



**CREATIVE SATISFACTION**  
Actor Vaani Kapoor says she is looking forward to do roles that can satiate her artistic appetite **LEISURE P2**



**TAIWAN WARNS**  
Taiwan is determined to defend itself and invaders will incur 'heavy price', says President Tsai Ing-wen **INTERNATIONAL P10**



**ROURKELA NAMED VENUE**  
FIH adds Rourkela as the second Indian venue, besides Bhubaneswar, for the upcoming Pro League season **SPORTS P12**

**AM/NS INDIA**  
ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India

**AM/NS INDIA IS THE PROUD SPONSOR OF THE ODISHA KHO KHO FRANCHISE**

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India backed home team - Odisha Juggernauts - continues to deliver an exceptional game at the Ultimate Kho Kho League. We at AM/NS India, and the people of Odisha, wish them luck and success as they stride towards the subsequent leg of the tournament.

#AbKhoHoga  
#SmarterSteelsBrighterFutures

f i t

www.amns.in  
www.ultimatekhokho.com

## ADANI SET TO ACQUIRE NDTV

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
New Delhi, August 23: Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group Tuesday said it will buy a majority stake in New Delhi Television Ltd, one of the nation's most popular news channels, as it looks to boost media investments as part of an ambitious expansion plan. An Adani Group firm first acquired a company that in the past was linked to rival billionaire Mukesh Ambani. The particular company had loaned Rs 250 crore to NDTV in 2008-09 and the Adani group firm now exercised the option to convert that debt into a 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel company. Subsequently, it has launched an open offer for another 26 per cent stake, the group said in a statement. NDTV said the debt was converted into equity without any input from the founders or the company. **P11**

## Kids detained by school for 'unpaid' fees

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
Bhubaneswar, August 23: Dozens of students of a private school in Ghatikia area here were allegedly confined in a room for hours by teachers, who claimed that the fees were not paid by the kids' guardians. Irate parents of several children staged a sit-in in front of the school's gate Tuesday, demanding strict action against the school authorities for the harassment. As many as 34 students were kept in the library of the school for around five hours Monday and were not allowed to eat, drink or go to the toilet, their parents told reporters. The teachers rejected the kids' request to make phone calls to their parents, informing them that they were confined as their tuition fees were not deposited on time. The school authorities then gave a notice to the students, asking them to give it to their guardians. One of the parents claimed that they had already paid tuition fees online, but it was not showing in the record due to a technical issue. Later in the day, agitating parents approached the Bharatpur police which registered a case (337/22) under Sections 342 (wrongful confinement) and 34 (act done by sev-



eral persons) of the IPC and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and launched a probe. "We will check the CCTV footage of the library. The statement of librarian and other teachers will be recorded. The school's admin manager and vice principal were questioned at the police station. They were served notice and instructed to cooperate during the investigation," said Bharatpur inspector in-charge Bibhudutta Routray. A school spokesperson refused to comment on the issue. Meanwhile, the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPCR) condemned the incident. "This is unfortunate. The commission will definitely probe the incident if the parents approach us in this regard. Stringent action will be taken against the school authorities if they are found guilty," said OSCPCR Chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, you can't give hate speech unlike him. He hails from one of our party-ruled states!

## FLOOD LEAVES 6.4L MAROONED

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
Bhubaneswar, August 23: The water level in most of the swollen rivers in Odisha dropped below the danger level Tuesday even as 6.4 lakh people remained marooned across 902 villages in the state, officials said. However, the authorities of the state's northern districts are gearing up to face heavy rainfall as forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) till Wednesday. The districts to be affected by the rain include Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar in the north and Kendrapara, Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur in the coastal region. "We have retained all rescue and relief teams at their place of deployment in the four flood-hit blocks - Baliapal, Bhograi, Basta and Jaleswar - in view of the IMD's forecast of very heavy rainfall," Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, the district collector of Balasore, which is the worst-hit in the Subarnarekha



river flood, said. Balasore district Monday, around 25,000 have left for their houses. Sindhe, who visited Bhograi block during the day said that he met some of the affected people and requested them not to leave the safe shelter till the flood waters receded. Of the 40,124 marooned people staying in different shelters in Balasore district Monday, around 25,000 have left for their houses. Now there are only 46 shelters operating in the district against Monday's 208. Water Resources Department Chief Engineer BK Mishra said that most of the rivers including

## SIBLINGS KILLED AS MUD WALL CAVES IN

**Baripada:** A 10-year-old girl and her younger brother were killed after the mud wall of their house collapsed following incessant rains at Bholabeda village in Luhakani panchayat under Bisoil police limits in Mayurbhanj district late Monday night. The deceased were identified as Jashoda Singh and Jyotishankar Singh, 8. The family members were sleeping when a wall of their thatched house collapsed and the children got trapped under the debris and died, sources said.

## Remark on Prophet gets MLA suspended

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**  
New Delhi, August 23: The BJP Tuesday suspended its Telangana MLA T Raja Singh for making derogatory remark against Prophet Mohammad. Earlier in the day, the Hyderabad Police arrested the controversial BJP MLA for making derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammad. However, hours after the arrest, he was granted bail by a local court before which he was produced. The court accepted Singh's lawyer's ar-



gument that the police did not issue notice under CrPC 41(A) to the accused before the arrest. The member of Telangana Legislative Assembly was arrested following huge protests by Muslims

in parts of Hyderabad after he uploaded a video on Facebook making derogatory comments. Police have registered a case against the MLA from Goshamahal constituency at Dabeerpura police station for promoting enmity between the different groups on grounds of religion. On Monday, Singh released a video criticising stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui, who recently performed in the city. Singh is also purportedly seen making some comments, apparently against Islam, in it.

## SC to consider plea against Bilkis convicts

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
New Delhi, August 23: The Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to consider listing a plea challenging the grant of remission by the Gujarat government to 11 life convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case. The remission and consequent release of 11 convicts August 15 this year from Godhra sub-jail under the Gujarat government's remission policy has sparked a debate on the issue of such relief in heinous cases. A bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Hima Kohli and C T Ravikumar took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal and lawyer Aparna Bhat against the grant of remission to the convicts serving life imprisonment in the sensational post-Godhra riots case. "We are only challenging the remission and not the Supreme Court order. The Supreme Court order is fine, My Lords. We are challenging the principles on the basis of which remission was granted," Sibal said while seeking an urgent hearing of the plea. Bhat also said that the apex court's earlier order asking the state government to consider the remission aspect was not challenged. **Continued on P4**

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	59031.30 ↑ 257.43
NIFTY	17577.50 ↑ 86.80
DOLLAR	80.33 ↑ ₹0.01
EURO	79.54 ↑ ₹0.17
GOLD	₹ 51,430 ↑ ₹267
SILVER	₹ 55,411 ↑ ₹419

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.9°C	32.2°C
MIN	25.0°C	25.2°C
Humidity	86%	85%
Rainfall	6.2mm	2.2mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

## Minor Muslim girls can marry sans parents' nod: HC

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**  
New Delhi, August 23: The Delhi High Court Tuesday observed that as per Mohammedan Law, a Muslim girl who has attained puberty can marry without her parents' consent and reside with her husband even if she is underage. Justice Jasmeet Singh made the observation during a recent hearing of a plea filed by a couple - a minor girl and a man - seeking protection and to ensure that nobody separates them. The court also referred to a verdict of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh, stating as per Article 195 from the book 'Principles of Mohammedan Law' by Sir Dinshah Fardunji Mulla,

Although POCSO Act aims at protecting children below the age of 18 years from sexual abuse, in the present case, it is not a case of exploitation but a case where the petitioners were in love, got married according to the Muslim laws, and thereafter, had physical relationships, the court observed. every Mohamedan of sound mind, who has attained puberty, may enter into a contract of marriage. As per the petitioners, they were in love with each other and married on March 11, 2022, in accordance with Muslim rites and rituals by Maulana Imtiyaz of Jokihat Masjid, District Aauriya, Bihar.



However, the parents of the woman were opposing the marriage and have registered a case under Section 363 IPC (Punishment for kidnapping) against the man. Though initially, the FIR was under Section 363 IPC, subsequently

Section 376 IPC (Punishment for sexual assault) and Section 6 POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, have been added. She was regularly beaten by her parents at home. The parent tried to forcibly marry her off to someone else despite her love affair, the plea said. The respondent-state has filed a status report, as per which, the date of birth of the woman is August 2, 2006, i.e. the petitioner was only 15 years and 5 months on the date of the marriage. On April 27, 2022 petitioner No.1 (woman) was recovered in the custody of petitioner No.2 (man), and her medical examination was conducted at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital (DDU), Delhi. It was also stated that the couple has had sexual intercourse and as per the directions of the Child Welfare Committee, the child victim has been kept at Nirmal Chhaya Complex, Hari Nagar. **Continued on P4**

# leisure



## AUBREY PLAZA TAPPED TO STAR IN MEGALOPOLIS

*Parks and Recreation* star Aubrey Plaza is the latest addition to the ensemble cast of Francis Ford Coppola's upcoming film *Megalopolis*. According to an entertainment outlet, the film already has actors Adam Driver, Forest Whitaker, Nathalie Emmanuel, Jon Voight and Laurence Fishburne on board.

## EMILY CAREY DELETED TWITTER ACCOUNT AFTER FAN BACKLASH

*House of the Dragon* star Emily Carey has revealed that she quit Twitter after receiving a barrage of abusive tweets post her appearance at the 2022 San Diego Comic Con (SDCC). The British actor's admission at SDCC that she chose to humanise her character Alicent sparked outrage among the fans.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You are brimming with ideas and will be ready to share them with anyone who wants to benefit from them. You are in a loving and generous mood. If you are planning to convince your grandmother to go in for a makeover at a beauty parlour, Ganesh gives you the thumbs-up.

**TAURUS**  
It is quite possible that today, you will remain decisive and determined on new joint ventures, predicts Ganesh. The results may fall below your expectations in the afternoon. Fight off stress with a candlelight dinner with your sweetheart, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
There are indications that your aggressive spirit and antagonistic trait will come to the fore today, says Ganesh. This may have a negative effect, but today you can even get away with murder! You will, in fact, get much-awaited good news at the workplace.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will feel blessed. And blessed you are, indeed. You will have the proverbial Midas touch, albeit with a slight difference: you will not touch the people you love and turn them to gold. You will just touch their heart and make them happier.

**LEO**  
The last you remember your soul mate was not a cross between Marquis de Sade and a Chinese politician, so it might be a little unnerving for you to come to terms with the authoritarian and dominating side of your partner, says Ganesh. Just remember that feeling offended is not the solution; what is really required is that you thrash out your individual differences for the sake of the larger interests of your family.

**VIRGO**  
Share thoughts, concepts and ideas with people. You may get new perspectives, says Ganesh. Don't let any opportunity pass to make your loved one feel special. Ganesh predicts you might seek the counsel of friends on professional and ethical issues.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh's got a feeling that today is going to be a good day for you, as you go ahead and indulge yourself and the ones around you. Chances are that you may shop till you drop, and spend a sizeable amount buying goodies for your loved ones later in the evening. In matters of business, Ganesh foresees you displaying your maturity, and setting an example for others in the team.

**SCORPIO**  
Self-improvement is on your mind today. Self-employed people should expect good profits in business. Expenditure may be more at work today. At the end of the day, the cocktail of work and family will be a heady, pleasing mixture, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Investments for the future, especially for your children, should be made today, advises Ganesh. Work extra hard to clear up tasks you have been putting off for sometime now. Romance is stirring, so take a break from your usual routine to enjoy its sweet smell.

**CAPRICORN**  
Various issues may perturb you, making you feel like it may not be a very fulfilling day. But at work, fortune will be biased towards you and will bring all the luck you need to excel in the work you may have undertaken, says Ganesh. Incidentally, sentiments may hamper your ability to take rational decisions, while high expectations of the loved ones will burden you with tremendous pressure.

**AQUARIUS**  
Time is money, and you need to understand it fast! Scrap your old schedules and plan new ones that work. Ganesh suggests that the good old planner will work wonders in organising your work. Remember the old adage? A stitch in time saves nine. So get going.

**PISCES**  
Your emotions are likely to rule you today. Expenses, which will cause you to dip into your savings, are indicated. Evening should see you build up an amazing connection with a special someone, says Ganesh.

## Bhumi shares secrets behind her success

**Mumbai:** Bhumi Pednekar has had one of the most phenomenal journeys transcending from a casting director to a full-blown Hindi film star.

The secret, says the actor is being consistent and that plays a crucial role in an actor's life.

Bhumi has endorsed many brands in her career. From endorsing three brands in 2021, she is now the face of seven brands including the likes of global cosmetic and women's hygiene companies.

In an interview, Bhumi said, "I think what has worked for me it is the consistency of performance and the fact that my films have not only won me accolades for acting but have also delivered good box office results. In today's day and age, consistency for an actor is everything because people are only connecting to quality of work and films."

The 33-year-old actor added, "I think my unconventional choices have also stood out and become my brand identity. Today, I'm assuming that people naturally feel that if I'm a part of a project, it will be different, disruptive and high on content. I feel they know that I will do my best to deliver a performance that they will love." AGENCIES

## Alia talks about her live-in relationship

**Mumbai:** Alia Bhatt is having a dream year both personally and professionally. With a blockbuster (*Gangubai Kathiawadi*) to her credit, her wedding with Ranbir Kapoor, Hollywood debut, pregnancy announcement and her latest

Netflix outing *Darlings* receiving rave reviews, there certainly is more than one reason for Alia Bhatt to be happy about.

In a recent chat, she opened up about her personal life and her decision to move-in with Ranbir Kapoor before marriage.

Responding to a question related to whether live-in relationships are the right way to go, the *Raazi* actress said, "If you can, why not? I think it's great. You get used to each other, you get comfortable, you build so many memories without the pressure and that baggage or like 'shaadi karni hai (we want to get married)'."

She further added, "We were actually gonna get married which is why we planned to move in together but then the pandemic happened, so the planning couldn't stop. So we were like at least go ahead with moving in and we'll figure out the rest, let this all settle down." AGENCIES

## Vaani looks forward to satiate her artistic appetite



**Mumbai:** Actress Vaani Kapoor is having a working birthday this year as she has started the shoot for her next film.

"It feels amazing to be starting a new film on my birthday! I couldn't have asked for a better gift for myself," Vaani, who turned 33 Tuesday, said without sharing details about her next movie.

The actress added that she cannot reveal any further but that every project of her post *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui* will be diverse. "And will constantly put myself under the pump to pick challenging roles that give me the scope to shine as an actor. I'm looking to do more tricky roles which satiate my artistic appetite and this new project fits right into the scheme of things for me now," said the Shamsheera actress.

"I want to headline films that have very strong content and this one is right up there when it comes to getting something refreshing and relevant," she added. IANS

## Nawazuddin pushes creative envelope

**Mumbai:** Trust Nawazuddin Siddiqui to bowl the audience over with his work and dedication to his character. Keeping up with the legacy, the actor has left the audience gasping in disbelief with the motion poster of his upcoming film *Haddi* where he can be seen dressed as a woman.

The motion poster of the film was unveiled on Tuesday and it shows Nawaz donning a metallic graphite coloured gown with a ring and an arm-gear matching his gown, thereby leaving the viewers intrigued.

Commenting on the occasion of the motion poster release, Nawaz said: "I have portrayed different interesting characters but Haddi is going to be a unique and special one since I will be sporting a never-seen-before look and it will also help me to push the envelope as an actor."

Haddi is a noir revenge drama directed by Akshat Ajay Sharma and has been co-written by Akshay and Adamya Bhalla.

Produced by Zee Studios, Anandita Studios (Raadhika Nanda, Sanjay Saha) and directed by Akshat Ajay Sharma, the film will be shot in areas around Western UP. IANS



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

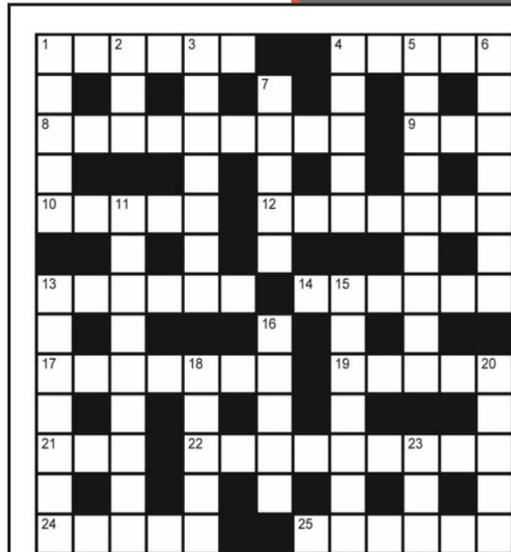


### BREVITY



### FUN post

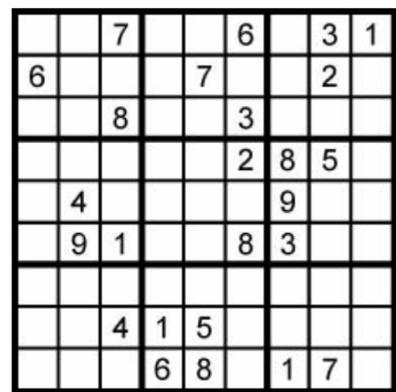
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Doorbell has one
  - 4 Pretend
  - 8 Derby (6,3)
  - 9 Ballet step
  - 10 Word of surprise
  - 12 Set aside
  - 13 Type of calf or boy
  - 14 Summing up
  - 17 Mongoose-like viverrine
  - 19 Fragrant flower
  - 21 Chafe
  - 22 Contact sport (3,6)
  - 24 Nettle
  - 25 Exacting
  - 6 Savings account (4,3)
  - 7 Mentally acute
  - 11 Dangerous African insect (6,3)
  - 13 Sweet treat
  - 15 Distribute (4,3)
  - 16 Express
  - 18 Panga, e.g.
  - 20 Burial chamber
  - 23 Colorful ornamental carp
- Down**
- 1 British policeman
  - 2 Haul
  - 3 Supervise
  - 4 Celebrates
  - 5 Unprejudiced

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



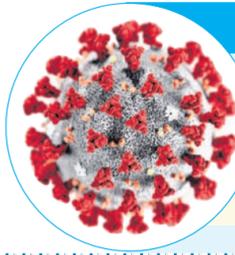
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## DEMOLITION DRIVE

An excavator deployed by BDA pulled down illegal shops at Ashok Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,19,75,501	57,66,35,318	64,74,832
India	4,43,57,546	4,37,33,624	5,27,416
Odisha	13,25,470	13,14,349	9,165

## Plus II quarter-end exams to continue

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** The state government Tuesday decided to continue with the quarterly assessment of students at Plus II level for the academic session 2022-23.



