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# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

### ARIES

You probably have a big circle of friends, and though most of them may be casual friends, they may sometimes prove to be favourable. They may help you overcome some dejections. It will also help you figure out the importance of the role friends can play.

### TAURUS

This day, you need to watch out against your selfish and possessive tendencies. Ganesh advises you not to be too determined or demanding. Try to not to be self-centred. Do not impose your need and wishes on anyone. You should act generously towards one and all; particularly towards your spouse. This, you can be sure, will increase and enhance the love, warmth and intimacy you share with the others.

### GEMINI

Your desire to go travelling with your family members will receive an impetus today and you will set out to schedule your itinerary. It is a good time for travel and you will be able to more than satisfactorily execute your travel plans within your budget, says Ganesh.

### CANCER

You will win over people with the gift of the gab. Your rhetoric will prove beneficial to you. You may get into an argument or have friction with someone in the in-laws' side. But keep your cool and face it bravely, so as to stave off mental depression.

### LEO

Traders and businessmen will face heightened competition today. Financial losses are possible. It is not a good day for investments and speculations. Avoid heated discussions with people. Be cautious in all your dealings today, says Ganesh.

### VIRGO

Your communication and creative abilities are your best weapons. You will be overflowing with zest for life and will exude cheerfulness. However, Ganesh warns that your creativity will bloom fully only in situations where there is no pressure or strain.

### LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will be full of joy, enthusiasm and vigor today. Your knowledge will improve by being in the company of intelligent people. Anything that you take up today will have your luck or destiny supporting you. Ganesh wishes you success in all your undertakings

### SCORPIO

Focus is the buzzword for you; your eyes should be set on the things you aim, advises Ganesh. You may even indulge into some kind of research work. Today, you may bump into an old pal with whom you relive those good old school days and rejuvenate yourself.

### SAGITTARIUS

A cheerful you, your energy level is on an all time high. Ganesh foresees that you will enrol you name for a correspondence or a part-time course. This will boost your confidence and brush up your memory as well. People who are in legal profession will have a rocking day ahead.

### CAPRICORN

You have been waiting to hear some good news for long, and today is the day when the wait will be finally over. With your eyes firmly set on your goal, you will develop likings for your work. This will help you make plans and take decisions for the future, feels Ganesh. You wished to change your current job, but with some good news coming in you may not wish for the same any more.

### AQUARIUS

Your plate will be full with plenty of work, and you will have no clue about how to handle all the chaos. Patience and organisational skills, your best qualities will help you sail through these difficult times, assures Ganesh. You will successfully wind up the day at work and geared up to party later in the evening.

### PISCES

Today you will feel generous and calm. You will shower those in the family who are younger than you with this generosity and as a result be the object of their fondness. With a clear perspective you will be able to see things for what they are. The only downside of the day is that your expenses might take a toll on your wallet, says Ganesh.



## ZENDAYA VOWS TO STAY AWAY FROM COOKING

Actress Zendaya suffered an accident in the kitchen when attempting to cook and has now vowed to stay away from the kitchen. The accident required her finger to be stitched up, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

## KEVIN SPACEY DROPPED FROM GENGHIS KHAN FILM

Actor Kevin Spacey will no longer be leading the Genghis Khan movie following his sexual assault case in the UK. The actor was set to star in the historical drama about a holy man of a Hungarian castle who tries to stop one of Genghis Khan's armies from invading Europe.



## Ranbir admits having secret Instagram a/c

**Mumbai:** Ranbir Kapoor has always kept away from social media. The actor who's currently promoting his next *Shamshera* disclosed that he does have a social media account and uses it secretly. In an interaction with a portal, the Brahmastra actor shared, "That the one question which everyone kept asking him since the past 8 years is when he'll come on social media. I myself come up with new answers and reasons just to avoid responding to it". He then admitted in the affirmative that, "Yes, I am on social media, but not officially in a way that people can follow me and stuff."

Earlier too, the actor shared that in his anonymous Instagram account, he doesn't have any followers or posts despite the fact, he said he might make his account public, he said that he is now "doing decently without social media."

Apart from *Shamshera*, Ranbir Kapoor will next be seen in the magnum opus Brahmastra sharing screen space with Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna Akkineni and Mouni Roy.

## Fans fret over Samantha's absence from social media

**Hyderabad:** Samantha Ruth Prabhu's recent social media engagement has been nearly non-existent. The bubbly actress, who typically keeps her fans engaged with her pictures, has been dormant on various social media platforms.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu was even active on social media during her lowest point when she announced her split from Naga Chaitanya. Samantha's social media activity has decreased, and supporters are concerned about her mental health. While some admirers feel Samantha Ruth Prabhu appears to be on a social media detox, others believe she is simply not in the mood to communicate with any of her social media followers for personal reasons.

Samantha's social media followers remarked, "There are no images, quotes, or even brand posts. Hey! What's the matter, Sam?" "Samantha is probably keeping a low-key presence for a few days so she can come back with an interesting announcement about her next major thing," a fan said.

"I sincerely hope she is okay, Sam, at least, publishes her training videos or hilarious dog posts," another fan stated.

AGENCIES



## Sushmita clarifies she is 'not married'

**Mumbai:** Sushmita Sen and Lalit Modi are the new couples in B-town and their pics from their recent vacation are all over the news. For the uninitiated, Lalit Modi and Sushmita Sen had enjoyed a vacation in Maldives and Sardinia and ace businessman made their relationship official on Thursday.

In fact, in his post on social media, Lalit Modi even referred to Sushmita as his better half. Ever since then, there have been ongoing rumours about the couple's hush-hush wedding. However, Sushmita Sen herself issued a clarification about the same in this regard with a post on Instagram.

Sharing a pic with her daughters Renee Sen and Alisah Sen, Sushmita Sen stated that she is not married and hasn't exchanged rings either. Instead, she is unconditionally surrounded by love. Sushmita wrote, "I am in a happy place!!! Not Married... No Rings... Unconditionally surrounded by love!! Enough clarification given... now back to life & work! Thank you for sharing in my happiness always... and for those who don't... it's #NOYB Anyway!!! I love you guys!!! #duggadugga #yourstruly", along with heart and smiling face emoticons.

Meanwhile, talking about the work front, Sushmita Sen will be returning as Aarya in the third season of the crime thriller and has begun shooting for the same.

IAN S



## Tara records her first ever Hindi song

**Mumbai:** Actress Tara Sutaria is all set to make her singing debut alongside Ankit Tiwari in the song *Shamat* from the movie *Ek Villain Returns*.

Tara says: "This is such a wonderful moment in my life and an incomparable feeling because *Shamat* was the first Hindi song I've ever recorded and also the first track to release of mine in this film. It has a lot of emotions and memories attached to it."

The lyrics for the song have been written by Prince Dubey. The *Student of the Year 2* actress shares further about her character in the film and what she liked about her debut track. "My character in the film is what really excited me to be a part of it but the music was definitely a driving force. I'm also so happy to collaborate with Ankit Tiwari and very eager to see the response of the audience," shares Tara.

*Ek Villain Returns* features John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, Disha Patani and Tara Sutaria. The movie directed by Mohit Suri, and jointly produced by T-Series and Balaji Telefilms, is all set to release July 29.

IAN S

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

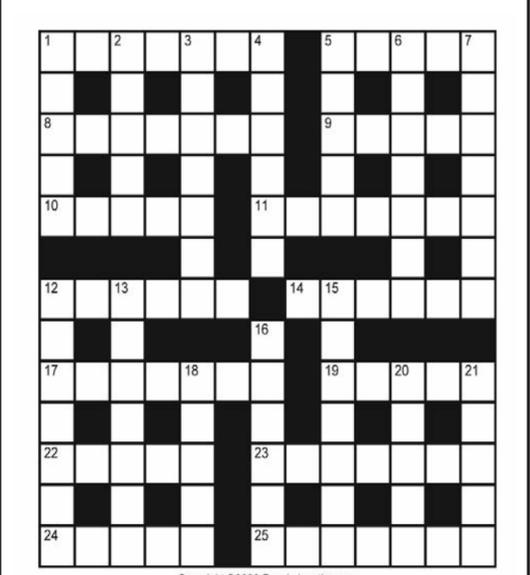


## BREVITY



## FUN post

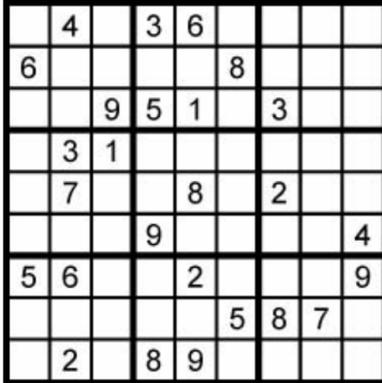
## CROSSWORD



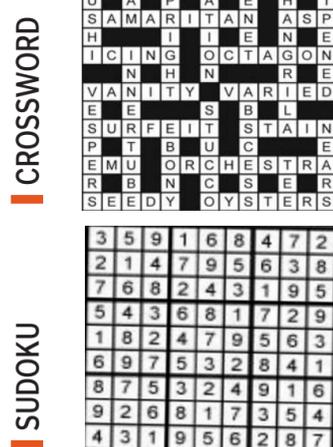
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Agave liquor
  - 5 Woody plant
  - 8 Bishopric
  - 9 Pitch black
  - 10 Mine passage
  - 11 Aspic
  - 12 Salon offering
  - 14 Marionette
  - 17 Minced cooked meat dish
  - 19 Loosen
  - 22 Lawn mower's path
  - 23 Can opener (4,3)
  - 24 Graybeard
  - 25 Terra firma (3,4)
  - Down**
  - 1 Commotions (2-3)
  - 2 Allotment
  - 3 Summer drink (4,3)
  - 4 Retaliate
  - 5 Odour
  - 6 Santa's landing spot
  - 7 Rifle attachment
  - 12 Anticipate
  - 13 Bavarian cream
  - 15 Ordinarily
  - 16 Stacked
  - 18 Survey choice
  - 20 Aquarium fish
  - 21 Receded

## 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

**IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



Another FIR for hurting people's sentiments on social media, sir. This one is against Lalit Modi

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	53760.78	↑ 344.63
NIFTY	16049.20	↑ 110.50
DOLLAR	80.57	↑ ₹0.01
EURO	80.37	↑ ₹0.35
GOLD	₹50,022	↓ ₹206
SILVER	₹55,387	↑ ₹352

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	31.5°C	32.0°C
MIN	25.6°C	25.2°C
Humidity	95%	89%
Rainfall	11.3mm	1.0mm

Forecast: Light rain likely

## MAKING A MOVE



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik makes a move on a giant chess board at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## State to promote chess in schools, colleges, says CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday said his government will promote chess in schools and colleges.

Handing the Chess Olympiad relay torch to Padmini Rout at a function in Lok Seva Bhawan, he said it was a proud moment for India as it was hosting such an international event on the 75th year of its Independence.

Kiran Manisha Mohanty brought the relay torch to the Lok Seva Bhawan and handed it to the chief patron of All Odisha Chess Association, Achyuta Samant. The CM received the torch from Samant.

Both Kiran and Padmini are international Women Masters from Odisha. As many as six players from the state will participate in the Olympiad to be held in Chennai. Patnaik said some of the state's players have done exceedingly well at national and international chess events.

"We also organised the World Junior Chess Championship in 2016. We intend to further strengthen the game across the state, especially in schools," he said.

He said chess is a game that can be easily taught as not much infrastructure or equipment is required.

"We will create competitions at school and college levels regularly and promote the game in a professional manner," Patnaik said.

**IN BRIEF**

**3 killed in bear attack; 2 critical**

**Nuapada:** A bear went on a rampage in a village in Nuapada district and killed three people Friday. Two people were critically injured in the bear attack near a forest at Samarsingh village under Lakshna police limits, Friday. The deceased were identified as Rabi Rana (30), Nakula Majhi (58) and Ratan Majhi (62). Reports said the three had gone to their farmland near the forest in the morning. However, they did not return home by the evening. Their family members searched for them. At this time, two of them - Kuna Majhi (23) and Parameswar Majhi (25) -- were attacked by the bear. Angry villagers beat the animal to death.

**Man beheads wife, carries head to PS**

**Dhenkanal:** In a horrific incident, a man severed the head of his wife and walked 12 km to the police station carrying the head in a polythene bag in Dhenkanal district, Friday. The gruesome killing is stated to be the outcome of the man's suspicion over his wife's alleged adultery. The incident took place at Chandrasekharpur village under Gondia police limits. The accused was identified as Nakafodi Majhi. He was seen carrying the severed head of his wife in a polythene bag and walking towards Sadar police station. Locals detained him and informed the police. Gondia police registered a case and arrested Majhi.

**SAMBALPUR UNIVERSITY**

# Day after Education, Physics paper leaked

*VC says the question paper was leaked from a Kalahandi-based college; complaints filed at Burla, Cyber police stations*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, July 15:** Sambalpur University cancelled the Plus III Final Year examination for the students of Physics (Honours) after the question paper was leaked ahead of the examination scheduled Friday.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of the Sambalpur University Prof Sanjib Mittal said that the question paper was leaked from Kalahandi.

"The question paper was leaked from an aided college in Kalahandi district. The principal of the concerned college was called to the university. A lecturer of the college was involved in question preparation," Mittal said.

He also stated that complaints were filed at Burla police station and Cyber police station in this regard.

The IIC of the Burla police station and the SDPO have started



an investigation into the question paper leakage.

The question paper of Physics (Honours) was reportedly leaked before the examination, admitted the Controller of Examination. This comes just a day after Education (Honours) question paper was leaked.

Now, the university has rescheduled the Plus III Final Year examination for the students of Education (Honours) and Physics (Honours) subjects following the question paper leaks. While the sixth semester examination in Education has been rescheduled for July 19, the Physics examination will be held July 20, announced

the Controller of Examinations of Sambalpur University Friday.

As per the notice, the exam has been scheduled from 10am to 1pm. As many as 205 colleges have been notified about the schedule. This time, the question papers will be sent by email before 30 minutes of exam to avoid any issues, the university authorities said.

Reportedly, the screenshots of question papers were circulated on WhatsApp. Following the question paper leak, the Physics examination scheduled at 10am Friday was cancelled. Thursday, the university authorities had suspended the Education (Honours) exam after question paper leak.

## 4 state institutes in NIRF top 100

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, July 15:** Four institutes from Odisha found their place among the top 100 educational centres of the country, according to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Three universities have also featured among the 100 of all the public and private varsities in the country, but there are no colleges from the state in the top list.

Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) in Bhubaneswar rose to the 30th spot in the overall list this year as compared to 37 in 2021. The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) climbed to 34 from 39.

The National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, jumped two spots to 39. However, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar, dropped to 65 from 58 a year ago. In the university list, the SOA bagged the 16th spot, followed by the KIIT at 20 and the Utkal University at 88.

Among the six institutes in the top 100 engineering list, NIT-Rourkela's ranking improved to 15 from 20, but IIT-Bhubaneswar dropped to 36 from 28. There are four management institutes in the top 100, out of which the XIM University is at 35 and the IIM-Sambalpur at 66.

Out of the four medical colleges in the NIRF list of 50 institutes, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar ranked 26, while the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack is at the 44th position. The National Law University in Cuttack is placed at 25 on the list of law institutes.

## No dharnas in Parliament: RS circular

*Circular on dharnas comes amid Oppn outrage over another bulletin listing out certain words as 'unparliamentary' issued by LS secretariat*

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 15:** Demonstrations, dharnas or religious ceremonies cannot be held in the precincts of Parliament House, a circular by the Rajya Sabha secretariat has said, drawing ire from the Opposition Friday even as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla insisted that such notices were being issued for years.

The Rajya Sabha secretariat has said that the circular has not been issued for the first time and such advice has been reiterated from time to time. They said such a circular is issued normally ahead of every session of Parliament. The new bulletin, which has been issued by Rajya Sabha Secretary General

PC Mody ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament beginning July 18, said the kind cooperation of members is solicited.

Reacting strongly to the circular, Opposition parties attacked the government. Congress general secretary and chief whip of the party in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh was among the first ones to take to Twitter to attack the government. "Vishguru's latest salvo - D(h)arna Mana Hai!", he tweeted, sharing a copy of the circular issued July 14.

CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury also took to Twitter to criticise the government and alleged that these are attempts to muzzle the voice of democracy. "What a farce. The attempts to muzzle the soul of India, its democracy and its very voice will fall flat," he said.

TMC's Mahua Moitra took a swipe at the Prime Minister for holding a religious ceremony "on top of the new Parliament building." "Btw Honourable MP Varanasi performed a religious ceremony on top of new Parliament Building just four days ago," Moitra said in a tweet.



## Delhi HC refuses to direct revival of WW-II era Mayurbhanj airstrip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 15:** The Delhi High Court Friday refused to direct the central government to build an airport in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha by reviving an airstrip constructed there in the year 1940.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra said that the construction of an airport is a policy decision that has to be taken by the central government while keeping in mind several factors.

"It is the pure domain of the government of India as well as the Airport Authority of India to construct an airport keeping in view the flow of the traffic and other relevant factors," said the bench also comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad.

