odisha, PIN Code - 753001, P.S.: Manglabag, P.O.: Buxi Bazar, have changed my daughter name from Bhomi Karnani (Old Name) to Bhumi Karnani (New Name) vide affidavit dated 11.08.2022 before Notary Public, Cuttack, Government of India.

# Rising global temperature triggered evolution of reptiles: Study

Sixty million years of climate change triggered the meteoric rise of reptiles around 250 million years ago, not a mass extinction of mammals as previously thought, a new Harvard University-led study has said. Just over 250 million years ago, during the end of the Permian period, and start of the Triassic, reptiles' rates of evolution and diversity started exploding, leading to a dizzying variety of abilities, body plans, and traits. For the longest time, this flourish was explained by their competition being wiped out by two of the biggest mass extinction events (around 261 and 252 million years ago) in the history of the planet. Harvard palaeontologist Stephanie Pierce's research shows that the evolution and diversification, seen in early reptiles, not only started years before these



mass extinction events, but instead were directly driven by what caused them in the first place, rising global temperatures due to climate change. "Climate change actually directly triggered the adaptive response of reptiles to help build this vast array of new body plans and the explosion of groups that we see in the Triassic," said Tiago R. Simoes, a postdoctoral fellow in the Pierce lab and lead author on the study. In the paper, published in the journal Science Advances, the researchers provided a close look at how a large group of organisms evolve because of climate change, which is especially pertinent today as temperatures continually rise. In fact, the rate of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere today is about nine times what they were during the timeframe that culminated in the biggest climate change-driven mass extinction of all time, 252 million years ago: the Permian-Triassic mass extinction. "Major shifts in global temper-

ature can have dramatic and varying impacts on biodiversity," said Stephanie E. Pierce, curator of vertebrate palaeontology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The dataset showed that rises in global temperatures, which started at about 270 million years ago and lasted until at least 240 million years ago, were followed by rapid body changes in most reptile lineages. For instance, some of the larger cold-blooded animals evolved to become smaller so they could cool down easier; others evolved to life in water for that same effect. Smaller reptiles, which gave rise to the first lizards and tuataras, went on a different path than their larger reptile brethren, said researchers. Their evolutionary rates slowed down and stabilised in response to the rising temperatures. It was because the small-bodied reptiles were already better adapted to the rising heat since they can more easily release heat from their bodies compared to larger reptiles when temperatures got hot very quickly all-around Earth.

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**LANDSLIDE**

A large boulder blocked the National Highway-49 following a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall in Judia ghat of Keonjhar district, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# Tension erupts over boy's death in Ashram School

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, August 20:** Tension prevailed after a Class-IX student of Pandripani Ashram School in this district died after suddenly falling sick, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sonia Dora, a student of Class-IX in the school and a native of Podabhata village under Khairaput block of the district. Family members and villagers cried foul and termed the negligence of the matron and teachers of the school responsible for the boy's death.

They alleged that the boy was an orphan and had been admitted to the Ashram School to receive education by his uncle after his parent's death. The boy experienced stomach pain, Friday, and informed hostel authorities seeking medical help. The hostel authorities allegedly took light of the matter and gave him some medicines without getting him checked up with a doctor in a hospital. However, the boy's health condition further deteriorated following which they rushed him to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Tension ran high after the news

**The boy experienced stomach pain Friday, and informed hostel authorities seeking medical help. The hostel authorities allegedly took light of the matter**

surfaced, as his kin and villagers detained the body for over five hours in the hospital holding the negligence of school and hostel authorities responsible for his death. They later lodged a complaint at the Malkangiri police station demanding stringent action against the school and hostel authorities.

When contacted, headmistress Golap Pujari said the boy experienced stomach pain following which he was taken to Pandripani health centre. Later, he was discharged after his health condition improved. He was again rushed to the Pandripani health centre and later shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Malkangiri after his health condition deteriorated, she added.

# 10-YR JAIL FOR MINOR'S RAPE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 20:** A special POCSE court here Saturday sentenced a youth to 10 years of imprisonment after convicting him in a 2019 rape case of a minor girl under Burla police limits in this district.

Magistrate Prasant Kumar Das of the court also slapped a penalty of ₹50,000 on the convict Swadhin Majhi, 30, while pronouncing the order. In default, Majhi has to undergo an additional year of imprisonment, the judge observed while adjudicating the matter.

The order was passed after examining the statements of 10 witnesses.

Public Prosecutor Santosh Panda and Basant Mishra pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government.

The incident had occurred in July, 2019, when the 13-year-old minor was going out to relieve herself. The accused had picked her up on the way and raped her at an isolated place.

Following the incident, locals demanded action against the culprit. The girl after returning home had narrated her ordeal before her mother. Later, the girl's family members had lodged a complaint at the Burla police station. Burla police had registered a case and arrested Majhi in this connection.

# Budhabalanga, Jalaka in spate

SUNEI AND KAL DAMS HAVE DISCHARGED FLOODWATER DUE TO HEAVY RAINFALL IN THE UPSTREAM OF THE TWO RIVERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, August 20:** Flood-like situation was witnessed in Budhabalanga and Jalaka rivers flowing through Balasore district following incessant downpour triggered by a depression in Bay of Bengal, Saturday.

Heavy rainfall has led to increase in water level of both the rivers. The Jalaka river was flowing above the danger mark while the Budhabalanga was flowing close to the danger mark with rains thrashing the district for the last nine days.

The Sunei and Kal dams have started discharging floodwater due



to heavy rainfall in the upstream of these two rivers. This has led to rise in Budhabalanga water level which has submerged vast tracts of farmlands and inundated the riparian villages in around 12 panchayats.

The rainfall has also resulted in an artificial flood in the low-lying areas of the town due to lack of proper drainage facilities.

According to the district administration, the district experi-

enced heavy rainfall after the low-pressure in Bay of Bengal turned into a depression. The district experienced total 1,165 mm rainfall. Bhograib block received the highest rainfall at 226 mm followed by 130

mm in Basta, 118 mm in Jaleswar, 153 mm in Baliapal, 114 in Sadar block, 109 mm in Remuna, 64 mm in Nilagiri, 41mm in Soro, 84 mm in Bahanaga, 29 mm in Simulia and 78 mm in Oupada.

## Flood-hit forced to drink muddy water

**Nayagarh/Gania:** Flood situation in some riparian pockets along the Mahanadi under Gania block in this district is still grim with affected people struggling to get safe drinking water.

People have no way but to drink the contaminated floodwater. This has created possibility of outbreak of diarrhoea. Some villages have been cut off from the rest of the world for the last eight days, a report said. Several roads in the block are under water. Floodwater is flowing over a road leading to Kuturi village. Tube wells in many villages were submerged. In such situation, people have no option other than drinking muddy floodwater of the Mahanadi.

Due to Mahanadi floods, 127 villages in this district were affected while crops and vegetables in 4,634 hectares were damaged, according to the preliminary report of the agriculture department. These affected areas belong to 26 panchayats.



chayats under five blocks. Most of the farmlands under Bhapur block are still under floodwater, the report added.

## Tel, other rivers swelling

**Patana:** Tel and other rivers under Patana block of Keonjhar district are swelling due to torrential rains. Floodwater was flowing over Patana-Saharapada bridge across Tel river Saturday. Communication to Keonjhar, Saharapada and Mayurbhanj district was disrupted. Reports said, walls of some houses have collapsed. The distributaries of Tel are also swelling due to heavy rainfall in the upstream areas.

## RAIN THROWS LIFE OUT OF GEAR IN DARINGBADI

**Daringbadi:** Incessant rainfall threw life out of gear in this block of Kandhamal district. Vehicular traffic between Phulbani and Bhubaneswar was disrupted with four-foot deep water flowing on a diversion road at Murudikupuda connecting Daringbadi with Raikia in Nabarangpur district, Saturday.

The area experienced 53 mm rainfall by 8.00 am, Saturday. An approach road to a bridge near Simanbadi of Tilori panchayat

under this block was washed away in the heavy rainfall. Repairing of the road was later undertaken despite heavy rainfall.

Similarly, traffic was disrupted after water over four feet was found flowing over a diversion road at Murudikupuda on Simanbadi-Raikia route. It is feared that the high water flow might have washed away the road again. The road had been washed away last Sunday but was opened for traffic Wednesday

after it was repaired.

Over 50-foot deep water has accumulated near a bridge which had been washed away in the 2018 flood. Traffic on National Highway-59 connecting Simanbadi with Daringbadi was also disrupted after a large pine tree got uprooted and fell on the Shraniketa ghat.

Several pine trees on the ghat road tilted in a dangerous condition. Several mud houses were damaged in the rainfall in over 25 panchayats of the block.

# Man kills wife over 5th pregnancy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 20:** In a shocking incident, a pregnant woman was strangled to death after being brutally assaulted by her husband over the latter's failure to terminate her fifth pregnancy at Gailagudi village under Jujumura police limits in this district, police said Saturday.

The deceased woman and her accused husband were identified as Padmini Sabar and Manglu Sabar of the village. The matter came to the fore after police exhumed the body in the presence of additional tehsildar Mamata Nanda (tehsildar-in-charge) in the presence of the accused Manglu Sabar, Redhakhol SDPO Prasant Meher, Jujumura IIC Rajkumar Biswal, other police personnel and a scientific team, Saturday. A tool used in digging the pit for burial was also recovered from the spot.



The accused Manglu not only killed his wife but also tried to suppress the crime by burying the body in the nearby jungle. The matter came to light after police took quick action and exhumed the body from the jungle four days after the incident.

According to police, the couple was parents to a son and three daughters. The woman became pregnant again for the fifth time much to the dismay of her husband. This often led to quarrel

among them as the accused was not keen on the delivery of the fifth child. He tried to abort the foetus from the second month of pregnancy by regularly giving some pills to his wife. However, his efforts failed to yield any results.

The couple had gone to the nearby jungle to herd their cattle August 15. The issue again cropped up between them and led to bitter squabble. Manglu, who was drunk then, brutally assaulted his wife and later throttled her in a bid to kill. The woman was rendered critical by his attack.

Manglu returned home leaving his wife back in the jungle in critical condition. He again went to the place at night and tried to wake up his wife. However, after battling for life for hours she succumbed in the jungle. He again went inside the jungle and buried the body of his wife, August 16.

## SCIENCE EXPO



Students attend a science exhibition with 52 projects on display at Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir at Kalamchhuin under Talcher block in Angul district, Saturday

# Juang tribals switch off dependence on forests

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 20:** Until a few years ago, Juang tribals living in Budhakhman panchayat under Harichandanpur block in Keonjhar district used to eke out their living by foraging and selling minor forest produce.

But thanks to ITDA projects, they have now switched off their traditional dependence on forests for livelihood and shifted to vegetable farming.

Many of them are earning well enough to sustain their families. Reports said, ITDA encouraged



Juang tribals of Budhakhman, Somagiri, Nalapanga and Saharantangi to take up vegetable

farming through some projects with help of an NGO starting from 2018. Under a project, a group of 82

**Vegetable farming shows them the way, taking away the hassle of traditional dependence on forests as their chief source of livelihood**

tribals cultivated bitter gourd on 25 acres of land in the current year and had a good earning from this farming. Moreover, another group of 47 tribals have cultivated radish, beet and other such vegetables on a patch of land. "We are selling veg-

etables for ₹7 to ₹18 per kg. On an average, we have earned ₹15,000 to ₹18,000 per month," they said. They are directly selling their produce to traders. ITDA has been providing them seeds, fertilizers and technical assistance, said Bhanumati Behera, a technical expert.

In another instance, tribal women like Prabhati Juang, Banita Juang and Gurubari Juang said that they have earned ₹30,000 from selling vegetables grown on a patch of 20 decimal land. This year, the three, encouraged by profitability, are planning to take up vegetable farming on 20 acres.

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To be free from all egoistic motive, careful of truth in speech and action, void of self-will and self-assertion, watchful in all things, is the condition for being a flawless servant. SRI AUROBINDO



Fear of Data

India's census has been delayed again, indefinitely, making it the first time in 150 years that it will not come on time. Let us understand why. It was supposed to be finished last year, but was not. Since 1881, even during wars in the past, it has never been postponed. The reason is that the census is our largest data collection exercise. Not only does it give us a count of the number of people in India it also tells us about their education, what their household amenities are, their employment status and so on. Delaying this means not only that we will not know what the numbers on these things are but also that government cannot make policy properly because it is unclear what needs to be targeted.

