



## SOAKED IN SARCASM

Actor Taapsee Pannu says that her sex life is not interesting enough to be invited on *Koffee With Karan*

LEISURE

P2



## KEJRIWAL WOOS TRIBALS

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal promises sops for tribals of Gujarat ahead of Assembly elections in the state

TWO STATES

P8



## MILITARY DRILLS WRAP UP

Chinese and Taiwanese warships play high seas 'cat and mouse' game Sunday

INTERNATIONAL

P10

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## ISRO faces setback as maiden SSLV mission suffers 'data loss'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sriharikota (AP), August 7:** Indian Space Research Organisation's tryst with history suffered a setback Sunday, as the maiden Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) suffered 'data loss' at the terminal stage, although three stages performed and separated as planned and the scientists were currently analysing the data to ascertain the cause behind it.

On Sunday morning, in its mission to place an earth observation satellite and students' satellite into the low earth orbit, the SSLV-D1/ EOS-02 blasted off precisely at 9.18am amid cloudy skies from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in this spaceport.

The 34-metre-long rocket soared majestically on completion of its nearly seven-and-half-hour countdown Sunday.

The scientists at the Mission Control Centre gave updates about the health of the rocket soon after lift-off. Screens at the Media Centre showed that the satellite was well on its trajectory before suffering 'data loss' as described by Chairman S Somanath.

"All stages performed as expected. The first stage performed and separated, second stage performed and separated, the third stage also performed and separated, and in the terminal phase of the mission, some data loss is occurring and we're analysing the data and we'll comeback on the status of the satellites as well as the vehicle performance soon," he said from the Mission Control Centre, minutes after the launch.

A jubilant mood at the Mission Control Centre soon made way to anxiety as scientists were seen glued to the computer screens and confused, before Somanath updated the mission status.



ISRO's new offering Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) during its launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota of Andhra Pradesh, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## State hikes duty call-up allowance of home guards

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** The state government Sunday announced a 38 per cent hike in the duty call-up allowance of home guards working under the Odisha Police.

The decision to hike the duty call-up allowance by 38 per cent was taken at a meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra after approval of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

After the hike, home guards will now get Rs 12,480 duty call-up allowance per month instead of the earlier Rs 9,000.

They will also get other allowances given earlier, a Chief Minister's Office (CMO) release said.

On June 1 this year, the Supreme Court had expressed displeasure over the low 'salary' of home guards in Odisha and directed the state government to reconsider its decision of paying Rs 9,000 per month—Rs 300 per day.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna noted that many of the home guards are working for more than 15 years, while police personnel in the state are getting approximately Rs 21,700 per month (after six years of their contractual appointment) along with dearness allowance as per the recommendations made by the 7th Pay Commission, sources said.

# Amend AMASR Act: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 7:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the seventh NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting here, Sunday, strongly pitched for amendment to Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act in order to make the country's conservation and preservation systems on par with global benchmarks.

"As you know, conservation and preservation systems have gone huge changes globally both in terms of technology and legal framework. I would suggest that ASI should be transformed and the AMASR Act amended to make our systems on par with global benchmarks," Patnaik said at the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This will greatly help protect heritage sites, including Konark, he added.

Noting that Odisha is impacted by natural disasters almost every year, Patnaik urged the Centre to make it a special focus state and allocate funds for disaster proofing.

"As we all know Odisha is impacted almost every year by natu-



PM Narendra Modi and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik along with ministers and CMs of states/UTs at the 7th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre in New Delhi, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

ral disasters, it's important to have disaster resilient infrastructure to protect the state and its people from the vagaries of nature. I would sincerely request the central government to make Odisha a special focus state and allocate funds for disaster proofing," Patnaik said.

"Team India" has shown its resolve under the prime minister's leadership in effectively handling the Covid-19 pandemic. "Today, India is showing its sports prowess in the Commonwealth Games," he said, congratulating the athletes who are making the motherland proud.

India is at the crossroads of becoming a great economic superpower rooted in inclusive growth and NITI Aayog can play an important role in facilitating this, he said.

"We all accept that the state and central governments are political entities and sometimes there are disputes in the implementation of central schemes. NITI Aayog can resolve these issues like an ombudsman," Patnaik said, adding that it will promote cooperative federalism and speedy implementation of schemes.

"As regards my state, histori-

cally we have been neglected in the subjects in the central list viz telecom, railways and banking. We have the lowest density in all these crucial infrastructures and I would urge the central government to give special focus for Odisha," he said.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has some implementation issues in the field because of which genuine farmers are deprived in some cases, he pointed out.