The petitioner, a practicing advocate, said that during the British regime in 1940, an airstrip was constructed at Rasgobindpur block in Mayurbhanj, but after the Second World War was over, no steps were taken to make it functional.

He emphasised that the locality needed an airport and therefore the central government should be directed to make the airstrip functional.

The court refused to grant any relief to the petitioner but said that the central government was free to explore the possibility of reviving the airstrip in question on its own.

"It is a genuine concern but it is for the government of India to decide. If it is a necessity, they will do it," the court remarked.

## Rupee at lifetime low to worsen inflation situation

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 15:** The rupee nearing 80 to a US dollar will make imports of items from crude oil to electronic goods, overseas education and foreign travel costlier while raising fears that the inflation situation could worsen.

The primary and immediate impact of a depreciating rupee is on the importers who will have to shell out more for the same quantity and price. However, it is a boon for the exporters as they receive more rupees in exchange for dollars.

The rupee depreciation has wiped away some of the gains that would have accrued to India from international oil and fuel prices dropping to pre-Ukraine war levels.

India is 85 per cent dependent



on foreign oil to meet its needs for fuels, such as petrol, diesel and jet fuel. The basket of Indian imports includes crude oil, coal, plastic material, chemicals, electronic goods, vegetable oil, fertiliser, machinery, gold, pearls,

precious and semi-precious stones, and iron and steel.

The rupee losing value against the US dollar would mean foreign education just became more expensive. Not just having to shell out more rupees for every dollar

that the foreign institutions charge as fees, education loans too have become costlier following the interest rate hikes by the RBI.

With the COVID-19 cases declining, there has been revenge travel for work and leisure. But, these have now just become more expensive.

As per the latest data, the country's imports expanded by 57.55 per

cent to USD 66.31 billion in June compared to the year-ago month. The merchandise trade deficit in June 2022 was estimated at USD 26.18 billion against USD 9.60 billion in June 2021, which is an increase of 172.72 per cent.

To worsen the situation, the whole-sale price-based index (WPI) too continues to remain above 15 per cent.

## Forex reserves fall by massive \$8.062bln

**Mumbai:** The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by a massive USD 8.062 billion to USD 580.252 billion in the week ended July 8, according to RBI data. In the previous week ended July 1, the reserves had dropped by USD 5.008 billion to USD 588.314 billion. During the reporting week ended July 8, the decrease in the reserves was on account of a fall in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, and in the gold reserves, RBI said. FCA was down by USD 6.656 billion to USD 518.089 billion in the reporting week, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Weekly Statistical Supplement released Friday.

# Oppn targets govt over poor infra in schools



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** Opposition BJP and Congress MLAs Friday lashed out at the state government over poor infrastructure and lack of teachers in government-run schools in Odisha.

Participating in a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion in the Assembly, the Opposition members alleged that the education system in Odisha is in a shambles as the state government is yet to have an educational policy.

They also alleged that the state government has failed to provide quality education to the students. The Opposition members also claimed that the school transformation scheme of the state government is just an eyewash.

They alleged that huge amount of public money is being looted in the name of school transformation, undertaken under the 5T initiative of the state government.

BJP chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi said there are 61,836 vacant posts in schools. At least 29 per cent of schools do not have electricity and 6 per cent of schools do not have internet service. Besides, as many as 5,874 classrooms in 2,098 high schools in the state are in dilapidated condition, he said.

The BJP legislator further said that the schools, transformed under 5T initiative, do not have adequate teachers.

Majhi alleged that the contractors have done substandard work in schools and siphoned off the money by paying commission to government officials.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said several schools in Koraput district have only one teacher each for providing teaching to the students. He urged the state government to appoint teachers for such schools.

Congress legislator Adhiraj Panigrahi said the state government is playing with the future of the students by not appointing teachers to the vacant posts in state.

Replying to the adjournment motion, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Rs 6,267.38 crore has been earmarked for infrastructure development in 3,12,482 schools.

In the current financial year, Rs 319.16 crore has been sanctioned for 12,466 schools, he added.

A total of Rs 1,428 crore has been provided to 3,051 schools in 24 districts under Mo School scheme. The recruitment process for the vacant teaching posts is underway, the Minister said.

The Centre is not sanctioning money for the construction of additional classrooms under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Dash added.

“For effective implementation of the high school transformation programme under the 5T initiative, six task forces have been constituted by the state government under the chairmanship of senior officers. The committees have been continuously deliberating on the issue. The matter is being reviewed on monthly basis and the recommendations of the committees are being reviewed by the Chief Secretary regularly,” Dash said.

# Cuttack-Palasa Express extended up to Gunupur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to extend the services of Cuttack-Palasa Express (18443/18444) up to Gunupur.

The services, scheduled stations and timings of the trains between Cuttack and Palasa from both the directions will remain unchanged, said the ECoR.

The Cuttack-Gunupur Express (18443), originating from Cuttack, will run up to Gunupur from July 20. The train will leave Palasa at 22:25hrs (10.25 pm) and arrive at Gunupur at 01:45hrs (1.45 am).



In the return direction, Gunupur-Cuttack Express (18444) is scheduled to begin its journey from Gunupur at 02:45hrs (2.45 am) July 21. The train will arrive at Palasa at 05:55hrs (5.55 am), ECoR sources said.

The train will have stoppages at Pundi, Routhpuram, Naupada, Tekkali, Peddasana, Temburu, Ganguvada, Patapatnam, Paralakhemundi, Sitapuram, Hadobhangi, Kashinagar, Lihuri, Bansadhara from both the directions.

The ECoR has also decided to run a passenger special train between Puri and Nuagaon Road.

# 40-year-old woman kills self, shocked hubby drinks acid

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** A suspected feud between a couple in Laxmisagar area here, Friday, reportedly prompted the 40-year-old woman to hang herself to death and her husband to drink acid in an attempt to end his life.

The man is now battling for life at a hospital in the city here, police said. The deceased was identified as Sanjana Periwal, wife of Sanjay Periwal, 45. The couple along with their daughter, 17, and son, 10, has been residing at Siddhivinayak Apartment in Laxmisagar area here, it was learnt.

According to police sources, Sanjana committed suicide when Sanjay, a garment wholesaler, had gone to his shop and their children were at school.

“Sanjana usually helps her husband at their shop. As she didn't turn up till the noon, Sanjay asked his nephew to check on her. Sanjay's nephew reached their house to find a lifeless Sanjana hanging from a ceiling fan and informed Sanjay,” said the official.

The official added that Sanjay reached their house within minutes. “Unable to bear the trauma of his wife's death, Sanjay consumed toilet cleaning acid. His nephew informed the police and rushed Sanjay to a nearby private healthcare facility where his condition is stated to be critical,” said the official.

Meanwhile, police recovered Sanjana's body and sent it to Capital Hospital for an autopsy. Police

## FAMILY FEUD SUSPECTED



Sanjana Periwal

have registered a case (26/22) of unnatural death in connection with the incident.

According to the couple's family members, things were absolutely normal between the couple. “They (the couple) had attended a get-together in Cuttack Thursday night. Besides, they had planned for a Puri trip with their family members Friday evening. We can't even imagine how their world came crashing down,” a family member said.

# Woman found dead in Cuttack

**Cuttack:** A 45-year-old woman was found dead with her throat slit in Odia Bazar area under Lalbaag police limits here Friday.

The deceased was identified as B Gunabati of Kuttakhai Lane in Odia Bazar area.

According to police, Gunabati's husband B Apparao, who works at a printing press in the Silver City, found her dead in their house.

“Apparao came home for lunch around the noon and spotted a lifeless Gunabati lying in a pool of blood with her throat slit. Shocked, he raised an alarm following which their neighbours rushed to the spot and alerted the police,” ACP Tapas Pradhan said

Sanjana committed suicide when Sanjay, a garment wholesaler, had gone to his shop and their children were at school

Unable to bear the trauma of his wife's death, Sanjay consumed toilet cleaning acid

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Police probing the incident

quoting Apparao's statement. The body has been sent for autopsy. A probe is on, Pradhan added.

# Induction workshop for City corporators

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** To enhance knowledge of urban governance and development amongst the elected representatives, the newly elected corporators Friday got inducted into Urban Development and Governance programme conducted in a City hotel.

In a first of its kind technical-capacity-building initiative, the workshop was conducted by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) in collaboration with Housing and Urban Development Department and State Urban Development Agency (SUDA). The induction was designed to impart desired knowledge on urban governance and development amongst the elected representatives of the BMC.



“The initiative was crucial for the BMC as more than half the corporators are first timers and have very limited knowledge about the functioning of an important ULB like Bhubaneswar. We need to work together for development and well being of our society and city. We are trying hard to convert slums into ideal colonies as a mainstreaming and empowerment initiative of the government,” said BMC Commissioner Sulochana Das.

Launched under City Leaders Programme, the initiative by ‘Janagraha’ empowers corporators with knowledge and tools in a sustained manner which is critical in developing Indian cities and to fight impending global challenges coming in their way.

# Ask govt to apprise House of Kotia dispute: MLAs to Speaker

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** BJP deputy leader in the House, Bishnu Sethi, Friday criticised the state government for its alleged failure to take prompt action to protect disputed villages in Kotia panchayat of Koraput district.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Sethi said the Andhra Pradesh government has been trespassing into the Kotia panchayat and trying to woo the people by luring them with various benefits.

He claimed that Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister had distributed clothes to the tribal people in Kotia a few days ago. In November last, the Andhra Pradesh government had tried to construct an Anganwadi centre in the panchayat.

The neighbouring state had also announced to provide land deeds to 400 residents in Kotia to woo them to its side, he pointed out.

At present, the Andhra Pradesh government is developing a telecommunication network to keep a direct link with the people of Kotia, alleged the BJP legislator.

Sethi urged Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha to make a thorough investigation into the situation prevailing in Kotia and apprise the House about it.

Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly, Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said senior officials of Andhra Pradesh government are frequently visiting



Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Sethi said the Andhra Pradesh government has been trespassing into the Kotia panchayat and trying to woo the people by luring them with various benefits

BJD member Amar Prasad Satpathy said Andhra Pradesh government is providing ration and other benefits to the residents of the disputed villages. He urged the Speaker to direct the government to apprise the House about the prevailing situation in Kotia

villages of Kotia panchayat. Unfortunately, no information is being shared about the action taken by the state government to protect the disputed villages following the meeting between the Chief Ministers of the two states, he said.

The Congress MLA asked the state government to engage police force to prevent the entry of Andhra Pradesh officials to Kotia villages.

BJD MLAs Soumya Ranjan Patnaik and Pitam Padhi also expressed their concern

over the issue.

BJD member Amar Prasad Satpathy said Andhra Pradesh government is providing ration and other benefits to the residents of the disputed villages. He urged the Speaker to direct the government to apprise the House about the prevailing situation in Kotia.

In a written reply, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik said the state government has no information about frequent entry of Andhra Pradesh officials into the disputed villages.

# Delhi man held in fake loan app case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch has arrested one of the directors of a company for running an illegal digital loan application, an official said Friday.

The official said they have arrested Nitin Mallik, one of the directors of Good Start Business Services Private Limited, from Hari Nagar police limits in New Delhi July 13 on the basis of a complaint filed by Sakti Prasad Dash of Bhubaneswar regarding harassment by recovery agents of ‘Kredit Gold’, a digital loan app, run by Mallik's firm.

“Soon after the arrest, Mallik was produced before a local court in New Delhi, brought to Bhubaneswar on a transit remand and produced before the SDJM court here,” said the official.

Quoting Dash's complaint, the official said the victim had availed a loan of Rs 9,000 through ‘Kredit Gold’. “Just four days after receiving the money, Dash started getting frequent messages and calls asking him to repay Rs 15,627. As he could not repay the amount, they started threatening him through messages. When he did not budge, they circulated his morphed images and fake information to those on his contact list,” said the official.

On July 2 this year, Dash approached the EOW which registered a case (13) under Sections 294, 384, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the IPC and Section 66D of the IT Act 2000.

The EOW official said that following investigation, it was learnt that the recovery calls to Dash were made from numbers belonging to M/s Good Start Business Services Private Limited running ‘Kredit Gold’. The company is not registered with RBI as a NBFC.

“Mallik was working at the behest of a Chinese group that is running at least 10 such illegal instant loan applications in India. ‘Kredit Gold’ has more than one lakh downloads. Lakhs of gullible people across the country have been victimised by the fake app,” said the official, adding that Mallik was in touch with at least three Chinese nationals and used to get huge sum of money from them.

Many incriminating materials like copy of passports of the Chinese national, agreement copy for virtual space, contract agreements between Chinese and the telecom service providers, WhatsApp chats and emails and abusive text messages meant for the loanee have been recovered from the possession of the accused.

The accused is also wanted by different law enforcement agencies including Mumbai police.

# Priyadarsi enlightens students at SAI Investiture Ceremony



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** SAI International School inducted its student council members for the academic session 2022-23 in the Investiture Ceremony held Friday at Indraprastha Auditorium of the school. This is the first offline Investiture Ceremony post pandemic.

Saumendra Priyadarsi, Police Commissioner of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack graced the occasion as the chief guest. He was welcomed with a bouquet of flowers and was led to the auditorium by the NCC cadets. Tone for the day was set by the school choir singing melodies of hope and leadership.

Speaking on leadership Priyadarsi addressed the students as ‘young friends’, as he believes children of this generation are well-informed budding leaders and achievers. He said, “You're a generation who's exposed to too much information and have an easy access to a bountiful of information, find a way to assimilate and disseminate information and use it informatively”. While congratulating the leaders, he said everyone has a leader in them, and will lead the society at the end of the day, because the cycle of leadership shifts with time.

Priyadarsi reflected upon the teachings of the founder- Chairman Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, and said, all the students would shine with his unadulterated blessings.

Students Aditya Satpathy and Shreya Patnaik were declared the head boy and the head girl of SAI International School for the academic session 2022-23. All the council members took the oath of diligence and commitment towards their responsibilities.

“Becoming a student council leader is a stepping-stone towards an enriching future. Student leaders are the future of our world”, said Chairperson of SAI International Education Group Silpi Sahoo, while congratulating each of the school leaders.

# A SHOT IN THE ARM



A man being administered the precaution dose of Covid vaccine at a hospital in Bhubaneswar, Friday

# Daily Covid cases breach 1000-mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 15:** Odisha recorded 1,043 fresh Covid-19 infections Friday, the highest single-day tally in five months, taking the caseload to 12,97,175, the Health department said in a bulletin.

The state had February 13 registered 1,148 cases.

The toll mounted to 9,128 after an 82-year-old man died of the disease in Sundargarh, it said.

Odisha currently has 4,825 active cases, while 12,83,169 patients have recovered from the disease so far, including 479 since Thursday, it added.

Besides, 53 patients have died due



Odisha currently has 4,825 active cases, while 12,83,169 patients have recovered from the disease so far, including 479 since Thursday

to comorbidities so far.

The single-day count has more than doubled since 470 cases July 8. The positivity rate jumped to 5.59 per cent from 4.18 per cent a day ago with the new cases having been detected after testing 18,664 samples.

As many as 100 children were among the new patients, the bulletin said.

Khurda, where state capital Bhubaneswar is situated, reported the highest number of new cases at 335, followed by 205 in Cuttack and 106 in Sundargarh, it added.

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Debt-ridden man hangs self in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 15: A debt-ridden man of Sapagadia village under Jajpur Road police limits in this district reportedly hanged himself over a tiff with his wife late Thursday evening.

The deceased was identified as Dinabandhu Mandal. According to sources, Dinabandhu was a daily labourer. However, for some reasons, he was sitting idle at home for a week.

An agent of the lending firm came to their home and demanded refund of the money by issuing threat to Dinabandhu

His wife had borrowed some money from a private agency and the couple was unable to repay the loan. On Thursday, the agent of the lending firm came to their home and demanded refund of the money. He threatened them to return the money and left following which Dinabandhu and his wife had a quarrel.

Under severe mental pressure, Dinabandhu locked himself in a house and committed suicide by hanging himself.

On being informed, police reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem.



As dengue spreads its tentacles in parts of Koraput district, officials of Jeypore Municipality, Friday, sensitised people about preventive measures to keep the vector-borne disease at bay

COMBATING DENGUE

Officials of Jeypore Municipality, Friday, sensitised people about preventive measures to keep the vector-borne disease at bay. The officials were seen interacting with a group of women in a public area, possibly a market or a community gathering. They were pointing towards a stack of tires, which might be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Passenger stabbed to death on train

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur: A 40-year-old passenger was allegedly stabbed to death by his relative on board a Chennai-Howrah train in Ganjam district Friday.

