



## KHAKI IMPACT

Actor Adah Sharma says she feels a sense of responsibility when she wears the police uniform for a role

LEISURE P2



## JAPAN ELECTION

Japan's governing party and its coalition partner scored a major victory in a parliamentary election

INTERNATIONAL P10



## 700 IN TERROR FOLD

Terrorist groups recruited 700 Jammu and Kashmir youths into their fold in the last four years

2 STATES P8

## 15 killed in South Africa bar shooting

**Johannesburg:** A mass shooting at a tavern in Johannesburg's Soweto township has killed 15 people and left others in critical condition, according to police. Police say they are investigating reports that a group of men arrived in a minibus taxi and opened fire on some of the patrons at the bar shortly after midnight Sunday. Those injured have been taken to Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. In a separate incident, four people were shot dead by unknown gunmen at a tavern in Sweetwaters township in the coastal city of Pietermaritzburg Saturday night. South Africans are reeling with shock at the incident, which comes exactly a fortnight after 21 young people, some as young as 13, died at a tavern in East London. They were found slumped over tables or lying on the floor with their deaths suspected to be caused by poisoning, although no official cause of death has been made public yet by the government. That tavern has been shut down and the owner charged for allegedly allowing young children in.

## Amarnath Yatra suspended

**Jammu:** The Amarnath Yatra has been suspended from Jammu due to inclement weather conditions and no fresh batch was allowed to proceed from here to the base camps of the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said. A flash flood triggered by a cloudburst near the cave shrine Friday afternoon has led to the death of at least 16 people. Around 40 people are still missing. The annual 43-day pilgrimage commenced from the twin base camps -- Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and Ganderbal -- June 30. Over one lakh pilgrims have offered prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice 'shivling', the officials said. The yatra is scheduled to end August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

More P8

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Sleep peacefully! Ours is a mature democracy. Here, after voting, people behave like slaves!

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	33.1°C	32.5°C
	MIN	25.5°C	25.5°C
	Humidity	89%	95%
	Rainfall	0.1mm	21.8mm
			Light rain very likely

# DEITIES GLITTER IN GOLD



GLITTERING SIBLINGS: Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath decked up in gold ornaments on their respective chariots Taladhwa, Darpadalana and Nandighosha as part of the 'Suna Beshha' rituals in Puri, Sunday. OP PHOTOS

*The idols of Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath glittered on their chariots at 'Singhadwar' of the 12th century shrine as they were decorated with around 208 kg of gold*

PNN/AGENCIES

**Puri, July 10:** About 15 lakh people visited the pilgrim town of Puri Sunday for a glimpse of Lord Jagannath in His 'Suna Beshha' or gold attire in one of the most spectacular rituals of the Rath Yatra.

The ritual takes place on Ashadha Shukla Ekadashi Tithi, a day after the Lord returns to the Jagannath temple following the annual sojourn to Sri Gundicha temple.

The idols of Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath

glittered on their chariots at 'Singhadwar' or Lions' Gate of the 12th century shrine as they were decorated with around 208 kg of gold.

According to Pandit Suryanarayan Rathsharma, the ritual of 'Suna Beshha' began during the rule of Kapilendra Deb in 1460 when the triumphant king brought back 16 cartloads of gold to Puri after winning wars in the Deccan.

He donated the gold and diamonds for Lord Jagannath, and directed the priests to get ornaments crafted out of them for dressing the idols.

"Gold jewellery weighing nearly 208 kg is used for 'Suna Beshha' of the trinity," said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher of Jagannath culture.

The priests require more than an hour to decorate the deities with golden ornaments, he said.

Among the ornaments used are 'Sri Hasta' (gold hands), 'Sri Payar' (gold feet), 'Sri Mukuta' (gold crown) and 'Sri Chulapati' (worn on the forehead).

However, no diamond is used in the 'Suna Beshha', a priest said, adding that the ornaments are stored in the Ratna Bhandar of the

temple. The ornaments were brought out from the Ratna Bhandar to the chariots amid high security Sunday.

The ornaments, which often break, are repaired when required, said Rabintra Nath Mishra, a former administrator of the temple.

The deities are adorned in gold ornaments on four other occasions -- Dussehra, Kartika Purnima, Pausa Purnima and Dola Purnima.

Devotees could take part in the rituals this time after two years. In 2020 and 2021, the Rath Yatra was held sans devotees due to the Covid-

19 pandemic. The seaside town is brimming with people from across the country as Covid-related restrictions were lifted.

Elaborate arrangements were made as lakhs of people gathered at the temple town, Superintendent of Police KV Singh said.

Saturday, around five lakh devotees gathered in the Holy City to witness the 'Bahuda Yatra' (return car festival) of the deities.

The deities would be placed on the 'Ratna Simhasana', the bejewelled throne, following a ceremony called 'Neeladrihije' July 12.

## Wanted Mao leader held in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, July 10:** A dreaded Maoist leader, Laxmana Podiami alias Laxman Kuarml, carrying a bounty of Rs 1 lakh on his head, was arrested from Tulsari reserve forest area under Mathili police limits in Malkangiri district Sunday.

Based on a specific intelligence input regarding the camping of a Maoist group, security forces carried out a combing operation and arrested Laxmana, a resident of Chandametta of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh. He has been a member of the banned CPI (Maoist). Laxmana joined the Maoist group in 2017. He was involved in many cases in Malkangiri district as well as in Chhattisgarh including vandalism of Temurupalli GP office and looting of government properties



under Mathili police station and killing of a civilian Sukumar Mandal of Talpadar, the police said. Special Operation Group and District Volunteer Force personnel apprehended the ultra with a country-made rifle. There is a cash reward in his name in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The ultra was later produced in a court, the police said.

## Ambani vs Adani at 5G auction

The rivalry between the two politically well-connected Gujarati businessmen will not yet see a full-blown market clash despite overlaps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** For years they tiptoed around each other but now the groups led by billionaires Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani will for the first time be in direct competition when they later this month participate in the auction of airwaves capable of providing fifth generation or 5G telecom services.

But the rivalry between the two politically well-connected Gujarati businessmen will not yet see a full-blown market clash despite overlaps.

Saturday, Adani group confirmed plans to participate in the July 26 5G spectrum auction but said the airwaves it was seeking was to set up



a private network to help digitise its businesses from airports to energy to data centres. This meant no entry into the consumer mobile telephony space, where Ambani's Reliance Jio is the largest player.

Jio as well as telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd -- the other two dominated telecom companies in the country -- have also made applications to participate in the 5G auction, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Adani and Ambani -- the nation's richest -- had taken contrasting approaches to business diversification, which in recent months has seen increasing overlap.

While Ambani, 65, expanded from the oil refining and petrochemicals business into consumer facing telecom and retail businesses, Adani diversified from operating ports to producing coal, energy distribution, airports, data centres and more recently into cement and copper. **Contd..4**

## Activist dressed up as Lord Shiva held, released on bail

AGENCIES

**Guwahati, July 10:** An activist who had decked up as Lord Shiva for a street play on the rising cost of auto-fuels, was arrested for allegedly hurting religious sentiments and later released Sunday after a storm on the social media on the issue. The activist Birinchi Bora drove into the venue of the street play dramatically in a motorcycle with another actor dressed as Goddess Parvati for their play Saturday which had several Hindutva outfits up in arms demanding their arrest.



Birinchi Bora was taking part in a street play on the rising cost of auto-fuels

# SL protesters find 17.85mn cash inside Prez's mansion

SRI LANKANS ROAM THROUGH THE RANSACKED PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AS CALM RETURNED TO COLOMBO A DAY AFTER PROTESTERS STORMED THE BUILDING AND FORCED PRESIDENT GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA TO AGREE TO RESIGN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, July 10:** The anti-government protesters in Sri Lanka who stormed embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence have claimed to have recovered 17.85 million Sri Lankan rupees inside his mansion.

A video was being shared on social media showing the protesters counting the currency notes that were unearthed.

Protesters said they had found 17,850,000 Sri Lankan rupees at the President's official residence Sunday when they stormed into the mansion after breaking the barricades. They have handed over the cash to the local police.

Hundreds of anti-government

protesters Saturday stormed into Rajapaksa's residence in central Colombo's high-security Fort area after breaking the barricades, as they demanded his resignation over the island nation's worst economic crisis in recent memory. Another group of protesters entered the private residence of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and set it on fire.

The President's whereabouts are still not known. His only communication outside since the protesters stormed into the city has been with the Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, who announced late Saturday night that the President would resign Wednesday.

President Rajapaksa informed



Protesters enjoy at the swimming pool inside the President's residence

the Speaker about this decision to quit after Abeywardena wrote to him seeking his resignation following the all-party meeting of leaders held Saturday evening.

The Speaker would become the act-

ing President in the absence of both the President and the Prime Minister. Later, an election among MPs must happen to elect a new President. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe has also offered to resign.

In May, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa had to quit in the face of massive anti-government protests.

The Rajapaksa brothers, Mahinda and Gotabaya, were hailed by many in Sri Lanka as heroes for winning the civil war against the LTTE but they are now blamed for the country's worst economic crisis.

The expected exit of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa Wednesday and the resignation of Mahinda Rajapaksa as Prime Minister in

May is a dramatic fall from grace for a powerful family that has dominated Sri Lankan politics for more than a decade.

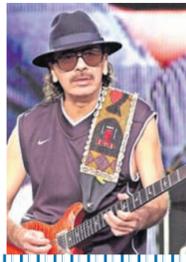
Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, crippled by an acute shortage of foreign exchange that has left it struggling to pay for essential imports of fuel, and other essentials.

The country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, had announced in April that it is suspending nearly USD 7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about USD 25 billion due through 2026. Sri Lanka's total foreign debt stands at USD 51 billion. **More P10**

Nagaon SP Leena Doley said Bora was arrested under bailable sections on two complaints by VHP and Bajrang Dal.

The woman, who played the character of Goddess Parvati, could not be traced thus far, and another person associated with the play, Dulal Bora, has been asked to appear at Nagaon Police Station, Doley said.

# leisure



## SANTANA RESCHEDULES SHOWS FOLLOWING ONSTAGE COLLAPSE

Legendary guitarist Carlos Santana, who was rushed to hospital after he passed out on stage during a Michigan concert earlier this week, has postponed the next five shows of his *Miraculous Supernatural 2022* tour with Earth, Wind & Fire, reports Variety.

## DUNST, PLEMONS TIE THE KNOT IN JAMAICA

Kirsten Dunst, known for her work in *Spiderman* (2002) and most recently in Jane Campion's *The Power of the Dog*, has married her partner (and co-star) Jesse Plemons (*Breaking Bad*, *Black Mirror*) in Jamaica after six years of togetherness.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
You need to be very cautious today, says Ganesh. The results of a lot of hard work over a long time may be undone by one impulsive decision. After a stressful morning, you could just wish to spend time with children, playing their childish games.

**TAURUS**  
Impulsive action kicks in as you work and interact today. Do not let the pressure and strain cloud your thoughts, and instead focus on acting on the things at hand. If you find things spiralling out of control, take a break and listen to some music that soothes your heart, suggests Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will become more emotional and sensitive today. Health, diet, career, job and such things will be on your mind and will give rise to mental stress and worry. You need to take care of your health and hygiene, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. And, that's a great thing to do, says Ganesh. Don't lose heart though, if despite the best efforts, the results of your efforts are not too forthcoming. Feeling dejected is only going to hamper your progress. Remember that you'll receive your due sooner or later.

**LEO**  
You need to keep your temper in check and guard against being aggressive today. You need to channelise your energies towards some productive pursuits, otherwise you may make someone the target of your anger. The good thing about the day is you will make satisfactory progress on work related issues.

**VIRGO**  
You are renewed for your leadership qualities and today they will be much appreciated for the way you manage your team. You will get a long-due promotion, and will come in for some extra cash. Ganesh says you received all this by wisely balancing work and home, so be careful not to slip up on this front.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will put everything aside to pay more attention to your outward appearance and your beauty as you will be more aware about it. People will get attracted to your beauty today. You will be able to share your own ideas and thoughts with people, at the same time you will learn about their views and from their experiences.

**SCORPIO**  
Keep your eyes and ears open and believe in only what you see. Remember, believing in rumours may lead to ugly situations. Your efforts to be different and stand out would pay off well, predicts Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The day begins on a bright note and you decide to flaunt your sunny side up, foresees Ganesh. At home front, sharing of work with your partner will keep the home atmosphere peaceful and harmonious. Both of you discover a joy in cleaning and cooking together. A perfect recipe for love!

**CAPRICORN**  
You will be a live wire, today. With amazing exuberance you have completed mammoth tasks and have spread the energy around. It will give you tremendous job-satisfaction, foresees Ganesh. Everything seems well and good the personal front, too. Spending some quality time your spouse will relax your mind and keep you in an upbeat mood.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are a strong-willed person, and during the toughest of times you remain focused. A constant smile on your face and positive attitude will help you win the hearts and minds of people at work as well as at home. Such a feeling of contentment and happiness motivate you to do your best. Keep spreading the joy, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
You will bump into an old friend or a distant relative today. This rendezvous may be with a person who you were close to long ago and it will warm your heart with nostalgia. You might contemplate taking a break from your daily grind to spend some time to rekindle your childhood memories or visit your hometown.

## VAANI

hailed by Ranbir as closet method actor

**Mumbai:** Ranbir Kapoor and Vaani Kapoor are collaborating on the silver screen for the very first time in *Shamsher*. Talking about her, Ranbir said that she's hardworking, and a 'closet method actor'. "She's a beautiful actor, very hardworking, very committed and I think she is a closet method actor but like the kind of innocence and the kind of strength she brought to the character was quite amazing. It was a tough character, but she played it so beautifully and I am really proud of her work in this movie," the *Brahmastra* actor said.

Sanjay Dutt also shared his experience of working with Vaani. He said that he got to know her during the shooting of the film. Dutt called Kapoor a good actor, and a 'fantastic' dancer and performer. He also added that the main thing comes down to being a wonderful person.

*Shamsher* is set in the fictitious city of Kaza, where a warrior tribe is imprisoned, enslaved, and tortured by a ruthless authoritarian Daroga Shudh Singh played by Sanjay Dutt. Ranbir will be seen in a double role as Shamsher and Balli, while Vaani essays the character of Sona, a dancer.

Produced by Aditya Chopra, *Shamsher* is set to release July 22 in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

AGENCIES



## Siddhant, Navya caught 'red-handed'

**Mumbai:** There's many a slip between the cup and the lip. It seems Siddhant Chaturvedi found this out the hard way Sunday, on the streets of Mumbai. As information about Siddhant's visit to a producer's office in Bandra leaked, the paps followed the young star's car around town as usual. Things got interesting when Siddhant's car pulled up to the office building to pick him up. Eagle-eyed photographers spotted someone sitting in the back seat. What caught the attention of the lensmen was that the person was trying to hide her face. But, as soon as the cameras started clicking and the flashes started piercing the tinted glasses of Siddhant's SUV, it was revealed that the mysterious passenger in the back seat was Navya Naveeli Nanda, granddaughter of Superstar Amitabh Bachchan.

Before anyone could manage an official snap, the passenger in the backseat ducked between the seats and hid her face with a pink piece of clothing. As soon as Siddhant got into the car, the driver floored the accelerator, zooming away. For long now, fans and followers have been speculating about the relationship status between Siddhant and Navya. This little episode from Bandra will only fan the flames.

## Sonakshi reacts to her marriage

**Mumbai:** Sonakshi Sinha and her rumoured beau Zaheer Iqbal's marriage reports have been rocking the headlines. There were constant murmurs and rumours about her marriage.

Revealing about the same, Sonakshi Sinha told a news portal that her parents are not so curious about her plans of getting married. The actress added that she wants the focus to be on her work over her personal life. The actress went on to say that people want to know what's going on in her life and they can speculate all they want.

Elaborating further, the actress added that until she is not ready to share her life with the world, she won't do it. She also added that even her parents don't ask her so much about her marriage as the media and the public. Meanwhile, on the work front, the duo will next feature in the film titled *Double XL*. Helmed by Satram Ramani, the movie also features Huma Qureshi.



## ADAH TALKS ABOUT IMPACT OF KHAKI

**Mumbai:** Adah Sharma says that though she is known for her bubbly personality, playing a woman in uniform has always fascinated her. The actress got an opportunity to essay a police officer in the *Commando* franchise and now, she gets to don the khaki for her untitled film opposite Shreyas Talpade. "You feel a sense of responsibility when you wear the police uniform for a role," says Adah.

She adds, "While I played a corrupt inspector with a comic streak in the *Commando* franchise, this time around, the role is the polar opposite. So, the joy here was not just playing a police officer, but pursuing the character differently. This is a cat-and-mouse game between the antagonist (Shreyas Talpade) and me." The actress is currently shooting for the project, directed by Vishal Pandya, in Bhopal.

On the work front, Adah is looking forward to more projects that will see her in lead roles. "I am excited to be in this phase of my career where I am getting to play meatier characters that challenge me. My forthcoming projects include a biopic and a film where I get to play something that I am sure nobody in Bollywood has attempted before...I can't reveal much, but there are a lot of interesting projects coming up," she signs off.