Citing COVID, the Modi government says it cannot be done now. That is however not the real reason. Two other large surveys in the past also ran into trouble with this government. One was the consumer expenditure survey. This showed that Indians were consuming less including on food, in 2018 than they were in 2012. After the details of this survey were published by a newspaper in 2019, the government refused to release the data officially. This survey, called the quinquennial (meaning every 5 years), also gives us data on India's large informal sector economy. For 10 years now, we have not had any information on this. The previous chief economic advisor to the finance ministry, Krishnamurthy Subramanian had asked the Modi government to release the survey data but it was not. It is dangerous for India to look away from bad news, especially if it's the government itself that is the source of the news. However, this has long been the case with this government. Also in 2019, it was revealed by another government survey that unemployment in 2018 was at a historic high of 6%, and twice as high as it had ever been after Independence. This survey was also reported by the same newspaper (Business Standard) and again it was discredited by the government. Niti Aayog was sent out to say that the data was faulty, though after the 2019 election results came in, this survey was released officially without any change. The unemployment rate has not fallen under that since then and has remained above that for four years.



Aakar Patel

It is dangerous for India to look away from bad news, especially if it's the government itself that is the source of the news

To add to our problems, the mistrust of the government because of its citizenship laws means that enumerators will find it difficult to get neighbourhoods to cooperate. The National Population Register, the first step of the National Register of Citizens, has been added on to the census by the Modi government. Meaning that it will give the government and lower bureaucrats the authority to mark anyone they want as 'doubtful citizens'. This will strip them of voting rights, and begin a process that goes through a National Register of Citizens list, a Foreigner Tribunal and ends in a detention centre. What happens after that, including the jailing of entire families, men separated from women, we have already seen unfolding in Assam. Given this, the enumerators, who are low-level employees such as government school teachers, will likely face hostility once they start asking questions. India's former chief statistician Pronab Sen has said that we "may well have a situation where you are unable to do the Census properly and if the Census is not done properly, then for the next 10 years, no household survey would be reliable because all household surveys rely on the Census as the frame. If this runs into problems, and there's a danger that it might, then for the next 11 years, you are in trouble."

Yet another problem is that some states have said that they will not implement it. Kerala informed the Centre it will not implement the NPR fearing law and order problems. It has also challenged the Citizenship Amendment Act in the Supreme Court. Madhya Pradesh said in the past it would not implement it, and in Maharashtra also there has been opposition. Other states like West Bengal have encouraged citizens to resist the enumerator and not show them any documents. Yet other states have said they will implement the NPR only partially (Odisha and Bihar), leaving out some questions. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has said that they will not allow their citizens to be jailed and instead go to jail themselves first. At the federal level, then, it is clear that the incoming data, even if it is gathered, will be incomplete and fragmented.

This is possibly and perhaps most likely the real reason why the census is getting delayed. The government does not want to get into another set of mass protests, but it is also unwilling to let go of its NPR-NRC pincer. If the Prime Minister says clearly that there is going to be no NRC and that the census will drop the NPR questions, the census will proceed. He will not.

The Indian State will exhaust itself trying to implement the NRC for which there is no demand from any major section, which has resistance from not just parts of the polity, including Opposition states, but also mass mobilisation of the sort we have not seen in a long time.

What is at stake is credible data for a decade. But it appears that the government is comfortable with not having any data on the economy and the condition of Indians, particularly given that the data is not going to be positive. That is the reason we have broken our tradition, which we have had since 1881, of a census that is on time and tells us the condition of India.

WISDOM CORNER

- All men's miseries derive from not being able to sit in a quiet room alone. Blaise Pascal
- Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content. Helen Keller
- No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it. Albert Einstein

WORDSWORTH

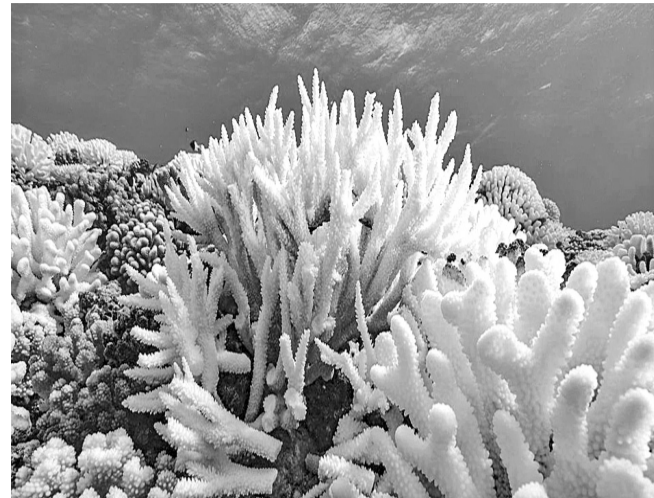
Bafflegab

Bafflegab is incomprehensible or pretentious verbiage. It hit the newspapers and public notice on 19 January 1952, the day after a plaque was presented to its inventor to mark his creation of this invaluable word. He was Milton A Smith, assistant general counsel for the US Chamber of Commerce. It was presented by Michael V DiSalle, the head of the Office of Price Stabilization, who rejoiced in the title of Price Stabilizer. (Where are people like this when you need them?) Milton Smith coined the word in a piece he wrote for the Chamber's weekly publication, Washington Report, which criticised the OPS for the bureaucratic language it used in one of its price orders. This was picked up by the Bellingham Herald in Washington State, which wrote an editorial about it, saying "Gobbledegook is mouth-filling, but it lacks the punch of bafflegab. The inventor of that one deserves an award." The newspaper made sure he got one by paying for the plaque to be made and organising its presentation. The inventor said he had spent a maddening day trying to explain the OPS order to a colleague and decided a special word was needed to describe its special blend of "incomprehensibility, ambiguity, verbosity and complexity". He tried legalism, legalese, gabalia, and burboggle before settling on bafflegab. There's nothing mysterious about the make-up of the word, and that's part of its appeal. But it's the stress on those pliable consonants that really makes it fly. It might well have succeeded even without the publicity associated with the award. At the presentation, Milton Smith was asked to briefly define his word. It was, he said succinctly, "multiloquence characterized by consummate interfusion of circumlocution or periphrasis, inscrutability, and other familiar manifestations of abstruse expatiation commonly utilized for promulgations implementing Procrustean determinations by governmental bodies." Just so.

TAKE BACK THE OCEAN

FOCUS ECOLOGY

Earlier this summer, the United Nations convened its Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Lisbon, Portugal. The goal was to "to propel much needed science-based innovative solutions aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action." The world needs a "sustainably managed ocean," according to the UN's under-secretary-general for legal affairs, Miguel de Serpa Soares, who hailed the conference as an "enormous success." If only.



Why does the UN - or anyone, for that matter - believe that private companies will become responsible stewards of the planet? The rapid degradation of marine ecosystems is not exactly new information, yet corporations have only increased their damaging activities

Only about 13% of the ocean now qualifies as "marine wilderness" (biologically and ecologically intact seascapes that are mostly free of human disturbance). More than one-third of marine mammals, and nearly one-third of reef-forming corals, are now threatened with extinction.

The ocean's importance cannot be overstated. It is the planet's largest biosphere, hosting up to 80% of all life on earth. It generates 50% of the oxygen we breathe and absorbs one-quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions, essential for climate and weather regulation. And it is also economically vital, with roughly 120 million people employed in fisheries and related activities, mostly for small-scale enterprises in developing countries.

Yet over the last four decades, the ocean has come under unprecedented pressure, largely owing to the rapid growth of commercial maritime activity. This growth is particularly significant in exclusive economic zones, contiguous areas of territorial water that stretch some 230 miles from country coastlines.

The principle of national sovereignty over EEZs was enshrined in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982. In the years that followed, governments sold off vast tracts of ocean territory through state licenses and concessions, effectively handing over management of marine ecosystems to the private sector.

Policy-makers apparently reasoned that corporations would have a financial interest in adopting responsible business practices in order to preserve the resources from which they were extracting so much value. Instead, widespread oil and gas exploration, industrial fishing, and frenetic maritime trade have, as UN Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson recently put it, caused "the ocean's health" to "spiral into decline."

Marine acidification and heating reached record levels last year.

ronmental data.

The key takeaway from the conference was that the UN remains committed to incremental change, with the private sector firmly in control. This is reflected in an emphasis on "natural capital" solutions, which involve putting a price on nature in order to save it. The neoliberal policymaking that created today's crisis has undergone an ideological makeover. Where shareholder capitalism failed to ensure self-regulation by private owners, "stakeholder capitalism" supposedly will succeed, because companies will balance the competing interests of investors, workers, communities, and the environment.

It is not hard to see why stakeholder capitalism is so appealing: it gives the impression that we can have our cake and eat it. But, when it comes to the ocean, the cake is already past its expiration date. Given current technological constraints, protecting the ocean from further degradation precludes any additional maritime industrialisation.

Why does the UN - or anyone, for that matter - believe that private companies will become re-

sponsible stewards of the planet? The rapid degradation of marine ecosystems is not exactly new information, yet corporations have only increased their damaging activities. Realistically, stakeholder capitalism will merely defer difficult decisions about profit maximisation in a climate-constrained world to future generations.

Now, the world has an opportunity to embrace a more promising approach to protecting the ocean: the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. The meetings, which are resuming in New York, are expected to produce a legal framework for governing all marine areas beyond coastal countries' EEZs.

The high seas comprise 64% of the ocean's surface area and host the largest reservoirs of biodiversity on Earth. The number of species they support is enormous, with many more expected to be discovered. And they are getting busier - and becoming more threatened - by the day.

Protection of the high seas has long been overseen by a patchwork of international agencies. As a result, just 1.2% of this fragile ecosystem is currently safeguarded against exploitative commercial activity.

As Guy Standing, a professorial research associate at the University of London, recently told me, there is little reason to believe that the conference will do much to "roll back the power of oligopolistic corporations" in non-territorial waters. Instead, it will turn out to be just another opportunity for the UN to peddle the narrative that the profit motive, which is largely responsible for destroying the ocean, can spur the necessary action to save it.

As Standing puts it, if we are going to save our oceans, we must reverse their privatisation. That means pushing for binding commitments, effective regulation, and reliable enforcement. Above all, it means recognising that the ocean's true value has no price tag.

The writer is a researcher for the Third World Network.



Alexander Kozul-Wright

THE OCEAN'S IMPORTANCE CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. IT IS THE PLANET'S LARGEST BIOSPHERE, HOSTING UP TO 80% OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH

SPECTRUM NATION

The changing political dynamics



Suresh Chandra Sarangi

CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM HAVE EATEN INTO THE VITALS OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

At 75, the wonder that is India has made great strides. The tumultuous development in the political dynamics of the country has shaped the course of its history and made it a vibrant democracy. The experiment has brought in new vistas in the dimensions of political process. Change with continuity is an important aspect of our political system that has resulted in the India story.

Diversity being the key ingredient of Indian culture through its civilizational values, politics in India has kept a strong note of these values and the themes of Indian political culture have developed accordingly over the years. The Constitution, labelled as a people's Constitution, has taken care of not only the democratic aspirations of the people, but also has carved a very strong people centric policy for resolution of conflicts. Democratic pluralism has been the main theme of our nation building.

The interface between politics and economics has been interesting and the Indian political economy is cruising ahead maintaining a fine balance between the compulsion of the polity and broader macro-economics. India also has adapted to the contemporary wave of globalisation which has led to a diverse social base as a result of social change and has ultimately given birth to new expectations.

Opposition which is splintered without any common agenda has not been able to present a united voice. The BJP's decisive politics has been unique in settling issues like, the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid conflict and the abrogation of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

On the other hand, corruption and nepotism have eaten into the vitals of the political system and the democratic institutions. The Supreme Court of India, with its profound judgements, has protected human rights while strengthening democracy.

The Parliament, the ultimate law-making body for the country, is represented by a lot of members having criminal cases against them. The intellectual fervour of the debates is missing at present with uproars and acrimonious verbal duels that have shortened the debates. The man hours lost in Parliament are mind boggling and a critical analysis suggests that the pride of parliamentary debate is declining and demagoguery is raising its ugly head, thereby throwing

our law making process out of control and making the system more fragile. The new realities are political compulsion based on caste, tribe, religion, region, community.

The 1991 financial sector reforms that brought economic liberalisation was a masterstroke of the Congress party for India's growth, as it led to a welcome departure from the Hindu rate of growth. India is the world's largest democracy and an economic power house. It is buoyed with its demographic dividend and soft power. Democratic politics, no doubt, has made a gigantic contribution to India's accelerated transformation and rapid socio-economic change. It is in the interest of the nation, its unity and integrity that dialogue leads to consensus, so that India becomes a true representative of democracy. In view of the above, we can say two cheers for Indian democracy, instead of three.

The writer is a retired General Manager of Bank of India. Views are personal.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

The AIFF mess

Sir, The suspension of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) by the world governing body FIFA will likely have serious implications on Indian football. Apart from suffering the humiliation of losing the hosting rights to the Under-17 Women's World Cup in October this year, the national teams become ineligible to participate in continental tournaments. The AIFF is in a state of topsy-turvy due to the mismanagement of its administration after long-serving former chief Praful Patel stayed in office beyond the maximum term of 12 years, without holding fresh elections. Clearly, this needs to be addressed seriously to change the course of action and a fresh constitution needs to be drafted quickly for the AIFF, so that elections can be held immediately and players do not lose precious time in their careers. This is the first time that the AIFF has received suspension by FIFA in its 85-year history. It is unfortunate that soccer turned sombre for India, and let us hope that it resurrects itself quickly from the 'sudden death.'