Rajib Gorai and Prasannajit Gorai, residents of West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district, were going towards Howrah from Chennai on the superfast train along with their family members. The two had heated arguments inside the train, following which Rajib stabbed Prasannajit to death near Chhatrapur station, according to the Government Railway Police (GRP). Co-passengers alerted the Railway Protection Force and the train stopped near Ganjam station after they pulled the chain. Prasannajit was rushed to Chhatrapur sub-divisional hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

EAST COAST RAILWAY File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/ E-Tender/46 Dt.: 13.07.2022 (1) Tender No. e-tender-North-KUR-110-2022 Dt.: 12.07.2022 Description: EXECUTION OF 13.53 KM THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL WORK FROM KM 334.67 TO 348.20 ON DN LINE IN BETWEEN BHADRAK-JENAPUR SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Approx cost of the work: ₹ 334.48 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 3,17,300/- (2) Tender No. e-tender-N-KUR-114-2022 Dt.: 12.07.2022 Description: PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS TO SERVICE BUILDING FROM RANITAL LINK JUNCTION CABIN TO JENAPUR AND JAKHAPURA-DAITARI UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Approx cost of the work: ₹ 322.43 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 3,11,200/- Completion period: 12 months (for both tenders). Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 03.08.2022 (for both tenders). No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.irggs.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-291/N/22-23 Khurda Road

Many villages in Motu marooned

MALKANGIRI COLLECTOR TAKES STOCK OF FLOOD SITUATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 15: Heavy rain for the last few days has triggered flood in Motu area of this district with Saberi and Sileru rivers flowing above the danger mark. Many areas have been cut off from the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, Malkangiri Collector Vishal Singh along with other district-level officials held a review meeting on the flood situation here Friday.

Report said other rivers and creeks in the district have been filed with water due to incessant rains. It is said that the flood situation in Motu area has arisen from the reverse flow of water from Polavaram project.

Godavari river in neighboring Andhra Pradesh is flowing at 68 ft against the danger mark at 53 ft. According to reports, among seven blocks, Korukunda has recorded the highest rainfall. Malkangiri recorded 34.4mm rainfall; Mathili 22mm; Khairiput 36mm; Chittrakonda 42mm; Kalimela 20mm and Padia 31.2mm. It was learnt that reverse flow of



Reverse flow of water from Polavaram has prevented draining out of floodwater from Sileru and Saberi rivers, leading to flood in Motu area

water from Polavaram has prevented draining out of floodwater from Sileru and Saberi rivers, thus leading to flood in Motu area. Charibancha, Binayakpur; Alma and Muraliguda villages remained cut off from the rest of the world for the last two days. Hundreds of people in Mugi point and Puruna Motu have been marooned in the water. Meanwhile, the administration has rescued 11

EXCESSIVE SAND MINING IN BRAHMANI

Probe report blames locals; leaseholder goes scot-free

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 15: Excessive sand mining from a leased-out ghat in Brahmani river under Dharmasala tehsil in the district has come to the fore. However, an investigation report submitted by the Balarampur-2 revenue inspector (RI) has blamed the local people rather than the lease holder for the irregularities. This was revealed through an RTI query by activist Sarbeswar Behura. In the investigation report dated October 15, 2021 and January 29, 2022, the RI has tried to protect the lease holder, ST Minerals Pvt Ltd, while the blame was shifted to local people, alleged Behura. Reports said an area of 20 acres (Plot- 2-P and Khata No-481) of Raichhanda sand ghat near Kabatabandha bridge has been leased out for five years. The lease holder has been permitted to lift 84,000 cubic metre of sand per annum. However, the lease holder resorted to excessive mining by engaging machines. A number of complaints were lodged with the Dharmasala tehsildar about the excessive sand mining. Excessive sand mining has caused huge rev-



ene loss to the state exchequer, it was alleged. Acting on the complaints, tehsildar Swagat Das had served a show-cause notice on lease holder Sribas Jena and owner of ST Minerals, March 26, 2022. In reply to the notice, the lease holder stated that local people have lifted sand from the ghat. However, many locals wonder if people have illegally lifted sand from a lease area, why complaints have not been filed against the violators. It was alleged that to protect the lease holder, the tehsil administration has passed the buck on the local people. Notably, Sribas Jena had earlier been accused of excessive stone mining in Dankari hill for which a fine of over ₹20 crore had been imposed on him. The imposition of penalty has been challenged in the court.

Diarrhoea claims 6 in Kashipur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, July 15: Diarrhoea is spreading like wildfire in Kashipur area of Rayagada district even as six people have reportedly died in two days while over 30 have been affected by the disease. Five people died of the disease at Gobarighati village while one died in Tikiri area. The deceased were identified as Kanhei Majhi,

Sarojini Jhodia, Anja Jhodia, Rajani Jhodia, Dhoba Majhi and Sabita Nayak. Though the water-borne disease broke out in the area Sunday, there was no sight of medical teams in the area, it was alleged. Following a directive from the CDMO, a medical team comprising ADMO VLN Raju visited Jhodia Sahi Friday. Locals demanded immediate measures to arrest the spread of the disease.

14 kids spend night at garage for flooded creek

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, July 15: As many as 14 students of Digisira village could not return home on way back from school Thursday afternoon as a creek on the way was in spate. They had to spend the whole night inside a garage and were rescued by their parents Friday morning only. The incident happened at Banibhusandapur panchayat of Harbhanga block in Boudh district. Laxminala flows far away from Digisira village. As there is no school in the village, children go across the creek to study at a school in Jajpur village. After the classes were over, the students walked back home Thursday afternoon, but they found the creek in full spate. They could not dare to cross it nor could howl for help as their village was quite away from the place. The children looking for a safe place took shelter in a garage nearby and stayed there the whole night without any food. In the morning, their parents, who were searching for them, reached there and took them across the creek.

3 held for poaching elephant for ivory

Berhampur: Three persons have been arrested for allegedly poaching a tusker and removing its tusks in Ganjam district last week, an official said Friday. A man, his son and his nephew were arrested Thursday. Two tusks, buried near the canal, have been seized, divisional forest officer Sudharshan Behera said. A search is on to nab the other suspects. The tusk-less and bullet-riddled carcass of an elephant was found July 7 under Ghumusar North division's Muza range.

The incident happened at Banibhusandapur panchayat of Harbhanga block in Boudh district. Laxminala flows far away from Digisira village. As there is no school in the village, children go across the creek to study at a school in Jajpur village. After the classes were over, the students walked back home Thursday afternoon, but they found the creek in full spate. They could not dare to cross it nor could howl for help as their village was quite away from the place. The children looking for a safe place took shelter in a garage nearby and stayed there the whole night without any food. In the morning, their parents, who were searching for them, reached there and took them across the creek.



Governor Ganeshi Lal along with other dignitaries during the 'First Odia Science Fest-2022' organised by 'The Odisha Vigyan Mandal' at Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir in Tulasipur area of Cuttack

HOUSING & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JATANI At/PS-Jatani, Dist-Khordha (Odisha), Pin-752050 E-mail-municipalityjatani@gmail.com, Phone No.0674-2490826 No.2697/Jatani, Date:14.07.2022 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PREPARATION OF STORM WATER DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN & DPR OF JATNI MUNICIPALITY No.C-781:Jatni Municipality proposes to undertake Preparation of storm water drainage master plan & DPR for Jatni Municipality Area. Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies/ consulting registered architectural firms that have requisite experience in preparation of drainage (pipeline/ sewerage network plan. The completed application, as per instructions in the EOI document, should reach the following address by hand / registered post/ Speed Post Courier latest by 3.00 PM on 27.07.2022. Details may be accessed and the EOI/ application forms can be downloaded the website:www.jatnimunicipality.in & www.khordha.nic.in. Sd./- Executive Officer, Jatni Municipality OIPR-13041/11/0018/2223

GOVT. OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL COURT OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER Plot No- C/71, Sector-7, CDA, Cuttack - 753014 FORM NO. ITCP-16 NOTICE FOR ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE & MOVABLE PROPERTY (See Rule 48 of the Second Schedule as referred to in Section 29 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1953) Date of Attachment: 11.07.2022 R.P. No. 08/2004/CTC (Arising out of OA No. 193 of 2001) State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar, Industrial Estate Branch, Certificate Holder Bank -Vs- Shri Sarala Weavers Co-Operative Spinning Mills Ltd. Certificate Debtors To 1 Sarala Weavers Co-Operative Spinning Mills Ltd, At: Nausira, Via- Tirtol, Dist: Jagatsinghpur. Where as you, Sarala Weavers Co-Operative Spinning Mills Ltd, At: Nausira, Via-Tirtol, Dist: Jagatsinghpur has failed to pay the sum of Rs.4,74,37,865.00 (Rupees Four Crore Seventy Four Lac Thirty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five only) with Interest @ 17.75% p.a with quarterly rests on the amount due w.e.f. the date of filing till realization of the entire dues payable by you in respect of the demand notice issued by the undersigned as per certificate dt. 29.04.2004 arising out of OA No. 193 of 2001 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack under sub section (22) of the Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1953. It is ordered that the under mentioned personal properties which is identified by CHB are attached and you the said Sarala Weavers Co-Operative Spinning Mills Ltd, At: Nausira, Via-Tirtol, Dist: Jagatsinghpur be, and you are hereby prohibited and restrained until the further order of the undersigned from transferring or charging the under prohibited from taking any benefit under such transfer of charge. Schedule of Property: 1) Mouza: Nausira, Tahasil: Tirtol Sub-Registrar: Tirtol, Police Station: Tirtol, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Khata No.: 214, (1) Plot No.: 909, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.23 Dec., (2) Plot No.:910, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac 0.27dec., (3) Plot No.: 911, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac 0.91dec, (4) Plot No.:912, Kisam Gharabari, Areas Ac.0.80 Dc., (5) Plot No.:913, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.1.68dec., (6) Plot No.: 914, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.20dec., (7) Plot No.: 915, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac 0.020dec., (8) Plot No.:916, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac 0.010 dec., (9) Plot No: 917, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac 0.080dec., (10) Plot No.: 919, Kisam: Gharabari Area: Ac 0.090dec., (11) Plot No.: 1539, Kisam, Industrial Land, Area: Ac11.7300dec. Total Land =Ac15.12dec. 2) All movable assets lying at premises of Sarala Weavers Co-Operative Spinning Mills Ltd, At: Nausira, Via-Tirtol, Dist: Jagatsinghpur Given under my hand and seal at Cuttack on this 1st day of June, 2022. Sd./- (Prabhupada Dash) Recovery Officer

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice No.O-662: No. Dated Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR- 05 OF 22-23 e-mail ID- rw\_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in, Phone No.0663-2401850 Name of the work : Road Works as per DTCN available in the website. www.tendersodisha.gov.in Total No. of Work : 02 (Two) Nos Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs. 5.75 lakhs to Rs.20.85 lakhs Period of Completion : 01 (One) Calendar month to 02(Two) calendar months Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding : 18.07.2022 at 11.00 AM to 29.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM Date and time of opening of Tender : 30.07.2022 at 11.00 AM Name and address of the officer inviting bid : S.E.,R.W.Divn., Sambalpur (1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodishagov.in. (2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur OIPR-25076/11/0005/2223

CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER: KEONJHAR (ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI (ZSS), KEONJHAR Advt.Letter No.10600 Date:14.07.2022 TENDER CALL NOTICE No.E-307:A tender call notice is invited from the reputed and experienced Agencies/Organisations/Firm for the "Implementation of Computerized Registration Counter at different health institutions of Keonjhar district under DMF." The eligibility criteria and detailed requirement for said Tender and the formats for submission of bid are set forth in the Tender document which can be downloaded from the district NIC website i.e. www.kendujhar.nic.in. Interested bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their bids & documents as set forth in this Tender and submit to the undersigned in sealed envelope (s) clearly superscribing " Tender Call Notice for implementation of Computerized Registration Counter at different health institutions of Keonjhar district under DMF". Bid(s) complete in all respect should reach the Office of the CDM & PHO, Keonjhar- 758001 by Speed Post/ Regd. Post only on or before dt.26.07.2022 till 5.00 PM. The bid(s) shall be opened on dt.27.07.2022 at 11.00 AM in Mini Conference Hall, NHM, Keonjhar. Incomplete applications received in an open envelop/applications received after the due date will be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject the any or all Tender without assigning any reason thereof. No personal query shall be entertained. The decision of the committee will be treated as final. Sd./- Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Keonjhar OIPR-10033/11/0013/2223



No material organization, whatever its degree of preparation, is capable of bringing a solution to the miseries of man

THE MOTHER



## No Room for Laggards

Taking its cue from the Centre's order on premature retirement, the Finance Department of the Delhi government has ordered all department heads to conduct periodical reviews of account cadre officers, especially those nearing retirement and who have been found to be performing below par. Sources have informed DKB that the aim is to identify such babus and retire them from service.

All, including Delhi Lt Gov Vinai Kumar Saxena, are reportedly on board with the plan. In fact, sources say, Saxena has taken a serious note of the issue and is keen on the government conducting periodical reviews of all officers working in the Delhi government. He apparently wants this undertaken on a priority basis to weed out the laggards and stragglers who are holding up the system.

The Finance Department's order directs all heads of departments to submit reports of account cadre officers, deputy controller of accounts, senior accountants, account officers and assistant accountant officers who are covered under the DoPT's premature retirement rules. A review committee will study the reports and recommend appropriate action.

However, there are no reports yet of how the babus who are likely to be affected by this decision have reacted. Will they resist the move? Watch this space for updates.

### G-20 role is Kant's tallest challenge

India's G-20 team just got more powerful with Amitabh Kant, former CEO of Niti Aayog, named as its new Sherpa. He replaces Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who has stepped down citing "work overload". Kant's new assignment came as a surprise to many, even though no one expected him to simply fade away into the sunset after his six years as the CEO of Niti Aayog. A gubernatorial stint was hinted at, but the government clearly had a better plan for Kant!

Still, it was a timely move, coming just as India is set to assume the presidency of the G-20 later this year, and is prepping to host the G-20 meet next year. Kant now joins former Foreign Secretary Shringla, who is India's chief G20 coordinator. Given the high stakes, Kant was a shoo-in since India needs a full-time Sherpa for G20 since Goyal has his plate full, with his various ministerial and parliamentary responsibilities.

As a long-time policy maven of the NDA government, and later at the Niti Aayog, this is Kant's moment to shine on the international stage. The combo of IAS (Kant) and IFS (Shringla) will be useful at the strategic forum during discussions on efforts to aid global recovery. As the Sherpa, Kant will need to devote a lot of time to numerous meetings that will be held in different parts of the country and abroad. So, Kant's best moment may be yet to come.



### BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

### High-speed rail MD terminated

In a sudden move, the Centre has terminated the services of Satish Agnihotri, the MD of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited and gave the additional charge of MD to Rajendra Prasad, the present Director, Projects, of the corporation. The company is implementing the NDA government's prestigious bullet train project.

However, those in the know of the development have informed DKB that Agnihotri was under a cloud. Though the government has not given any reason for Agnihotri's termination, it is believed that due to serious allegations of corruption against the rail babu, his position as MD had become untenable.

Curiously, his appointment as MD of the corporation was as dramatic as his ouster now. In 2018 Agnihotri, an Indian Railway Service (IRS) officer of the 1982 batch, was brought back from retirement to head NHRCL by the government. At the time it was said that Agnihotri did not fit the advertised age criteria for the post, yet he was appointed over other eligible candidates.

The fall has certainly been swift. But the bullet train project is a prestige project for the Modi sarkar and it should have been obvious that it will not brook any criticism on account of those who were charged with its successful completion.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

### WISDOM CORNER

It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old, they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams

GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ

A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes

MAHATMA GANDHI

We want deeper sincerity of motive, a greater courage in speech and earnestness in action."

SAROJINI NAIDU

### WORDSWORTH

#### Agroterrorism

This term has been around for several years (the earliest examples I can find are from 1999), but has mostly been used by specialists up till now. It has gained a higher profile in the past year or so and has been in the news because the first International Symposium on Agroterrorism was held earlier this month. Agroterrorism is the deliberate introduction of a plant or animal disease that disrupts agriculture and so causes widespread economic loss along with fear and instability. The risk is potentially high in the USA, which is a major agricultural country with huge exports, so that the effect of a terrorist attack might be felt well beyond its own borders. As yet, no successful attack by agroterrorists anywhere in the world is known to have happened. Threats in New Zealand to spread foot-and-mouth disease have been blackmail by individuals, not terrorism. Known cases of food contamination in various countries, or of threats to contaminate food, have also proved to be the work of would-be blackmailers or disgruntled employees.

#### Yaffle

Yaffle is a local or dialect English name for the green woodpecker. Readers familiar with the cult BBC children's television series Bagpuss will know of Professor Yaffle, who is indeed a woodpecker. What brought it to mind was spotting one of these handsome birds in my garden, assiduously searching the edge of the lawn for ants. On the rare occasions one sees rather than hears a green woodpecker – with its green back, yellow rump and a crimson head that flashes in the sunlight as it turns its long bill – it seems too exotic to be a native British bird. Mostly, the signal that one is nearby is its characteristic laughing call, which provoked this odd name for the bird. Other names for it, now rare, include rain bird (because its cry was said to bring wet weather), hickwall, wickwall, woodwall, and yucelle, though these have turned up in so many forms in various British dialects, such as eccle or ickwell, that their links are sometimes hard to detect. While we're sure yaffle is imitative (the word could at one time also refer to the yelp of a dog), the other names are much harder to pin down; the Oxford English Dictionary hazards a guess that they, too, might be imitative, but they're so old that they have been transformed out of recognition. It has a number of other senses, derived from various English dialect words. It can be a description of somebody who is eating greedily, which is known in this sense in Royal Navy slang. And in the Newfoundland dialect it refers to a handful. This is from another English dialect word, spelled yafful in the English Dialect Dictionary.

