

SHORT TAKES

India's gold rush at CWG

**Birmingham:** Putting aside the mental and physical struggles that pegged her back, an intimidating Vinesh Phogat pounced on her rivals to complete a hat-trick of CWG gold medals while Ravi Dahiya too went unchallenged in his gold-winning show, here Saturday. Similarly, wrestler Naveen won the gold medal in the men's 74kg freestyle wrestling with a thumping victory over Pakistan's Muhammad Sharif Tahir in the final at the Coventry Stadium and Arena, here Saturday.

P12

Jawan kills colleague

**KOLKATA:** A CISF jawan allegedly shot dead his senior and injured another officer at the Indian Museum in Kolkata Saturday, officials said. The jawan, AK Mishra, used his AK-47 rifle to kill the ASI rank official, Ranjit Sarangi, while an Assistant Commandant rank officer suffered minor bullet injury, they said.

P7

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why are we burning midnight oil? Govt says there is no inflation!

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP		
MAX	29.2°C	30.0°C
MIN	25.6°C	25.6°C
Humidity	93%	85%
Rainfall	36.6mm	27mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

URBAN FLOODING



Six passengers of a Bhubaneswar-bound 'Mo Bus' coming from Jatni had a harrowing time when the vehicle got half submerged at Sitaram Chhak underpass following heavy downpour, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Villagers assault Patrapur tehsildar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Patrapur, August 6:** Some villagers of Budhighati beat up three government officials including a tehsildar during a crack-down on illegal liquor sale at the village under this block in Ganjam district, Saturday. The irate villagers chased the tehsildar and excise officials before beating them up with sticks. The incident occurred when the excise officials led by Patrapur tehsildar Amit Kumar Nayak raided the village over reports of illegal sale of liquor in the village. The irate villagers also detained the official vehicle. On being informed, police rescued the injured officials and admitted them to Surangi health centre for treatment. Tension was palpable in the area when the last report came in.

6 states including Odisha told to ramp up testing

■ Centre says renewed attention needs to be paid for ensuring Covid-appropriate behaviour in crowded places

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 6:** Amid a rise in coronavirus infections in some parts of the country, the Union government has asked Odisha, Delhi and five other states to ensure adequate testing, promote Covid-appropriate behaviour and increase the pace of vaccination to contain the surge. In a letter to Odisha, Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana,

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said upcoming festivals and mass congregations in different parts of the country may potentially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including Covid-19. It is critical to ensure adequate testing is undertaken in all the districts of the states while maintaining the recommended share of RT-PCR and antigen tests. The states must also closely monitor districts reporting higher cases, positivity rates and clusters to prevent further spread of infection and effective case management, he stressed in the letter dated August 5.

► Continued on P4

Dhankhar elected as 14th V-P

Jagdeep Dhankhar, a former Governor of West Bengal, secures 528 votes while his opponent Margaret Alva gets 182

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 6:** NDA candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice President of India Saturday as he defeated joint Opposition candidate Margaret Alva. Dhankhar, a former Governor of West Bengal, secured 528 votes while 80-year-old Alva got 182. The numbers were stacked in favour of Dhankhar as the ruling BJP enjoys an absolute majority in Lok Sabha and has 91 members in Rajya Sabha. The BJP heads the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Even before the results were announced, celebrations had started outside the residence of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi where Dhankhar was present. Joyous scenes were also reported from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, the



hometown of Dhankhar: Soon after the announcement of the result, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Dhankhar and congratu-

**725** MPs cast their ballots, which is **92.94%** of total votes (780)  
■ 15 votes were declared invalid  
■ 2 TMC MPs broke ranks and cast their ballots

“ Congratulate Shri @jdhanekar1 ji on being elected as the 14th #VicePresidentOfIndia. I am sure the Upper House shall function as true custodian of democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution under your leadership. Wish you a successful and fulfilling tenure  
**NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER**

lated him. Dhankhar, 71, will succeed M Venkaiah Naidu whose tenure ends August 10. As many as 725 MPs cast their ballots in the poll, which is

92.94 per cent of total votes, an official said, adding 15 votes were declared invalid. Members of Parliament, including nominated ones, are entitled to vote in the vice Presidential poll. While the electoral college comprises 788 members, due to eight vacancies in Rajya Sabha, the actual strength is 780. The Trinamool Congress had abstained from voting claiming it was not consulted while naming Alva as the opposition pick. However, two of its MPs - Sisir Kumar Adhikari and Dibyendu Adhikari - broke ranks and cast their ballots. The party has 36 MPs, including 23 in Lok Sabha. The voter turnout this time was lower than 98.2 per cent recorded in the 2017 election when M Venkaiah Naidu was elected as the vice president. ► Continued on P4

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ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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ଆୟୋଜକ: ବୟନିକା ଓ ବୟନଶିଳ୍ପ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ

ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ, ବୟନ ଓ ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Ganesha advises you to look before you leap. One hasty decision may undo a lot of hard work accomplished over a long period of time. After a tense morning, you may simply want an evening with kids, helping them grow the Dahlias.

TAURUS

Love is on the cards, says Ganesha. Your senses are likely to remain highly active today. Stay alert and avoid drifting into your own world at the cost of work. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding with your near and dear ones, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI

You will be filled with concern and sensitivity towards others, and will bestow your blessings upon many. However, being too emotional is not advisable. Your emotions could get in the way of your progress at the work-front.

CANCER

Ganesha says that it will be a day of challenge. You will be tempted to plunge into a new venture. But there is no need for haste or anxiety in this regard. Pending work will be completed. Business deals and transactions will end on happy note. Translocation due to business or domestic reasons is possible.

LEO

You will give importance to your work and your style of functioning to get a promotion in the office. You will also increase the amount of work you put in. While the fruits of your labour may not be immediately available to you, in a very short time you can expect to make more gains than you expected to. Nothing worthy of note is likely to occur in your personal relationships today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You will be really very tough today, like a man of steel, but there is enough warmth in your heart. Forbearance, positivity and extremely artistic abilities will predominate. Ganesha advises you to pursue the arts in your studies. Your deep insight into life will help you in serving society in a better way.

LIBRA

Ganesha says beware of overspending today. Those of you having close ties abroad may find them beneficial. Ganesha says you should always remain optimistic.

SCORPIO

Socially, you enjoy being in limelight as all the eyes are focused on you. However, beware of evil eyes that may not have good intentions towards you. You are a good soul and never hurt anyone. But, at times, it's important to know your foe's weakness to be on the safer side.

SAGITTARIUS

Brace yourselves; the day has a lot of uncertainties today. First being financial. You may have to shell out money for unexpected expenses. But, this may also teach you to be economically independent. Always look at the brighter side, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You are beaming with optimism and positive energy. Such strong vibes will penetrate through the day and maintain the energy level right till the end. Not everyone is blessed with such spirit, so will certainly have an upper hand at work, be it your profession or business, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You are an excellent team player and your performance reaches a new high when you are a part of a group. Be an active member of your group, express your opinions, share your knowledge and see how your team becomes the winning team, says Ganesha. Wind up your day by hanging out with friends and family.

PISCES

Today you will feel like sharing your innermost feelings with those that you are close to. You will find yourself communicating better and this will result in attracting intellectual people towards you.

LISA REVEALS HER INSECURITY WHILE FILMING WITH 'FRIENDS' FEMALE CO-STARS

'Friends' star, Lisa Kudrow has described the 'jarring' emotion she felt when filming the hit American sitcom alongside co-stars Jennifer Aniston and Courteney Cox. The 59-year old, who shot to worldwide fame in mid 90s for her portrayal of Phoebe Buffay, revealed that her body perception soon changed after she landed the role.

WEINSTEIN MISSES COURT HEARING, STUCK IN PRISON FLOOD LOCKDOWN

Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's latest hearing in his sexual assault case was delayed when a flood caused a lockdown at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility, the Los Angeles prison where he is currently behind bars.

Janhvi admits being single but lonely

Mumbai:

Actress Janhvi Kapoor has been in the headlines since her film Good Luck Jerry was released and received great reviews from the audience. The gorgeous star won hearts by playing a simple Bihari girl in the film who gets embroiled in trouble while trying to earn money for her mother's treatment. While praise has not stopped coming in for Janhvi, many times, Janhvi's relationship status also has made it to the headlines. Putting an end to all speculations, Janhvi, in a recent chat admitted to being single but 'lonely'.

On being asked if she is single, Janhvi said, "Yes. I am happy. I mean, I am lonely at times." The Good Luck Jerry actress further explained why no one has approached her with the intent of asking her out. Reflecting on what stops people from forming a real equation in the current generation, Janhvi said, "I think that intimacy has become so accessible that it's very convenient for people to get it when they want it and that also makes people too scared to commit to it. Do you know what I really mean? Like they are too intimidated by intimacy and they also have access to it at their convenience which keeps them away from ever forming a real equation with anyone."

While she did explain her side well, Janhvi was also asked to send out a message to her future boyfriends. For her future boyfriends, Janhvi had a special message. She said, "Be nice to me and make me laugh. I think I'll be good to you. I'll be there for you. I'll make you laugh. You'll have a lot of fun with me. I'm a little psycho but also cute."

AGENCIES

I'm not a race horse: Akshay

Mumbai: Akshay Kumar said he stays far away from any kind of professional competition and doesn't want to get confined to a certain role and image in acting. "I am sometimes called number one, number two, and at times, number three actor. But I am not in the race. I am not a horse that ends up first, second or third in a race," the 54-year-old actor said. Speaking at a promotional event for his latest film "Raksha Bandhan", which is scheduled to be released in theatres on August 11, The Mission Mangal actor said, "I want to play different roles". At the box office, "Raksha Bandhan" will have a face-off with Aamir Khan-starrer "Laal Singh Chaddha", which will also make its debut on the same day.

PTI

Alia on 'I am not a parcel' comment: This man is also having a baby

Mumbai: Alia opening up about the baseless claims has shut the patriarchal comments.

Alia announced her pregnancy with Ranbir Kapoor in late June, months after they tied the knot. "Our baby ..... coming soon," she wrote on social media. Days after the announcement, a report claimed that Ranbir might travel to bring her back from shoot as she is pregnant. Responding to the claims, Alia had slammed, "Meanwhile we still live, in some people's heads, a patriarchal world. FYI, nothing has gotten delayed. No one needs to pick anyone up. I am a woman, not a parcel. I do not need to rest at all but good to know you'll have a doctor's certification as well. This is 2022. Can

we please get out of this archaic way of thinking? Now if you would excuse me. My shot is ready."

Opening up about her anger behind the words, Alia revealed that she finds such things extremely outdated and regressive. "If in the garb of writing a positive article if you are actually going to be saying things like 'oh a woman's life is now totally going to go topsy turvy' that's a bit unfair. You are not saying that about the man, the man is also going to have the child. So, why is it only for the woman?"

"The only reason I reacted is because it was going for a hardcore commentary, so it woke the feminist in me with knives and all guns. It's not about me personally, you can say whatever the hell you want about me, I don't give shi\* but if you are making a commentary on a woman in general, who is actually working since the beginning of (her) pregnancy. That's what pissed me off. The fact that I don't respond has made it clear that I have," she further added.

Vidya reacts to pay disparity in industry

Mumbai: Vidya Balan, one of the most dynamic actresses of Indian Cinema and its reflection has been seen in the kind of films that she has acted in. She conducted 'Ask Me Anything' session and was her unfiltered self on Instagram.

Vidya posted a story where she asked her fans to ask her anything related to the topic - 'Women, Work and Women At Work.' Her answers reflected the trait of strength that she carries with her wherever she goes.

**On women being paid lesser than men**

Vidya Balan was asked why women are paid less as compared to men. She replied stating, "Is sawal ka jawab mujhe bhi chahiye."

Vidya Balan puts forth her opinion about 'women' through her answers. While

on the contrary, when asked if being financially dependent on their husband is wrong, the actress replied saying, "No. Not at all, it's her choice, but I personally feel coffee tastes better when you can afford it yourself." You heard it! "It's your choice!"

Vidya also spilled some secrets about how her producer-husband Siddharth Roy Kapur helps with the household work.

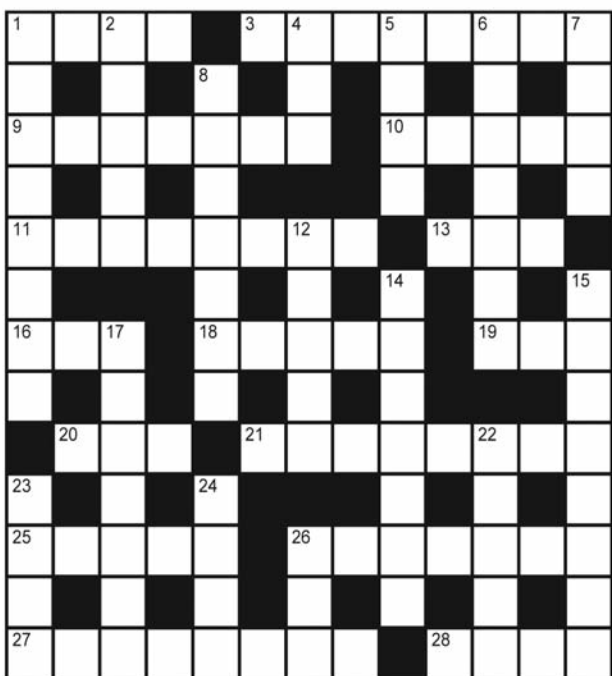
She wrote, "It's OUR house after all!"

Vidya Balan is known for her witty responses. She was asked why most of the company CEOs are male, and the actress replied, "I guess because women entered the workforce late."

AGENCIES

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Harvest
- 3 Kind of orange
- 9 Literary threesome
- 10 Unbending
- 11 Knightly conduct
- 13 Hibernation site
- 16 Born
- 18 Queen topper
- 19 Boozer
- 20 Manta

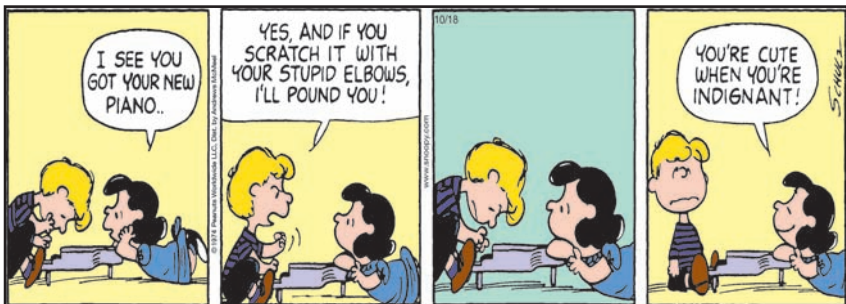
- 21 Relic, maybe
- 25 Explode
- 26 Japanese raw deal?
- 27 Eaves, e.g.
- 28 Add to the pot

Down

- 1 Reserved
- 2 Cover story?
- 4 "Take your pick"
- 5 Small boat
- 6 Feels remorse
- 7 Lymph bump
- 8 Novel idea
- 12 Geneva's river
- 14 Get ready for bed
- 15 Food poisoning
- 17 Wipeout?
- 22 Burger topper
- 23 Mostel of Fiddler fame
- 24 Carve in stone
- 26 Bright star

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

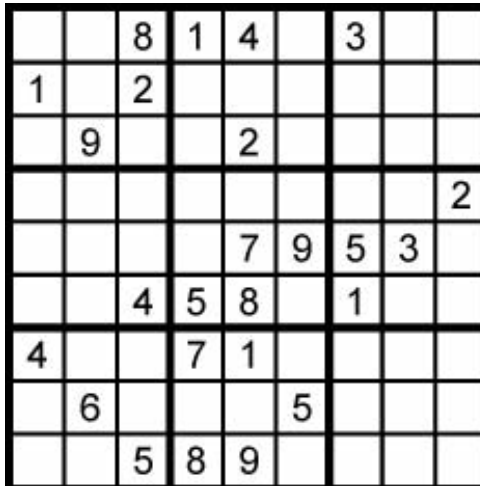


BREVITY



SUDOKU

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

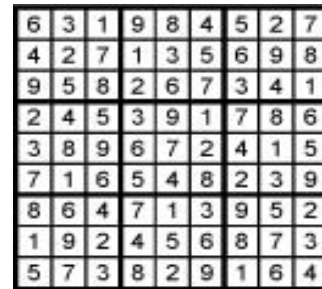


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

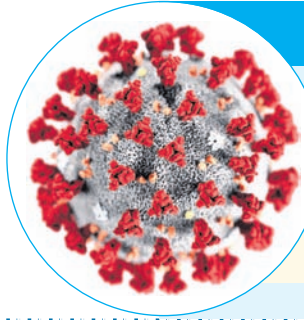






## IN MEMORIAM

Dignitaries light earthen lamps at an event organised to commemorate Arjun Das at Bhanjakala Mandap, Saturday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	58,80,00,581	55,90,14,918	64,34,606
India	4,41,26,994	4,34,65,552	5,26,649
Odisha	13,18,145	13,03,823	9,146

# Rain throws normal life out of gear

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 6:** Intense spells of rain pummeled Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and several other parts of Odisha Saturday, leading to waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Throwing away the 'Smart City' tag down the drain the state Capital presented a sorry picture Saturday. The Capital city recorded about 24.6 mm of rain in just a few hours. As a result, several low-lying and poor drainage areas such as ISKCON temple, Nayapalli, Acharya Vihar, Bomikhal, Jaydev Vihar and Janpath got inundated with drain water thereby causing traffic snarls, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

The heavy showers that continued from morning to noon made life tough for commuters. A 'Mo Bus' from Jatni en-route to Bhubaneswar ended up getting partially submerged in a water-logged underpass on the City outskirts. While locals rescued all the passengers, the bus remained stuck there for a few hours.

Similarly, traffic came to a halt in front of the ISKCON temple in Nayapalli for nearly an hour as rain water flooded the service road on National

Highway (NH) - 16 forcing the Commissionerate Police to divert traffic from CRP square. "I missed my flight to Hyderabad today due to incessant rains and waterlogging. Despite being a recurring problem, the authorities have done nothing about the issue. Promises were made ahead of the municipal elections this year by no avail. It seems the officials are least concerned about the issue," lamented Sambit Panda, a resident at Nayapalli.