In a letter, School and Mass Education department under-secretary MK Mallick said that after careful consideration, the government has decided to allow the conduct of quarter-end examination for the academic session 2022-23.

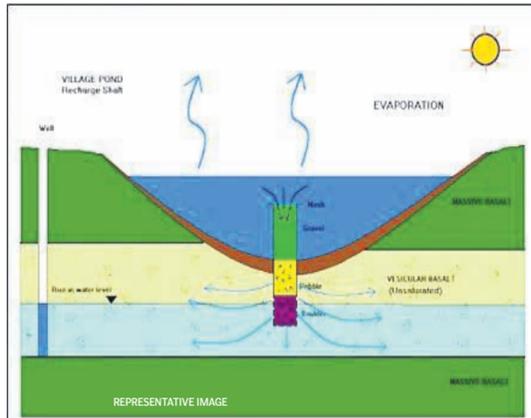
The state government had earlier announced to re-introduce 100 per cent syllabus in Plus II courses. However, it had not made any official announcement on the examination pattern.

Earlier, the syllabi for Class X and Plus II were reduced in view of Covid-19 pandemic for the past two years. Similarly, the council had introduced the idea of and the pattern for holding quarter-end examination and internal examination in every trimester.

The marks of the students were to be calculated with 20 per cent of the marks scored in the last quarter-end examination and 80 per cent mark from the board examination.

# ₹50cr plan to recharge depleting water table

THE STATE GOVT'S SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 32 WATER STRESSED BLOCKS WITH AN OUTLAY OF ₹49.23 CRORE FOR 5 YEARS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** The state government has come up with a new scheme for augmentation of groundwater recharge to ensure that the water table and water quality in water stressed blocks of the state are improved, through adoption of artificial recharge systems in the village ponds.

Groundwater is increasingly being exhausted and at a much faster pace than precipitation can

replenish it. As a result, groundwater table is depleting in most of the areas in the state. The scope for natural recharge is being gradually reduced due to developmental activities and excess use of water, official sources said.

The Water Resources department has recently notified the scheme with an outlay of Rs 49.23 crore for five financial years starting from the current year of 2022-23. This will be funded from state's own resources, the source said.

The scheme will be implemented in six semi-critical and 26 approaching semi-critical blocks having the groundwater extraction stage of above 65 per cent

Under the scheme, groundwater recharge shafts will be installed in 2,400 existing tanks or ponds

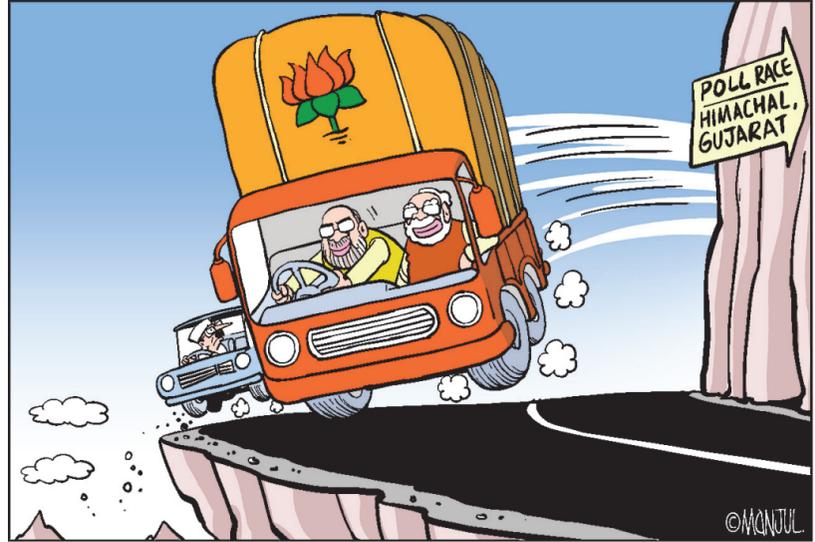
A target has been set for construction of 490 such structures during each of the initial four years while 440 structures will be built in the last year 2026-27

The scheme will be implemented in six semi-critical and 26 approaching semi-critical blocks having the groundwater extraction stage of above 65 per cent.

Under the scheme, groundwater recharge shafts will be installed in 2,400 existing tanks or ponds. A target has been set for construction of 490 such structures during each of the initial four years while 440 structures will be built in the last year 2026-27.

Pani Panchayats will undertake the maintenance work of the installations with funding from the Water Resources department, the sources said.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## PRADEEP PANIGRAHY GRAFT CASE

# SC adjourns hearing on Lokayukta plea till September 13

Odisha Lokayukta had filed an SLP in the apex court challenging the order of the Orissa High Court which ruled that the Lokayukta cannot order preliminary enquiry against Panigrahy from Vigilance department of the state as the Vigilance department is the complainant in the matter



The SC had April 23 last year stayed the HC order restraining the Vigilance department from conducting enquiry against Panigrahy in a corruption case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 23:** The Supreme Court (SC) Tuesday adjourned the hearing on a special leave petition (SLP) filed by Odisha Lokayukta against the order of Orissa High Court in MLA Pradeep Panigrahy corruption case after the counsel representing Lokayukta sought an adjournment.

A two-judge bench of the SC comprising justices Ajay Rastogi and Abhay S Oka adjourned the matter till September 13.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing for Panigrahy pleaded the court to stay ongoing proceedings in the case before the Lokayukta.

However, the counsel appearing for Lokayukta submitted that the investigation has been completed in the case and the Lokayukta will not proceed further without informing the apex court.

Earlier, the Lokayukta had told the SC that 'huge' incriminating material was established during the preliminary enquiry against the MLA in corruption case.

Significantly, Odisha Lokayukta had filed the SLP in the apex court challenging the order of the Orissa High Court which ruled that the Lokayukta cannot order preliminary enquiry against Panigrahy from Vigilance department of the state as the Vigilance department is the complainant in the matter.

The Supreme Court had April 23 last year stayed the HC order restraining the Vigilance department from conducting enquiry against Panigrahy in a corruption case.

It is to be mentioned here that Lokayukta in December 2020 had directed the state Vigilance to investigate into the corruption charges made against the Gopalpur MLA.

## Derailment: ECoR reschedules 2 trains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** A day after derailment of five wagons of a goods train at Bhubaneswar station yard, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) Tuesday rescheduled two trains, officials said.

Bhubaneswar-Jagadalpur Hirakhand Express will leave Bhubaneswar at 9:30pm instead of 7:35pm, while Bhubaneswar-Pune Express will leave the city at 11:30pm instead of 9:30pm, an official release said.

The train services were affected Monday night after five wagons of a Vizianagaram-bound cement-laden train derailed at 8:30pm.

The train had started its journey from Chakradharpur division to reach Vizianagaram via Bhubaneswar.

The ECoR had cancelled six trains and short-terminated four others.

"The defected track repair was completed at Bhubaneswar yard," an official said.

## Man nabbed with country-made gun

**Cuttack Sadar:** A man was arrested here Tuesday for illegally possessing a country-made gun. The arrested was identified as Amiya Ranjan Swain, a resident of Taikina village under Bayalish Mouza police station. Acting a tip-off that Swain was carrying the illegal weapon in his Bullet (OD 05 G 9030) pannier, police intercepted him near Bentakar Bank Square, and seized the gun and the two-wheeler. Police brought Swain to the police station and registered a case (172/22) in this regard. Swain was later produced in the court.

## RAINING MISERY



Farmers of Astarang block in Puri staged a protest, Tuesday, by showing the crops damaged due to the recent floods. They demanded a special package for the crop loss

## Police-Public Interface on restorative justice held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** A 'Police-Public Interface' was organised by Society for Nature, Education and Health (SNEH), a registered voluntary organisation, at SNEH's Peace Resource Centre-SAMPRIITI here, Tuesday.

Additional DCP of Bhubaneswar Commissionerate Police Prakash Chandra Pal inaugurated the event. IIC of Nayapalli police station Biswaranjan Sahoo attended the programme as the guest of honour.

The main objective of the interface was to promote the Restorative Justice process as a



means to settle disputes and conflicts and promote unity building in the community.

As many as 40 people from Salia Sahi slum, local leaders from eight peace committees and sahi com-

mittees attended the event. "Such initiatives can help develop relationships between the police and the public, so essential for peace-building and prevention of violence," said SNEH president

Subarna Ghosh. "The police should be more friendly with the community to win the confidence of the people to resolve the issues easily at the grassroot level," said Pal.

In this connection, the IIC of Nayapalli PS said, "The community should be more disciplined and should be aware of legal rights and the consequences of crime. Community involvement in conflict solving is a good sign of democratisation of justice and we are happy that SNEH is encouraging this practice through the process of Restorative Justice among the stakeholders in the slums."

## Nod to 100 MBBS seats in Keonjhar med college

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) has accorded its approval to Keonjhar Medical College to start admissions in 100 MBBS seats from the current academic session.

The NMC has written a letter to the dean and principal of the medical college about the approval.

The commission gave approval for launch of a government medical college in Keonjhar under



Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjapa Deo (MSCBD) University, Baripada with an annual intake of 100 MBBS students, starting from the aca-

demical year 2022-23.

Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) of NMC has recently examined the assessor's report and allowed the institute to start MBBS admissions to 100 seats from this year.

A few days ago, the NMC had approved admissions to 100 MBBS seats in Government Medical College at Sundargarh from the current academic year. So, two new medical colleges and hospitals will start functioning from this academic year.

# 33% wish to delete net footprint amid privacy thefts

Amid growing privacy thefts and hacking concerns, more than a third of people (33 per cent) would delete their profiles from the internet if they could, a report revealed Tuesday.

It is estimated that 63 per cent of the global population is currently online. According to a report by virtual private network (VPN) service provider NordVPN, 45 per cent respondents said there is no reason for their name to be on the internet, while 42 per cent said they feel used because companies collect their data and use it to their advantage.

While 34 per cent of the people surveyed said they feel that some-

one will eventually hack their devices, 31 per cent do not trust the Internet.

According to respondents from the survey of 10,800 people, half (50 per cent) said that they would most like their personal financial information to be deleted from the internet.

Other information people want to delete from the internet include unflattering photos/videos, embarrassing moments, old dating/social media profiles and previous employment history.

"While removing yourself from the internet sounds like a good idea for those concerned with having their personal information ex-



AS MANY AS 71% OF PEOPLE WOULD BE AFRAID OF HAVING THEIR FINANCIAL DATA ACCESSED BY A HACKER

posed to the wrong entities, you have to ask yourself if wiping the slate totally clean is even possible in our digital-dominant world,"

AS PER A REPORT BY VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK (VPN) SERVICE PROVIDER NORDVPN, 45% RESPONDENTS SAID THERE IS NO REASON FOR THEIR NAME TO BE ON THE INTERNET, WHILE 42% SAID THEY FEEL USED BECAUSE COMPANIES COLLECT THEIR DATA AND USE IT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE

WHILE 34% OF THE PEOPLE SURVEYED SAID THEY FEEL THAT SOMEONE WILL EVENTUALLY HACK THEIR DEVICES, 31% DO NOT TRUST THE INTERNET

said Daniel Markuson, a digital privacy expert at NordVPN.

"Our survey also found that some would be in favour of a more

practical approach because 38 per cent would be in favour of paying to use the internet anonymously at all times," he added.

For those who want to be anonymous online and are willing to pay for it, 27 per cent of people would pay up to \$100, 7 per cent would pay between \$101-\$500 and 3 per cent would fork out between \$501-\$1,000 to be anonymous.

Two per cent of respondents said they would pay even more, the report mentioned.

As many as 71 per cent of people would be afraid of having their financial data accessed by a hacker (or malicious third party), while 43 per cent said texts and emails, 35 per cent said "medical information," 33 per cent said "social media accounts", and 24 per cent said "sex life".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sambalpur, August 23:** A man was arrested in Sambalpur district Tuesday for illegal trade of snake venom, an official said.

Acting on intelligence inputs, a Forest department team raided the house of Ramachandra Rana at Karanjula village in the district and seized six snakes, including three cobras, and four chameleons, assistant conservator of forest, Manu Ashok Bhat said in a statement.

Rana was apprehended by the team and a case has been lodged under the Wildlife Protection Act and an investigation is on, Bhat said.

# City to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in grand way



Saheed Nagar



Badagada

**This year the annual Rath Yatra was celebrated in a grand way which gives the organisers confidence to prepare for the Puja in a grand way**

Diptirekha, will be the main attraction in the pandal. Other artists present on the occasion will include Sohini Mishra and Koushik, Navia Jaiti and Manas Pritam. Human Sagar and Band will perform music during the festival.

At Nayapalli, the special attraction this time will be a 50-ft idol that is being prepared for the day of worship. The organisers are also planning a 50-kg laddu to be offered to Lord Ganesh, sources said.

"Artists from Kolkata and Mumbai have been working for the past three months in building the huge Ganesh idol for this year's celebrations," said a puja organizer.

This apart, devotees and visitors to the pandal will be treated to various cultural events for eleven days during the celebrations, he said, adding that the pandal will be tastefully decorated.

Similarly, Winners club of Saheed Nagar is also preparing a 40-foot tall Ganesh idol, in the Surya Avatar with five horses as chariots below the figure of the Lord. Bhabani Shankar Jena, Winners Association Saheed Nagar, said that for the last two years we were celebrating Ganesh Puja with restrictions and without public participation. But, this year the annual Rath Yatra was celebrated in a grand way which gives us encouragement to prepare for the Puja in a grand way.

used in the making of the idol. The Ganesh Idol will be made as huge as the idol of Lalbaug in Mumbai.

The association has made a plan with various activities to welcome Sri Gajanana. Arrangements have been made to bring famous Bollywood actors and singers to the puja pandal.

Popular Ollywood singer,

## GREEN DRIVE



Biju Mahila Janata Dal members planting trees on the occasion of BJD's 25th Foundation Day at Unit-II Government High School in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## Prakruti Mishra moves Orissa HC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Odia film actress Prakruti Mishra Tuesday moved the Orissa High Court seeking 'justice' in the case pertaining to an assault on her. The case related to actor Tanmay (Babushaan) Mohanty's wife Trupti Satapathy who allegedly attacked Mishra in full public view July 23 in Bhubaneswar.

Mishra's parents, the noted music director Manmath Mishra and artist Krushnapriya Mishra, had filed a complaint against Satapathy and her father with the Kharvela Nagar police, the same evening, alleging assault on Prakruti.

Speaking to the media outside the court Tuesday, Prakruti said, "Whatever has happened to me is in public and the whole country saw that. I have full faith in the judiciary that I will get justice."



**Whatever has happened with me is in public and whole country saw that. I have full faith in the judiciary that I will get justice.**

Prakruti Mishra | Actor

Mishra's lawyer, Byomakesh Tripathy, said that no action has been taken by the Kharvela Nagar police though a month has passed

since she was attacked. "We have moved the High Court seeking action in this matter," he said.

Earlier, amidst the ongoing public controversy that involved the actress, Ollywood actor Babushaan and the latter's wife Trupti, the actress had unveiled a poster for a film titled Draupadi. The poster appears to be hinting towards a tale of victimhood with visible scars on her face.

Prakruti got in controversy for allegedly being in a relationship with Babushaan. July 23, a video had gone viral in which the wife of actor Babushaan, Trupti Satapathy was seen aggressively dealing with Mishra after finding her in a car with her husband, Mishra's co-star in a film.

The incident was reportedly witnessed in Satya Nagar area of Bhubaneswar. The people who were present there made the video viral.

## Man kills wife, hangs himself in Bolangir

**Bhubaneswar:** A man hanged himself after allegedly killing his wife in Bolangir district Tuesday, police said. The incident took place at Debripali village under Belpada police station after Bhakta Nayak and his wife Baalamati had gone to work in the fields. The locals found Baalamati's body in a pool of blood while Nayak's body was found hanging from a nearby tree.

## Man gets 6 yrs in jail for raping girl

**Baripada:** A court in Mayurbhanj district sentenced a 44-year-old man to six years imprisonment Tuesday for raping a girl four years ago. Baripada POCOS court judge Sumita Jena also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on Ramsingh Munda, special public prosecutor Abhina Pattnaik said. The court directed the District Legal Services Authority to pay ₹1 lakh as compensation to the girl. On the night of August 25, 2018, when the 11-year-old girl was alone on a village road under Karanjia police station area, Munda dragged her to his house.

## SC to consider...

Continued from P1

The lawyers were seeking an urgent hearing of the plea filed by CPI (M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revathy Laul and activist Roop Rekha Rani.

The plea referred to the sequence of events of the case recorded in judicial files and said, "It is submitted that on such facts, no right thinking authority applying any test under an extant policy would consider it fit to grant remission to persons who are found to have been involved in the commission of such gruesome acts."

"It is further submitted that it would appear that the constitution of members of the competent authority of the Respondent No.1 also bore allegiance to a political party, and also was sitting MLAs. As such, it would appear that the competent authority was not an authority that was entirely independent, and one that could independently apply its mind to the facts at hand," it said.

## Flood leaves ...

Continued from P1

The water level in Subarnarekha and Budhabalang rivers that caused the flood in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts has fallen below the danger mark. Similar is the situation of the Baitarani River which inundated several villages in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts, the official said. The Balasore district collector said that apart from heavy rains, the administration is apprehending huge draining of flood water in the Subarnarekha river system from West Bengal. Mishra said the flood situation in the Mahanadi river has improved.

## TPCODL warns customers of fake messages

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Considering the increasing cases of cyber fraud activities against electricity consumers, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and Odisha Government, re-issued an advisory against the unscrupulous elements, who are attempting to trap consumers by sending them

electricity supply disconnection threat through WhatsApp messages.

The TPCODL has also requested all its consumers to only connect to its dedicated 24X7 Toll Free customer care numbers 1912 / 18003457122 for any clarification related to power supply or disconnection.

## WOMEN'S ISSUES



A regional workshop on Combating Human Trafficking organised by Crime Against Women & Children Wing, CID CB at RK Padhi Memorial Hall in Cuttack, Tuesday

## Provide best possible services to people: CM to diploma engineers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday advised the Diploma Engineers to follow 5T principles of the governance model to bring more efficiency in projects and services.

Joining the platinum jubilee celebration of Odisha Diploma Engineers Service Association organised at ODESA Bhawan in the city, the Chief Minister said that the 5T initiative is all the more significant for the engineers at the base level.

Calling upon the engineers to follow 5T model of governance, he said, "The visibility of our development model is more pronounced by the efficiency of services we provide to people at the grassroots level. May it be water supply, may it be roads & building or any of our projects; the four components of 5-T initiative—Technology, Teamwork, Transparency & Time-

are absolutely essential for providing people what they deserve from the Government. I expect all of you to follow these mandates of my Government to provide best possible services to the people of the State."