# PVT EQUITY'S ESG GENERATION

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

When faced with a major threat, people have usually turned to religion or government for help. Today, the climate crisis is accelerating, part of Europe is at war, the United States is deeply polarized and beset by rising gun violence, COVID-19 is still with us, and developed economies are facing the prospect of a stagflationary recession. But while millions of people around the world are suffering economically and emotionally, religion has largely lost its moral authority and practical influence, and many governments are either hamstrung or controlled by autocrats.

The private sector cannot solve all these problems by itself, of course. But might the world at least be a better place if firms and investors consistently adhered to environmental, social, and governance criteria?

Not so fast, say some. The idea that business has an obligation to report on and discuss ESG metrics with the same rigor that it currently applies to its financial results is controversial. Some politicians have sought to make ESG considerations a partisan issue. Big investors claim that a surfeit of prescriptive ESG proposals in this year's proxy season of annual shareholder meetings shows that the sustainable-investment movement has gone too far. Tesla CEO Elon Musk recently tweeted his opposition to the concept after the electric car manufacturer was removed from the S&P 500 ESG Index.

Nonetheless, capital can still be a critical lever for positive global change – but perhaps not in the way one might think. It is the capital flowing through the world's private markets – not public stock exchanges – that can play the key role in taking ESG mainstream. After all, globally, nine out of ten people employed in the corporate sector work for a private firm. And for every publicly traded company, there are 200 private firms. Private businesses form the heart of capitalism. And the main artery



Society needs investors to pay greater attention to ESG factors in the face of heightened social tensions and unprecedented environmental instability

through which the most important firms obtain resources to grow is private markets – and particularly private equity.

To be sure, private equity has traditionally not been the first thing people think of when discussing how to improve the world. But though this industry has been around in its current form only since the 1980s, today it manages more than \$9 trillion of assets and owns many of the companies we depend on for daily life. Moreover, it is about to undergo an epochal shift, as the founders of many leading private-equity firms retire and a younger generation takes the reins.

This cohort, now in their thirties and forties, is well aware of the failures of Gordon Gekko-inspired, baby-boomer investors and of the limitations of Milton Friedman's view that business leaders' only social responsibility is to maximize shareholder value. The new wave of private-equity leaders fundamentally believe that capitalism can produce shared and durable prosperity. They think that generating good financial returns requires recognizing that sustainability, the environment, and the dignity of workers are core to building enduring enterprises. Underscoring

this view is the ideal of purpose: the belief that successful organizations create a mutually positive dynamic between their owners, employees, customers, and suppliers, and the communities in which they operate.

In this environment of multi-dimensional returns, it is essential to develop key non-financial yet material metrics and establish benchmarks and standards of performance. The management guru Peter Drucker probably never said, "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it." But that doesn't make it any less true.

The choice of which ESG metrics to measure may vary, depending on the region, industry, company size, and owners' goals. But this is no reason to give up on establishing standards. There are many important indicators that every business can regularly measure in order to make good on talk about doing the right thing.

For example, all companies should track their freshwater use, waste generation, and direct and indirect emissions, and monitor whether any of their activities are causing soil sealing. Other key metrics include the diversity of the management team and the board of directors, employee at-

trition, work-related injuries, and data breaches.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to capturing ESG data, but there is a minimum that does fit all. We applaud the work of the ESG Data Convergence Initiative to develop baseline reporting metrics, as well as efforts by the International Sustainability Standards Board to update and globalize industry-based standards.

This information needs to be tracked now. Globally, there are over 8,000 private market investment firms, and the vast majority have not yet embraced ESG criteria. That needs to change. Regulators will soon demand it, as rules and standards such as the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation and those recommended by the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures come into effect. Investors will demand it, too – and already are, as the significant rise in the number of climate-related proposals in this year's proxy season shows. And society needs investors to pay greater attention to ESG factors in the face of heightened social tensions and unprecedented environmental instability. Put simply, we must move from "trust me" to "show me."

Almost 90 years ago in the US, Congress created the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the accounting industry established Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Businesses whose financial disclosures had been uneven and spotty began reporting regularly and transparently. In turn, capital markets were bolstered by broader investor participation and the advent of shareholder democracy.

We now need to do the same for ESG reporting and stakeholder democracy. And a new generation of private-market players can lead the way.

Sébastien Mazella di Bosco is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Px3 Partners. Alex Friedman is Co-Founder and CEO of Novata.

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### SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

## Can India intervene in Ukraine war?

The war in Ukraine continues. No expert or leader can predict when it ends. Since it is a proxy war for all we know between Russia and the United States and its allies, one can pontificate on the attitudes of the countries at war. International political realists argue that, now-a-days, the wars between the big powers do not simply become wars – they turn out to be matters of prestige. The Ukraine war seems to have entered that prestige phase.

In any war, there are winners and losers. Prima facie, the winners are the United States, China and India and the losers are Russia, European Union and Ukraine. China is a gainer as Russia is depleted. Beijing gets Moscow as a junior partner. The Russian gas companies will supply to China at a cheaper rate than the market prices. China becomes the only rival to the US. India continues to stand with both Western bloc as well as Russia. New Delhi buys Russian oil at a hefty discount. It is not clear where India positions herself in international geo-politics in the longer run.

The European Union has failed to read Moscow's mind and has been disturbed by the Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. The European Union had to fall back on

the United States to prevent Russia from disturbing the East European order. Both Germany and France have to staggeringly enhance their expenses for hard power. They will have to find alternative sources of supply of gas. Europe got caught between the USA for its security and Russia for energy supply. The deficit in the European Union's foreign and defence policy got exposed in the wake of the Ukrainian war.

Ukraine is of course the biggest loser. It has become a pawn like Afghanistan between two big powers – USA and Russia. It has suffered heavy loss of men and material in addition to territory. Ukraine may not have had any other choice than fighting back for its independence, as the Russian forces marched in. But, the question is could it have avoided the war by refusing the Western overtures. That was not to be. Ukraine must fight to the finish or find a way to ceasefire and then cessation of the war.

That said, let us explore the scope for New Delhi's intervention as a peace-broker which may catapult India to the world stage. New Delhi has conducted its international affairs on a platform of neutrality which was called ideologically and strategically, non-alignment. I have argued con-

sistently that this policy was neither desirable nor doable.

India's neutrality has not paid off in any way rather it has harmed India's interests. It could perhaps take two diplomatic steps – one, inward, and another to help resolve the Ukrainian crisis. New Delhi has to rethink its neutrality and make strategic partners. The obvious partner is the Western bloc for two reasons. One is to enhance its GDP to 10 trillion USD from under 3 trillion USD at present. In order to do so, New Delhi has to engage with G-7 economies. It should complete the FTA negotiations with the EU and Britain. Second reason for going to the West is to secure itself against Chinese incursion into Indian territory. Some experts are suggesting that Quad could be turned into a military alliance of sorts. India could nudge Quad into going down that road. On the contrary, New Delhi seems most reluctant of all in militarising Quad.

India's smart and strategic military alliances will secure her from Chinese threats and possible aggression, minimise the enormous military expenditure, and reduce her dependence on Russia. According to SIPRI estimate in International Arms Transfers (2021) factsheet, "India was the

world's largest importer of major arms in 2017-21 and accounted for 11 per cent of total global arms import in the period". Is this military strategy sustainable or advisable for a developing country with a 2.7 trillion economy? Is it realistic to engage in an arms race with China, whose economy is around 14 trillion USD? The disarmament experts show that the cost of one fighter aircraft can run the primary schools of the entire country for 20 years and likewise, the cost of a submarine will run the old-age homes for a similar period. The estimate may not be exact but the principle holds.

Today, India draws greater respect and attention from the world community. It is a democracy, respects rule-based world order, freedom and human rights across the world. Can India use that goodwill to mediate in the war and bring it to an end? I have argued before that India should bring about a rapprochement between Russia and the USA, since the major threat to the world system comes from China. India should thus decouple Russia from China, and make Western powers see the real danger to world politics and security. This is a tall order but not impossible.

INF A



DK Giri

INDIA SHOULD DECOUPLE RUSSIA FROM CHINA AND MAKE WESTERN POWERS SEE THE REAL DANGER TO WORLD POLITICS AND SECURITY

### India needs a bold President

Sir, India will be electing its new President July 18. But, it is widely believed that the President is nothing but a titular head who has to go along with the Prime Minister. But contrary to popular perception, an Indian President can take bold stands in complex situations when the government's decisions go in violation of the constitutional provisions. A President who is sound in constitutional law and practice can certainly make a difference. For example, on many occasions Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma objected to the policies and decisions of the Congress government, though he had good relations with the Gandhis and Narasimha Rao. Few will remember that when the Securities scam broke out and there was a huge uproar, he advised the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to ask Dr. Manmohan Singh to resign. Similarly, KR Narayanan, who proved himself to be a 'working President', once returned the advice of the Cabinet for its reconsideration with regard to the imposition of President's rule in UP and Bihar during the Gujral and Vajpayee governments respectively. India needs Presidents like Shankar Dayal Sharma and KR Narayanan, who ruled by the constitution and protected the constitution under any circumstances.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

### Unparliamentary expressions

Sir, Controversy erupted at the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Thursday in the wake of the national controversy over the lion of Ashok Pillar. For this reason, many of the unparliamentary words in the list published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat cannot be used. Ashoka Pillar Statue is not just a craft; it is an expression of better thinking. A strong man changes the direction of his strength, goes into compassion that is the thought behind this pillar. As far as unparliamentary languages are concerned, Article 105(2) of the Constitution lays down that "no Member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee thereof." MPs do not enjoy the freedom to say whatever they want inside the House. But till date has anyone followed all these rules? Are Rules only for both houses of Parliament? Politicians of all parties, inside and outside Parliament, have used many abusive words, but have any legal action been taken against them? Constitutional law has been ignored in every field and constitutional dignity has been mixed with the soil. This is illegal and against the very concept of democracy.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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# national



They have (BJP) been already intimidating and luring our people in the Janpad and Zila Panchayat polls, but now they have not even spared the Presidential elections  
KAMAL NATH | CONGRESS LEADER

## LENGTH OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS RISES

A day ahead of the inauguration of the Bundelkhand Expressway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, government sources Friday said the length of national highways has risen by more than 50 per cent in over seven years



### of the day quote

The government will introduce an app-based taxi service in the coastal state  
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

The country needs to work towards self-reliance in fertilizers  
NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | UNION AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE MINISTER

The government has not received any advice from the scientific community on vaccines for children below 12 years of age  
MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION MINISTER FOR HEALTH, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS



Locals fish in the overflowing Pakadiguddam dam during monsoon in Chandrapur, Maharashtra

## Assam, Arunachal CMs sign pact to end border dispute

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar/Guwahati, July 15: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday inked a pact to end the decades-old border dispute between the two states, and they agreed in principle on restricting the number of contested villages to 86 instead of 123.

Chief Ministers of the two North-eastern neighbours announced in separate tweets that they met at Namsai in Arunachal Pradesh and signed the agreement. "We have decided to restrict the 'disputed villages' to 86 instead of 123. Based on our present boundary, we'll try to resolve the rest by September 15, 2022," Sarma tweeted.

Of the 123 disputed villages, a consensus has been arrived on 37 and 86 others are left. According to the 'Namsai Declaration', Sarma and Khandu agreed that out of the 37 disputed villages, 28 which are within the constitutional boundary of Arunachal Pradesh shall remain with the state while, three villages on which claims were withdrawn by Arunachal Pradesh, will be with Assam.

Six other villages which could not be located on the Assam side would also remain with the frontier state if they exist in Arunachal Pradesh, the agreement stated. "Both states would constitute 12 Regional Committees each covering the 12 districts of Arunachal and counterpart districts of Assam for joint verification of 123 villages to make recommendations to respective State Governments," Khandu tweeted.

These regional committees would submit their first tranche of the report on the areas or any other areas where consensus has arrived, before September 15. "As and when the regional committees will conclude their deliberations and agreement is arrived at between the two governments, the draft MoU will be referred to the union government for its approval," the Namsai Declaration stated. The border dispute between the two states was seven-decade-old, but no earlier governments showed the political will to resolve it, Khandu said.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Drugs seized

Guwahati/Diphu: Huge quantities of heroin and cannabis, worth over Rs 4 crore, were seized and five people arrested from Assam's Karimganj and Karbi Anglong districts, police said Friday. Acting on a tip-off, Karimganj police stepped up patrolling along the Assam-Mizoram border and intercepted a vehicle coming from the neighbouring state at Baraigram under Patharkandi police station of the district late on Thursday night.

#### Four held in UP

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh): A group of four youths have been arrested for allegedly molesting a teenager and trying to abduct her in a car in the Chakeri police area. The incident happened on Thursday evening. Hearing the screams of the victim, passers-by managed to stop the car and nabbed the accused. After severe beating, they were handed over to the police. According to the father of the teenager, his 16-year-old daughter is pursuing intermediate at a local college.

#### Girl ends life

New Delhi: A 15-year-old girl died after allegedly hanging herself from a ceiling fan in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar Friday, police said. The girl had just passed Class 10 and was pursuing higher studies, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said a PCR call regarding the suicide at Khirki Extension was received. When the police reached the spot, the body of the girl was found on the floor.

#### 3 injured in Delhi

New Delhi: Three men were injured after a truck allegedly hit their motorcycle on Friday morning, police said. The driver of the truck has been arrested, they said. The injured have been identified as Sonu (20), Kunal (21) and (3) Farukh (18), all residents of Sultanpuri here, they said, adding that they were admitted to a hospital and their condition is stated to be stable. The accident took place in outer Delhi's Raj Park area, police said.

#### Bajpai is BJP's new chief whip in RS

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha member Laxmikant Bajpai was Friday appointed as the BJP's new chief whip in the House, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said Friday. Bajpai, a former Uttar Pradesh BJP president, succeeds Shiv Pratap Shukla who retired from the house recently. "Laxmikant Bajpai is appointed as BJP chief whip in Rajya Sabha," Joshi said. Bajpai has served as a member of the Uttar Pradesh assembly for four terms. Meanwhile, the BJP has again appointed Piyush Goyal as its leader in the Upper House.

## 5 dead in Delhi wall collapse

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 15: At least 5 persons were killed and 8 others sustained injuries after a boundary wall of an under-construction warehouse collapsed in the national capital Friday afternoon, an official said.

Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said that they received a call about the incident around 12.40 p.m. at Bakoli village, near Chauhan Dharamkanta in the Narela area after which six fire tenders were immediately pressed into service.

Delhi Police also received a PCR call at the same time at Alipur police station after which the staff rushed to the spot and found that approximately 100 ft long and 15 ft high wall of an under construction warehouse had collapsed.

"Initially, approximately 20 labourers who were digging a foundation just adjacent to the wall were buried under the debris," the official said.

## Rubaiya identifies Yasin as her abductor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 15: Rubaiya Sayeed, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's daughter, appeared before a special CBI court Friday in a case related to her 1989 abduction and identified JKLF chief Yasin Malik and three others as the ones who took her captive, officials said.

This is the first time Rubaiya has been asked to appear in the case. She had been freed after five terrorists were released in exchange. Rubaiya, who stays in Tamil Nadu, is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over investigations into the case in early 1990.

Rubaiya identified Malik, who was present in the court through video conferencing. "This is the person and his name is Yasin Malik. He was the man who threatened me that he will drag me out of the minibus if I refused to follow their diktat," Rubaiya told the judge.



This is the first time Rubaiya has been asked to appear in the case. She had been freed after five terrorists were released in exchange



Rubaiya identified Malik, who was present in the court through video conferencing

She later identified him again through the pictures that were exhibited in the court. The case had gone into virtual cold storage and was revived after Malik was picked up by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2019 on charges of

terror funding. In January last year, the CBI, with help from special public prosecutors Monika Kohli and S K Bhat, framed charges against 10 people, including Malik, in the Rubaiya kidnapping case that turned out to be a turning

## Flight develops hydraulic failure, lands safely in Kochi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, July 15: A full emergency was declared at Kochi airport on Friday after an incident of hydraulic failure was reported from an inbound Air Arabia flight from Sharjah, the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) said. All passengers and crew were safe.

CIAL, in a communication sent to the media, said Air Arabia G9-426 which was supposed to land at 19:13 hrs here reported a hydraulic failure following which a full emergency was declared at the airport.

"Aircraft landed safely at runway 09 at 19:29 hrs," CIAL said, adding that only towing was required. The full emergency was withdrawn at 20:22 hrs. Meanwhile, CIAL MD, S Suhas, said a concerted effort and timely co-ordination helped CIAL to see through the airport emergency situation. "Though such a situation occurred after a long period, it was proved that the safety systems worked effectively. We could resume the operations in 45 minutes," Suhas said.

## Courts can ideally sit at 9 am: Justice Lalit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: If children can go to school at seven in the morning, why cannot judges and lawyers start their day at 9 am, Supreme Court judge Justice UU Lalit remarked Friday.

A bench of Justices Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia on Friday started Friday's work at 9.30 am, an hour earlier than the usual working hour of the apex court.