NITI Aayog may study this and suggest ways to protect the interest of farmers, the CM said. **Contd... on P4**

# GOLD RUSH FOR INDIA AT CWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 7:** The indomitable Nikhat Zareen added a Commonwealth Games light flyweight (50kg) title to her bulging trophy cabinet, while Amit Panghal (51kg) began his redemption journey with a much-needed gold winning show, here Sunday.

Nikhat, who is on a winning spree since the Nationals last year, asserted her dominance over Northern Ireland's Carly Mc Naul as she punched her way to a comprehensive 5-0 win in her maiden CWG appearance.

Panghal, on the other hand, avenged his 2018 Commonwealth Games final loss against Kiaran MacDonald by clinching the title with a comprehensive-

sive 5-0 win over the favourite.

Indian boxers made it three out of three golds on the day as young Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) too reigned supreme on her CWG debut.

The India pugilists will return with seven medals from Birmingham, two less than the previous edition.

Nikhat started off the year by clinching a gold at the prestigious Strandja Memorial tournament before going on to become a world champion. The Telangana boxer, who dropped from 52kg to 50kg for the CWG, glided around the ring, landing hooks and tight jabs at will.

Eldhose Paul, meanwhile, won a historic triple jump gold in a 1-2 finish for India as the country bagged four medals on a Super Sunday on the concluding day of athletics competitions at the Commonwealth Games here.

More P12



Nitu Ghanghas

# Climate change making weather predictions difficult: IMD DG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** Climate change has hampered the ability of forecasting agencies to accurately predict severe events and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is installing more radars and upgrading its high-performance computing system to meet the challenge, IMD Director General (DG) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said here.

He also said that though the monsoon rainfall has not shown any significant trend in the country, the number of heavy rainfall events has increased and that of light rainfall events has decreased due to climate change.

The impact-based forecast will improve to become 'more granular, specific and accurate' by 2025 and IMD will be able to provide forecasts up to panchayat level clusters and specific areas in cities in the coming years, the IMD chief said.



"Climate change has increased the instability in the atmosphere, leading to an increase in convective activity - thunderstorms, lightning and heavy rainfall. The severity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea is also increasing. This increase in the frequency of extreme weather events is posing a challenge to forecasters.

Studies show that the ability to predict heavy rainfall is hampered due to climate change," he said.

## Work on bolstering network

The IMD is bolstering its observational network with the augmentation of radars, automatic weather stations and rain gauges

**The impact-based forecast will improve to become 'more granular, specific and accurate' by 2025 and IMD will be able to provide forecasts up to panchayat level clusters and specific areas in cities in the coming years**

MRUTYUNJAY MOHAPATRA | IMD DG

and satellites to improve predictability, Mohapatra said.

**Impact of climate change on monsoon**  
On climate change increasing the fragility of the Himalayas, he said, "Climate change is a fact and we need to plan all our activities accordingly."

A study by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, MoES says the frequency of mini-cloud bursts (five cm or more rainfall in an hour) is in-

creasing in the Himalayas. And it can also cause damage, Mohapatra said.

Asked about the impact of climate change on the Indian monsoon, he said: "We have got the digital data of the monsoon rainfall since 1901. Parts of north, east and northeast India show a decrease in rainfall, while some areas in the west, such as west Rajasthan, show an increase in precipitation.

"Thus, there is no significant trend if we consider the country as a whole - the monsoon is random and it shows large-scale variations."

## Improved accuracy of IMD forecast

He said the IMD's forecast accuracy has improved by about 30 to 40 per cent for severe weather events like cyclones, heavy rains, thunderstorms, heat waves, cold waves and fog in the last five years due to an improvement in the observational network, modelling and computing systems.

Contd... on P4

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FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Your dream to make it big may culminate this evening and you will have to make a dash for it. However, you will also do your utmost to resist quick choices. Ganesha says whatever the consequences, you will choose wisely.

**TAURUS**  
Physical and mental fitness will top your priority list today. You are likely to take special interest in working out and doing mental exercise, predicts Ganesha. Keep up the hard work and the efforts of today will pay rich dividends in future. You will have a fabulous time with your loved one tonight, hopes Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
You need to beach your emotions and concentrate only on your work. Your day will be spent in meeting the demands of your family members. You will attend important meetings, be they personal or professional, in the afternoon, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Ganesha is foreseeing the conversion of your romance into marriage. But you will not have mind in the career or business and you lack enthusiasm in the same. So Ganesha advises you not to take up any new work, but finish off pending work.