A cyclonic circulation lies over the northwestern Bay of Bengal and a low pressure area is set to form over the region in the next 24 hours. The weather system is expected to intensify further during the subsequent 24 hours. The temple town of Puri recorded 87 mm of rain between 8.30am and 11.30am.

There is a possibility of intense rain of 20-30 mm per hour at intervals over the next few days, the Met office said.

The Met Department issued an orange warning of heavy to very heavy rain in Puri, Khurda, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Malkangiri, Boudh and Koraput districts till Sunday morning.



Iskcon Temple Front, Nayapalli



Rajmahal Square



Badambadi, Cuttack



Bomikhal



Laxmisagar

# Loyola organises science exhibition Synergy-2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 6:** In the words of Mac Wilberg, true excellence is a product of synergy and this synergy was on display at Loyola School in City Saturday when creative minds from Standard I to XII participated in the annual science exhibition, Synergy 2022.

The enthusiasm with which the young Loyoleans exhibited and explained the models offered a visual delight to the visitors.

The exhibits were on different themes and variety of topics like alternative sources of energy, story of covaxin, technology and development in landmine detection, futuristic car, use of ar-

tificial intelligence in different fields, and brief history of Indian Army and Air Force.

Inaugurating the exhibition, Principal Fr Victor F Misquith SJ said, "This exhibition provides a platform to the students to apply the knowledge acquired in a team. He appreciated the efforts and dedication of the students and teachers."



## SHAH'S 2-DAY ODISHA VISIT FROM TODAY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, August 6:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to arrive in Odisha on a two-day visit Sunday, a BJP leader said Saturday.

Shah will land at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar at 10 pm August 7 and will spend the night here.

Monday morning, he will offer prayers at Lingaraj Temple as it is the last Monday of holy Odia month of Sraban, said Odisha BJP president Samir Mohanty.

After visiting the temple, Shah will visit Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthplace in Cuttack. He will pay tribute by garlanding Netaji's statue on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Mohanty said.

Shah will also attend a function, marking the 75th anniversary of an Odia daily newspaper at Indoor Stadium in Cuttack.

Later, the Home Minister is scheduled to visit the Odisha BJP office in Bhubaneswar, where he will meet senior party leaders.

In the evening, he will attend a book reading of Modi@20 at Mayfair Convention here before flying back to Delhi.

## CBI arrests son of Odisha industrialist over bribery



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 6:** The CBI has arrested Charchit Mishra, the younger son of noted industrialist and Orissa Stevedores Ltd MD Mahimananda Mishra, in connection with the alleged payment of Rs 25 lakh bribe to an official of the Paradip Port Trust, agency officials said Saturday.

The agency also took into custody a builder, Sisir Kumar Das, who was paid from the bribe money an advance for a property purchased by Chief Mechanical Engineer of the port trust Saroj Kumar Das, the main accused in the case arrested by the CBI, they said.

Saroj Kumar Das had allegedly demanded Rs 60 lakh as bribe from Orissa Stevedores Ltd (OSL), one of the biggest cargo handling companies in India which is also into shipping, mining, logistics and exports, to let it off without paying

for the repair of a conveyor belt at the port that was damaged during unloading of goods by it, officials said. OSL, which operates at one of the largest ports of India in Paradip, is believed to have a monopoly of loading and unloading of cargo there, they said.

The CBI also questioned Mahimananda Mishra and his other son, Chanchal Mishra, at its Bhubaneswar office Friday in connection with the case before taking Charchit Mishra into custody, officials said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) earlier arrested Saroj Kumar Das, his conduit Sumanta Rout, DGM of OSL Surya Narayan Sahu and another person named Sankha Subhra Mitra acting as a middleman in connection with the case, they said.

These four accused were sent to four days of CBI custody by a special court, they said.

## Naveen highlights state's contribution in freedom struggle

*The Chief Minister is on a three-day visit to the National Capital*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 6:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday attended a meeting of the National Committee on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlighted the contribution of Odisha in the country's freedom struggle.

While talking to media here after the meeting, the chief minister said he has presented the blueprint for how Odisha is going to celebrate the 75th Independence Day and spoke about the state's contributions in the Indian freedom struggle.

"Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was born in Odisha and we all know of his contribution to the movement," Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister is on a three-day visit to the National Capital. He will also attend the seventh NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting Sunday. Patnaik said that he will raise the state's longstanding demand for special category status as the state has been facing frequent calamities like cyclones and floods.

## Man gets 10-year jail for raping 8-year-old girl

**Phulbani:** A court in Odisha's Kandhamal district Saturday sentenced a man to 10-years imprisonment for raping an eight-year-old girl five years ago. Phulbani Pcoso judge Bhaskar Chandra Sahu also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Kaliprasad Mishra, special public prosecutor Banamali Behera said. July 17, 2017, Mishra lured the girl on the pretext of giving her chocolate and raped her in a dilapidated house in Khajuripada police station area. The court pronounced the judgement after examining nine witnesses.

## 20-year RI for minor's rape

**Balasore:** A special POCOS court here Saturday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him for 2021-rape of a minor. The additional district and sessions judge-cum- special judge of POCOS court Ranjan Kumar Sutar handed down the punishment on Dinesh Marandi and also slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on him for the offence.

# OHRC tells Kendrapara Collector to pay damages to deceased UTP's NoK



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 6:** The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has asked the District Collector of Kendrapara to pay 5 lakhs as compensation to relatives of an Under

Trial Prisoner (UTP) who had committed suicide in special jail at Jharpada here in 2018. The deceased, Jitendra Kumar Biswal of Kendrapara, was lodged in connection with a rape case under section 376 of the IPC.

On May 12, the jail authorities found

Biswal hanging from an iron rod inside the bathroom of Ward no.11 using his towel.

During the magisterial enquiry, it came to fore that the Biswal was undergoing severe mental stress and the authorities knew this. However, they did not take any step to provide him medical treatment and council.

After going through the enquiry report, the commission held the jail administration responsible for negligence and asked the Kendrapara Collector to pay the compensation.

The commission issued the order while hearing a petition filed by human rights activist Prabir Das.

The commission has directed the district administration to pay Rs 2 lakhs each to Biswal's father Premananda and mother Diptipraye. Meanwhile, the deceased's wife who has married again after Biswal's death will get Rs 1 lakh as compensation.

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# State to administer boosters by Sept 30



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 6:** Amid spurt in Covid-19 cases, the state government has upped the ante for giving free booster jabs to the people. The Centre has also cautioned the state to take measures to check the spread of the virus. The administration is making all possible efforts to administer booster doses by September 30.

Saturday, the state's COVID-19 tally rose to 13,18,145 as 836 more people, including 148 children, tested positive for the infection, while another fatality pushed the toll to 9,146, a health bulletin said. The state had logged the same number of cases Friday.

Sundargarh district reported

the highest number of fresh infections at 175, followed by 91 in Khurda district, where state capital Bhubaneswar is located.

The state now has 6,005 active cases, of which 1,461 are in Sundargarh.

As many as 1,011 more people were cured of the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 13,02,941. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities thus far. The daily positivity rate was at 3.81 per cent as 21,968 samples were tested for the infection in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, raising concern over the steady rise in daily COVID-19 cases in the state for the last one month, the Centre has cautioned the state government to take up

measures at the state level to contain spread of the virus.

Sharing figures with the state Health and Family Welfare Department, the concerned Ministry said that Odisha has been reporting high average daily new cases for the past one month (845 average cases per day) with highest 1,790 daily cases reported on August 5. The state has also contributed to 5 per cent of India's weekly new cases and a high positivity of 4.85 per cent in week ending August 5.

In view of the spurt in COVID-19 cases, the state government urged people to take the precautionary dose of vaccine as soon as possible, expressing concern over the fact that only a few have been administered the third shot thus far.

The administration is looking at ways to administer booster doses as possible by September 30, the deadline set by the Union government for giving free jabs at public healthcare institutions.

So far, only 26 per cent of those aged above 60 have taken the booster doses. Around 2.65 crore of the population is between 18-60 years, of which only eight per cent or 22.84 lakh people have taken the booster dose, according to the official.



People buying the National Flag from a Khadi shop at Choudhury Bazaar in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

## DRIEMS, L&T to make syllabus industry fit

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, August 6:** A MoU was signed between DRIEMS and L&T Edutech to bring industry-focused curriculum to the engineering students studying at DRIEMS Autonomous Engineering College. Senior officials from L&T Edutech as well as DRIEMS participated in the MoU signing ceremony. Sanjeev Sharma, head-domestic marketing network at L&T, Bikram Keshari Nayak, head, marketing at L&T Edutech, Aruna Giri, general manager, L&T Construction, and Prosenjit Roy, area manager at L&T attended the ceremony from the L&T Group.

Talking about skill gap between industry and academia, Sharma outlined the need of industry backed curriculum at the institution level itself. He further added that to fuel the growth of the state and the country the market needs competent and skilled Engineers which is only possible if proper training is given at college level.



Nayak who heads the marketing vertical of L&T Edutech has said about the importance of bringing the decades of industrial knowledge of leading companies like L&T to masses through campuses. He added more than business, the activities of L&T Edutech is like a social responsibility of L&T to disseminate knowledge and skills to grassroots. Arun Giri, who heads multiple large scale construction projects of L&T across the country said how students can visit the

project sites as part of the training programme to garner real time knowledge about the class room learnings.

It can be noted that this is the first MoU L&T Edutech has undertaken in the state of Odisha. Representing DRIEMS, Baram Kar, director administration, said, "This is just the beginning of a long-term association between DRIEMS and L&T. Students of DRIEMS have now an opportunity to learn from industry practitioners of L&T both

**IT CAN BE NOTED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST MOU L&T EDUTECH HAS UNDERTAKEN IN THE STATE OF ODISHA**

on online as well as physical modes".

L&T Edutech will roll out courses in four streams of Engineering including Civil, Computer Science, Mechanical and Electrical at DRIEMS. As part of this programme, students shall undertake as many as 5 courses designed by L&T during their Engineering studies which include online and offline lectures, project site visits, internships with L&T group of companies. After completion of their studies students can also get opportunities to work with L&T group of companies based on their competency.

## 6 states including Odisha told to ramp up testing

Continued from P1

In his letter to Delhi, Bhushan said the national capital has been reporting high average daily new cases (811 cases) for the past month with a high of 2,202 new cases reported August 5.

Delhi has contributed 8.2 per cent of India's weekly new cases in the week ending August 5 and has also recorded 1.86 times increase in average daily new cases from 802 in the week ending July 29 to 1,492 in the week ending August 5.

An increase in the weekly positivity rate was also reported in Delhi - from 5.90 per cent in the week ending July 29 to 9.86 per cent in the week ending August 5.

Bhushan said Kerala reported 2,347 average cases per day in the past month and Maharashtra 2,135 cases. He also cited district-wise spread of infection. He requested states to ensure effective compliance of the revised surveillance strategy for COVID-19 which has been shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. "In view of some changes in symptoms and clinical manifestation of the disease, it is crucial to monitor and report district-wise influenza-like illness (ILI) and SARI cases in all health facilities as per the guidelines, on a regular basis for detecting early warning signals of the spread of infection. This will enable us to take pre-emptive action if required, in any areas of concern," he said.

Stressing genome sequencing of prescribed samples of international passengers as well as collection of samples from sentinel sites and local cluster of new Covid-19 cases is equally important, Bhushan said such samples must be sent promptly by the states and union territories to the designated lab of INSACOG network for genome sequencing. "Renewed attention needs to be paid for ensuring of Covid-appropriate behaviour in crowded places like markets, inter-state bus stands, schools, colleges, railway stations, etc," he said. "States should aim to increase the pace of vaccination for all eligible population and accelerate the administration of free precaution doses for 18-plus eligible population at all Government Covid Vaccination Centres (CVCs) under the 'COVID Vaccination Amrit Mahotsav' till September 30," he stated. States were advised to diligently follow the five-fold strategy of test-track-treat vaccinate and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour within the community.

## Dhankhar elected as 14th V-P

Continued from P1

Dhankhar, who had been associated with Janata Dal and Congress, joined BJP only in 2008 after a hiatus of nearly a decade when he concentrated on his legal career. He has championed issues related to Other Backward Classes, including the grant of OBC status to the Jat community in Rajasthan. BJP described Dhankhar as "kisan putra" while announcing his candidature for the Vice Presidential election, a move seen in the political circles aimed at reaching out to the politically significant Jat community which had participated in huge numbers in the year-long farmers' protests on the borders of the national capital against agriculture reform measures unveiled in June 2020. Dhankhar will take oath August 11, a day after incumbent M Venkaiah Naidu, 73, demits office.

## WASHED AWAY



Incessant rain washed away a road to the sea beach in Puri, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# World's wildlife more at risk than realised, says study

The world's wildlife may be in more trouble than scientists have so far reported, new research published on Thursday suggests.

While scientists have assessed the status of more than 147,000 plant and animals, there are thousands of species considered too "data deficient" for a full assessment. As a result, those species haven't been included in the listing of threatened or endangered species, updated each year by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Among those under-assessed species are the ocean's toothy predator, the killer whale, along with the pink fairy armadillo of Argentina

and nearly 200 bat species worldwide.

But in some cases, that lack of data itself is a red flag - suggesting the species may be hard to find because its population has declined, according to a team of international scientists who used data on environmental conditions and human threats to map patterns of extinction threat among assessed species.

The team then looked at the 7,699 under-assessed species, and estimated that about 56 per cent were facing conditions that likely put them also at risk of extinction, said the study, published in the journal Communications Biology.



That's almost double the 28 per cent of global species classified as "threatened" by the IUCN.

There are millions more plant and animal species that have never been looked at by the IUCN, and scientists estimate about 1 million of

them are threatened with extinction, according to a 2019 report by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Of the imperiled "data deficient"

Among those under-assessed species are the ocean's toothy predator, the killer whale, along with the pink fairy armadillo of Argentina and nearly 200 bat species worldwide

There are millions more plant and animal species that have never been looked at by the IUCN, and scientists estimate about 1 million of them are threatened with extinction

plants and animals, many "are small-ranged species in remote places," with many in central Africa, Madagascar and southern Asia, said study author Jan Borgelt, an ecologist at the Norwegian University of Science and

Technology.

The state of nature "could be worse than we realize if these predictions are true," he said.

Worst off are likely the under-assessed amphibians, with some 85 per cent estimated to be threatened, the study said.

Species classified by the IUCN as threatened or endangered often become a focus for protection by national governments.

Studies such as this "highlight where conservation resources should be allocated," said Pamela Gonzalez del Pliego, an ecologist at the University of Evora in Portugal who was not involved in the research.

REUTERS

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School students holding Tricolours took out a rally from Dasmanthpur panchayat to Paraja Bedapadar panchayat in Koraput district as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme organised by the Postal department on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# Oil reserve project on back burner

ADMIN IS YET TO HALT ALL THE OPERATIONAL STONE QUARRIES AT DANKARI HILL IN JAJPUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, August 6:** The ambitious underground reserve for crude oil proposed by the Centre on the foothills of Dankari in Chandikhole area of Jajpur district has been pushed on the back burner because scores of stone quarries that are still operational in the area have not been removed by the administration, a report said.

Notably, once operational, the proposed underground oil reserve at Chandikhole would have been the fourth largest oil reserve in the country. But sadly, the strategic oil reserve is yet to be realized four years after receiving the cabinet approval, the report said.

The oil reserve was expected to create a good scope of direct and indirect employment of locals, transporters and to boost the prospects of downstream industries. It is alleged that the whole Dankari hill is under the custody of few influential political leaders who in connivance with local tehsil officials are plundering stone from the hill to serve their own interests.

The number of stone quarries at Dankari hill is increasing day by day. Besides, 40 small and big stone crusher units are also operating in the area. It is alleged that the



district administration instead of working for success of the project and ensuring employment for local residents is only saving the interests of some political leaders.

The Union Cabinet approved the oil reserve project on June 27, 2018. Fund worth ₹3,800 crore was sanctioned for the project while the Union government directed the state government to provide 400 acres of land for the project. Land was identified for the project on the foothills of Dankari under Dharmasala tehsil.

The project was expected to provide employment to over 500 persons. Till date, the district administration have shut down over 20 black stone quarries within 20-km radius from the project site (773.60

**T**ill date, the district administration also shut down over 20 black stone quarries within 20-km radius from the project site (773.60 acre of land on plot no-600 and khata no-221). Later, the district administration allegedly started dillydallying on providing land for the project

**I**t is alleged that officials fear the monthly kickbacks coming from the stone quarries would stop. Hence, quarries are allowed to function there, locals said

acre of land on plot no-600 and khata no-221). Later, the district administration allegedly started dillydallying on providing land to the project.

It is alleged that officials fear the monthly kickbacks coming from the stone quarries would stop. Hence, quarries are allowed to function there, locals noted.

On the other hand, the Centre also stopped focusing on the project. Four senior officials including the joint secretary of Union Petroleum Ministry visited the project site and took stock of the project. However, things took a different turn when the then Dharmasala tehsildar informed the state government that it would stop getting revenue worth ₹1413.86

crore from the stone quarries if the oil reserve project is established in the area. Later, following an order from the Chief Secretary, the tehsildar directed the leaseholders to stop operation of quarries, April 14, 2018. A local social activist Sarbeswar Behura also knocked the doors of Orissa High Court and National Green Tribunal (NGT) after no steps were taken to close down the stone quarries. The NGT also directed the state government to conduct a probe and submit a report to it.

However, nothing came out of the exercise as the tehsil officials were learnt to have given tacit permission to operate more stone quarries in the hill.

# Women SHGs in Ganjam making Tricolours in bulk

AGENCIES

**Berhampur, August 6:** Sarita Pradhan is in a race against time and has been working relentlessly to stitch Tricolours in Ganjam district.