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Fight against mosquitoes

Sir, It's interesting to note that, in addition to being annoying, mosquitoes can spread dangerous diseases that have an effect on human health all over the world. August 20 was christened "World Mosquito Day" because this was the day that Sir Ronald Ross confirmed Patrick Manson's theory, in 1897, that mosquitoes carried the malaria parasite. World Mosquito Day is observed every year to raise awareness of all the different diseases that mosquitoes can transmit. The day focuses mainly on getting rid of mosquitoes. The World Health Organization has labelled mosquitoes the world's deadliest animal. There are 3,500 different species of mosquitoes, and ancient evidence suggests that they have existed for more than 99 million years. Malaria, dengue virus, Zika, and West Nile virus are among the diseases they can spread to people. Mosquito-borne diseases are often preventable. But they are unfortunately associated with high levels of poverty and weak health systems. This makes controlling and preventing these diseases challenging. For many years, people have debated how to get rid of mosquitoes. Numerous steps were taken to eradicate mosquitoes as a result of disease outbreak. Researchers are trying to find new ways to control these insects, and they are continuously coming up with novel approaches like using genome editing and creating new pesticides. Effective prevention strategies should be adopted to control these deadly insects. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

# national

## of the day quote

The harsh reality is that even after the students enter professional universities, the focus is on classroom-learning and not on the world beyond. Securing highly remunerative and profitable job opportunities has become the sole objective behind such education



JUSTICE N V RAMANA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

A list of 2,04,348 houses, which were either severely or partially damaged in this year's flood, has been compiled. The rehabilitation grant to be paid to these families who have lost their homes will be transferred directly to their bank accounts



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The agricultural budget has seen a fourfold increase during Narendra Modi's tenure as prime minister. It is now Rs 1,33,000 crore from just Rs. 33,000 crore in 2014



JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Court employee killed in Bihar

**Motihari:** An employee of a sub-divisional court was shot dead at its entry point by two motorcycle-borne assailants in Bihar's East Champaran district Saturday, a police officer said. The deceased has been identified as Sanjay Thakur (45). "Thakur was entering the premises of Areraj sub-divisional court around 10.30 am when two unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants gunned him down. He succumbed to his injuries in a nearby hospital," Ranjan Kumar, the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Areraj, said. Four empty cartridges were recovered from the spot, he said.

### Cocaine seized

**Mumbai:** The Customs department has recovered 500 grams of cocaine worth Rs 5 crore from a woman passenger, who arrived at the city international airport from Ethiopia, following which she was arrested, officials said. The woman had arrived in Mumbai on Friday from Addis Ababa by Ethiopian Airlines flight, the customs department said in a tweet. "The woman identified as Sierra Leonean was placed under arrest after the recovery of the drug," it said. The drug was found concealed in her purse, it added in the tweet.

### Four arrested

**Gurugram:** Four people having connections with a money extortion gang that operates from Pakistan and Dubai have been arrested, police said Saturday. The gang came to light after they extorted Rs 5 lakh from a property dealer. On July 30, a property dealer filed a complaint, saying he was receiving threat calls from an unknown number on WhatsApp. "Those on call demanded Rs 5 lakh and threatened to kill me and my family if I failed to do as they said," the complainant said.

### Two booked

**Muzaffarnagar:** Two people were booked for allegedly beating a Dalit youth with shoes after the video of the incident went viral on the internet, police said Saturday. According to the police, one Dinesh Kumar (27) a Dalit was beaten up by the village head of Tajpur Shakti Mohan Gurjar and Gaje Singh, the former village head of Retana Nagla village, with shoes and threatened to kill him.



The current chief minister does not sit at home but tours the state and meets people

DEVENDRA FADNIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

### 16 HELD FOR ATTACK

As many as 16 people were arrested for attacking leader of the Opposition in Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah's convoy and endangering his life as row over Veer Savarkar took an ugly turn in the state



## Kejriwal, Sisodia acquitted in defamation case

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**  
New Delhi, August 20: A court here Saturday acquitted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and former AAP leader Yogendra Yadav in a criminal defamation case filed against them by a lawyer in relation to the 2013 Assembly elections.

Magistrate Vidhi Gupta Anand of Rouse Avenue Court ordered the politicians to be acquitted. A detailed order will be made available later in the day.

The case was filed by lawyer Surender Sharma, who had claimed that his candidature of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was cancelled in the 2013 at the last moment.

Sharma had alleged that in 2013, AAP had approached him and asked him to contest the Assembly elections in Delhi on a party ticket, stating that Kejriwal was pleased with his social works.

He also filed the application form to contest the polls after Sisodia and Yadav allegedly told him that AAP's Political Affairs Committee had decided to give him the ticket. However, he was later denied a ticket.

The complainant claimed that on October 14, 2013, articles in leading newspapers carried "defamatory, unlawful and derogatory words used against him by the accused persons" which hampered his reputation in the Bar and the society.



# I will be arrested in a couple of days: Sisodia



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 20:** As the CBI intensified its probe into the excise policy case, the Aam Aadmi Party upped the ante Saturday with Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia saying the 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be a battle between Arvind Kejriwal and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and such actions will not deter AAP.

Addressing a press conference a day after the CBI raid against him, Sisodia expressed apprehension that the agency or the ED may arrest him in the next 3-4 days, while Chief Minister Kejriwal, who has been aggressively taking on the BJP in Modi's home state, announced on Twitter that he will be touring Gujarat with Sisodia from Monday.

CBI officials, meanwhile, said that at least three accused were questioned in the corruption case

After Sisodia's allegations, the BJP hit back, alleging that Kejriwal was the "kingpin" in the "liquor scam".

Union Minister Anurag Thakur accused the AAP of trying to divert the issue from the alleged scam by linking the CBI action to politics as its real face has been unmasked

related to the implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021 on Saturday and its FIR has also been shared with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which will look into the allegations of money laundering.

The agency on Friday carried out searches at 31 places which included premises related to Sisodia as well as some bureaucrats and businessmen. Sisodia is one of the 15 persons named by the CBI in the FIR.

"The 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be a battle between Arvind Kejriwal

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It will be AAP vs BJP," Sisodia told reporters, alleging that the raids were part of a ploy to stop AAP chief Kejriwal's rise.

Sisodia said the BJP was not concerned about corruption but was targeting Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal, whose work on education and health was being talked about in the world, and that is why Satyendar Jain was arrested by the ED in May.

After Sisodia's allegations, the BJP hit back, alleging that Kejriwal was the "kingpin" in the "liquor scam". Union Minister Anurag Thakur accused the Aam Aadmi Party of trying to divert the issue from the alleged scam by linking the CBI action to politics as its real face has been unmasked".

He referred to the deputy chief minister as "Money Shh", alleging that he "makes money and maintains silence". At the press conference, Sisodia claimed that the raids are part of the "script to stop Kejriwal who has emerged as a national alternative". "They are not concerned about any scam in the excise policy. They are scared of Kejriwal who has gained the love of people, especially after the party's victory in Punjab assembly elections," he said.

"They first arrested Satyendar Jain who was holding the charge of the health portfolio and I will also be arrested in the next couple of days," he claimed. Delhi's health minister Jain was arrested in May by the Enforcement Directorate on money laundering charges.

## I-DAY GRENADE ATTACK 2 LeT militants held



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, August 20:** Two "hybrid terrorists" of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) have been arrested in connection with a grenade attack in Budgam on Independence Day in which a civilian from a minority community was injured, police said Saturday.

On August 15, terrorists lobbed a grenade at Gopalpora Chadoora in Budgam district in which a person identified as Krishna Kumar sustained injuries. A case was registered at the local police station, an official said.

"Budgam Police cracked grenade lobbing incident on minority at Gopalpora on 15/8/22 in which 1 person from minority was seriously injured. 2 Hybrid terrorists of LeT namely Sahil Wani & Altaf Farooq

@ Amir arrested. Vehicle used by terrorists also seized. Investigation going on," the Kashmir Zone Police tweeted on Saturday.

During the investigation in the case, CCTV footage revealed that two scooter-borne suspects were involved in the grenade lobbing incident, he said. Many suspects were picked up for questioning and during further investigation, police received information that Sahil Ahmad Wani of Tangnar Kralpora Chadoora was involved in the attack, the official said.

He said Wani was arrested and during questioning, he admitted that he and main conspirator and hybrid terrorist Altaf Farooq alias Amir of Tangnar Kralpora were involved in the commission of the crime. A raid was conducted and Farooq was arrested, he said.

### August 15, terrorists lobbed a grenade at Gopalpora Chadoora in Budgam district in which a person identified as Krishna Kumar sustained injuries

## Railways to allow juniors to judge officials for promotion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 20:** Taking a cue from the Centre's 360-degree evaluation system for senior IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service officers, the railways has now introduced a procedure that also allows peers and juniors to evaluate their reporting officers.

In a letter dated August 18, the Railway Board said it has decided to create a "multi-source" feedback of officers while generating their Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR). For creating a database, a link has been enabled online in SPARROW system and will be effective from APAR 2022-2023.

"For each official, every year a link shall be sent to the reporting authority of the official and all the subordinates for whom the official is the reporting authority. The feedback submitted will be anonymously recorded in the data base of the official. There shall be no way to trace back the feedback to the superior or subordinate who has submitted it.

"All are requested to give fair remarks/gradings without any prejudice. The whole exercise will be strictly confidential," the order

Sources indicate that this system could be further extended to receive feedback from non-railway persons like contractors and vendors who work with the rail officials

stated. A section of officials say the APAR system will not only make a difference in the work culture in the Indian Railways but will also lead to Voluntary Retirement (VRS) of some officers. Around 20,000 officials will come under the scanner for this APAR, an official said.

Sources indicate that this system could be further extended to receive feedback from non-railway persons like contractors and vendors who work with the rail officials.

The sources say that after the feedbacks are recorded, a three or four-member committee will decide whether the officer should be promoted or not. The officials also pointed out that while the system is in place for officers, it is not clear who will evaluate the committee members. Many officials have also questioned the change, the latest in a slew of major deviations from its 114-year-old administrative structure at a time when the national transporter was undergoing major makeover.

## ARTISTIC TOUCH



An artist gives final touches to an idol of Lord Ganesha ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi at Vyapar Sadan in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

# Cong presidential poll: Central Election Authority awaits CWC nod

**RAHUL GANDHI'S INSISTENCE ON A NON-GANDHI TAKING OVER THE POSITION HAS LEFT THE PARTY IN A DILEMMA. LEADERS CLOSE TO HIM HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM TO RE-ASSUME THE POST**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 20:** The Central Election Authority (CEA) is awaiting the go-ahead of Congress Working Committee (CWC) for the conduct of the party's presidential poll, sources said Saturday.

The CEA, which is authorised to conduct organisational polls, has completed the process of voters' list before the CWC takes a final call, sources said.

Majority of the party leaders feel that Rahul Gandhi should take over as party president but there is no clarity from him since he left the post after the 2019 poll debacle.

Also, the Congress, in interim, is chalking out plan B to continue



Sonia Gandhi as party president and appoint a working president for each zone, an idea mooted some time back. Another name doing

Gandhi should take over as party president.

The Congress schedule was to begin the process from August 21 but the CWC meeting has not been called yet. Some leaders from scheduled castes who could be given the top post include Sushil Kumar Shinde, Mallikarjun Kharge and Meira Kumar. Kharge is Rahul Gandhi's confidante and can be instrumental in Karnataka polls.

However, sources said that former party President Rahul Gandhi has lined up a series of meetings with state units. He also plans to visit every district in the country in the run-up to the general elections. The plan is yet to be finalised. Rahul Gandhi's insistence on a

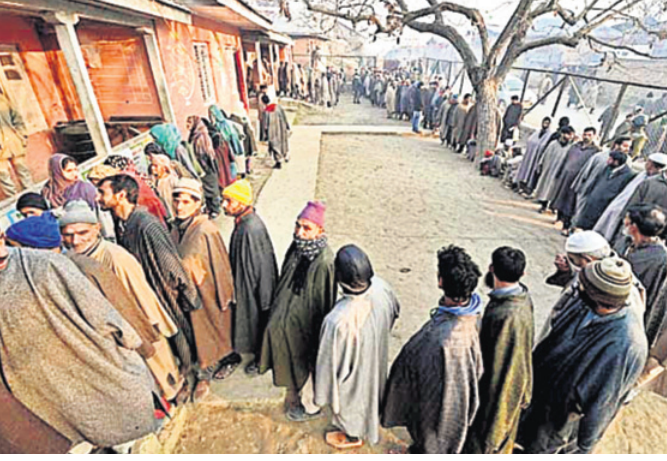
non-Gandhi taking over the position has left the party in a dilemma. Leaders close to him have been trying to convince him to re-assume the post.