### PEANUTS



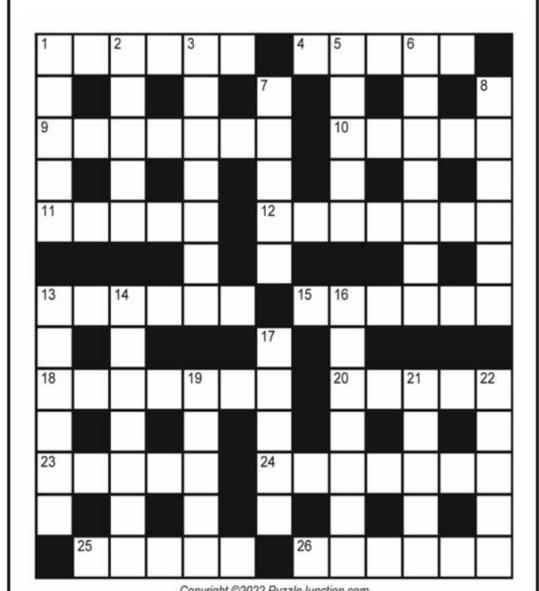
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



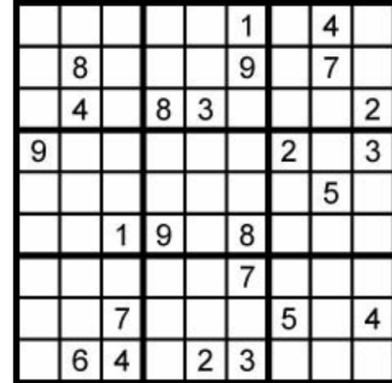
### FUN post CROSSWORD



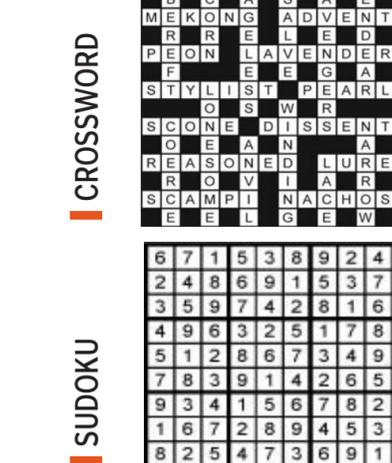
- Across**
- 1 Shanties
  - 4 Disreputable
  - 9 Some domestics (2,5)
  - 10 Europe's "boot"
  - 11 Bulrush, e.g.
  - 12 Busy and active (2,3,2)
  - 13 Songbird
  - 15 Royal home
  - 18 Ecstasy
  - 20 Certain snapshots (1-4)
  - 23 Come-ons
  - 24 Trounce
  - 25 Rewrites
  - 26 Fearsome fly
  - 6 Specific vocabulary
  - 7 English race place
  - 8 Surprise words (2,4)
  - 13 Snapper
  - 14 Matured
  - 16 On edge
  - 17 Park feature
  - 19 Tip over
  - 21 Monastery head
  - 22 Binge

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

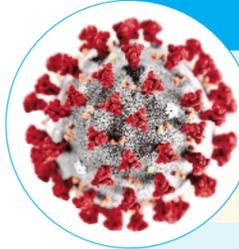


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**SEASONAL FRUIT**

People buying Indian blackberry from a vendor at Jobra in Cuttack, Sunday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	56,04,98,227	53,34,46,027	63,72,711
India	4,36,22,651	4,29,68,533	5,25,428
Odisha	12,93,504	12,81,537	9,126

**ADHARAPANA RITUAL**

**Deities to be offered delicious drink today**



Earthen pots for Adharapana ritual

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, July 10:** Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra would be offered delicious drink on their respective chariots at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir as part of the Adharapana ritual Monday.

After a gap of two years, the devotees would have an opportunity to witness the ritual, said an official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Sunday. The devotees were deprived of witnessing the ritual during the Rath Yatra of 2020 and 2021 due to the restrictions imposed by the state government to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

As per tradition, the special drink is offered to the deities in nine cylindrical earthen pots reaching up to their lips, therefore earning the ritual the name of Adharapana.

According to researchers, earlier the sweet drink used to be offered to the deities in 12 pots – three on Bahuda Dashami, three on Ekadashi, three on Dwadashi, two for Ram and Krushna on Lord Balabhadra's chariot and one pot

As per tradition, the special drink is offered to the deities in nine cylindrical earthen pots reaching up to their lips, therefore earning the ritual the name of Adharapana

Ingredients like cheese, milk, sugar, banana, camphor, nuts, black pepper and extracts from holy basil are required for the preparation of Adharapana

Authorities of Raghav Das Mutt, Badaodia Mutt and the temple administration each supply three pots and the ingredients for the preparation of the sweet drink

Mahasuara servitors prepare the drink by mixing the ingredients with the holy water collected from a well in front of Chhauni Mutt near the Lions' Gate of Srimandir

for Madan Mohan on Lord Jagannath's chariot.

Nowadays, the drink is being offered in nine pots, three pots for each deity, on a single day, they said. Authorities of Raghav Das Mutt, Badaodia Mutt and the temple administration each supply three pots and the ingredients for the preparation of the sweet drink.

As per Srimandir tradition, process for the Adharapana ritual begins immediately after the completion of Madhyahna Dhoopa.

Ingredients like cheese, milk, sugar, banana, camphor, nuts, black pepper and extracts from holy basil are required for the preparation of Adharapana. Mahasuara servitors prepare the drink by mixing the ingredients with the holy water col-

lected from a well in front of Chhauni Mutt near the Lions' Gate of Srimandir.

Patribadu, Suarabadu and Garabadu servitors perform the puja on the three chariots. A Bhog is then offered to the deities by Palia Pujapanda servitors. After the Bhog is offered, the pots are broken before the deities and the drink is spilled away on the chariots.

It is believed that the spillover drink is for the subsidiary deities placed on the chariots, evil spirits and ghostly bodies. "The evil spirits, who descend upon the Grand Road to witness the Rath Yatra, are satiated by consuming the Adharapana. Therefore, devotees are forbidden to partake the drink," said a researcher.

**GOLDEN ATTIRE**



Servitors carrying gold ornaments from Srimandir Ratna Bhandar to chariots for Suna Besha ritual in Puri, Sunday



Thousands of devotees congregate on the Grand Road to witness the ritual

OP PHOTOS

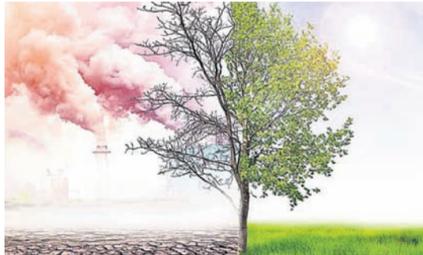
**Covid, climate change now in school curriculum**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** The state government has decided to include Covid-19 pandemic and climate change as subjects in the school curriculum, said School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash, Sunday.

Topics on Covid-19 and climate change would be included in the school curriculum from 2022-23 academic year, Dash added.

"Our motive is to make the students aware of the pandemic and climate change. The Covid-19 pandemic can be contained through various precautionary measures. That is why we should encourage our children to follow certain health practices to protect them from the deadly virus. Similarly, sound knowledge about the causes and consequences of the climate change among our students will help us to deal with the issue in a better way,"



**T**OPICS ON COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM FROM 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR, SAID SCHOOL AND MASS EDUCATION MINISTER SAMIR RANJAN DASH

**B**SE, ODISHA, VICE PRESIDENT NIHAR RANJAN MOHANTY SAID TOPICS ON COVID-19 AND ITS MANAGEMENT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BIOLOGY SYLLABUS FOR CLASS X STUDENTS AND THOSE ON CLIMATE CHANGE WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS

said the S&ME Minister:

Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, Vice President Nihar Ranjan Mohanty said topics on Covid-19 pandemic and its management would be included in the biology syllabus for Class X students

and those on climate change would be included in the geography syllabus.

"Students can learn details regarding the two burning issues from their books and create awareness among their family members

and relatives," Mohanty added.

Notably, the concept of climate change has already been incorporated in the curriculum and textbooks developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

**Ruchika suicide: Psychiatrist, officials question hostel inmates**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar July 10:** Even after nine days of the death of Ruchika Mohanty, the commissionerate police are still groping in the dark to identify the three seniors of BJB Autonomous College who allegedly mentally harassed the victim forcing her to end her life. The city cops have reportedly completed the recording of statements of 32 hostel inmates, college staff and relatives of Ruchika at her native village.

Meanwhile, the investigating officials Sunday questioned the students of the hostel in the presence of a psychiatrist of a private medical college and hospital in the city. The deceased's parents as well as the members of protesting student



Family members of the deceased and activists on a dharna near BJB College

unions had earlier alleged that the students are not revealing the truth under some fear or pressure.

The psychiatrist checked the mental state of the students to know whether they had given the statements under any fear or pressure. The cops and psychiatrist Sunday returned after questioning around 32 students including the friends of Ruchika. The psy-

chiatrist will also check the mental state of the remaining students, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the mother of Ruchika, Bidyutprabha Mohanty, who has been sitting outside the college demanding justice for her daughter, told the media that she will perform the tenth-day funeral rituals of Ruchika at the place Monday.

**POLITICKLE by MANJUL**

**YOU SHOULD'VE CONSULTED US BEFORE RESIGNING, MY FRIEND! AFTER ALL, WE'RE FROM THE MOTHER OF DEMOCRACY!!**



**Auction of 15 mineral blocks quashed**

Total 10 mineral blocks were auctioned in Madhya Pradesh, eight in Andhra Pradesh, four each in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, two each in Maharashtra and Odisha and one each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Auction of 15 mineral blocks has been quashed in the ongoing financial year, while 32 mines have been put on sale successfully.

Of the mines whose auction is annulled, five each are limestone and manganese blocks, two each are

bauxite and phosphorite blocks and one is a gold mine.

On the status of auction of mineral blocks in FY23 as on June 7, 2022, the mines ministry said 11 are in Madhya Pradesh and two each are in Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. However, no reasons were given for the annulment of the auction of the 15 blocks.

Of the 32 blocks auctioned, 10 are manganese, eight are limestone, seven are iron ore, five are bauxite and one each is graphite and phosphorite. Total 10 mineral blocks were auctioned in Madhya Pradesh, eight in Andhra Pradesh, four each in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, two each in Maharashtra and Odisha and one each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The government had earlier said that the auction of mineral blocks has stabilised in the country.



Total 46 mineral blocks were successfully put on sale in 2021-22. During last seven years, the government has introduced important reforms to open up the mineral sector to ensure its contribution in achieving the national policy goals.

Major reforms include enactment of the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulations) (MMDR) (Amendment) Act, 2015, which made the process of allocation of mineral concessions completely transparent by introduc-

ing public auctions with active participation of state governments.

In the federal set-up, states are owners of mineral wealth in their respective territories.

For realising the benefits of mineral wealth, states have primary and significant role to come up with auctionable mineral blocks.

The mines ministry had earlier said that the amendment in mineral auction rules will encourage competition that will ensure more participation in sale of blocks.

The mines ministry had earlier notified the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Second Amendment Rules, 2021, and the Mineral (Auction) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2021 to amend the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (Auction Rules) respectively.

# Ambani vs Adani at 5G auction

Continued from P1

Adani, 60, has in recent months set up a subsidiary for a foray into petrochemicals - a business that Ambani's father Dhirubhai began with before its downstream and upstream operations.

Ambani too has announced multi-billion-dollar plans for new energy business, including Giga factories for solar panels, batteries, green hydrogen and fuel cells. Adani, who had previously announced plans to be the world's largest renewable energy producer by 2030, too has unveiled hydrogen ambitions.

Sources, however, said while there is an overlap in the clean energy space, there is no direct competition between the two. While Adani group is looking to split water using solar power to produce green hydrogen, Ambani's Reliance is looking at producing hydrogen from natural gas and other hydrocarbons supported by carbon capture and storage.

"Where is the direct competition," a source asked. "Adani will desalinate sea water for use in electrolyzers to produce green hydrogen while Ambani is looking to decarbonise his oil business."

And while they will have a face-off at the spectrum auction, there will be no direct competition on ground yet, another source said.

Reliance owns the world's largest refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat and is also a leading manufacturer of polymers, polyester and fibre-intermediates. Adani, on the other hand, is focused on coal in the hydrocarbon space, with mines in India, Indonesia and Australia, and thermal power plants.

While Ambani made a slew of investments in clean energy space, Adani's petrochemical ambitions came unstuck twice - Covid pandemic led to shelving of a USD 4 billion acrylics complex near Mundra in Gujarat that was planned in collaboration with BASF SE, Borealis AG and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc), and a plant with Taiwan's CPC Corp too couldn't make much headway.

But their balance sheets are quite different. While Adani group firms have borrowed, Ambani has ploughed cash generated from traditional oil refining and petrochemicals business into newer areas.

Ambani raised USD 27 billion in 2020 from the likes of Facebook, Google and an array of private equity funds. Adani, which has sold stakes in the renewable energy firm, gas distribution company and new energy unit to France's TotalEnergies SE, isn't lagging with USD 17 billion spent on 32 acquisitions.

# 'PM honoured Odisha's pride by picking Murmu'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, July 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has honoured the people of Odisha by nominating Droupadi Murmu as NDA's presidential candidate, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Sunday.

Addressing party workers at Golanthara in Odisha's Ganjam district, Pradhan said nominating PREZ POLL Murmu for the top post is not political but a matter of honouring Odisha's pride.

"The prime minister has honoured Odisha's 4.5 crore people by making Droupadi Murmu the NDA's candidate for the topmost constitutional post in the country. It is a great act to make a tribal woman from a humble family the presidential candidate," he said.

"Modi will be remembered by the people of Odisha for centuries. He has appointed Odias to prestigious posts at the Centre, besides identifying talents from the state for Padma awards," he added.

The prime minister not only gave opportunities to the people of the state, but also helped in implementing welfare programmes for the poor, Pradhan, the education minister, said.

# NHRC seeks report from Energy secy on electrocution death

POST NEW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action-taken report from the Energy secretary, district Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) of Balasore in connection with the electrocution death of a man during Rath Yatra celebration in the district July 1 this year.

Taking cognizance of a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the commission July 5 asked the authorities to revert within four weeks.

The authorities have also been asked to intimate the NHRC within four weeks if any notice or order has been received by him/them in the instant matter from the State Human Rights Commission? If yes, a copy of such order be also sent to the commission within four weeks,"

"The concerned authorities shall also intimate the commission if any notice or order has been received by him/them in the instant matter from the State Human Rights Commission? If yes, a copy of such order be also sent to the commission within four weeks,"

directed the commission.

In his petition, Tripathy had informed the commission that Anil Kumar Sahu from Agarada village under Basta block in Balasore died July 1 due to electrocution during Rath Yatra celebration organised at Gudikhala Mutt.

The rights activist said that the mishap occurred when the residents of Khudial village were pulling a chariot to celebrate Rath Yatra.

The metallic part of the chariot came in contact with 11KV electric wire, leaving one dead and injuring eight others.

"Sahu died on the way to the district headquarters hospital (DHH)," Tripathy said.

He alleged that the mishap happened due to negligence on part of officials of the Energy department and district administration.

Earlier, another rights activist had moved NHRC demanding financial compensation of Rs 30 lakh to the next of the kin of the deceased and Rs 5 lakh each to the victims who suffered injuries during the mishap, it was learnt.

## MISHAP DURING RATH YATRA



The metallic part of the chariot came in contact with 11KV electric wire, leaving one dead and injuring eight others

## EID UL-ADHA PRAYERS



People offer prayers at the Eidgah near Satichoura in Cuttack on the occasion of Eid ul-Adha, Sunday

OP PHOTO

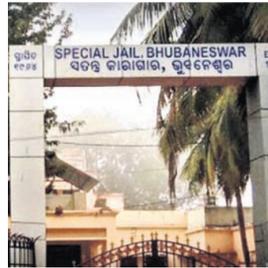
# ₹2,000cr chit fund scam accused dies in jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: An under-trial prisoner (UTP), who had been languishing at Jharpada Special Jail here since 2017 in connection with a multi-crore rupees chit fund scam, died of suspected cardiac arrest Sunday, an official said.

According to jail officials, Mir Sairuddin collapsed on way to attend a nature's call in the morning. He was rushed to the Capital Hospital, where the doctors declared him 'dead on arrival'.

Mir's body will be handed over to his family after an autopsy Monday, said a senior official, adding that they suspect it to be a



case of cardiac arrest.

On the basis of a report lodged by the jail administration, Laxmisagar police have registered an unnatural death case (25/22) and have launched a probe

A resident of Balasore, Mir Sairuddin was the MD of Green Ray International Limited, which was accused of duping investors in 14 states to the tune of ₹2,000 crore on the pretext for hefty returns

in this regard.

Meanwhile, sources, requesting anonymity, claimed that Mir had approached the jail authorities on multiple occasions in the past two days complaining chest

pain and uneasiness, but it fell on deaf ears.

A resident of Sasanbad village under Jaleswar police limits in Balasore, Mir was the Managing Director of Green Ray International Limited (GRIL) which was accused of duping investors in 14 states to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore on the pretext for hefty returns.

Mir had allegedly fled the country after his name came up in chit fund scandal in 2015.

Mir, who along with his family was hiding in Nigeria, was arrested when he reportedly returned India with a fake Bangladesh passport in February 2017.

# 'No edu institution shall deny admission of child with spl needs'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar July 10: A one day workshop on Draft National Policy for Persons with Disability (PwDs) Act was jointly organised by Odisha Association for the Blind, Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS) and National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) Sunday.

In the workshop, experts gave recommendations to be included in the Draft National Policy of PwD Act 2021.

The recommendations include care for removal of attitudinal barriers, early intervention centre in special school, district disability rehabilitation centre and mobile medical units with full-fledged team for disability certification. Experts suggested that no educational institution shall deny admission of child with special needs. The government should provide health insurance coverage for PwDs and all the skill develop-



ment programmes should be oriented toward the PwDs. One PET should be appointed in each special school for the CWDs, they noted.

The chief guest on the occasion, P Kamraj, Head, Department of Special Education, NIEPMD emphasised on strengthening the implementation of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for early detection of the disability from the stage of conception. He also stressed the need for establishing special schools for inclusive education at community level.

Vocational training facilities and monitoring and evaluation system of all disabilities projects with the involvement of disabled people's organisation are also needed, he added.

The President of CSR, Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industries Ltd, Gita Padhi recommended for provision of free land to all the state and central government supported special schools and grant-in-aid for construction of schools is of urgent importance which required the attention of

the Central government. She said at least one school in each district should be upgraded up to higher secondary classes.

Sudhanshu Bal, a visually impaired lecturer in history from BJB Autonomous College informed about the special education college offers for different categories of disabilities. The lecturer in special education of SISR, M.B. Singh highlighted the professional commitment of special educators.

The State Coordinator of Human Rights Law and Network, Sujata Rani Das expressed the need for the protection of political rights including universalisation of electoral booths. She also emphasised on the availability of all election materials in Braille script and reservation of seats in favour of PwDs from Panchayat to Parliament for equal access to political rights.

The Regional Director of Water Aid India Anurag Gupta joined as a guest of honour and he highlighted on equal access of water and sanitation facilities for all persons with disabilities.

# Cottonfab to continue until Durga Puja

POST NEW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: With an objective to revive and save traditional art of rural artisans, the 13th Cottonfab exhibition at Exhibition Ground in the Capital city is set to continue until Durga Puja.