The 30-year-old secretary of a tailoring group at Podamari in Sanakhemundi block, around 35 km from district headquarters Berhampur, needs to complete the work by Tuesday.

She is among the around 700 members of women self-help groups (WSHGs) in 14 out of 22 blocks in the district who have been engaged in making 2.50 lakh national flags

The Tricolours will flutter from all government buildings across the district to mark the 75-year celebration of the Independence, chief development officer Keerthi Vasan said. It will also earn a good amount for the WSHGs and its members, Vasan said.

Madhumita, president of the Jay Bajarangi tailoring producers' group, said it received an order to stitch 5,000 national flags, each of which is 20 x 30 inches in size.

"All the flags will be completed before August 9 and produced before the district administration. We have engaged 32 members to meet the target," Madhumita said, hoping to complete the lot in time.

The WSHGs are part of the Mission Shakti, which seeks to empower women through various socio-economic activities.

District project coordinator Saswat Sahoo said the work was distributed among 60 WSHGs, which have been asked to complete their work by August 9 so that it can be produced before the administration.



**S**arita Pradhan, 30-year-old secretary of a tailoring group at Podamari in Sanakhemundi block, is among the around 700 members of women self-help groups (WSHGs) in 14 out of 22 blocks in the district who have been engaged in making 2.50 lakh national flags

**T**he Tricolours will flutter from all government buildings across the district to mark the 75-year celebration of the Independence, chief development officer Keerthi Vasan said

The initiative is part of the Union government's campaign to hoist the national flag at every home from August 13-15 to mark the 75th year of independence.

The WSHG members have procured the fabrics from the markets. The Flag Code of India has been amended to allow use of machine-made and polyester flags, triggering protests from various quarters, including traditional weavers.

During the first wave of Covid-19, the WSHGs had helped the district administration by producing around 70,000 masks, district project manager Nabin Senapati said.

In the last two years, they also produced the uniforms for the Anganwadi students across the district, Senapati added.

# Schoolkids trained on reporting

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 6:** A three-day workshop to train schoolchildren on reporting was organised by People's Cultural Centre (PECCU), supported by UNICEF and in association with Dharitri here at Pantha Nivas, Saturday. They were imparted basic knowledge of journalism at the workshop.

On the second day of the workshop, the children received training on basics of reporting from the Dharitri staff, Saturday.

Attending the programme, Dharitri's deputy news editor Lala Sunil Kumar Rath spoke on basics of journalism, its rules and types of news reporting to the children.

He spoke in details about various problems the children observe in their surroundings and how they could bring them to the notice of the departmental authorities concerned. District Child Protection Officer Debangana Barik informed



the participants about the fundamental rights enshrined for them in the Constitution and advised them to be mentally strong.

In the second session of the workshop, Dharitri's Jajpur district correspondent Harshabardhan Behera and Joda correspondent Manas Ranjan Mohanty dwelt upon multiple problems being faced by children on their school premises and suggested measures for resolution. UNICEF's Communication Advocacy Radhika Srivastav, PECCU Secretary Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, executive director Anuradha Mohanty and Dharitri's Keonjhar correspondent Naresh Patnaik graced the occasion.

# Octogenarian woman raped; man arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kuanrmunda, August 6:** An 85-year-old woman was raped by a villager under Biramitrapur police limits in Sundargarh district, police said.

The matter came to the fore after police registered a case and arrested a 45-year old man in this connection, Saturday. The accused was identified as Sushil Kujur, a native of Puruna Girjatola in Gobira village. The accused was produced in court, Shyamlal Oram, OIC of Kuanrmunda police outpost said.

Oram said that the woman was alone at home on July 27 night when the accused barged into her house and raped her with threats of severe consequences.

The survivor, however, mustered courage and informed her sister living in Jharkhand about the incident. Her sister accompanied by kin visited the survivor and informed the village committee about the crime, he said. The village committee wanted to resolve the matter, but the survivor's sister lodged a complaint at Kuanrmunda police outpost and police arrested Kujur.

## AHEAD OF INDUSTRIALISATION

# Grabbing of govt, forest land rampant in Batighar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, August 6:** Encroachment of government and forest land is increasing in Batighar and its adjoining areas under Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district. Such illegality has been happening in the area for last several months after some industrial units have been proposed there, reports said.

The state government will acquire hundreds of acres of private and government land for industries in the area. The officials of some companies and government officials frequently visit Nipania and Tubi village in Batighar panchayat.

Well ahead of the establishment of industrial units, some local people have set their sight on the forest land and started acquiring patches of land at several places with hope that they would be compensated by the government for the land they have taken possession of.

Years ago, many other influential persons of the area have already



grabbed vast patches of forest land. They have encroached upon a vast patch of land and built a dyke-like structure around it. Locals alleged that these people are trying to sell off the land through middlemen to the companies keen to set up their units. Similarly, the people who have acquired the vast patches of government land will claim ownership on the land and broker a deal with companies and the administration for a good price before sparing their land for industries.

SOME LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE SET THEIR SIGHT ON FOREST LAND AND STARTED ACQUIRING PATCHES OF GOVERNMENT LAND TOO AT SEVERAL PLACES WITH HOPE THAT THEY WOULD COMMAND A GOOD COMPENSATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE LAND THEY HAVE TAKEN POSSESSION OF DURING ACQUISITION

COLLECTOR AMRIT RUTURAJ SAID THAT IF SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE AREA, THE MATTER WILL BE INVESTIGATED AND ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN THIS REGARD

Many wonder how the forest department has failed to notice the encroachment of the forest land. The officials are taking no action against the land mafia. Various quarters demanded that the forest department take immediate action to remove the encroachment.

Contacted, Collector Amrit Ruturaj said that if such illegal activities are taking place in the area, the matter will be investigated and action will be taken in this regard.

# Fert black marketing hits Nayagarh farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, August 6:** Farmers are forced to buy fertilizers at more than the official price due to alleged black-marketing of the products in Nayagarh district, a report said.

This has happened due to artificial scarcity of urea fertilizer created by some vested interest groups. It is alleged that farmers are compelled to pay around ₹250 to ₹300 more to buy a 45-kg urea packet from the local stores due to its unavailability in the stores of cooperative societies.

The district has over 73 cooperative societies, but fertilizers are yet to be available there. Moreover, 46 societies are yet to get licence to sell the fertilizers. While the farmers are struggling hard to get a packet of urea, the district administration is sitting pretty, it was alleged.



FILE PHOTO

Allegations are also rife that Markfed is not disclosing the details about the actual quantity of fertilizers dispatched to each store of the district.

When contacted, Santosh Kumar Routray, in-charge of Markfed said the exact quota of fertilizers supplied to the societies can be ascertained only after receiving an acknowledgement receipt from each of the societies. ARCS Hadibandhu Mahakur said the district has 157 societies out of which 46 do not have licences for sale of fertilizers. The remaining 111 have been supplied with 84 quintal of fertilizers, he said.

Chief district agriculture officer Subhash Mohapatra said he has asked the deputy director of agriculture to supply Markfed with an additional 500 MT of fertilizers to tide over the shortage.

## 10 of robber gang held

**Bhawanipatna:** A robber gang was busted in Kalahandi district and 10 of its members were arrested as, police said Saturday. The suspects from Nabarangpur and Koraput districts committed a series of loot in Golumunda, Dharmagarh, Ampani, Koksara and Jaipatna areas. Special police squads were formed to track down the gang, whose members used sim cards purchased by them with fake identity, Superintendent of Police Abilash G said.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**  
E-mail: [rw\\_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in)

**No. O-807 E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-EESNG-15 OF 2022-23**

1. Name of the Work	: Road Works
2. Total No. of Works	: 10 Nos. Road
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 7.43 lakhs to Rs.38.87 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: 'D', 'C' & 'B'
5. Period of Completion	: 01 & 02 Calendar Months
6. Type of Tender	: Single Cover
7. Other details	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh	Online - EESNG-15 of 2022-23	08.08.2022 10.00 A.M.	24.08.2022 05.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Rural Works Division, Sundargarh  
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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
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No.B-448:- **'e' Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No. EE R&B Divn. No.I Bam**  
**29/2022-23 Lr. No. 7616 dtd. 1.8.2022**

Name of work	: Electrical works
No. of works	: 2 (Two) Nos.
Estimated cost	: Approximately Rs.13.28 lakh
Period of completion of agreement	: Two calendar months
Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 hours of 06.08.2022 to 16.00 hours of 19.08.2022
Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Upto 15.00 hours of 19.08.2022
Name & address of the officer inviting bid	: Executive Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No.I, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No.I, Berhampur  
OIPR-34109/11/0011/2223

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR**  
Phone-0680-2404096, E-Mail: [eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in)

No.O-796:- **Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No. Online Tender/06/SERWD-II/2022-23**  
Memo No...../RWD-IIIB, Date: .....

1 Name of the work	: Road Works
2 Estimated cost	: Rs 5.31 to 44.25 lakh
3 Period of Completion	: 1(One) to 2 (Two) months as per Annexure
4 Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: From 12.08.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 22.08.22 upto 3.00 P.M.
5 Last date/ time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	: 22.08.22 upto 3.00 P.M.
6 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal [tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app)  
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You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagee is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with Interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and cost. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Company.

Sl. No.	a) Loan Account Number b) Name and Address of Borrower / Co-borrower	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Demand Notice Amount & Date of NPA	Description of the Property / Secured Assets
1.	a) Loan A/c. Nos. : X0HECUC00003066445 & HE02BHU000000002289 b) 1. Kabita Barik, 2. Prafulla Kumar Barik, 3. Saraswatee Del. All are at : Plot No. 20, Shaktinagar, A. D. Market, Cuttack, Odisha, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha, Pin - 753 012. 4. M/s. Ganesh Traders, Netaji Nagar, Madhupatana, Cuttack, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha, Pin - 753 010. 5. Kabita Barik, Plot No. 20, Sakti Nagar, Near BSNL Office, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753 012.	Rs. 53,80,000.00 & Rs. 10,61,800.00  Totally Rs. 64,41,800.00 (Rupees Sixty Four Lakhs Forty One Thousand Eight Hundred only)	28.07.2022  Rs. 52,30,114.26 and Rs. 9,25,229.00 (Rupees Sixty One Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred Forty Three and Paise Twenty Six only) as on 20.07.2022  Date of NPA : 11.07.2022	All that piece and parcel of the land situated at District - Cuttack, Tahasil - Cuttack, SRO- Cuttack, P.S. - Madhupatana, P.S. No. 4, Mouza - Cuttack Sahar Unit No. 37, Badambi Arundodaya Market Near Shiv Temple Orissa, Cuttack - 753 012, Mutation Khata No. 535/519, Plot No. 544/3084, Area Aco.056 Dec with Status - Stillban, Kism-Gharabani - 2 (Homestead), Butted and Bounded by : North - Road, South - Damodara Barik, East - Gopinath Jew God, West - Rest part of Sols Plot.

Date : 07.08.2022  
Place : Bhubaneswar, Odisha


For M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited  
Authorised Officer



“

Jealousy is a dead poison that is fatal to the soul.

THE MOTHER



# The New Space Race

Parliament was told this month that the Indian Space Research Organisation will conduct its first abort demonstration test on India’s ambitious astronaut mission before December 31 this year. It is hoped that India’s first uncrewed mission will launch by the end of 2023, as part of a ₹9,023 crore project.

The Gaganyaan mission is one of the most challenging undertakings by ISRO and four Indian Air Force officers, whose names remain confidential, are training for the mission and have been working with Russia’s Roscosmos for the mission.

India is among only a dozen nations that have put an object in orbit. We first did this 40 years ago and this is something the richest man on Earth still hasn’t been able to do though his space company is now two decades old. The reason so few have succeeded is that orbit is hard. Things stay in orbit only if they achieve a speed horizontal to the Earth of 27,000 kmph. If this ‘escape velocity’ is not achieved, the object falls back. The restrictions physics imposes on rocket design is what make this difficult: over 90% of a rocket’s weight is just fuel.

Advances in rocket technology happened broad in two phases. The first was the decade of the 1960s. Russians put the first object in orbit, the first living thing (a dog) and satellite, the first man in orbit and the first spacewalk. The Americans followed. Within a decade from the late 1950s to the close of the 1960s the world went from having no satellites to humans on the moon.

But after that was achieved, the high costs, boredom from the American public and the failure of the Soviet moon rocket ended the energetic race.

After 1972, the US went from having the capacity to put humans on the moon — deep space — to limited capacity in lower earth orbit, a few hundred kms. After the Space Shuttle programme ended a decade ago America had no ability to put humans even in low earth orbit.

Today that capacity exists only with Russia using its very old rocket, China and the private firm SpaceX. China first put humans in orbit around two decades ago and has a manned space station orbiting 400 km above earth, something only the United States and Russia have done, before a group of nations (which does not include India) developed the International Space Station.

ISRO has a plan to put humans in orbit in the next couple of years. This will not be easy. The rocket meant to do this failed earlier this month when its third stage did not fire. Even so India has done very well comparatively though its capacity is limited by funding and access to technology. Our rocket boosters are powered by an ancient engine first designed by France and using low-efficiency, toxic fuels called hypergols. We have some experience in more efficient cryogenic or supercooled fuels (that failed third stage was cryogenic) running on an indigenous engine, but generally speaking India’s capacity is not at the level of the more advanced countries and companies. ISRO has no ability to reuse its rockets, pushing up cost.

In the last few years a new space race has begun. This time it is being driven by private companies and China. This time the motivations are different. America wants a base on the moon, there are plans in place to colonise Mars (the gigantic second stage of the rocket designed to do this was test flown in Texas this year). To get a sense of its scale consider that it will take 150 tons to Mars, while the Mangalyaan orbiter ISRO sent to Mars in 2013 weighed 15 kilos. There are plans to mine asteroids for rare minerals and bring them to earth, to permanently occupy Mars and in fact even to change its climate to make it more Earth-like. That is the scale of the ambition and it is being pursued as you read this.

What this means is that a vast technological gap is opening up and will continue to open up between those doing this — a handful of private firms, the United States and China — and the rest of the world’s nations. This gap will not be limited to the resources that their capacity will give these few entities access to. It will also empower them with the new technologies that they will develop over the next decade as they do things that nobody else is doing or can do.

Spinoff tech from the first space race and the tens of billions of dollars pumped into innovation six decades ago produced the portable computer, the mouse, LASIK, artificial limbs, freeze-dried food, water purification and GPS. More breakthroughs of this magnitude will come, first to the entities that develop them and perhaps then for wider commercial use. We will see these before the close of this decade.

We must consider also what colonies of humans, possibly of many nationalities, on another planet will mean for Earth. The idea of nation-states and borders will appear to be a little silly when our species is colonising the solar system. It is possible that enormous change will sweep over the world when breakthroughs at a planetary level come, and they will not be easy to predict or stop.

Perhaps all of this will not happen for some reason and the space race will end or pause. As we have seen, innovation in space technology collapsed immediately after the moon landings. America lost its capacity to land men on the moon and still does not have it. Something could hinder or pause the current race also. But it is hard to think of what this will be: there is considerable progress and interest already and billionaires funding it are not only eyeing a profit as they push mankind out into the stars.

It appears that India will be among those nations consigned to being among the watchers and not the participants of this crucial phase. We must consider the implications and what that means for us in a future that we are rapidly hurtling into.

## WISDOM CORNER

“

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; genius hits a target no one else can see.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

“

In order for the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must be present.

FRANCIS BACON

“

Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man’s desire to understand.

NEIL ARMSTRONG

## WORDSWORTH

### W00t

This weird term was the word of the year 2007 from the dictionary maker Merriam-Webster. W00t is spelled with a couple of zeroes in the middle but it’s said as “woot”. It’s a small cry of joy, perhaps after completing a task, after besting an opponent, or for no reason at all. Merriam-Webster says, “It became popular in online gaming as part of what is known as 133t (‘leet’, or ‘elite’) speak, an esoteric computer hacker language in which numbers and symbols are put together to look like letters.” Its origins are disputed. Some say it’s a blend from the cry Wow! Loo!, one that might be uttered when a Dungeons & Dragons player came across treasure; Merriam-Webster notes that it has been said to be an acronym for we owned the other team (meaning that our team bested them utterly); others argue that it derives from the Scots hoot!, which really is a bit of a hoot.

## FOCUS FREEBIES

# REDISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

Since the inception of neo-liberalism, if something is given to the poor, then it is treated with disdain, labelled as anti-reforms and antagonistic to growth. But if anything is given to rich/corporate - even if on a massive scale - it is welcomed as pro-growth by protagonists of the market economy. Hence freebies given to the poor have been the centre of controversy for a long time.

Hearing a PIL filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay seeking directions to regulate freebies, August 3, the Supreme Court observed that political parties promising to distribute irrational freebies during election campaigns is a “serious economic issue.” The court suggested setting up an apex body, consisting of NITI Aayog, Finance Commission, Law Commission, ruling and Opposition parties, RBI, and other stakeholders who can “dispassionately” examine the problem and make suggestions on how to control freebies by political parties. A few days back, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched a tirade against freebies equating the same with “revdi culture.”

History shows that what is dubbed a freebie today transforms into an entitlement, a national programme a few years later: The mid-day meal scheme started by K Kamaraj and extended by MG Ramachandran in 1982 was first ridiculed by the Centre only to be adopted as a national programme a decade later. NT Rama Rao’s promise of rice at ₹2 per kg is the original incarnation of the current-day National Food Security Programme. Telangana’s Rythu Bandhu and Odisha’s KALIA Yojana were forerunners of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

However, some treat populist schemes and subsidies as the same as freebies. This is wrong. The phrase freebie owes its etymology to 1920s American politics. Freebies mean perks, handouts, giveaways, and sample gifts pro-



It is not the freebies but the huge black money spent by political parties that influences voters and undermines our democratic process

vided or given free of charge, especially as a way of attracting one’s support for or interest in something.

A subsidy is a direct or indirect payment, economic concession, or privilege granted by a government to targeted groups in order to promote a public objective, where the government bears some portion of the cost. Food and fertiliser subsidies are glaring examples. It is not only the poor but also the rich/corporate are given huge subsidies in the form of lower tax rate, lower interest rates, tax exemptions and other incentives.