The Congress Working Committee members have appealed many times to Rahul Gandhi to take over as the president of the party, but he has been reluctant. Senior Congress leader Ambika Soni said: "All the members were unanimous that Rahul Gandhi should take over as president of the Congress party." The CWC has given the go-ahead to the internal elections of the party.

The CWC had approved the organisational elections and the schedule had been decided.

## Row over reports of inclusion of 25 lakh new voters in J&K

Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer Hirdesh Kumar recently said the Union territory was likely to get around 25 lakh additional voters, including outsiders, following the special summary revision of electoral rolls being held for the first time after Article 370 abrogation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar/Jammu, August 20:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration Saturday clarified that reports of a likely addition of over 25 lakh voters after the summary revision of electoral rolls is "misrepresentation of facts by vested interests".

The clarification was issued through an advertisement in local dailies after facing political backlash, including from parties perceived close to the government. National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah has called an all-party meeting over the issue Monday.

Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Hirdesh Kumar recently said the Union territory was likely to get around 25 lakh additional voters, including outsiders, following the special summary revision of electoral rolls

electoral rolls is undertaken by the Election Commission from time to time according to the laid down process.

There is no change in the special provisions for Kashmiri migrants for their enrolment in the electoral rolls of their native constituencies and the summary revision will cover existing residents of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

The administration said there have been media reports claiming over 25 lakh voters will be added to the electoral rolls once the revision process starts.

"This is a misrepresentation of facts spread by vested interests. This revision of electoral rolls will cover existing residents of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the increase in numbers will be of voters who have attained the age of 18 years as of October 1, 2022, or earlier," it said.

Mainstream political parties have alleged that "inclusion of non-locals was a clear-cut ploy to disenfranchise the people of Jammu and Kashmir." PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti had said the move to allow outsiders residing ordinarily in Jammu and Kashmir for jobs, education or business to register as voters was the "last nail in the coffin of democracy here."

Saturday, National Conference general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar said the "inclusion of non-local voters" in Jammu and Kashmir's electoral rolls was "unacceptable" and a "ploy to disempower the people."

being held for the first time after Article 370 abrogation.

"We are expecting massive changes in the voter list given that a large number of youngsters have attained the age of 18 over the past three years. After Article 370 abrogation, many people who were not enlisted as voters in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir are now eligible to vote. Also, anyone who is living ordinarily can avail the opportunity to get enlisted as a voter in J&K under the provisions of The Representation of the People Act," Kumar told reporters in Jammu August 17.

He said the projected 18-plus population in Jammu and Kashmir is around 98 lakh while the number of enlisted voters is 76 lakh.

The advertisement published in local dailies by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, stated the summary revision of

## Journalists 'prevented' from meeting Mirwaiz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Srinagar, August 20:** The police here Saturday prevented a team of journalists from meeting Mirwaiz Umar Farooq who has not been allowed to leave his residence since August 4, 2019, his Awami Action Committee said, and dismissed Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's statement the separatist leader was not under house arrest.

The Awami Action Committee said the team of journalists included a BBC reporter who had interviewed the lieutenant governor, and they tried to enter the residence of the Hurriyat leader for an interaction.

"But they were absolutely not allowed by the police and forces present at the gate, which is extremely unfortunate and against democratic values," the AAC said in a statement. It said the BBC reporter and several members of electronic and print media had come to Mirwaiz Manzil Nigean to directly contact/interview the Mirwaiz. There was no official word on the allegations from the police or the administration so far. Sinha, while speaking to the BBC, had said the Mirwaiz was not under house arrest and was a free man.

The Awami Action Committee, however, said Saturday that just a day after the interview was broadcast the team of journalists was stopped from meeting the Mirwaiz.

## Why TRF has become 'invisible enemy' for J&K security forces

**MOST SENIOR OFFICERS OF SECURITY FORCES AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARGUE THAT THE RESISTANCE FRONT IS PART REAL AND PART VIRTUAL**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



**New Delhi, August 20:** The Resistance Front (TRF) has, for the last three years, become the invisible enemy that issues threats to security men, political activists, alleged police informers and the so-called 'collaborators of the Indian state in Kashmir'.

Recently, the police said a TRF terrorist, Aadil Ahmad Wani, had carried out the brutal assassination of a local Kashmiri Pandit, Sunil Kumar in his ancestral village, Chotigam of Shopian district. The kin of Aadil were arrested while his house was attached by the police. In a video clip on social media, Aadil Ahmad Wani denied involvement in Sunil Kumar's assassination saying that he does not belong to the TRF, but is an active militant of the Hizbul Mujahideen.

Police said it has irrefutable proof that Aadil Ahmad Wani had killed Sunil Kumar and yet in his attempt to claim innocence, Aadil had stated a half truth.

He did not belong to the TRF because the TRF to claim responsibilities for terrorist acts, one does not necessarily have to belong to the TRF.

"The invisible enemy that the TRF has become owes itself primarily to the fact that this outfit has

been created to own responsibilities for terrorist activities across the board. Any terror outfit that carries out a terrorist act gets shad-owed from the eyes of the security forces under the fact that its activities get owned by the TRF," said a senior intelligence officer, adding that this does not mean that the TRF is just a paper group. "The huge presence claimed by the TRF is a psychological ploy to provide cover to the active terrorists of other outfits for their operations on ground."

"Say for example, the murder carried out by Aadil Ahmad Wani was owned by the TRF while Aadil said he belonged to the Hizbul. If the bluff had paid, we would be looking for Sunil Kumar's killers in areas other than Shopian where the TRF has very little presence on ground," the officer said.

"A local militant, who had taken shelter in the media for some time, was very closely coordinating the activities of the TRF and was identifying targets for the terrorists. When his cover was blown off, he flew to Pakistan via Turkey. We have people like him on our radar in Srinagar and elsewhere, who are picked up the moment they stick

their neck out," said another intelligence officer.

The main activity of the TRF, according to intelligence sources, is to identify youth without any past record of association with any militant group.

"These youth are lured sometimes through radical indoctrination and sometimes for monetary benefits. They are given a weapon, mostly a pistol, tasked to carry out target killings and then asked to throw away their weapon so that they can melt back into the crowd," said the officer.

The major problem posed by the TRF for the security forces is, therefore, in the form of an invisible enemy that is there to provide cover to terrorists of other groups by owning responsibilities for the terrorists' acts and secondly, for luring youth with no record of violence to carry out target killings. So, is the TRF a multi-headed dragon whose heads are mostly a camouflage for other groups?

Most senior officers of the security forces and the intelligence agencies argue that the TRF is part real and part virtual which makes it the invisible enemy.

## Free rations BJP's biggest vote getter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, August 20:** They may be each other's bitter opponents in politics but the BJP and the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh are in complete agreement when it comes to doling out freebies to voters for electoral gains.

For the Yogi Adityanath government, the distribution of free ration to poor families has been the biggest factor that ensured the victory of the BJP in the 2022 assembly elections.

Five kilograms of ration, packed in plastic bags with photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath printed on them, proved to be a major vote earner for the party.

Besides, free gas connections under the Ujjwala scheme, free toilets, free houses and promises of free bus rides for women above 60 years and two-wheeler for meritorious college girls under the Rani Laxmi Bai Yojana, proved to be a game changer for the BJP that returned to power with a whopping majority.

The freebies announced by the BJP benefitted the voters' groups more than they contributed to the development of the state.



The politics of freebies in Uttar Pradesh was initiated by the Samajwadi Party government in 2012 and, that too, had little to do with development.

Akhilesh Yadav, when he became chief minister in 2012, decided in his first cabinet meeting that the government would provide unemployment allowance of Rs 1,000 per month to unemployed youth registered with the employment exchange and above 35 years of age. The move was clearly designed to win over young voters.

Akhilesh then announced free laptops for students who pass class 12 and tablets for those who pass class 10. The laptops were a big hit with students though the tablets never came in ample measure. The

cost of the laptop scheme was estimated to be around Rs 3,000 crore per year.

The Akhilesh government also announced financial assistance of Rs 30,000 for Muslim girls passing class 10. This would enable them to go for further education or marriage. The scheme would cost Rs 300 crores and the beneficiaries were about one lakh.

SP spokesman Anurag Bhadauria said, "Maximum development took place during the Akhilesh Yadav regime. Apart from laptops and scholarships that helped the young generation build a future for themselves, the Akhilesh government also built roads, expressways, metro services, stadiums and parks. It was during the SP regime that premier medical in-

stitutions came to UP. If this is not development, then what is it?"

The freebie culture in UP gained ground in the 2022 assembly elections when the SP promised 33 per cent government jobs for women and 300 units of free electricity for domestic use.

The BJP, meanwhile, tried to outdo the Samajwadi Party when it came to promising freebies in the 2022 assembly polls.

"The freebie culture in politics has gained roots and the dividing line between doles and development is blurring. What is a freebie for one, is termed as 'empowerment' by the other. What is worrying is the fact that this will derail the economy, sooner than later, because huge sums are being spent in appeasing various voter groups," said a professor in the Economics department of Lucknow University

BJP spokesman OP Singh said, "The Yogi Adityanath government has been working on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and with an eye on the last man in the line. If we have schemes that are benefitting the poor. There is also a focus on building infrastructure and generating employment. We do not have a short-sighted approach on this issue."



Residents wade through the waterlogged Daraganj area as the water level of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers continues to remain high in the ongoing monsoon season, in Prayagraj, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

## UP'S NEW JAIL MANUAL

### Married women inmates can wear 'mangalsutra'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, August 20:** Married women prisoners will soon be able to wear a 'mangalsutra' and observe festivals like Karva Chauth and Teej in Uttar Pradesh jails, according to provisions of the new jail manual, which will replace the colonial-era rules in the state.

The state Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Jail Manual earlier this week, doing away with redundant and impractical provisions of the 1941 rule book.

The new jail manual has adopted a more humane and sensitive approach towards jail inmates, especially women, said state minister Dharamveer Prajapati.

The new jail manual allows married women inmates to wear their 'mangalsutra' (sacred thread signifying their marital status). Earlier, they were allowed to wear only bangles, anklet and nose pins of reasonable rates.



Sanitary napkins, coconut oil and shampoo are also on the list of items that will be provided to them.

Children born to imprisoned women will be registered at birth and receive all mandated vaccinations. Their naming ceremony may also be observed.

"I had gone to a jail recently where a child was born. The same day the naming ceremony was performed. The jail superintendent

arranged for a Panditji and the ceremony," Prajapati said.

In addition, education of the children living with their mothers in barracks will also be taken care of and a teacher will be provided in every jail.

To save such children from being exposed to the continuous talks in the barracks about the crime committed by their mothers, children's parks are also being set up, the

minister said.

Expectant and nursing mothers will receive all care and extra nutritious diet besides medical facilities, the minister said.

Creches and nurseries for children living with their mothers besides proper arrangement for sports, their education and entertainment find a place in the new jail manual.

Normal diet will include chutneys on all days, "kadhi-chawal" once a month, tea-biscuit every evening while bakeries will also be set up in jails.

The new manual has a provision for "sewayin" (vermicelli) on Eid and Bakrid. Holi, Diwali and all national festivals will be celebrated with "kheer" (rice pudding) on the menu.

During the fasting, Muslim inmates will be given dates, the minister said, adding similar arrangement will be made for Hindu inmates.

Besides neem twigs that are cur-

rently provided for brushing teeth, prisoners will get tooth powder.

Any prisoner who wants to use a toothbrush and paste shall be free to buy it from the jail canteen. Audio-visual media for education and entertainment purposes will be made available.

All visitors will be photographed and videographed, and upon the death of a loved one, inmates will have the opportunity to go to the jail gate and offer their condolences.

Meetings with blood relatives and spouses lodged in the jail will be permitted once a week and if the said relatives are in separate jails, telephone calls will be allowed.

Another important change is that undertrial prisoners will no longer be handcuffed or chained or kept in solitary confinement.

The state has 75 jails with a capacity to accommodate 62,000 prisoners. However, there are currently 1.18 lakh inmates in the jails.

## FARMERS' STIR ENDS IN LAKHIMPUR KHERI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lakhimpur Kheri, August 20:** A farmers' agitation seeking the removal of Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra and a law guaranteeing Minimum Support Price among other demands was called off Saturday after top district officials met the protesters, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait said.

Addressing the farmers, he said Samyukta Kisan Morcha's (SKM) future strategy will be chalked out during a meeting in Delhi September 6.

District Magistrate Mahendra Bahadur Singh and others arrived at Rajapur Mandi Samiti in Lakhimpur city, the dharna site, around 2.30 pm and received memoranda by the farmers.