**LEO**  
While the schedule you have planned for today will see some major changes, you will still stick by your decisions resolutely. If you suspect anyone of wrongdoing, now is the time to clear your misgivings. The day may start off on a tense note but by evening, things will be peaceful and calm, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
From a tedious, weary morning, the day will gradually turn out to be very thrilling in the evening, says Ganesha. In the afternoon, though, you may hit a roadblock, and you will feel stressed out. However, all that stress will melt away in the evening in the company of your near and dear ones.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says higher officials at work will shower you with appreciation and praise for your efforts. You may even be able to get a promotion or a pay rise today. There may be intensive arguments with your enemies. New relationships will get a chance to blossom today.

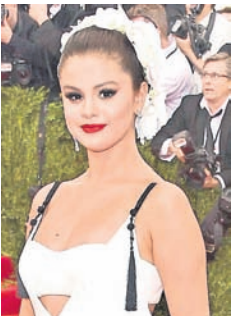
**SCORPIO**  
Not so good, not so bad, is what you would feel after the day gets over. And average day at business with no major loss, foresees Ganesha. A feeling of insecurity may upset you, making you restless. Try to divert your mind by reading a self-help book. Await for a new dawn in your life.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Like a true Archer, targets are your aim today and focus, the buzzword. On the business front, the fast buck that you expected may not materialise. Though love may portray a rosy picture for you, today you end up having a tough time managing relationship. Be patient, advises Ganesha.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will fully utilise your talents and earn a reputation of perfectionist in your area of work. If you are stuck in a legal battle or dispute, it will come an end on a positive note. You will understand the importance of constructive criticism and learn to improve upon your behaviour, foresees Ganesha. Your opponents will get the hint that you are better than them.

**AQUARIUS**  
It is the day of the creative people like musicians, artists, and orators. You will look beyond the criticism coming your way and develop an understanding to aim for a better future. With unmatched enthusiasm and charm you will outshine others at work. It is your day, make the most of it, advises Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
You might leave for an unplanned work related or social journey today. Small things will give you happiness today. In short, your day after noon time will be easy going and lucky. Ganesha assures you of success at work.



SELENA HOPES TO QUIT ACTING TO BE A MOTHER

Selena Gomez isn't hesitant to wave goodbye to Hollywood as the actor-singer has revealed that she eventually wants to get married and become a mom and that she's ready to step away from acting to focus on her personal life.

BRITNEY'S SONS AVOIDING HER: EX-HUBBY KEVIN FEDERLINE

Britney Spears' sons - Sean Preston and Jayden - have been avoiding her for months now, pop singer's ex-husband Kevin Federline, who fathered the two, revealed. They didn't even attend her wedding with Sam Asghari, which was her third marriage this spring, said a report.



KRITI'S

mantra to deal with failure

**Mumbai:** Kriti Sanon is one of the most successful and talented actresses in the industry. With successful films like *Bareilly ki Barfi*, *Dilwale*, and *Lukka Chuppi*, Kriti has proven her mettle as an actor over the years. Along with success, the *Mimi* actress has also faced her share of flops and failures in films. Now, Kriti revealed how she deals when the films don't do well.

The actress said that she does things that normal humans do like sulking and crying.

Kriti said that people see a strong woman on the outside, on-screen, and in the interviews but she feels that it is important to face your emotions. She added that a person can't brush them under the carpet, because that's not how it works. Kriti recalled how it was easy being kids and how times were simple back then. "If we felt hurt, we cried. When we felt like laughing, we laughed. We didn't care what people were thinking. But, I think as we keep growing, maturity is somehow equivalent to handling yourself a certain way in front of people," she added.



Twinkle's epic reaction to Ranveer's nude photoshoot

**Mumbai:** Ranveer Singh grabbed all the eyeballs after his nude photoshoot went viral. Recently, Twinkle Khanna also took to her Instagram handle to share a long note reacting to the ongoing controversy. In her note, Twinkle, said, "Vidya Balan, who has been both the target of an obscenity case and objectification like most actresses, said it best. When asked about her reaction to Singh's photographs, she quipped, 'What's the problem? Let us also feast our eyes!'."