Opponents of freebies argue that freebies require huge resources leading to fiscal profligacy and unsustainability of debt. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Central government, said freebies were paving the way to an “economic disaster” besides “distorting the informed decision of voters.”

We have enough resources but the real problem is the inability of the government to curb tax evasions, and exemptions and raise the tax-GDP ratio from the range of 10 to 11% to the OECD average of 33.5%. The nation is also deprived of much-needed resources as the rich are allowed to keep their black money in tax havens with impunity. In March 2018, it was revealed that the amount of Indian

black money currently stashed in Swiss and other offshore banks is estimated to be ₹300 lakh crore.

As of November 30, 2019, ₹9 lakh crore has been locked in direct tax disputes. The corporate tax rate cut led to the loss of revenue of almost ₹1.5 lakh crore in direct tax collections. The loss is increasing every year. The government’s revenue foregone in the form of incentives and tax exemptions to corporates in 2019-20 alone was ₹99,842.06 crore. India does not have a wealth and inheritance tax. The total bad loans written off between April 2014 and March 2022 stand at a mind-boggling ₹12.32 lakh crore.

It is not the freebies but the huge black money spent by political parties that influences voters and undermines our democratic process. A report, named ‘Poll Expenditure: The 2019 Elections’, has termed the recent democratic exercise as the most expensive election ever; anywhere with an estimated ₹100 crore spent in each Lok Sabha constituency. Effectively, an approximate ₹700 per vote was spent. In terms of individual constituencies, there are at least 75 to 85 seats where individual candidates spent more than ₹40 crore, which is over 50 times the expenditure limit (₹70 lakh) mandated by the polling body per candidate in a constituency.

Voters are not only bribed to cast votes in favour of those who are capable of giving more money or other benefits to them but even after election, the people’s representatives are purchased to muster a majority which undermines the people’s verdict. Capitalists donate huge money to political parties, especially the ruling party, to distort the voter’s mind.

India is among the countries having the lowest public healthcare budget with the highest number of poor, hungry, and homeless living in India. The benefits of growth do not percolate to all people equally. While we witness debt-induced growth, benefits are garnered by the rich while the burden of debt falls upon the poor through the reduction of welfare expenditure due to rising payments towards interest and loan liabilities.

The growing privatisation of essential services and the public sector, and monetisation of assets, have made many services unaffordable to the poor. The soaring inflation, staggering unemployment, pervasive inequality, air pollution and environmental degradation have made the lives of the poor and lower middle class miserable.

In such a grim situation, the poor, and middle class need the support of the government for survival. Populist schemes and subsidies are ingredients of the economic policies of governments around the world. Those should be used to offset market failures and externalities to achieve greater economic efficiency especially by enabling the state to play its crucial role of redistributive justice as enshrined in the Constitution.

Actually, freebies enhance the purchasing power of people by saving their money. They may not be a permanent solution but necessary till poverty and hunger continue to plague the society.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

## SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

# Biosecurity is national security

If a cyberattack upended the global economy, effectively shut down major cities like New York, and put millions of lives at risk, governments and institutions worldwide would undoubtedly respond by investing heavily in defensive capabilities. They would beef up their cybersecurity, install new safeguards, and collect data and intelligence on future threats – just as many already do in response to acts of cyber warfare.

When it comes to the equally disruptive COVID-19 pandemic, however, the response has been far less decisive. As new variants ravage the health and economic security of the world’s population, biosecurity measures – the early warning and monitoring technologies meant to prevent the spread of infectious diseases – are still not as layered, pervasive, or formidable as the cybersecurity systems we use to contain and mitigate the activities of computer hackers.

But as COVID-19 continues to remind us, public health and biosecurity are vital for national security. Biological viruses, much like computerised ones, attack living systems. They are ubiquitous, and though we may not always be able to escape them, we can study them and learn how to defend ourselves. New biotechnologies are analogous to software patches that protect against cyberattacks. The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are a case in point. The scientists who developed them

programmed cells to produce “good” code, giving our bodies instructions to neutralise the virus’s “bad” code.

COVID-19 vaccines demonstrate biotech’s potential to save lives, but vaccines are only one part of our defense against future pandemics. We have the tools to predict the next pandemic and turn the tide on various health threats to individuals and communities. We need to leverage this new era of public-health technology and build a biosecurity infrastructure that mirrors our approach to cybersecurity in terms of both investment and engagement. To save as many lives as possible, governments must emphasise investments in biosecurity systems and technologies. The focus should be on expanding monitoring systems to discover biosecurity threats before they become widespread.

More innovation is necessary. A safer future entails a strategic shift to regular testing in nontraditional places like schools and airports to detect infectious-disease threats before they overwhelm us. Patients with common respiratory symptoms – few of whom were ever tested for infectious disease in the pre-COVID-19 era – should be routinely tested to get a definitive diagnosis. Pathogen detectors should be more affordable and widely available. By incorporating these data, a global infectious disease “weather map” – conceived and built as a layered and nimble system that evolves in response to the variety

of threats facing humanity, much like cybersecurity systems – would help cities, states, and countries understand potential threats.

Before the COVID-19 shock, complacent governments and institutions did not invest in large-scale infectious disease surveillance systems. While COVID-19 remains the center of attention, a disturbing rise in monkeypox cases is now occurring across several continents, and we are just now understanding the root causes of the increase in acute paediatric hepatitis cases that had confounded medical experts. Then there is the looming threat of new strains of bird flu and other viruses mutating and adapting to infect humans even more easily. We need to improve our ability to anticipate future outbreaks and understand where new variants are emerging. Most importantly, we need to detect novel pathogens before they become pandemics.

The current pandemic is still far from over. In late May a study posted on the pre-publication server MedRxiv suggested that the undercounting of COVID-19 cases may be 30 times higher than reported. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cases are nearly six times higher than they were this time last year, primarily owing to the emergence of new variants. This is particularly worrying because current mRNA vaccines reduce the risk of hospitalisation and death but are less

effective in preventing long COVID. Recent reports indicate that lingering disease can affect as many as 20% of COVID patients. The economic consequences are staggering, as evidenced by COVID-driven inflation threatening the global economy and supply networks.

Public-health leaders warn that the growing threat of infectious diseases, whether naturally occurring or human-engineered, means we can’t afford the neglect-panic-neglect cycle that has defined the COVID-19 era. Pathogens are relentless in their ability to adapt, mutate, and thrive; they don’t care about “COVID fatigue” or our desire to return to the old normal. To prevent future pandemics, we must be as focused on adapting and surviving as the viruses are. We must address our vulnerabilities by funding technologies to help us identify and fight dangerous viruses and develop new defenses against potential outbreaks.

Just as the advent of the information age underscored the need for cybersecurity, the rapid growth of biotechnology and the growing threat of pandemics should spur significant investments in biosecurity. Now is the time to build our public-health toolkit to fight future viral threats.

Matthew McKnight leads Biosecurity at Ginkgo Bioworks. Neil Maniar is Professor of Public Health Practice at Northeastern University.

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Matthew McKnight & Neil Maniar

TO SAVE AS MANY LIVES AS POSSIBLE, GOVERNMENTS MUST EMPHASISE INVESTMENTS IN BIOSECURITY SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

## Chinese miscalculation

Sir, This refers to “China slaps sanctions against Pelosi”, Orissa POST, August 6. Chinese President Xi Jinping is seeking to hide his humiliation over US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan. Also, China is using its “Three Warfare Concept” which entails public opinion warfare, psychological warfare, and legal warfare along with aggressive military posturing, air violations, firepower, power exhibition and some symbolic economic boycott of Taiwan, thus creating heightened tension around Taiwan as a face-saving exercise to amuse its domestic constituency. China is attempting to turn this into an opportunity to stoke national sentiments in favour of Xi on “anti-America” theme highlighting the Chinese mutilated version of his heroics to ensure that he doesn’t lose out on his third term in the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party later this year. The US side has likewise been under similar pressures. Following the announcement of Pelosi’s visit and the contentious debate between Xi Jinping and Joe Biden, the US found itself in a difficult situation. The USA was unable to cancel the trip in response to Xi’s warning because doing so would have indicated that Biden was caving in to Chinese pressure. However, internationally, China may have miscalculated US resolve and Taiwan’s resistance and all may not go their way.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## Prison reforms

Sir, This refers to “Prisoners for 10 years should be released on bail: SC.” Orissa POST, August 6. The Bench of Justices SK Kaul and MM Sandresh have given a path-breaking call to the Union government to consider bail given to undertrials mostly from impoverished classes, those who have spent 10 years in incarceration and remission of sentences for those who spent 14 years, based on good conduct and other good reasons. These steps will ease pressure on trial courts. Within a few more days we will be celebrating our 75th year of Independence, and such moves on the occasion will be pleasant. A few days back PM Narendra Modi during a conference with the CJI had spoken in favour of undertrials. Pertinent to quote from Fyodor Dostoevsky, the great Russian writer, that “the degree of civilization of a society can be judged by entering its prisons.” The Union government which is committed to reforms can liaise with the state governments to work towards this endeavour. Another great step that can be considered is bringing jails under the direct charge of the judiciary instead of the home department in the states.

Parthasarathy Sen, NEW DELHI



of the day quote

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced innovation in governance and made it technology-driven

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

It is a matter of perspective and priorities. PM Modi is opposed to helping the poor (calls it Revdi) but is okay waiving off Rs 12 lakh crore of loans to corporates. That's his style

K T RAMA RAO | TRS WORKING PRESIDENT

The way TMC had been functioning for the last few months, it is quite clear that it is acting as an agent of the saffron camp. I had said earlier that TMC is the Trojan horse. Now everything is crystal clear. The TMC has got into an understanding with the BJP to protect its members from CBI and ED investigations in various graft cases

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Over 100 pigs die, alert sounded

**Ranchi:** With more than 100 pigs dead in Ranchi district since July 27 due to suspected swine fever, the Jharkhand animal husbandry department (AHD) has sounded the alert and asked the others to take precautionary measures, a government official said Saturday. Samples from affected pigs have been sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Disease in Bhopal and Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Kolkata to diagnose the actual disease, he said.

Veteran army officer dies

**Singapore:** Ishwar Lall Singh, a 92-year-old Singaporean veteran of the Indian National Army who served under the leadership of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, died here Friday, according to his family members. Singh, who joined the Indian National Army (INA) in 1943 and had interacted with Bose, died of old age. "We are saddened to inform you regarding the demise of our uncle Ishwar Lall Singh. He passed away peacefully on August 5, 2022," Melvinder Singh, one of the nephews of the veteran army officer, said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condoled the death of Singh.

Woman gangraped

**New Delhi:** A 22-year-old woman, working at a spa in the national capital, was allegedly sedated and gang raped by two men, an official said Saturday, adding that four persons have been arrested in connection. The arrested were identified as Rahul, a manager at the spa; Satish Kumar, a customer; and owners of the spa Bri Gopal and Sandeep.

Retired IAS officer duped of Rs 2 lakh

**Gurugram:** A retired woman IAS officer was reportedly duped of around Rs 2 lakh on the pretext of online home delivery of liquor in Gurugram. Based on a complaint received through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), an FIR has been registered at the city's cybercrime police station (east), the police said. The complainant, Zohra Chatterji, a resident of Sushant Lok, told the police that on July 23 she placed an online order for liquor through the website jagdishwineshopgurgaon.com for a party at her place. As she was busy in guest arrangements, she shared the credit card number and one time password (OTP) with the caller in a hurry.



The government has imposed GST on milk products as it does not want people to even celebrate Janmashtami

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

STRICT VIGIL

The Karnataka government has intensified vigilance along the state borders to keep the monkeypox virus at bay, Health Minister Dr K. Sudhakar said Saturday



Persecuted minorities from Pak get chance to practise medicine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 6:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) has opened the doors for persecuted minorities from Pakistan, who fled the country and entered India on or before December 31, 2014, to practise medicine here. It has invited applications from such people who have obtained Indian citizenship for the grant of permanent registration to practise modern medicine or allopathy. According to a public notice issued by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UMEB) of the

NMC on Friday, the shortlisted applicants will be allowed to appear in an examination to be conducted by the commission or an agency authorised by it. The NMC had formed a group of experts in June to frame guidelines for a proposed test to enable the medical graduates among the persecuted minorities from Pakistan, who migrated and took Indian citizenship, to acquire permanent registration for practising medicine here. According to the UMEB, the applicant must possess a valid medical qualification and must have practised medicine in Pakistan



prior to his migration to India. The last date for the submission of the applications is September 5. The applicants have been advised to strictly follow the instructions given for filling up the online ap-

plication through a link provided on the NMC website. Offline applications shall not be considered by the commission, the public notice said. All applications will be scrutinised by the commission in consultation with the agencies and departments concerned. "Shortlisted applicants will be allowed to appear in the examination, to be conducted by the commission or any agency authorised by the commission. "Applicants who qualify the examination shall be eligible for grant of permanent registration to practise modern medicine or

allopathy in India," the notice stated. The NMC notification on the formation of the Group of Experts, issued on June 20, read: "It is hereby stated that Ministry of Health through its holistic endeavour decided that appropriate guidelines or regulations may be framed to give effect to the decision of conducting proposed examination for persecuted minorities migrating from Pakistan under the direct supervision of National Medical Commission to test their knowledge of modern medicine and granting permanent registration to practise medicine in India."

Jain's wife gets interim bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 6:** Delhi Minister Satyendar Kumar Jain's wife Poonam Jain was Saturday granted interim bail by a court here in money laundering case in which he was arrested over two months ago. The court also allowed the jailed Delhi minister to withdraw his application seeking interim bail in the case. His counsel moved for withdrawal saying they have been informed that he was getting discharged from hospital. Jain, 57, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on May 30 under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He was admitted to LNJP hospital here on July 15. "The application is taken up and the same is dismissed as withdrawn," Special Judge Geetanjali Goel said. The court granted interim bail to Jain's wife and co-accused Poonam while directing the Enforcement Directorate's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta to file a response by August 20 on her regular bail plea. Poonam appeared before the court on Saturday in pursuance of the summons issued by the judge earlier and moved her bail plea on the ground that she was not arrested during the investigation and there was no requirement for her custody now since the charge sheet has already been filed. The court also extended the interim bail of two other accused persons — Ajit Prasad Jain and Sunil Kumar Jain — in the case as it reserved the order till the next hearing on their regular bail plea. Both the accused were not arrested in the case. The court had earlier taken cognisance of a charge sheet against the accused in the case, saying there was "prima facie" sufficient incriminating evidence about their involvement.

Jawan kills colleague at Kolkata museum



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, August 6:** A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan allegedly shot dead a senior colleague and injured another officer in a fratricidal incident inside their barrack attached to the Indian Museum in Kolkata Saturday evening, officials said. The alleged firer, head constable A K Mishra, used an AK 47 to kill assistant sub-inspector Ranjit Sarangi while an Assistant Commandant rank officer Suvir Ghosh suffered minor bullet injuries. The accused head constable who claimed he was being "targeted" in the unit was arrested. Mishra surrendered after CISF Inspector General (south east) Sudhir Kumar reached the spot and appealed to him to put down his weapon, an official of the paramilitary force said. Kolkata Police also said that its officers persuaded him to leave the gun he was holding and surrender. The accused is alleged to have forcibly taken out the weapon from the unit armoury and emptied the entire magazine as others took cover to save themselves. After the firing, the two injured men were taken to the state-run SSKM Hospital where Sarangi died. The CISF has ordered a court of inquiry to ascertain the reasons why the incident occurred. "The incident took place at around 6.30 PM. One CISF jawan has been killed while another is injured. We have arrested the accused head constable," Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal said.

After getting information that a firing took place in the museum, the deputy commissioner of police (central), a combat team and a Quick Response Team reached the spot, he said. "We had communicated with the CISF We successfully convinced the accused (to surrender) after disarming him. We are investigating the matter," Goyal told reporters. One vehicle was also damaged in the firing in the barrack as the over 200-year-old museum, which is India's "oldest and largest" such facility. The police took the arrested CISF employee and the damaged car to the New Market police station. While being taken to a police vehicle, Mishra waved toward journalists present near the museum. A team of Kolkata Police's forensic team later reached the spot. A police officer who was part of the operation said that Mishra was hiding in a small room inside the barrack. "We had to talk to him and convince him to leave the gun and surrender. After much persuasion, he said policemen can enter the room without arms," the officer said. CISF took over the armed security of the museum, located in Park Street area in the heart of Kolkata, in December 2019. Founded in 1814, Indian Museum is the earliest and the largest multipurpose museum not only in the Indian subcontinent but also in the Asia-Pacific region of the world. It is an autonomous organisation under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Culture.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, August 6:** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao Saturday told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he would be boycotting the 7th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog scheduled to be held on August 7, as a mark of strong protest against the present 'discriminating' trend of the Centre towards States. In a letter to Modi, KCR, as Rao is also known, said the country can develop only when states develop. Strong and economically vibrant states alone can make the nation strong, he said. "In view of these facts, I do not find it useful to attend the 7th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog scheduled to be held on August 7, 2022 and I am staying away from it as a mark of strong protest against the present trend of Central government to discriminate against the States and not treating them as equal partners in our collective effort to make the na-



tion strong and developed," Rao said in the letter, narrating a host of reasons for the boycott. Alleging that recent "unpleasant happenings" have given rise to a realisation that the federal structure is being systematically eroded by some "deliberate actions" by the Centre, Rao said it is needless to say these developments are very much discouraging to "trail-blazing" States like Telangana. "The blatant discrimination against some states even in the legitimate functions assigned to them in the Constitution leaves much to be desired," he said. He reminded Modi that though in the beginning

The blatant discrimination against some states even in the legitimate functions assigned to them in the Constitution leaves much to be desired

K CHANDRASHEKAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

NITI Aayog had constituted a group of Chief Ministers to give recommendations on developmental issues, it was kept aside and on the contrary the Centre is micro-managing the schemes giving a go-by to State-specific needs which are best left to individual States. "It is not just in case of such schemes but Centre has also turned a Nelson's eye even to the recommendations of NITI Aayog itself..." KCR said. He alleged that though there were recommendations from NITI Aayog for a grant of Rs 5,000 crore to Mission Kakatiya and Central assistance of Rs 19,205 to Mission Bhagiratha, the NDA government ignored them and did not release any money for the schemes.