The officials assured the farmers that a meeting at the government level will be arranged in the first week of September, before Tikait and other farmer leaders



ended the stir which ran for 75 hours.

The leaders said their agitation started with the arrival of farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and different parts of Uttar Pradesh from Wednesday night.

Lakhimpur Kheri is represented in Lok Sabha by Mishra, the Union Minister of State for Home.

His son Ashish Mishra is accused in the violence that took place October 3 last year in which four farmers and a journalist were among the eight people killed.



## of the day quote

The raids are an attempt to intimidate and threaten the opposition. Manish Sisodia is the deputy chief minister of Delhi, and the central agencies are trying to harass him on the orders of their political masters. The BJP is doing the same thing in all the opposition-ruled states

SAUGATA ROY | TMC LEADER

The state's next budget will be dedicated to the youth and students while over one crore women will be given smartphones

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

I spoke to Siddaramanna (Siddaramaiah) after seeing some media reports on threats to his life. I have given him assurance that we have taken them very seriously and get them thoroughly investigated

BSAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Four juveniles held in Delhi

**New Delhi:** Four juveniles who stabbed a shopkeeper to death in the national capital's Bhajanpura area to earn fame in crime world, have been arrested, police said Saturday. Sanjay Kumar Sain, the DCP of North East Delhi, said that the accused used to terrorise locals of the area and they killed the shopkeeper to take revenge against the victim who had insulted them over a soiled Rs 500 note. According to information, the police got a PCR call at around 9 p.m. on Thursday that a man was found stabbed to death in Subahsh Mohalla. Immediately a police team reached the spot and found that the deceased who was later on identified as Shahnawaz (38) lying dead in pool of blood with multiple stab injuries in his grocery shop.

### Biggest visa racket busted

**New Delhi:** Four persons, who were running the biggest international fake passport and visa rackets, have been arrested by the IGI airport police. The DCP of IGI airport, Tanu Sharma, said that 325 fake passports, 175 fake visas and other related things were recovered from them. "The mastermind of the gang is Zakir Yusuf Shaikh. IGI unit got tip-off about the gang following which it was busted," said the police official. Earlier, a case of PP Act was registered at Police Station of IGI Airport in which passenger Ravi Rameshbhai Chaudhary, a resident of Gandhinagar, Gujarat was deported from Kuwait on the allegations of fake and fabricated passport.

### Five arrested for attacking man

**Thane:** Five persons have been arrested for allegedly attacking a 39-year-old man after he refused to contribute money for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturti celebrations in Bhiwandi of Maharashtra's Thane district, police said Saturday. The incident took place in Gopal Nagar area of the town on Friday afternoon, inspector Kiran Kabadi of Shanti Nagar police said.

### Thief beaten up

**New Delhi:** A thief who was caught stealing a water motor from a house in North Delhi's Wazirabad area was beaten up and his head was shaved by an angry mob, police said. The police said that they swung into action on Friday night after receiving a video of the incident which had gone viral on social media.



People of the country should introspect, where they lacked in creating the India of the dreams of those people who laid their lives for its freedom. The world is looking at India with expectations that we need to fulfill

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

## 67 TURTLES RESCUED

The Railway Protection Force Saturday rescued 67 live turtles from a coach of Ajmer-Kishanganj Garib Nawaz Express at Kishanganj station



# Varavara confined to Mumbai

**THE BAIL CONDITIONS MANDATE RAO TO RESIDE WITHIN THE AREA OF GREATER MUMBAI AND NOT LEAVE THE CITY WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE NIA COURT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 20:** A special court here has directed poet-activist P Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case who was recently granted bail on medical ground by the Supreme Court, to reside in Mumbai and not to leave the city without its permission.

It also restricted Rao from having a "gathering of visitors" at his residence in Mumbai, and asked him not to indulge in any "criminal activities, similar to the case against him or otherwise" and not to contact any co-accused in the case or any other person involved in similar activities.

The apex court had granted bail to Rao on August 10. His bail conditions were set by the special court hearing cases related to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) recently, the details of which were made available on Saturday. The bail conditions mandate Rao to reside within the area of greater Mumbai and not leave the city without prior permission of the NIA court.

He shall furnish the detailed address of his residence in greater Mumbai and his contact number,



along with the numbers of his three close relatives and persons residing with him, the court said.

It directed the accused not to make any statement to media - be it print, electronic and social - regarding to the case. He shall not commit any other offence either of similar or any other nature and not indulge in any activity regarding which present crime is registered against him, the court said.

Further, Rao has been directed not to contact or communicate with the co-accused or any other person involved in similar activities. He shall not make any call either domestic or international to any person indulging in similar activities through any mode of communication, Rao's bail condition reads.

The accused has been asked not to tamper the prosecution witnesses, either personally or through any other person.

He shall not abscond or try to flee away from justice. There shall not be any gathering of visitors where

The apex court had granted bail to Rao August 10. His bail conditions were set by the special court hearing cases related to the National Investigation Agency recently, the details of which were made available Saturday

The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches made at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city

applicant shall reside at greater Mumbai, the court said.

The court has asked the accused to furnish a fresh bond of Rs 50,000 with two solvent sureties in the like amount.

The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches made at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city.

The Pune Police had also claimed the conclave was organised by people with alleged Maoist links. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) later took over the probe in the matter.

Rao was arrested on August 28, 2018 from his Hyderabad residence and is an under-trial in the case. An FIR was lodged by the Pune Police on January 8, 2018 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

## Anubrata's CBI custody extended

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, August 20:** A special court of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at Asansol in West Bengal Saturday extended Trinamool Congress strongman Anubrata Mondal's CBI custody till August 24 in connection with the multi-crore cattle smuggling scam in West Bengal.

Mondal's counsel, who moved the bail plea on medical grounds, argued that despite having him in custody for 10 days, the CBI sleuths could not produce any substantial proof regarding Mondal's involvement in the cattle smuggling scam.

However, the CBI counsels vehemently opposed the bail plea and argued that if Mondal, being a highly influential person, is granted bail, there is every possibility that he might attempt to tamper with evidence or influence the witnesses. The CBI counsel also handed over to the court in a sealed envelope a list of names of people who were reportedly threatened or extorted by Mondal and his associates.



The CBI counsel also informed the court that during the last 10 days, when Mondal was in CBI custody, the central agency sleuths have procured some more vital clues about his involvement in the cattle smuggling scam and some more time is required for the purpose of cross-checking them.

# If 50 cases cleared, 100 more filed: Rijiju



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 20:** With the number of pending cases nearing the 5-crore mark, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday said if a judge disposes of 50 cases, 100 new litigations are filed as people are more aware now and approach courts to settle disputes.

Addressing a seminar on the functioning of the Armed Forces Tribunal in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Rijiju said the government is tapping technology to reduce pendency in courts. Responding to a question during Parliament's monsoon session, the law minister had said that over 4.83 crore cases are pending in courts across the country.

While over 4 crore cases are pending in lower courts, the Supreme Court is burdened with a pendency of over 72,000 cases. The minister said the proposed law on mediation will also help bring down the number of litiga-

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tions in courts with a renewed focus on alternate dispute resolution mechanism.

Rijiju also felt that there should be "no comparison" between pendency of cases in India and other countries as "we have a different set of problems". He said there are some countries that do not even have a population of 5 crore when the number of pending cases in India is nearing the 5-crore mark. He assured the law ministry is willing to offer any help to the Armed Forces Tribunal in quick delivery of justice.

# Tejashwi issues code of conduct for ministers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, August 20:** Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav Saturday came out with a list of directives for cabinet colleagues belonging to the RJD, in an obvious attempt at image makeover for his party.

The RJD heir apparently issued the commandments on his official Twitter handle, whereby party ministers have been forbidden from purchasing new cars and also from allowing visitors to touch feet. "Greetings should be exchanged with namaste or aadab," said Yadav, whose party is facing the heat over criminal cases pending against many ministers.

He further asked ministers to conduct themselves "with dignity and humility" and give priority to helping the poor "irrespective of their religion and caste". "Please also promote exchange of books or pens in place of bouquets," added the leader who now seems intent on projecting a more mature image of himself.

In an apparent bid to restrain RJD members from gloating over their party being the largest partner, he used the term "under the leadership of honourable chief minister" twice while instructing ministers to encourage probity, transparency and quick action and make use of social media to apprise the people of the government's initiatives.

The BJP, which has been in a sulk over sudden loss of power after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar quit NDA alleging attempts at splitting his JD(U), reacted with sarcasm. "The script is well written. But who is going to read and understand... Nonetheless, in the interests of Bihar we appeal to the ministers to heed the advice of Tejashwi bhai," state BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand said in a statement.

## POURING WOES



Commuters waded through a waterlogged street following heavy monsoon rains, at Chaibasa in West Singhbhum district

PTI PHOTO

# Kerala women drive tractors to boost farming, self-confidence

The objective of the programme, being implemented under the aegis of block panchayats, is to ensure and enhance the participation of women in the agriculture sector and to create more employment opportunities by giving training to them in mechanised farming techniques

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, August 20:** When Aniyamma John, 55, was asked to change the front gear of the tractor after holding its steering wheel properly by the trainer, a disturbing memory of a car driving class session two decades ago flashed through her mind. After that unexpected incident,



in which she had tried to shift the gear of the car without pressing down the clutch causing the jerking of the vehicle somehow, the frightened woman not only shelved her driving dreams forever but also stopped travelling in cars or even pillion-riding a motorbike. But after 22 long years, this

farmer-homemaker drove a vehicle for the first time, that too a heavy tractor, earlier this week with all confidence in a village in this Kerala district. John was one among the several women in the southern state who are learning the basic lessons of tractor driving, which has so far been considered

as a male bastion, as part of the Centre's ambitious Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) programme.

The objective of the programme, being implemented under the aegis of block panchayats, is to ensure and enhance the participation of women in the agriculture sector and

to create more employment opportunities by giving training to them in mechanised farming techniques, authorities said.

Moving the tractor through the sprawling six acre land, Aniyamma, fondly called as 'Mini Chechi' by her near ones, said she had never ever imagined she would drive the high-power vehicle one day by herself and her happiness and self-confidence knew no bounds now.

"I had solely been depending on auto-rickshaws to meet my personal and family needs all these years as I am not comfortable travelling in other motor vehicles. It was such a surprise even for myself that I am driving a tractor now," John said.

She, along with nine other household women, are learning tractor driving under the guidance of two experts as the panchayat authorities in Mulanthuruthy village launched an eight-day-long training session on Tuesday.

Soumya, a 35-year-old farmer hailing from the village said, she just became ecstatic after sitting in

the driving seat of the tractor and have a different view of the world around her for the first time.

"I felt that I conquered this world. That was the happiness and excitement. I am taking very seriously now, learning to drive tractor. After the training session, I am planning to apply for license. I have decided to learn car driving also soon," she said.

An expert in fungi culture and a trained apiculturist, Soumya said they have plans to productively use their tractor driving skills in the coming days by cultivating different crops in unused lands in the village after taking it on lease.

She said the state-run Krishi Bhavan here has already agreed to provide the trained women group with a tractor if they go ahead with the plan.

"There are several acres of paddy fields under our Krishi Bhavan. The lack of trained persons in operating tractors is a major issue there. As we have received training in that, that issue is resolved now," the woman farmer said.

# international



The war that Russia started against Ukraine is a war that also has consequences for Russia. Freedom and democracy were already endangered before. But now, freedom of expression is much more endangered  
**OLAF SCHOLZ** | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

## IN SOLIDARITY WITH RUSHDIE

A week after author Salman Rushdie was stabbed onstage at a literary event, writers and friends of the Mumbai-born author gathered at the New York Public Library and read from his works, expressing their solidarity with him and his "relentless" advocacy for free expression



## of the day quote

Getting more food and fertiliser out of Ukraine and Russia is crucial to further calm commodity markets and lower prices for consumers



**ANTONIO GUTERRES** | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

After the legal processes against her according to the law are finished we are going to consider (negotiations) based on her (Aung San Suu Kyi) response



**MIN AUNG HLAING** | MILITARY CHIEF, MYANMAR

The United States is stepping up to buy about 150,000 metric tons of grain from Ukraine in the next few weeks for an upcoming shipment of food aid from ports no longer blockaded by war



**DAVID BEASLEY** | CHIEF, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

## SHORT TAKES

### No-trust vote ousts Montenegro's govt

**Podgorica:** Montenegro's Parliament toppled the government of Prime Minister Dritan Abazovic, worsening a political crisis in the NATO country. A motion of no confidence against Abazovic's government, pushed by the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) of President Milo Djukanovic, went through as 50 of 81 lawmakers voted in favour on Friday night, reports dpa news agency. For the time being, Abazovic is likely to continue to govern on an interim basis until a decision is made about his successor.