The exhibition started July 2 and it was to continue till August 3.

Organised by Awadh Hathkarga Hastshilp and Gramodyog Samiti, the committee aims to provide market to artisans and give platforms to sell their artifacts.

"People have been pouring in at the exhibition in large numbers and showing their interest in the artifacts manufactured by the artisans from the villages of the country. The artisans displaying their artifacts are optimistic of getting overwhelming response.

The Cottonfab expo at Exhibition Ground in the City showcases products by 122 artisans from 12 states

Considering the huge response, the Samiti has decided to extend the date until Puja festival," said a member of the committee.

The exhibition has about 122 artisans from 12 states in the country displaying their products.

Lucknow's chikan work dress material, sarees, Gujarat's ethnic print kurties, Rajasthan's block printed Kota Doria dress material and Punjab's Phulkari Dress material from Patiala are some of the items on display.

# TB patients at higher risk of all-cause mortality: ICMR

Patients even after successful completion of treatment for tuberculosis (TB) are at increased risk of all-cause mortality and reduced life expectancy, according to studies conducted by ICMR's National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis.

As part of its commitment to end TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global SDG target of 2030, India continues its fight against tuberculosis through its National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP).

Though there is improved treatment outcome and a steady decline in mortality in recent years, long-term survival of these patients post-treatment still remains a concern, Padmapriyadarsini C, Director of National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT) in Chennai said.

The findings of the studies carried out by NIRT, showed that the mortality among those diagnosed and treated for TB was two times



higher than those not affected. The studies followed up 4,022 TB patients and 12,243 gender-matched and age-matched controls for their long term survival.

Even though TB patients were treated successfully, the long-term follow-up of individuals treated

for TB showed that there was an excess of premature deaths among those affected by the disease, the key findings stated.

"The mortality among those diagnosed and treated for TB is two times higher than those not affected by TB and most deaths oc-

The findings of the studies carried out by ICMR's National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, showed that the mortality among those diagnosed and treated for TB was two times higher than those not affected

The studies followed up 4,022 TB patients and 12,243 gender-matched and age-matched controls for their long term survival

Though there is improved treatment outcome and a steady decline in mortality in recent years, long-term survival of these patients post-treatment still remains a concern

PADMAPRIYADARSINI C | DIRECTOR OF NIRT, CHENNAI

in the treated TB population and 1.52 per 1,000 in non-TB population.

The authors suggested regular counselling or creating awareness about TB and its consequences among smokers, alcoholics, and other risk groups, as measures to reduce TB-related mortality.

Pulmonary TB claimed a higher number of deaths at 42 per cent, as against 18 per cent observed among those diagnosed with extrapulmonary TB.

A still bigger share of deaths at 61 per cent was formed by individuals who had the non-DOTS form of treatment.

The NIRT recommended the NTEP to form a strategy to reduce the post-TB treatment mortality and respiratory morbidity, and also ensure early case detection, treatment initiation, and treatment adherence.

The body also recommended a long-term follow-up for recurrence of TB.

That, along with interventions

for co-morbid conditions every six months for two years post-TB treatment was suggested to prevent premature mortality.

It was also recommended that the TB programme managers should consider counselling people on their smoking and alcohol habits to reduce post-TB treatment mortality.

The NIRT recommended conducting a large scale implementation research on vaccination of treated cases to ascertain reduction of TB recurrence and post-TB treatment mortality.

"Even after successful completion of treatment, quality of life of treated TB patients is compromised. This is due to higher rates of post-TB sequelae in terms of respiratory morbidity and mortality," Dr Padmapriyadarsini said.

"Since Post-TB morbidity not only affects the individual but also the country's productivity, NTEP has to prioritise appropriate strategies to reduce mortality post-TB treatment," she added.

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.

# NO ENTRY TO JOURNOS IN KANKADAHAD SCHOOLS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kankadahad, July 10:** Journalists have been barred from entering schools in Kankadahad block of Dhenkanal district without permission from the authorities concerned. A directive in this regard has been issued to all the school headmasters by Kankadahad Block Education Officer (BEO).



**BEO's letter reads:** "Regret that some of the media people enter in classrooms and school premises without taking permission from the authority. Mediapersons holding camera are entering in the school and asking different questions to students and teachers with a view to humiliating them and some TV channels are airing those videos. Hence the headmasters are directed not to allow any mediaperson into the school campus or classroom."

The move comes in the wake of the recent incident where lot of students and other teachers fumbled when they were asked basic questions by some reporters.

The BEO's letter reads: "Regret that some of the media people enter in classrooms and school premises without taking permission from the authority. Mediapersons holding camera are entering in the school and asking different questions to students and teachers with a view to humiliating them and some TV channels are air-

ing those videos. It is not ethical and permissible. Hence the headmasters are directed not to allow any mediaperson into the school campus or classroom."

"If such activities are done by the cameraman or mediapersons without permission, the school headmaster should report it to the police and lodge a complaint against the erring scribes immediately," the letter further read.

Similarly, FIR will be lodged against the concerned school's headmaster and teachers if there is any deviation in the directive, the letter added.

Meanwhile, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Das said, "I request media representatives of various channels to cooperate and not over-interfere in such matters. This is a local matter."

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES



Members of Nalco Ladies' Club distributed free masks and water bottles to devotees visiting the Bahuda Yatra festival in Damanjodi of Koraput district

## SHORT TAKES

### Woman killed in jumbo attack



**Khaira:** A woman was trampled to death while returning home after attending the Bahuda Yatra festival at Kolhasahi under Baunsagadia panchayat in this block of Balasore district, Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Droupadi Ho, 45, wife of Sama Ho in the village. The incident occurred when she came face to face with two elephants while returning home after visiting the Bahuda Yatra at Mahulapnakhari. One of the animals picked her up with its tusk and battered her on the ground. Locals rushed to the spot on hearing her screams but by then she had breathed her last. On being informed, forest ranger Babita Soren visited the spot and took stock of her death. Former sarpanch Bishnupada Ghadei has demanded immediate financial assistance to the bereaved family members of the victim.

### Ganja worth over ₹27 lakh seized

**Koraput:** Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a surprise raid and seized a big cache of ganja Sunday with an estimated market value of over ₹27 lakh in Deulapada square under Lamtaput tehsil in Koraput district. According to sources, a few contraband peddlers were smuggling the ganja to the Jalajanjari area in the district. On being informed, a police patrolling team spotted them near Deulapada square. However, fearing arrest, the peddlers fled the spot leaving the cache. Police then recovered around 270 kilograms of ganja stuffed in 10 sacks and seized it. A case has been registered and an investigation has been initiated into the matter to unearth other details, said the police.

# Plans afoot for coffee farming on 523 ha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, July 10:** Plans are afoot for expansion of coffee plantation in Koraput district with the district administration all set to take up cultivation on 523 hectare of land.

The district administration has started preparations in earnest following a directive by the state government.

The cultivation will be taken up jointly by Odisha Livelihood Mission, Coffee Development Trust, District Watershed Project, Mission Shakti and Coffee Board as part of livelihood initiative for tribals and women.

Meanwhile, all preparations have been completed for cultivation of the crop on 523 hectare of land. At the outset, two sapling nurseries have been established where coffee saplings are being prepared like Deoghathi for plantation on the identified land.

The saplings are being prepared



with the involvement of women self-help groups and other women groups. The Coffee Development Trust has been entrusted with the task to deliver the saplings to the recipients in various areas.

A training programme was conducted on preparation of coffee saplings and nurseries inside the coffee board premises.

Later, a special bed was laid at Ghatgumar to prepare 1.6 lakh cof-

fee saplings. Special care is being taken to prevent the saplings from withering, said Susmita Samantaray, district officer of Odisha Livelihood Mission.

The district administration is laying stress on proper publicity on the importance of coffee cultivation, preparation of coffee nurseries, preparations of saplings and their upkeep, identification of land for coffee cultivation.

## CASH CROP

At the outset, two nurseries have been established where coffee saplings are being prepared like the one at Deoghathi for plantation on the identified land

The saplings are being prepared with the involvement of women self-help groups and other women groups

The Coffee Development Trust has been entrusted with the task to deliver the saplings to the recipients in various areas



This will attract more and more people towards the cultivation, she said.

## Youth nabbed for molesting woman

**Berhampur:** Police arrested a youth on charge of molesting and assaulting a woman snacks vendor over payment at Borigaon under Sadar police limits here, Sunday. The accused was identified as Suresh Sahu of Borigaon. A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in court. He was arrested after the survivor lodged a complaint in the police station. Police said the woman runs a snacks stall at Borigaon where Suresh visits often to have food. He however, does not pay and escapes after having food. The incident occurred two days back when Suresh visited the stall and had food there. He was trying to go away when the woman asked him to pay. This led to a heated altercation between the two. Enraged, Suresh molested the woman and then thrashed her. He even allegedly threatened her of dire consequences, the survivor stated in her complaint.



## Body recovered in Digapahandi

**Berhampur:** The body of a youth was recovered from main road near Antei village under Digapahandi police limits in Ganjam district Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Shiv Behera, a resident of Berhampur's Khalasi Sahi. Reports said Shiva was beaten to death by a few miscreants. Later, the miscreants dumped the body alongside the road and fled the scene. According to the reports, the matter came to light after some locals spotted the body in a pool of blood and alerted the cops. A police team led by Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M and Digapahandi IIC Dipti Ranjan Behera reached the spot and launched a probe into the incident. The body was seized and sent to a local hospital for post-mortem. There were several cut marks on the youth's body, said the reports. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

## Costlier LPG cylinders bring tears sans smoke

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul/Malkangiri, July 10:** Hike in LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) cylinder prices has created discontent among consumers as they now have to shell out ₹50 more for a cylinder.

Already battered by rising prices of essentials ranging from fruits, vegetables to edible oil and electricity, the record high rates of cooking gas have added to the woes of the common man.

The increase in price has particularly affected the lower income group. Most families are forced to cut down on expenses on other non-essential items to manage the household budget.

"A 14-15 kg domestic gas cylinder which was available for ₹410 before 2014, now costs over ₹1,050. With most Indians managing with limited resources after the pandemic, the hike could not have come at a bad time," the residents lamented.

"Just a month back, there was an increase. Not even a month has passed, there is another increase



of ₹50. It is atrocious in the pandemic situation," said a housewife.

"The skyrocketing prices of gas, petrol, diesel, edibles among others is only adding to our woes," she added.

Chandrakant Panda, a resident of Malkangiri is quite upset over spiraling of LPG prices in the few months. "Earlier, my family used to depend on firewood from forests. Now, we solely depend on LPG whose continuous price hike has taken a toll on meagre income," he rued.

Satyanarayan Das, a resident of Kalimela said. "Since 2021, the Central government has hiked LPG price thirteen times. We have to buy a gas cylinder for ₹1,102. We have to again depend on forests."

# Man banished from village for last 30 yrs over leprosy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawaniapatna, July 10:** A man afflicted with leprosy has been living a cursed life for the last 30 years in a shanty after villagers driven by superstition drove him out of the village over the disease.

The incident has been reported from Talajhapi village under T Rampur block in Kalahandi district, the report said.

The man was identified as Kadma Majhi, 63, of the village. He has been living in a small shanty on a foothill around one kilometre from the village. He has been living alone and the disease and his miseries only are his constant companions.

He has been living in the shanty throughout the year like a primitive man and survives on whatever food he receives from people by begging. The only assistance he receives from the state government is 5 kg rice and monthly allowance of ₹500 which is too little

## SOCIAL STIGMA



for survival.

He has been living a life of isolation and deprivation despite a plethora of schemes launched by the state government and Centre for the benefit and welfare of the downtrodden and poor. However,

many of the government schemes continue to remain a distant dream for him.

In the twilight of his life, he is yet to get a house under the housing schemes of the state government or the Centre.

When contacted, additional district medical officer (ADMO) Manohar Majhi said that Kadma is recovering after taking medicines and he is not a danger to any individual or the people in the society at large.

However, the villagers have banished him from the village over superstition and blind belief. The district health department will conduct awareness meetings in the village and sensitise them to be rational and not to fall prey to any superstition, he said.

People have demanded the district administration to intervene and bring back Kadma Majhi again to his village and rehabilitate him by providing him assistance under government welfare schemes.

## Woman bludgeoned to death by hubby

POST NEWS NETWORK

**R Udayagiri, July 10:** In a horrific incident, a man allegedly bludgeoned his wife to death in an inebriated condition at Bhaliagani village under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district, Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Sukanti Nayak, wife of Bhagaban Nayak in the village.

The incident occurred after the couple had a tiff over some issue Saturday night. Enraged, Bhagaban allegedly picked up a stone and bludgeoned his wife to death. The incident left the neighbours shocked.

On being informed, police reached the spot and started an investigation.

Family feud is suspected to be the reason behind the murder.

The police recovered the body and detained the accused for questioning.

The deceased's body has been sent for autopsy. Police registered a case of murder over a complaint filed by the deceased's brother.

## FOR INTEGRATED RESPONSE



Gajapati SP Jayaram Satapathy unveiled a Children's Help Desk and rest room on the Kashinagar police station premises, Sunday, District Child Protection Officer Arun Kumar Tripathy was the guest of honour on the occasion

# Smooth start to Baripada Bahuda Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, July 10:** As per tradition, Bahuda Yatra or return car festival of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra was started smoothly here Sunday, a day after the Puri Bahuda Yatra. Thousands of devotees thronged the Badadanda in Baripada, known as the 'Dwitiya Srikhetra'.

All rituals including 'Mangala Arati', 'Surya Puja', 'Abakash' and 'Magana' were performed in the morning while 'Madhyahna Dhupa' was performed at noon. In a unique tradition, the chariot of Devi Subhadra 'Darpadalana' was pulled by thousands of women devotees Sunday. The practice dates back to 1975.

As per tradition, Lord Jagannath's chariot 'Nandighosha' was drawn by devotees and it first reached Haribaldev Jew temple at 4.15 pm while Darpadalana, the chariot of Devi Subhadra, was drawn halfway and car pulling will



resume from Monday.

As per the tradition of Baripada, only women pull the chariot of Devi Subhadra's 'Darpadalana'. The unique practice dates back to 1975. Lady police personnel were

deployed in large numbers around the Darpadalana.

After Devi Subhadra's chariot reaches the temple, then the chariot of Lord Balabhadra will be drawn tomorrow. As a practice,

As per the tradition, the chariot of Devi Subhadra 'Darpadalana' was pulled by thousands of women devotees only Sunday. It is said the unique practice was introduced way back in 1975

after completion of chariot drawing, some rituals are performed for Chaturdhamurtis. Then the deities will be taken inside the temple.

There was massive security arrangement for the Rath Yatra here on the Grand Road.

Similarly Badhuda Yatra of the Trinity was held at Rajnagar area in Kendrapara Sunday amid religious fervour. After all rituals were performed, thousands of devotees pulled the three chariots to the temple.



The Divine Truth is greater than any religion or creed or scripture or idea or philosophy.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Lanka Lesson

The developments in Sri Lanka should act as an eye opener for all democracies across the world. After the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution and a chain of freedom struggles by natives against foreign rulers, human intellect devised democracy as the supreme method of governance. The idea was that individuals could choose who and how they shall be administered. The concept of royalty ruling over subjects was turned upside down by the slogan of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity of the French Revolution. It was considered the Age of Enlightenment. The three words indicated the importance of an individual in any socially well meaning governance system. Wars were continually fought in different parts of the world to restore or strengthen democracy. However, towards the end of the 20th century, the concept of democracy has been questioned and its strength tested everywhere every time. The results of all those tests have boiled down to the impasse that the world is observing in Sri Lanka. There is absolutely no doubt that Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his family was supported by the people who also voted them to power. Obviously, the larger number of Sri Lankan citizens voted the Rajapaksa family because they were upset with the previous leadership. The very same supporters have now turned against those whom they had so fondly elected to govern. It would be unwise to isolate the cause of disenchantment of the average Sri Lankan with her government to only the economic distress currently seen in that country. There is no doubt that food and fuel shortages kicked off the anger which has now resulted in people forcibly entering and occupying the Presidential palace and the home of the Prime Minister. Although economic collapse is probably the major cause yet the reasons for this uprising are many. Intense personalization of the governance system added with apathy and callousness are usually the strongest reasons for the failure of a nation's economy. To label it as corruption may only make the malaise lightweight. Financial collapse does not usually happen only due to corruption. Although corruption eats into a system like termites, it is motivated policies and economic favouritism that break the spine of the financial system that requires decades of hard work to be built.

Today's images show the citizens of Sri Lanka swimming in the Presidential palace pool and running on the treadmills of the President's own gym while the Prime Minister's personal residence has been gutted by an angry mob. This proves that Sri Lanka is in the grip of mobocracy. It may not be difficult to imagine that a day is not far when democratically elected, with a landslide margin, leaders like Vladimir Putin, Viktor Orban and many others who are driving their respective countries on a path of frenzied mobocracy to reach the breaking point. Sri Lanka proves that such a situation is very possible across the globe. Putin starts a war and gets thousands of young men killed to reinvent himself. There are others who are using religion and social divides to hold on to power, no matter what the cost.

In today's times, democracy seems to be failing to protect people's aspirations. Let it be understood that aspirations and benefits are two very different things. While violent changes like the one happening in Sri Lanka may indicate the process of evolution at work yet it should not be assumed that the countries going through such a process will evolve to have a better system of governance. Recent history proves that uprisings in Egypt or foreign interventions toppling dictators like Saddam or Gaddafi have failed to usher in a newer and better administration. On the contrary, those nations are still going through extremely difficult times.

In spite of all hardships and difficulties that invariably follow, change is the only static truth of the universe.

**Piate**  
Tathagata Satpathy



Raj Persaud

**LEADERSHIP PSYCHOLOGY SUGGESTS THAT PRECISELY THE SAME ELEMENTS THAT MAKE SOME LEADERS POPULAR ALSO CAN BRING ABOUT THEIR EVENTUAL DOWNFALL**

“Desperate, deluded PM clings to power,” reads the front page of the Guardian’s July 7, 2022, print edition. But can UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s bizarre behaviour really be chalked up to some mental disorder?