Students participate in a peace rally to mark the 77th anniversary of World War II atomic bombing of Hiroshima in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

ISRO on cusp of making history

ISRO would be making its maiden launch of a small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV), which would be used to deploy satellites in the low orbit earth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, August 6:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is on the cusp of making history as the space agency is all set to embark on its maiden Small Satellite Launch Vehicle mission, ferrying an earth observation satellite and a student satellite from the spaceport in Sriharikota, about 135 kms from here Sunday. After carving a niche on successful mission launches through its trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV), Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV), ISRO would be making its maiden launch of a small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV), which would be used to deploy satellites in the low orbit earth. Scientists at the ISRO have been engaged in developing small launch vehicles over the last few weeks to meet the demand for such small satellites, which weigh upto 500



kgs and can be injected into the 500 kms low earth orbit. The SSLV is 34m tall, about 10m less than the PSLV and it has a vehicle diameter of two metres as compared to 2.8 metres of PSLV. SSLV has a lift off mass of 120 tonne while PSLV has 320 tonnes, which can carry payloads upto 1,800 kgs. On Sunday's mission, SSLV would carry Earth Observation Satellite -02 and a co-passenger satellite AzaadiSAT -- developed by the student team of 'Space Kidz India'. According to ISRO sources, the countdown compared to other missions which would be 25 hour is reduced to five hours and was expected to commence on Sunday at

4.18 hours for the lift off scheduled at 9.18 am from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The significance of SSLV is that it has the fourth stage which carries liquid propulsion based Velocity Trimming Module to place the satellites into the intended orbit. The rocket comprises solid fuel to fire the first three stages. The Earth Observation Satellite designed by ISRO, offers advanced optical remote sensing operating in infra-red band with high spatial resolution. It belongs to the micro-satellite series of spacecraft. After travelling for about 13 minutes, SSLV is expected to first place the EOS-02 into the intended orbit followed by AzaadiSAT which is an eight kg Cubesat designed by the girl students from government schools across the country to mark the 75th Anniversary of Independence.

Excise policy: LG suspends 11 officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 6:** Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has approved the suspension of 11 officials over "serious lapses" in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22, sources said Saturday. The suspended officials include then Delhi excise commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna and deputy excise commissioner Anand Kumar Tiwari, they said. Krishna, a 2012 batch AGMUT-cadre IAS officer, is currently posted in the Union Territory of Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu. He was transferred from the post of Delhi Excise Commissioner on July 12, 2022. Tiwari, a 2003 batch DANICS officer is currently posted with the Delhi Excise department. Suspension and major disciplinary proceedings have also been approved against three ad-hoc DANICS officers and six officials of the Delhi government's excise department, sources at the L-G's office said. The decision was taken



given the "serious lapses on the part of the officers concerned" in the implementation of the excise policy, including "irregularities in finalising the tender and extending post-tender benefits" to select vendors, they said. According to sources, the 11 officials against whom suspension and disciplinary action have been approved include then assistant excise commissioners Pankaj Bhatnagar, Narinder Singh and Neeraj Gupta. The action was taken by Saxena based on an inquiry report filed by the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV).



# JD(U)'s frayed ties with BJP under scanner

THE PARTY IS WORKING TOWARDS RECLAIMING ITS STATUS AS THE NUMERO UNO IN THE STATE AND UNDOING THE SETBACK IT RECEIVED IN THE 2020 POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, August 6:** Ties between the BJP and its ally JD(U) have come under scanner following the latter's top leadership asserting that the party is aiming at making a comeback as the largest political force in the state.

JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan is said to have told some media outlets a couple of days ago that his party was working towards reclaiming its status as the numero uno in the state and undoing the setback it received in the 2020 assembly polls, which he blamed on a "conspiracy".

The allusion was to the "brinkmanship" of Chirag Paswan, who then headed the Lok Janshakti Party and fielded candidates against all JD(U) nominees, many of them BJP rebels, and the chief minister's party saw its tally crash to 43 from 71 five years earlier.

The JD(U) leader's comments have unleashed a storm in a teacup in this highly politicised state with RJD spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwari chuckling "big trouble is brewing in the NDA. Its boat will sink in the floods that the rainy season brings."

Tiwari for his part believes that Nitish Kumar, with his "Samajwadi" (socialist) background, will not be able to withstand the BJP's "Hindutva agenda".

He, however, became guarded when asked whether there seemed to be a possibility of yet another realignment between the JD(U) and the RJD, which had joined hands ahead of the 2015 assembly polls and parted ways two years



**Who has seen tomorrow? (kal kisne dekha hai). We are at present working on making the party number one again. 2024 and 2025 are far away. We must regain the ground we had lost because of a conspiracy in the last assembly polls**

RAJIV RANJAN SINGH | JD(U) NATIONAL PRESIDENT

later but not before inflicting a crushing defeat on the BJP at the hustings.

"I can only say that Bihar needs, and will get sooner rather than later, a Samajwadi government and the people are seeing new hope in Tejashwi Yadav. It is too early to say what will be the composition of such a government," the RJD spokesman said Friday.

Lalan is said to have made the remarks in response to queries about the BJP's recent assertion that it looked forward to contest

the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the assembly elections a year later under the leadership of Nitish Kumar; a gesture apparently aimed at pacifying the JD(U) which has been sour over the saffron party's domineering stance.

"Who has seen tomorrow? (kal kisne dekha hai). We are at present working on making the party number one again. 2024 and 2025 are far away. We must regain the ground we had lost because of a conspiracy in the last assembly polls," Lalan has been reported as

having said.

Among the oldest associates of the Bihar CM, Lalan has since left for Delhi to attend the ongoing Parliament session, causing fresh turmoil back home.

However, the JD(U)'s chief spokesman Neeraj Kumar said his party had a "clear conscience" and that he was bewildered to see "needless" averments on part of the BJP.

"This is 2022. What is the purpose of discussing 2024 and 2025 right now? The leadership of Nitish Kumar has never been questioned in the NDA. Why is the BJP making assertions which have no need," asked the JD(U) spokesman.

He was referring to the statement by BJP national general secretary Arun Singh here last week at a media briefing after a two-day function which was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The JD(U) spokesman and MLC, who is considered close to Lalan, was also asked about the "conspiracy" remark by the party chief.

"That is a fact. Even the LJP rank and file realised it, a reason why most leaders of the party broke away with Chirag Paswan," Neeraj said.

Meanwhile, the BJP appeared to be in no mood, as of now, to engage in a spat with its oldest ally.

"Our ties have been with Nitish Kumar and these go back to 1996 when his party was called Samata Party. We do not pay much attention to what others in his party say," state BJP spokesman Prem Ranjan Patel said.

The BJP has always regarded Nitish Kumar as the NDA's leader in Bihar, he stated.

# High uranium in groundwater leaves authorities worried

The Bureau of Indian Standard has not mentioned any standard for uranium in drinking water, while the WHO has set drinking the water standards for uranium in drinking water as 30 µg per litre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Patna, August 6:** The high concentration of uranium in groundwater in certain districts in Bihar has left the authorities worried and 100 water samples from ten districts have been sent to Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) centre in Lucknow for scientific analysis, a top official said.

Presence of uranium in drinking water is a matter of great concern in respect of public health, CGWB (Middle-East region) regional director Thakur Brahmanand Singh said.

"The water samples have been sent for isotopic uranium analysis through Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) method which measures isotopic ratios at a reasonably high accuracy. The future course of action will be decided only after getting the report," he told PTI here.

Districts from where the groundwater samples have been recently collected are Nalanda, Nawada, Katihar, Madhepura, Vaishali, Supaul, Aurangabad, Gaya, Saran and Jehanabad.

"The CGWB, public health engineering department of Bihar Government and the Geological Survey of India are jointly working towards quantifying uranium concentration in groundwater in

the state and also preparing a comprehensive action plan to deal with the situation," Singh said.

The uranium concentration reported in previous studies in the state will be compared with the new findings.

The Bureau of Indian Standard has not mentioned any standard for uranium in drinking water, while the World Health Organisation has set drinking the water standards for uranium in drinking water as 30 µg/l.

During 2019-20 the CGWB had collected a total 14377 groundwater samples from shallow wells, water sources across the country for the quantification of presence of uranium. From Bihar 634 samples were analysed and it was found that concentration of the heavy metal in 11 samples was beyond the permissible limit set by WHO, Singh said.

The analysis found that districts where groundwater had high uranium are Saran, Bhabhua, Khagaria, Madhepura, Nawada, Sheikhpura, Purnea, Kishanganj and Begusarai, he said.

Explaining its detrimental impact of the heavy metal, chairman of Bihar State Pollution Control Board Ashok Kumar Ghosh told

PTI, "Uranium contamination in groundwater is a matter of serious concern as it is hazardous to the health of those exposed. High exposure may cause bone toxicity and impaired renal function and cancer."

The Board's study too found uranium contamination in the groundwater in Bihar, he added.

"It took one and a half years for the researchers to come to the conclusion. Studies show that uranium is a chemo-toxic and nephrotoxic heavy metal. This chemotoxicity affects the kidneys and bones in particular," Ghosh said.

Uranium concentrations are elevated mostly in the north west-south east band along and to the east of Gandak river and south of the Ganga river towards Jharkhand, particularly in Gopalganj Siwan, Saran, Patna, Nalanda and Nawada districts, the study said.

The study, which was published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health in April, 2020, was conducted by David Polya and Laura A Richards of the University of Manchester (UK), Ashok Kumar Ghosh and Arun Kumar of Mahavir Cancer Sansthan, Patna.

# Cong to support Grand Alliance protest against inflation in Bihar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, August 6:** Estranged from the Opposition Grand Alliance in Bihar, the Congress Saturday, announced its support to statewide protests proposed by the RJD-led coalition against price rise under the NDA rule at the Centre.

BPCC president Madan Mohan Jha directed party workers to extend support to demonstrations which are scheduled across all districts Sunday, when Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav will himself lead the 'Pratirodh March' (protest march) in the state capital.

Notably, the Congress was the second-largest constituent of the Grand Alliance until by-elections to a couple of assembly seats last year when it strongly protested the short

shrift given by the RJD and threatened to go it alone in the next Lok Sabha elections.

It was not clear from Jha's letter whether the Congress' support will be only in principle or its rank and file will be hitting the streets alongside estranged allies.

The RJD, a UPA ally, has been maintaining that it will continue to support the Congress nationally, though a section of leaders in the grand old party in Bihar complain of patronising treatment by Yadav and his father Lalu Prasad, who is known to share excellent personal equations with Sonia Gandhi.

At the RJD office here, a gigantic poster announcing the 'Pratirodh March' has been put up. Yadav's photograph occupies centrestage beside smaller images of Prasad, Gandhi and leaders of the Left.

## LUMPY SKIN DISEASE IN PUNJAB

# HUNDREDS OF CATTLE DIE, THOUSANDS INFECTED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, August 6:** Over 400 cattle have died due to lumpy skin disease in Punjab in a month and around 20,000, mostly cows, have been infected, a senior official said Saturday.

Barnala, Bathinda Faridkot, Jalandhar, Moga and Muktsar are among the worst-affected districts of the state, joint director of Punjab Animal Husbandry Department Ram Pal Mittal said.

The department has also issued an advisory for protecting animals from the viral infection.

The first confirmed case of lumpy skin disease (LSD) was reported in Punjab July 4, Mittal said.

"Around 20,000 cases of LSD have been reported so far in Punjab and 424 cattle have died," he said.

Mostly cows have been affected by the disease, with infections being reported from 'gaushalas' and dairy farms, he added.

LSD is caused by a virus of the capripox genus. It spreads rapidly among cows and buffaloes through flies, mosquitoes and ticks.

It causes soft blister-like nodules all over the body, fever, runny nose, watery eyes, salivation, re-



## VIRAL INFECTION

◆ LSD is caused by a virus of the capripox genus. It spreads rapidly among cows and buffaloes through flies, mosquitoes and ticks

◆ It causes soft blister-like nodules all over the body, fever, runny nose, watery eyes, salivation, reduced milk yield and difficulty in eating

duced milk yield and difficulty in eating.

According to the advisory issued by the Animal Husbandry Department, an animal that has contracted LSD should be separated from others to check the spread of the infection.

The movement of such animals should also be restricted, the advisory stated.

Animals affected by LSD should be given green fodder and a liquid diet, Mittal said, adding that cattle owners should maintain hygienic conditions and spray disinfectants in animal sheds.

The state government has already instructed field veterinary staff to intensify the campaign for the prevention of the contagious disease.

It has also ordered that veterinary officers be deputed in the worst-affected districts with immediate effect.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, August 6:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his Cabinet colleague Harpal Cheema Saturday appeared in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Amaninder Singh here in a two-year-old rioting case.

The AAP leaders led a party protest in January 2020 against the then Congress government led by Capt Amarinder Singh against the power tariff hike.

However, the court had granted exemption from appearance to another Cabinet minister Aman Arora.

A case was registered against AAP leaders, including Mann and

Cheema, on charges of pelting Chandigarh Police with stones in a demonstration January 10, 2020.

They were booked on charges of rioting, assault and obstructing police from performing their duties near the MLA hostel in Sector 4, Chandigarh.

In the previous hearing March 23, Mann, Cheema and other leaders were asked to appear before the Chief Judicial Magistrate court.

Mann was represented by senior advocate Anmol Rattan Sidhu and advocate Pratham Sethi.

As per the police, half a dozen police personnel were injured when AAP supporters allegedly started throwing stones at them.



# Only 53% babies breastfed within 1 hr of birth in Punjab

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, August 6:** Only 53 per cent of children under three years are breastfed within one hour of birth in Punjab, which should be more than 90 per cent. Also, only 55.5 per cent of them are exclusively breastfed for up to six months.

The fact came to light in a panel discussion, organised by Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) chapter of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics and the Human Milk Bank Association (HMB), as part of World Breastfeeding Week that is observed from August 1 to August 7 to raise awareness on the significance of breastfeeding and also encourage people to nurture and promote the practice.

Speaking on an ideal diet for working breastfeeding mothers, Balraj Yadav, paediatrician and joint organising secretary with the IYCF, said all mothers can continue to breastfeed exclusively as a working mother for the first six months with the strategies most suitable to them depending upon the circumstances.

If possible, the baby can be taken along to the workplace, especially if a creche facility is available near the workplace.

However, if the workplace is near to the residing place one may be able to go home and breastfeed during breaks or ask the caretaker to bring the child to the workplace for it, he said.

In case the workplace is far and the baby cannot be taken along,



benefits of exclusive breastfeeding can still be given to the baby by expressing breast milk soon after the baby is born. Working mothers

can express milk before going to work and leave it for their baby.

Yadav said the caregiver should be taught to give breast milk prop-

erly and carefully to the baby when the mother is away for work.

Expressed breast milk stays in a good condition for at least eight hours even during summers when kept in a cool and dark place, and 24 hours in the refrigerator.

Another expert, HB Mallikarjuna demonstrated how most babies born with a cleft lip (and no cleft palate) feed well without any special equipment. The only change needed might be positioning the nipple so the baby can latch.

He said in the presence of a cleft palate, breastfeeding in the traditional manner is often not recommended, but there are alternative methods for providing breast milk to the baby with appropriate equipment.

According to Lalan Bharti, the

added advantages of breast milk to low birth weight babies are that they are less prone to sepsis and have better weight gain and head growth with improvement in neurodevelopment outcome.

Moreover, the mortality rates are lowered in these babies compared to formula-fed babies.

Kanya Mukhopadhyay of the Department of Paediatrics in the PGI in Chandigarh said the WHO and UNICEF recommend initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour of birth, feeding infants only breast milk for the first six months and continued breastfeeding up to two years or beyond, with the introduction of nutritionally adequate and safe complementary solid foods at six months.

# Drive against addiction among prisoners

AGENCIES

**Chandigarh, August 6:** The Punjab government has roped in Narcotics Anonymous, a non-profit society, to tackle drug addiction among jail inmates. Under the initiative called "peer support network," meetings will be held in jails to help drug addicts get rid of the problem, according to a statement. The initiative started from this month.

Jails Minister Harjot Singh Bains Friday said initially the initiative has been launched at 19 jails, where 1,540 inmates are attending meetings. The initiative at the rest six jails will be launched at a later stage.

He said peer support is one of the three essential pillars of outpatient opioid assisted treatment (OOAT) model, that is medication, peer support and counselling.



I am not here to seek donations, I do not need donations. I am here to make traders and industrialists partners in the development of Gujarat

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL** | AAP NATIONAL CONVENOR

Air connectivity is the need of the hour and during the past five years, the state government has taken steps in this direction and has achieved great success

**YOGI ADITYANATH** | UP CM

As a matter of fact, both Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal are now deadwood of Punjab politics. People rejected them as they failed to fulfill their expectations

**BHAGWANT MANN** | PUNJAB CM

**SHORT TAKES**

**Maoists kill villager in MP**

**Bhopal:** A villager was killed by Maoists on suspicion of being a police informer in the forest area of Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, police said Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Lahu Dhurve, a resident of Malajkhand village. Maoists also took away the corpse, police said, adding that efforts are on to get the body back with the villagers' help.

**Eight injured**

**Jammu:** Eight students were injured Saturday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district. Police sources said that a bus going from Udhampur town to Barmeen village skidded off the road at Massora. "Eight students were injured in this accident. They were shifted to Udhampur district hospital for treatment", the sources said, adding that further details are awaited.

**Man killed**

**Gurugram:** In a shocking incident, a 24-year-old man was stabbed to death by his friend after a dispute, police here said Saturday. The incident took place near Nurpur road on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The police identified the deceased as Sahil alias Tilli, a resident of Bhoda in Pataudi, while the accused Ravinder is currently absconding.