Extending warm greetings to engineers on the occasion of platinum jubilee celebration, he said that Diploma Engineers are the backbone of the Government in implementation of the ongoing projects and maintenance of the existing infrastructure. Their roles during natural calamities like Cyclone, Flood are appreciated, he added.

As the state is taking up its infrastructure projects at a faster pace, the Engineers at the grassroots level have a greater responsibility in execution and maintenance of projects, he said further.

Speaking on the demands of the association, the CM assured that all the demands will be considered.

## Porn addiction saw a rise amid WFH culture: Report

**A**mid the rise of work from home culture due to the pandemic, remote working has contributed to an increase in porn addiction in the UK, media reports said.

Since remote working became popular during the epidemic, the number of UK citizens seeking medical attention for the problem has virtually doubled, as per experts, the Daily Mail reported.

According to experts, the temptation, which is only a few clicks away, has caused some casual porn viewers to develop addictions and made those who already had issues worse.

Porn addiction is a type of sex addiction in which users develop



an addiction to the pleasurable sensation or "high" associated with sexual activity.

The Laurel Centre in London, the largest sex and porn addiction clinic in Britain, said it is now

**P**ORN ADDICTION IS A TYPE OF SEX ADDICTION IN WHICH USERS DEVELOP AN ADDICTION TO THE PLEASURABLE SENSATION OR "HIGH" ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL ACTIVITY

**P**AULA HALL, THE LAUREL CENTRE IN LONDON CLINICAL DIRECTOR, SAID THAT WFH MEANT PEOPLE ARE NOW SPENDING MORE TIME THAN EVER ALONE IN FRONT OF THEIR COMPUTERS

treating some remote workers who watch up to 14 hours of porn a day.

Paula Hall, the centre's clinical director, said that WFH meant people are now spending more time than ever alone in front of their computers.

"It means you have got more opportunity, you do not have to wait until you get home at night, you can be more impulsive during the day," she was quoted as saying to MailOnline.

The Laurel Centre had seen about 750 porn addicts in the first six months of 2022 alone, compared to 950 for the whole of 2019, the report said.

Hall mentioned that patients coming to the clinic this year "need more intensive treatment".

As per the report, therapists at the London clinic spend around 600 hours a month helping people with porn addictions now compared to just 360 hours per month in 2019.

## Minor Muslim girls...

Continued from P1

The petitioner's counsel stated that the woman is pregnant and the couple is expecting a child together.

After the submissions, the court further referred to various judgments and observed that the object of the POCSO Act states that the Act is aimed to secure the tender age of the children and ensure they are not abused and their childhood and youth are protected against exploitation. It is not customary law specific but the aim is to protect children below the age of 18 years from sexual abuse. In the present case, it is not a case of exploitation but a case where the petitioners were in love, got married according to the Muslim laws, and thereafter, had physical relationships, the court observed.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

## Successful test fire of VL-SRSAM conducted

AGENCIES

Balasure, August 23: India successfully test fired Tuesday the 'Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile' (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast, officials said. The test flight was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy. The test was carried out from a ship of the Indian Navy against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability, DRDO sources said.

The missile, equipped with indigenous radio frequency (RF) seeker, intercepted the target with accuracy. It should be stated here that the VL-SRSAM system has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO. "During the test launch, the path and vehicle performance parameters were monitored by using flight data captured by various range instruments such as radar, electro-optical tracking system (EOTS) and telemetry systems deployed by ITR, Chandipur," DRDO officials informed.



An official statement said that the launch was monitored by senior scientists from various DRDO laboratories involved in the design and development of the system such as Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad and R & D Engineers, Pune.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented DRDO, the Indian Navy and the other teams on the successful test of VL-SRSAM and stated that the missile will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO, G Satheesh Reddy, congratulated the teams involved in the successful flight test and said that the trial has proved the effectiveness of the weapon system.

## 4 held for shooting woman, nephew

Phulbani: A day after miscreants shot a woman and her minor nephew at Bilupadar village under Phiringia block in Kandhamal district over some dispute, police arrested Tuesday four persons. The accused were identified as Sripalla Sanjay Sahani and Singhi Sahani of Phiringia, Jitu Kanhar of Badiguda and Akshaya Behera of Penagiri. A country-made gun was seized from their possession. The injured woman Prabhassini Sahani and her nephew Sabjan were shot Monday due to suspected rivalry in cattle trading. While the woman suffered a bullet injury on her thigh, the boy was shot in the stomach.

## Similipal tribals want mobile connectivity



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 23: The Centre has given thrust on promotion of digital services to ensure speedy and transparent delivery of various schemes, but lack of broadband connectivity has scuttled the objectives of a number of projects in many remote areas of tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district. According to reports, people residing at the base of Similipal hill have been suffering a lot for a number of years now. This is due to the lack of proper communication and digital connectivity. It has resulted in them missing out on a number of government schemes conducted on digital mode. Without internet connectivity, availing all these schemes are a difficult proposition, locals said.

Over 5,000 people live in Gendapokhari village, 40 kilometers from Baripada, the headquarters of Mayurbhanj district. They have been demanding for a long time the installation of a mobile tower in the area, but all in vain.



A couple in flood-hit Gabagaon village under Bhogra block in Balasure district travels in a boat to collect relief materials from a school, Tuesday

## Industries stare at closure as OMC's e-auction fails

MANY COMPANIES MAY BE FORCED TO LAY OFF WORKERS AS PRODUCTION IS SUFFERING DUE TO LACK OF RAW MATERIALS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 23: Repeated failures of e-auctions to sell iron ore and chromites have sparked fear of closure of many industrial houses in Kalinganagar of this district. This has created a huge fear of job losses for thousands of employees, a report said.

Sources said that e-auction failed due to due to wrong policies and high floor price fixed by the state-owned body, Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). No steps have been taken so far despite repeated complaints by the various companies operating out of Kalinganagar. They have demanded immediate intervention of the Odisha government to solve the crisis.

Industries which do not have their own mines are now staring at closure. As profits are declining, many firms have been forced to shelve their investment plans. This has resulted in large number of dismissals of employees in the Kalinganagar Industrial Complex during the last two years.

Sources said companies like Visa Steel, Rohit Ferrotech, KJ Ispat and few others do not have their own captive mines. Hence they are dependent on external sources for raw materials. There are many companies that are fully dependent on OMC for iron ore and chromites. They have repeatedly



urged the OMC to supply raw materials at fair prices, but without success. So these companies are suffering huge losses.

It has been alleged that the Kalinganagar Industries Association (KNIA) had drawn the attention of the government several times on this issue. However, the problems continue to plague the companies.

Sources said OMC supplies raw materials like iron ore and chromites through e-auctions. However, a look at the e-auctions held in the last four months paints a scary picture. Out of the total iron ore stocks for sale, only 61 per cent, six per cent, 41 per cent and 57 per cent were sold through e-auctions held in the months of May, June, July and August re-

spectively. Similarly, only 20 per cent, 32 per cent, 25 per cent and 18 per cent of chromites were sold for the same period. Despite such poor results, OMC instead of reducing the floor price has chosen to increase it.

KNIA pointed out that many industrial plants have curtailed production and adopted restrictive measures. This has resulted in heavy losses for them as well as for the state exchequer. KNIA members have demanded before the state government and OMC to adopt reverse bidding process for sale of iron ore and chromites stocks. The industrial firms are facing problems in production despite availability of huge stocks of raw materials while the employees are staring at job losses, they added.

## JSW RELIEF FOR FLOOD-HIT BLOCKS IN JAGATSINGHPUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, August 23: Keeping in view the recent floods in Jagatsinghpur district, the JSW Foundation and the local administration have distributed a special relief package for the affected areas.

Recently, the coastal belt of Odisha has received unprecedented rainfall which caused the Mahanadi river to overflow. Some villages in the district have been submerged in floodwater. Two blocks particularly - Kujang and Tirtol - have been ravaged by floods.

Following the crisis, JSW Foundation and the district administration distributed 44,928 packets of biscuits, 4,500 packets of Amul (200gm), 4,500 packets of sanitary pads, 22,500 candles, 25,200 matchsticks and 3,500 packets of incense sticks in Tirtol block.

Similarly, 55,152 packets of biscuits, 5,540 Amul packs, 5,500 sanitary pads, 27,500 candles and 24,800 matchsticks, along with 4,500 mosquito coil packets were provided in Kujang block.

Officials of JSW Foundation and JSW Utkal Steel also visited the flood-affected areas. They also met District Collector Parul Patrawari and the deputy district collector. They assured them of providing support and all kinds of assistance to the flood-hit people. Patrawari praised JSW for providing assistance during such natural calamities. Sarpanchs of different blocks also expressed their gratitude to JSW for the initiative.

## Hotel owner held for blackmail

Berhampur: Police arrested Tuesday a hotel owner on charges of blackmailing a woman by uploading her obscene photographs on social media platforms since the beginning of this year. The accused was identified as Ashis Padhi, 26, a hotel owner and a resident of Manjari Nagar under Baidyanathpur police limits in this city. He was produced in court Tuesday. The woman had lodged a complaint at the Cyber Police station in this regard here May 15. In it, she had alleged that Padhi uploaded the photographs to create a rift in her family. Addressing a presser at the police district headquarters here, SP, Saravana Vivek M said that police with the assistance of a team from Google and IT experts managed to trace the accused and arrest him. He said Padhi had created four fake Facebook accounts to harm the victim.

## Baitarani wreaks havoc in three Bhadrak blocks

FURTHER RAINS MAY WORSEN SITUATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aradi, August 23: With forecast of heavy rains in the next 24 hours, the situation in 35 villages which are already reeling under floods from the Baitarani river in Chandbali, Dhamnagar and Tihidi blocks of Bhadrak district, is most likely to deteriorate.

Reports said, floodwater from Baitarani river has been playing havoc at Aradi, Olaga, Chandpur and Sundarpur panchayats under Chandbali block; Palasahi and Gaipur under Dhamnagar block and Shyamsundarpur panchayat under Tihidi block for the last two days.

Thousands of people have been marooned with water stagnant in houses, while roads and streets remain submerged. A portion of a road between Muan and Aradi villages is flooded with water dis-



rupting vehicular movement.

Crops on thousands of hectares of farmlands in Raipur, Kathamunda, Kantika, Taladamuka, Uparadumuka, Bankasahi and Shyamsundarpur areas under Dhamnagar block have been damaged.

People in some localities are spending sleepless nights due to weak embankments where breaches are likely to happen in case of further overflowing of the Baitarani river in the coming days. Though floodwater is receding in the three blocks, further rain will worsen their miseries, locals pointed out.

## Budhi Thakurani temple set to get a facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 23: Maa Budhi Thakurani temple, the presiding deity of Silk City is all set for renovation, sources informed Tuesday. The matter was discussed during the visit of District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida to the temple, Monday. The collector went around the temple and talked to the priests about the facilities that need to be developed for the temple. He also studied the plan prepared for the renovation and upgrading of the temple and directed that the first phase of work should start immediately.

Parida also directed officials to make arrangements for smooth parking of vehicles outside the temple premises. In the second phase, he said, an eviction drive will be taken up to remove the illegal encroachments.

Municipal Commissioner J Sonal of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) said an architecture agency has been assigned the task of renovation of the temple. A plan has been pre-

pared for this purpose, he informed.

Sambit Rout, Secretary, Berhampur Development Authority (BDA) said that the upgradation of the Budhi Thakurani temple will be taken up by the same artisans who had worked for renovation of the Taratarini temple.

Reports said that the state tourism department sanctioned ₹1.15 crore for renovation of the Budhi Thakurani temple in the 2014-15 fiscal. However, funds were revoked as no work was undertaken then for the development of the temple. The district administration convened a high-level meeting and discussed June 4, this year the proposed renovation of the temple.

Parida also visited the Rock Garden at Ambapua and the Gosaninuaogaon Bedha embankment and held discussions on renovation and upgrading of the two sites.

V Keerthi Vasani, Sub-Collector, Berhampur, Basant Kumar Padhi, executive engineer, BeMC, tehsildar Rabintra Mishra and other senior officials were present during the visit of Parida.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S ASHIANA REALTY LLP is pleased to inform that the Residential Project located at Nandan Vihar, Mouza: Kalarahanga, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, District: Khordha, Odisha, has been accorded Environmental Clearance from MoEF & CC vide EC Identification No.: EC220308OR163485 dated 17.08.2022. The Copy of the Environmental Clearance Letter is available with the SPCB, Odisha & may be seen on the website of SEIAA, Odisha. Sd/- Prafulla Kumar Mohanty Authorized Signatory

## POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property/ies)

**BANK OF BARODA, PARALAKHEMUNDI BRANCH**  
College Road, A/PO: Paralakhemundi, Dist.: Gajapati, PIN-761200, Odisha, Ph.: 06815-223577

[As per Appendix-IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the date mentioned below, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The borrower(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the immovable property/ies	Demand/Possession Notice Date	Amount Outstanding
(1) Borrower: M/s. SS Granites Park, Partners: 1) Mr. Surendra Pal, 2) Mr. Kusani Shiva Prasad / Guarantor: Mrs. Sanjeet Chawdry, W/o- Mr. Surendra Pal, All are At: Lingipur, P.S.: Gurandi, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati-761210. (2) Borrower: M/s. Sanjeet Granites and Exporters, Prop.: Mr. Surendra Pal / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Kusani Shiva Prasad, 2) M/s SS Granites Park (Partners: Mr. Surendra Pal & Mr. Kusani Siva Prasad), All are At: Lingipur, P.S.: Gurandi, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati-761210	(1) Equitable Mortgage of Gharabari Plots situated at Mouza: Lingipur, P.S.: Gurandi, Tehsil: Paralakhemundi, Dist.: Gajapati, PIN-761210 bearing Khata No.: 156/276, Plot No.: 741, for an extent of Ac.0.300dec., Plot No.: 726, for an extent of Ac.0.655dec., Plot No.: 727, for an extent of Ac.0.300dec., Plot No.: 738, for an extent of Ac.0.300dec., Plot No.: 739, for an extent of Ac.0.250dec. & Plot No.: 740, for an extent of Ac.0.200dec. i.e. for a Total Extent of Ac.2.005dec., standing in the name of M/s. S.S. Granites Park, Marfatdar Mr. Surendra Pal and Mr. Kusani Siva Prasad, Bounded by: East: Land of K. Vaikuntha Rao Naidu & Others, West: Land of D. Malleswar Rao & Others, North: K. Vaikuntha Rao Naidu & Others, South: PWD Road. (2) Hypothecation of plant and machineries and other fixed assets located at Mouza: Lingipur, P.S.: Gurandi, Tehsil: Paralakhemundi, Dist.: Gajapati, PIN-761210 bearing Khata No.: 156/276, Plot No.: 741, for an extent of Ac.0.300dec., Plot No.: 726, for an extent of Ac.0.655dec., Plot No.: 727, for an extent of Ac.0.300dec., Plot No.: 738, for an extent of Ac.0.300dec., Plot No.: 739, for an extent of Ac.0.250dec. & Plot No.: 740, for an extent of Ac.0.200dec. i.e. for a Total Extent of Ac.2.005dec., standing in the name of M/s. S.S. Granites Park, Marfatdar Mr. Surendra Pal and Mr. Kusani Siva Prasad, Bounded by: East: Land of K. Vaikuntha Rao Naidu & Others, West: Land of D. Malleswar Rao & Others, North: K. Vaikuntha Rao Naidu & Others, South: PWD Road.	28.04.2022 22.08.2022	₹1,46,96,785.62 + ₹3,50,71,669.44 = ₹4,97,68,455.06 as on 30.07.2022 plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: M/s. Sanjeet Granites and Exporters, Prop.: Mr. Surendra Pal / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Kusani Shiva Prasad, 2) M/s SS Granites Park (Partners: Mr. Surendra Pal & Mr. Kusani Siva Prasad), All are At: Lingipur, P.S.: Gurandi, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati-761210	Equitable Mortgage of Property situated at Mouza: Lingipur, P.S.: Gurandi, Tehsil: Paralakhemundi, covered under Hal Khata No.: 156/275, Plot No.: 741/1036, for an extent of Ac.0.165dec., Plot No.: 727/1037, for an extent of Ac.0.420dec., Plot No.: 728, for an extent of Ac.0.485dec., Plot No.: 739/1038, for an extent of Ac.0.100dec., Plot No.: 739/1039, for an extent of Ac.0.120dec. & Plot No.: 740/1040, for an extent of Ac.0.110dec. i.e. for a Total Extent of Ac.1.400dec., presently standing in the name of M/s. S.S. Granites Park Marfatdar Mr. Surendra Pal and Mr. Kusani Siva Prasad, Bounded by: East: Land of K. Dwaipani, West: Land of D. Malleswar Rao & Others, North: Land of M Dandasi, South: PWD Road.	28.04.2022 22.08.2022	₹3,50,71,669.44 as on 30.07.2022 plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: M/s. Utkal Flyash Brick Industry, Prop.: Mr. Shankar Kumar Panigrahi / Guarantor: Mrs. Kamakshi Prasad Panigrahi, Both are At: Gopini Street, Girls High School Road, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati-761200	Equitable Mortgage of housing property situated at Mouza: Paralakhemundi bearing Plot No.: 1605, for an extent of Ac.0.022dec. covered under Hal Khata No.: 215/958, stands recorded in the name of Mrs. Kamakshi Prasad Panigrahi, Bounded by: East: House of Hemachandra Bakshi, West: House of Raghunath Sahu, North: Gopini Street Road, South: Boxi Street Road.	19.04.2022 22.08.2022	₹18,07,371/- as on 09.07.2022 plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Date: 23.08.2022  
Place: Paralakhemundi

Authorised Officer,  
Bank of Baroda

Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions.

THE MOTHER



## Crowning Shame

News from Saudi Arabia is highly disappointing. 34-year-old female PhD student of dentistry, Salma al-Shehab has been made to face consequences at the hands of the repressive regime of her country for rooting for women's rights. Her 'offence' is that she re-tweeted tweets by activists clamouring for justice for fellow Saudi women incarcerated for protesting against curtailment of women's rights such as driving cars. Riyadh's Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) has sentenced Al-Shehab to 34 years in jail, and imposed a further 34-year travel ban. The sentence is considered harsh even by Saudi standards.