"I can assure the morally offended that while we are not advocating starting our own Fellowship of The Naked Trust, the first nudist colony in the world was reportedly based in Thane in 1891 where no clothes were allowed, a thumping majority of women and the queer community are not bummed out by these photographs. In fact, we have only one complaint. Instead of over-exposure, the photographs seem underexposed. Even with spectacles, magnifying glasses and zoom tools, we are unable to spot any anatomical details, just a pool of shadows between two finely muscled legs," added the actor-turned-columnist.

AGENCIES

Changing small habits can bring about great changes: Tathagata



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** Young people should bring about positive changes in society instead of waiting for the change to occur naturally, said Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy.

He said this while attending the final day of a two-day event titled *Utkrishta Model United Nations* (MUN) organised by Utkrishta Foundation at College of Engineering (Under Koustuv Group of Institutions), Bhubaneswar, as the Guest of Honour, Sunday.

By changing small habits, youths can bring great changes in the country, Satpathy added while appreciating the initiative

'Eco-friendly MUN Conference' taken by the foundation.

The event was organised to discuss and debate on pressing global issues, exchange thoughts and opinions and come up with extraordinary ideas and solutions.

This conference is a tremendous opportunity for young diplomats to research, analyse and represent nations across the globe, said Jangyadatta Rath, founder of the Utkrishta Foundation.

He added that the foundation takes pride in becoming the first ever eco-friendly MUN Conference of India, providing environment friendly delegate kits and supplies to the students. In this edition of Utkrishta

MUN, they discussed different agendas under different committees such as United Nations Human Rights Council, (UNHRC) which focuses on the violations of the rights faced by LGBTQIA community, including hate crime, criminalisation of homosexuality and discrimination.

The issues discussed under various committees at the event included promoting inclusion of women in political and leadership spheres with special emphasis on female citizenship framework, focus on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its implications for international peace and security and the policies of the NDA government in light of recent events.

Taapsee on why she's not on KJo's show

**Mumbai:** Actress Taapsee Pannu, who is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming film *Dobaaraa*, shared why she hasn't been on the Karan Johar-hosted popular chat show *Koffee With Karan*.

During a promotional event, while Taapsee Pannu and Anurag Kashyap were promoting their film *Dobaaraa*, Karan Johar was in the adjacent room promoting his chat show. Taking note of that, the media probed Taapsee about the reason why she hasn't been invited to Karan's show. Answering the question,

the actress said in jest that her sex life is not interesting enough to be invited on *Koffee With Karan*.

Taapsee is known for her quick-wit responses and this one seems to be an on-point remark as the latest season of *Koffee With Karan* has so far been circling sex talks of all topics discussed during the episodes.

Talking about *Dobaaraa*, which presents a unique concept in the form of time travel, has opened at prestigious film festivals such as the London Film Festival & Fantasia Film Festival 2022.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

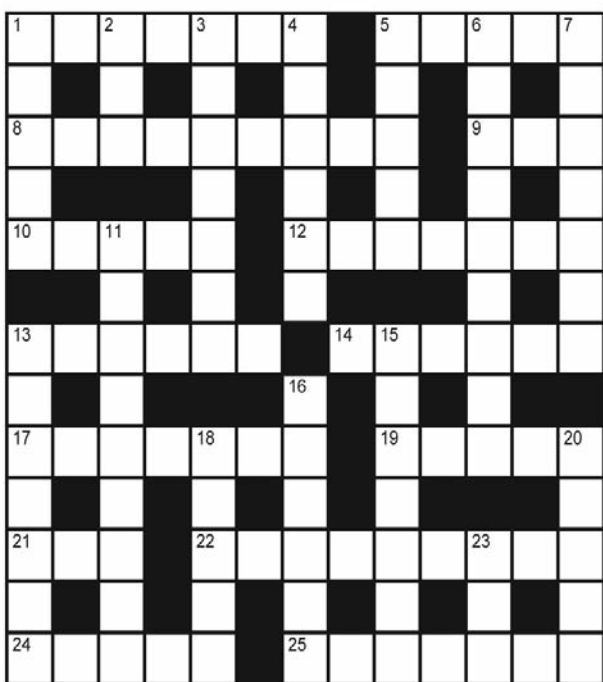


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Pope's place
- 5 Pear variety
- 8 Department store event
- 9 Wool weight
- 10 Planetary house
- 12 Himalayan peak
- 13 Hummocks
- 14 Like platypus feet
- 17 Native
- 19 Bullion unit