**Girl gangraped**

**Agartala:** A 15-year-old girl has been allegedly gangraped by four youths in North Tripura district, police said Saturday. Three of the accused have been arrested, while a manhunt has been launched to nab the fourth. "The incident took place when the four accused kidnapped the minor while she was returning from her private tuition at Kalagangerpar in Kadamtala Police Station area around 7.30 PM on Friday and took her to a nearby forest, where they took turns to rape her," Dharmanagar SDPO Soumya Debbarma said.

**Woman kills daughter in Goa**

**Panaji:** A woman allegedly killed her 18-month-old daughter at a village in Goa early on Saturday and later jumped into a river in an attempt to end life, but was rescued by some construction workers, police said Saturday. The 34-year-old woman, who hails from the state, came to her parents' house at Chicelim in South Goa last week after spending several years in Germany, where her husband currently works, an official said.



**The lack of all due procedures from Election Commission of India and a hasty process to link Aadhaar of every voter will lead to incidents that have previously occurred like the deletion of genuine voters**

**SITARAM YECHURY** | COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST) GENERAL SECRETARY

**BOMMAI TESTS COVID POSITIVE**

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Saturday announced that he has tested positive for Covid-19, adding that his trip to New Delhi has been cancelled



**ED tightens noose on Partha**

**THE AGENCY OFFICIALS HAVE CONTACTED ALL THE BANK AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND ASKED FOR STATEMENT DETAILS, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY WILL BE SENT FOR FORENSIC AUDIT**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, August 6:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing the multi-crore teacher recruitment scam in West Bengal has come across as many as 50 banks accounts held individually or jointly by prime accused Partha Chatterjee and his close aide Arpita Mukherjee.

The agency officials have contacted all the bank authorities concerned and asked for statement details, following which they will be sent for forensic audit. Meanwhile, the ED sleuths have come across another shell company in this connection, in which the names of directors were changed a number of times ever since it was floated on March 23, 2012.

The address of the said company, Ananta Texfab Private Limited, is Club Town Heights, Block 5, Flat 8A, 14 B.T. Road, Kolkata 700056. Incidentally, this is also the address of Arpita Mukherjee's flat from where the ED sleuths had recovered huge



stash of cash and gold on July 28. As per the ED, when the corporate entity was floated on March 23,

2012, its three directors were Partha Chatterjee's deceased wife, late Babli Chatterjee, daughter Sohini

(Bhattacharya) Chatterjee and son-in-law Kalyanmoy Bhattacharya. In 2016, the names of the daughter and wife were removed from the list of directors and Arpita Mukherjee's name was included. However, as per Corporate Affairs Ministry records, currently the two existing directors of the company are Mrinmoy Malakar and Ranesh Kumar Singh. "The names of directors changing so frequently points at something fictitious in this entity. Probably this is another shell company which was used to divert funds to different channels. Now we are trying to detect the identity of the two current directors, Mrinmoy Malakar and Ranesh Kumar Singh, and their links with Partha Chatterjee and Arpita Mukherjee," an ED official said. ED has summoned Sohini (Bhattacharya) Chatterjee and Kalyanmoy Bhattacharya for questioning in this connection. Both are currently settled in the US and the ED has sent an email communique to them asking them to reach Kolkata at the earliest.

**Gangrape sparks outrage in Maha**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, August 6:** In another shocker, a woman was brutally gang-raped in Maharashtra's Bhandara, sparking a political war between the ruling Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis regime and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi.

According to the police, the victim, aged around 35, was sexually assaulted between July 30 and August 2 near Kanhadmoh village under the Kardha police station in Bhandara district. She was dumped by the assailants near the highway where some villagers noticed her, naked and bleeding profusely from serious injuries, and alerted the police.

The police rushed her first to a local hospital in Bhandara but as her wounds were deep, she was shifted to the Nagpur government hospital where she has undergone a surgery. However, her condition is still critical.

The Chairperson of Maharashtra State Commission for Women, Rupali, took serious cognisance of the incident, while other leaders compared it to the decade-old Nirbhaya incident of Delhi. Following an uproar, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by a woman IPS officer to probe the case, which he termed as "a serious and gruesome incident".

As per the preliminary police probe, at least three persons were involved in the crime of which two have been traced and picked up for questioning, details of which are not immediately available.

The Bhandara Police are scouring the CCTV footages on the Bhandara-Gondiya highway besides launching a manhunt for the one or more persons who may have been involved in the crime in the district and the adjoining areas.

**Dhanbad judge murder: Convicts get life term**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Dhanbad (Jharkhand), August 6:** A special CBI court here Saturday sentenced both the men convicted of the sensational murder of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhanbad, Uttam Anand, who was mowed down while out a morning walk, to life in jail for remainder of their natural life without any remission.

The court also imposed fine of Rs 30,000 each on Lakhman Kumar Verma and Rahul Kumar Verma, who were convicted by the court on July 28 - exactly an year after the crime.

Anand was on a morning walk on July 28, 2021 when he was mowed down deliberately by an auto-rickshaw, seriously injured, and succumbed during treatment. The gory visuals caught on CCTV had created an outrage across the na-

tion and drawn the attention of the Supreme Court, which took up the case suo moto, and ordered the Jharkhand High Court to monitor the trial. The state government had handed over the probe to the CBI, which had registered the case on August 4, 2021. The case was earlier registered by State police on a complaint from Anand's wife and two accused were arrested by local police.

**Agnipath: SKM campaign begins**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 6:** The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella organisation of farm unions, Saturday said it will launch a nationwide campaign against the Centre's Agnipath scheme for military recruitment August 7.

It said the scheme is a "serious setback" to farming families whose youths have been part of the armed forces. The campaign will be launched in collaboration with the United Front of ex-Servicemen and various youth organisations.

The Agnipath scheme, announced on June 14, seeks to recruit youths in the age bracket of 17-and-half and 21 for only four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years. For 2022,

the upper age limit has been extended to 23 years. Several parts of India witnessed violent protests against the scheme in June with the agitators demanding its rollback as the new model does not provide a job guarantee to 75 per cent of the recruits.

The Agnipath scheme has "put to an end the tried and tested method of regular, permanent recruitment to the armed forces. It would mean a drastic reduction in the size of the armed forces from the present sanctioned strength of 14 lakh to merely seven lakh," the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said in a statement on Saturday.

"This is a serious setback to farming families who have contributed to the nation by sending their youths to the armed forces. The proposed 'all India, all class recruitment' would severely reduce the share of regions like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Uttarakhand, western UP and eastern Rajasthan that have contributed to the armed forces for generations, besides affecting the morale of the regiments," it said.

**RELIGIOUS FERVOUR**



Devotees take part in Kalash Yatra during the holy month of Shravan, in Jaipur

PTI PHOTO

**Chhattisgarh villagers claim 61 died of mysterious illness in 3 yrs**

*The collector said the team of health officials, which visited the village after the matter came to light, had conducted medical examinations on villagers during which 41 people were identified as having swelling in their body and suffering from kidney-related issues*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sukma, August 6:** Residents of a remote village in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district have claimed that 61 people died there in nearly last three years due to some "unknown" illness, following which the authorities have swung into action to know what exactly caused these deaths.

The residents of Regadgatta village, located in Konta development block, recently raised this issue with the district authorities, who said that the preliminary investigation of records shows that 47 people died due to various reasons, including ailments and natural causes.

A detailed report to identify

heavy metal content like arsenic in water and soil there is awaited, officials said, adding that on August 8, a team of specialists will be sent to the village for an in-depth study of environmental causes. The population of the village is more than 1,000 with 130 families residing there.

July 27, the villagers handed over a letter to Sukma district collector, claiming that 61 people, including young men and women, who had symptoms of swelling on their hands and legs, have died there since 2020. The villagers requested the administration to send a team of doctors immediately to deal with the issue to prevent further deaths.

After locals raised the issue, a

team of healthcare personnel and other experts were sent there last week, Sukma collector Harish S said. "Preliminary investigation suggests that 47 people died in that village in the last three years but all of them did not die due to the same reason as claimed by the locals," he added.

Some of the deceased had swelling on their bodies and it could be due to different reasons. Preliminary reports of samples of water sources concluded that fluoride level was more than the limit in two water sources while in some sources, iron content was in excess, he said.

"But as of now, we cannot say that the deaths were caused due to heavy metal content in water as con-



sumption of water carrying high fluoride causes bone weakness and there are no such symptoms in the local population," he said.

Even high iron content causes complications but sudden deaths cannot happen due to it. There could be other environmental

causes. Chronic alcoholic behaviour among the population could also be also a possibility (for kidney related ailments), he added.

A detailed report to identify heavy metal content like arsenic in water and soil there is awaited, he said. The collector said the team of

health officials, which visited the village after the matter came to light, had conducted medical examinations on villagers during which 41 people were identified as having swelling in their body and suffering from kidney-related issues.

The examination revealed uric acid and creatinine level were elevated as compared to normal parameters on them. They are being provided treatment and their condition was stable, he said.

Of them, two highly anaemic patients were admitted to Sukma district hospital, he said. August 8, a team of specialists will be sent to the village for further study of environmental causes, he added.

District's Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Yashwant Dhruv said preliminary investigation shows 15 deaths took place in the village this year due to multiple reasons, including renal diseases, old-age related problems and malaria.

against Rai in 2019. She also alleged that some senior police officers were supporting the accused.

Rai was booked by the Hazratganj police in Lucknow for abetting the suicide of the two.

In July, the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, while denying bail to Rai, had asked

**In August last year, the woman along with her friend and witness in the case died after self-immolation outside the Supreme Court in Delhi**

Parliament and the Election Commission of India to take effective measures to remove criminals from politics and break the unholy nexus among them, politicians and bureaucrats.

A bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh said it is the responsibility of Parliament to show its collective will to restrain criminals from entering politics or legislature to save democracy. Considering the criminal history of 23 cases against Rai, the might of the accused, evidence on record and the possibility of tampering with the evidence, the bench said, it did not find any ground to grant bail to him at this stage.

Before committing suicide, the two had recorded a Facebook Live video in which the alleged victim disclosed her identity and claimed that she had filed the rape case





of the day quote

The question is whether Pakistan's airspace was allowed to be used to not. The nation wants to know whether we are again going to become a tool of the United States against Al Qaeda

Let's reset Sri Lanka. The next six months to one year I think till about July next year, we will have to go through a hard time

**FAWAD CHAUDHRY** | OPPOSITION LEADER, PAKISTAN

The sharp rise in healthy life expectancy during the past two decades is a testament to the region's drive for improved health and well-being of the population

**RANIL WICKREMESINGHE** | PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

SHORT TAKES

Indiana okays abortion ban

**Indianapolis:** Indiana Friday became the first state in the nation to approve abortion restrictions since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, as the Republican governor quickly signed a near-total ban on the procedure shortly after lawmakers approved it. The ban, which takes effect Sept 15, includes some exceptions. Abortions would be permitted in cases of rape and incest, before 10-weeks post-fertilisation; to protect the life and physical health of the mother; and if a fetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly.

New Covid cases surge in Canada

**Ottawa:** In the week from July 24-30, the Public Health Agency of Canada registered 28,596 new Covid-19 cases. According to the PHAC's latest update Friday, the number of total Covid-19 cases and deaths in Canada reached 4,084,728 and 42,901, respectively, reports Xinhua news agency. The daily positive rate during the week averaged at 13.6 per cent, and daily tests per 100,000 people were 69.

Croatia bus crash claims at least 12

**Varazdin:** Twelve people were killed and 31 injured, 18 of them seriously, when a Polish bus filled with religious pilgrims slipped off a road and crashed near Varazdin in northwestern Croatia early Saturday, authorities said. The passengers were adult pilgrims who were travelling to Medjugorje, a Roman Catholic shrine in southern Bosnia, Croatian Interior Minister Davor Bozinovic told reporters.

Japan PM Kishida to reshuffle cabinet

**Tokyo:** Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Saturday he will reshuffle his cabinet next week to address mounting issues including Taiwan tensions, Covid-19 and economic stimulus measures to counter inflation. "We need to set off a new formation as soon as possible considering the various issues," he told a news conference.

Kabul blast kills 2

**Kabul:** A bomb went off Saturday in a minority Shiite neighbourhood of the Afghan capital, killing at least two people and wounding 22, a Taliban official said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, but blame is likely to fall on the Islamic State group.



Pelosi is the worst destroyer of international peace and stability. It would be a fatal mistake for her to think that she can go scot-free in the Korean Peninsula

**JO YONG SAM** | FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INFORMATION AFFAIRS, NORTH KOREA

B'DESH HIKES FUEL TO ALL-TIME HIGH

Bangladesh's retail fuel prices have been hiked to levels not seen since its independence in 1971. The government Friday night hiked the fuel prices by up to 51.7% with effect from Saturday. Now a liter of octane now costs 135 taka (\$1.43), which is 51.7% higher than the previous rate of 89 taka. The prices of diesel and kerosene have been increased by 42.5% to 114 taka



NEW WAR ON ANVIL?

China mounts attack simulation: Taiwan

Beijing says its relations with Taiwan are an internal matter and that it reserves the right to bring the island under its control, by force if necessary. Taiwan rejects China's claims saying only Taiwan's people can decide their future

REUTERS

**Taipei, August 6:** Taiwan officials said Chinese aircraft and warships rehearsed an attack on the island Saturday, part of Beijing's retaliation for a visit there by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that has also seen it halt talks with the United States on issues including defence and climate change.

Pelosi's brief visit this week to the self-ruled island that China regards as its territory infuriated Beijing and prompted unprecedented military drills that have included ballistic missiles fired over the capital, Taipei.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken accused China of taking "irresponsible steps" by halting key communication channels with Washington, and said its actions over Taiwan showed a move from prioritising peaceful resolution towards use of force.

The Chinese exercises - centred on six locations around the island - began Thursday and are scheduled to last until midday Sunday.

Taiwan's defence ministry said multiple Chinese ships and planes conducted missions in the Taiwan Strait, with some crossing the median line, an unofficial buffer separating the two sides, in what the Taiwan military described as a simulation attack on the island.

China's Eastern Theater

Our government and military are closely monitoring China's military exercises and information warfare operations, ready to respond as necessary. I call on the international community to support democratic Taiwan and halt any escalation of the regional security situation

**TSAI ING-WEN** | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

CHINESE SHIPS AIRCRAFT CONDUCT SIMULATED ATTACK  
BLINKEN CALLS CHINA'S CESSATION OF DIALOGUE 'IRRESPONSIBLE'

CHINA CALLS FOR US TO 'RECTIFY MISTAKE'



Top Taiwan missile official found dead

**Taipei:** The deputy head of Taiwan defence ministry's research and development unit was found dead Saturday morning in a hotel room, succumbing to a heart attack, according to the official Central News Agency. Ou Yang Li-hsing, deputy head of the military-owned National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology, had died in a hotel room in southern Taiwan, CNA reported. Authorities said 57-year-old Ou Yang died of a heart attack and the hotel room showed no sign of any "intrusion", CNA said. His family said he had a history of heart disease and had a cardiac stent, according to the report.

Command said it had continued to conduct sea and air joint exercises north, southwest and east of Taiwan. It said its focus was on testing the system's land strike and sea assault capabilities.

Chinese warships and aircraft continued to "press" into the median line of the Taiwan Strait Saturday afternoon, a person familiar with security planning said.

Off Taiwan's east coast and close to Japanese islands, Chinese warships and drones simulated attacks on US and Japanese warships, the person added.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it fired flares late Friday to warn away seven drones flying over its Kinmen islands and unidentified

aircraft flying over its Matsu islands. Both island groups are close to mainland China's coast.

Pelosi arrived in Taiwan late Tuesday in the highest-level visit to the island by a US official in decades, despite Chinese warnings.

Shortly after her delegation left Japan Friday, the final stop of a week-long Asia tour, China announced that it was halting dialogue with the United States in a series of areas including contacts between theatre-level military commanders and on climate change. Speaking during a visit to the Philippines, Blinken said the United States had been hearing concern from allies about what

China warns US not to 'stir up bigger crisis'

**Beijing:** China Saturday warned the US not to "stir up a bigger crisis" over Taiwan, as it stepped up its military drills and warplane incursions in the Taiwan Straits for the third day following House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, which Beijing feels has challenged its claims of sovereignty over the self-ruled island.

While the scale of the military drills has led to speculation that China may be getting ready for an invasion of Taiwan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi played down the reports. "It's a complete rumour and slander that the US claims that China has changed the status quo in the Taiwan Straits," he said.

Foreign Minister Wang has warned the US not to "stir up a bigger crisis" over Taiwan, while defending the unprecedented military drills by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the Taiwan Strait, which included firing missiles over the island.

Wang, who attended the ASEAN

foreign ministers' meeting in Phnom Penh was quoted in the official media here as saying that the usual tactic of the US is that it will first create the problems, and then use them to achieve their goal.

"But this approach will not work on China," he said.

"We must solemnly warn the US not to act rashly or create a bigger crisis," he said, a day after Beijing imposed sanctions on Pelosi and her immediate family.

China has also halted co-operation with the US in several key areas including climate change, military affairs and efforts to combat international crime.

"The People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. This is the real status quo of the Taiwan question," Wang said, refuting criticism from the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who accused Beijing of changing the status quo over Taiwan using Pelosi's visit as an excuse.

We wish to issue a warning to the United States: Do not act rashly, do not create a greater crisis

**WANG YI** | FOREIGN MINISTER, CHINA

he called China's dangerous and destabilising actions around Taiwan, but Washington would remain steady in its handling of the situation and sought to avoid escalating the situation.

He said China's cessation of bilateral dialogue in eight key areas were moves that would punish the world, not just the United States.

Jing Quan, a senior Chinese Embassy official in Washington,

echoed that, telling a briefing: "The only way out of this crisis is that the US side must take measures immediately to rectify its mistakes and eliminate the grave impact of Pelosi's visit."

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said Friday that the Chinese "can go a long way to taking the tensions down simply by stopping these provocative military exercises and ending the rhetoric".