Such facile claims are all too common in today’s media environment. In Johnson’s case, it is difficult to find coverage that does not offer some kind of psychiatric diagnosis. If there is any debate, it is over what particular emotional malady he exhibits, not whether there is any other psychological explanation for his surreal antics.

Following an unprecedented wave of ministerial resignations this week, Johnson almost had to have the keys to No. 10 Downing Street wrenched from his hands, so staunch was his refusal to accept the obvious logic of his predicament. Even in his speech finally announcing that he will resign, he blamed his ouster on a “herd instinct” among his Conservative Party colleagues, and suggested that it is rather “eccentric” to change leaders now.

But is he “deluded”? To psychiatrists, that is a technical term with a precise meaning. Victims of delusion will cling to beliefs that are clearly false, even in the face of overwhelming evidence. But even if someone meets these criteria, that doesn’t really tell us what we need to know. We also must ask what makes the person so resistant to reasoned argument, and what accounts for his or her own serious errors in judgment.

Leadership psychology suggests that precisely the same elements that make some leaders popular also can bring about their eventual downfall. An elected leader’s psychodrama thus often reflects a polity’s own unconscious: we sometimes end up with deluded leaders because we ourselves can be somewhat delusional when we vote.

David Collinson, a professor of leadership and organisation at Lancaster University, associates

**FOCUS LEADERSHIP PSYCHOLOGY**

# END OF BORIS’ ILLUSION



**By clinging on through scandal after scandal, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has certainly demonstrated the power of positive thinking. But the problem with ‘Prozac leadership,’ as some researchers call it, is that it can take a politician – and a country – only so far before reality reasserts itself**

this predicament with excessive positive thinking, or what he calls “Prozac leadership,” in reference to the famous antidepressant that promises to cheer people up without actually fixing what is wrong in their lives. “Prozac leadership,” Collinson writes, “encourages leaders to believe their own narratives that everything is going well and discourages followers from raising problems or admitting mistakes.”

In politics, Prozac leaders come to power by selling the electorate on wildly overoptimistic views of the future. When the public buys into a Prozac leader’s narrative, it is they who are already verging on the delusional. A country that ends up with such leaders may be suffering and miserable, desperately in need of an artificial pick-me-up. Collinson’s term would certainly seem to describe Johnson,

a man famous for his bonhomie and relentless cheerfulness. It is worth remembering that before his political career took off, Johnson often appeared on TV comedy programmes.

But no one is laughing now. Prozac leaders inevitably become victims of their own positivity, refusing to consider evidence that contradicts their rosy assessments. Even when everything is collapsing around them, they will focus on the positive, convincing themselves that there is still a way out of the abyss.

Some might also categorise Donald Trump as a Prozac leader. When he clearly lost the 2020 US presidential election, he convinced his followers that they had actually won and would yet prevail. But whether Trump believed his own narrative has increasingly come into doubt. The congressional January

6 Committee has marshaled ample evidence showing that he knew full well that he had lost.

Another potential example is Vladimir Putin, who has conjured a kind of nostalgic dream world for his followers and the wider Russian public. He may genuinely believe that his chances of conquering Ukraine are better than they are, given reports that he has been receiving bad information from his own generals.

Collinson regards performative positivity as a distinctive feature of contemporary culture. For corporate and political leaders, upbeat self-promotion has become de rigueur. To Johnson’s mind, it might seem obvious that one must project strength, power, and self-confidence.

By contrast, in his own resignation letter, former Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak chastised Johnson for hiding negative truths from the public. “Our country is facing immense challenges,” Sunak writes. “We both want a low-tax, high-growth economy, and world-class public services, but this can only be responsibly delivered if we are prepared to work hard, make sacrifices, and take difficult decisions.”

Most people know that if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. It is one thing to tell the public that a better future is possible; it is quite another to claim that getting there will be easy. The mark of Prozac leaders is that they will never allow their truth to collide with reality; rather, they will forever dodge it. In his resignation speech, Johnson clung to the belief that “even if things can sometimes seem dark now, our future together is golden.”

It now falls to the British public to bring itself back down to Earth. Positivity for its own sake can take a country only so far.

*The writer is a psychiatrist and author of The Mental Vaccine for COVID-19 (Amberley Publishing, 2021).*

PROJECT SYNDICATE

**WISDOM CORNER**

There are three classes of people: those who see, those who are seen, and those who do not see. **LEONARDO DA VINCI**

One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star. **FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love. **CARL SAGAN**

**WORDSWORTH**

**Tuffhunter**

Tuft was from about 1670 a slang term for a golden ornamental tassel that was worn on an academic cap (a mortarboard) at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Most members of these universities had only a plain black tassel, but the titled undergraduates – noblemen and sons of noblemen – wore gold ones as a mark of their status. By an obvious transfer of sense, wearers of golden tufts were themselves called tufts. Those individuals who were slavish followers of the tufts, toadies or sycophants, became known as tuffhunters. Persons of the toady persuasion have never had a good press. William Makepeace Thackeray described one in his Shabby Genteel Story of 1840: “Mr. Brandon was a tuffhunter of the genteel sort; his pride being quite as slavish, and his haughtiness as mean and cringing, in fact, as poor Mrs. Gann’s stupid wonder and respect for all the persons whose names are written with titles before them. O free and happy Britons, what a miserable, truckling, cringing race you are!” Wearing the tuft went out of fashion in the 1870s but was mocked by W S Gilbert in Princess Ida in 1884: You’ll find no sizers here, or servitors, Or other cruel distinctions, meant to draw A line ‘twixt rich and poor: you’ll find no tufts To mark nobility, except such tufts As indicate nobility of brain. By the 1850s, the word had been transformed into toff (sometimes toft in the early days), as a lower-class slang term among Londoners for a person who was sufficiently smartly dressed to pass as a member of the nobility and – by extension – for anybody who was rich and powerful. We have forgotten golden tufts, but we still know about their offspring, the toffs.

**Turdiform**

It’s one of a select class of English words, including crapulent and fornicate, that are guaranteed to mislead readers and raise a giggle among children of all ages. It reminds one of a wonderful monologue that the British comedy actor Ronnie Barker gave many years ago on a television show called The Two Ronnies. In a sketch peppered with real and fictional Cockney rhyming slang he claimed to have encountered a small brown Richard the Third on the ground, which he picked up and put on a wall out of the way. The story ends with it flying off. There’s a good reason for bringing that up, apart from wanting to share a memory, because turdiform is an adjective that refers to birds of the thrush family. It comes from Latin turdus for one of the European thrushes, probably the song thrush or mistle thrush (the latter having been given that name because it was noted for eating berries, particularly those of the mistletoe). Turdiform is found exclusively in old-time ornithological works. It has always been specialist and technical; its appearances lie mainly in the period from 1870 to 1910 and it is obsolete. We may guess that a certain fastidiousness on the part of writers has led to their expelling it from their vocabulary. However, the genus Turdus for the thrushes survives. Members include Turdus migratorius, the American Robin (the European robin used to be thought a thrush but is now in a different genus) and Turdus maximus, the Tibetan blackbird.

**SPECTRUM RUPEE**

## RBI’s knee jerk reaction

The Reserve Bank of India is engaging in knee jerk reactions to arrest the decline of the rupee against the dollar. It is doing so by boosting foreign exchange inflows amid growing current account deficit and simmering inflation, a difficult prescription. If it’s any consolation, even the British pound is on a two-year low against the dollar and is not expected to do better amid pressure from a mix of domestic and global concerns.

The RBI is faced with a critical task of managing the domestic inflation accentuated by the global price rises, using the dollar management, largely through its selling and losing \$40 billion reserves in the last nine months. It is accentuated by \$30 billion worth of withdrawal by foreign funds in past nine months. The concerns have increased as trade deficit shot up to \$25.64 billion in June, a record, due to rising import bill for oil and coal. It leads to the highest current account deficit since 2013 of about 3 per cent of GDP.

The RBI is managing the situation through doubling annual overseas borrowing limits for corporates to \$1.5 billion and temporarily abolishing interest caps for banks

to attract deposits from NRIs. This means that till now the external borrowings were largely dealt by the government, now this is being extended to wider arena. The present situation has the potential of emerging into a deep debt situation beyond the government or official level. This may put the rupee under further stress. It has depreciated by 6 per cent against the dollar so far and with heavy portfolio outflows. Prices were rising even before the war broke out. Now the increasing trade gap in June, because of rising imports of crude oil and commodities, has added to the burden.

The discounted Russian oil has provided some financial relief to India just as inflation skyrockets alongside surging prices of everything from food to fuel. The access to cheap crude is already boosting India’s petroleum imports, which grew almost 16 per cent in April from last year. Overall this may help the RBI manage a bit with ease, but it does not check depletion of forex reserves down to \$593 billion. It would require government to open up its fist on taxation side. The recent GST decision to bring milk products and so far untaxed commodities, hospitality and tourism sector, health sector, under

its net may have deleterious effects on consumption, though government finances may show some better numbers. In effect, it would further hit the purchasing power that may impact real growth. Tax revenue numbers may not be indicator of the actual growth process.

The Citi Research says that if recession unfolds oil can slump to \$60. Since it is expected that India would do better, the government would be prudent to pass on this benefit to the consumers that it did not do during the pandemic’s almost zero price situation. Had it passed on such benefits, possibly it could have cut on the heavy food dole burden. High taxes on fuels and tolls are hitting all, including the industry, hard and leading the country to a kind of vortex.

The banks are going under stress with a slew of road, high speed rail and other infrastructure projects. Some business houses have borrowed over ₹34,000 crore from a consortium of banks. The latest decision of the RBI on relaxation of cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio on foreign currency and rupee denominated term deposits on NRI deposits for inviting funds, stretches a bit far. In effect it increases the cost on the banks,

already under pressure. The large corporate lending with little chances of early repayments may create a stress on the system. So will the oil deals with Russia come to aid? Oil costs about \$87.3 a barrel, about \$26 less than Western crude. But if oil slumps to \$60 would Russian crude also come down?

So far it has not helped the rupee recover. The currency hovers over ₹79.24 to a dollar despite continuous RBI intervention amid suggestion that it should allow rupee to find its base. With inflation expected to keep pressure on the RBI to raise rates, foreign investors are expected to wait and watch how the interest rate differentials with the US play out before starting to reinvest in Indian markets.

The glittering world of GDP is subsisting on ballooning interest rates and artificial non-existent inflationary money. While for short term, the RBI prescription may help, the country has to evolve an economic system that is different, less globalised, more swadeshi and which sustains on a sound footing. India has to redraw its economic contours with a multi-support parallel system that can thrive even in the most adverse conditions.



Shivaji Sarkar

**INDIA HAS TO REDRAW ITS ECONOMIC CONTOURS WITH A MULTI-SUPPORT PARALLEL SYSTEM THAT CAN THRIVE EVEN IN THE MOST ADVERSE CONDITIONS**

## Letters

**TO THE EDITOR**

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

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

**Plastic waste management**

Sir, Managing plastic waste in India is an arduous task. Experts are of the opinion that only banning single use plastic is not feasible as what a country like India needs is systematic segregation and recycling. We must follow the efficient plastic waste management systems in advanced countries like the USA, Japan and the EU members. They have advanced and sophisticated segregation and recycling infrastructure. Hence, the government needs to invest adequately in proper segregation and recycling infrastructure development. Additionally, we need to have a thorough understanding of recycling. The pros and cons of recycling need to be analysed and understood. Given that there are different kinds of plastic, recycling in large quantities may cause problems. Further, recycling is a costly affair. To facilitate cost-effective recycling, proper chemical enzymes need to be found and used. The recent discovery that certain plastic-eating bacteria produce such chemical enzymes has brought fresh hope to recycling. Traditional recycling where heat is used, does not produce good quality products. The new technique, on the other hand, produces high quality products. New measures need to be adopted to minimise the use of plastic. Heavy tax must be levied for plastic packaging. Similarly, agencies and firms must be appreciated for using less plastic for packaging. Those who adopt best packaging alternatives must be rewarded and encouraged.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

**A pertinent question**

Sir, While one welcomes the government’s decision to nominate composer Ilayaraja to the Rajya Sabha for his long-standing contribution to Tamil film music, it raises an important and pertinent question as to why his predecessors - the duo Viswanathan-Ramamurthy and KV Mahadevan, who were primarily and chiefly responsible for taking Tamil film music to dizzying heights and placed it on a high pedestal, were not even recognised with any Padma awards, let alone their nominations to Rajya Sabha. Composers like Ilayaraja only built on the solid platform laid by these three musical icons. The awesome three not only decided the course of Tamil film music, but their creations have become an indispensable part of our daily life. Meanwhile, Ilayaraja’s nomination to Rajya Sabha was a foregone conclusion ever since he extolled Prime Minister Narendra Modi by comparing him with BR Ambedkar in his foreword to a book ‘Ambedkar & Modi’, which triggered a polemic in Tamil Nadu political circle.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# national

## of the day quote

Delhi government is going to transform Asia's biggest readymade garment market Gandhi Nagar into a global brand. With the increase in business, 40,000 employment opportunities will also be generated

If elected, I shall perform my duty as the custodian of the Constitution without fear or favour. One of my priorities would be to urge the government to take all necessary steps to resolve Kashmir issue permanently, and restore peace, justice, democracy, normalcy and holistic development to Jammu and Kashmir

YASHWANT SINHA | OPPOSITION'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL POLL

Green fuel will end the need for the use of petrol in vehicles in the country after five years

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Heroin seized

**Shillong:** Meghalaya Police arrested two persons and seized more than 8 gm of heroin from their possession in two separate raids in West Garo Hills and East Khasi Hills districts, officials said Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, anti-narcotics task force swooped on a suspect at Tura in West Garo Hills district on Saturday and seized heroin from his possession, a police spokesperson said. Acting on the lead provided by the person, a raid was conducted at Laitkor Rangi in East Khasi Hills district where 4.4 gm of heroin was seized.

### 700 evacuated

**Ahmedabad:** Heavy rains pounded many parts of south Gujarat, leading to a rise in the water level of some rivers which caused inundation in various low-lying areas, following which over 700 people were shifted to safer places in Navsari and Valsad districts, officials said Sunday. There was flooding in some low-lying areas of Valsad after a rise in the Orsang river level. Authorities in Navsari district were also on alert as the Kaveri and Ambika rivers there were flowing above the danger mark, they said. Very heavy rains lashed Valsad and Navsari districts on Saturday night and Sunday morning, the officials said.

### Man held for rape

**Bhadoli (UP):** A 23-year-old man was arrested on Sunday in connection with the gang-rape of a minor, police said. The hunt to arrest the other two accused is on, they said. Gyanpur Circle Officer Bhuvneshwar Pandey said a 14-year-old girl belonging to a village under the Gopiganj police station was lured by a 45-year-old man of the same village. The girl was forcibly taken to Mumbai where the man, arrested on Sunday, along with another person raped her for five months, he said.

### Two more die in Assam flood

**Guwahati:** Two more people died Sunday even as the flood situation in Assam considerably improved, as per an official bulletin. Both the deaths happened in Hailakandi district, taking the toll in this year's flood and landslides to 192, as per the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin. Still, 5,39,334 are suffering in the flood across 12 districts. Altogether 390 villages in 18 revenue circles continued to be under waters. Cachar is the worst-hit district with 3,55,960 people still affected.

## CONG SACKS LOBO AS LoP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Panaji, July 10:** The Congress Sunday removed Michael Lobo from the post of Leader of Opposition in Goa Legislative Assembly, accusing him and former chief minister Digambar Kamat of "conspiring" against the party and "hobnobbing with the ruling BJP to ensure a split".

Making this announcement on the eve of the state assembly session, Congress's Goa desk in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao also said that apart from Lobo and Kamat, three other party MLAs have gone "incommunicado".

The development comes amid speculation that some Congress MLAs in the 40-member House may cross over to the BJP.

"LoP Michael Lobo and former chief minister Digambar Kamat were hatching a conspiracy by hobnobbing with BJP to ensure defection in Congress in Goa.

The party has decided to remove Lobo from the post of the Leader of Opposition," Rao said.

The party will take action against both Lobo and Kamat, he added. The Congress currently has 11 MLAs in Goa.

## Ropeway gets stuck; Devotees stranded mid-air for an hour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun, July 10:** Over 40 devotees including BJP MLA Kishore Upadhyay remained suspended in the air for nearly an hour on Sunday when a ropeway connecting Surkanda Devi temple near Mussoorie got stuck midway due to a technical snag.

Upadhyay said the incident occurred when they were returning from the temple by the ropeway. The devotees had a sigh of relief as they got down from the ropeway trolley after nearly an hour of being suspended in the air, he said.

Ropeway operation to the famous temple has been resumed, Upadhyay said but suggested that it should be properly examined so that the lives of devotees are not risked. Ropeway service to the temple situated in Tehri district began in May this year. It is the first important ropeway project started by the state tourism department after the creation of Uttarakhand. The 502-metre long ropeway was built at a cost of ₹5 crore and operates between Kaddukhal and Sukanda Devi temple.

Notably, in a more serious incident last month in Himachal Pradesh, 11 people, including five women, were stranded for hours after a cable car was stuck mid-air at Parwanoo Timber Trail in Solan district. All of them were rescued after a six-hour-long operation. Nearly two months ago, 15 tourists were also trapped mid-air on a ropeway at Trikuta hills in Jharkhand's Deoghar district for around 40 hours. Twelve of them were rescued by Indian Air Force helicopters, while three people had died in the incident that took place on April 11.

# IMD struggling to make accurate predictions in Delhi

Though experts acknowledged that providing accurate localised forecasts is a complex process, they said the central weather forecasting agency cannot be off the mark repeatedly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** The monsoon embraced Delhi in an impressive manner on June 30 but rains have repeatedly given the capital a miss since then, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) struggling to make accurate predictions.

Though experts acknowledged that providing accurate localised forecasts is a complex process, they said the central weather forecasting agency cannot be off the mark repeatedly. The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, has recorded just 2.6 mm of rainfall in the last 10 days.

# India stands with Lanka: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** In its first reaction to the massive political turmoil in Colombo, India Sunday said it stands with the Sri Lankan people in their aspirations for prosperity and progress through democratic means, established institutions and constitutional framework.

The comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came a day after thousands of angry protesters stormed embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence and set Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's private house on fire, in the culmination of months of agitation over the ongoing economic crisis.

MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India continues to closely follow the developments in Sri Lanka and that it is aware of the many challenges that the country and its people have been facing. Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday announced that he will resign. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe also said that he will step down after a new government is formed.

"India is Sri Lanka's closest neighbour and our two countries share deep civilizational bonds. We are aware of the many chal-



MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India continues to closely follow the developments in Sri Lanka and that it is aware of the many challenges that the country and its people have been facing

The island nation is reeling under severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines in the last few months as the economic crisis deteriorated

lenges that Sri Lanka and its people have been facing, and we have stood with the Sri Lankan people as they have tried to overcome this difficult period," Bagchi said. The MEA spokesperson noted that India stands with the people of Sri Lanka.

"India stands with the people of Sri Lanka as they seek to realise their aspirations for prosperity and progress through democratic means and values, established institutions and constitutional framework," he said.

In responding to media queries on the situation in Sri Lanka, Bagchi also referred to India's financial assistance to the island nation this year. "In pursuance of the central place that Sri Lanka occupies in our Neighbourhood First

## RAIN COVER



Security personnel use raincoats during rain in Ranchi

PTI PHOTO

# New rules will disempower tribals: Congress

Environment minister Bhupender Yadav rejected the charge, saying the new rules "do not dilute or infringe on" the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and that the Modi government remains committed to protecting the rights of the tribals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** The Congress accused the government Sunday of abdicating its responsibility towards protecting tribal rights and alleged that the new forest conservation rules will disempower tribes of "Adivasis" and others living in forest areas.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, however, rejected the charge, saying the new rules "do not dilute or infringe on" the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and that the Narendra Modi government remains com-

mitted to protecting the rights of the tribals.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP-led government of diluting the new forest conservation rules for the "ease of snatching forest land" and said his party stands strongly with the "Adivasi brothers and sisters".

"Modi-Mitr' Sarkar at its crony best! For 'ease of snatching' forest land, the BJP government has come up with new FC Rules, 2022 diluting UPA's Forest Rights Act, 2006," Rahul Gandhi wrote on Twitter. "Congress stands strongly with our Adivasi brothers and sisters in



their fight to protect 'Jal, Jungle and Zameen'," he added.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the rules issued recently allow forest rights to be settled after the final approval for forest clearances has been granted by the Centre. "Obviously, this has been done in the name of 'ease of doing business' for a chosen few. But it

# Eid celebrated with fervour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his greetings, wished that the festival inspired everyone to work towards furthering the spirit of collective well-being and prosperity for the good of humankind



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** People came out of homes in large numbers, offered namaz at mosques, greeted each other with hugs and exchanged food and gifts across the length and breadth of India to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha Sunday, undeterred by the recent surge in coronavirus cases.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his greetings, wished that the festival inspired everyone to work towards furthering the spirit of collective well-being and prosperity for the good of humankind. Modi tweeted, "Eid Mubarak! Greetings on Eid-ul-Adha. May this festival inspire us to work towards furthering the spirit of collective well-being and prosperity for the good of humankind."

The Border Security Force Gujarat Frontier exchanged sweets and greetings with Pakistan Rangers at the international border (IB) along Gujarat and Rajasthan. An official release said the BSF exchanged sweets with its Pakistan counterpart at the international border in Kutch and Banaskantha districts in Gujarat as well as Munabao, Gadra, Somrar, Kelnore and Varnahar in Rajasthan's Barmer district.

The two forces share sweets as a goodwill gesture on festivals of both nations, most notably Diwali and Eid, officials said. Eid-ul-Adha, the celebration of Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice, was celebrated peace-

fully across Kashmir with people gathering at mosques in large numbers to offer prayers. The biggest such assembly was at the Hazratbal Shrine, where more than 45,000 people gathered for prayers.

Smaller gatherings were reported at all Muslim places of worship across the valley, except for the historic Jamia Masjid in old city. The authorities refused permission to the Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid to hold prayers at 9 am.

Thousands of sheep, goats and other animals were sacrificed across the valley in line with the tradition, officials said. "Greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Zuha. The festival is an occasion to reaffirm our faith in unity of humanity & to be charitable towards poor & disadvantaged. May this festival strengthens the bonds of brotherhood & bring peace, happiness & joy for everyone. Eid Mubarak," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha tweeted.

Eid-ul-Adha or Bakrid is known for its custom of sacrificing an animal to the Allah. At Aishbagh Eidgah in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow, people speaking during 'khutbe' - a speech before namaz - raised concerns about global warming and later offered a special prayer for rains. Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, the Head of Islamic Centre of India and Shahar Qazi, said that people prayed for peace and harmony in the country across several mosques of the Aishbagh Eidgah.

will end the 'ease of living' for the vast many," he said in a statement.

The former Union environment minister said this destroys the very purpose of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and its meaningful use while considering proposals for diversion of forest land. "Once forest clearance is granted, everything else becomes a mere formality and almost inevitably, no claims will be recognised and settled. The state governments will be under even greater pressure from the Centre to accelerate the process of diversion of forest land," Ramesh said.

"The Modi government has abdicated the responsibility given to the central government by Parliament to ensure that the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is implemented in a manner consistent with the Forest Rights Act, 2006," the Congress leader alleged.

Yadav took to Twitter to say the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 are reformative, with an objective to streamline the process of approvals under the Act and enable a parallel process under other Acts and Rules, including the FRA, 2006.

"The allegation is an ill-informed attempt to show that the Rules don't care about the provisions of other laws. The government under Shri Narendra Modi ji remains committed to protecting the rights of the Adivasis," he said.

Responding to Ramesh, the minister said, "Jairam ji, you are trying to insinuate a problem where none exists. There is no dilution of provisions of FRA as being incorrectly interpreted since fulfilment and compliance of FRA 2006 is specifically mentioned in the Rules before State issues orders of diversion."

July 10, and issued a yellow alert, warning of moderate rainfall in the capital on Sunday. But that did not happen either.

"It was expected that the western end of the monsoon trough would again shift towards the north after the low pressure area degenerated. However, the development of a cyclonic circulation over southwest Rajasthan and adjoining parts of south Pakistan in the last 24 hours did not let the monsoon trough come near Delhi and neighbouring areas. It is still stuck south of Delhi and passes through Bikaner and Kota," he said.

Parts of Punjab and Haryana received rainfall due to the convergence of winds - westerly winds

in the upper level and easterly winds in the lower level - in that region. There are chances of patchy rainfall or thundershowers as a result of moisture incursion and localised heating on Sunday, Palawat said.

Delhi won't get any rain on Monday and Tuesday. Rain is likely on July 13 and July 14 after the low pressure area crosses Gujarat and the monsoon trough shifts towards the north, the meteorologist said. Asked about the repeated wayward forecasts by the IMD about rainfall in Delhi, former secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Madhavan Nair Rajeevan said, "Once in a while is okay, but it should not happen often."



central India due to the development of a low pressure area over Odisha which subsequently travelled to Gujarat. "The low pressure area had pulled the trough towards central India, leading to heavy rainfall there," said Mahesh Palawat, vice

president (meteorology and climate change), Skymet Weather. The IMD later predicted "fairly widespread to widespread rainfall activity" over west Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Rajasthan on July 9 and

# Amarnath tragedy could have been averted

At least 15 people were killed, and several others suspected to be washed away at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath Friday evening due to a flash flood from heavy rainfall, but the tragedy could have been averted if Doppler radar at Banihal in UT of J&K was functional



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 10: More than two years after the announcement, Doppler radar at Banihal in Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir is still not functional. It is a crucial missing link that could have helped avert the tragic deaths of over a dozen people at Amarnath Shrine in the UT Friday.

The IMD had forecast only 'very light rain' and later said that such localised high rainfall events occur regularly even when authorities term it as an event of cloudburst. The Yatra has been suspended temporarily in wake of the chaos and persisting bad weather conditions.

A Doppler radar is an important tool that gives the India Meteorological Department (IMD) a more accurate assessment of the clouds and rainfall in the given range of the radar, 100 km in case at Banihal.

At Banihal, this Doppler radar is an X-band radar to be installed at a high point to get clearer access to the atmospheric changes in the hilly terrain. The location is under the Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE),

that too at a high altitude, away from any village. "That is the reason, there are accessibility issues too. Also, it may have been announced earlier, but the procurement procedure is a lengthy process. It takes time," said a scientist from IMD. The radar is slated to cover the entire Pir Panjal range and once functional, would also be helpful in predicting better weather forecast for the 270 km Srinagar-Jammu national highway, the main road used by Amarnath Yatrīs.

IMD's Upper Air Instrumentation Division is working on giving the final touches and currently the testing is going on. IMD's Director General (Meteorology) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, "the work is going on." The IMD has automatic

weather stations (AWS) all along the Yatra route, both from Pahalgam

side and the Baltal side. However, they only give data for realised

## DOPPLER RADAR

A Doppler radar is an important tool that gives the IMD a more accurate assessment of the clouds and rainfall in the given range of the radar, 100 km in case at Banihal

Data from the Doppler radar, as it gives a real time assessment, is helpful for the local administration and the disaster management personnel, especially so for the hilly terrain, as the advance information about the ensuing extreme weather event can prevent fatalities

weather, i.e., for what has happened, light rain, thundershower, heavy rain, or snow fall etc. That data is useful in the long term.

"The Radar is already installed and will be made operational this coming week, if all goes well," said Sonam Lotus, who heads the Regional Meteorological Centre at Srinagar that looks after the UT's of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

## HOPES OF FINDING SURVIVORS FADING

Srinagar: Hopes of finding those missing in the Amarnath flash floods alive are fading by the hour even as the rescuers are making last-ditch efforts to look for any survivor and the Army has pressed heavy machinery into service to restore the track to the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said Sunday. The rescue operations are going on as personnel from various agencies are clearing the debris in the hope of finding any survivor; a State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) official said. He said most of the debris clearance is being done at the areas pointed at by sniffer dogs. We are still hopeful but anyone still alive under that debris will be a miracle, the official said. Army jawans are supplementing the efforts of JCB excavators in clearing the route to the cave housing a naturally formed ice-lingam. The official, however, added that inclement weather can play spoilsport in the restoration efforts.

# Goddess Kali's blessings are with country: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said blessings of Goddess Kali are always with the country, which is moving ahead with a spiritual energy for the welfare of the world.

Virtually addressing the centenary celebrations of Swami Atmasthananda, organised by Ramakrishna Mission here, the prime minister said Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa had a vision of Goddess Kali and believed that everything was pervaded by her consciousness.

The PM's speech came in the backdrop of a recent controversy that was created when TMC MP Mahua Moitra, at a conclave, recently said that she had every right as an individual to imagine Goddess Kali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting deity, as each person had his or her unique way of offering prayers. She was responding to a question in connection with the outrage over a film poster, which shows a woman dressed as the deity smoking a cigarette and holding a pride flag.

Modi, during his address, also said, "Whenever I had the opportunity, I visited Belur Math and the (Dakshineswar) Kali temple (across the river); it is natural to feel a connection. When your faith and beliefs are pure, the power (Goddess) herself shows you the way. The limitless blessings of Maa Kali are always with India. The country is moving ahead with this spiritual energy for the world's welfare."

Lauding the Ramakrishna Mission for its service to humanity, Modi said its saints are known as messengers of national unity in the country and are representatives of Indian culture abroad.



Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa was one such saint who had a vision of Maa Kali, who had surrendered his whole being at the feet of Maa Kali. He used to say this whole world, everything is pervaded by the consciousness of the Goddess. This consciousness is visible in the Kali Puja of Bengal. This consciousness is visible in the faith of Bengal and the country

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

"Our sages have shown us that when our thoughts are broad, we are never alone in our endeavours. You will see that many such saints of India have fulfilled resolutions with zero resources. The success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is an example that the country had fulfilled resolutions as the convictions were firm. Lot of people didn't believe that it could be a success," he said. He also pointed out that the country had administered around 200 crore vaccine doses in the last one-and-a-half years, which proves that "if convictions are pure, nothing is unachievable".

"Two years ago, several people had calculated how long it would take to vaccinate the country's people. But in the last one-and-a-half years, we have reached near the 200 crore milestone. It proves nothing is unachievable. Even when there are roadblocks, you can still find a way," he said.

# People offer prayers across Kashmir on Eid



Muslim devotees offer prayers on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, at Hazratbal Shrine on the banks of Dal Lake, in Srinagar, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 10: Eid-ul-Adha, the celebration of Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice for his Lord, was celebrated across Kashmir Sunday with people gathering at mosques in large numbers to offer prayers, officials said here.

The biggest such assembly was at the Hazratbal Shrine, where more than 45,000 people gathered for prayers, they said.

Smaller gatherings were reported at all Muslim places of worship across the valley, except for the historic Jamia Masjid in old city.

The authorities refused permission to the Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid to hold prayers at 9 am. Thousands of sheep, goats and other animals were sacrificed across the valley as per tradition, they said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha greeted the Muslim community on the occasion.

Greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Zuha. The festi-

val is an occasion to reaffirm our faith in unity of humanity & to be charitable towards poor & disadvantaged. May this festival strengthen the bonds of brotherhood & bring peace, happiness & joy for everyone. Eid Mubarak, he tweeted.

A police official said Eid prayers passed off peacefully and there was no report of any untoward incident. Leaders of political parties of Jammu and Kashmir also extended Eid greetings to the people.

# BSF, Pak Rangers exchange sweets along IB on Eid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 10: The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Pakistan Rangers exchanged sweets Sunday at various outposts along the International Border in the Jammu region on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

The troops of the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers exchanged sweets on the occasion of Eid at various BOPs along the IB under the Jammu frontier in a very cordial atmosphere, a BSF spokesperson said.

Sweets were exchanged all along the BOPs in Samba, Kathua, RS Pura and Akhnoor, he said.

The BSF has always been at the forefront in creating a peaceful and congenial atmosphere along the border while dominating the region effectively, the spokesperson said.

Such gestures help build a peaceful atmosphere and cordial relationships between both the border-guarding forces, he added.

The army troops of both countries also exchanged sweets at various forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch and Rajouri districts of the Jammu region on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

# 700 J&K YOUTHS JOINED TERROR GROUPS IN 4 YRS

141 ULTRAS ACTIVE; 172 APPREHENDED IN J&K IN 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: Terrorist groups recruited 700 Jammu and Kashmir youths into their fold in the last four years, while 141 terrorists, the majority of them foreigners, are currently active in the union territory, officials said.

According to Union Ministry of Home Affairs statistics, a total of 82 foreign terrorists were operating in Jammu and Kashmir as July 5, 2022, while there were 59 active local terrorists.

The terrorists mostly belong to outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba, its offshoot The Resistance Front, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen, an official said, citing the data.

Different terror groups have recruited 700 local youths in Jammu and Kashmir in the last four years — 187 in 2018, 121 in 2019, 181 in 2020 and 142 in 2021.

By the end of June this year, 69 youths had been recruited by terror groups into their fold.

Security forces have eliminated 125 terrorists in 55 encounters so far this year. Of these, 91 were locals and 34 foreigners.

Besides, 123 terrorists were apprehended in these encounters and



large quantities of arms and ammunition recovered from their possession. As many as 172 terrorists were apprehended in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021, 251 in 2020, 148 in 2019 and 185 in 2018, according to the data.

Two security personnel have lost their lives in terror incidents so far this year and 23 were injured. Twenty civilians have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir in terror incidents this year. Jammu and Kashmir has seen eight grenade attack incidents this year.

According to the data, 146 terrorists, three security personnel and 41 civilians were killed in Jammu and Kashmir in terror incidents in 2021; 215 terrorists, 19 security personnel and 38 civilians were killed in 2020; 148 terrorists, 49 security personnel and 46 civilians were killed in 2019; and 185 terrorists, seven security personnel and 72 civilians were killed in 2018.

A total of 63 security personnel were injured in terror incidents in 2021, 165 in 2020, 376 in 2019 and 765 in 2018, the data showed.

# Babul Supriyo appointed TMC national spokesman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 10: TMC MLA Babul Supriyo has been appointed as a national spokesperson of the party, sources in the Mamata Banerjee-led camp said.

Supriyo, the former union minister, took to Twitter to thank the party supremo for giving him the new responsibility. My sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Didi @MamataOfficial & @abhishekaitc for appointing including me in the illustrious Team of National Spokespersons of @AITCOfficial. Shall do my very best to live up to the responsibility entrusted upon me, he tweeted.

A senior TMC leader said Supriyo's appointment as a national spokesperson was a part of the strategy devised by the party to expand its base outside Bengal. He is a well-known face across



the country, both as a singer and a politician. So he can help us place our views and policies on the national stage, the TMC leader said.

Supriyo, a former BJP MP, was dropped from the Union ministry last year, following which he switched over to the TMC. He gave up his Asansol Lok Sabha seat, which he had bagged on BJP tickets twice.

The singer-turned-politician was then nominated by the ruling TMC for the Ballygunge assembly by-poll in April this year, and he managed to clinch the seat by a comfortable margin.

# Levying no service charges, say Kolkata restaurant owners

ON JULY 4, THE CCPA CAME OUT WITH THE NEW GUIDELINES BARRING HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS FROM LEVYING SERVICE CHARGES AUTOMATICALLY OR BY DEFAULT IN FOOD BILLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 10: Days after the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) barred hotels and restaurants from levying service charges, owners of several eateries in Kolkata claimed that they do not impose such a levy. Noting that levying service

charges is inappropriate and a ploy to pinch customers' pockets, the city-based restaurateurs also said this is counterproductive in a price-sensitive market.

Peter Cat and Mocambo owner Nitin Kothari told PTI that no service charge is billed at his restaurants over and above the price of food items quoted in a menu.

"We don't charge anything under the head of service tax. We always try to provide quality service to customers in all our restaurants and never charge anything beyond the rate quoted. If patrons pay any amount as tips to staffers after being satisfied with the service, it is up to them," he said.

Aminia Restaurants sales director Azra Golam said their eateries have never implemented service charges in the final billing.

A service charge might be a trick to pinch customers' pockets in a price-sensitive market. Oudh 1590 and Chapter 2 owner



Shiladitya Chaudhury claimed his restaurants have never levied service tax because he feels that this is an inappropriate way of charging customers.

If customers are happy with our service along with food and consistency in proper guest handling, they will happily pay our stewards.