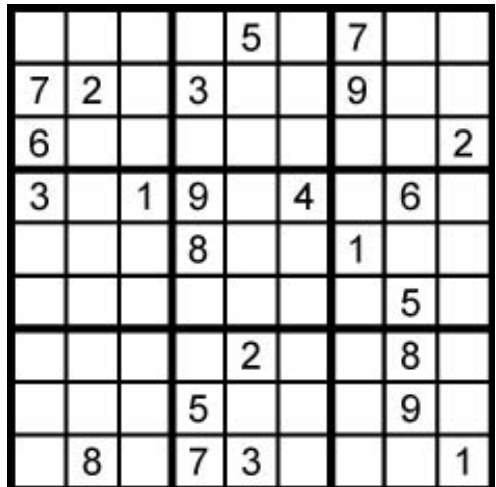
Down

- 1 Type of cords
- 2 Little piggy
- 3 Cut short
- 4 Port on the Loire

- 5 Ridgeline
- 6 1940s dance craze
- 7 Modernised
- 11 Pirate attack, ship to ship
- 13 Citadel of Moscow
- 15 Smear word
- 16 Journalist
- 18 Wealth
- 20 Brusque
- 23 Lyric poem

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

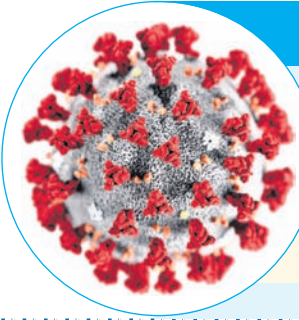


# downtown



## A DAY FOR FRIENDS

Youths were seen celebrating Friendship Day at Indira Gandhi Park in City, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	58,92,10,972	56,03,20,056	64,36,245
India	4,41,45,732	4,34,84,110	5,26,689
Odisha	13,18,875	13,04,527	9,148

# Take steps to stop witch-hunting: NHRC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Sunday asked the state Chief Secretary to take every possible step for the implementation of Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2013.

The apex rights watchdog passed the order acting on a petition filed by activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. The petitioner stated that two persons – Luk Dalabehera and his son Anak Dalabehera – were beaten to death in Gajapati district under suspicion of sorcery.

He alleged that the incident occurred in spite of the fact that Odisha Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2013 is in place to deal with the social evil.

“The act is not being implemented sincerely due to which innocent people are being subjected to torture and harassment,” Tripathi said. He requested the commission to issue necessary directions to the state government to take appropriate action in the cases of witchcraft and sorcery in the state.

Meanwhile, the state authorities in the report stated that a case has been registered at Adava police station and 13 persons have



The petitioner stated that Luk Dalabehera and his son Anak Dalabehera were beaten to death in Gajapati district under suspicion of sorcery

been arrested in connection with the matter. Meetings are being conducted in all the police station jurisdictions through ‘Ama Police’ scheme and awareness programmes are being organised to prevent further occurrence of such incidents.

“The case is pending for further investigation. However, sincere steps are being taken for early submission of charge-sheet. Other stakeholders have been intimated for arrangement of awareness programmes and