### Gunmen claim 20 in Somalia hotel

**Mogadishu:** Islamic militants have stormed a hotel in Somalia's capital, engaging in an hours-long exchange of fire with the security forces that left at least 20 people dead, according to police. In addition, at least 40 people were wounded in the late Friday night attack and security forces rescued many others, including children, from the scene at popular Hayat Hotel, they said. The attack started with explosions outside the hotel before the gunmen entered the building. The Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, which has ties with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack.

### Indonesia logs 1st monkeypox case

**Jakarta:** Indonesia has recorded its first case of monkeypox in a 27-year-old man who returned from travelling overseas, the country's health ministry said Saturday. The World Health Organization designated the outbreak of the virus an emergency last month -- something it reserves for diseases of highest concern. Indonesian health ministry spokesperson Mohammad Syahril said the patient had a "high awareness and knowledge of the disease".

### IS 'Beate' gets lifer

**Alexandria:** El Shafie Elsheikh, who was formally sentenced to life in prison for a leading role in the beheading deaths of American hostages, had a somewhat whimsical nickname as a so-called "Beate" that belied the viciousness of his conduct. In fact, he is the most notorious and highest-ranking member of the Islamic State (IS) group to ever be convicted in a US court, prosecutors said at his sentencing hearing in US District Court in Alexandria Friday.

## COLONIAL LOOT

# UK returns stolen Indian artefacts

Six of the items were stolen from India in the 1800s, and a seventh was illegally purchased after being stolen from its original owners

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Glasgow, August 20:** Glasgow held a ceremony Friday to officially repatriate seven Indian cultural artefacts looted during British colonial rule, calling it a first for a UK museum service.

Dignitaries from the High Commission of India joined members of Glasgow Life, the charity that manages the Scottish city's museum collections, at the transfer of



ownership ceremony, following more than 18 months of talks.

All seven objects were looted from sacred places such as temples and shrines and given as gifts to the Scottish city's museum collections.

"Glasgow has led repatriation efforts in the UK since 1998," said Duncan Dornan, Head of Museums and Collections at Glasgow Life. "We look forward to continuing our work with the Indian authorities to deliver the safe return of

these artefacts."

In all, Glasgow is set to return 51 items to the descendants of their rightful owners from India and Nigeria as well as the Cheyenne River and Oglala Sioux tribes in the US state of South Dakota.

In March, Glasgow City Council apologised for the city's role in the Atlantic slave trade, after a study into streets, buildings and individuals linked to the practice.

Glasgow's repatriation commitment is part of a wider reassessment of the provenance of items in Western museums, in the wake of global anti-racism movements.

Earlier this year, two British universities returned two Benin bronzes looted by British colonialists in the 19th century to Nigeria.

## AFTER 12 YEARS

# EU fiscal oversight of Greece ends

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Athens, August 20:** Greece Saturday concluded 12 years of European Union fiscal surveillance that was imposed in return for bailouts after a crushing debt crisis.

In November 2009, Athens revealed a sharp rise in its public deficit that eventually led to a financial crisis across the eurozone and had a negative impact on Greek finances for a decade.

In exchange for bailout cash of 289 billion euros and to stop Greece from crashing out of the eurozone, a "troika", made up of the International Monetary Fund, EU and the European Central Bank, demanded across-the-board reforms from Athens.

These included deep state spending and salary cuts, tax hikes, privatisations and other sweeping reforms aimed at righting public finances. The economy contracted by more than a quarter, unemployment spiked to almost 28 percent and skilled professionals emigrated in droves.

"A cycle of 12 years which brought pain to citizens, led to economic stagnation and divided society," he ended, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said.

"A new horizon filled with growth, unity and prosperity emerges for all," he said. "The Greece of today is a different Greece. "We have recorded strong growth and a significant slide in unemployment of three percent since last year and 5 percent since 2019," he added.

## FAR FROM UKRAINE WAR FRONT

# Fresh drone attacks by Ukraine in Crimea

REUTERS

**Kyiv, August 20:** Russia reported fresh Ukrainian drone attacks Friday evening, a day after explosions erupted near military bases in Russian-held areas of Ukraine and Russia itself, apparent displays of Kyiv's growing ability to pummel Moscow's assets far from front lines.

The latest incidents followed huge blasts last week at an air base in Russian-annexed Crimea. In a new assessment, a Western official said that incident had rendered half of Russia's Black Sea naval aviation force useless in a stroke.

Russia's RIA and Tass news agencies, citing a local official in Crimea, said it appeared Russian anti-aircraft forces had been in action near the western Crimean port of Yevpatoriya Friday night. Video posted by a Russian website showed what appeared to be a ground-to-air missile hitting a target.

The night before, multiple explosions had been reported in Crimea - which Moscow seized in 2014 - including near Sevastopol, headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, as well as at Kerch near a huge bridge to Russia.

Kyiv has been withholding official comment on incidents in Crimea or inside Russia while hinting that it is behind them using



## New \$775mn US arms package for Ukraine

**Washington:** The US Defense Department Friday announced a new \$775 million package of defense equipment and ammunition for Ukraine, including various types of missiles, artillery and mine-clearing systems. The package includes more precision-guided missiles for the Himsars systems that have permitted Ukrainian forces to strike Russian command centers and munitions depots far behind the front lines, and more anti-armor weapons including TOW missiles and Javelin systems.

long-range weapons or sabotage. A Western official indicated Friday that at least some of the incidents were Ukrainian attacks, saying Kyiv was consistently achieving "kinetic effects" deep behind Russia's lines.

## Half of Russia's Black Sea aviation wiped out

Western official

Kyiv has been withholding official comment on incidents in Crimea

Ukraine fears Russia will decouple nuclear plant from grid

## CONCERN ABOUT N-PLANT

Ukraine also issued dire warnings about a frontline nuclear power station, the Zaporizhzhia complex, where it said it believed Moscow was planning a "large-scale provocation" as justification to decouple the plant from the Ukrainian power grid and connect it to Russia's.

Continuing the mutual blame game, President Vladimir Putin accused Ukraine of shelling the complex, risking a nuclear catastrophe. Ukraine's nuclear power operator said Friday it suspected Moscow was planning to switch over the Zaporizhzhia plant to Russia's power grid, a complex operation Kyiv says could cause a disaster.

Moscow has rejected international calls to demilitarise the plant and Putin Friday renewed his accusation that Kyiv was shelling it in a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron, according to the Kremlin's readout.

# 'RISHI HAS WHAT THE JOB REQUIRES'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, August 20:** A senior Conservative Party MP and former minister Saturday issued a ringing endorsement of Rishi Sunak to succeed Boris Johnson as the Tory leader and the British Prime Minister, saying the former Chancellor has what the top job requires.

Michael Gove, who was dramatically sacked as Levelling Up Secretary by Johnson after he called for him to quit amid a mounting Cabinet rebellion against the outgoing Prime Minister last month, branded current frontrunner Foreign Secretary Liz Truss' tax-cutting plans to tackle the cost-of-living crisis facing the country as a "holiday from reality".

He said Sunak was the one in the



leadership contest who was making the right arguments and telling the voters the truth. "I know what the job requires. And Rishi has it," writes Gove in "The Times" newspaper. "Even more important is what a future government will adopt as its central economic plan. And here I am deeply concerned that the framing of the leadership debate by many has been a holiday from reality. The answer to the cost-of-living cannot be simply to reject further 'handouts' and cut tax," said the veteran Tory politician.

## SHOW OF STRENGTH



A Maritime Partnership Exercise of INS Sumedha with HMAS Anzac of Royal Australian Navy in progress, in Perth, Australia

# Finland asks: Can a Prime Minister party like a rockstar?

The PM's leaked footage has triggered a debate among Finns about what level of reveling is inappropriate for a PM, especially considering neighboring Russia's attack on Ukraine, which prompted long-neutral Finland and Sweden to apply for NATO membership

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Helsinki, August 20:** In a leaked video, Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin is seen dancing and singing with friends at a private party. The 36-year-old leader poses for the camera. She sits on her knees, hands behind her head. She's entangled in a group hug. She's having a good time.

Marin, who leads the center-left Social Democratic Party, has faced a barrage of questions about the party: Were there drugs? Alcohol? Was she working or on summer vacation? Was the prime minister sober enough to handle an emergency had one arisen?

The video, clearly shot by someone at the party, was leaked on social media and caught the attention

of Finnish media this week. Marin said she attended the party in recent weeks, but refused to say exactly where and when.

She also acknowledged that she and her friends celebrated in a "boisterous way" and that alcohol - but, to her knowledge, no drugs - was involved. She said Friday that she took a drug test to put an end to speculation about illegal substances.

The prime minister, who is married and has a 4-year-old daughter, has often insisted that even though she's the head of Finland's government, she's just like anyone else her age who likes a good time with friends and family in their leisure time.

In Helsinki Friday afternoon, opinions were split.



Josua Fagerholm, who works in marketing, said the episode was potentially damaging to Finland's reputation and to the public's confidence in Finnish politicians.

"I think it's important for our politicians to be respectable and enjoy the trust of the public. So I don't think it's a good look," he said.

I hope that in the year 2022 it's accepted that even decision-makers dance, sing and go to parties. I didn't wish for any images to be spread, but it's up to the voters to decide what they think about it

SANNA MARIN | PM, FINLAND

Mintuu Kylliainen, a student in Helsinki, disagreed. She said everyone was entitled to their opinion, but she felt the leaked video was getting too much attention. "It's normal to, like, party," Kylliainen said. "She should have fun, too, in her life."

Some supporters say the criticism against the prime minister smacks of sexism.

Marin became Finland's youngest prime minister in 2019 at age 34. Even in the egalitarian Nordic country, Marin felt her gender and age sometimes received too much emphasis. She told Vogue magazine in 2020 that "in every position I've ever been in, my gender has always been the starting point - that I am a young woman."

It's not the first time Marin's partying has made headlines. In December, she made a public apology after going out clubbing until 4 am despite a text message advising her to avoid social activities due to contact with someone infected with Covid-19. Marin said she didn't see the message because she had left her phone at home. She later tested negative for the coronavirus.

## of the day quote

Share price movement is not influenced by us. There are several factors. Company's profitability plays a very important factor in it. Macro, micro, international investors and several other sentiments play a role in share prices

**VIJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA** | MD & CEO, PAYTM

Rents for warehouses in India witnessed a substantial growth signifying resiliency despite supply chain disruptions globally and a slow-down in demand from e-commerce players

**SHISHIR BAJAJ** | CMD, KNIGHT FRANK

A lot of investment is coming, what we believe is for next 5 years and 10 years. India is among the top four markets, where Lixil is investing. We hope to achieve a thousand crore over the next three years

**BOBBY JOSEPH** | INDIA & SUBCONTINENT LEADER, LIXIL WATER TECHNOLOGY

## SHORT TAKES

### EPFO adds 18.36L net subscribers

**New Delhi:** Retirement fund body EPFO added 18.36 lakh new subscribers in June 2022, registering 43 per cent rise as compared to the year-ago period, according to an official data. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had added 12.83 lakh net new subscribers in June 2021, the data showed. The provisional payroll data of EPFO released on Saturday highlights that the organisation added 18.36 lakh net members in June 2022, a labour ministry statement said. In June this year, the net member addition increased by 9.21 per cent as compared to May 2022.

### Mineral production in June up 7.5% YoY

**New Delhi:** The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for June 2022 stood at 113.4, which was 7.5 per cent higher than the level recorded in corresponding period of last year, i.e. June 2021. According to figures released by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), coal's production level stood at 669 lakh tonne in June 2022, while lignite's production was 46 lakh tonne. Natural gas (utilised) production stood at 2,747 million cubic metres, petroleum (crude) production was at 24 lakh tonne, while limestone's output stood at 335 lakh tonne.

### Hit by downturn, Xiaomi sacks 900

**Hong Kong:** Chinese smartphone giant Xiaomi has slashed more than 900 jobs amid the ongoing economic meltdown as its revenues dropped nearly 20 per cent in the June quarter (Q2), the media reported Saturday. According to the South China Morning Post, the layoffs affected nearly 3 per cent of Xiaomi's workforce. As of June 30, 2022, the company had 32,869 full-time employees, 30,110 of whom were based in mainland China, primarily at its headquarters in Beijing, with the rest primarily based in India and Indonesia.

### Air India launches additional flights

**New Delhi:** Aiming to boost connectivity between key metro cities, Air India will start 24 additional domestic flights from Saturday onwards. Most of these flights will be deployed on the routes of metro cities including Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, among others. While Air India will add two new frequencies from Delhi to Mumbai, Bangalore and Ahmedabad, and from Mumbai to Chennai and Hyderabad.