Justice Lalit, who is next in line to become the Chief Justice of India, said, "In my view, ideally we should sit at 9 in the morning. I have always said that if our children can go to school at 7 in the morning, then why can't we come at 9 am". The remark came after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing in one of the bail matters, lauded the bench at the end of the hearing of the case for sitting earlier than the usual time.

He said, "I must say that this

time of 9.30 am is a more proper time to start the courts". Justice Lalit said if the courts can start early, it can finish the day's work early and judges would get more time in the evening to read the case files for the next day.

"The courts can start their work at 9 am and rise at 11.30 am for a half an hour break and then finish the day's work by 2 pm. By doing this, judges will get more time to do more things in the evening", Justice Lalit said, adding this arrangement could work when there are only fresh matters and cases that don't require lengthy hearings. Rohatgi said hopefully these arrangements could be seen more by the end of August. To this, Justice Lalit said, "This is just a capsule". The judges of the Supreme Court hear cases from 10:30 am to 4 pm on weekdays. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana is set to retire on August 26 and Justice Lalit will take over charge from him and remain in office till November 8, this year.

## Govt seeks 5 cr free Covishield doses

Amid rising cases of coronavirus in the country, the government from Friday started providing precaution doses free of cost to those aged 18 years and above for the next 75 days under the 'COVID vaccination Amrit Mahotsav'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 15: The Union health ministry has asked global vaccine alliance GAVI to supply 5 crore of the allocated 10 crore doses of Covishield to India under the COVAX facility free of cost, official sources said Friday.

Amid rising cases of coronavirus in the country, the government from Friday started providing precaution doses free of cost to those aged 18 years and above for the next 75 days under the 'COVID vaccination Amrit Mahotsav'.



A healthcare worker administers a booster shot of Covid vaccine to a beneficiary on the first day of a 75-day special drive for free vaccination against Covid in Guwahati

According to an official source, Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at Serum Institute of India, had written a letter to the health ministry in April for use of 10 crore doses of Covishield offered free of cost by GAVI.

"As Covid cases are rising again in our country, using this immediately available 100 million (10 crore) free of cost Covishield vac-

cine doses by GAVI for our citizens at the earliest would be beneficial in controlling the upsurge of COVID-19. This will play a crucial role in taking forward the world's largest vaccination drive under visionary leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji towards its successful completion," Singh is learnt to have mentioned in his letter to ministry in April.

## NIRF ranking: IIT Madras best institution fourth year in a row

IN THE UNIVERSITIES CATEGORY, IISc BENGALURU BAGGED THE TOP SPOT FOLLOWED BY JNU AND JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA AT SECOND AND THIRD RANK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retained the top spot among institutes in the country for the fourth consecutive year whereas the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru was the best university and re-

search institution, according to the Ministry of Education's National Institutional Ranking Framework rankings.

The seventh edition of NIRF rankings was announced Friday by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) - IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Roorkee and IIT Guwahati - figured in the top 10 in the overall rankings.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Jawaharlal Nehru University were ranked ninth and tenth in the overall rankings. In the universities category, IISc Bengaluru bagged the top spot followed by JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia at second and third rank. The BHU, which was ranked



third last year in the category, slipped to the sixth position this year. Jadavpur University, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Calcutta University, Vellore Institute of

Technology and University of Hyderabad bagged the subsequent positions in the universities category. Eight IITs - Madras, Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati and Hyderabad

have figured among the top ten ranks in the engineering institutions category. The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchirappalli - which was ranked ninth last year - has bagged the eighth spot this year while NIT Surathkal has retained its 10th position.

Among colleges, Miranda House retained its spot as the best college in the country followed by Hindu College which has improved its rank to make it to the second spot from the ninth position last year. Lady Sri Ram College for Women slipped to fifth rank from the second spot last year while Presidency College, Chennai climbed to the third spot from the seventh position. Loyola College in Chennai has slipped to the fourth spot from third rank.

Delhi University's noted colleges St. Stephens and SRCC, which

figured into the top ten list last year, found no mention in this year's rankings. IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta retained their first, second and third rank respectively among the B-Schools. In the pharmacy category, the top institute is Delhi's Jamia Hamdard, followed by the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad and Panjab University Chandigarh which slipped to the third position from second rank. In the medical colleges category AIIMS, Delhi bagged the top spot, followed by PGIMER Chandigarh and Christian Medical College, Vellore. Among the dental colleges, Saveetha Institute of Medical And Technical Sciences, Chennai; Manipal College of Dental Sciences, and DY Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune were the top three institutions.

## Flood alert issued in Coimbatore dist

AGENCIES

Chennai, July 15: The Coimbatore district administration has issued flood alerts following heavy rain. Water flow in the Bhavani, Noyyal, and Amaravathi rivers has increased due to incessant rain and heavy South West Monsoon lashing the areas.

The heavy rainfall at the catchment areas of reservoirs have increased the water flow in major reservoirs with inflow to Pillur reservoir increasing to 12,000 cusecs Thursday and the storage is 97.5 feet which are only 2.5 feet less than the maximum storage level of the reservoir or Full Reservoir Level (FRL).

The water authority department released 26,000 cusec water into the Bhavani river to maintain the storage at a manageable level in Pillur reservoir and this is the first time this season that the storage level has touched the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) this season.

Traffic was disrupted between Singanailor- Vellalore road after the road was submerged following water from the Noyyal River gushing into the road following heavy rainfall.

With the catchment areas receiving heavy rain, the district administration has warned the local people about the rising water levels and a flood alert has been issued.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister, KKSSR Ramachandran reviewed the situation to take preventive measures.

Ramachandran, along with Electricity Minister V Senthil Balaji, visited the Pilloor Dam near Mettupalayam, which was reaching its capacity level of 100 feet, necessitating the release of surplus water.

Normal life was affected in the hilly Nilgiris district too follow-

ing incessant rains over the past few days, leading to minor landslides among others, as the state government kept on standby various agencies to effectively handle any exigencies.

Two teams from the State Disaster Response Force with 160 personnel have been deputed to the district for possible rescue and relief work while the NDRF is on standby, Chief Minister M K Stalin said.

The Nilgiris administration has declared holiday to all schools in the district. Being a major tourist attraction, Udthagamandalam (Ooty) wore a deserted look, as no tourist activities were happening in the last 10 days, affecting the income of taxi drivers, businessmen and street vendors.

Almost all the 12 dams in the district are reaching their full capacity and rivers in Mayaru, Kallatti are brimming. Gudalur and Devala Avalanche witnessed unprecedented downpour. Cabbage, carrot and potato grown on 300 acres of farm land have been totally damaged.

In a statement in Chennai, Chief Minister Stalin said while Tamil Nadu has received 48 per cent excess rainfall during the period June 1-July 14 at 115 mm, Nilgiris received 664.9 mm. This was 125 per cent above normal, he said.

"As a precautionary measure, 105 people have been moved to relief camps and provided with food, safe drinking water and basic necessities," he said.

A three-member ministerial delegation, which includes local minister K Ramachandran, and Revenue Commissioner SK Prabakar have been deputed to the district to oversee the rescue and relief activities. Various multi-departmental zonal committees are also on standby with required equipment, including earthmovers.

## PSI RECRUITMENT SCANDAL

# BJP cornered as Karnataka HC makes tough remarks



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 15: Ruling BJP in Karnataka has come under pressure as the High Court categorically said that the police sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment scam is "heinous than a murder" and equated it to terrorism.

With clamour for a judicial probe rising, the ruling BJP leaders are worried over its image getting affected since the general elections are less than 10 months away.

The remarks by Justice H P Sandesh are going to be embarrassing for state BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai who is participating in the crucial chintan-mantan baithak on Friday in Bangalore to strategise for the Assembly elections.

Justice Sandesh bench, which took up the bail petition of the accused in PSI Recruitment Scandal Thursday stated, "In case of murder one person dies. Here, 50,000 candidates are put to difficulty. If every recruitment is made in the same fashion, do you want the court to sit quiet?"

The bench further stated that the scam "is a terrorism unleashed on the society". The remarks of the bench came after the counsel for the accused sought bail by maintaining that the scam is not a murder case.

Public Prosecutor V S Hegde maintained that an officer of the rank of Additional DGP has been ar-

rested and it shows the seriousness of the case. "The investigation might reach anywhere. ADGP Amrit Paul, two Deputy Superintendents and three PSI candidates have been arrested and thousands of call details need to be analysed," said Hegde.

"One month is needed to investigate the huge data of mobiles and other devices," Hegde added. He also informed the court that till date the ₹2.5 crore cash has been seized during the investigation. The court adjourned the hear-

ing of the case to July 20.

Earlier, Justice H P Sandesh took the ruling BJP to task with regards to the appointments to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). After his rap, the ACB arrested Bangalore Urban DC on charges of corruption.

Justice Sandesh had stated that he was given transfer threat through a High Court judge and he did not care much about it. He also said that he was ready to go back to his farm and carry out agriculture rather than succumbing to pressure.

## Cong demands lie detector test of accused

Bangalore: Karnataka's opposition Congress Thursday demanded a lie detector test (polygraph test) for government officers arrested in connection with the Police Sub-Inspector recruitment scandal.

The CID has arrested senior IPS officer and ADGP Amrit Paul in connection with the scandal, along with many other police officers, ranking from Sub-Inspector to Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah said that there is suspicion of involvement of many ministers and their associates, and clarity over the issue could only come if the accused officers are given lie detector tests.

He underlined that the diary written by arrested ADGP should also be investigated thoroughly.

"If Amrit Paul is subjected to a lie detector test, the nexus of politicians in the scandal would come out in the open. Let those who benefitted from the scandal face the heat," he said.

The investigations into the PSI recruitment scandal has revealed that Paul allegedly got his share of ₹1.35 crore bribe amount to be deposited to various accounts, police sources said.

Meanwhile, the ruling BJP is in a spot as Congress is seeking on allowing the arrested senior IPS officer record its statement before the court. The BJP is yet to respond to this demand. Party sources said leaders are worried about the fallout of this case as if any involvement of its leaders is found, it will dent the image of the party.

# RSS, BJP meet in K'taka to strategise Assembly elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 15: The meeting of the RSS and BJP leaders to discuss strategy for the state Assembly elections in 2023 was underway at a resort on the outskirts of Bangalore Friday.

State BJP in-charge Arun Singh, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former CMs B S Yediyurappa, Jagadish Shettar, D V Sadananada Gowda, State BJP President Nalin Kumar Kateel, BJP National General Secretary B L Santhosh and prominent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leaders from the state took part in the meeting.

According to the party insiders, the meeting would discuss launching of important projects and the Hindutva agenda in the state which would enable the BJP to attain power. The Assembly elections will be held in less than 10 months from now.

The meeting would discuss the achievements of the state government, setback in textbook revision process, and comments of the Karnataka High Court on appointments of tainted officers thereby denting the image of the party, sources said.

The evaluation of performance of ministers would also be undertaken in the meeting and clear cut pointers would be given for the ruling BJP to act in the short period of time before elections. The allegations of royal treatment to the accused killers of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha and Hindu organisations' criticism of the ruling BJP would also be discussed at length, insiders explain.

The entry to the meeting is restricted to invitees only. The gunmen and personal staff of any invitee, including CM Bommai were asked to wait outside. Media was also not allowed inside the meeting.



## CAR IMPORT CASE Tamil superstar Vijay gets relief from Madras HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 15: The Madras High Court Friday gave major relief to Tamil superstar Vijay in a case related to his import of a luxury BMW car from the US, ruling that he would be liable to pay the penalty for delayed payment of entry tax only from January 29, 2019, to December 2021 and not from 2005.

A bench of Justice R Suresh Kumar said that Vijay was liable to pay an entry tax as a division bench of the court had, on January 29, 2019, held that the state government was



entitled to levy entry tax.

The bench, however, said that the Commercial Taxes Department should not have demanded a huge

amount of ₹30.23 lakh towards penalty, by levying it since 2005 and that the fine may be levied from January 29, 2019.

Vijay had approached the court in January 2022 and challenged a notice issued by Commercial Taxes Department September 17, 2021, asking him to pay ₹7.98 lakh as entry tax along with penalty of ₹30.23 lakh.

The advocate for the superstar said that he has already paid tax liability of ₹7.98 lakh in December 2021 and is challenging the penalty alone. He said he had then imported the BMW as there were no dealers for the luxury car in Chennai those days. The actor had also pleaded to the court to cancel the demand notice and the recovery notice.

## Centre receives ₹23,000cr proposals under Agri Infra Fund

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 15: The Centre has received proposals envisaging an investment of ₹23,000 crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar said Friday.

The AIF set up in 2020 aims at providing a medium-long term debt financial facility till 2025-26 for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest sub-

vention and financial support.

AIF with a corpus of ₹1,00,000 crore will be disbursed through loan by 2025-26, Ministry officials had said earlier. "So far, we have received proposals worth ₹23,000 crore, of which the proposals worth ₹13,000 crore is under consideration," Tomar said while briefing about the outcome of the two-day national conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers here.

He said this fund will be disbursed as a loan to the interested people with "impressive proposals".

Union Minister for State for

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje said the loan will be given at a minimal interest rate of three per cent.

Tomar said the progress in the project is good as the States have agreed to utilise the fund.

During the two-day conference, the states were asked to work on a mission mode to popularise natural farming to improve soil health, the Minister said.

According to him, natural farming is taking place in four lakh hectare in the country, an area which has to be increased further.

## Suspected gas leak in Chennai: TNPCB monitoring air quality



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 15: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has commenced monitoring the air quality after residents complained of a pungent order suspected to be due to Sulphur Dioxide leak from Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL).

Residents of Tiruvottiyur and Manali in Chennai city have been complaining of a pungent smell for the past few days and several healthy people had complained of breathlessness. Residents living in an area of 2-3 kms of CPCL have complained of pungent smell and breathlessness, particularly during the morning and evening times.

A senior officer with the TNPCB while speaking to IANS said, "We have received complaints from residents of Jyothi Nagar in

Tiruvattiyur and in Manali areas. We are monitoring the air quality for the next 24 hours and will find out what exactly has happened."

The officer also said that a few days ago CPCL had imported Sulphur dioxide from Russia with high sulphur content and the PCB has directed CPCL not to further import that particular variety of crude oil. CPCL officials, however, denied that there was any leak from the plant and a senior official told IANS that they are assisting the PCB officials in finding out the gas that has leaked. The official said, "If the leak was from our plant, our workers and officials would have felt it first."

The CPCL official also denied that there was no crude import with high sulphur content from Russia and that crude comes from Mumbai and the Middle East.

However, the PCB has directed CPCL to install incinerators with Sulphur Recovery Units (SRUs). The pollution control board also directed CPCL that emission standards are complied with and to achieve Sulphur Recovery efficiency of 98.7 per cent at all times in compliance with the Union Environment Ministry notification of March 2008.

# Rich tributes to Kamaraj on his 120th birth anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

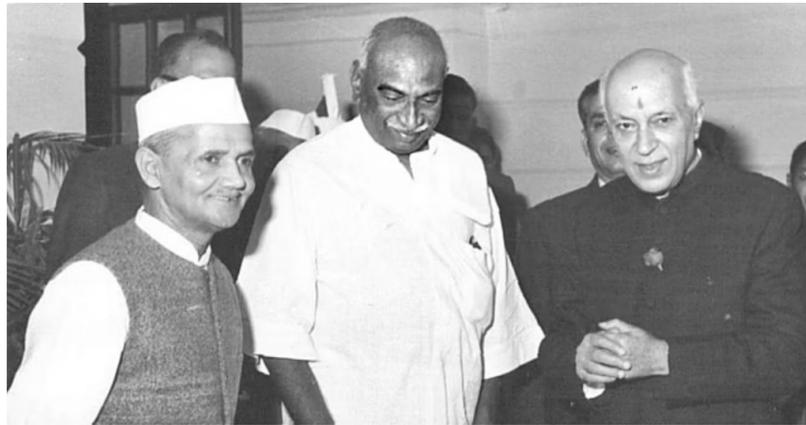
Chennai, July 15: Rich tributes were paid to Congress stalwart and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Kamaraj, with state Governor R N Ravi and CM M K Stalin recalling the late leader's stellar contributions, especially in the field of education. Ravi paid floral tributes at the Kamaraj Memorial located in Guindy here.

The Governor recollected the immense contributions and selfless "services of the great nationalist and freedom fighter who stood like a rock against divisive forces during the freedom movement".

"He laid a concrete foundation for high quality, accessible, affordable education for all, agriculture, infrastructure by constructing dams and canals, promoted industrial ecosystem by establishing prominent industrial units in Tamil Nadu viz. NLC, BHEL and IIT(M)," a Raj Bhavan release quoted Ravi as saying.

The late leader's life of enormous simplicity, integrity and devotion to service to the people shall always be an inspiration to all of us, especially the youth, he added.

In his greetings shared on Twitter, Stalin recalled that his father and



K Kamaraj with the late Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri

PTI PHOTO

former chief minister, the late M Karunanidhi, had earlier declared Kamaraj's birthday as "Education Development Day" which he said was a reminder of the stalwart's efforts to promote education. State Congress leaders, led by TNCC President K S Alagiri, paid homage to Kamaraj at the party headquarters Sathyamurthi Bhavan here.