The PhD student, enrolled in a UK university, was detained during a visit to her home country in December 2020. She has now been found guilty of "assisting those who seek to cause public unrest and destabilize civil and national security by following their Twitter accounts," according to the court papers. Mother of two young boys, Al-Shehab is shell shocked by the verdict as she, in fact, appealed against a much shorter sentence of imprisonment for six years for the charge earlier. She was neither particularly outspoken in her criticism of the regime nor did she try to reach a wide audience. She has only a couple of thousand Twitter followers. During her two years abroad, she had shared and liked social media posts that called for the release of the then detained human rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul and supported calls for gender equality in Saudi Arabia. There is no doubt that the whole inquisition is the handiwork of the de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS). The judges of the SCC are handpicked by him. It is he who had faced international ostracism for the heinous murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

By inflicting the harshest punishment on Al-Shehab, the Saudi regime is sending out loud and clear messages to both its critics - Saudi Shiites inside the country as also Iran, which is considered Saudi Arabia's arch enemy. Al-Shehab belongs to the Shia community. The persecution of Shias by the Saudi regime follows the pattern of authoritarian rulers around the world claiming to be advocates of the majority religious group in their respective countries. This could be considered a provocation to Iran, which is mostly Shiite. The Shia minority in Saudi Arabia has been the victim of discrimination and marginalisation for decades and is often used as a political scapegoat to promote Saudi nationalism.

The timing of the verdict on Al-Shehab is intriguing. It has come shortly after Saudi Arabia returned into the global fold after four years of being widely shunned following the murder of Khashoggi. Ironically, the Crown Prince has been the main force behind the kingdom's modernisation programme - Vision 2030 - which includes more rights for women, opening up the country for tourism and diversifying from oil. In the same breath, he has assiduously created the image of being a man with iron fists by adopting draconian laws and setting up agencies that are nothing but instruments of torture and violation of human rights ahead of legal trials.

The international oil and gas crisis following the Russian invasion of Ukraine has opened a window of opportunity for the Crown Prince to project his country as a global fuel provider thereby getting away with persecuting his enemies at home. He has resumed travel and has started receiving foreign heads of state, including US President Joe Biden and European leaders at Riyadh.

The world seems to have very little choice in protecting freedom of speech. It has to decide whether it will trade freedom of speech and women's rights in return for Saudi oil and petro-dollars. In the process, it has to legitimise the Crown Prince's atrocities on his own people or else suffer consequences of fuel shortages.

### WISDOM CORNER

We are all here for some special reason. Stop being a prisoner of your past. Become the architect of your future.

ROBIN S. SHARMA

If we're growing, we're always going to be out of our comfort zone.

JOHN C. MAXWELL

If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought.

PEACE PILGRIM

### WORDSWORTH

#### Bant

It means to diet, though not any old diet, but a Victorian precursor of the fashionable Atkins high-protein diet. Few people know it was anticipated by William Banting, in Victorian times a London cabinet maker and undertaker to royalty (his firm buried Prince Albert, for example, and years later his sons organised the funeral of Queen Victoria). Banting was overweight, but neither diet nor exercise helped him. Finally he consulted a doctor, who told him to cut out carbohydrates from his diet. This was so successful that Mr Banting published a booklet in 1864, A Letter on Corpulence Addressed to the Public, extolling its virtues, which sold some 60,000 copies (he made no money from this, not wanting to profit from sufferers; he gave early printings away and the income from later editions was donated to medical charities). His diet became as widely known and controversial in Britain (and later in America) as the Atkins one is in our century, so much so that people took his name to be a participle and created from it - by a process called back-formation - the verb to bant. (By this he joined a significant company of men, two of the others being Boycott and Pasteur, whose names have been turned into verbs.) However, it was commonly used for any sort of diet, not necessarily one that conformed to Banting's precepts. Bant often turned up in books in the next half century or so, as here in The Minister's Charge, by William D Howells, of 1887: "He added, with another glance at his relative, 'Charles, you ought to bant. It's beginning to affect your wind.' 'Beginning! Your memory's going, Bromfield. But they say there's a new system that allows you to eat everything. I'm waiting for that. In the meantime, I've gone back to my baccy.'" Even in comparatively recent times, the word had not quite vanished from the language. Jonathan McColl (who provoked this piece) found it in The Satanist by Dennis Wheatley, dated 1960: "She felt ill owing to a combination of overwork and banting". People who know Swedish tell me that it is the usual word in that language for dieting; Mr Banting's influence seems to have travelled further than he probably ever knew.

#### LOL

#### Solving a dispute

Two little squirrels were walking along in the forest. The first one spied a nut and cried out, "Oh, look! A nut!" The second squirrel jumped on it and said, "It's my nut!" The first squirrel said, "That's not fair! I saw it first!" "Well, you may have seen it, but I have it," argued the second. At that point, a lawyer squirrel came up and said, "You shouldn't quarrel.



Let me resolve this dispute."

The two squirrels nodded, and the lawyer squirrel said, "Now, give me the nut." He broke the nut in half, and handed half to each squirrel, saying, "See? It was foolish of you to fight. Now the dispute is resolved." Then he reached over and said, "And for my fee, I'll take the meat."

# TRUMP'S BLACKMAIL DEFENCE

FOCUS ESPIONAGE

Donald Trump and his Republican Party minions have presented a dog's breakfast of explanations, evasions, accusations, and lies about the classified documents - including top-secret files - that federal agents reclaimed from Trump's Mar-a-Lago basement this month. But ultimately, Trump's best defence, if he is criminally charged, will be blackmail.



Kent Harrington

**UNAUTHORISED REMOVAL OF WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENTS - CLASSIFIED OR NOT - IS ILLEGAL, AND EX-PRESIDENTS DO NOT HAVE THE POWER TO DECLASSIFY ANYTHING**

Authorised by Attorney General Merrick Garland, the unprecedented search of a former president's home was based on a warrant, approved by a federal judge, that cited possible violations of the Espionage Act and other statutes. For months, the US Department of Justice had attempted to work with Trump's team to collect all the documents, only to be met with lies. The warrant's ample legal justification suggests that Trump is at risk of being indicted for endangering national security. That would come on top of an already lengthy list of other potential criminal and civil charges that could come out of various federal, state, and local investigations that are underway.

Given Trump's deep ignorance of international affairs and contemptuous treatment of national-security agencies while in office, his attempt to stash away some of their most highly classified secrets raises obvious counterintelligence questions about his intentions. It confirms once again that Trump has nothing but disdain for the agencies' integrity and the laws and rules that govern them. And it is a reminder that Trump would pose a direct threat to national security were he to win the presidency again in 2024.

Contrary to what Trump claims, the pilfered documents are not his property. In 1978, the Congress passed the Presidential Records Act, strengthening and expanding a 1974 post-Watergate law that gave the National Archives - not the outgoing president - sole ownership and custody of all White House documents. Equally false is Trump's assertion that he declassified the top-secret papers found in the 11 boxes that the FBI hauled away. He has produced no records of any such action, and it wouldn't matter if he had:



Donald Trump's attempt to stash away classified documents should concern all Americans and US allies, given the disregard that he showed for national security while in office. But prosecuting the offence could come with similar risks, depending on the nature of the secrets involved

Unauthorised removal of White House documents - classified or not - is illegal, and ex-presidents do not have the power to declassify anything.

In the past, White House or Cabinet-level officials who have flouted national-security rules have paid a price for it. In 1996, after John M. Deutch stepped down as CIA director, officials discovered that he had routinely stored highly classified intelligence on an unsecured personal computer that was also allegedly used to surf internet porn sites. Deutch lost his security clearances and ultimately agreed to plead guilty to mishandling classified information (though President Bill Clinton pardoned him before federal prosecutors could bring their case).

In 2005, Sandy Berger, Clinton's former national-security adviser, paid a \$50,000 fine and lost his security clearances for three years after pleading guilty to removing secret documents from the National Archives. And in 2015, David Petraeus, another former CIA director, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for egregious security breaches (thus avoiding what would have been felony charges). He had to cough up \$40,000 and serve two years of probation for allowing his biographer-turned-mistress to see notebooks containing secrets that would have done "exceptionally grave damage" if they had leaked.

But the Petraeus case attests to the difficulties facing federal prosecutors, and to the dangers involved in charging Trump for mishandling secret information. The Justice Department offered a plea bargain to Petraeus because it feared what would come out in open court (including clandestine agents' names, classified operations, and sensitive ties with foreign-intelligence services). Hefty fines or not, the reduced penalties for Petraeus and Berger show the lengths to which prosecutors will go to avoid such risks. (The lighter penalties also point to the double standard for senior officials compared to rank-and-file employees, who generally receive prison time for similar offenses.)

Obviously, Trump would play the same cards to avoid a court trial or a criminal conviction. His history of erratic, reckless behaviour speaks for itself. From pointlessly disclosing a sensitive counterterrorism operation to the Russian foreign minister to posting highly classified satellite images on Twitter, his presidency defined irresponsibility. President Joe Biden had no choice but to bar Trump from receiving intelligence briefings two years ago. Though no other past president has been denied this courtesy, nor has any past president posed such a clear and present danger to US interests (nor has any attempted a coup, for that matter). How Trump planned to use the

classified documents remains a question that investigators presumably have made a high priority. Depending on the answer and the resulting charges, if any, one thing is certain: Trump will play hardball, including by amplifying his claims of victimhood at the hands of the fictional Deep State, and denying any wrongdoing in purloining the documents. His lies and hyperbole, however, don't preclude seeking a plea deal. In his previous tangles with the law, such as his Trump University scam, he agreed to compensate the victims (in that case \$25 million) after his prevarications were exhausted.

Given Trump's past behaviour and ambitions for 2024, the FBI's discoveries at Mar-a-Lago should concern all Americans and US allies. At a minimum, they further confirm Trump's blatant disregard for US national security. For the national-security and intelligence officials who dealt with Trump's instability and authoritarian ambitions for four years, a second administration would present formidable challenges, not least as a test of their oaths to uphold the Constitution and adhere to the law.

The writer, a former senior CIA analyst, served as national intelligence officer for East Asia, chief of station in Asia, and the CIA's director of public affairs.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

### IN JEST THIS

## Going too far in the age of surveillance

Wherever you are in the world today, it's important to realise that someone or something is probably watching you, keeping track of your movements. One of these days, you'll be in the bathroom, looking at your phone and an advertisement will pop up: "Having trouble doing your business today, Sanjay? Try Metamucil fiber supplement. We guarantee 20 per cent more frequent bowl movements!"

You may find yourself asking, "How did they know my name is Sanjay? And how did they know I've been in the bathroom for 30 minutes?"

Well, with the help of your phone and other devices, Google and other companies have the ability to track your location and movements, unless you do three things: (1) change 13 settings on your phone to emphasise your desire for privacy; (2) send an email to Google chief Sundar Pichai with the subject line "Please unfollow me"; (3) change your name from Sanjay to Guillermo.

Yes, it's very complicated. And frankly, if you're overly concerned about being tracked, you may want to just get rid of your smartphone, laptop and other devices, and go back to rotary phones, notebooks and letters. Send an aerogram to your aunt in Mumbai and shock her all the way back to 1983.

While you're at it, you may also want to quit your job and stay at home, because the moment you set foot in your workplace, there's a good chance that your boss is tracking you, not just with one pair of eyes, but with all kinds of surveillance technology that will make you feel like a former Russian general visiting Washington D.C.

Okay, I don't want to get you too alarmed. This is not happening at EVERY workplace. If you work on a dairy farm, for example, you can relax. Nobody is watching you, except 36 pairs of eyes in the milking parlor. Even if your boss catches you taking a nap on a sack of hay, he'll probably think that you've worked so hard since 4 a.m. that you deserve

a raise. And he'll slide another sack under you.

But if you work for a large corporation, you need to be careful how you conduct yourself at work. Employers are keeping track of how often you chat with your co-workers, how frequently you go to the bathroom, and how many times you pick your nose. (Picking your nose while working is generally frowned upon, even if you work for Amazon as a "picker packer.")

As Zephyr Teachout writes in an article titled "The Boss Will See You Now" in The New York Review of Books, nurses and warehouse workers are being required to wear ID badges, wristbands and clothing with chips that allow employers to track their steps. If you usually take 3,500 steps per day, but took 3,700 today, you may have to explain your extra trip to the break room. Did you really need another bag of cheese puffs?

Many American truckers and bus drivers are irked about the driver-facing cameras that have

been installed in vehicles, depriving them of several rights we should all enjoy, including the right to scratch ourselves in privacy.

Being constantly watched, these drivers can't be themselves - whether it's singing loudly to a song on the radio, talking to themselves, or showing a finger to another driver. (I don't know about you, but there is nothing I appreciate more than a thumbs-up from another driver.)

Amazon, a particularly oppressive employer, tracks warehouse workers closely and forbids them from talking. "Who wants to be surveilled all day?" an Amazon employee complained to The Washington Post last year "It's not a prison. It's work."

This may be true, but don't be surprised if you're sitting in court one day and hear a convicted man pleading with the judge: "I'm so sorry, your honour. I promise I'll never do it again. Please don't sentence me to Amazon! Anything but Amazon."

### The Congress crisis

Sir, Electing a new president has become a Herculean task for the Congress. If the conditions are favourable, Sonia Gandhi's successor will be elected by the end of September. Earlier she managed to lead the party in accordance with the transformations in politics in the country. Now she finds it very difficult to lead the party successfully in a BJP-dominated political atmosphere. It must be noted that the Congress has not won a single state election in her second tenure since 2019. The Congress is desperate for Rahul to take over presidency but he has expressed his unwillingness to take over the reins of the party. How can a party beset with factionalism, defection and leadership crisis be expected to fare well in the 2024 general elections? The 'G23' formed with great expectations has failed to create an impact. Its members have failed to take their protests to meaningful levels. Political dissent in the party is often ignored and constructive discussions and solutions are not found. In such a scenario, something must be done to awaken the party from its stupor: An election for the post of the Congress president will definitely give new vigour to the party.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

### Act of parochialism

Sir, It is reprehensible and an act of parochialism that the BJP-led Karnataka government has intentionally excluded Jawaharlal Nehru's name in the government's newspaper advertisement on freedom fighters' list in connection with India's 75th Independence Day. Nehru's contributions have been foundational and colossal in building India as a secular and democratic republic which would have a socialistic commonsense. Courtesy the BJP, today the Nehruvian ideals and institutions are under constant threat. The persistent manoeuvre of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party to malign and run down the gargantuan contributions of Nehru for a modern India will only end up in a big failure. It is not only difficult, but even impossible for the nation to forget the Nehruvian legacy. Nehru laid the foundation for transformational changes, paving the way for India's eventual emergence as a major economic hub on the global center-stage. In fact, Nehru prided in calling himself as the 'prime servant' of the nation, and that was the humility of this great man. Not for nothing, India's first Prime was hailed as the 'Architect of Modern India.'

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## 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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rusaagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

# national

## of the day quote

Dignity of judges is key and among the fundamental parts of the rule of law and Constitutionalism  
**JAGDEEP DHANKHAR** | VICE PRESIDENT

I strongly condemn the illegal arrest of our @bjp4Telangana State President @bandisanjay\_bjp by TRS Gov. KCR is worried seeing the massive support that BJP is receiving from all corners of the state against his corrupt & family centric regime  
**JP NADDA** | BJP CHIEF

The busting of Popular Front of India's Phulwari Sharif module (in July) has proved that Bihar has become infested with sleeper cells  
**GIRIRAJ SINGH** | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### 4 quakes jolt J&K in less than 6 hrs

**Jammu:** Four earthquakes jolted Jammu and Kashmir in less than six hours Tuesday, officials said. No loss of life or damage to property was reported, they said. The epicentre of the first quake, which occurred at 2.20 am, was 61 km east of Katra area in Jammu region, they said. The second earthquake of 2.6 magnitude occurred 9.5 km north east of Doda in Jammu region at 3.21 am, they said. The third quake of 2.8 magnitude occurred 29 km east of Udhampur in Jammu region at 3.44 am Tuesday, they said. The quake hit at latitude 32.89 degrees north & longitude 75.45 degrees east at a depth of 10 km. The fourth earthquake of 2.9 magnitude occurred 26 km south east of Udhampur at 8.03 am, they said.

### Shivnath Express train derailed

**Nagpur:** The Shivnath Express train derailed at Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh Tuesday while it was heading to Nagpur in Maharashtra, railway officials said. No casualty was reported, they said. Five wheels of two coaches next to the train's engine derailed at 3.42 am at the Dongargarh yard in Chhattisgarh, located about 200 km from Nagpur, a railway official told PTI. There were 40 passengers in the two coaches - a general and a sleeper coach.

### Rajasthan rain fury: Two washed away

**Kota:** Two people were washed away in floods and two others went missing in Baran and Bundi districts, as heavy rains continued to lash the region Tuesday. Torrential rains have created a flood-like situation in Rajasthan's three districts - Jhalawar, Dholpur and Baran -- where the army has been called to carry out rescue operations, officials said Tuesday. An IAF helicopter is also being deployed to airlift more than 50 people stuck in the waterlogged areas in Baran and Jhalawar districts while schools in all four districts of Kota division -- Kota, Baran, Jhalawar and Bundi -- have been shut, they said.

### Farmer sets himself ablaze

**Mumbai:** A farmer from Osmanabad district in Maharashtra tried to commit suicide by setting himself on fire outside the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai Tuesday morning after a fight with his brother over a land dispute, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said. Fadnis said the incident, which took place near the Inox gate of the Maharashtra legislature building, was unfortunate and the government was keeping a watch on the situation.

## MAHA POLITICAL CRISIS

# SC refers Uddhav, Shinde dispute to constitution bench



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 23:** The Supreme Court Tuesday referred to a constitution bench the petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs on constitutional issues of splits, merger, defection, and disqualification.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana referred the matter to a five-judge bench observing that the matter involves important constitutional issues. "List the matter before the constitution bench the day after tomorrow."

"The bench will decide about the symbol related to the Election Commission proceeding," said the bench. It also asked the Election Commission not to take a final call on Eknath Shinde's faction claim as the official Shiv Sena party till Thursday (August 25). Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the Uddhav Thackeray faction, asked the top court to restrain the Election Commission from deciding Shinde's claim. The bench noted that a constitution bench would have to examine the gap left by

the decision in the case of Nabam Rebia v. Deputy Speaker in connection with the power of the deputy speaker to initiate disqualification proceedings. The bench said it is important to highlight the power of deputy speaker to initiate disqualification proceedings when such proceedings has been initiated against him, and added that over here Nabam

**In a relief to Uddhav Thackeray,** August 4 the Supreme Court orally asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to not decide a plea by Eknath Shinde group to recognise them as real Shiv Sena

**The top court told the ECI if** Thackeray-faction seeks time to file response to its notices on Shinde-faction petition, then it should consider their request keeping in mind the views expressed by the apex court

Rabia judgment needs gap filling. The three-judge bench said the larger bench needs to look at questions: What is the impact of removal of para 3 of the Tenth Schedule? What is the scope of the power of the speaker? What is the scope of power of the Election Commission of India when there is rift in the party? On August 4, in a relief to Uddhav Thackeray, the Supreme Court orally asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to not decide a plea by Eknath Shinde group to recognise them as real Shiv Sena. The bench told senior advocate Arvind Datar, representing ECI, "Let them file affidavits. But can't you hold...let no precipitative action be taken...we are not passing any order. But at the same time don't take any precipitative action."