Customers may get annoyed with a service charge as they are well aware of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) that they are paying.

Hotel and Restaurant Association of Eastern India president Sudesh Poddar said the luxury hotels and fine dining restaurants don't impose anything under the head of the

service charge here though their pricing may be different.

He also said that most of the hotels and restaurants of the city and states don't levy service tax.

On July 4, the CCPA came out with the new guidelines barring hotels and restaurants from levying service charges automatically or by default in food bills. It also clearly stated what steps consumers can take in case of violation of the guidelines. Consumers can complain in writing or through electronic mode to the district collectors who are empowered to inquire or investigate such complaints and submit a report to the CCPA.

Megha Mitra, associated with a film production house, said paying tips to stewards after sumptuous lunch or dinner is voluntary.

"If we enjoy services at a restaurant and we make it a point to keep some cash for those who serve food. So this cannot be subject to scrutiny," she added.

## of the day quote

Only through industrialisation can a country develop rapidly and for this, entrepreneurs have to make excellent products at the local level by making better use of the country's resources

The panchayati raj institutions and their representatives are the essential messengers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare schemes

The government has come out with a policy to encourage participation of private companies in space technology as part of reforms in the field

KALRAJ MISHRA | RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

S SOMANATH | ISRO CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### Couple shot dead

**Jashpur:** A couple in Chhattisgarh's tribal-dominated Jashpur district was shot dead by three unidentified persons who allegedly committed the crime after being denied alcohol, a police official said Sunday. The murders took place in Gaimunda Navapara village on Saturday night, said the official from Kansabel police station. "Three unidentified persons reached the couple's residence late night and demanded alcohol (traditional liquor made from mahua). When the couple, identified as Sandeep Panna and Droupadi, refused, they were shot dead. A hunt is on to nab the three culprits," he said.

### Drugs seized

**Rangia (Assam):** Drugs worth over Rs 10 crore, including five kg of opium, have been seized from a vehicle in Assam's Kamrup district, police said Sunday. Superintendent of Police Hitesh Chandra Roy said the contraband was seized at Borka under Kamalpur Police Station area in an operation carried out based on specific information on Saturday night. The drugs were being ferried in a mini-truck with a sticker "On Telecom Duty". The contraband was hidden in the music system and spare tyre of the vehicle, Roy said.

### Man arrested

**Fatehpur (UP):** A man was arrested here Sunday for allegedly killing his brother's wife by hitting her on the head with a shovel following an argument, police said. Around 8.30 pm on Saturday, Balram Nishad (55) visited the house of his brother's wife, Rani Devi (56), in Majra Joga village here and the two had an argument over working in fields, the police said. During the argument, the accused hit Rani on the head with a shovel, leaving her seriously injured. She was rushed to a government hospital by her relatives and was declared brought dead by doctors, they said.

### Bodies found

**Jammu:** Bodies of two minor girls who had drowned along with a boy in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, were recovered Sunday, officials said. The trio drowned while taking a bath in Mendhar river near Dhaki Bridge on Saturday. While boy was rescued by army unit in Mendhar, operation to trace the two missing continued till Sunday, they said. The bodies of duo were recovered from Chajjala area after 15 hours of going missing in the river, they said.

# NIA nabs 7th accused in Udaipur murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a seventh person in connection with the brutal killing of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Rajasthan's Udaipur last month, a spokesperson said Sunday.

The spokesperson said Farhad Mohammad Sheikh, alias Babla, was arrested Saturday evening. He was a "close criminal associate" of Riaz Akhtari, one of the two main accused, and took an active part in the conspiracy to kill the tailor, the spokesperson said.

Kanhaiya Lal was killed with a cleaver inside his tailoring shop on June 28. The gruesome attack by Riaz Akhtari, who is also referred to as Riyaz Attari, on the tailor was recorded on a phone by Ghouse Mohammad, and the video was posted online. They said in a



video later that they hacked Lal to death to avenge an alleged insult to Islam.

The duo were arrested within hours of the killing. Besides the duo, against whom the evidence is a self-shot video, the security agencies nabbed two more persons - identified Mohsin and Asif - who are alleged to be a part of the conspiracy to spread terror amongst

the public at large.

Two more accused - Mohammed Mohsin and Wasim - were arrested subsequently for being part of the criminal conspiracy and helping the two main accused in carrying out

recede of the tailor's shop. The probe agencies have claimed to have found several Pakistani numbers on their WhatsApp accounts and said that one of the

The NIA had June 29 re-registered the case under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act after taking it over from the Rajasthan police

helped in carrying out the recede of the tailor's shop. The NIA had June 29 re-registered the case under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act after taking it over from the Rajasthan Police. The case was initially registered at Dhanmandi police station in Udaipur. "NIA has re-registered a case under sections 452, 302, 153(A), 153(B), 295(A) and 34 of IPC and sections 16, 18 & 20 of UA(P) Act, 1967 against accused who have conspired, planned and committed the heinous murder..." the agency spokesperson had said. "The accused persons had also circulated a video of the criminal act in the social media claiming responsibility for the murder in order to trigger panic and strike terror among the masses across the country," the spokesperson had said.

## BISHNOI MEETS SHAH, NADDA IN DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, July 10:** Haryana Congress MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, who had cross-voted in last month's Rajya Sabha polls, Sunday met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda, triggering speculation that he may join the ruling party.

The 53-year-old legislator from Adampur met with the BJP leaders in New Delhi and later, heaped praises on them. He was expelled by the Congress from all party positions last month. Since then, he has been warming up to the BJP. Bishnoi also removed his pictures with Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi from his Twitter profile, replacing them with photos with his father, former Haryana chief minister late Bhajan Lal.

Bishnoi, a four-time MLA and two-time MP has been sulking ever since the Congress ignored him for the post of its Haryana unit chief during a revamp earlier this year. The party appointed Uday Bhan, a loyalist of former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, as its Haryana unit chief.

In a tweet in Hindi, Bishnoi said it was a "real honor and pleasure to meet Amit Shah". "A true statesman, I felt his aura and charisma in my interactions with him. His vision for India is awe-inspiring," he wrote.

Bishnoi added that he felt "very proud" to meet Nadda. "His easy-going and humble nature sets him apart," he said. Bishnoi said the BJP has seen unprecedented heights under Nadda, who has ably led the party. "I wish him good health and a long life."

A week after cross-voting, Bishnoi posted a cryptic tweet saying, "I know how to crush a snake's hood. I do not leave the jungle in fear of snakes. Reacting to being expelled by the Congress from all party positions on June 11, Bishnoi tweeted, "Congress also has rules for some leaders and exceptions for others. Rules are applied selectively. Indiscipline has been repeatedly ignored in the past. In my case, I listened to my soul and acted on my morals."

Last month, Bishnoi said he was consulting with his supporters to decide on his next course of action. Asked if he was in touch with BJP leaders, Bishnoi had said his next step would be in the interests of the people of Haryana and his constituency.



Tourists visit Honnammana Halla Waterfalls during monsoon at Baba Budangiri near Chikmagalur

## TAMING THE DRAGON

# Soldiers to learn Mandarin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** In the backdrop of a lingering border row in eastern Ladakh, the Army has up-scaled its efforts to impart Chinese language training to its personnel as part of the overall strategy to ramp up surveillance along the over-3,400-km Line of Actual Control (LAC).

A slew of measures has been undertaken to improve its in-house Mandarin expertise and the aim is to empower junior and senior military commanders to engage with Chinese military personnel as and when the situation demands, sources in the security establishment said Sunday.

They said various Mandarin language courses are being run at the language schools at the Northern, Eastern and Central commands of the Army. The Indian Army is also using artificial intelligence-based solutions for the translation of various scripts or literature from the Mandarin language.

"With improved Mandarin skills, the Indian Army personnel will be better empowered to convey their points in a much more cogent



manner," said one of the sources.

According to inputs, the Army now has a significant pool of Mandarin-qualified personnel drawn from all ranks, including officers and junior commissioned officers (JCOs).

The Army has recently obtained the requisite approvals to induct Mandarin-trained personnel in the Territorial Army.

"With a recalibration of its strategic outlook towards the northern borders, the Indian Army has up-scaled its Chinese language training and synergistically emeshed appropriate scaling of Chinese linguists within its over-

The Indian Army is also using artificial intelligence-based solutions for the translation of various scripts or literature from the Mandarin language

all strategy," said another source. The sources said Chinese language experts are a functional requirement at the tactical level and are required for providing analysis at the operational and strategic level while catering for futuristic needs.

They said an increasing number of Mandarin experts are required for a better exchange of viewpoints and understanding of the Chinese PLA's version of their activities during various interactions such as Corps Commander-level talks, flag meetings, joint exercises and Border Personnel Meetings (BPMs).

## FIR against Medha Patkar in MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Barwani, July 10:** An FIR was registered against Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar and 11 others in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district on a complaint by a villager alleging the misuse of funds collected for managing educational facilities for tribal students by diverting them for "political and anti-national agenda", police said Sunday.

Patkar has dismissed the allegations against her as "wrong", saying she had a full account and audit of the expenses and hinted at political reasons behind the allegations. Barwani superintendent of police Deepak Kumar Shukla said that a case was registered against Medha Patkar and others following a private complaint, in which the complainant has provided some documents.

"As the case is related to old transactions, a detailed investigation will be carried out," he said. The FIR was registered at the Barwani police station on Saturday on the complaint of one Pritamraj Badole, a resident of Temla Bujurg village.

Badole has alleged that Narmada Navnirman Abhiyan (NNA), a trust registered in Mumbai, misused funds collected for running resi-



dential educational facilities for tribal students of the Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, as per the FIR.

The complainant stated that the NNA had received Rs 13.50 crore from various sources in the past 14 years but these funds were used for a "political and anti-national agenda", which requires a probe. Those named in the FIR are Medha Patkar, Parveen Rumi Jahangir, Vijaya Chouhan, Kailash Awasya, Mohan Patidar, Ashish Mandloi, Kewal Singh Vasave, Sanjay Joshi, Shyam Patil, Sunit SR, Noorji Padvi and Keshav Vasave. "The case is related to two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The documents and facts will be verified and all the parties concerned will be allowed to present their sides and facts," the SP said.



## How Naidu lost Presidency

There is an interesting tale as to how Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu lost the plot for Presidency. Though he was happy to continue in the Union Cabinet in 2017, Modi impressed upon him to accept the Vice President's post as he has rich experience in Parliament. The party needed him as Chairman, Rajya Sabha too as the NDA was in a hopeless

minority in Rajya Sabha. How Naidu was persuaded to accept the task by the late Arun Jaitley is another story. It was said that Naidu may be promoted to the post of the President in 2022. But Naidu lost the plot somewhere down the line and it was a painful decision as well. How this decision was conveyed to him is a Modi-craft. Naidu had left on a 3-day tour to Andhra Pradesh June 20. It is learnt that Modi telephoned him to say if he could come to New Delhi for discussion on an important issue. Naidu returned to Delhi. BJP Chief J P Nadda, Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah called on him on June 21 at the VP House. Nadda is reported to have said that there are a few Presidential candidates the party has short-listed and his suggestions are needed. Droupadi Murmu's name figured in the list of probables. The BJP announced its Presidential candidate June 21. Rest is history.

## PM kept an eye on coup

After the big fiasco in November 2019 when the BJP had to eat the humble pie in Maharashtra as the Fadnavis-Ajit Pawar government fell within days, Prime Minister Modi was very cautious this time. When Fadnavis came again a few months ago to him saying that Shiv Sena can be split, Modi deputed his trusted lieutenant and Gujarat BJP chief C R Patil was made part of the operation. Patil was in charge of Varanasi Lok Sabha seat in 2014. Since he was born and brought up in Maharashtra, he is deeply involved in state politics too before being made BJP Gujarat chief. C R Patil being a Marathi speaking person was throughout the loop. All arrangements were made by Patil and when the number grew to 35 plus, the Sena MLAs were taken to Guwahati. While the credit for this operation goes to Fadnavis, it was being monitored at a

## Murmu is no rubber stamp

Droupadi Murmu may not be a 'rubber stamp' President as her opponent Yashwant Sinha has alleged. She may turn out to be a copy-book President. But by no stretch of imagination, the former Jharkhand Governor will be a rubber stamp President. She showed her courage of conviction when she returned two bills in November 2016 relating to land tenancy laws sent by the Raghubar Das government. She refused to sign them despite pressure being put on her by the BJP. Raghubar Das made a hue and cry in Delhi and even sought her transfer or sacking. Murmu was unruffled and asked the BJP government as to how these amendments would benefit the tribal community. Therefore, those who think

much higher level in the BJP.

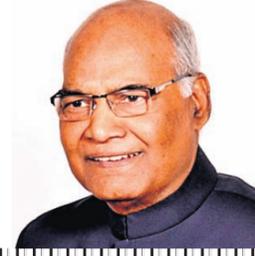
that being a tribal woman she will be a rubber stamp President, may be living in Fool's paradise.

## Naidu may miss the Vice President bus

It is now clear that current incumbent Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu will not be getting a second term. Though his performance has been good, things went wrong somewhere between him and powers that be. Secondly, the BJP wants a new face as YSR Congress also has some reservations about Naidu being re-nominated for the post. There is also a feeling that a Brahmin should be promoted to the key position. But former Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi tops the chart from BJP's point of view. There is also a theory doing the rounds that Ghulam Nabi Azad may be considered.

## KOVIND GREETS PEOPLE ON EID

President Ram Nath Kovind greeted people on Eid through a tweet in Urdu Sunday, and asked them to dedicate themselves to the service of humanity and work for all-round development of the country



## Man burnt alive post kangaroo court verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati/Morigaon, July 10:** A man was burnt alive following a verdict by a village kangaroo court in Nagaon district of Assam for allegedly killing a woman, police said Sunday.

The police have so far apprehended five persons, including three women, for setting ablaze Ranjit Bordoloi, 35, said SP Leena Doley. The incident took place at Borluni and Barhampur Bamalung under Samaguri police station on Saturday night.



A 'raij mel' (public hearing) was conducted over the death of the woman (22), whose body was found in a pond few days ago, after another woman claimed of witnessing the murder, a senior police officer said. The woman allegedly saw five persons killing her, including Bordoloi, he said.

Villagers dragged him out of his home, tied him to a tree and conducted the hearing of the 'gram sabha', officials said. "He was then beaten up and burnt alive. After that, they buried the charred body," the police officer said.

Bordoloi allegedly confessed to killing the woman. "The villagers claim that the man killed the woman by practising witchcraft. So, they decided to mete out the same punishment to him," the officer said.

The body, which was exhumed, has been sent for post-mortem examination and an investigation is underway. "When we reached the spot last night, most of the men in the village had fled. The 'gaonburha' (village head) told us that he did not know about the 'gram sabha' and the subsequent murder," he said. Security has been bolstered in the area to maintain peace, the officer added.

# international



It is too early to call the latest Omicron sub-variant BA.2.75, first reported from India last month, more severe

## SHOW OF STRENGTH

China and Pakistan Sunday kicked off their 'Sea Guardians-2' drills off the Shanghai coast by deploying their new high-tech naval ships and fighter jets to "jointly deal with maritime security threats," as their navies stepped up cooperation in India's backyard, the Indian Ocean



## of the day quote

We (Pak-US) agreed to expand our engagement in trade, energy, health & security marking 75 years of our relationship. We must increase people-to-people & business-to-business contacts

Our only choice is to be friendly, friendly, and friendly again

We consistently see that it's the Chinese government that poses the biggest long-term threat to our economic and national security, and by our, I mean both of our nations, along with our allies in Europe and elsewhere

## SHORT TAKES

### Ukrainian soldiers in UK for training

London: The first cohort of Ukrainian soldiers, many of whom have no previous military experience, have arrived in the UK for combat training as the eastern European nation races to replace troops killed and wounded in the war against Russia.

### China: Protests against corruption

Beijing: Hundreds marched Sunday in protest against alleged corruption by local officials in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou, multiple participants told AFP.

### Macao to shutter casinos for a week

Beijing: The Asian gambling centre of Macao will close all its casinos for a week starting Monday and largely restrict people to their homes as it tries to stop a Covid-19 outbreak that has infected more than 1,400 people in the past three weeks.

### Covid spike: Iran tightens entry rules

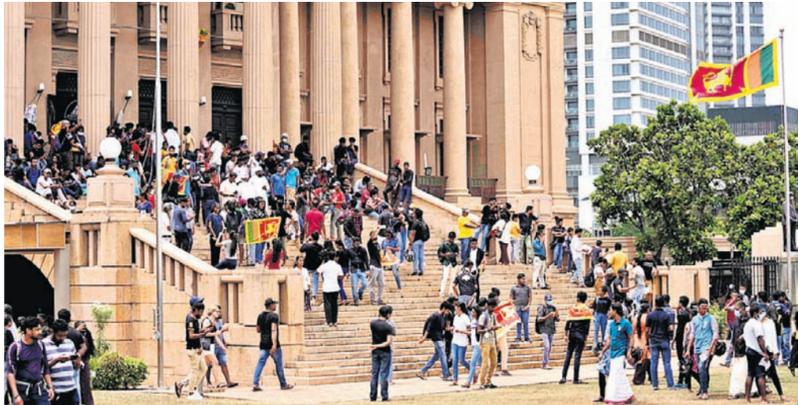
Tehran: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has said that passengers can only gain entry to Iran upon submission of negative Covid-19 test results and full compliance with Iranian health protocols.

### Balkan activists keep fighting

Sarajevo: It took a decade of court battles and street protests, but Balkan activists fighting to protect some of Europe's last wild rivers have scored an important conservation victory in Bosnia.

## LANKA FACES HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

# Oppn meets to install interim govt



AGENCIES

Colombo, July 10: Sri Lanka's main Opposition parties Sunday agreed to form an all-party interim government after the anticipated resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa Wednesday, following unprecedented political turmoil that forced him and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to offer their resignations over the mishandling of the nation's crippling economic crisis.

The protesters who have occupied the key administration buildings since Saturday's mass protests said they would not leave until Rajapaksa resigns

The cash-starved island nation witnessed a tumultuous day Saturday when protesters broke into Rajapaksa's official residence in Colombo

ernment of unity with all parties participation for an interim period," Wimal Weerawansa of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party's breakaway group said. "This will be a government where all parties are represented," he said in a statement.