Meanwhile in neighbouring Puducherry, Chief Minister N

Rangasamy said the territorial government was implementing schemes to promote standard of education among the youth as visualised by Kamaraj.

Addressing a gathering at the celebrations held on the premises of the Kamaraj Manimandapam (a memorial of Kamaraj) Friday, the CM said free education was being provided to students in UT.

He said the memorial was opened

through video-conference mode a couple of years ago by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "This showed how keen Modi is to measure up to the vision of the late leader Kamaraj," Rangasamy said.

Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan, Speaker R Selvam, PWD Minister K Lakshminarayanan, legislators and officials were among those who paid floral tributes at the statue of Kamaraj on the precincts

## PM remembers Tamil stalwart

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday remembered K Kamaraj, an Indian independence activist and former Chief Minister of erstwhile Madras State, now Tamil Nadu, on his birth anniversary.

PM Modi said that Kamaraj has made an indelible contribution to India's freedom struggle and made a mark as a compassionate administrator.

Modi said in a tweet, "Remembering Shri K Kamaraj Ji on his birth anniversary. He made an indelible contribution to India's freedom struggle and made a mark as a compassionate administrator. He worked hard to alleviate poverty and human suffering. He also focused on improving health and education."

Earlier the Lt Governor, Chief Minister, Speaker and others paid tributes at Kamaraj's statue in Pattanikadai junction in the heart of the town.

of the day quote

Officials must not hesitate in taking legal action against those who damage heritage sites in the state

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Parliament has not 'banned' any words. Parliament is only trying to expand your limited vocabulary. Don't be 'ashamed'.

Just say you are 'mortified' by the Government's conduct. Don't call the government 'corrupt'. Just say they have stolen the people's money. Don't accuse the government of enacting a 'drama'. Just say the Government is staging a play

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

Delhiites must participate in the plantation drive and plant at least one sapling each to help increase the capital's green cover

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Minor killed

New Delhi: A 16-year-old boy was stabbed to death by another boy during a quarrel that ensued between them in the national capital's Narela area, a police official said Friday.

Three arrested

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh): The Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to probe the 1984 anti-Sikh riots has arrested three more accused here. With this, SIT has so far arrested 22 accused related to different cases of heinous crimes connected to the 1984 riots in the past month.

UP man dies

Lucknow: A middle-aged man succumbed to injuries sustained in a freak accident. Anil Gautam, 45, was seriously injured in Alambagh two days ago when his scooter ramed into the car door that a four-wheeler driver suddenly opened.

Teacher suspended

New Delhi: An associate professor of Delhi University (DU)'s College of Vocational Studies has been suspended for alleged sexual harassment charges levelled against him by a female colleague.



Doctors have already tackled the pandemic successfully in the past, and gained experience. We hope the pandemic will be controlled this time too

MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SBSB BACKS MURMU

The Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSB) President Om Prakash Rajbhar has announced that he and his party MLAs will vote for the NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu



MONKEYPOX: KERALA STEPS UP VIGIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 15: The Kerala government Friday stepped up vigil to prevent spread of monkeypox, issuing special alerts to five districts, a day after the southern state reported the country's first case of the rare virus infection.

After chairing a high-level meeting here, state Health Minister Veena George said special alert has been issued to five districts as people from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Kottayam were co-passengers of the infected person in the Sharjah-Thiruvananthapuram Indigo flight that landed here on July 12.

There were 164 passengers and six cabin crew on board, the minister said and added that isolation



IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE OFFICERS AND THOSE WHO HANDLED THE PATIENT'S BAGGAGE AT THE AIRPORT ALSO FIGURE IN THE SURVEILLANCE LIST

INDIA REPORTED ITS FIRST CASE OF MONKEYPOX THURSDAY, WITH A KERALITE WHO RETURNED FROM THE UAE TESTING POSITIVE FOR THE VIRUS

facilities will be set up in all these districts. The minister said 11 people who were in the seats next to him are in the high risk contact list. The parents of the patient, an auto driver, a taxi driver, a dermatologist of a private hospital where the infected person sought the

treatment first and his 11 co-passengers who were sitting next to his seats in the flight are now in the primary contact list.

"Passengers who have traveled in this flight should conduct self-monitoring and report to the health officials if they develop any symp-

ptoms of virus infection in 21 days. As the phone numbers of many are not available, they are being traced with the help of the police", George said in a statement.

The minister said the health workers are in touch with the people who were suspected to have come in contact with the infected person and if they have fever or any other symptoms, they will be tested including for COVID-19. Tests to detect the monkeypox will also be conducted if they are showing any symptoms of the disease.

Immigration clearance officers and those who handled the patient's baggage at the airport also figure in the surveillance list. Expressing satisfaction over the patient's health condition, the minister said all districts in the state have been alerted and special training will be provided to

health workers to deal with the monkeypox cases. She also warned against spreading false propaganda.

India reported its first case of monkeypox Thursday, with a Keralite who returned from the UAE testing positive for the virus, prompting the Centre to rush a high-level multi-disciplinary team to collaborate with the State Health Authorities in instituting public health measures.

The case was confirmed through the testing of the samples of the symptomatic person at the National Institute of Virology, Pune. The country's first case of the virus was reported on a day when the Centre asked states to ensure screening and testing of all suspect cases at points of entry and in the community as part of India's preparedness against the disease.

Zubair gets bail in tweet case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: A Delhi court Friday granted bail to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in a case related to an objectionable tweet he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity, saying the accused is not required for any custodial interrogation.

Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala granted the relief to Zubair on a bail bond of Rs 50,000 and one surety of like amount and directed him not to leave the country without its prior permission.

The court also directed the accused not to repeat the offence and to ensure that his tweet or retweet, or any material on social media content is not even touching the boundaries of the offence punishable under Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of IPC.

"Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the fact that the accused is not required for any custodial interrogation, I am inclined to allow the present bail moved on behalf of application applicant/accused Mohammed Zubair. The applicant is admitted to bail," the judge said.

The court also directed Zubair to surrender his passport to the Investigating Agency within three days of his release from jail. The court also said that the accused "shall not tamper with evidence nor otherwise indulge in any act or omission that is unlawful or that would prejudice the proceedings in the pending matter."

"The applicant/accused will join the investigation as and when called by the SHO (station house officer)/ IO (investigating officer) to do so," the judge said. A magisterial court had July 2 dismissed his bail plea and sent him to 14-day judicial custody (JC) in the case.

24 bills listed for introduction in Monsoon Session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: The Centre has listed 24 bills, including the Cantonment Bill, the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, for introduction in the Monsoon Session of Parliament that is scheduled to commence from Monday.

The Cantonment Bill proposes to achieve greater developmental objectives in alignment with municipalities across the country and also facilitate "ease of living" in cantonments, according to a bulletin issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill seeks to rationalise the government's role in cooperatives and increase participation in the working of the multi-state cooperative societies, so as to increase public faith in these societies and create a conducive environment for their growth and development.

Similarly, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill seeks to strengthen the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code by introducing provisions on cross-border insolvency and certain other amendments for a time-bound resolution of stressed assets while maximising their value.

Some of the other bills listed for introduction are -- the Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill, the Development of Enterprises and Services Hubs Bill, which proposes to revise the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and frame rules, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Bill, the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill and the Competition (Amendment) Bill.

The Kalakshetra Foundation (Amendment) Bill, the Old Grant (Regulation) Bill, the Forest (Conservation) (Amendment) Bill, the National Dental Commission Bill, the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, the Indian Institute of Management (Amendment) Bill and the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill have also been listed for introduction.

The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, the Trafficking of Persons (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill and the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill are also listed for introduction during the session.



A farm worker carries paddy saplings for transplantation in Ranbir Singh Pura near the international border in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

MINOR GIRL KIDNAPPED, GANGRAPE INSIDE CAR

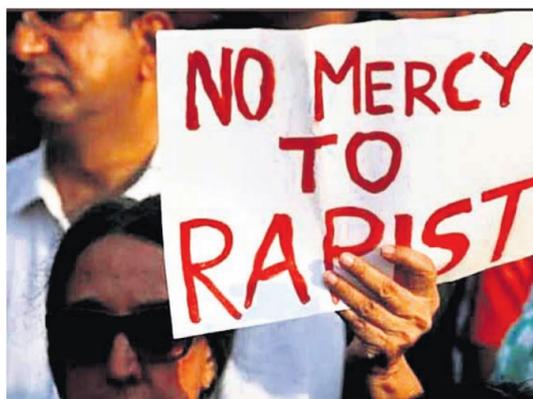
THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE JULY 6 INSIDE A PARKED CAR IN SOUTHWEST DELHI'S MAHIPALPUR AND ALL THE THREE ACCUSED, INCLUDING THE RAPE SURVIVOR'S MALE FRIEND, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: A Class 10 student was allegedly gangraped in a car in Mahipalpur after being kidnapped from a market in Vasant Vihar in south Delhi, police said Friday.

The incident took place July 6 inside a parked car in southwest Delhi's Mahipalpur and all the three accused, including the rape survivor's male friend, have been arrested, they said. The accused were aged 23, 25 and 35 years.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Manoj C said a PCR call



was received around 4 am on July 8 at Vasant Vihar police station from a hospital informing that a person has come with his daughter who was alleging that three persons teased her.

When the girl was examined by a woman councillor, she told her that two persons who she knew met her near Vasant Vihar market at around 8.30 pm on July 6 and offered her a ride in the car of another person accompanying them.

"All the four went to Mahipalpur where they bought liquor and drank that. Thereafter, they drove to a secluded area where the girl male friend kissed her while the other two raped her," the DCP said. From there, they all went to Gurugram before returning home, the police said. The girl, however, claimed in her statement that her male friend did not commit any offence and was only trying to save her, they said.

MPs to get green ballot paper, MLAs will get pink

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 15: Elected members of Parliament and members of state legislative assemblies will get ballot papers of different colours on July 18 when they vote to elect the next President of India.

While MPs will get green papers, the MLAs will get ballot papers printed in pink.

The value of an MLA's vote depends on the population of the state he or she represents. The value of the vote of an MP this time is 700.

Hence, the different colour of ballot papers will help the returning officer count the votes based on the value.

The ballot papers are printed with two columns with the first column containing the names of the candidates and the second for marking preferences by the elector for each such candidate.

While Droupadi Murmu is the NDA's candidate, Yashwant Sinha is the opposition's pick for the poll to be held Monday.

The Electoral College which elects the President through the system of proportional representation comprises elected MPs and members of state leg-

PREZ POLL

The Electoral College which elects the President through the system of proportional representation comprises elected MPs and members of state legislative assemblies

Voting in Presidential poll is held in Parliament House and state assemblies. Counting is held in Parliament House

islative assemblies.

Nominated MPS, MLAs and members of legislative councils are not entitled to vote in this election.

Voting in presidential poll is held in Parliament House and state assemblies. Counting is held in Parliament House.

This time, the date of counting is July 21.

The value of the vote of a Member of Parliament has gone down to 700 from 708 in this presidential poll due to the absence of a legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.

In states, the value of vote of each MLA varies in different states. In Uttar Pradesh, the value of vote of each MLA stands at 208, followed by 176 in Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.

In Maharashtra, it is 175.

Woman willingly living with man can't file rape case if relation fails: SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 15: The Supreme Court has held that a woman, who was in a relationship with a man and willingly staying with him, cannot file a case of rape, after the relationship had gone sour.

It ordered release of the appellant on bail to the satisfaction of the competent authority. A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Vikram Nath noted the admitted case of the complainant that she was in a relationship with the appellant for a period of four years. Also, the complainant's counsel admitted that

she was 21 years old, when the relationship started.

"In view of the said fact, the complainant has willingly been staying with the appellant and had the relationship. Therefore, now if the relationship is not working out, the same cannot be a ground for lodging an FIR for the offence under Section 376(2)(n) IPC," said the bench.

Ansaar Mohammad had moved the top court challenging the Rajasthan High Court's May 19 order, which dismissed an application for pre-arrest bail under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal



Procedure, 1973 for the offences under Sections 376(2)(n), 377 and 506 IPC.

The top court granted anticipatory bail to Mohammad who was accused of rape, unnatural offences, and criminal intimidation. "Consequently, we allow the present appeal and set aside the order of the High Court. The appellant is ordered to be released on bail to the satisfaction of the competent authority," it said.

However, the bench clarified that the observations in the present order are only for the purposes of deciding the pre-arrest bail ap-

plication. "The investigation shall proceed uninfluenced by the observations made in the present order. Pending application(s), if any, also stand disposed of," said the bench.

The high court had said: "It is an admitted position that petitioner had made the relation with the complainant by promising to marry her and due to their relation, one female child was born. So, looking at the gravity of offence, I do not consider it a fit case to enlarge the petitioners on anticipatory bail. Hence, the anticipatory bail application is dismissed."

# international



It is clear that the European economy has shot itself in the lungs, and it is gasping for air. The sanctions do not help Ukraine, however, they are bad for the European economy and if it goes on like this, they will kill off the European economy

## PAK BLOCKS INDIA'S UNSC BID

Pakistan has again blocked India's attempt to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which it is showcasing as its diplomatic success against New Delhi. India lacked minimum support from other member states of the UNSC's global forum to become the permanent member



### of the day quote

We hope for a resolution of the current situation that would allow for our resumption of a dialogue on an IMF-supported programme

The G-20 must work together to tackle these challenges and protect vulnerable families from the threat of hunger today and tomorrow

The solution to this case (Russia-Ukraine war) would be like how Argentina's war with the UK ended in 1982

### SHORT TAKES

#### Trump's 1st wife Ivana dies at 73

New York: Ivana Trump, who formed half of a publicity power couple in the 1980s as the first wife of former President Donald Trump and mother of his oldest children, has died in New York City, her family announced Thursday. She was 73. "I am very saddened to inform all of those that loved her, of which there are many, that Ivana Trump has passed away at her home in New York City," Trump posted on Truth Social.

#### Xi makes rare visit to Xinjiang

Beijing: Chinese leader Xi Jinping visited the northwestern Xinjiang region this week amid concerns over China's detention of a million or more members of primarily Muslim ethnic native minorities. Xi called Xinjiang a "core area and a hub" in China's programme of building ports, railways and power stations connecting it to economies reaching from Central Asia to Eastern Europe. Under Xi, authorities have carried out a sweeping crackdown on Xinjiang's native Uyghur and Kazakh communities following an outburst of deadly separatist violence.

#### EU takes Hungary to highest court

Brussels: The European Union's executive Friday decided to take Hungary to the EU's highest court over a restrictive law on LGBT issues. The EU had already tried for a year to make Hungary change a law that bans content portraying or promoting homosexuality. The European Commission said it "discriminates against people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. The Commission considers that the law violates the internal market rules, the fundamental rights of individuals (in particular LGBTIQ people) as well as — with regard to those fundamental rights — the EU values.

#### Back anyone, but Sunak, says Boris

London: As the race to become Britain's next prime minister gained pace, caretaker Premier Boris Johnson has reportedly told his allies to back "anyone but Rishi Sunak", according to a media report Friday. According to the report, caretaker Prime Minister Johnson and his camp are running an "anyone but Rishi" hidden campaign after feeling betrayed over the former Chancellor's resignation. An ally of Johnson rejected the claim that he wants "anyone but Rishi" to win but admitted that Johnson harboured resentment over Sunak's "betrayal".

## DECADES-LONG ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

# Ground not ripe for peace: Biden

Biden's trip to the West Bank is being met with skepticism and bitterness among Palestinians who believe Biden has taken too few steps toward rejuvenating peace talks, especially after President Donald Trump sidelined them while heavily favouring Israel



Palestinian people deserve a state of their own that's independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous. Two states for two peoples, both of whom have deep and ancient roots in this land, living side by side in peace and security

The key to peace in the region begins with ending the Israeli occupation of our land and Israel cannot continue to act as a state above law

Bethlehem (West Bank), July 15: During a visit to the Israeli-occupied West Bank Friday, President Joe Biden offered compassion and financial assistance for hope-starved Palestinians but also delivered a blunt acknowledgment that the "ground is not ripe" for new attempts to reach an elusive peace.