## BSF foils smuggling attempt in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, August 23:** The Border Security Force (BSF) Tuesday said it has foiled a smuggling attempt from Pakistan by recovering M3 and AK47 type rifles. "Alert troops of @BSF\_Punjab thwarted a weapons smuggling attempt by recovering 02 M-3 type rifles with 04 mags (magazines), 03 AK-47 type rifles with 06 mags & 02 Pistols with 04 mags during checking/search along the Indo-Pak Border in Distt Ferozepur, Punjab," the BSF said in a tweet.

Punjab shares a 553-km long international border, with a barbed wire fence, with Pakistan. Earlier, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann asked Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Pankaj Kumar to enhance vigil at the borders of the state for checking smuggling of drugs and weapons from across the border.

The Director General had called on the Chief Minister here July 31. During the meeting, the Chief Minister had said Punjab being a border state faces numerous challenges of smuggling of drugs and weapons from across the border.



## POLITICAL STORM IN BIHAR

# CM enters temple with Muslim leader

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, August 23:** The entry of Mohammad Israail Mansoori in a Vishnupad temple of Gaya has created a political storm in Bihar after several BJP leaders targeted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The Chief Minister was on an official visit to Gaya and went along with Information and Technology Minister Mohammad Israail Mansoori to the Vishnupad temple for a 'darshan'.

After the 'puja', Mansoori said that it was his fortune to enter with CM Nitish Kumar in the "Garbh Grih" of Vishnupad temple.

Reacting on it, Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul, the MLA of BJP and Hindu hardliner said: "It was a heretic act of Mansoori to enter the temple. When it is clearly men-

# Raj Thackeray backs Nupur Sharma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 23:** Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray Tuesday supported suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her remarks against Prophet Mohammad. Controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik had said the same thing earlier but no one asked him to apologise, Thackeray said while addressing a meeting of MNS functionaries here.

"Everybody asked Nupur Sharma to apologise. I supported her. What she said was earlier said by Zakir Naik. Nobody asked for an apology from him," he said. Thackeray also slammed the "Owaisi brothers" (AIMIM leaders) for allegedly ridiculing the names of Hindu gods. No action has been taken against them, he said, using an abusive term while referring to them. The MNS chief also taunted his estranged cousin and former Chief Minister Uddhav

## PROPHET ROW



Thackeray over the latter's claim that the BJP reneged on the promise of rotating the CM's post after the 2019 Assembly elections in Maharashtra.

decided that the party having more MLAs will have the CM post," he said. "Also, during the election campaign, PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah had publicly said that Devendra Fadnis (present Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra) will be the

"When I was in Shiv Sena, Balasaheb (Thackeray) had de-



**OLD IS GOLD:** A double-decker bus halts as people cross a road, in Mumbai. Reported to be first introduced in the city of 'Bombay', these double-deckers were a reflection of their London counterparts. With the launch of Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport's (BEST) new electric double-decker bus, these iconic conveyances have got a fresh boost

## SONIA MEETS PRESIDENT

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi Tuesday met President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi. This is the first visit of Congress President after Murmu was elected as President



**Everybody asked Nupur Sharma to apologise. I supported her. What she said was earlier said by Zakir Naik. Nobody asked for an apology from him**

**RAJ THACKERAY** | MNS CHIEF

gone to meet Balasaheb. He knew I was not staying (in the Sena). He hugged me and said: Now you can go," the MNS chief recalled. "I want to take Balasaheb's ideology forward. It doesn't matter if I don't have the symbol (bow and arrow symbol of Shiv Sena)," he said.

## Kejriwal's tweet rattles BJP in Guj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhavnagar/Ahmedabad, August 23:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's tweet on the BJP state president has put the ruling party on the defensive and created a storm in the state politics.

Arvind Kejriwal in his tweet stated, "BJP is frightened of Aam Aadmi Party and its growing popularity in the state, according to the sources, BJP is going to drop its state unit president C R Patil, Is BJP so frightened?"

This has put the BJP and its leaders on the backfoot and they have been forced to take on Kejriwal on social media. The BJP's spokespersons and leaders have started bombarding social media. Party's co-spokesperson Bharat Dangar tweeted, "Gujarati is a very respectful community, it voted for the BJP in large numbers that AAP candidates will lose its election deposits, and AAP will break its old records of losing deposits in Uttarakhand, UP, Goa and Assam."

BJP media cell member Zubin Ashara reminded him of all his old tweets and the defeat he had to face in Varanasi and other states, all his statements had fallen flat.

Ashara recollected Kejriwal's statements in the past and tweeted ten times his tweets were proved wrong later.

Reacting to Kejriwal's tweet BJP chief spokesman Yamal Vyas said, "Kejriwal has seen the AAP defeat in Gujarat, so he is using C R Patil's name for publicity His tweet is not even noteworthy or fit for comment."

In political circles leaders are saying that Arvind Kejriwal knows how to be in the news and compel his political opponents to take note of his presence. By throwing verbal stones at C R Patil, Kejriwal has forced the BJP to take note of his presence in Gujarat.



# Young kids are at increased risk of tomato flu: Lancet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 23:** Young children are at increased risk of exposure to tomato flu, and if not controlled and prevented, the transmission might lead to serious consequences by spreading in adults as well, warns a recent study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal.

Tomato flu, or tomato fever, was first identified in Kollam district of Kerala May 6, according to the Lancet report. The infection has been reported in 82 children younger than five years by local government hospitals as of July 26.

Apart from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha have reported cases of tomato flu. "Children are at increased risk of exposure to tomato flu as viral



infections are common in this age group and spread is likely to be through close contact. Young children are also prone to this infection through use of nappies, touching unclean surfaces, as well as putting things directly into the mouth,"



read the report published on August 17. "If the outbreak of tomato flu in children is not controlled and prevented, transmission might lead to serious consequences by spreading in adults as well," it added.

**T**omato flu, or tomato fever, was first identified in Kollam district of Kerala May 6, according to the Lancet report

**T**he infection has been reported in 82 children younger than five years by local government hospitals as of July 26

**A**part from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha have reported cases of tomato flu

The rare viral infection, which got its name on the basis of the eruption of red and painful blisters throughout the body that gradually enlarges to the size of a tomato, is currently in an "endemic state". Though considered non-life-threatening, a vigilant manage-

ment is desirable to prevent further outbreaks, especially because of the dreadful experience of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the study.

Although the virus shows symptoms similar to those of Covid-19 -- including fever, fatigue, body aches and rashes on skin -- the report in the medical journal suggests that it could be an after-effect of chikungunya or dengue fever in children rather than a viral infection.

"The virus could also be a new variant of the viral hand, foot, and mouth disease, a common infectious disease targeting mostly children aged 1-5 years and immunocompromised adults," it explained. As of now, no antiviral drugs or vaccines are available for the treatment or prevention of tomato flu.

## AIADMK TUSSLE

## Madras HC adjourns hearing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 23: The division bench of the Madras High Court Tuesday adjourned the appeal by AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami against the order of a single judge bench in favour of the other leader, O.Panneerselvam.

The division bench comprising of Justices M. Duraiswamy and Sunder Mohan took the decision to adjourn the case to August 25, after senior Counsel representing Panneerselvam, P.H Aravind Pandian argued that he had serious objections to the grant of interim stay but was willing to advance the arguments directly on the appeals.

The senior counsel and former Advocate General of Tamil Nadu, Vijay Narayan representing Palaniswami said that he did not have any objections to the court's decision, but wanted to complete the hearing at the earliest. He said that there was a deadlock in the functioning of the AIADMK party due to the single judge's order.

Advocate Vijay Narayan suggested to the court that the final hearing be completed on Thursday and the judges agreed to it. The court asked the senior counsel and third senior counsel Guru Krishnakumar to reduce the arguments as short as possible.

A single bench judge of the Madras High Court represented



Advocate Vijay Narayan suggested to the court that the final hearing be completed Thursday and the judges agreed to it

The AIADMK is facing an acute crisis between the two factions led by Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, both former Chief Ministers and senior leaders of the party

by Justice G. Jayachandran on August 17 nullified the General Council meeting of the AIADMK held at Vangaram on July 11 on a

plea by Panneerselvam and others. The July 11 general council meeting had expelled Panneerselvam and had anointed Palaniswami as the interim general secretary of the party.

The single judge bench had ordered the status quo ante as on June 23 while disposing of three petitions by Panneerselvam and general council member P. Vairamuthu against the July 11 general council meeting.

The AIADMK is facing an acute crisis between the two factions led by Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, both former Chief Ministers and senior leaders of the party.

## Bogtui massacre: CBI arrests eight

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, August 23: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said Tuesday that its sleuths have arrested eight absconding accused in the carnage at Bogtui village in West Bengal's Birbhum district in which 10 persons were killed in the wee hours of March 21.

Of the eight arrested persons, seven are directly accused in the carnage at Bogtui while one arrest is related to the murder of deputy panchayat chief Vadu Sheikh. The Bogtui carnage and the killing of Vadu Sheikh are inter-related.

The seven persons arrested in connection with the Bogtui massacre include Bikir Ali, Noor Ali, Sher Ali, Asif Sekh, Josph Hossain, Jamirul Sekh and Khairul Sekh, while Lalan Sekh has been arrested in the Vadu Sheikh murder case.

On March 21, local Trinamool Congress strongman Vadu Sheikh was killed in broad daylight. In the ensuing violence that broke out at Bogtui following Sheikh's murder, several houses were set on fire, killing eight persons, including women and children, were killed on the spot. Later, one more woman died in the hospital, taking the total death toll to 10, including Vadu Sheikh.

On June 21, the CBI had submitted its chargesheet at a lower court in Birbhum district, wherein it clearly said that the local police were negligent even as violence swept Bogtui village. It was also mentioned that despite calls from the villagers, no one from the local police station reached the spot.

## Durga idol makers getting good orders but not price

AFTER A TWO-YEAR HIATUS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE ARTISANS' COLONY IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY IS BRIMMING WITH LIFE AND ENERGY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 23: The clay modellers of Kumartuli, Kolkata's key idol-making hub, are happy this year as orders for Durga idols are pouring in but at the same time, they are not satisfied with the price they are being offered by their clients.

After a two-year hiatus due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the artisans' colony in the northern part of the city is brimming with life and energy as the modellers and their assistants are busy creating idols of Goddess Durga and her progeny with bamboo, clay, ropes, hay, woods and other items.

Yet, amid all the hustle and bustle, they are disheartened as they are not getting the right price for the idols though the raw materials have become expensive and the wage of workers has increased.

"The situation is excellent this year after two years of gloom. Bookings have increased for all modellers. But prices of raw materials have increased manifold and we cannot pass on the cost to our loyal customers," Kanchi Pal, a lady artisan, said.

Pal who is making 20 idols said that all major artisans have received orders for 10 idols on an average and it is a much better situ-



ation compared to the previous two years. According to artisan Somnath Rudra Pal, the demand for Durga idols has risen but the puja organisers are requesting the modellers to keep the prices of the idols as low as possible.

"The organisers are claiming that they are low on budget. The problem is we are not in a position to raise the price of the idols. We are somehow managing," he said. The main 'karigar' (worker) charges Rs 1,500 per day and a helper takes Rs 800. It was much less earlier, he said.

A finished idol of Goddess Durga along with her four children and the 'mahisasura' (buffalo demon) costs around Rs 75,000 to Rs 1 lakh and can go up to Rs 1.5 lakh.

Many organisers, however, are

saying they cannot afford to pay so much. Some even asked the modellers to keep the price in the range of Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000, Somnath Rudra Pal added.

Mala Pal said that she has got a fair number of orders from in and around the city besides the usual small idols that go abroad. Locally, she received orders to make around 30 Durga idols of different sizes. There is no problem related to the orders from outside India. The situation is, however, different with the local puja organisers, she said.

"We are not bargaining with them with the prices of idols though the prices of raw materials have skyrocketed," Mala Pal said as she worked on an idol at her workshop in Kumartuli.

## STEEP HIKE IN YARN PRICES

## TIRUPPUR GARMENT INDUSTRY IN CRISIS

It may be noted that the prices of all varieties of yarn were moving around Rs 220-290 per kg during 2021 but after the yarn mill owners increased prices, the commodity touched more than ₹400 per kilogram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 23: With the steep hike in yarn prices continuing the garment industries in Tiruppur is in crisis.

Several units are not functioning for the past several months with most of them getting outsourced orders from major garment exporters.

Exporters of Tiruppur, which is considered the knitwear hub of India, are in a tough situation as they are unable to execute international orders that they have taken. This, according to exporters, would lead to the market going elsewhere.

It may be noted that Bangladesh and Vietnam are two major contenders for European and United States markets along with India and Sri Lanka. While the economic crisis in Sri Lanka has already taken its toll on that country, with the industry slumping, the spiraling yarn prices have led to a grinding halt for several units in Tiruppur.

It may be noted that the prices of all varieties of yarn were moving around Rs 220-290 per kg during 2021 but after the yarn mill owners increased prices, the commodity touched more than Rs 400 per kilogram.

The exporters are not able to ne-

gotiate prices with the buyers and hence there is a decline in the orders as high yarn prices take the industry to losses.

An exporter who does not want to be named said: "High yarn prices are making it difficult for us to negotiate orders. In August 2021, the prices of one kilogram of yarn were 220, but now the prices in April-May have touched around Rs 440 per kg."

He said that the industry cannot survive at the price of yarn as there would be huge losses to the exporters and hence most of the companies are either shut or operating with a minuscule workforce.

The exporter said that as they could not employ, a large number of workers from North Indian states and from North Eastern states have left Tiruppur for good. Several local workers from the districts of Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Madurai, and Tiruvannamalai have also left for their home districts as there are no jobs in Tiruppur.

Ravisekhar, K, a worker from Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu while speaking to IANS said: "I was living at Tiruppur with my friends and now almost all of us are leaving the garment city. There is no work and we were earning around 23000 Rs per month. I don't know what I am going to do in my village other than farming. However, farming will not yield much money, and my family consisting of a father, mother, wife, and two children will have to starve. It's a very sad state of affairs."

Notably, there are around 1.30 lakh migrant workers in the various garment factories of Tiruppur and if the crisis continues, it will affect a large number of families who are dependent on this industry.

## TMC to reduce upper age limit for students' wing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 23: Trinamool Congress has decided to reduce the upper age limit of the members of its students' wing in order to infuse young blood as it has found that those controlling its student bodies in most colleges and universities are from a significantly higher age bracket of 30 to 32 years, party sources said here.

The party is likely to make the upper age limit for members associated with Trinamool Chhatra Parishad, its student's wing, to 25 years, the sources said. The party observes August 28 as the foundation day of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad, which now controls the student bodies of all colleges and universities of the state.

"Generally, it should be students who should be involved and participate in student politics. But this is not the case for most political parties, including us. On sev-

The party is likely to make the upper age limit for members associated with Trinamool Chhatra Parishad, its student's wing, to 25 years, the sources said

eral occasions we have seen that people who have passed out of college and universities long time ago and are aged around 30-32 control the student unions in various universities. So there is a proposal to fix the specific age bracket at 25 (years)," a senior TMC leader said.

The step will not only ensure opportunities for those aged between 20-21 years in the party organisation but will also keep a cadre base ready for its youth



wing after they leave Chhatra Parishad, he said.

"After 25, a member of TMCP has to quit the student union. If he

wants, he can then join Trinamool Youth Congress. This is the natural political progression from students to the youth wing and then to the mother party. The decision of fixing the age limit is likely to be announced by the party leadership soon," he said.

Confirming the development, TMCP state president Trinankur Bhattacharya said, "Talks are on". TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee are scheduled to address a rally at Mayo Road on August 29 to mark the foundation day of the student's wing as August 28 is a Sunday.

The importance of student politics, which is considered as the breeding ground of next-generation politicians, can be gauged from the fact that almost all the important politicians from the state, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee herself have been its product.

## CCMC mulls robotic utility vehicle to clear clogged drains

The corporation will be conducting a feasibility study to buy an all-in-one sewer utility vehicle to desilt the canals, clear the clogged storm water drains and clean the Under Ground Drains across the corporation areas

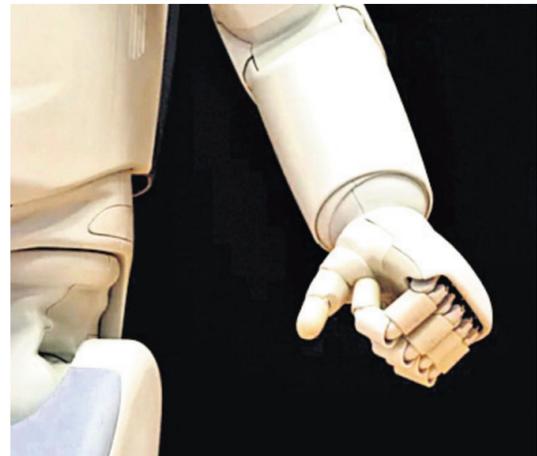
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 23: The Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC) is mulling the possibility of using a robotic utility vehicle for clearing the water-clogged storm water drains and the Underground drainage during the monsoon.

A presentation was given by a private robotic utility company before the CCMC officials, including the commissioner, M. Prathap, and Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Sharmila to this effect. The corporation will be conducting a feasibility study to buy an all-in-one sewer utility vehicle to desilt the canals, clear the clogged storm water drains and clean the Under Ground Drains (UGD) across the corporation areas.

The Robotic all-in-one utility vehicle can clear the clogged stormwater drains, clean the sewage channels, and can suck out water from the subways. However, the corporation is mulling over the idea as one such all-in-one sewer utility vehicle will cost around Rs 98 lakh.

A senior official with the CCMC while speaking to IANS said, "The cost of the vehicle is drawing us back as we don't have that kind of funds. However we are trying some Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and if that gets through, we will immediately put an order for purchasing this utility vehicle.



We are convinced of the service that this vehicle can render, but as I said earlier, the cost is withholding us from giving an affirmation."

The official also said that the CCMC has directed the private company to submit three different proposals with proper estimates.