Saturday that he will resign Wednesday after the country's opposition parties demanded his resignation. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has also offered to resign.

## India hands 44K MT of urea to SL

Colombo: India Sunday handed more than 44,000 metric tonnes of urea under a credit line extended to crisis-ridden Sri Lanka, as part of New Delhi's ongoing efforts to support the island nation's farmers and help bolster bilateral cooperation for food security.

The leaders of political parties represented in Parliament are to meet Monday afternoon to discuss the convening of the House for the tran-

cumbent prime minister would automatically get appointed as the acting president for a short time until Parliament votes and appoint a successor to the president.

The protesters are also demanding the resignation of prime minister Wickremesinghe. The resignation of both the president and prime minister would mean that Speaker Abeywardena would become the acting president.

Wickremesinghe has expressed willingness to resign when a new government is formed. He stressed Saturday that to deal with the International Monetary Fund on an assistance programme and to deal with shortages of essentials including food and fuel, it was important not to leave a vacuum.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, crippled by an acute shortage of foreign exchange that has left it struggling to pay for essential imports of fuel, and other essentials

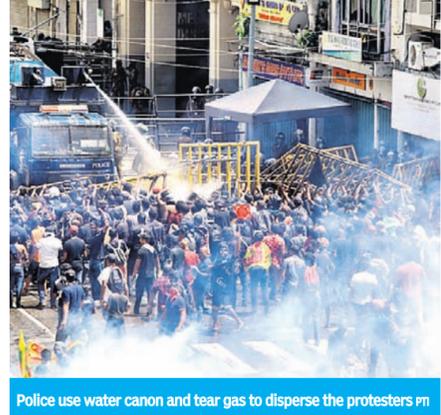
sition of power for a new government after Rajapaksa said he will resign. Speaker Abeywardena conveyed to Rajapaksa Saturday that Opposition party leaders want him to resign after anti-government protesters stormed his offices and the official residence. Under the Constitution, the in-



Demonstrators protest inside the President's House



Demonstrators eat breakfast after entering the Presidential Secretariat premises



Police use water canon and tear gas to disperse the protesters

## Jan 6 riot panel sets prime-time hearing on Trump, awaits Bannon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 10: The House committee investigating the Jan 6 riot is returning to prime time with a Thursday evening hearing that will examine the three-hour plus stretch when Donald Trump failed to act as a mob of supporters stormed the Capitol.

The committee is racing to gather newly emerging evidence and the session could be the final one in a series of public hearings that began in early June. A lawyer for former Trump strategist Steve Bannon, who faces criminal charges after months of defying a congressional subpoena, told the committee over the weekend that Bannon may now be willing to testify, according to committee members.

"I expect that we will be hearing from him and there are many questions that we have for him," said Rep Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. She and other committee members said they want to hear from Bannon in a deposition, with sworn testimony.

# Japan ruling party heads to victory

In the wake of Abe's assassination, Sunday's election had a new meaning, with all political leaders emphasizing the importance of free speech and their pledge not to back down on violence against democracy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, July 10: Japan's governing party and its coalition partner scored a major victory in a parliamentary election Sunday possibly propelled by sympathy votes in the wake of the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Early results in the race for the parliament's upper house showed Abe's governing party and its junior coalition partner Komeito securing a majority in the chamber and adding more. The last day of campaigning Saturday, a day after Abe was gunned down while de-



livering a speech, was held under heightened security as party leaders pledged to uphold democracy and renouncing violence.

Also Sunday, police in western Japan sent the alleged assassin to a local prosecutors' office for further investigation. A top regional police official acknowledged possible security lapses that allowed the attacker to get so close and fire a bullet at the still-influential former Japanese leader.

Preliminary vote counts showed

the governing Liberal Democratic Party on track to secure a coalition total of at least 143 seats in the 248-member upper house, the less powerful of the two chambers. Up for election was half of the upper house's new six-year term. With a likely major boost, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stands to rule without interruption until a scheduled election in 2025.

That would allow Kishida to work on long-term policy goals such as national security, his sig-

nature but still vague "new capitalism" economic policy, and his party's long-cherished goal to amend the U.S.-drafted postwar pacifist constitution.

Kishida and senior party lawmakers observed a moment of silence for Abe at the party election headquarters before placing on the whiteboard victory ribbons next to the names of candidates who secured their seats.

In the wake of Friday's brazen killing, Sunday's vote took on a new meaning, with all political leaders emphasizing the importance of free speech and their pledge not to back down on violence against democracy.

"It was extremely meaningful that we carried out the election," Kishida said. "Our endeavor to protect democracy continues."

Kishida welcomed early results and said responses to Covid-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and rising prices will be his priorities. He said he will also steadily push for reinforcing Japan's national security as well as constitutional amendment.

# 'Africa's donkeys being slaughtered for Chinese medicine'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Johannesburg, July 10: A popular period drama on Chinese TV helped lead to the theft and brutal slaughter of millions of donkeys in Africa, a media report said.

It all started when fans of the show 'Empresses in the Palace' saw the aristocratic characters using a traditional Chinese medicine called "ejiao", which is made from donkey skin, the VOA report quoted Simon Pope, who works for UK-based charity the Donkey Sanctuary, as saying.

"It was all set in the (Chinese) imperial court and at a certain time of the day the ladies of the court

would all say 'Let's have some ejiao,'" Pope told VOA.

"As a result of this programme the demand for ejiao just literally went through the roof," he said of the show's first broadcast in 2011.

The problem was China simply does not have enough donkeys to be able to meet demand.

The Chinese started looking for donkeys abroad, particularly in Africa where they're used as a beast of burden by rural communities from Mali to Zimbabwe to Tanzania, said the VOA report.

When locals didn't want to sell, thefts started, with distressed farmers finding their precious donkeys skinned and left to rot



on the veld, it added.

Of the remaining 3 million or more sourced abroad, the Donkey Sanctuary estimates

Ejiao called donkey glue, is used as medicine or as a tonic for health and beauty in China

China needs about 5 million donkeys a year to produce and meet the demand for Ejiao, and about 2 million of these come from the country's own population of the animals

Tanzania last month banned donkey slaughter for the skin trade, say-

ing the country's donkey population was at risk of becoming extinct. Other African countries including Nigeria have also introduced bans on donkey slaughter or exports of the animal.

"I think the message that's going to China, from Africa in particular, is that our donkeys are too valuable an asset to have them skinned and shipped off to China to have them made into medicine. Our donkeys are not for sale," Pope told VOA.

However, he noted that because of China's economic clout on the continent and massive investment in infrastructure, other nations are loath to push back against the trade.

## Russian rockets hit Ukraine apartment

REUTERS

Chasiv yar/Kyiv, Ukraine, July 10: At least 15 people were killed and two dozen more are feared trapped after Russian Uragan rockets hit a five-storey apartment block in Ukraine's Donetsk region, local officials said Sunday as rescuers picked their way through rubble.

At least 15 people killed and more than 20 may still be trapped in the rubble

Ukraine also reported clashes with Russian troops on fronts in the east and south, while Moscow said its forces struck Ukrainian army hangars storing US-produced M777 howitzers, a type of artillery, near Kostyantynivka in Donetsk region.

Donetsk Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said the strike on the apartment building took place on Saturday evening in the town of Chasiv Yar.

The regional emergency service gave the death toll at 15 on Sunday afternoon, adding that 24 more people could still be under the rubble. "We ran to the basement, there were three hits, the first somewhere in the kitchen," said a local resident who gave her name as Ludmila, speaking as rescuers removed a body in a white sheet and cleared rubble using a crane as well as their hands.

"The second (strike), I do not even remember, there was lightning, we ran towards the second entrance and then straight into the basement. We sat there all night until this morning," Andriy Yermak, chief of staff to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said in a Telegram post that the strike was "another terrorist attack," and that Russia should be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism as a result.

## S Korea detects shots apparently launched by North

REUTERS

Seoul, July 10: South Korea's military said Sunday it had detected the trajectories of what appeared to be shots fired by North Korea, possibly from multiple rocket launchers (MLRs).

South Korea's Joint Chief of Staff announced that the shots were detected after 6 p.m. and that



the military had strengthened surveillance and alert levels, without mentioning any further response. North Korea often test-fires MLRs during military drills, and in recent years has also developed larger versions of such rockets.

Smaller rockets and missiles are seen as central to North Korea's plans for striking targets in South Korea in the event of a conflict. This year North Korea has test-fired a range of missiles, including from its largest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) to its small MLRs.

## of the day quote

We were about ₹2,000 crore in 2021-22, which was a pandemic time. This year we are targeting a turnover of ₹5,500 crore

**KAMAL NANDI** | BUSINESS HEAD & EXECUTIVE VP, GODREJ APPLIANCES

Banks and shareholders have given their approval to hive off cargo and logistics company SpiceXpress from SpiceJet airline and the bifurcation will be done by the first week of August

**AJAY SINGH** | CMD, SPICEJET

We still have shortages of semiconductors. We have missing components in our production. So I would say unfortunately, the future remains very hard to predict as well

**MARTIN SCHWENK** | MD AND CEO, MERCEDES-BENZ

## SHORT TAKES

### AMCs add 51 lakh investor accounts

**New Delhi:** Asset management companies added 51 lakh investor accounts in June quarter, taking the total tally to 13.46 crore, on increasing awareness about mutual funds and ease of transactions through digitisation, and experts hope the ongoing financial year to be promising too. In comparison, 93 lakh accounts (or folios in mutual fund parlance) were opened in March quarter, while a staggering 3.2 crore investor accounts were added in the last 12 months, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

### Maruti to protect, enhance mkt share

**New Delhi:** Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) plans to protect and enhance its market share in the non-SUV space while expanding presence in the SUV segment, where it has been lagging behind the competition, as part of a twin-pronged strategy to safeguard its position in the auto sector, as per a senior company official. The company currently has a market share of 67 per cent in the non-SUV space, its highest in two decades, but lacks muscle in the fast-growing SUV segment with overall market share hovering around 13 per cent.

### Muthoottu looks at 45% growth

**Mumbai:** Kochi-based mid-sized gold loan player Muthoottu Mini Financiers is looking to grow its loan sales by over 45 per cent in this fiscal as it embarks on a faster expansion and also increasing per branch productivity as the economy returns to near normalcy from the Covid-19 pandemic. Job losses due to the first three waves of the pandemic and the subsequent pick-up in economic activities have been driving demand for gold loans from individuals for personal requirements and small businesses for working capital, coupled with a massive spike in the bullion prices since the pandemic hit the world in March 2020.

### NMDC to invest in green energy

**New Delhi:** Mining major NMDC has plans to invest in the renewable energy sector, according to its chairman and managing director Sumit Deb. The company is exploring locations in Telangana to set up solar capacities, Deb told PTI. When asked if NMDC is keen to invest in the renewable energy sector, Deb said replied in the affirmative.

## EPFO to soon disburse pension in one go

The pension would be disbursed using a central database of over 138 regional offices and this will facilitate crediting the benefit into bank accounts of over 73L beneficiaries, said a source

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Retirement fund body EPFO will consider and

approve a proposal for setting up a central pension disbursement system in its meeting July 29 and 30, paving the way for crediting the benefit into over 73 lakh pensioners' bank accounts in one go across India.

Presently, over 138 regional offices of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) disburse pensions to beneficiaries in their region separately. Thus, the pensioners of different regional offices are getting pensions at different times or days.

"A proposal for setting up a central pension disbursement system will be placed in the EPFO's apex deci-



sion making body Central Board of Trustees (CBT) in a meeting scheduled July 29 and 30," a source said. The source explained that all

regional offices cater to the pensioners in their regions separately and that is why pensioners across the country get pension on different times or days.

In the 229th meeting of the CBT held November 20, 2021, the trustees had approved the proposal for development of centralized IT-enabled systems by C-DAC.

The labour ministry had stated in a statement after the meeting that post this, the field functionalities will move on a central database in a phased manner enhancing smoother operations and enhanced

service delivery.

The centralised system will facilitate de-duplication & merger of all PF accounts of any member. It will remove the requirement of transfer of account on change of job, it had said.

The source said that the CBT will also consider a proposal to allow withdrawal of deposits from pension accounts by subscribers who have contributed for less than six months. Presently, only those are eligible for withdrawal from their pension accounts who have contributed for six months to 10 years.

## IN A GLOBAL FIRST

# Sebi mulls making 'mkt risk factor disclosures'

The move can help investors avoid a herd mentality that has been particularly witnessed during the last couple of years -- starting with large-scale selloffs when the pandemic hit the world in early 2020, followed soon by a sharp surge in buying of stocks without understanding the fundamentals, particularly in IPOs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** In a global first, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is planning to issue regular 'risk factor disclosures' on market trends, including surges and collapses, to help investors make right decisions by learning from the regulator's insights, sources said.

"Though the investors have seen a fixed pattern play out in every single cycle -- that is, everyone rushes to buy shares when the going is good and then they indulge in panic-selling when a crisis strikes. The basics of capital market investments are always thrown out of the window and one key reason for that is the lack of truly independent insights," a top official said.

The official further said most of the research material available in the market has been prepared by the market participants who have their own business interests in mind and therefore it could be a great idea if the regulator itself makes public its insights from upswings or downturns in the market. Explaining the idea that Sebi is working on, a high-level source said, "It's time for Sebi to lead by example by making disclosures on matters that can have



A UNIQUE HIGHLIGHT HAS BEEN THE UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH IN INDIVIDUAL INVESTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SECURITIES MARKET, INCLUDING THROUGH MUTUAL FUNDS

implications for investors at large and disclosures of important market-wide datapoints."

"A simple sentence mandated under the present regulations that certain 'investments are subject to market risks' has become too cliched and it is like a motherhood statement that does not work anymore. What is required at this moment is that investors get some detailed datasets, that too from the regulator and not only from their wealth managers, whose main aim remains maximising their businesses," said the source involved in the proposed move.

Sebi has huge amount of facts and figures and enormous datasets, thanks to the use of big data, artificial intelligence and

Indian stock market has seen huge volatility in the recent months, largely on account of sudden outflow of foreign funds

Overall resource mobilisation from the capital market during 2020-21 remained strong at over ₹10 trillion, surpassing last year's figure of ₹9.96 trillion

other facets of latest technologies, all of which can be of immense help to the investors and other market participants if Sebi itself starts making regular disclosures about its learnings.

Right now, the regulations require that all listed companies, as also some market participants and market infrastructure institutions, make the disclosures about their decisions, policies and future strategies to help investors make right investment decisions.

However, there is no such requirement for the regulator itself and it is high time that Sebi itself leads by example as it is the only entity that has got a complete holistic view of the entire marketplace, the official added.

## PACE OF SELLING SLOWS

# FPIs withdraw more than ₹4K-crore from equities in July so far

FPIs' OUTFLOW FROM EQUITIES HAS REACHED NEAR ₹2.21TN THIS YR, AN ALL-TIME HIGH. BEFORE THIS, THEY WITHDREW ₹52,987CR IN ENTIRE 2008

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Foreign investors continue to desert Indian equity markets and have pulled out over ₹4,000 crore this month so far amid steady appreciation of the dollar and rising interest rates in the US.

However, the pace of selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) has been declining over the last few weeks. FPIs have been on selling spree for the last nine months.

FPI inflows will resume once there are clear indications of inflation peaking out, likely to be manifested in global CPI readings around August-September, said Hitesh Jain, Lead Analyst, YES Securities.

According to data with depositors, FPIs pulled out a net amount of ₹4,096 crore from the Indian equity market during July 1 - 8. However, for the first time in several weeks, FPIs bought equities worth over ₹2,100 crore July 6.



With oil prices breaching the \$100 a barrel mark, and refining margins cracking across markets, hopes for lower inflation helped improve market sentiments. RBI's measure to help stem the sliding rupee added to the building bullish momentum

**VIJAY SINGHANIA** | CHAIRMAN, TRADESMART

This comes following a net withdrawal of ₹50,203 crore from equities in June. This was the highest net outflow since March 2020, when they had pulled out ₹61,973 crore. The massive capital outflow has significantly contributed to the depreciation in the Indian rupee, which breached the 79 per cent mark recently.

On the other hand, FPIs put in a net sum of about ₹530 crore in the debt market during the period.

Apart from India, FPI flows were negative for Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

## TESLA LEADS Global EV shipments up 79%

CHINA REMAINED THE MARKET LEADER FOLLOWED BY EUROPE AND THE US

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 10:** With Tesla registering phenomenal growth over a year, the electric vehicle (EV) shipments grew 79 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the first quarter of 2022 to reach 1.95 million units, says a new report.

According to market research firm Counterpoint, of these, battery electric vehicles (BEVs) accounted for 73 per cent and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) for the



rest. "With EVs comprising just 12 per cent of the total passenger vehicle shipments during the first quarter of 2022, there is a lot of scope for expansion. Fresh players are entering the market to benefit from the opportunity," Senior Research Analyst Soumen Mandal, said in a statement.

"To counter new entrants, es-

## Eight of top ten firms add ₹1.81tn in m-cap; HUL tops



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Eight of the 10 most valued domestic firms together added ₹1,81,209.89 crore in market valuation last week, with Hindustan Unilever emerging as the biggest gainer.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex advanced 1,573.91 points or 2.97 per cent.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) were the only laggards.

Among the winners, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) added ₹50,058.05 crore, taking its valuation to ₹5,86,422.74 crore.

ICICI Bank's valuation jumped ₹35,956.8 crore to reach ₹5,25,656.96 crore.

The market valuation of HDFC Bank advanced ₹23,940.12 crore to ₹7,75,832.15 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) climbed ₹19,797.24 crore to ₹4,47,841.46 crore.

The market capitalisation (m-cap) of State Bank of India (SBI) went higher by ₹19,232.55 crore to ₹4,35,922.66 crore and that of Infosys jumped ₹15,126.4 crore to ₹6,37,033.78 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation moved up by ₹12,000.08 crore to ₹3,81,833.20 crore and that of HDFC climbed ₹5,098.65 crore to ₹4,06,213.61 crore.

In contrast, the m-cap of TCS declined by ₹18,770.93 crore to ₹11,94,625.39 crore.

The country's largest software exporter TCS Friday reported a 5.2 per cent rise in June quarter net profit to ₹9,478 crore. The results were declared post market hours.