Political uncertainty in Israel, which is holding another round of elections in November, and the weakness of Palestinian Authority leadership has dimmed any chance of restarting negotiations that broke down more than a decade ago. The stalemate has left millions of Palestinians living under Israeli military rule. Biden said they "deserve a state of their own that's

independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous. Two states for two peoples, both of whom have deep and ancient roots in this land, living side by side in peace and security." Although such a goal "can seem so far away," he said he wouldn't abandon the dormant peace process. "Even if the ground is not ripe at this moment to restart negotiations, the United States and my administration will not give up on bringing the Palestinians and the

Israelis, both sides, closer together," Biden said during a joint appearance with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Biden offered more than \$300 million for the Palestinians Friday, including \$201 million for a United Nations agency that helps refugees and a proposed \$100 million for hospitals. The healthcare funding requires congressional approval. However, Biden did not criticize Israel for expanding settlements,

## WILDFIRES ABLAZE

# Heatwave scorches European countries

More than 1,000 firefighters, supported by water-bomber aircraft, have battled since Tuesday to control two blazes in southwestern France that have been fanned by scorching heat, tinder-box conditions and strong winds

REUTERS

London, July 15: Hundreds more people were evacuated from their homes as wildfires blistered land in France, Spain and Portugal Friday, while officials in Europe issued health warnings for the heatwave in the coming days. While temperatures dipped a little in Portugal, they were still expected to top 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in some places, with five districts in red alert and more than 1,000 firefighters tackling 17 wildfires, authorities said. In Spain, the Environment Ministry said it was helping tackle 17 wildfires across the country. Meanwhile, the worst drought in over 70 years reduced Italy's longest river, the Po, to little more than a trickle in places. Italy has declared a state of emergency along the Po, which supports about a third of the country's agricultural production, after facing its hottest July since 1800, with temperatures expected to rise next week. Officials are worried about the effects on people's health and on health-



WMO issues warning on air quality in towns and cities. UK declares first red heat warning for Monday, Tuesday. Italy's longest river water receding; state of emergency.

care systems already challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic as the searing heat sweeps the continent, with warnings issued for worse to come in Britain in particular. The World Meteorological Organization said the heatwave would worsen air quality, especially in towns and cities. "The stable and stagnant atmosphere acts as a lid to trap atmospheric pollutants, including particulate matter," Lorenzo Labrador, WMO scientific officer, told a Geneva press briefing.

# Ranil sworn in as SL's interim Prez



Colombo, July 15: Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was Friday sworn in as Sri Lanka's interim president until Parliament elects a successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who resigned after protests against his government for mishandling the economy that bankrupted the country.

Wickremesinghe, 73, was sworn in as the acting president of Sri Lanka before Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, the prime minister's office said in a statement. Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena officially announced Friday that Rajapaksa has resigned as president, two days after the embattled leader fled the country in the face of massive protests against his government for mishandling the economy that bankrupted the country.

Abeywardena told the party leaders that Parliament will meet July 20 to elect a new president. He said that nominations will be called for the post of President July 19. The announcement of the vacancy in the office of President

## SC bars Rajapaksa bros from fleeing

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Supreme Court Friday barred former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa from leaving the country till July 28. The order was passed by the apex court during the hearing of a petition filed by global civil society organisation Transparency International on the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The petition filed June 17 had sought the court to restrict the overseas travel of the two Rajapaksa brothers, former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal, and former treasury secretary S R Attygala. Basil, the younger brother of former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, had tried to leave the crisis-hit island nation Tuesday.

will be officially informed to the Parliament Saturday. The Speaker earlier said in terms of the Constitution, Wickremesinghe will function in the capacity of the President overseeing functions, duties, and powers of the office of the President until the constitutional procedure of electing the new President is over, the report added. The Speaker had received the resignation letter from Rajapaksa through the Sri Lanka High Commission in Singapore Thursday night. However, he wanted to make the official announcement after the verification process and legal formalities, his media secretary Indunil Abeywardena had said.



Fireworks explode around the Eiffel Tower during celebrations to mark Bastille Day in Paris, France

# 1985 AI bombing suspect killed

The bombing of Air India Flight 182 off the coast of Ireland that killed all 329 passengers and crew had been the deadliest act of airborne terrorism prior to the September 11 attacks in the US



Ottawa, July 15: An acquitted suspect in the 1985 Air India bombings that killed 331 people was shot dead Thursday in an apparent targeted shooting in westernmost Canada, local media reported. Ripudaman Singh Malik, a one-time supporter of the Sikh separatist Khalistan movement who was in 2005 acquitted in the Air India mass murder plot for lack of evidence, was reportedly shot outside his clothing business in the area of Vancouver, British Columbia.

# Musk's dad confirms secret second child with stepdaughter

San Francisco, July 15: Tech billionaire Elon Musk's father, Errol Musk, has claimed he's had a second unplanned child with his 35-year-old stepdaughter, Jana Bezuidenhout.

In an interview with The Sun, Errol, 76, told he welcomed a daughter with 35-year-old Bezuidenhout three years ago. It emerged in 2018 that Errol had baby Elliot Rush, nicknamed Rushi and now five, with Bezuidenhout, who is 41 years his junior and he had raised since she was four. The Tesla CEO was reported to have gone "berserk" when he found out his South African engineer dad was having a child with Bezuidenhout, who lived with him while growing up. Errol was married to Bezuidenhout's mother, Heide for 18 years and had two children together.

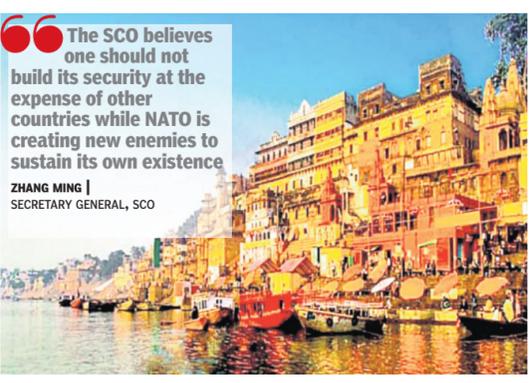
Now Errol has told his purported second child with Bezuidenhout was "unplanned" but that he was living with her after the birth of their son. "She was not planned. But I mean, we were living together. She (Bezuidenhout) stayed here for about 18 months after Rushi was born," Musk's father was quoted as saying. As for having more children, Errol said: "The only thing we are on Earth for is to reproduce. If I could have another child I would. I can't see any reason not to". "If I had thought about it then Elon or Kimbal would not exist," he added.

# Varanasi to be first 'Cultural and Tourism Capital' of SCO

The Beijing-headquartered SCO is an eight-member economic and security alliance comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan

Beijing, July 15: The holy city of Varanasi showcasing India's culture and traditions over the ages will be declared the first "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Secretary General of the bloc Zhang Ming said here Friday.

Zhang said Varanasi will become the "Cultural and Tourism Capital" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative by the eight-member organisation to promote people-to-people contacts and tourism among the member states. "We are about to implement a rotating mechanism. We will rotate the title of Cultural and Tourism Capital among the member states," he said, adding that Varanasi, India's ancient city, will be the first to be granted the title. Under this initiative, each year a city of the cultural heritage of a member country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the organisation will get the title to highlight its prominence, Zhang told the media here. He highlighted the organisa-



tion's new initiatives ahead of this year's Heads of the State summit of the SCO scheduled to be held at Samarkand in Uzbekistan September 15-16 this year. The new initiative will come into force after the Samarkand summit following which India will take over the Presidency and host the next Heads of the State summit.

## Iran gets place as full member in the bloc

Beijing: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is all set for expansion with Iran joining the grouping as its ninth member while Belarus has applied for membership, its Secretary General Zhang Ming said Friday. The decision to admit Iran was made in last year's Dushanbe summit and Belarus has submitted its application, Zhang told a media briefing here ahead of the grouping's summit to be held in Samarkand in Uzbekistan September 15-16. He said Iran will become a full member after completing the formalities while Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states who follow the system of consensus in deciding admission of new members will take a call on Belarus's application. This is the first expansion of the SCO after India and Pakistan were admitted to the grouping in 2017.

India hosted the Head of the Government of the SCO meet in 2020. Zhang, a senior Chinese diplomat, said the SCO member states were considering several initiatives to promote tourism to enhance people-to-people contacts once the Covid travel restrictions ease. Kazakhstan has announced a visa-free policy for tourists from India and other countries, he said, adding that the SCO members have rich resources with respect to tourism which should be explored.

# business

## of the day quote

India is committed to collaborate with industrialists of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries to explore mutually beneficial opportunities

**MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY** | UNION MINISTER

As we move forward, we see a strong horizon of opportunities, expanding beyond tier-one cities to smaller towns, where growing purchasing power corresponds to increased awareness about drinking better and not more

**MAHENDRA KUMAR SHARMA** | CHAIRMAN, USL

The City of Joy has an abundance of tech talent, excellent work culture and it also ranks higher in the global affordability index. Given these parameters, we believe Kolkata will soon be our biggest talent hub to service growing global clients

**HARRY IYER** | FOUNDER & CEO, MAANTIC INC

## SHORT TAKES

### Captive 5G play: BIF refutes claims

**New Delhi:** Industry body Broadband India Forum (BIF) Friday said suggestions that captive networks should bid for spectrum in auctions is "extremely irrational". BIF refuted the "misinformation" being propagated to demand a level playing field between two completely different sets of services, public and private networks. The comments came a day after telcos' body COAI - which represents Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea - claimed that administrative allocation of spectrum for private 5G networks will be against tenets of fairness.

### SBI hikes lending rates by 0.10%

**New Delhi:** Country's largest lender Friday said it raised the marginal cost of fund based lending rates by 0.10 per cent across various tenors. The benchmark one-year tenor MCLR (Marginal Cost of Fund based Lending Rates), used for most of the consumer loans such as auto, home and personal, will now be 7.50 per cent, up from the 7.40 per cent previously, the bank said. The tenor-wise MCLR are effective from July 15, 2022, it added.

### India's exports to UAE rise post FTA

**New Delhi:** After implementation of a free trade agreement, India's exports to the UAE rose by 16.22 per cent to \$837.14 million during May-June this year, sources said Friday. Exports during the same period of the previous year stood at \$720.31 million. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries came into force from May 1. Under the pact, domestic exporters from various sectors like textiles, agriculture, dry fruits, gems and jewellery are getting duty-free access to the UAE market.

### JSPL net profit grows multifold

**New Delhi:** Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) Friday reported a multifold jump in consolidated net profit to ₹2,770.88 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2022, on account of higher income. The company's "total profit" was at ₹14.25 crore in the April-June period of 2021-22. JSPL said in a BSE filing. During the quarter under review, its total income rose to ₹13,069.17 crore from ₹10,643.17 crore a year ago. Expenses were also higher at ₹10,566.64 crore as against ₹7,233.55 crore in the year-ago period.



Almost all states have finalised draft rules on four labour codes. We will implement the codes (in one go) at an appropriate time

**BHUPENDER YADAV** | UNION LABOUR MINISTER

## OMEGA SEIKI IPO PLANS

Electric vehicle maker Omega Seiki Mobility plans to come out with an IPO worth \$200-250 million by the first quarter of the next fiscal, according to its Chairman Uday Narang. Narang, who is also the company's founder, said that initially, the plan was to come out with the Initial Public Offering (IPO) by March 2023 but now it has been delayed by a few months



## HIT HARD BY ZERO-COVID POLICY

# China economy shrinks; GDP dips to 0.4% in Q2

Under its zero-COVID policy, which came under severe criticism at home and abroad, the Chinese government has shut Shanghai, China's biggest business and industrial hub with over 25 million people for over two months to bring down the spread of the Omicron variant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, July 15:** China's economy contracted sharply in the second quarter plunging to 0.4 per cent, the lowest in two years, as the world's second largest economy was hit hard by the zero-Covid policy that led to prolonged lockdowns in top cities and damaged businesses and industrial supply chains, according to official data Friday.

China's economic growth fell short of expectations and grew by just 0.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2022 compared with a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced. It is the lowest growth rate since China's economy shrank by 6.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 after the coronavirus, which first surfaced in Wuhan and later spread to the world. But at the same time, China's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 2.5 per cent year-on-year in the first half of 2022, the NBS data said. China has set its GDP growth target for 2022 at around 5.5 per cent. The slowdown of the economy comes ahead of the ruling Communist Party of China's key



Economists blamed the lockdowns played a major part in impacting the already slowing down of the economy. However, China's factory activities returned to expansion territory in June after three consecutive months of contraction, sending a clear signal of economic recovery

Deep slump in the property market and weighed down by the weakening outlook for the global economy dragged Chinese economy

This is because externally, the risk of stagflation in the world economy is rising, the policies of major economies tend to be tightened, and external instabilities and uncertainties are adding obviously. Also domestically, the impact of the epidemic is lingering, shrinking demand intertwines with disrupted supply

FU LINGHUI | SPOKESMAN, NBS

once-in-a-five-year congress expected to be held shortly, which is widely expected to endorse an unprecedented third term for President Xi Jinping. On Thursday, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang cautioned that the Chinese economy is going through stressful times. "Second quarter GDP growth was the worst outcome since the start of the pandemic, as lockdowns, notably in Shanghai, severely impacted activity at the start of the quarter," Tommy Wu, lead economist at Oxford Economics, told the BBC. The property market was severely impacted by investor sentiment after China's biggest real estate developer Evergrande Group sparked off a major crisis last year by defaulting payment of in-

stallments of its whopping \$309 billion debt. A growing raft of monthly economic data released on Friday indicates that the economy is regaining footing. The country's purchasing managers' index showed China's factory activities returned to expansion territory in June after three consecutive months of contraction, sending a clear signal of economic recovery, according to official media reports. Friday's data showed that China's retail sales of consumer goods went up 3.1 per cent year on year in June, reversing the negative growths in April and May. China's surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 5.5 per cent in June, down from 5.9 per cent in May.

## Airtel announces successful trial of 5G private network

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 15:** Bharti Airtel Friday announced the successful trial of 5G private network at Bosch Automotive Electronics India facility in Bangalore. Airtel's on-premise 5G captive private network was built over the trial spectrum allocated by the Department of Telecom (DoT), according to a statement. Airtel has deployed India's first private 5G network at BOSCH facility, it said. "The trial successfully demonstrates Airtel's capability to deliver high quality private network solutions for Industry 4.0," it added. Airtel has implemented two industrial grade use cases for quality improvement and operational efficiency at Bosch's manufacturing facility, utilising the trial spectrum.



In both the cases, 5G technology such as mobile broadband and ultra-reliable low latency communications drove automated operations ensuring faster scale up and reduced downtimes, the statement said. "The private network set up on trial spectrum at the Bosch facility has the capability to manage thousands of connected devices along with delivering multi-GBPS (Gigabits per second) throughput," it added.

## Rupee bounces back by 17 paise to close at 79.82 against dollar

The US dollar retreated from the two-decade high levels against a basket of six currencies which supported the rupee sentiment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 15:** The rupee Friday rebounded from the near-80 levels to close higher by 17 paise at 79.82 against the US currency following a recovery in the domestic stocks and weakness in the greenback in overseas markets. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.95 and witnessed an intra-day high of 79.82 and a low of 79.96 against the US dollar in the day trade. The local unit finally settled at 79.82 a dollar, up 17 paise over its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had settled at a record low of 79.99 against the US dollar. The rupee is expected to trade with a mildly positive bias on positive global markets. Risk assets recovered after Fed officials Christopher Waller and James Bullard said that they

favoured a 75 bps rate hike, trimming speculation of a 100 bps rate hike. However, any pullback in US Dollar may pressurise the rupee. Traders may take cues from US retail sales and industrial production data, Choudhary noted. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.3 per cent lower at 108.24. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose by 0.67 per cent to \$99.76 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 344.63 points or 0.65 per cent higher at 53,760.78, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 110.55 points or 0.69 per cent to 16,049.20. Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers in the capital market Thursday, as they bought shares worth ₹309 crore, as per exchange data.

## FM seeks foodgrain export to needy nations at WTO

Many countries in the world are currently facing food shortage due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 15:** Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday asked World Trade Organisation (WTO) to allow India to export foodgrains from its public stockholding to nations which are facing food crisis. She was speaking at a seminar on "Strengthening global collaboration for tackling food insecurity" on sidelines of the third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Bali, Indonesia. As per WTO norms, countries are not allowed to export foodgrains from their public stock holdings as they are procured at subsidised rates. "WTO restriction that grains so procured cannot be brought to the market to export. It is a condition which exists from the Uruguay Round days. We have repeatedly said that (surplus) than what we have



for our small farmers...We are quite willing to trade," Sitharaman said. She said that India can help in reducing hunger or food insecurity but there is a hesitation on the part of WTO. A group of about 70-80 countries, led by Singapore, is pushing member countries of the WTO to accept binding commitments of not extending export restrictions on the foodgrains procured under the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Some members, however, have voiced concerns regarding a blanket exemption for WFP food pur-

chases due to domestic food security considerations. The finance minister highlighted that food, fuel, and fertilisers are global public goods, and ensuring access to these for developing and emerging economies is critical. She said there is an urgency to strengthen food production and global food system. Sitharaman also shared India's experience, including robust gains in agriculture production, citizen-centric food security programmes and innovative delivery mechanisms such as landmark plan of 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme. The world is going to celebrate 2023 as the International Year of Millets and since India is a major millet-producing country in the world, it can ensure valuable contribution to food security in the world through millet production, she said. On the sidelines, Sitharaman met Chrystia Freeland, deputy prime minister and finance minister of Canada. "The two ministers exchanged thoughts on #GlobalMacroEconomic outlook and risks, and discussed important issues of #G20Finance track," the finance minister said in a tweet.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Shree Bharat Motors launches Jeep Meridian

**Bhubaneswar:** The new Jeep Meridian was launched Friday at Shree Bharat Motors here at Pahala at an introductory price of ₹29.90 lakh (ex showroom price). The all-new three-row Jeep SUV is designed to disrupt the segment. The vehicle's design is inspired by the iconic Jeep Grand Cherokee as it redefines the premium SUV segment with its many best-in-class features, including the fastest acceleration and highest power-to-weight ratio. The highly capable and agile SUV can go from 0-100 km/h in just 10.8 seconds and can attain a top speed of 198 km/h. Commenting on the Jeep Meridian's launch, Nipun J Mahajan, Head of Jeep Brand India, said, "Brand Jeep believes it is time for Indian customers to kick-start a new adventure in the refined and capable Jeep Meridian. Our pricing reflects our intent to disrupt the segment and offer unmatched value for customers seeking a powerful, spacious, and sophisticated SUV."