**We are entering a high-tech and high-touch world. As the application of technology is growing in life and industry, the value of human creativity is growing even more exponentially. I would argue that the value of human touch and empathy is directly proportional to the growth of technology**

**KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA** | CHAIRMAN, ADITYA BIRLA GROUP

## US AGENCY HITS 5 CRYPTO FIRMS

The US Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has issued cease-and-desist letters to five crypto firms, including leading cryptocurrency exchange FTX, over "false and misleading statements". Apart from FTX, Cryptonews.com, Cryptosec.info, SmartAsset.com, and FDICCrypto.com also received the warning, with the agency giving them 15 days to remove such claims from their websites



# Growth-inflation-external balance looks good: FinMin

Despite global headwinds, the IMF forecasts India's economy to grow at a robust rate of 7.4% in 2022-23, the highest among major economies. The RBI has projected a growth rate of 7.2% for the current fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 20:** India is better placed on the growth-inflation-external balance triangle for 2022-23 than it was two months ago, on the back of government policy response and the Reserve Bank's monetary policy actions, the finance ministry's monthly economic review said.

On the price situation, the review said in absence of any further shocks, the downward movement of global commodity prices along with the RBI's monetary measures and the government's fiscal policies are expected to cap inflationary pressures in the coming months.

Softening of inflationary pressures in India is further on the anvil as the prices of important raw materials such as iron ore, copper and tin that feed into the domestic manufacturing process, globally trended downwards in July 2022, it noted.

The buoyant performance of some high frequency indicators during the first four months of 2022-23 is consistent with IMF's forecast that India's economy to grow at a robust rate of 7.4% in 2022-23.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and eight core industries points towards strengthening of industrial activity, while PMI Manufacturing touched an 8-month high in July with marked gains in growth of new business and output, it said.



On the external front, it said, post the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, an increase in uncertainty among investors has led to capital outflows, not just from India alone but from the group of emerging market economies (EMEs) as a whole.

Thus, apart from India, the currencies of several EMEs also depreciated against the US dollar. Between January and July of 2022, foreign portfolio investors pulled out \$48.0 billion from EMEs, it said.

The report added that global investor confidence in India's economic landscape is further endorsed by net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows remaining robust at \$13.6 billion in Q1 of 2022-23, as compared to \$11.6 billion during the corresponding period of

the last year.

India's growth outlook for 2022-23, though lower than projections made before the outbreak of the conflict in Europe which resulted in sharply higher price for crude oil and other essential commodities, is still comfortably high and confirms the recovery of animal spirits and economic growth from the pandemic-induced contraction in 2021-22, it said.

Observing that private sector and banking sector balance sheets are healthy and there is appetite to borrow and to lend respectively, the report said barring further adverse shocks to commodity prices and thus India's terms of trade, economic growth will consolidate and retain its momentum into 2023-24.

## AFTER SIX MONTHS

### FPIs TURN NET BUYERS IN DEBT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, August 20:** Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) turned net buyers of debt so far in August nearly after six months due to cooling of oil prices, easing of inflationary pressure, manageable deficits to buoyant tax collections.

According to the depository data, foreign investors have so far bought debt worth ₹1,673.63 crore in August as compared to net sellers of debt worth ₹2,056.33 crore in the previous month.

"It happened due to the overall market condition - signs of inflation cooling off, prospects of oil staying low due to cooling global demand and China slowdown, manageable deficits to buoyant tax collections," said Kunal Sodhani, Vice President, Global Trading Centre, Shinhan Bank.

Due to this, the yield on the benchmark bond has also eased by nearly 30-40 basis points. The 10-year benchmark 6.54%-2032 bond yield closed at 7.2639 per cent Friday.

Even after this, the inflation remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance band of 6 per cent for the seventh consecutive month. Retail inflation was at 7.01 per cent in June.

Meanwhile, to tame inflation, the RBI has hiked repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent in the latest policy meeting. With this, the central bank hiked 140 basis points in repo rate since May 2022 to control inflation. Going forward, inflows are likely to continue, said experts.

"MPC may persist with hikes till real rates are projected to be in positive territory in medium term, which may happen pretty soon. Bonds may rally some more before getting range bound," Sodhani said.

# Russia is China's top oil supplier for 3rd month in July

While many European countries are trying to wean themselves off Russian gas, China is importing an increasing amount of energy from its neighbour flouting all US sanctions



- July Russian oil imports 1.68 mn bpd, +7.6 YoY
- Saudi July supplies 1.54 mn bpd, -1.6% YoY
- YTD Russian imports 48.45MT, Saudi 49.84MT
- Malaysian volumes nearly triple
- Angola and Brazil supplies hit

REUTERS

**Washington, August 20:** Russia held its spot as China's top oil supplier for a third month in July, data showed Saturday, as independent refiners stepped up purchases of discounted supplies while cutting shipments from rival suppliers such as Angola and Brazil.

Imports of Russian oil, including supplies pumped via the East Siberia Pacific Ocean pipeline and seaborne shipments from Russia's European and Far Eastern ports, totalled 7.15 million tonne, up 7.6% from a year ago, data from the Chinese General Administration of Customs showed.

Still, Russian supplies in July, equivalent to about 1.68 million barrels per day (bpd), were below May's record of close to 2 million bpd. China is Russia's largest oil buyer. Imports from second-ranking Saudi Arabia rebounded last month from June, which was the lowest in more than three years, to 6.56 million tonne, or 1.54 million bpd, but still slightly below year-ago level.

Year-to-date imports from Russia totalled 48.45 million tonne, up 4.4% on the year, still trailing behind Saudi Arabia, which supplied

49.84 million tonne, or 1% below the year-ago level.

China's crude oil imports in July fell 9.5% from a year earlier, with daily volumes at the second lowest in four years, as refiners drew down inventories and domestic fuel demand recovered more slowly than expected.

The strong Russian purchases squeezed out competing supplies from Angola and Brazil, which fell 27% year-on-year and 58%, respectively. Customs reported no imports from Venezuela or Iran last month. State oil firms have shunned purchases since late 2019 for fear of falling foul of secondary US sanctions.

Imports from Malaysia, often used as a transfer point in the past two years for oil originating from Iran and Venezuela, soared 183% on the year, to 3.34 million tonne, and up from June's 2.65 million tonne.

## FOREX RESERVES PLUMMET

### After Lanka, Bhutan's crisis risks on the rise

REUTERS

**Kathmandu, August 20:** Bhutan will ban the import of all vehicles except utility vehicles, heavy earthmoving machines and agriculture machinery to save dwindling foreign exchange reserves, the government said in a notice seen by Reuters Friday.

Nestled between China and India, the country of fewer than 800,000 people is grappling with the effects of soaring oil and grain prices caused by the war in Ukraine as well as with the continued impact of the pandemic, including a strict zero-Covid policy that has barred foreign tourists for the past two years.

Foreign exchange reserves had



declined to \$970 million at the end of December, 2021, from \$1.46 billion in April 2021, according to data released last month by the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.

The ministry of finance said in a notification that the import of utility vehicles costing less than 1.5 million ngultrums (\$20,000) would be allowed and those for the

use and promotion of tourism would be exempted.

"The moratorium is implemented to ensure adequate foreign currency reserves for maintaining macroeconomic stability," it said. The daily Kuensel newspaper said Bhutan imported more than 8,000 vehicles in the year to June and that this was one of the main contributing factors to the depletion of reserves.

Bhutan is mandated by its constitution to maintain reserves to cover at least 12 months of imports. The government will review and amend the moratorium which went into effect on Friday in six months depending on the foreign currency reserve position, it said.

# Adani to launch open offer for ACC, Ambuja August 26

**SEBI GRANTED APPROVAL FOR THE OPEN OFFER THIS WEEK. THE OPEN OFFER IS ESTIMATED AT OVER ₹31,000CR IF FULLY SUBSCRIBED**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 20:** The Adani Group is likely to launch next week an open offer worth ₹31,000 crore to acquire 26 per cent stake each in Swiss firm Holcim's two Indian listed entities Ambuja Cements and ACC, from public shareholders.

In May this year, the Adani Group announced that it has clinched a deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim Ltd's businesses in India for \$10.5 billion (around ₹83,920 crore current value), marking the ports-to-energy conglomerate's entry into the cement sector.

In two separate regulatory filings, Ambuja Cements and ACC have submitted their letter of offers for the open offer launched by the Adani family group's Mauritius-based firm Endeavour Trade and Investment.

As per the revised schedule sub-



mitted by ICICI Securities and Deutsche Equities India - which are the managers of open offer - tendering of the shares in the open will start from August 26 as against the earlier date of July 6. This will end September 9, 2022.

In May, the Adani Group had made an open offer at ₹385 per share for Ambuja Cements and ₹2,300 per share for ACC.

For Ambuja Cements, the group had made an open offer to its public shareholders to acquire up to 51.63 crore equity shares, representing 26 per cent of the expanded share capital, aggregating to ₹19,879.57 crore.

For ACC Ltd, the group had of-

ferred to acquire up to 4.89 crore shares held by public shareholders, representing 26 per cent of the expanded share capital, aggregating to ₹11,259.97 crore.

This open offer has been triggered following the execution of the share purchase agreement between the Adani Group and Holcim to acquire controlling stake in the latter's businesses in India "for an aggregate consideration of USD equivalent to ₹50,181.04 crore".

Endeavour Trade and Investment is promoted by Acropolis Trade and Investment Ltd, which is held by certain members of the Adani family.

The Adani Group will acquire 63.1 per cent of Ambuja Cements along with related assets. Ambuja's local subsidiaries include ACC Ltd, which is also publicly traded.

Swiss building material major Holcim, through its subsidiaries, holds 63.19 per cent in Ambuja Cements and 54.53 per cent in ACC (of which 50.05 per cent is held through Ambuja Cements).

Ambuja Cements and ACC currently have a combined installed production capacity of 70 million tonne per annum. The two companies together have 23 cement plants, 14 grinding stations, 80 ready-mix concrete plants and over 50,000 channel partners across India.

## BIZ BUZZ

### UCO Bank flags off 3 Customer Service Points in Jagatsinghpur

**Bhubaneswar:** On the occasion of 76th Independence Day UCO Bank Managing Director Soma Shankar Prasad virtually inaugurated three Customer Service Points through Banking Correspondent Agent in different villages of Jagatsinghpur district under Balasore Zone of UCO Bank. These villages are Jaipore, Palasulo and Trilochanpur. Debabrata Mohanty, Deputy General Manager cum Zonal Head of UCO Bank, Balasore Zone was also present in the inauguration ceremony and congratulated the villagers for opening of service points of UCO Bank adding that they shall get benefits of the various banking facilities like account opening, cash deposits and receipts including other financial benefits like Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyotee Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Bima Yojana.



# 'THE PAYCHECK HAS DIED' Argentine workers hold funeral for their wages

WHILE MUCH OF THE WORLD IS BATTLING HIGH SINGLE-DIGIT INFLATION THIS YEAR, ARGENTINA'S STRUGGLES ARE IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY WITH THAT APPROACHING A WHOPPING 90%

REUTERS

**Buenos Aires, August 20:** Some women wore black funeral attire and sported flower crowns. Other

people in the procession in Buenos Aires carried a gigantic coffin. But this funeral procession in the Argentine capital was not honoring a person.

Instead it was to mourn the "death" of the wages of Argentine workers in a country where inflation is expected to hit 90% by the end of this year, eating up workers' purchasing power despite years of government attempts to curb price increases. "The situation for the workers is devastating. Before the middle of the month we don't have any more salary, it's not enough," Melisa Gargarelo, a representative of the Front of Organisations in Struggle (FOL), the protest's organiser, told Reuters.

One protester carried a "clinical history" for Argentine wages, a



chart showing how inflation has eaten up the value of paychecks. While much of the world is bat-

ting high single-digit inflation this year, Argentina's struggles are in a different category.

Years of political efforts to curb inflation have done little to abate price increases

In July the country registered its highest inflation rate in 20 years

The latest effort involves the appointment of a new economy minister, being dubbed as a 'superminister'

"The paycheck has died," read a banner in the symbolic procession, which toured the main streets of Argentina's capital and ended in front of the Presidential Palace. The flower crowns worn by women carried the message "RIP the minimum wage".

The country's official monthly minimum wage stands at 45,540 Argentine pesos (\$334) while a basic

food basket for a family of two adults and two children costs more than twice that amount at 111,298 pesos (\$817), according to the national statistics institute INDEC.

Years of political efforts to curb inflation have done little to abate price increases, and in July the country registered its highest inflation rate in 20 years.

The latest effort involves the appointment of a new economy minister, Sergio Massa, who has been granted expanded powers to try to tame inflation. Argentines have dubbed him a "superminister".

"Today we are holding a symbolic funeral for wages, which we have to say expresses the situation that all workers in Argentina are experiencing," said FOL's Maximiliano Maita.