Coimbatore Corporation has been under harsh criticism over the inundation of the subways and railway underpasses during the monsoon making it impossible for passersby to walk over the streets.

Clogged storm water drains are another issue faced by the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation and hence the idea of a robotic utility vehicle has been going rounds.

With the northwest monsoon expected to lash Tamil Nadu by the end of September, the Corporation has little time left for buying the utility vehicle. However, officials with the CCMC told IANS that the decision is almost taken and within one or two days, the orders will be given.

## TN govt on awareness blitz for Covid vaccine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 23: The Tamil Nadu health department is planning a major awareness blitz for the need to take precautionary vaccines against Covid-19 after the first and second doses.

Sources in the Tamil Nadu Public health department said that the awareness drive will be conducted by roping in leading movie and TV stars of Tamil film industry. It may be noted that during the commencement of the vaccination drive in Tamil Nadu, people were reluctant to take the jab and most of these initial hiccups were overcome by awareness using film and TV stars.

According to the state public health department, only 12.7 per cent of eligible people in Tamil Nadu have taken the precautionary vaccine in the state. The department is worried that with Covid continuing to raise its fangs in the state, people not taking a precautionary dose of vaccine could add to the spread.

The department is particularly worried about the health status of high-risk people, including senior citizens with comorbidities. The state public health department said that of the 4,05,63,607 people who are eligible for the booster dose as on August 20, a total of 51,69,621 people have inoculated themselves. This is roughly 12.74 per cent of the eligible population.

A senior official with the state public health department said that even though the impact of Covid-19 on most people is now mild, the long-term complications associated with the disease have still not



Sources in the Tamil Nadu Public health department said that the awareness drive will be conducted by roping in leading movie and TV stars of Tamil film industry

According to the state public health department, only 12.7 per cent of eligible people in Tamil Nadu have taken the precautionary vaccine in the state

been fathomed and hence the need for booster dose for all citizens who are eligible. Doctors said that long-term complications include cardiac and respiratory problems for those affected by Covid-19.

Dr. Suchithra Menon, a virologist with a leading Medical college at Madurai while speaking to IANS said, "It is almost certain that Covid-19 virus will be around for several years from now on and hence the booster doses are a necessity for people not to fall prey to the disease that may lead to long-term complications in health." She said that following Covid appropriate behaviour, including wearing masks, safe distancing and regular sanitization of hands are the other major factors that should be regularly adopted in life to prevent further Covid spread.

of the day quote

It was the duty of the Congress. You may have differences with Arvind Kejriwal. But our real fight is with the BJP. Our fight is against the communal forces

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

Recruitment for filling 5,739 more posts of the Police Department would be embarked soon

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

CBI is investigating Sisodia (Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia) regarding few crores in a case relating to the Excise Policy there, while here thousands of crores have been looted, there is no one to ask about it

H D KUMARASWAMY | JD(S) LEADER

SHORT TAKES

I-T dept notice to Anil Ambani

New Delhi: The income tax department has sought to prosecute Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani under the Black Money Act for allegedly evading Rs 420 crore in taxes on undisclosed funds worth more than Rs 814 crore held in two Swiss bank accounts. The department has charged Ambani, 63, with "wilful" evasion, saying he "intentionally" did not disclose his foreign bank account details and financial interests to Indian tax authorities. A show cause notice in this context was issued to Ambani early this month. The department said he was liable to be prosecuted under Sections 50 and 51 of the Black Money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) Imposition of Tax Act of 2015 that stipulates a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment with a fine.

IAF chopper makes emergency landing

Jaipur: An Indian Air Force Mi-35 helicopter had to make an emergency landing in the fields of Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district due to a technical fault Tuesday, officials said. There were five personnel, including the pilot, on board the helicopter. People gathered around soon after the helicopter landed in the fields. On receiving the information, local police rushed to the spot.

JNU scuffle: Delhi Police registers FIRs

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Tuesday registered two separate FIRs in connection with the scuffle that broke out at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) between a group of students and security staff a day before, officials said. The university has said two security guards were beaten up mercilessly by the students and strict action will be taken against those who are found guilty of disrupting the academic environment.

Lucky escape

Panaji/Mumbai: A Mumbai-bound IndiGo flight with 187 passengers on board returned to the taxi bay at the Goa Airport Tuesday afternoon due to a glitch in one of its engines, a senior airport official said here. All the passengers were deplaned safely by rescue teams of the Indian Navy, said airport director S V T Dhananjaya Rao. The airport is part of the navy base INS Hansa. "IndiGo flight 6E 6097 Goa to Mumbai with 187 passengers including four infants on board had to abort the flight due to a technical snag in the right engine while proceeding to the runway at 1.27 pm," he told PTI.



We need to adapt and promote health technology and prevention and treatment of cancer such as telemedicine for improved access to care

RAJESH BHUSHAN | UNION HEALTH SECRETARY

TOP COURT RAPS RAMDEV

The Supreme Court Tuesday came down heavily on Yoga Guru Ramdev for criticising allopathy and allopathic practitioners, saying he needed to be restrained from abusing the doctors and other systems of treatment



BrahMos MISFIRING INCIDENT

IAF terminates three officers

The missile was fired accidentally from the Indian side into an area in Pakistan earlier in March, in an incident the Defence Ministry had called "deeply regrettable" and blamed on "technical malfunction"

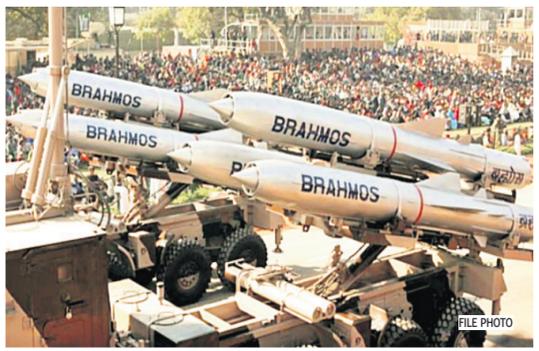
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: Three officers of the Indian Air Force were sacked Tuesday for the March 9 accidental firing of a BrahMos missile that landed in Pakistan.

An official statement said the services of the officers were terminated after a Court of Inquiry (CoI) found that deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by them led to the accidental firing of the missile.

Following the incident, the Defence Ministry described it as "deeply regrettable" while Pakistan lodged a strong protest over it.

"A BrahMos missile was accidentally fired March 9. A Court of Inquiry (CoI), set up to establish the facts of the case, including fixing responsibility for the incident, found that deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by three officers led to the accidental firing of the missile," the statement said. "These three officers have primarily been held re-



sponsible for the incident. Their services have been terminated by the central government with immediate effect. Termination orders have been served upon the officers August 23," it said. Though the Indian Air Force did not mention the ranks and names of the officials whose services have been terminated, it is learnt that a Group Captain is among the three. The in-

cident had taken place March 9 and Pakistan had lodged its protest with India the next day.

On March 11, the Defence Ministry said the missile was fired accidentally and it landed in Pakistan. The ministry had said then that it was caused by a technical malfunction in the course of the routine maintenance of the missile, adding the government

has taken a serious view of the incident. Separately, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament March 15 that SOPs for operations, maintenance, and inspection of such systems were being reviewed. Following the incident, Pakistan summoned India's Charged Affairs in Islamabad and conveyed its strong protest over the "unprovoked" violation of its airspace by the supersonic "projectile" of Indian origin. Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar, the Director-General of the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) of Pakistan, said the unarmed projectile entered the Pakistani airspace travelling 124 km.

The Pakistan foreign office said the "super-sonic flying object" entered into Pakistan from India's Suratgarh and fell to the ground near Mian Channu city, causing damage to civilian property.

The Pakistan foreign office also called for a thorough and transparent investigation into the incident and demanded that its outcome be shared with Islamabad.

Sisodia again in ED's clutch

AGENCIES

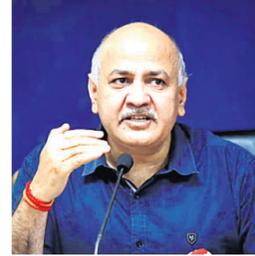
New Delhi, August 23: The Enforcement Directorate has registered a money laundering case to probe alleged irregularities in the Delhi Excise policy allegedly involving Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others, official sources said Tuesday.

The federal agency has filed the case under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after taking cognisance of a CBI FIR that has named Sisodia and 14 others.

The CBI had conducted raids in the case last week August 19 and had covered the Delhi residence of Sisodia, 50, that of IAS officer and former Delhi excise commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna and 19 other locations across seven states and Union Territories.

Sisodia holds multiple portfolios in the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government including that of excise and education. The ED will probe if alleged irregularities were done in the formulation and execution of the Delhi Excise Policy brought out in November last year.

The scheme came under the scanner after Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena last month recommended



a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the implementation of Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22.

Sisodia too demanded a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the policy. The CBI inquiry was recommended on the findings of the Delhi chief secretary's report filed in July showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009 and Delhi Excise Rules-2010, officials said. The ED, during its probe, will analyse if individuals and companies who were involved in the policy-making of this scheme and related entities generated any "proceeds of crime under the definition of PMLA" and if there was any possible creation of illegal or benami assets, sources said.

Ajay Mishra's remark leads to controversy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh), August 23: Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni's remark on farmer leader Rakesh Tikait has triggered a major controversy.

Addressing his supporters in his constituency Lakhimpur Kheri, Mishra called Tikait "do kaudi ka aadmi (worthless man)". "I know Rakesh Tikait very well do kaudi ka aadmi hai. He contested elections twice and, on both occasions, lost his deposit. I do not pay attention if such a person says anything. I will

never do anything wrong in life," the minister is heard saying in a video that is now being widely circulated on social media.

Mishra's statement was in response to Tikait's 72-hour-long protest at Lakhimpur Kheri demanding his removal from the Modi cabinet. Rakesh Tikait, reacting to the minister's statement, said that "Mishra is angry because his son is in jail. He (Ajay Mishra) should do yoga as he has lost his mental balance. His statement is as per his personality."



Aerial view of the flood-affected Vidisha district following incessant monsoon rainfall, in Madhya Pradesh. Disaster management teams shifted over 4,300 people to safer places and rescued 2,100 others from flood-hit areas in the last two days, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said Tuesday after undertaking an aerial survey of districts affected by heavy rains

All political parties are in favour of freebies: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: All political parties including BJP are in favour of freebies and due to this a judicial attempt has been made to deal with it, said the Supreme Court Tuesday while deliberating with a PIL opposing promises of such handouts by the parties during polls.

The top court also rapped Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and some of its leaders for making statements on the issue of freebies and the judicial inter-

vention on the ground that welfare measures are for uplifting marginalised people and cannot be held as "freebies".

"On this issue, I can say all political parties are on one side including BJP. Everybody wants freebies. That is the reason we made an attempt," a bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Hima Kohli and C T Ravikumar observed during the hearing. The intention was to initiate a "wider public debate" on the issue and for this purpose, the setting up of the committee was



mooted, the bench said, adding "We have to see what is a freebie and what is welfare." The bench said it has to balance the equity and it was not against any policy of the government or the scheme. "Some said, we have no right to entertain. No right to look into the issues...See, if tomorrow,

somebody comes to us and says that we are not the beneficiaries of the scheme... Can we say no? We cannot deal with this. See, we have to balance it. We are not against any policy of the government. We are not against any schemes..." the bench said. During the hearing, as

soon as senior advocate P Wilson commenced submitting on behalf of the DMK, the bench referred to some statements of party leaders and came down on them.

"Mr. Wilson (senior advocate P Wilson, counsel for DMK), I am sorry to say this. I wanted to say so many things. But I am not saying so being the Chief Justice of India. The party and the minister which he (a lawyer) is talking about... I don't think that wisdom only belongs to a particular person or a particular party. We are also responsible..." the CJI said.

Haryana BJP leader Sonali Phogat dies of heart attack in Goa



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji/Chandigarh, August 23: BJP leader from Haryana and actor Sonali Phogat died of a heart attack in Goa, police said on Tuesday.

Phogat (42), a former Tik Tok star who had also participated in the reality TV show "Bigg Boss", was on a visit to Goa along with some of her staff members. On Monday night, she was brought to St Anthony Hospital at Anjuna in North Goa district after she complained of uneasiness.

Between 7 pm and 8 pm Monday, Phogat had posted two different videos and four images on her Instagram profile showing her in a pink turban.

"Prime facie, the cause of death is established as heart attack but further medical examination is on," he said. The body was sent to the state-run Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) at Bambolim for postmortem.

Forensic experts at the GMCH will conduct the postmortem, Singh said. Haryana BJP chief O P Dhankar said, "She has passed away. I have been given information that she was in Goa." BJP's Haryana district president Capt Bhupender said, "Sonali ji was in Goa. I spoke to her assistant and he said that she died of a heart attack."

Phogat had unsuccessfully contested from Adampur Assembly constituency in Haryana against Kuldeep Bishnoi in the 2019 Assembly election.

India, UK weigh in options to open up legal services sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: India and the UK are weighing in options to open up the legal services sector to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

The Legal Services Committee (LSC), comprising representatives from the Bar Council of India and the Law Society of England & Wales, appreciated each other's concerns to the challenges in the opening up of the legal services sector.

The UK delegation explained in detail the regulations which determine the areas of court practice and legal advice by non-UK qualified lawyers. The Indian delegation, led by Law Secretary Niten Chandra, emphasised about the responsibilities vested in the Bar Council of India to protect the rights, privileges and interest of lawyers, whom they represent.

"However, the representatives of both the countries appreciating the potential benefits of the opening up of legal services sector



to their respective economies, agreed in principle to work together to find common ground for benefit of all stakeholders," an official statement from the Union Law Ministry said here.

The LSC deliberations were also attended by the British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis.

In July 2018, India and the UK had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for promoting co-operation in the sphere of Law and Justice. A Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) was constituted in terms of the MoU to carry out its objectives by firming up the way forward in areas of cooperation.

The third in-person meeting of the JCC was held at New Delhi on

BOOSTING TIES

The third in-person meeting of the JCC was held at New Delhi August 18

The LSC meet was held the same day after the JCC meeting

August 18. The LSC meet was held the same day after the JCC meeting.

At the JCC meeting a broad agreement was reached to facilitate exchange of experiences and best practices in the area of working of commercial courts, alternate dispute resolution mechanisms like arbitration and mediation, use of technology in case management, justice dispensation and enforcement of contracts and in area of simple legislative drafting.

It was further agreed that training and capacity enhancement programmes would be conducted in reputed Institutes for legal advisers, draftsman, judicial officers, prosecutors and legal professionals and in time bound manner.

'Centre forced Twitter to put agent on payroll'

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 23: A former Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) security chief has alleged that the Indian government forced the social media firm to put a government agent on the payroll, according to a whistleblower disclosure with US regulators.

Peiter 'Mudge' Zatkoff raised the issue with the US Securities and Exchange Commission among other security lapse claims at Twitter.

He said the government agent would have had access to sensitive user data due to Twitter's weak security infrastructure, according to a redacted version of the complaint uploaded by the Washington Post newspaper and verified by Zatkoff's attorney at Whistleblower Aid.

A company source told Reuters that the allegations about the India government had surfaced previously within Twitter, without elaborating further. Representatives for India's IT ministry did not im-



mediately respond to requests for comment.

"What we've seen so far is a false narrative about Twitter and our privacy and data security practices that is riddled with inconsistencies and inaccuracies and lacks important context," a Twitter spokesperson said in a statement regarding Zatkoff's allegations. Twitter is engaged in a legal challenge against the Indian government after it asked a local court in July to overturn some government orders to remove content from the social media platform, and alleged abuse of power by officials.

The next hearing in the case is set for Thursday.

# international

## of the day quote

I want to change the UK-India relationship to make it a more two-way exchange that opens up easy access to UK students and companies in India

The United States is deeply concerned by renewed threats of violent confrontation in Tripoli and calls for immediate de-escalation by all sides

The government and other institutions must establish writ of law otherwise Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan will target and weaken them

## SHORT TAKES

### 10 fishermen held

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 10 Indian fishermen and seized their trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters, an official statement said Tuesday. The fishermen were arrested Monday off the northeastern coast of Mullaithivu. A Navy fast attack craft had given chase to the Indian fishermen before they were arrested, the statement said. They were brought to the eastern port of Trincomalee and handed over to the fisheries inspectorate of Trincomalee for further action, the Navy said.

### Restrictions eased

Kathmandu: Foreign nationals will now be allowed to travel to third countries via Nepal, a government spokesperson has said, after the government decided to resume the transit visa service after a 16-month hiatus due to the pandemic. In April 2021, Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification banning all foreign nationals from using the Tribhuvan International Airport as a transit point for third countries in the wake of the rising cases of coronavirus infections in the country.

### Deadline declared

Rome: Pope Francis Tuesday imposed an October 1 deadline for all Holy See offices and Vatican-linked institutions to deposit their assets with the Vatican bank. Francis' decree follows his decision earlier this year to entrust management of all Vatican assets to one office — the bank known as APSA — in a bid to end decades of mismanagement that culminated with a scandal over a 350 million-euro investment in a London property. Ten people, including former Vatican officials and external brokers, are on trial in the Vatican tribunal on finance-related charges related to the deal.

### Schools closed in Philippines

Manila: A tropical storm lashed the northern Philippines with strong wind and rain on Tuesday, injuring at least two people and prompting the president to close schools and government offices in the capital and outlying provinces. Tropical Storm Ma-on slammed into Maonacon town in Isabela province Tuesday morning with sustained winds of 110 kilometres (68 miles) and gusts of up to 150 kph (93 mph) and will barrel northwestward through northern provinces before blowing away from the country overnight, forecasters said.



The Australian government will launch an inquiry aimed at preventing a prime minister from ever again secretly amassing new ministerial powers

ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIA PM

## FINNISH PM APOLOGISES

Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin Tuesday apologised for a picture that emerged from a private party she had thrown at her official residence in July, following a public stir over her partying in the past week



# Zelenskyy pledges powerful response

Kyiv, August 23: As Ukraine prepared to mark both its independence from Soviet-rule in 1991 and the six months since Russian troops invaded, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pledged that any Russian attacks in or around the date would provoke a powerful response.

Zelenskyy, who has led his country's resistance since Russian troops poured over the border on Feb. 24, also said Ukraine would restore its rule over the Crimea region - annexed by Russia in 2014 in a precursor to this year's invasion. Despite his defiance, there was concern among Ukrainian and allied Western officials that Russia was preparing to attack the capital Kyiv once again. The United States urged its citizens to leave Ukraine, saying it believed Russia would target civilian and government infrastructure in the next few days. U.S. citizens should leave Ukraine "now" by their own means if it was safe to do so, the U.S. Embassy said. On the battlefields away from Kyiv, Russian forces carried out artillery and air strikes in the



Zaporizhzhia region in southeastern Ukraine, where fighting has taken place near Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Ukraine's military said.