AGAINST RUSSIAN ATROCITIES



Olha, wife of a defender of the Azovstal Iron and Steel Works in Mariupol, attends a rally demanding to recognise Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism after killing Ukrainian prisoners of war in a prison in Olenivka, outside of Donetsk, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues in Kyiv

REUTERS

'TIME FOR RESISTANCE, NOT TRUCE'

Israel-Gaza fighting escalates

Israel's army is preparing for its aerial operation in Gaza to last a week, saying that there are currently no discussions on a ceasefire with Islamic Jihad terrorists

REUTERS

**Gaza/Jerusalem, August 6:** Israel struck in Gaza and Palestinians fired rockets at Israeli cities Saturday after an Israeli operation against the Islamic Jihad militant group ended more than a year of relative calm along the border. Israel Friday killed one of the group's senior commanders in a surprise daytime air strike on a high-rise building in Gaza City which drew rocket salvos in response.

On Saturday, Israel said it struck Islamic Jihad militants preparing



■ Fourteen killed, at least 110 wounded  
■ At least 160 rockets fired toward Israel - military  
■ Israel killed Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza Friday

serious casualties, according to the Israeli ambulance service.

Egyptian, UN and Qatari efforts to end the fighting were underway. Further escalation would largely depend on whether Hamas, the Islamic militant group which controls Gaza, would opt to join the fighting.

The Israeli strikes have killed 14 Palestinians, including at least four more Islamic Jihad militants and a child, and have wounded at least 110 people, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Islamic Jihad did not provide precise details on how many of its members had been killed and signalled no immediate ceasefire. "The time now is for resistance, not a truce," a group official said.

77TH ATOMIC BOMBING ANNIVERSARY

Hiroshima prays for peace, fears new arms race

ON AUGUST 6, 1945, THE US B-29 WARPLANE ENOLA GAY DROPPED WORLD'S FIRST NUCLEAR BOMB NICKNAMED 'LITTLE BOY' AND OBLITERATED THE CITY WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 350,000. THOUSANDS MORE DIED LATER FROM INJURIES AND RADIATION-RELATED ILLNESSES

REUTERS

**Tokyo, August 6:** Bells tolled in Hiroshima Saturday as the city marked the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing, with officials including the United Nations secretary general warning of a new arms race following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

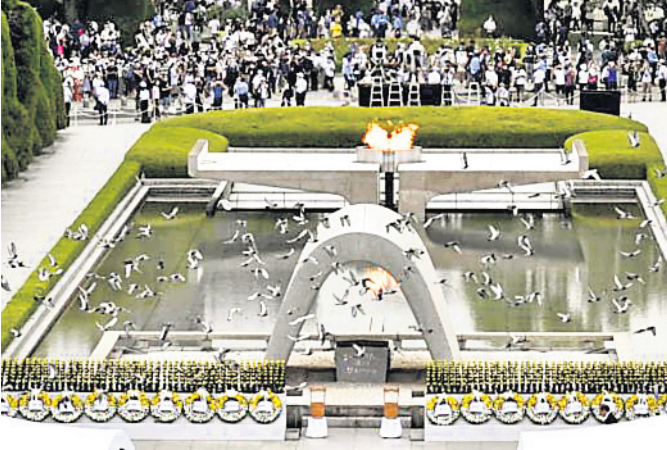
UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres joined the thousands packed into the Peace Park in the centre of the city to mark the anniversary of the bombing that killed 140,000 before the end of 1945, only the second time a UN secretary general has taken part in the annual ceremony.

Guterres sidestepped a direct mention of Russia, which calls its invasion of Ukraine a "special military operation." Hiroshima mayor

Kazumi Matsui, whose city this year did not invite the Russian ambassador to the ceremony, was more pointed and critical of Moscow's military actions in Ukraine.

"In invading Ukraine, the Russian leader, elected to protect the lives and property of his people, is using them as instruments of war, stealing the lives and livelihoods of civilians in a different country," Matsui said. "Around the world, the notion that peace depends on nuclear deterrence gains momentum," he added.

"These errors betray humanity's determination, born of our experiences of war, to achieve a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. To accept the status quo and abandon the ideal of peace maintained without military force is to threaten



Doves fly over the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the world's first atomic bombing, at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

the very survival of the human race."

On Saturday, as cicadas shrilled in the heavy summer air, the Peace

Nuclear weapons are nonsense. They guarantee no safety - only death and destruction. We must ask: What have we learned from the mushroom cloud that swelled above this city? Today, crises with grave nuclear undertones are spreading fast. Humanity is playing with a loaded gun

**ANTONIO GUTERRES** | CHIEF, UN

Bell sounded and the crowd, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is from Hiroshima, observed a moment of silence at the exact time the bomb exploded.

"At the start of this year, the five nuclear-weapon states issued a joint statement: Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," Matsui added. "Why do they not attempt to fulfil their promises? Why do some even hint at using nuclear weapons?"

On Thursday, Russian ambassador to Japan Mikhail Galuzin

offered flowers at a memorial stone in the park and told reporters his nation would never use nuclear weapons.

Kishida, who has chosen Hiroshima as the site of next year's Group of Seven summit, called on the world to abandon nuclear weapons.

The Hiroshima catastrophe was followed by the US military's atomic bombing of Nagasaki Aug 9, instantly killing more than 75,000 people. Japan surrendered six days later, ending World War Two.



of the day quote

With Covid abating, our hospital business has shown a strong uptrend relative to the diagnostics business which has seen a decline in volumes due to a higher Covid-led base in both Q1 and Q4 of FY22

**RAVI RAJAGOPAL** | CHAIRMAN, FORTIS HEALTHCARE

By creating a necessary ecosystem of exports along with collaboration with key stakeholders in the agri-exports value chains, we are aiming to sustain the growth in India's agricultural and processed food exports in the current fiscal as well

**M ANGAMUTHU** | CHAIRMAN, APEDA

We are very excited to make this progress in serving the community better in Bangalore with more convenient flights to Japan, and hence also providing greater options to connect to North America

**SHINYA NARUSE** | VP & REGIONAL MANAGER (INDIA), JAPAN AIRLINES

SHORT TAKES

Paytm Q1 loss rises

**Mumbai:** Indian digital payments firm Paytm Friday reported a wider first-quarter loss as expenses related to marketing and employee benefits rose, but reiterated its target of achieving operational profitability next year. The company's parent firm One 97 Communications Ltd posted a consolidated net loss for Paytm of ₹6.45 billion for the quarter ended June 30, 69% higher than the loss of ₹3.81 billion a year earlier. Total income however rose nearly 88% to ₹17.81 billion, the company's stock exchange filing stated.

SBI profit dips 7%

**New Delhi:** The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) Saturday posted a 7 per cent decline in standalone net profit at ₹6,068 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year due to fall in income. The bank had reported a net profit of ₹6,504 crore in the April-June quarter of 2021-22. Its standalone total income declined to ₹74,998.57 crore in the first quarter of 2022-23, as against ₹77,347.17 crore in the same period a year ago, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Vistara leases Dreamliner aircraft

**New Delhi:** Vistara Saturday said it has taken a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft on lease, which will help the airline increase its number of flights to Frankfurt and Paris. This is the first Dreamliner plane taken on lease by Vistara. The private carrier already has two Dreamliner aircraft, which were purchased from Boeing, in its fleet. Vistara had to take the plane on lease because Boeing has not delivered four more Dreamliner planes to it for two years.

Russian Prez bans unfriendly investors

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree banning "unfriendly" investors from making transactions with their shares in strategic Russian enterprises and projects until the end of the year. The decree, published on the country's official portal for legal information, prohibits foreigners associated with "unfriendly countries" to carry out any kind of transactions with their shares and assets in strategic Russian enterprises and banks until December 31, reports Xinhua news agency.



You (BSNL) have to do what is expected of you. Otherwise, pack up. You should not have any doubt on this. This will be the norm, and this will be the new normal - perform or perish

**ASHWINI VAISHNAW** | TELECOM MINISTER

ALIBABA LAYS OFF NEARLY 10K

Chinese tech conglomerate Alibaba has bid goodbye to nearly 10,000 employees in an effort to cut expenses amid sluggish sales and slowing economy in the country, the media reported Saturday. According to South China Morning Post, more than 9,241 employees left Hangzhou-based Alibaba during the June quarter, as the company trimmed its overall headcount to 245,700



World food prices declining, says FAO

A deal to allow grain shipments from Ukraine and adjustments to the global supply chain helped relieve some price pressure

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Rome, August 6:** World food prices declined dramatically in July following the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine, according to the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The monthly index of food commodity prices fell 8.6 per cent in July, its largest one-month fall

since 2008, according to data released by the UN agency.

Despite the trend from July, the index is still 5 per cent higher than at the start of the year and 13 per cent above levels from a year ago.

In April, the FAO index reached its highest-ever level due to increases in fuel prices, a slowdown in grain exports from Russia and Ukraine amid the ongoing war,



The decline represented the third consecutive month the index fell, though it's the first time in that period the decline was significant

and other supply chain issues.

Every component of the index retreated in July, led by an 11.5 per cent fall in prices for grains and cereals - the largest component in the index.

The FAO said that development

was partially related to a key deal to unblock the main Black Sea ports in Ukraine to allow grain exports, one of the world's top grain producers.

But prices for grains and cereals were still nearly 25 per cent

above their levels from 12 months ago, it added.

According to the FAO, prices for vegetable oil was down 19.2 per cent, a 10-month low, helped by strong export quotas for Indonesian palm oil.

Dairy prices were 2.5 per cent lower amid lackluster global demand, while prices for meat slipped 0.5 per cent, their first decline since last year.

FAO's Food Price Index is based on worldwide prices for 23 food commodity categories covering prices for 73 different products compared to a baseline year.

FUEL PRICE FREEZE

HPCL reports record loss of ₹10,196 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 6:** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) on Saturday reported its highest ever quarterly net loss of ₹10,196.94 crore in the June quarter as a freeze on petrol and diesel price revision wiped away record refining margins.

A standalone net loss of ₹10,196.94 crore during April-June compares with a net profit of ₹1,795 crore in the same period a year back, according to a company's filing with the stock exchanges.

During the quarter, HPCL and other state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) did not revise petrol and diesel prices in line with rising costs to help the government contain runaway inflation.

The basket of crude oil India imports averaged \$109 per barrel but the retail pump rates were aligned to about \$85-86 a barrel cost. Because of the freeze, IOC too reported a net loss of ₹1,992.53 crore for the June quarter.

Loss for IOC, which is nearly double the size of HPCL, was smaller as it had vast oil refining and petrochemical businesses to offset some of the losses on fuel marketing. HPCL on the other hand sells more fuel than it produces. To meet nearly one-fourth of the market that it controls, it has to buy petrol, diesel and LPG from refineries, who would sell the fuel at market price and not subsidised rates.

HPCL revenue from the sale of products soared to ₹1.21 lakh crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal year that began April 1 from ₹77,308.53 crore a year back. This is mostly because of higher international oil prices. This is the biggest quarterly loss that HPCL has ever incurred.

Forex reserves rise after four weeks of slide

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.315 billion to \$573.875 billion during the week ending June 29



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, August 6:** India's forex reserves rose around \$2.4 billion during the week ending July 29 after falling for the four consecutive weeks. The rise was seen on back of positive inflows by the foreign investors in the Indian equity market.

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.315 billion to \$573.875 billion during the week ending June 29, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly supplementary statistical data.

"India's foreign exchange reserves, supplemented by net forward assets, provide insurance against global spillovers. Our umbrella remains strong," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

"The Reserve Bank has also used its foreign exchange reserves accumulated over the years to curb volatility in the exchange rate," he added.

During the current financial year (up to August 4), the US dollar index (DXY) has appreciated by 8.0 per cent against a basket of major currencies. In this milieu, the Indian rupee has moved in a relatively orderly fashion depreciating by 4.7 per cent against the US dollar during the same period, faring much better than several reserve currencies as well as many of its EME and Asian peers.

The depreciation of the Indian rupee is more on account of the appreciation of US dollar rather than weakness in macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy. "Market interventions by the RBI have helped in containing volatility and ensuring orderly movement of the rupee. We re-

IN JULY, FOREIGN INVESTORS TURNED NET BUYERS IN THE INDIAN EQUITIES NEARLY AFTER 10 MONTHS, WITH AN INVESTMENT OF AROUND ₹4,980 CRORE

INVESTMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTORS IN JULY MONTH STOOD AT ₹4,989 CRORE, AS COMPARED TO OVER ₹50,000 CRORE OUTFLOWS IN JUNE, ₹39,993 CRORE IN MAY AND ₹17,144 CRORE IN APRIL

India's foreign exchange reserves, supplemented by net forward assets, provide insurance against global spillovers. Our umbrella remains strong

**SHAKTIKANTA DAS** | GOVERNOR, RBI

main watchful and focused on maintaining stability of the Indian rupee," Das added.

In July, foreign investors turned net buyers in the Indian equities nearly after 10 months, with an investment of around ₹4,980 crore in the Indian equity markets. This comes heavy sell-off by these entities of around ₹50,203 crore.

According to the data NSDL data, investment of foreign investors in July month stood at ₹4,989 crore, as compared to over ₹50,000 crore outflows in June, ₹39,993 crore in May and ₹17,144 crore in April.

The other central banks of the asia also used their foreign exchange reserves to defend their currency. Despite the resultant drawdown, India's foreign exchange reserves remain the fourth largest globally.

AFTER ED RAIDS

Crypto firm Binance says it doesn't own India's WazirX

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 6:** India-based crypto platform WazirX has courted massive controversy, first after Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids on its parent company Zannai Lab and then world's largest crypto exchange Finance completely disowning the Nischal Shetty-run platform.

Changpeng Zhao, founder and CEO of Binance, said in a tweet thread late Friday that the company "does not own any equity in Zannai Labs, the entity operating WazirX and established by the original founders".

"On 21 Nov 2019, Binance published a blog post that it had 'acquired' WazirX. This transaction was never completed. Binance has never - at any point - owned any shares of Zannai Labs, the entity operating WazirX," Zhao contended.

The Binance CEO said that recent allegations about the operation of WazirX and how the platform is managed by Zannai Labs are of deep concern to Binance.



"Binance collaborates with law enforcement agencies all around the world. We would be happy to work with ED in any way possible," he tweeted. The ED Friday searched the director of WazirX cryptocurrency and froze its bank assets worth ₹64.67 crore "for assisting accused instant loan App companies in laundering of fraud money via purchase and transfer of virtual crypto assets".

Zhao said that Binance only provides wallet services for WazirX as a tech solution.

"WazirX is responsible for all

other aspects of the WazirX exchange, including user sign-up, KYC, trading and initiating withdrawals," he said.

WazirX is the largest crypto exchange in India and its annual trading volume exceeded \$43 billion in 2021. Shetty co-founder of WazirX, disputed Zhao's claims in a series of tweets. "More facts about WazirX: Binance owns WazirX domain name, Binance has root access to AWS servers, Binance has all the Crypto assets, Binance has all the Crypto profits. Don't confuse Zannai and WazirX", he tweeted.

BIZ BUZZ

Union Bank empowers 125 children in state



**Bhubaneswar:** Managing Director (MD) of Union Bank of India, A Manimekhalai along with founder of Adruta Children's Home, Aditya Mohanty under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity, distributed bed sheets, school bags and shoes to 125 children of Adruta Children's Home, Deras. On the occasion Manimekhalai said, "Union Bank has always been discharging its obligations to do social work. The bank will continue to do CSR activities and develop the backward and needy sections of the society. We are 17.2 trillion bank and fifth largest PSB in the country. We are very digitally sound and tech savvy bank and have also taken lot of initiative in human resource, we are the first PSB to introduce assistance to our working women employees for taking care of their children and we have also taken it forward for working parents' single father. The future of the country lies in the hands of young generation & they must be made aware of morals & values, so that they can contribute to the development of the country in the coming times."

Aakash BYJU'S unveils first classroom centre in Balasore

**Bhubaneswar:** Aiming to expand their network to various parts of the country, Aakash BYJU'S, Saturday, inaugurated its first classroom centre in Balasore. The new centre will have nine classrooms accommodating up to 800 students. This is the fifth classroom centre of Aakash BYJU'S in Odisha with others being located in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The centre was inaugurated by Ajay Bahadur Singh, Regional Director, Aakash BYJU'S along with other company officials. The centre will cater to students preparing for engineering, medical and foundation-level courses helping them prepare for various types of competitive examinations apart from strengthening their basics. "The new classroom centre in Balasore will be a big boon for local students aspiring to clear Olympiads and prepare for becoming doctors and IITians. BYJU'S is widely known for providing quality education throughout the country through its pan-India network of Centres. The quality of our educational content and the effectiveness of our teaching methodologies, as evidenced by the number of selections of students, have made Aakash one of the top choices for students," Singh said.



Malabar bags two awards at the 48th IGJA

**Bhubaneswar:** The 48th India Gem & Jewellery Awards (IGJA) saw Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery group, won two awards in 'Highest Employment on the Company Rolls' and 'Global Retailer of the Year' category. The IGJA 2021 organised by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is known as one of the most prestigious awards in the gems and jewellery industry. The GJEPC has been organising this prestigious awards since 1973 to honour the exemplary achievements of leading exporters and for their outstanding export performance besides felicitating the top importers and banks that are financing the trade, amongst others. Asher O, Managing Director - India Operations and KP Abdul Salam, Vice Chairman, Malabar Group received the awards at the awards night held at Grand Hyatt, Mumbai. "It's a great honour to win the prestigious awards at the 48th IGJA 2021. The awards recognises our robust global presence and our commitment to build an efficient workforce to serve our customers with world class shopping experience," said MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group.