# Sanju, Shardul lift India

# Rohit opens up on captaincy

Role clarity gives out-of-form players direction to work in, says Sharma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Harare, August 20:** Sanju Samson produced a responsible unbeaten 43 (39b, 3x4, 4x6) after a clinical bowling display, led by pacer Shardul Thakur (3/38), as India sailed to a five-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second ODI to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series here Saturday. It was not quite a domination like the first ODI but the paltry 162-run target meant that the KL Rahul-led side did not have to sweat much despite a mid-innings jolt. The third ODI is slated for August 22.

Opting to bowl, comeback man Thakur brilliantly set it up and became the wrecker-in-chief as the Indian bowlers once again came out on top to skittle out Zimbabwe for 161.

In the absence of Deepak Chahar who missed out after his exploits in the last ODI, Thakur made his presence felt and rocked the Zimbabwe top-order with his double blow in the 12th over.

Shikhar Dhawan (33, 21b, 4x4) and Shubman Gill (33, 34b, 6x4) then showed their same flair and authority, even as the duo batted in different positions this time. But the duo could not steer the team home this time as India endured some anxious moments in the middle following the departure of Dhawan.

Luke Jongwe (2/33) produced a double blow, dismissing Ishan Kishan (6) and a well-set Gill in successive overs, to reduce India to 97/4 at the drinks break.

But with just 65 runs needed from 36 overs, Deepak Hooda (25)



### BRIEF SCORES

**Zimbabwe 161** (Sean Williams 42, Ryan Burl 39 n o; Shardul Thakur 3/38, Deepak Hooda 1/6, Mohammed Siraj 1/16) **lost to India 167/5** (Sanju Samson 43 n o, Shikhar Dhawan 33, Shubman Gill 33; Luke Jongwe 2/33) by 5 wickets.

With nine runs to win, Hooda was yorked by Sikandar Raza but Samson remained unbeaten and wrapped it up with a six off leg-spinner Innocent Kaia in the 26th over.

Having posted a 192-run unbroken stand in their previous win, Dhawan and Gill did not open together this time with the skipper Rahul opting to go alongside the former.

In the first ODI, Rahul, who was returning to action after nearly three months following a sports hernia surgery and a bout of COVID, chose to go with Dhawan and Gill as the two openers.

But Rahul got back to his usual slot Saturday, only to get out LBW by pacer Victor Nyauchi after missing the line of the ball. This was Rahul's first International match since his 49-run outing against the West Indies in an ODI in Ahmedabad February 9.

After Rahul's brief stay, it was once again business as usual for Dhawan and Gill as the duo started from where they left in the first ODI here two days' back.

Earlier, Sean Williams (42, 42b, 3x4, 1x6) played a counter-attacking knock after his side was reduced to 31/4 in the 13th over. India brought in part-time off-spinner Hooda (1/6) to give the much-needed breakthrough in the form of Williams who went for a pre-meditated pull to be taken at the deep square leg by Dhawan.

Ryan Burl made a 47-ball 39 (3x4, 1x6) but he ran out of partners as Zimbabwe could not stage a comeback. Their last three wickets fell in just eight balls that included the run-outs of Victor Nyauchi and Tanaka Chivanga.

It would have been worse for the hosts had India were not sloppy on the field as keeper Samson missed one stumping and dropped a difficult catch against Axar Patel, while Kuldeep Yadav missed a sitter off his own bowling.

Mohammed Siraj (8-2-16-1) and Prasad Krishna (6.1-1-28-1) troubled the struggling Zimbabwe top-order after Rahul opted to field, which denied the batters some much-needed practice ahead of the Asia Cup.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 20:** India captain Rohit Sharma says providing role clarity to players offers them a direction to focus on when they are struggling with form, helping to improve their game and re-emerge stronger. Rohit feels as a captain it is his job to understand what his players need when they are going through a rough patch.

"Obviously, for me it's just to quickly adapt to certain individuals and then understand what they need, what are their strong points, where they are weak," Rohit said on Star Sports' 'Follow The Blues'.

"Try and you know give them feedback and work with them; be very specific in what the team is expecting from that individual. "That is where the individual can blossom because when we give them the clarity of what the team is expecting from you, he will be able to work towards that direction and he can work on his game in many ways and then improve his game as well."

Rohit, who has won a record five Indian Premier League (IPL) titles with the Mumbai Indians, took over as India's full-time captain across formats from Virat Kohli earlier this year.

"When you know certain players are going through tough times, we try to give them a clear understanding of what's happening. Making him understand what we expect from him, his role in this team, and all those kind of things. So, I don't go with any particular mantra when I play the game. So, I think those are the things that I always keep in mind," he added.



The swashbuckling opener also emphasised on the need to have a relaxed environment. "For me as a captain, it is very important that we create an environment for the players where they don't feel that

it's a very high-pressure environment. We try and create (an environment) for the guys to come out in this team and try have fun and enjoy each other's company.

"Because I strongly feel that it's important not to allow the pressure to creep in too much. When you're playing, obviously, there will be pressure because when you are holding the ball in your hand, there is pressure on you as a bowler. "When you're batting in the middle, there is pressure, and that is what you have to handle on your own. The captain or coach or anyone, no one can do nothing about it, but yourself."

"So, I think those aspects. Of course, it is your responsibility, but there are so many other factors that come in to play and I feel I need to take care of it," he added.



# Praggnanandhaa suffers 1st defeat at FTX Crypto Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Miami, August 20:** Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa's winning run came to an end at the hands of China's Quang Liem Le in the fifth round of the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of Champions Chess Tour, here.

Liem Le scored an emphatic 2.5-0.5 win over the teenaged Indian GM, securing victories in games two and three after the opener ended in a draw. A 43-move win in the third game sealed the deal for Liem Le as Praggnanandhaa's stupendous run was halted.



World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, meanwhile, went down 2-4 in a tie-break to Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland after the four-game match ended 2-2. The Norwegian is in sole lead after the fifth round with 13 match points, one ahead of Praggnanandhaa.

The 17-year old Indian prodigy has been in superb form in the tournament, scoring wins over World No.4 Alireza Firouzja, Anish Giri, Levon Aronian and Hans Niemann before the Chinese GM halted the streak.

Praggnanandhaa's coach Ramesh said after the player's first defeat, "Tough loss for @rpragchess against Liem losing with a score of 0.5-2.5. Over extended in second game and paid the price. Well done Liem!"

In other matches in the round, Firouzja beat the winless Niemann 2.5-0.5 to close in on Carlsen and Praggnanandhaa with 11 match points. Dutchman Giri beat Levon Aronian 2.5-0.5 to move into 5th place with 7 points.

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.

# SAMAR 'BADRU' BANERJEE NO MORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, August 20:** Former India football team captain Samar 'Badru' Banerjee, who led the country to a historic fourth-place finish in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, died here in the early hours of Saturday after a prolonged illness. He was 92. Banerjee is survived by his daughter-in-law.

Fondly known as 'Badru Da', he was suffering from Alzheimer, Azotemia and high-blood pressure related ailments, and was admitted at the MR Bangur Hospital after testing positive for COVID-19 July 27.

"As his health deteriorated he was shifted to the state-run SSKM Hospital under the supervision of state sports minister Arup Biswas. He breathed his last around 2.10am," Mohun Bagan secretary Debasish Dutta told this agency.

"He was our beloved 'Badru Da' and we had bestowed him with the Mohun Bagan Ratna in 2009. It's another big loss for the Maidan," he added in his condolence message.



His body was brought to the club as the members and fans paid their last respects.

The Indian football teams have participated in three Olympics so far and till date, the performance by the Banerjee-led 1956 side remains the best, when it finished fourth after losing to Bulgaria 0-3 in the bronze medal playoff, in what was known as the 'golden era' of football in the country.

Having got a walkover in the first round, the Syed Abdul Rahim-coached side that also had the likes of PK Banerjee, Neville D'Souza and J 'Kittu' Krishnaswamy, defeated Australia 4-2. D'Souza struck a hat-trick in their glorious win. But the team failed to make the final, going down 1-4 to Yugoslavia in the last-four stage.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) condoned the death of the

renowned player. "It's sad to hear that Badru-da, one of India's greatest footballers, is no more. His contribution to Indian football will never be forgotten. I share the grief," said AIFF acting general secretary Sunando Dhar.

"He will stay synonymous with the golden generation of Indian Football. Badru-da, you will remain alive in our hearts," Dhar added in a statement.

As a mark of respect, a one-minute silence will be observed in the Durand Cup matches in Imphal and Kolkata Saturday.

Besides guiding Mohun Bagan to several trophies including their first ever Durand Cup (1953), Rovers Cup (1955), Banerjee has also won the Santosh Trophy twice as a player (1953, 1955) and once as coach (1962). He also served India as selector.

With his demise, Maidan has lost another footballing great after the likes of PK, Chuni Goswami, Subhas Bhowmick and Surajit Sengupta in less than three years.

# Bhagat-Kadam wins men's doubles gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 20:** Indian para shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam claimed the gold after beating Indonesia's Dwiyoiko Dwiyoiko and Fredy Setiawan in the men's doubles final of the Thailand Para Badminton International tournament in Pattaya Saturday.

The Indian duo defeated the Indonesian pair 21-18, 21-13 in the summit clash of SL3-SL4 category.

In the men's singles, Bhagat and Kadam had to settle for a silver medal each after losing their respective finals. While Pramod went down fighting to England's Daniel Bethell 13-21, 19-21, Kadam lost 2-21, 17-21 to France's Lucas Mazur.

"I am happy with my performance throughout the tournament. I wish to congratulate Bethell on the win and now I will head back to the training ground and train

harder for World Championship in Tokyo," Bhagat said in a release.

In other results, Ruthick Ragupathi and Manasi Joshi finished second best in mixed doubles SL3-SU5 class, losing 21-17 15-21 7-21 to France's Lucas Mazur and Faustine Noel in the final.

In women's singles, Mandep Kaur got the better off compatriot Manasi 20-22, 21-19, 21-14 in SL3 finals to claim the gold medal, while Manisha Ramadass also bagged the yellow metal after beating Japan's Kaede Kameyama 20-22, 21-12, 21-19 in SU5 final.

Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan also won the gold with a 21-9, 24-22 win over England's Rachel Choong 21-9, 24-22 in SH6 final.

Manasi and Shanthiya Viswanathan also combined to sign off with a silver in the women's doubles SL3-SU5 after going down 20-22, 19-21 to Thailand's Nipada Saensupa and Chanida Srinavakul.



Pramod Bhagat (L) and Sukant Kadam in action

# Kane keeps Spurs' head high



Spurs' fans applaud Harry Kane after his goal against Wolves

REUTERS

**London, August 20:** Harry Kane set a Premier League record in goals for a single club Saturday as his headed effort earned Tottenham Hotspur a 1-0 home victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers that sent them to the top of the table.

The Spurs were outplayed in the first half but were a different proposition after the interval, with Kane pouncing in the 64th minute to score his 185th Premier League goal.

No other player has scored more goals for a single club in the Premier League era, with England skipper Kane moving clear of Sergio Aguerro's tally for Manchester City. Adding to the milestones, it was Kane's 250th goal in all competitions for Spurs.

Wolves, who are now winless in their last 10 Premier League games, had 12 goal attempts to Spurs' one in the first half but were unable to make their superiority count. Spurs then found some extra gears to seize control, with Kane and Son Heung-

min both being denied by the woodwork before Kane headed in from a corner flicked on by Ivan Perisic.

It was Spurs' 1,000th Premier League goal at home and lifted them to seven points from their opening three games, a point more than champions Manchester City, who play Sunday, and Arsenal. Wolves have one point from their opening three games.

Kane barely had a look-in during a frustrating first half in which Wolves grew in confidence and regularly cut through Spurs' defence but failed to seriously test Hugo Lloris. But just as when scoring a last-gasp equaliser at Chelsea last week, he used his poaching instincts to lethal effect.

Minutes after heading a Dejan Kulusevski cross against the bar, Kane found space in the box to beat Wolves keeper Jose Sa with one of the simplest goals of his career.

"It's been a fantastic nine or 10 years in the Premier League. Hopefully many more years to go. I always love scoring," Kane said when asked about moving past Aguerro's mark.

# Medvedev sails into semifinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Mason (US), August 20:** Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev moved into the Western & Southern Open semifinals as he prepares for his US Open title defense, beating 11th-seeded Taylor Fritz 7-6(7-1), 6-3.

Medvedev, the 26-year-old Russian banned from Wimbledon for his country's invasion of Ukraine, won the 2019 Western Southern Open. He looked sharper Friday than he did last week in Montreal in a round-of-32 loss to Nick Kyrgios. Medvedev will face No.7 Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinals. Tsitsipas outlasted John Isner 7-6(7-5), 5-7, 6-3.

Unseeded American Madison Keys advanced to the women's semifinals with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina.

Keys will face two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, who cruised past Ajla Tomljanovic, 6-2, 6-3. Sixth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka beat Shuai Zhang 6-4, 7-6(7-1).