Meanwhile leaders of dozens of countries and international organizations were taking part in the so-called Crimea Platform - most of them by video - in solidarity with Ukraine on the six-month anniversary of the invasion. Opening the forum, Zelenskyy, dressed in his customary military gear, told delegates: "To overcome terror; it is necessary to gain victory in the fight against Russian aggression." "It is necessary to liberate

fight to resist Russia's invasion, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity, protect your democracy and independence," he said. Earlier, Zelenskyy had warned that Moscow might try "something particularly ugly" in the run-up to Wednesday's Independence Day. Asked at a news conference with visiting Polish President Andrzej Duda about the possibility of a Russian missile strike on Kyiv, Zelenskyy said there was a daily threat of attacks although the number of them could increase. Ukraine's response would be the same for any city that comes under attack from Russia. "They will receive a response, a powerful response," Zelenskyy said. "I want to say that each day...this response will grow, it will get stronger and stronger."

Fears of intensified Russian attacks followed the killing of Darya Dugina, the daughter of a prominent Russian ultra-nationalist, in a car bombing near Moscow on Saturday. Moscow blamed the killing on Ukrainian agents, a charge Kyiv denies. Kyiv has only rarely been hit by Russian missiles since Ukraine repelled a ground offensive to seize the capital in March.

Crimea. This will be the resuscitation of world law and order," he said. Italy's acting Prime Minister Mario Draghi told the summit Rome would continue to support Ukraine. "We are with you in your

US urges citizens to leave Ukraine 'now' Heightened fears of attack on Kyiv around Independence Day Wednesday marks six months since Russian invasion

To overcome terror, it is necessary to gain victory in the fight against Russian aggression. It is necessary to liberate Crimea. This will be the resuscitation of world law and order

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

## TOP COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION

# Malaysian ex-PM Najib goes to jail



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putrajaya (Malaysia), August 23: Malaysian ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak lost his final appeal Tuesday in a graft case linked to the looting of the 1MDB state fund, with the top court unanimously upholding his conviction and 12-year prison sentence. The loss means Najib will have to begin serving his sentence immediately, becoming the first former prime minister to be jailed.

The five-member Federal Court panel said it found the High Court judge was right in his judgment and that Najib's appeal was "devoid of any merits." "This is a simple and straightforward case of abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering," said Chief Justice Maimun Tuan Mat, who read out the verdict.

"We are unable to conclude that any of the findings of the High Court, as affirmed by the Court of Appeal, were perverse or plainly wrong so as to warrant appellate intervention. We agree that the defense is so inherently inconsistent and incredible that it does not raise a reasonable doubt on the prosecution case," she said.

The court ordered Najib to begin his time behind bars. 1MDB was a development fund that Najib set up shortly after taking power in 2009.

Investigators allege at least USD 4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by Najib's associates. Najib was found guilty in 2020 of abuse of power, criminal breach of

Najib said he felt he was 'unfairly treated' and that his case has been rushed through

trust and money laundering for illegally receiving USD 9.4 million from SRC International, a former unit of 1MDB. Najib, 69, has maintained he is innocent and had been out on bail pending his appeals. Just before the court delivered its verdict, he stood up in the dock to make a statement protesting the top court's series of refusals last week to postpone the appeal hearings.

Najib said he felt he was "unfairly treated" and that his case has been rushed through. He pointed out that a leaked verdict by the Federal Court had been posted on a website and said if this was true, it would be the "judicial misconduct of the highest order."

But Maimun said the appeal hearings had ended because Najib's newly appointed lawyers refused to make any new arguments in protest of not being given more time to prepare. Najib appeared in shock after the verdict was read. He was immediately surrounded by his family and supporters.

Earlier Tuesday, Najib sought to remove Maimun from the case, citing possible bias because her husband had made a negative Facebook posting about Najib's leadership shortly after his ouster in 2018 general elections. But the judges dismissed Najib's application.

## NO RESPITE

# Trouble mounts for Imran Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 23: A top court in Pakistan Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to former Prime Minister Imran Khan and summoned him August 31 in contempt proceedings initiated against him for passing controversial remarks against a female judge at a rally here.

A three-member bench of the Islamabad High Court, headed by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and comprising Justice Babar Sattar and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, also asked Khan to personally appear before the bench on August 31.

The court Monday constituted a larger bench to initiate contempt of court proceedings against 69-year-old Khan for "threatening" Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry during his speech in Islamabad on Saturday.

During the hearing, Justice Kayani termed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman's remarks 'inappropriate' and said the case is not only confined to the IHC but the message is going to the highest level, adding that people on social media should be controlled.



"Imran is consistently giving remarks against the judiciary and the ECP. This should come to a stop," he said. Justice Gul added that Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry will be provided security. At a rally in Islamabad's F-9 park Saturday, Khan had threatened to file cases against Islamabad's inspector general of police and deputy inspector general of police and declared: "We won't spare you."

## POLL FEVER



Supporters of Angola's main opposition party UNITA, attend the party's final rally at Cazenga, outside the capital Luanda in Angola

# Invaders will incur heavy price: Taiwan

Tensions between Taiwan and China have spiked over the past month following the visit to Taipei by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

REUTERS

Taipei, August 23: Taiwan is determined to defend itself and invaders will incur a "heavy price", President Tsai Ing-wen said Tuesday on the anniversary of a confrontation six decades ago in which Taiwanese forces beat back Chinese attackers.

Tensions between Taiwan and China have spiked over the past month following the visit to Taipei by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. China staged war games near Taiwan to express its anger at what it saw as stepped up U.S. support

## TENSIONS SPIKE



REUTERS

for the island Beijing views as sovereign Chinese territory. Meeting military officers, Tsai extolled the "spirit" of defending against China's more than a month of bombardment of the Taiwan-controlled islands of Kinmen and Matsu, just off the Chinese coast, which started in late August 1958. "This battle defended Taiwan for us, and it also declared to the world that no threat can shake

the determination of the Taiwanese people to defend their country," Tsai said, in comments released by her office. "What we have to do is to let the enemy understand that Taiwan has the determination and preparation to defend the country," she added. "A heavy price will be paid for invading Taiwan or attempting to

What we have to do is to let the enemy understand that Taiwan has the determination and preparation to defend the country

TSAI ING-WEN | TAIWAN PRESIDENT

invade Taiwan, and it will be strongly condemned by the international community."

Meeting earlier in the day with a delegation of former U.S. officials now at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, including Matt Pottinger, former U.S. President Donald Trump's deputy national security adviser, Tsai said that the 1958 battle paved the way for today's Taiwan.

"Sixty-four years ago during the Aug. 23 battle, our soldiers and civilians operated in solidarity and safeguarded Taiwan, so that we have the democratic Taiwan today," she said, using the Taiwanese term for that campaign, which ended in stalemate with China failing to take the islands.

# CHINA DIGS DEEP TO WATER CROPS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, August 23: With China's biggest freshwater lake dried to historic lows by drought, work crews are digging trenches to keep water flowing to irrigate crops.

The dramatic decline of water coverage in Poyang Lake in the central province of Jiangxi otherwise had cut off irrigation channels to neighbouring farmlands in one of China's key rice-growing regions.

But the crews using excavators to dig the trenches only work after dark due to the daytime heat, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

High temperatures have sparked mountain fires that have forced the evacuation of 1,500 people in southwest China, and factories have cut production as hydroelectric plants reduce their output amid drought conditions.

## IMPACT OF UKRAINE WAR

# Bangladesh cuts school, office hours to save electricity

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dhaka, August 23: Schools in Bangladesh will close an additional day each week and government offices and banks will shorten their work days by an hour to reduce electricity usage amid concerns over rising fuel prices and the impact of the Ukraine war.

The reduced hours take effect Wednesday. In Bangladesh, most schools are closed on Fridays, but now will also close on Saturdays, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said Monday. He said government offices and banks will cut their work days to seven

hours from the previous eight hours, but that private offices will be allowed to set their own schedules.

Supply disruptions caused by the Ukraine war have led to soaring world prices for energy and food. Bangladesh has been taking measures in recent weeks to ease pressure on its declining foreign currency reserves. Last month, fuel prices were raised by more than 50%.

The government says it is exploring options to get cheaper fuel from Russia under a special arrangement. The decision has drawn criticism, but the government said it is necessary to cut losses amid rising international

fuel prices. Small street protests against the higher prices have taken place in recent weeks, and the government said domestic prices will be adjusted after international prices ease. The country has been suffering more frequent power cuts after the government suspended operations of all diesel-run power plants, reducing daily electricity production by 1,000 megawatts.

But authorities have promised to continue supplying power to industrial zones to help support the country's \$416 billion economy, which has been growing rapidly over the last decade. The country's



opposition has accused the government of failing to control corruption and eliminate losses in the energy sector.

In July, Bangladesh sought an unspecified loan from the

International Monetary Fund, becoming the third country in South Asia to do so recently after Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Rahul Anand, division chief in the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, said in a recent consultation that Bangladesh was not in a crisis situation and its external position was "very different from several countries in the region."

"Bangladesh has a low risk of debt distress and is very different from Sri Lanka," he was quoted as saying by the Dhaka-based The Business Standard Daily. Bangladesh's foreign currency reserves have dwindled to around \$40 billion.

## of the day quote

We are in the growth phase and there are tremendous opportunities on the airlines and airports side



YOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

At Audi India, we are committed to operating a sustainable business model. With rising input and supply chain costs, we are required to take a price hike of up to 2.4 per cent across our model range



BALBIR SINGH DHILLON | AUDI INDIA HEAD

Mineral exploration will be carried out without adverse environmental impact through enhanced use of drones and other latest technologies



PRALHAD JOSHI | COAL AND MINES MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### NTPC to raise ₹2,000 crore

**New Delhi:** State-owned power giant NTPC will raise Rs 2,000 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures on a private placement basis Thursday. The proceeds will be utilised for, inter alia, funding of capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, according to a regulatory filing. The company has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures of Rs 2,000 crore on August 25, 2022, through private placement at a coupon of 7.44 per cent per annum with a door-to-door maturity of 10 years, it added. The debentures are proposed to be listed on NSE.

### P&G profit dips 13.12%

**New Delhi:** FMCG products maker Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care Ltd Tuesday reported a 13.12 per cent decline in Profit After Tax (PAT) at Rs 42.55 crore during the fourth quarter ended June 30, on account of rising commodity costs. The company, which follows July-June financial year, had reported a PAT of Rs 48.98 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Its revenue from sale of products was down 3.8 per cent to Rs 755.65 crore during the quarter under review, as against Rs 785.58 crore of the corresponding quarter, Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care Ltd (PGHH) said in a regulatory filing. The company, which owns popular brands such as Vicks in healthcare and Whisper in feminine care - said the decline in profit was largely due to "commodity cost inflation".

### SpiceJet scouting for funds: Singh

**New Delhi:** SpiceJet is looking for investments from external parties, including airlines, and also plans to add seven more Boeing planes to its fleet, the carrier's chief Ajay Singh said Tuesday. In recent times, SpiceJet has faced turbulence -- especially with many of its flights suffering technical snags -- and subsequently, the airline has faced actions from aviation regulator DGCA. SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said it is doing the utmost to work through the stress that it has faced and the strategy is to raise resources. "We are doing it by way of the government-supported scheme ECLGS, getting new aircraft from Boeing and therefore through the SLB process, exploring options for fundraise... We are exploring all options," he said.



In the near future, National Highways Authority of India will be monetising various road projects through a mix of Infrastructure Investment Trusts and toll-operate-transfer model

NITIN GADKARI | ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER

## RETAIL PRICE OF RICE RISES 6.31PC

After wheat, rice prices are firming up on reports of supply concerns with the all India average retail price of the grain ruling higher by 6.31 per cent at Rs 37.7 per kg compared to the year-ago period, according to an official data.



# Adani set to acquire NDTV

THIS WILL BE THE PORTS-TO-ENERGY GROUP'S MOST HIGH-PROFILE BET IN THE MEDIA SECTOR WHERE MUKESH AMBANI ALREADY HAS A SIZEABLE PRESENCE THROUGH NETWORK18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 23:** Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group Tuesday said it will buy a majority stake in New Delhi Television Ltd, one of the nation's most popular news channels, as it looks to boost media investments as part of an ambitious expansion plan.

An Adani Group firm first acquired a company that in the past was linked to rival billionaire Mukesh Ambani. The particular company had loaned Rs 250 crore to NDTV in 2008-09 and the Adani group firm now exercised the option to convert that debt into a 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel company.

Subsequently, it has launched an open offer for another 26 per cent stake, the group said in a statement.

This will be the ports-to-energy group's most high-profile bet in the media sector where Ambani already has a sizeable presence through Network18, which runs a bouquet of channels, including news channel CNN-News18 and business channel CNBC-TV18.



Last year, Adani Media Ventures Pvt Ltd (AMVL), the media arm under the group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), had acquired the digital business news platform Quintillion Business Media Pvt Ltd (QBM).

"AMVL's wholly-owned subsidiary Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL) holds warrants of RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd (RRPR) entitling it to convert them into 99.9 per cent stake in RRPR. VCPL has exercised warrants to acquire 99.5 per cent in RRPR," it said.

Such acquisition will result in VCPL acquiring control of RRPR. "RRPR is a promoter group company of NDTV and holds a 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV," the statement said.

"VCPL, along with AMG Media Networks Ltd and AEL (persons acting in concert), will launch an open offer to acquire up to 26 per cent stake in NDTV" in compliance with takeover norm.

NDTV operates three national news channels - English news channel NDTV 24x7, Hindi news channel NDTV India and business news channel NDTV Profit. It also has a strong online presence and remains one of the most followed news handles on social media with more than 35 million followers across various platforms.

The open offer would be worth Rs 493 crore. Earlier Tuesday, Adani said it bought VCPL for Rs 114 crore.

NDTV's share price, which has risen more than 300 per cent so far this year, closed at Rs 366.20 apiece on BSE Tuesday. The open offer price is 19.71 per cent lower than the closing price on Tuesday.

# Adani Group deeply overleveraged: Report



REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 23:** India's Adani Group, controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani, is "deeply overleveraged" and its many investments in capital-intensive businesses could pose long-term risks to investors, Fitch Group's debt research unit CreditSights said Tuesday.

The conglomerate's debt-funded growth plans could spiral "into a massive debt trap" and culminate in distress or default of its companies and the broader Indian economy in a "worst-case scenario," CreditSights said.

An Adani Group spokesman did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

The grim assessment of the conglomerate, controlled by Asia's richest man, comes at a time its group companies are investing in new sectors such as telecom, cement and long-term infrastructure projects.

The heavy debt of the companies pose a risk at a time when interest rates are high and due to the long gestation period of some of the infrastructure projects, CreditSights said in its report.

CreditSights also flagged "high key-man risk", saying the capability of senior management in Gautam Adani's absence may be inadequate.

Shares in Adani Group companies including flagship Adani Enterprises, Adani Green Energy, Adani Ports and Adani Power fell after the release of the report, which pegged the conglomerate's total debt at 2.3 trillion rupees (\$28.80 billion).

Shares of Adani Green, up about 170% over the year, led the slide falling as much 6.9%. Adani Power, which has risen more than five-fold in the last year, fell 5% to hit the lower circuit - the limit a stock price can move on a single day.

# CM opens ICICI Bank's phone banking centre



CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the phone banking centre in the presence of ICICI Bank's Executive Director Sandeep Batra and 5T Secretary VK Pandian

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 23:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday inaugurated the ICICI Bank's state-of-the-art phone banking centre here.

The centre will provide direct employment to 1,200 individuals, most of them are from the state and 60 per cent of workforce are women. Inaugurating the centre in presence of ICICI Bank's Executive Director Sandeep Batra, the Chief Minister said: "I am pleased to inaugurate the bank's modern phone banking centre in Bhubaneswar which is enabled with latest technology of artificial intelligence and robotics."

Apart from serving customers in Odisha through its wide network of branches and ATMs, internet banking and mobile app,

Patnaik said the bank is a large employer in the state.

Stating that digitisation has been playing a key role in transforming Odisha, ICICI Bank's ED said it is the first among Indian states to provide many digital services in the fields of education, telecom, land record and disaster management, among others.

The state has made hundreds of services online, offering unparalleled convenience to its citizens and enabling their progress and growth. "At ICICI Bank, we do have the same philosophy of leveraging technology to provide enhanced convenience to our customers," Batra said.

He also said that the phone banking centre is well equipped to service customers not only in the state but also across the country. He said the 1200 employed persons are trained and upskilled to serve the customers of the bank across the country and cater to their specific banking requirements.

# Sensex, Nifty snap 2-day fall as bank, auto shares shine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Aug 23:** Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty snapped their two-day losing streak to close nearly half a per cent higher in a volatile session Tuesday following gains in banking, metal and auto stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded more than 1,000 points from the day's low before settling at 59,031.30, showing net gains of 257.43 points or 0.44 per cent. As many as 21 of Sensex shares closed in the green while nine declined.

The broader NSE Nifty rose by 86.80 points or 0.50 per cent to settle at 17,577.50 as 42 of its constituents advanced.

The key indices opened lower due to losses in IT and FMCG shares as uncertainty prevailed over the interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve to control inflation. Losses in Asian markets also hit the sentiment. However, late recovery in banking, metal and auto shares helped the indices recover from the lows and snap the two-day losing streak.

From the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 3.78



per cent. Bajaj Finserv rose by 2.75 per cent, Titan by 2.6 per cent, Tata Steel by 2.38 per cent, State Bank of India by 2.12 per cent. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sun Pharma and IndusInd Bank also advanced.

On the other hand, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Hindustan Unilever, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.03 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.78 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, metal advanced 2.08 per cent, followed by auto (1.70 per cent), consumer durables (1.44 per cent), basic materials (1.28 per cent), energy (1.28 per cent) and telecom (1.26 per cent).

# Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 79.88 against \$

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, August 23:** The rupee depreciated 4 paise to close at 79.88 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday, tracking a strong American currency in the overseas market and rising crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.85 and saw an intraday high of 79.81 and a low of 79.90 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 79.88, down 4 paise over its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had closed at 79.88 against the US dollar.

"Momentum in the dollar has taken off after hawkish comments from the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes. Euro fell below parity as the dollar strengthened across the board. The pound fell sharply as surging energy costs...Highlighted the UK cost of living crisis and intensified fears of further economic slowdown," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

# India's crude oil output falls 3.8%

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 23:** India's crude oil production fell 3.8 per cent in July on lower output from fields operated by state-owned ONGC and private sector firms, government data released Tuesday showed.