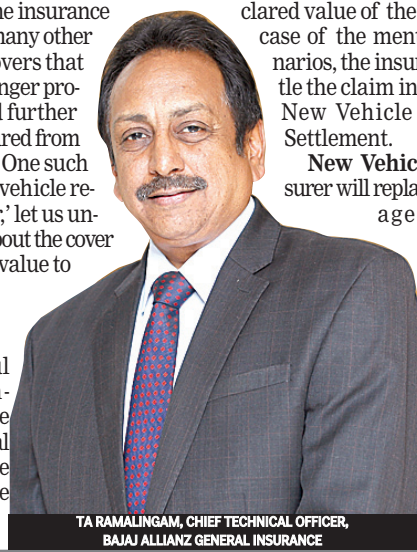
How vehicle replacement cover helps in motor insurance

A package motor insurance policy is one of the best ways to protect oneself against the unforeseen financial losses that may arise in case there is any damage to the vehicle. A package policy has two elements, third-party cover, and own damage cover. The third-party cover is a mandatory requirement to keep the vehicle on road and protects the insured from the legal, financial, accidental liability, or property damage that may arise if a third party suffers from damage or loss that is ascribed to the insured vehicle. The own damage section covers the insured vehicle against myriad natural calamities like floods, inundation, hailstorms, hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides, and rockslides. Additionally, it also covers man-made disasters

like riots and accidental external means.

Apart from the basic motor package cover, the insurance industry offers many other useful add-on covers that help build a stronger protection plan and further insulate the insured from financial losses. One such add-on cover is 'vehicle replacement cover,' let us understand more about the cover and how it adds value to the insured.

Vehicle Replacement cover, is helpful in case the insured vehicle meets with a total loss, theft or there is a constructive



**TA RAMALINGAM**, CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL INSURANCE

total loss (CTL); CTL refers to the situation when the insurer's liability crosses 75% of the insured declared value of the vehicle. In case of the mentioned scenarios, the insurer will settle the claim in two ways - New Vehicle and Cash Settlement.

**New Vehicle:** The insurer will replace the damaged vehicle with a new equivalent or near to equivalent vehicle of a similar model, make,

TERMS FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT COVER

The cover is available only with a comprehensive motor insurance policy, and cannot be availed with only a TP cover

It is essential to note that the policy expires after the claim settlement under this cover

Another important point to keep in mind is that the cover under the 'Vehicle replacement,' expires if

the ownership of the insured vehicle is transferred to another person

One more key point to keep in mind is that the vehicle will be declared a total loss or a constructive total loss basis on the cost estimates prepared by the authorised workshop of the insurer's assessment prepared by qualified surveyor

The cover is applicable only for theft and total loss and does not cover minor damages or dent

specifications and features, considering that such model is available in the market. The insurer will also provide a comprehensive policy for the new vehicle and cover the cost of registration and road tax

for the new vehicle.

**Cash Settlement:** In case the new equivalent vehicle or near-to equivalent is not available in the market, due to production discontinuity, supply shortfall, or any other rea-

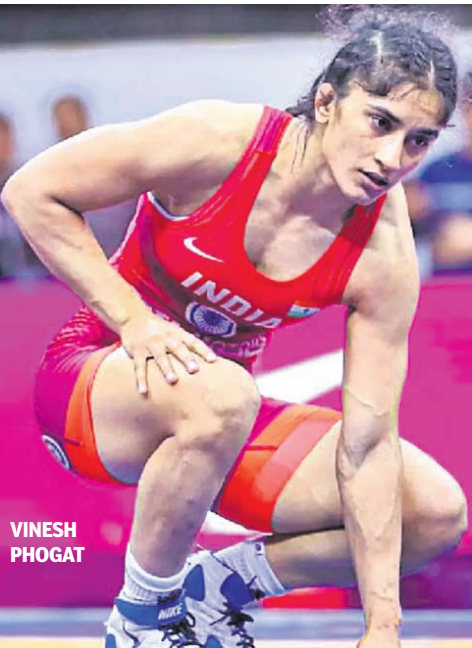
son, then the insurer will pay to settle the claim through cash settlement. The cash amount includes IDV of the damaged vehicle, difference between the original showroom price of the vehicle and the insured declared value of the vehicle & additional 5% of the vehicle IDV. The add-on cover is highly recommended for the following situations: New car owners, people living in theft-prone area, for people who do not have secured parking places and people living in natural calamity prone area.

So, now that you understand the advantages of the vehicle replacement add-on and how it further bolsters your motor insurance plan, I suggest that you evaluate your requirements and buy the cover to shield yourself from unforeseen financial losses.



# Wrestlers on a roll

VINESH PHOGAT, RAVI DAHIYA AND NAVEEN EXTEND GOLD COUNTS FOR INDIA AT CWG



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 6:** Putting aside the mental and physical struggles that pegged her back, an intimidating Vinesh Phogat pounced on her rivals to complete a hat-trick of CWG gold medals while Ravi Dahiya too went unchallenged in his gold-winning show, here Saturday.

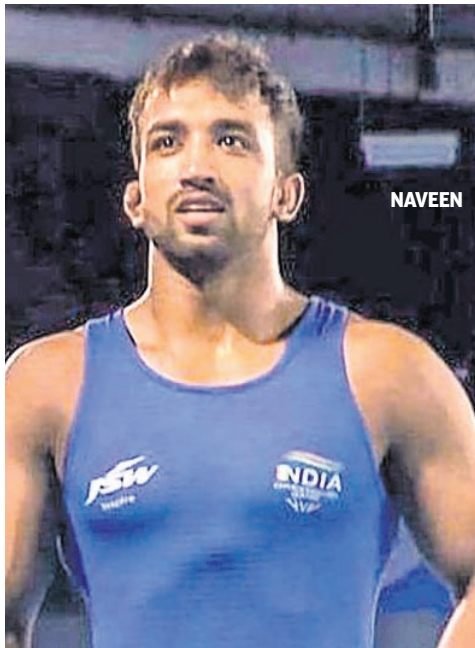
Later on the day, a 19-year-old Naveen (74kg freestyle) outclassed Pakistan's Muhammad Sharif Tahir to secure his maiden yellow metal at the showpiece event.

Vinesh became the first Indian woman wrestler to win three consecutive CWG gold medal. In what was expected to be a tough opener against World Championship bronze medalist Samantha Leigh Stewart, Vinesh reduced it to a no contest and finished it in mere 36 seconds.

Vinesh had the Canadian in a head lock from where she pushed her on the mat and in no time pinned her rival. Even before people could warm up to the contest, it was all over.

Next up for the 27-year-old Vinesh was Nigeria's Mercy Bolafunoluwa Adekunrooye, who tried to resist a bit but soon the Indian had her in an iron grip. Vinesh kept her in that position for more than a minute in a magnificent show of power, winning 6-0.

With only four wrestlers in the women's 53kg draw, Vinesh now needed to beat Sri Lanka's Chamodya Keshani Maduravlage Don and she did it in style, winning



NAVEEN



RAVI DAHIYA

'by fall' to clinch her third successive gold.

Tokyo Games silver medallist Ravi was also too good for the 57kg field. He won both his bouts – against Suraj Singh of New Zealand and Pakistan's Asad Ali – by technical superiority en route the final.

In the final, Nigeria's Ebikewenimo Welson showed the intent to fight but the level at which Ravi wrestles, it was a tough task. Ravi foiled a right leg attack and on next try of the Nigerian, he scored on counter-attack, effecting a take-down move with ease. Soon he had trapped Welson in leg-lace and rolled him thrice for a 8-0 lead. Ravi completed the formality with another take-down.

Making his CWG debut at Birmingham, Naveen, an under-23 World Champion, won three of his bouts by technical superiority and fell just a point short of making it four in the final.

Naveen, who missed the Tokyo Olympics qualifiers after testing positive for COVID-19, started the gold medal match, with purpose. The Indian seemed to have the edge over Tahir in terms of speed and used it to his advantage to open the scoring with a two-point takedown.

Shortly after, Naveen almost got his 20-year-old opponent in position for a 'wheelbarrow' but Tahir did well to escape the hold. Leading 2-0 heading into the second period, the match was wide open.

However, the Indian grappler soon changed that as he caught hold of Tahir's chest and rolled

him three times to go 9-0 up. It was game management from the Indian from there on as he eased through the remaining few minutes to secure his gold.

Earlier, Naveen seemed to have the odds stacked against him with four-time African champion Ogbonna Emmanuel John of Nigeria drawn as his first opponent in the qualifying round.

But, he broke a little sweat and beat the Nigerian via technical superiority. Singapore's Hong Yeow Lou, in the quarters, suffered a similar fate and so did England's Charlie Bowling, a bronze medalist from Gold Coast 2018, in the semifinals as the Indian wrestler stormed into the final.

## Sable, Priyanka secure silver, achieve historic feats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 6:** Avinash Sable became India's first male athlete to win a long distance medal in the Commonwealth Games with a silver in the 3000m steeplechase and Priyanka Goswami also achieved a first while finishing on podium in a race walk event here Saturday.

Sable broke his own national record on way to his silver while Goswami too clinched a medal of same colour in the women's 10,000m race walk event on a productive day for India in the athletics competition.

Before Sable, Kavita Raut had won a long distance medal in CWG – a bronze in the women's 10,000m race in the 2010 Delhi Games.

With the two silver, the Indian athletics team's medal count swelled to four; more than the number in 2018 Gold Coast where the country had won a gold, silver and bronze each in track and field.

High jumper Tejswin Shankar



and long jumper Murali Sreeshankar had won a bronze and silver respectively in Birmingham.

The 27-year-old Sable clocked 8:11.20s to better his earlier national record of 8:12.48 and finish behind Kenyan Abraham Kibiwot (8:11.15). Another Kenyan Amos Serem took

## India eves march into final

Elegant Mandhan, splendid Rana help their side pip hosts England by 4 runs in semifinal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 6:** All-rounder Sneha Rana (2/28) showed nerves of steel by choking runs in death overs as Indian women's cricket team pipped hosts England by four runs to enter the final of the CWG, Saturday.

Needing 165 to win, England were cruising along at 132/3. The hosts required only 33 runs off 24 balls but off-spinner Rana bowled extremely well. She gave away only 3 runs in the 18th and 9 runs in the final over.

England finished at 160/6 and even a last-ball maximum from Sophie Ecclestone couldn't save the day for the hosts with Harmanpreet Kaur's brigade earning a sweet revenge of the 2017 ODI World Cup final defeat at the Lord's.

If Smriti Mandhana's 32-ball-61 (8x4, 3x6) was a treat for the eyes, Rana, India's forever 'MVP', Deepti Sharma (1/18) and Pooja Vastrakar (0/20) didn't err in line or length under pressure.

The match seemed to have decisively tilted in favour of England when Harmanpreet introduced Shafali Verma, whose friendly 'donkey drops' in the 16th over fetching the home team 15 runs. But Deepti and Rana collectively gave away only six runs in the 17th and 18th over respectively.



Earlier Mandhana's elegant yet brutal knock of 61 along with Jemimah Rodrigues' useful 44 not out powered India to a healthy 164/5 in 20 overs. En route her knock, Mandhana also recorded the fastest T20I fifty in women's cricket off only 23 balls. Rodrigues and Deepti added an invaluable 53 runs for the fourth wicket partnership.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India Women 164/5 (Smriti Mandhana 61, Jemimah Rodrigues 44 n o; Freya Kemp 2/22) beat England Women 160/6 (Nat Sciver 41, Dammi Wyatt 35, Amy Jones 31; Sneha Rana 2/28) by 4 runs.

## Nikhat, Panghal in finals; Jaismine secures bronze



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 6:** Reigning World Champion Nikhat Zareen and Amit Panghal were among three Indian boxers who entered the finals while Jaismine Lamboria settled for bronze at the CWG here Saturday.

Nikhat stormed into the final of women's 50kg after outclassing England's Stubby Alfia Savannah 5-0. Panghal (51kg), too, displayed his class as he reached his second consecutive CWG final. Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) also remained on course for



NIKHAT ZAREEN

a gold in her maiden appearance.

But another debutant, Jaismine (60kg), had to be content with a bronze as she went down to Gemma Paige Richardson of England via a 2-3 split verdict.

Panghal, who is vying to win the yellow metal after his silver in the last edition, came from behind to beat an aggressive Patrick Chinyemba of Zambia with a 5-0 unanimous decision win.

Nitu, on the other hand, prevailed over Canada's Priyanka Dhillon as she notched a RSC (Referee Stops

Contest) win in the minimum weight category. Such was the 21-year-old Nitu's confidence that she played with an open guard, inviting her opponent to strike while using her straight jabs and combination punches to great effect. In the end, the referee had to end the contest.

In pursuit of their maiden gold medals, both the boxers will have to overcome local challengers in Kieran Macdonald (men's fly) and Demie-Jade Resztan (women's minimum) in their respective finals Sunday.

## LAWN BOWLS MEN CLAIM SILVER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 6:** India won its second medal in lawn bowls competition at the CWG after the men's fours team settled for a silver after losing to Northern Ireland in the final here Saturday.

The final score read 18-5 in favour of Northern Ireland. The Indian team comprised Sunil Bahadur (lead), Navneet Singh (second), Chandan Kumar Singh (third) and Dinesh Kumar (skip). Northern Ireland's last gold medal in lawn bowls came way back in the 1998 edition.

The Indian team defeated hosts England by a close 13-12 margin in the semifinal to assure India of at least a silver medal.

This comes after the women's quartet of Lovely Choubey (lead), Pinki (second), Nayanmoni Saikia (third) and Rupa Rani Turkey (skip) beat South Africa 17-10 in the women's fours final to hand India a historic gold Tuesday.

**SINDHU IN SEMIFINALS**  
Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu struggled past Malaysia's Goh Wei Jin in women's singles quarterfinals to stay on course for a maiden individual gold medal at the CWG, Saturday.



A former World Champion, Sindhu registered a come-from-behind 19-21, 21-14, 21-18 win over Goh, ranked 60th, to enter her third successive semifinals at the CWG. However, young Aakarshi Kashyap's CWG debut ended with a 10-21, 7-21 defeat to Scotland's Kristy Gilmour.

**DIPIKA-SAUHAV LOSES**

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Dipika Pallikal and Saurav Ghosal suffered a 0-2 loss to New

Zealand's Joelle King and Paul Coll in the semifinals of the squash competition. The Indian duo lost 7-11, 4-11 to King and Coll and missed out on a spot in the final of the event. Dipika and Saurav will play for the bronze medal Sunday.

The Indian men's doubles pair of Velavan Senthilkumar and Abhay Singh also ended its campaign after going down 8-11, 8-11 to Ng Eain Yow and Yuen Chee Wern of Malaysia.

## Gukesh stuns 5th ranked Caruana at Chess Olympiad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mamallapuram, August 6:** Teenaged Grandmaster D Gukesh shocked World No.5 Fabiano Caruana as India 'B' pulled off a superb 3-1 win over No.2 seeds USA in the eighth round of the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad here Saturday.

Gukesh is enjoying a purple patch and his victory over Caruana was his eighth on the trot in the tournament and helped improve his live ratings. He moved up to second behind the legendary Viswanathan Anand in live ratings.

His splendid run has been the key behind the success of the India 'B' team, seen by many as the darkhorse of the championship.

Fellow teen and GM Raunak Sadhwani (Elo 2611) stunned higher rated GM Linier Dominguez Perez (Elo 2754) in 45 moves as India 'B' shut out USA. GMs Nihal Sarin and R Praggnanandhaa drew their games against Levon Aronian and Wesley So respectively.

In another match in the Open event, India 'C' was trailing 0.5-2.5 against Peru with Surya Shekhar Ganguly going down to lower-rated Emilio Cordova and Abhijeet Gupta losing to Renato Terry.

On the top board, India 'A', seeded two, was level with the leaders Armenia with GMs Vidit Santosh Gujrathi and S L Narayanan drawing against Hrnt Melkumyan and Robert Hovhannissyan.

In the women's event, the top-seeded India 'A' and Ukraine were level at 1.5-1.5 with Koneru Humpy, D Harika and Tania Sachdev having drawn against Mariya Muzychuk, Anna Muzychuk and Natalia Buksa respectively.

The India 'C' crashed to a 1-3 defeat to Poland while the India 'B' team rode on wins by Vantika Agrawal, Padmini Rout and Divya Deshmukh to rout Croatia 3.5-1.5.

## Nunez strikes on EPL debut, but Liverpool held by Fulham

REUTERS

**London, August 6:** Aleksandar Mitrovic's brace of goals was cancelled out by strikes from Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah as newly promoted Fulham held Liverpool to a 2-2 draw by in the sides' opening game of the Premier League season at Craven Cottage Saturday.

The home side took the lead on 32 minutes when they broke down the right, and Kenny Tete's cross was met by the bustling Mitrovic, who out-jumped Trent Alexander-Arnold at the far post to head home.

Tipped to be among the title challengers again this year, Liverpool's fortunes turned with the introduction of new signing Nunez in the

second half, and the Uruguayan wasted no time in showing why Liverpool paid Benfica an initial 75 million euro for his services.

Nunez tried to tee up his strike partners shortly after coming on before levelling with a brilliant flicked finish just after the hour mark.

Despite having barely threatened after the break, Fulham were soon back in front as Mitrovic, who scored 43 goals in 44 Championship games last season, was tripped in the box by Virgil van Dijk, and the striker stepped up to stroke home from the penalty spot to make it 2-1.

However, Liverpool refused to capitulate and Salah put them level again, poking home from close range. Jordan Henderson almost



MAKING A STATEMENT: Darwin Nunez reacts after scoring for Liverpool on his Premier League debut, Saturday

grabbed all three points for the visitors with a stoppage-time strike but his shot came back off the crossbar.

Arsenal rode on a heading goal by Gabriel Martinelli, set up by left back Oleksandr Zinchenko, and an own goal by Marc Guethi to beat Crystal Palace 2-0, Friday.

**BAYERN ROUT FRANKFURT**

Sadio Mane scored on his league debut and Bayern Munich routed Eintracht Frankfurt 6-1 to start the new Bundesliga. Jamal Musiala got two goals and Joshua Kimmich, Benjamin Pavard and Serge Gnabry also scored as Bayern showed no ill effect from Robert Lewandowski's summer transfer to Barcelona. Kolo Muani found the consolation goal for Frankfurt on his league debut.