### Tanishq announces 20% off on diamond jewellery

**Bhubaneswar:** India's top jewellery retailer, Tanishq, from Tata Group, Friday announced up to 20 per cent off on diamond jewellery value. Making the announcement, Tanishq showroom at Chandrasekharpur offered the same on a wide range of new designs in rings, earrings, pendants, necklaces, bracelets, bangles and many more. The real sparkle of diamonds comes from the woman who adorns it, who lends her radiance to make the diamonds shine a little brighter, noted an official release. The offer is valid across all Tanishq stores in India and is valid for a limited period only.

## States' capex seen soaring 36% in FY23, fiscal deficit at ₹8.4trn: Icr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, July 15:** States have budgeted 36 per cent higher capital expenditure during this financial year, which may lead to a sharp rise in their fiscal deficit to ₹8.4 lakh crore, a report said Friday. Registering an increase of 34.1 per cent from the pre-pandemic (FY20) levels, 26 large states, excluding Assam, have spent ₹5 lakh crore in capital expenditure, or ₹1.3 lakh crore more than they had spent in FY20, shows an Icr analysis of these states' budgets. According to the agency, these 26 states are on course to spend ₹6.8 lakh crore or 35.8 per cent more this

fiscal in capital expenditure (capex) over FY22 when it stood at ₹5 lakh crore. As much as 72 per cent of the incremental ₹1.8 lakh crore capital push is led by UP, Maharashtra, Bengal, Odisha, Andhra and Haryana. In the previous fiscal, the capex push was led by Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The combined capex of these 26 states is budgeted to expand by an impressive 35.8 per cent to ₹6.8 lakh crore in FY23, on top of the 34.1 per cent or ₹5 lakh crore they spent in FY22. In FY20, they spent ₹3.7 lakh crore in capex, while FY21 was a washout due to the



pandemic, the agency said. The report also notes that with this aggressive capex push, these states will also see their fiscal deficits widening sharply to ₹8.4 lakh crore in FY23, from ₹6.3 lakh crore in FY22, and much higher than ₹4.8 lakh crore in FY20. However, deficit was higher in

26 STATES ARE ON COURSE TO SPEND ₹6.8 LAKH CRORE OR 35.8 PER CENT MORE THIS FISCAL IN CAPEX  
AS MUCH AS 72 PER CENT OF THE INCREMENTAL ₹1.8 LAKH CRORE CAPITAL PUSH IS LED BY UP, MAHARASHTRA, BENGAL, ODISHA, ANDHRA AND HARYANA

els, according to the report. Deficit levels in FY22 were smaller than the revised budget estimates as combined revenue receipts and revenue expenditure were equivalent to 97 per cent and 93 per cent, respectively, compressing their aggregate revenue deficit to 41 per cent of the revised estimates. With aggregate capex at 90 per cent of the revised estimates, their combined fiscal deficit stood at 75 per cent of the same in FY22. But the FY22 fiscal deficit is higher than the pre-Covid levels as combined revenue deficit of these states at ₹1 lakh crore in FY22 is in line with the revenue deficit in FY20.

# Sindhu seals semifinal spot

Heartbreak for Saina, Prannoy as they lose in quarterfinals



FIGHTING SPIRIT: PV Sindhu showed great determination to beat her Chinese rival at the Singapore Open, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Singapore, July 15:** Shuttler PV Sindhu pulled off a thriller to advance into the semifinals, but her teammates Saina Nehwal and HS Prannoy suffered heartbreaking defeats in their respective events in the Singapore Open Super 500 badminton tournament here Friday.

Third seed Sindhu overcame a strong challenge from Han Yue of China before getting the better of her 17-21, 21-11, 21-19 in a battle lasting more than an hour.

Incidentally this is the first time she has reached the semifinal stage of any tournament since the Thailand Open in May.

Sindhu will next face unseeded Saena Kawakami, the Japanese World No. 38, who caused an upset by eliminating sixth-seeded Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand 21-17 21-19. The Indian star boasts of a 2-0 head-to-head record against Saena.

However, it was curtains for Saina as she squandered a one game lead to go down 21-13, 15-21, 20-22 against

left-handed Japanese Aya Ohori. The 32-year-old Indian veteran failed to convert two match points to present the tie to her opponent.

The in-form Prannoy also showed promise and won the first game by nine points, but Kodai Naraoka levelled in the second game before sealing the match 21-12, 14-21, 18-21.

Prannoy put up an incredible battle in the decider when he bounced back from being 7-18 down and had eight straight points to make a match out of Naraoka. From being 15-20, Prannoy saved

SINGLES RESULTS	
PV Sindhu bt Han Yue	17-21, 21-11, 21-19
Saina Nehwal lost to Aya Ohori	21-13, 15-21, 20-22
HS Prannoy lost to Kodai Naraoka	21-12, 14-21, 18-21

three match points, only to go down in a battle lasting 63 minutes.

Earlier in the day, World No. 7 Sindhu found the going tough early in the first game as Han was clinical with her placements and drew the first blood, but the Indian bounced back strongly to win the second and third games to seal the issue in 62 minutes.

World No. 19 Han had it easy in the first game and won it comfortably as Sindhu struggled with her defence. The Indian bounced back in the second and took a three-point lead in the mid-game interval. Sindhu extended her lead with a perfect cross-court winner and clinched the second game with seven points on the trot.

It turned out to be a thriller in the end as Sindhu, who found herself in familiar territory trailing 8-11 and then 9-14 in the decider, produced some fine rallies to level the score at 14-14. The two players continued neck and neck till 19-all, before Sindhu produced two cross-court smashes to close out the tie.

The Indian doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila lost to second-seeded duo of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia 21-10, 18-21, 17-21.

# INDIA EYE MAIDEN CWG GOLD IN MEN'S HOCKEY

PREPARATIONS ON AT FULL SWING AS CRUNCH TIME DRAWS NEAR



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, July 15:** India men's hockey team vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh believes the team's performance in the tough FIH Pro League matches recently will hold the side in good stead when they begin their campaign in the Commonwealth Games (CWG) at Birmingham later this month. With a little over two weeks to go for India's first match at the CWG, preparations for the prestigious tournament are going on in full swing at the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) centre here.

"Our team have been performing well consistently. Of course

you can't win all the matches you play. We played well in FIH Hockey Pro League and therefore the confidence is high within the group. We will look to keep winning matches, and try our level best to win the gold medal at the CWG," Harmanpreet said Friday.

The expert dragflicker also talked in detail about the preparations for the Birmingham CWG. "Our preparations for CWG are going on very well. We are working on specific aspects of our game during our training sessions and we are focusing on the what we have learnt while playing in the Pro League," Harmanpreet informed.

The defender also spoke about the

specific aspects the team are currently working on.

"We are specifically working on our finishing and defending skills at the moment. Overall, we are hitting the right notes in the practice sessions. We'll just keep working hard on our game and try to keep getting better day by day as a team. That is our main goal," Harmanpreet asserted.

The 26-year-old also said the

“Our aim is to win matches consistently. We want to do that at the CWG also so that we can come back with the gold medal”  
HARMANPREET SINGH

practice matches the team have been playing during training.

"We have been playing practice matches during our training sessions. The main team have been playing against the rest of the players in the national camp. We have played a match on each day since Monday. These matches have helped us improve our on-field coordination and also provided us with an opportunity to test our strategies," the player informed.

India will take on Ghana in their first match of the Commonwealth Games July 31. India will also be playing with the full-strength squad as the Asian Games have been postponed due to the Covid-19 situation in China.

## SHORT TAKES

### Thorpe gets back his Olympic golds

**Lausanne:** Jim Thorpe has been reinstated as the sole winner of the 1912 Olympic pentathlon and decathlon in Stockholm — nearly 110 years after being stripped of those gold medals for violations of strict amateurism rules of the time. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced this development Friday on the 110th anniversary of Thorpe winning the decathlon and later being proclaimed by King Gustav V of Sweden as "the greatest athlete in the world". Thorpe was stripped of his gold medals as he had played professional baseball for two years prior to the Olympics.

### Bhagat in semis

**Dublin:** World No. 1 Pramod Bhagat has sailed into the semifinals after defeating Bulgaria's Dimitar Pavlov in straight games in the 4 Nations Para-Badminton International 2022 here Friday. Bhagat won 21-8, 21-9 in 17 minutes. The ace Indian shuttler will now face Japan's Daisuke Fujihara for a place in the final. "I have played Fujihara a lot of times and know his game in and out. He is a great player and has always pushed me and extracted more out of me. It would be a great semifinal," Bhagat said.

### Kent recruit Saini

**Kent:** India fast bowler Navdeep Saini will be playing eight games for leading English County side Kent during the ongoing season. The pacer will wear his preferred shirt number 96 and will follow in the footsteps of Rahul Dravid to become the second Indian Test cricketer to play for the county. "Kent Cricket is delighted to announce the signing of India international fast bowler Navdeep Saini for up to three County Championship and five Royal London Cup matches, subject to visa and regulatory approval," Kent announced on their website.

### Ban continues

**Lausanne:** Russia and the Russian clubs will remain barred from Europe's leading soccer competitions including the Champions League after the Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected Friday appeals by the national soccer federation and four teams. CAS upheld decisions by UEFA and FIFA which excluded Russian national teams from the World Cup.

## BIRMINGHAM CWG

# Separate village for women cricketers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 15:** The Commonwealth Games-bound Indian athletes and officials will be staying at five different 'Villages' with the women's cricket team being put up in a separate facility in the Birmingham city centre. India is sending a 215-member athlete contingent across 16 disciplines for the Games beginning July 28. The overall contingent size including team officials stand at 325. Usually, all athletes stay in the dedicated Games Village, but this time the situation will be different. More than 5,000 athletes are set to take part in the sporting extravaganza.

In an official communication to concerned national sports federations, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has informed

them about the staying arrangements and the need to undergo a RT-PCR test for Covid-19, 72 hours prior to their arrival in the UK.

Athletes taking part in swimming, athletics, gymnastics, squash, hockey, will be staying in Commonwealth Games Village Birmingham (CGB) while the ones in badminton, boxing, table tennis, weightlifting and triathlon will be put up in CWG Village NEC (CGN).

Participants in wrestling, judo and lawn bowls will be based out of the CWG Village Warwick (CGW) while the cricketers will be in Commonwealth Games Village City Centre (CGC). All cricket matches will be at the famous Edgbaston Cricket Ground. With the cycling event set to be staged in London, the track team will be staying at the Satellite Village (SVL).

# BUTTLER JOINS CHORUS IN SUPPORT OF KOHLI

LOWER-ORDER HAS TO SCORE RUNS IF NEEDED, ASSERTS SKIPPER ROHIT

AGENCIES

**London, July 15:** India captain Rohit Sharma while coming out once more in support of out-of-form Virat Kohli also blamed the failure of the lower-order for the 100-run loss to England at the Lord's here Thursday. India chasing a victory target of 247 were bowled out for 146 in the second ODI, with Reece Topley (6/24) creating havoc with the ball. Kohli (16) however, was dismissed by left-arm seamer David Willey.

Rohit looked agitated as he interrupted a scribe even before he could complete his question on Kohli's poor run of form.

"Kyun ho raha hai, yaar Matlab mujhe samajh mein nahi aata, bhai. (Why is there so much of discussion... I can't understand this)," Rohit said. "He has played so many matches, over such a long period of time. He is such a great batter, so he does not need reassurance," added Rohit.

Rohit asserted that the Indian No. 3 batter's spot in the team is secure. "As I have said previously, form can go up and down, it's part and parcel for every cricketer's career. Even the greatest of the cricketers would have his share of ups and downs," Rohit said.



Virat Kohli after his dismissal Thursday in the 2nd ODI against England

"For someone who has won so many matches for India, you need one or two innings to bounce back. That's what I feel and I am sure all those who follow cricket will think similarly. Players go through ups and downs, but quality never goes away, we have to keep that in mind. Look at his (Kohli's) past records, the number of hundreds, his average. He has the experience. You have slumps even in personal life," the Indian skipper pointed out.

Echoing Rohit's views, England skipper Jos Buttler too backed the 33-year-old Kohli. "I suppose in a little way it's quite refreshing for the rest of us that he (Kohli) is

human and he can have a couple of low scores. However, he has been one of the best players, if not the best in ODI cricket," the England skipper said.

"He will regain form soon... I just hope it doesn't happen in the last match of the series," Buttler added with a wry smile.

Rohit also talked about the batting woes Team India faced. "This is also a challenge for us, whenever we lose four-five early wickets we collapse. The lower-order has to learn to make runs like the England lower-order did. For quite a long time, this problem is ailing the team," Rohit pointed out.

# Time away from game helped me improve: Topley

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, July 15:** Time away from cricket owing to recurrent injuries became 'worthwhile' by his incredible effort in England's 100-run drubbing of India in the second ODI, left-arm pacer Reece Topley said Thursday. The 28-year-old was the main architect of the victory as he picked up six wickets for just 24 runs.

"It (win) means a lot, it makes worthwhile to be honest," said Topley after the match.

"That was a terrific team performance... Just happy that it came off. It means a lot. Of course everyone dreams to play for England. It's a big game at the weekend, try and wrap up the series. Hopefully, we do that, and whatever is next," added the tall pacer.

Topley has his performance at Lord's, improved upon former England skipper Paul Collingwood's 17-year-old record (6/31) against Bangladesh.

Topley has represented England in only 17 ODI games since making his debut in 2015 due to injuries. But he is determined to make the most of his comeback. "It is everyone's dream to play for England," he said. "I just want to pull the shirt on as many times as I can and play my part. It is a privilege that I look forward to everytime I represent England," Topley added.

## SWISS LEGEND FEELS HE NEEDS PEACE AFTER PLAYING CONTINUOUSLY FOR CLOSE TO 25 YEARS

# Federer hints at retirement soon

AGENCIES

**Basel (Switzerland), July 15:** Has Roger Federer finally made up his mind about his career and calling it quits. Well his recent comments to Dutch newspaper 'Algemeen Dagblad' certainly hints that 'retirement' is on his mind as he now enjoys 'little things' that he never did in the past.

The Swiss tennis ace last played a competitive match at Wimbledon last year. He lost in straight sets to Hubert Hurkacz in the quarterfinals. The 40-year-old then had his third knee surgery in 18 months and has been recuperating since. This year he gave Wimbledon a miss and since then there has been lot of talk as to whether Federer will ever be seen playing a competitive match again.

Adding more fuel to the speculations of his retirement, Federer has said that he doesn't 'need the tennis' anymore.

I am a winner lover (sic), but if you're not competitive any more,



then it's better to stop. I don't think I need tennis as much as I used to," Federer has been quoted as saying by 'Algemeen Dagblad'. "I am happy with the little things, like when my son does something right and when my daughter comes home with a good grade. Tennis is

part of, but not my entire identity," the winner of 20 Grand Slam titles added.

Federer also asserted that he wants to be as successful in something other than tennis when he gives up the sport. "I want to be and remain successful, and put a lot

“I don't think I need tennis as much as I used to and I also know a professional career can't last forever”  
ROGER FEDERER

of energy into business — probably give more than I should sometimes, but that can also be done outside of sports," Federer said. "I know a professional career can't last forever and that's okay with me," Federer pointed out.

Federer also spoke about missing this year's Wimbledon. "It feels very strange for me not to play Wimbledon this year and to watch it on TV. I've been there every time since 1998. But I've been on the road for so long that it was also nice to experience a little more peace and to be in one place more often, which already happened due to the coronavirus," he said.

# Ahead of US Open, Serena seeks form

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Toronto, July 15:** The 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams is set to play in the National Bank Open tennis tournament August 8-14 in this city. People close to player said that she will play the tournament to prepare for the last Grand Slam of the year, the US Open.

This will be Serena's first hard court tournament in two years after she made her return to tennis at the end of June by playing doubles in the Eastbourne tournament on grass ahead of Wimbledon. She then played singles at Wimbledon, losing in the first round to France's Harmony Tan in a close three-set match. Serena is using her protected ranking to enter the tournament here.

Serena is a three-time champion here and last played in 2019, where she made the final but lost to Bianca Andreescu. The Canadian was also granted a wild card into this year's main draw.



Serena hasn't officially announced whether she is playing at the US Open, but it looks like she's attempting to continue her comeback at the Grand Slam. Led by World No 1 Iga Swiatek, the tournament here will feature 41 of the top 43 ranked players.

"I have made up my mind more or less to play in Toronto. I don't know yet whether I will play in the US Open. I will take it match by match and see where my fitness stands," Serena was quoted as saying by the tournament's website. "I still feel that I have some tennis left in me," she added.