The valuation of Reliance Industries went lower by ₹11,805.14 crore to ₹16,17,879.36 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, HUL, ICICI Bank, LIC, SBI, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

## Startup funding declines 40% in April-June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 10:** Geo-political instability appears to be taking a toll on the Indian startups with the total funding declining by 40 per cent to \$6.8 billion in the April-June quarter, reveals a PwC India report.

The early-stage deals comprised more than 60 per cent of the total with an average ticket size of \$5 million, as per the PwC India report titled, 'Startup Deals Tracker - Q2 CY22.'

Software as a Service (SaaS) and fintech companies had the highest share of funding in the second

quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2022, totalling more than \$3.1 billion, the report said.

The report further said Bangalore, National Capital Region (NCR) and Mumbai continue to be the key startup cities in India, together contributing around 95 per cent of the total funding activity in April-June quarter of 2022, followed by Chennai and Pune.

In Bangalore, more than \$100 million was raised by seven companies each in the second quarter of 2022 -- Daillyhunt, Rapido, Leadsquared, Lenskart, CRED, Ather Energy and Observe.Ai --

majorly across the SaaS, and logi and autotech space.

In NCR seven companies -- Delhivery, Stashfin, Rario, Grey Orange Robotics, Absolute Foods, Fashinza and PhysicsWallah -- raised more than \$100 million each.

In Mumbai, more than \$100 million was raised by four companies each. These include upGrad, Zepto, CoinDCX and Turtlemint.

Only four startups in India attained unicorn status in the second quarter of calendar year 2022. Globally, the total unicorn count has crossed 1,200 with maximum unicorns in Q2 CY22 operational in the SaaS sector, followed by fintech.

## Measures to avoid rejection of health insurance claims

Health insurance provides financial support to the policyholders by covering the medical expenses, cost of hospitalisation, consultation cost, and ambulance charges, to name a few. It brings mental peace and



safety to the insured. However, there are times a health claim gets rejected and it often leads to confusion and bitterness. There are a few basic reasons why the claim might be rejected, and it is essential to know them so that one can avoid the mistakes which might lead to the rejection of the claim.

**Policy tenure:** Most health insurance plans are time-bound contracts that require annual renewal to keep the policy operational. At times, policyholders do not realise that their contract has expired and discover this only when their claims get rejected, and this comes as a big shock to many. Please note, that if the policy

has expired then the insurance company is not liable to pay the claim. To avoid such unpleasant experiences, it is crucial that one keeps a close track of the policy renewals to ensure that one is covered through and through. In case you have missed the policy renewal, you need not panic, most insurers offer a 15 days grace period, during which you can renew the policy without losing the benefits acquired during the policy term. However, any claim which falls during the break-in period will not be entertained by the insurer.

**Non-disclosure of a pre-existing disease or other material information:** It is important to disclose the pre-existing ailments or conditions that the insured has like blood pressure, cardiovascular conditions, hypertension, etc. If one has undergone any major sur-

gery previously, one must disclose that as well. It is also important to disclose any new medical condition or ailment that one might have acquired during the year, at the time of insurance renewal. In a health insurance policy, it is of utmost importance to share the details related to the health with the insurer to avoid hassles during the time of claim. Certain pre-existing diseases have permanent exclusions or may materially impact the decision of accepting the proposal, and thus it is important to disclose these details.

**Waiting period:** The waiting period in health insurance refers to the pre-defined time period in the policy during which the claim cannot be raised for the mentioned ailment or condition. The waiting period commences with the start of the policy and varies from in-

surer to insurer and ailment to ailment. The policyholder has to serve the waiting period before the insurer becomes liable to pay for the mentioned ailment. If a claim is made during the waiting period, then the same will get rejected.

**If the ailment is not covered by the policy:** All the insurance policies explicitly mention the list of coverages and exclusions, and if the policyholder raises the claim against an ailment that is specifically part of the exclusion lists, then the claim will get rejected.

**Exceeding the time limit for raising the claim:** The insurance policies mention a stipulated timeline within which the policyholder should raise the claim, usually the policy allows a 60-90 days period from the date of the discharge to file the claim. The failure to adhere to the mentioned timeline might lead

to claim rejection; it is smart to file the claim soon after the discharge. Insurer may admit the claim for genuine reason of delay in submission of claim.

**Lack of documentation or incorrect document:** At times the claims, specially reimbursement claims get rejected due to missing or incorrect documents; the policyholder must submit all the original documents, test reports, doctor consultation letters, and other documents along with the duly filled claim form to avoid any issue.

To ensure a smooth claim settlement, it is also highly recommended that you pick a preferred network hospital for treatment, as you can avail cashless facilities, can get better rates, waiver on certain charges and benefits of other non-insurance items in these hospitals.

# Surya shines, but India fade

ENGLAND BOWLERS HOLD NERVES TO SECURE CONSOLATION VICTORY FOR THEIR SIDE

AGENCIES

**Nottingham, July 10:** Suryakumar Yadav's (117, 55b, 14x4, 6x6) brilliant maiden T20 century failed to lift the Men in Blue as the visitors were down by 17 runs in the third and final game of the series here Sunday. Chasing a victory target of 216, India finished on 198 for the loss of nine wickets to lose the game. Earlier England riding on a fine knock from Dawid Malan (77, 39b, 5x4, 5x6) had posted 215 for the loss of seven wickets.

The way Suryakumar batted, it seemed he alone would take the game away from the hosts. Despite coming into bat with the score on 13 for two, Suryakumar batted with gay abandon. He put on a partnership of 119 runs with Shreyas Iyer (28, 23b, 2x6) to bring India on the brink of victory, but in the end, there was no one else to support him. Had even one of the lower-orders contributed a bit a more Suryakumar could have easily taken India over the line.

Except Suryakumar, none of the other recognised batters could contribute much and fell cheaply. Among them were Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli (both 11), Rishabh Pant (1), Dinesh Karthik (6) and Ravindra Jadeja (7).

For England Reece Topley (3/22) was the pick of the bowlers and was well-supported by Chris Jordan (2/37).

Opting to bat, skipper Jos Buttler (18, 9b) and Jason Roy (27, 26b, 1x4, 2x5) helped England reach 52 for one in their powerplay of six overs. Then Malan and Liam Livingstone (42 n.o., 29b, 4x6) shared an entertaining 84-run partnership to set the platform for a massive total.

Having already sealed the series, India rested their frontline bowlers in Jasprit Bumrah, the in-form Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Yuzvendra Chahal, besides star all-rounder Hardik Pandya.

The Indian next generation were taken to the cleaners by a power-packed England batting lineup which had disappointed in the first

two games. Ravi Bishnoi's (2/30) was the only silver lining in an otherwise ordinary bowling performance.

Left-handed Malan, once the No.1 batsman in T20 cricket changed gears after the dismissal of Jason Roy (27) and played proper cricketing shots

that he is known for. He comfortably swept the spinners for maximums and was quick on the pull and cut against the pacers.

Out of the five sixes, Malan's slog sweep off Ravindra Jadeja over square-leg and pick up shot over cow corner off a low full toss from Avesh stood out.

As he often does, Livingstone dealt in sixes as he hit four of them and alongside Harry Brook (19) and Chris Jordan (11) fired England past 200. However, Livingstone got a life when he was dropped by Virat Kohli in the deep. Among the Indian bowlers, the worst sufferer was pacesman Umarn Malik. Known for his searing pace, Malik learnt Sunday that in international cricket, speed alone can't help. He went for 56 in his four overs.

## Brief scores

England 215 for 7 (Dawid Malan 77, Liam Livingstone 42 n.o., Ravi Bishnoi 2/30, Harshal Patel 2/35) beat India 198 for 9 (Suryakumar Yadav 117, Reece Topley 3/22, Chris Jordan 2/37) by 17 runs.

In fact, other than Bishnoi, the only other bowler who conceded less than nine runs per overs was Harshal Patel (2/35). Both pacer Avesh Khan and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja went for more than 10 runs per over as Malan and Livingstone went on the rampage.

England had Livingstone, but sadly for India, there was no one to play with Yadav. Had it been so, it could have been a different story altogether. But this knock will certainly give Suryakumar a huge boost ahead of the T20 World Cup.



Suryakumar Yadav

Dawid Malan top-scored for England

# DJOKOVIC IN SEVENTH WIMBLEDON HEAVEN

Serbian wins 4th successive title on trot as Kyrgios fades after strong start



WINNER TAKES IT ALL: Novak Djokovic and Nick Kyrgios (left) with their respective trophies after the final Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wimbledon, July 10:** Novak Djokovic waited. He waited for Nick Kyrgios to lose focus and lose his way. He waited to find the proper read on his foe's big serves and waited until his own level of tennis rose to the occasion. Djokovic is not bothered by a deficit — in a game, a set or a match. He does not mind problem-solving. And at Wimbledon, for quite some time now, he does not get defeated.

Djokovic used his steady brilliance to beat the ace-delivering, trick-shot-hitting Kyrgios 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) here Sunday for a fourth consecutive Wimbledon championship and seventh overall. He won the title in 2018 and 2019, then again in 2021 when Wimbledon resumed after being suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The top-seeded Djokovic

by virtue of his victory Sunday took his unbeaten run at the grass court Grand Slam tournament to 28 matches and raised his career haul to 21 Grand Slam trophies, breaking a tie with Roger Federer and moving just one behind Rafael Nadal's 22 for the most in the history of men's tennis.

Djokovic's comeback on a sun-filled afternoon followed those in the quarterfinals, when Djokovic erased a two-set deficit against No.10 seed Jannik Sinner, and in the semifinals, when No. 9 Cam Norrie grabbed the opening set. In last year's title match at Wimbledon, Djokovic dropped the opening set. In the 2019 final, he erased two championship points against Federer.

There were two particularly key moments Sunday that went Djokovic's way, ones that Kyrgios would not let go as he began engaging in running monologues,

shouting at himself or his entourage (which does not include a full-time coach), finding reason to disagree with the chair umpire (and earning a warning for cursing) and chucking a water bottle.

In the second set, with Djokovic serving at 5-3, Kyrgios was 0-40 up. However, Kyrgios played a couple of casual returns, and Djokovic eventually held. And then, in the third set, with Kyrgios serving at 4-4, 40-love, he again let a seemingly sealed game get away, with Djokovic breaking there.

Kyrgios, 27, has never been past the quarterfinals in 29 previous Grand Slam appearances. In some ways, however, he stole the show Sunday. He tried shots between his legs. Hit some with his back to the net. Pounded serves at up to 136 mph and produced 30 aces. Used an underarm serve, then faked one later. But after all that, it was Djokovic who was holding the trophy aloft.

## SHORT TAKES

### Impressive show

**La Plagne (France):** India's teenage Grandmaster P Niyan finished second in the La Plagne International Open Chess Tournament 2022 here. The 19-year-old GM scored seven points from nine rounds to tie for top spot with Ukraine GM Vitaly Sivuk early Sunday. The Ukrainian, however, won the first prize on the basis of a better tie-break score. Sayantan Das with 6.5 points finished third. Niyan remained unbeaten through the nine rounds, winning five games and drawing four. One of the draws came against Sivuk, in round six. He won four of his first five matches, but then three successive draws pegged him back. If he had won even any one of those three games, he would have emerged champion.

### Surprise visit

**Birmingham:** World Cup-winning captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was seen interacting with the India players after the team's series-clinching win in the second T20 International against England here Saturday. After the game Dhoni, who was in attendance at Edgbaston, interacted with the likes of Ishan Kishan and Yuzvendra Chahal. The pictures of the interaction were uploaded on Twitter by the BCCI and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant too posted a photo of him with the legendary former captain. "Always all ears when the great @msdhoni talks!" the BCCI tweeted alongside a photo of the discussion that took place inside the dressing room.

### Men shooters shine

**Changwon:** India's Arjun Babuta and Paarth Makhija qualified for the men's 10m Air Rifle final at the ISSF Shooting World Cup here Sunday. Arjun scored an impressive 630.5 in the 60-shot qualification stage to finish second in the 53-strong field. Paarth, on the other hand, finished fifth with a score of 628.4. In the women's 10m Air Rifle event, it was a disappointment for the Indian shooters as none of them could make the cut for the finals. It was the 21-year-old Mehuli Ghosh who came closest with a score of 628.7 to finish 11th in the field. Senior debutant Ramita shot 627.4 to finish 17th while former World Number 1 and Olympian Elavenil Valarivan finished 24th.

# DOUBLE CROWNS FOR SOHINI, LALIT



Sohini Mohanty



Lalit Tudu

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 10:** Lalit Tudu and Sohini S Mohanty, both from Odisha achieved double crowns by winning the singles and doubles titles of the boys' under-16 and girls' under-16 categories at the TAB AITA-OTA championship series which ended Saturday at the tennis complex inside the Kalinga Stadium here.

In the boys' under-16 singles final, Lalit defeated compatriot Kaamlesh Rath 7-6 (7-3), 6-1. Earlier in the day Lalit partnering Aniket Sahoo had beaten Kamalesh and Aditya Bikram Acharya also from Odisha 6-4, 6-4 in the doubles.

In the girls' under-16 final, Sohini trounced compatriot Aradhya Verma, 6-0, 6-3. Then Sohini paired

up with Priyanshi Panigrahi and overcame Aahan (Odisha) and Akansha Ghosh (West Bengal) 6-2, 6-4 to complete a double

Earlier in the day, Ahan won the under-14 girls' title trouncing T Moksha Dhanamjay (AP) 6-1, 6-0. However, Odisha's Sai Swastik Mohanty lost in the boys' under-14 final to Nishit Arimilli (AP) 1-6, 2-6.

In this tournament the winner and runner-up will get 25 and 20 AITA ranking points respectively.

A total of 150 players from various states including Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Chhattisgarh took part in the event which was organised by TAB (Tennis Association of Bhubaneswar) under the banner of Odisha Tennis Association.

## CLOSE SHAVE FOR SAINZ AS CAR CATCHES FIRE AT AUSTRIAN GP

# Leclerc triumphs in style

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Spielberg (Austria), July 10:** Charles Leclerc revived his Formula One (F1) title challenge by holding on to win the Austrian Grand Prix here Sunday for a third victory of the season, while his Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz's hopes of a second-place finish ended when his engine blew as he was about to attack Max Verstappen's Red Bull.

Leclerc was clearly stressed in the closing laps as his throttle was not working properly, making it more difficult to control his speed into turns. "Yes. Come on!" Leclerc screamed on team radio after crossing the line. "I was scared. I was really scared. Yessss!"

The Monaco driver held on to beat second-place Verstappen by 1.5 seconds. "I definitely needed that win, the last five races have been incredibly difficult," Leclerc said. "At the end it was really difficult; I had this problem with the throttle. My heart probably was beating faster than the speed of my vehicle," Leclerc added.

Verstappen picked up a bonus point for fastest lap to go with the eight points he took by winning Saturday's sprint race. Lewis Hamilton finished third for Mercedes and encouragingly gained a third straight podium place. His teammate George Russell was placed fourth.

The most dramatic moment came



CELEBRATION TIME: Charles Leclerc holds aloft the trophy after winning the Austrian Grand Prix as Lewis Hamilton applauds

on Lap 57 in the other Ferrari, when Carlos Sainz suffered an engine blowout. He parked up in the gravel as flames started to billow out of the back. A marshal rushed towards it with a fire extinguisher and urged the Spaniard to jump out. Sainz got out in time as flames were licking his race suit. He was unharmed, sitting on the grass to contemplate his bad luck.

However, it was indeed a nerv-

ous time for Sainz and all the others at the venue. Initially when he tried to climb out of the cockpit, his car was situated on a slope and started to roll back. The task of getting out was like walking up a hill, momentum working against him. Finally it was the marshal who put a blocker under the front-right wheel and that partly arrested the slow roll back. Then Sainz managed to get out.

## 2 CYCLISTS ALREADY OUT OF RACE, MANY CASES MAY SURFACE WHEN MASS TESTING HAPPENS MONDAY

# Riders uneasy as Covid hits Tour de France

AGENCIES

**Chatel (France), July 10:** Tadej Pogacar's rivals have been sharpening their knives as the Tour de France hits the Alps. However, the largest threat to the Slovenian's quest for a third consecutive title is perhaps the Covid-19 surge inside the peloton.

Three riders in two days needed to pull out of the race after being contaminated by the virus and displaying signs, elevating fears that the bunch could possibly be decimated when all the riders will probably be examined Monday throughout the relaxation day in Morzine.

It's a big scare," stated Pogacar, whose UAE Emirates workforce mate Vegard Stake Laengen pulled out after testing positive Saturday. "The riders have to be protected. This morning we had to go through



the crowd, people were touching the riders. It's unbearable," stated "Total Energies" supervisor Jean-Rene Bernaudeau here Saturday.

Last 12 months, if two members of a workforce had been to check for Covid-19, the entire out-

fit could be packed off, which isn't the case this year.

Whether a rider who tested positive can continue the race will be determined following a meeting between the race physician, the International Cycling Union (UCI)

doctor and the workforce physician, relying on the rider's viral count.

The 2022 Tour began from Denmark with none particular anti-Covid-19 measures. "They should have been stricter at the start and test everyone," a sports

activities director of the Tour, who declined to be named, informed Sunday in Paris.

"We're in a situation that's trickier than in the past two years," "Groupama-FDJ" supervisor Marc Madiot informed reporters, Sunday. "In the last two editions, there was some uncertainty and everyone was being super cautious. Nowadays there's no obligation, for the general population, to be cautious, which is normal. But for us there will be huge penalties. It's like gangrene. When it (Covid-19) is right here, it spreads quickly," Madiot added.

France's Mikael Cherel took a fatalistic approach. "That's the sport. Covid-19 will not be a drawback for us. I put it into perspective, we mustn't get upset about it, there's nothing we can do about it," Cherel summed up the whole situation.



Ralte joined FC Goa in 2018. Then he was then loaned out to Kerala Blasters and East Bengal in the following season, making nine appearances for the Kolkata giants.

Ralte returned to BFC FC in 2020 and the following season he switched to Punjab FC. Now he is out to explore new territory with Odisha FC.

Meanwhile in another development, ISL side Jamshedpur FC (JFC) unveiled Sunday former English youth team manager Aidy Boothroyd as their head coach for the upcoming season. The former Watford manager most recently worked with the Football Association, having taken charge of the Young Lions in 2016.