Production of crude oil, which is refined to produce fuels such as petrol and diesel, fell to 2.45 million tonnes in July from 2.54 million tonnes a year back.

The output was lower than the monthly target of 2.59 million tonnes, the data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas showed.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) produced 1.7 per cent less oil at 1.63 million tonnes on lower output from western offshore. Fields operated by private firms saw a 12.34 per cent decline in production.

But the oil production during the first four months of the current fiscal that began April 1 was only marginally lower at 9.91 million tonnes as opposed to 9.96 million tonnes during April-July 2021.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri August 4 tweeted that the declining trend in crude oil production has been reversed.

"We have already been able to reverse the declining trend in oil production from 2011-12 with an expected 29.7 million tonnes in

2021-22 to 30.8 million tonnes in 2022-23 & 34 million tonnes (estimated) in 2023-24, and are confident of rapidly ramping up the nation's oil production in the years to come," he had said.

According to the ministry data, ONGC's oilfields in Gujarat and Assam produced less oil while Vedanta's Rajasthan block had a lower output.

Natural gas output was almost unchanged at 2.88 billion cubic meters in July but was 3.4 per cent higher during April-July at 11.43 bcm, according to the data released Tuesday.

ONGC's gas output was almost 4 per cent lower in July due to less gas production in the Daman field in Mumbai offshore.

The country's 22 oil refineries processed 10.52 per cent more crude oil at 21.43 million tonnes as demand for fuel picked up.

Domestically produced crude oil forms just 15 per cent of the processing at refineries, the rest being imported oil.

Refineries operated at over 100 per cent of their rated capacity in July, up from 91.58 per cent in the same month last year.

With 83.96 million tonnes crude oil processed, refineries operated at 103.87 per cent of their capacity during April-July as compared to an operating rate of 92.01 per cent in processing 76.64 million tonnes of crude oil.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Union Bank of India inks MoU with state govt



**BHUBANESWAR:** Union Bank of India (UBI) and the state government entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on SHG financing and women SHG members as business correspondent agents as a last mile delivery of banking services in unbanked and under-banked GPs in the state. Ramakanta Pradhan, Principal Secretary of Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha signed the MoU in presence of B Sreenivas Rao, General Manager, Head Office, Union Bank of India and Binod Kumar Jena, Joint Secretary to Govt. of Odisha. Union Bank of India is playing a prominent role as an enabler in empowering the women SHG members to act as a catalyst in upscaling the SHG credit segment while acting as business correspondent agents in various unbanked GPs of the State.

### UCO Bank organises credit outreach programme

**BALASORE:** UCO Bank, Balasore Zone has conducted a credit outreach-cum-customer meet programme in the august presence of ED Ishraq Ali Khan, wherein total 1652 accounts were sanctioned Rs 33.59 crore under RAM out of which total disbursements of Rs 24.85 crore were made. In this credit outreach programme Rs 13.85 crore was disbursed to 548 self-help groups (SHGs). Also 35 high value customers were presented loyalty certificates by ED Ishraq Ali Khan for their long association with the bank. Further the ED reviewed the performance of the zone and interacted with the branch heads. He emphasised on making of individual branches as profit making centres, better customer service and maintaining proper cleanliness of branches.

# India e-comm cos ramp up hiring for shopping season

REUTERS

**Bangalore, August 23:** India's e-commerce companies are adding delivery personnel at a rapid pace, fearing a labour shortage might cause them to lose out in one of the biggest annual shopping seasons that begins in earnest next month.

The moves come amid a tightening job market - India's unemployment rate fell below 7% in July for the first time since January - and persistently high inflation, complicating the outlook for the industry which has long battled chronically high employee turnover. "Overall demand for the gig workforce has seen a sharp increase and



that is not completely supported by the increase in pool size of delivery personnel... It is not a free flowing pool," TK Balakumar, chief operating officer at online grocery seller BigBasket, told Reuters. The company, backed by the Tata group conglomerate, has ramped up the

number of delivery partners in its instant delivery segment BB Now to 2,200 in the quarter ended June, from just 500 in the March quarter. It aims to further raise the number to about 6,000 by March 2023.

BigBasket and other e-commerce firms such as Dunzo have their

own personnel for delivery, while others such as cosmetics-to-fashion retailer Nykaa rely on third parties for providing the service.

Gig employment, of which delivery workers and salespersons form a large chunk, is expected to reach 9.9 million in India in 2022-23, up about 45% from 2019-20, according to a report in June by think tank NITI Aayog. "People... look at a delivery job as a job in transit, they move off to something else, you'll always have shortages and then in cases where there is a specific event or festival, there's definitely a challenge that the delivery requirement goes up," said Sekhar Garisa, strategy chief Ques Corp.



# RESPITE FOR MAN UNITED

Ten Hag's men breathe a sigh of relief after 2-1 win over Liverpool, who are yet to register their first win in the ongoing Premier League season

**IMPRESSIVE SHOW:** Jadon Sancho is congratulated by the other scorer Marcus Rashford after Manchester United first goal against Liverpool, Monday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, August 23:** Finally, there are signs of life at Manchester United. Against a backdrop of protests against the club's ownership, United delivered a performance of intensity and spirit to beat fierce rival Liverpool 2-1 Monday and claim its first points in the Premier League this season.

Composed finishes by Jadon Sancho in the 16th minute and Marcus Rashford in the 53rd earned a victory at Old Trafford that will bring some respite for under-pressure manager Erik ten Hag, who made a huge statement in his team selection by dropping star striker Cristiano Ronaldo and club captain Harry Maguire and was validated.

"I wanted a different attitude and that is what I saw them bring on the pitch," said Ten Hag, who has started his tenure at United amid something of a crisis at England's biggest club. "But it's only the start."

Suddenly, the heat is on Liverpool — widely expected to be a title contender again this season — with Jurgen Klopp's team still waiting for a win after three games and now languishing behind United in the standings on just two points. Mohamed Salah scored an 81st-minute consolation but it was an-

other below-par display from Liverpool after draws with Fulham and Crystal Palace, even if this was a first league loss in 2022.

What is historically the biggest game in English football was preceded by a pre-match protest by thousands of United fans angry at the direction and state of the club under its owners of 17 years, the Glazer family.

The supporters called for the US-based Glazers to sell the club as they walked to Old Trafford then gathered on the concourse outside the storied stadium, in front of a large police presence. Many lingered as the match began.

The pressure was on United after losses to Brighton (1-2) and Brentford (0-4) to open the season, and the players fed off a frenzied atmosphere that seemed to affect Liverpool early on.

Lisandro Martinez, an off-season signing at center back who has come under enormous criticism in recent days, was particularly impressive and set the tone by clattering into Salah in the first minute, then barging into the Liverpool forward after getting up off the ground.

Later in the first half, Raphael Varane, who replaced Maguire, virtually rugby-tackled Luis Diaz to the ground, to roars of approval from United's fans even if it earned

him a booking.

Sancho's goal came in United's best spell of the game, the winger showing great composure to trick James Milner by feigning to shoot, cut back inside and place a shot into the corner as Virgil van Dijk bizarrely stood motionless in front of him. It was the seventh straight Premier League match that Liverpool had fallen behind.

The stadium erupted again when Anthony Martial, a halftime substitute, played through Rashford and the striker sprinted toward the area before placing a calm finish inside the near post.

United had to defend stoutly at times but hung on to end an eight-match winless run against Liverpool and a losing streak of four matches in the league stretching back to the end of last season.

It's down to United to string a run of similar battling performances together, starting at Southampton next weekend. Ten Hag will have Casemiro, whose USD 60 million signing from Real Madrid was completed Monday, available for that game and the Brazil midfielder was presented on the field before kickoff.

With more signings potentially arriving before the end of the transfer window, things might be looking up for the record 20-time English champions.

# FIH adds Rourkela as second Indian venue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 23:** Odisha's Rourkela was Tuesday added as the second Indian venue, besides Bhubaneswar, for the upcoming FIH Pro League season beginning in October with the matches to be held at the stadium built to host the men's World Cup in January.

A brand new stadium has been built in Rourkela to host some of the matches of the FIH men's World Cup to be held from January 13 to 29.

Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, which will host most of the matches of the World Cup, is the other Indian venue which will also stage FIH Pro League games.

Other venues which will host matches of the FIH Pro League from October 28, 2022 to July 5, 2023 are Newcastle and Hobart (Australia), Mendoza and Santiago del Estero in Argentina, Antwerp (Belgium), London (England), Eindhoven and Amsterdam in the Netherlands, and Christchurch and Wellington in New Zealand.

"As already announced in March, a new schedule - based on a series of 'mini-tournaments' where several teams will gather in one venue to play two matches against each other - will come into force for this new Pro League season," the FIH



said in a statement. "This format will have a major positive impact on players' welfare and the environment, thanks to a substantial reduction in the amount of travel needed for each team and the officials.

"Another great advantage of this revised format is that it increases the number of dates available for athletes to compete in their do-

estic leagues and club competi-

tions," the statement further read. The FIH also said that it will implement the system of promotion and relegation from the upcoming season of Pro League. While the team finishing last will be relegated as usual, the side winning the newly-added 2022 FIH Nations Cup will be promoted to the Pro League season in 2023.

"The integration of the promo-

tion-relegation principle will substantially add to the excitement around Pro League. Also, the new format is beneficial to everyone, athletes, National Associations, clubs and fans in particular," FIH CEO Thierry Weil said.

"We're glad to welcome some new venues for this season; this is great for the growth of our sport! We're very much looking forward to the fourth edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League!" he added.

## UPCOMING PRO LEAGUE SEASON

# DURAND CUP: ODISHA FC BEAT KERALA BLASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, August 23:** Indian Super League (ISL) side Odisha FC continued their winning run at the Durand Cup as they defeated a resilient Kerala Blasters 2-0 in a group D match at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium here Tuesday.

Isaac Vanmalsawma and Saul Pedro scored as Odisha FC picked up their second consecutive win in the tournament. Odisha came into this match after thrashing NorthEast United FC 6-0 in their tournament opener, while Kerala played out a 1-1 draw against Sudeva Delhi in their first game.

The first half of the game saw a rather slow start from both the teams with Kerala defending well and holding their fort, despite Odisha dominating possession.

Odisha could have drawn the first blood in the first half itself as the best chance came to



Isaac Vanmalsawma (R) celebrates with teammates after his goal

Vanmalsawma, but he shot straight to Blasters keeper Sachin Suresh, who did well to save it.

While Kerala begun the second half on a lively note, Odisha soon took control of the proceedings

and created better chances, with their forward line linking up well inside the Blasters' box.

Odisha shot into lead through Vanmalsawma in the 51st minute. The 25-year-old met the ball right about the centre of the box following a pass from second half substitute Diego Mauricio and did the job smoothly.

The first goal led to a flurry of attacks from Odisha and that led to a second goal in the 73rd minute through Pedro, who tapped in from a rebound off his teammate Osama Malik following a corner by Jerry Mawihmingthanga.

The second goal was a nail in the coffin for Kerala as they could not stitch any meaningful attacks, enough to trouble the Odisha defence.

With this win, Odisha moved to the top of their group standing with six points from two games, while Kerala have one point from two matches.

## SHORT TAKES

### Investigations on for insults against player

**MADRID:** The Spanish league and Atletico Madrid will investigate the altercation between Atletico defender Mario Hermoso and some of the club's fans after the team's home loss this weekend. The league will look into the alleged insults made against the player, while the club will decide whether any of its fans should be suspended. Hermoso was among Atlético players exercising after the team's 0-2 loss to Villarreal Sunday when some fans apparently started to insult players, including Hermoso and forward Antoine Griezmann. Hermoso appeared upset and started to exchange words with fans in the stands where the Atletico ultras are located. The discussion got heated and Hermoso's teammates kept trying to get him away from the supporters, but he eventually made it toward the stands to confront the fans. It wasn't clear how many fans were allegedly yelling at the players.

### Juve held to draw

**MILAN:** Injury-hit Juventus clearly missed Angel Di Maria as it was held to a 0-0 draw at Sampdoria in Serie A. Di Maria had added some much-needed flair to the Juventus side and scored on his debut last weekend as well as providing an assist as the Bianconeri opened the season with a 3-0 win over Sassuolo. However, he went off injured in that match. Juventus was also missing Paul Pogba as well as Federico Chiesa, Kaio Jorge and goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, while veteran defender Leonardo Bonucci was only fit for a place on the bench.

# BWF Worlds: Saina in round of 16



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tokyo, August 23:** Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal produced a fine performance to kick-off her BWF World Championships campaign with a straight game win over Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi here Tuesday.

A former World No.1, Saina took 38 minutes to dispatch Ngan Yi 21-19, 21-9 in the opening round. The 32-year-old Indian, who has a silver and bronze from the Worlds, thus moved into the pre-quarterfinals as her second-round opponent, Nozomi Okuhara pulled out of the tournament due to an injury, giving the Indian a bye.

The women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also made a winning start. The Indian duo hardly broke a sweat as it inflicted a 21-11, 21-13 defeat on

Malaysians Yeen Yuan Low and Valerie Siow.

Young women's pairing of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam also progressed to the second round after beating the Italian duo of Martina Corsini and Judith Mair 21-8, 21-14 in 30 minutes.

Saina had showed signed of regaining her form during her stunning win over He Bingjiao of China en route her first quarterfinal appearance in 16 months at Singapore Open in July.

The Hyderabad shuttler dished out another gritty show Tuesday as she recovered from 4-7 to turn the tables at 12-11 just after the interval.

Fighting for each point, Saina kept herself in contention as she maintained a narrow one-point lead over Ngan Yi, before moving ahead with the two crucial points at 19-19 to pocket the opening game.

Saina then switched gears in the second game even as Ngan Yi struggled. Soon, the Indian moved to an 11-6 advantage at the interval and marched ahead to eventually seal the contest without much fuss.

However, it was the end of the road for the mixed doubles pair of Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan as they went down 10-21, 21-23 to Gregory Mairs and Jenny Moore of England.

Men's doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala also crashed out of the tournament, losing 14-21, 18-21 to France's Fabien Delrue and William Villeger.

Mixed doubles duo of Tanisha Crasto and Ishaan Bhatnagar also didn't have a good outing, losing 14-21, 17-21 to 14th Supak Jomkoh and Supissara Paewsampran of Thailand.

### Dravid tests Covid +ve, 'not travelling' for Asia Cup for now

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 23:** India head coach Rahul Dravid has tested positive for COVID-19 and didn't accompany the Rohit Sharma-led team that left for Dubai to compete in the Asia Cup, starting August 27, BCCI secretary Jay Shah confirmed Tuesday. India play arch-rivals Pakistan in their opening game August 28.

"Team India Head Coach Rahul Dravid has tested positive for COVID-19 in a routine test conducted ahead of the team's departure to the UAE for Asia Cup 2022.

"Dravid is under the supervision of the BCCI Medical team and has mild symptoms. He will join the team once he returns with a negative COVID-19 report," Shah said in a release.

It is understood that for the time being, assistant coach Paras Mhambrey will be in-charge of the team but a call on whether NCA head VVS Laxman will join the team in Dubai will be taken later Tuesday.

"We haven't taken a call on whether VVS will be going to Dubai from Harare or not. A call will be taken accordingly and if required, he will join. Till then Paras Mhambrey will be in-charge. All other members are fit and left for UAE early in the day," a BCCI source told this agency on conditions of anonymity.

# AIFF writes to FIFA, requests lifting of ban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 22:** The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Tuesday requested the FIFA to lift the ban imposed on it following Supreme Court's decision to terminate the mandate of Committee of Administrators (CoA) as demanded by the sport's world governing body.

AIFF's acting general secretary Sunando Dhar requested FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura to "reconsider their decision of suspending the AIFF".

"It is with immense pleasure that we inform you that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India took up our matter and vide order dated 22.05.2022 was pleased to pass directions regarding the full repeal of the CoA mandate and consequently the AIFF having full charge of the AIFF's daily affairs," Dhar wrote in the letter.

"In view of the above, we request the FIFA and especially the Bureau to reconsider their decision of suspending the AIFF. Since the conditions set out in your Letter for lifting of the suspension stand satisfied, we request that a order to that effect be passed at the earliest for the AIFF to continue with the smooth running of football in India," the letter further stated.

FIFA had suspended the AIFF August 15 for "undue influence from third parties" and had said the U-17

Women's World Cup "cannot currently be held in India as planned."

The country is scheduled to host the FIFA tournament from October 11-30. It is the first time the AIFF has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year history.

Monday, the Supreme Court modified its earlier orders to facilitate the revocation of the suspension and the holding of the U-17 Women's World Cup in India.

"The day-to-day management of AIFF shall be exclusively looked after by the AIFF Administration led by the Acting Secretary General. The mandate of the Committee of Administrators appointed by the order of this Court stands terminated," the SC said in its verdict Monday.

The three-member CoA, headed by former Supreme Court judge AR Dave, had been overseeing the affairs of the AIFF since the May 18 SC order. The other two members of the CoA are former chief election commissioner SY Qureshi and ex Indian football team captain Bhaskar Ganguly.

The top court also postponed the August 28 elections of the AIFF by one week to allow a changed electoral college and the start of the nomination process. The order came on a fresh plea filed by the Sports Ministry seeking modification of the May 18 and August 3 orders of the court after consultation with the FIFA.

# Axar upset over cooling heels after few games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Harare, August 23:** It is a "little tough" to cool his heels after a couple of games but Axar Patel wants to put his best foot forward in his bid to use every opportunity that comes along his way.

A like-for-like replacement of Ravindra Jadeja, the left-arm spinner and useful lower-middle-order batter is still not an India regular although he has 50 plus wickets in ODIs since 2014.

"It is a little tough when you play two matches and suddenly you've to

sit out," Axar said at the post-match press conference after India's 13-run win over Zimbabwe in the third ODI.

"And then again you play two or three matches. It's tough but I back myself and train my mind to think that this is the opportunity for you to do well," he added.

In a bid to strengthen its bench for the future and regulate the workload of its top players, the Indian team management, which has an abundance of talent at its disposal, keeps rotating cricketers.

Axar feels in such a situation it is good to keep a positive mindset

and treat every game as an opportunity. "If I do well here, I'll get to play the next game. I can also play with the (cribbing) mindset that I get dropped after getting a couple of opportunities but I take it in a positive way that I'm getting an opportunity to perform for India. If I do well, I'll improve myself. So it's on you how you take it."

India completed a 3-0 sweep of hosts Zimbabwe here Monday. The left-arm spinner snared two wickets, while giving away 30 runs in his 10 overs, which also included a rare maiden over, in the third ODI.