## Show-cause notice to Chief Secy over electrocution deaths

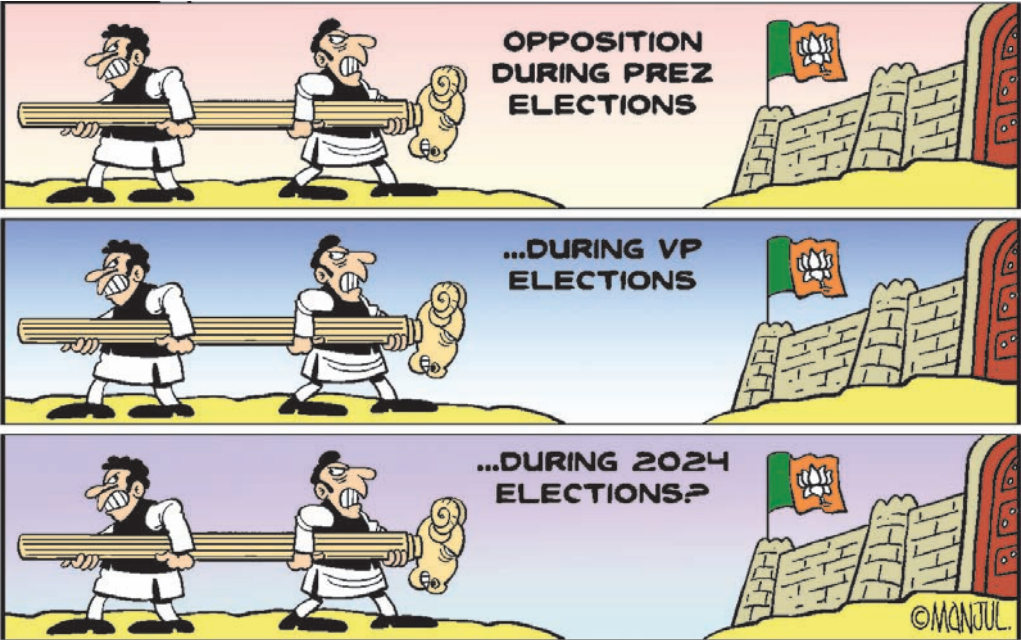
The NHRC has issued a show-cause notice to the Chief Secretary seeking an explanation as to why compensation of Rs 5 lakh each should not be awarded to the relatives of two budding hockey players who died due to electrocution in Sundargarh in May this year. While hearing a petition filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak, the apex rights body directed the Chief Secretary to submit his reply within four weeks from the date of receipt of the order. The commission had earlier sought a report from the principal secretary of Energy department over the unfortunate death of the hockey players – Sajal Ekka, 19, and Birendra Kujur, 20, after coming in contact with a live wire at Gariamala under Alanda panchayat in Sundargarh. The energy secretary had sent a report to the NHRC June 10. The rights panel after going through the report found negligence by electricity department officials.

publicity of evils of witch-hunting act among local people,” the state authorities said.

In pursuance of the directions of the commission, Tripathy has also raised certain important issues pertaining to implementation of the said act at village levels. He stated that acting on his earlier petition, the NHRC has also sought comprehensive reports from the Chief Secretary, DGP and all district Collectors for prevention of sorcery and witch-hunting and payment of compensation to the

victims of the social evil.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY

# Let’s celebrate the rich legacy of handlooms of Odisha: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** On the occasion of National Handloom Day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday said that we should celebrate the rich legacy of handlooms of Odisha that has been preserved over the centuries.

Taking to twitter, the CM said, “Odisha has a treasure trove of exquisite handlooms with intricate designs honed over generations by dexterous artists and craftsmen. On National Handloom Day, let’s celebrate the rich legacy of handlooms of Odisha preserved over centuries.”

On the occasion, Boyanika under the aegis of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department organised a state-level celebration event at the Suchana Bhawan, Sunday. Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu graced the function and inaugurated the event in the presence of Ananta Narayan Jena, MLA, Bhubaneswar (Central), Susanta Kumar Dash, Director, Textiles and Handlooms, Shyamabhakta Mishra, MD, Boyanika.

Notably, Handloom Day in its seventh iteration is being celebrated throughout the state for a period spanning a week, from August 1 to 7.

“This is an opportunity for each and every citizen to show their respect for our age-old weaving tradition and support the weavers and artisans who have carried the profession forward from one generation to the other with their exceptional skills and creative ability,” Minister Sahu said. She also added that handloom products of our state represent an inseparable part of our rich culture while also acting as a source of livelihood for millions of people engaged in this profession.

HT&H department Director Sushant Kumar Rout said that August 7 has been chosen for its special sig-



## Stakeholders must ensure greater convergence: Jena

The state government has called for greater convergence and joint efforts of stakeholders in the handloom sector to tide over the challenges faced by the industry, officials said Sunday. Odisha Development Commissioner Pradeep Jena said resolving issues related to “drudgery and lack of marketing” can ensure progressive growth for the sector. Jena was speaking at an event to mark the National Handloom Day organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in Bhubaneswar. “All stakeholders should ensure greater convergence for addressing challenges faced by the handloom sector,” he said. Odisha, with its rich cultural heritage in art and crafts, has an immense scope for improving the extent and quality of its handloom and textile products, said NABARD in a release. It has been sponsoring exhibitions and supporting establishment of rural marts for better marketing of handloom products, besides encouraging skill development, the release said. NABARD has also kick-started the registration process for geographical indication of Odisha’s handloom products like the ‘phuta sari’, it added.

nificance in India’s freedom struggle. On this day in 1905, the Swadeshi Movement was formally launched at a massive meeting in the Calcutta Town Hall. To commemorate the beginning of the movement, the day is celebrated as National Handloom Day all over the country with the objective to generate awareness about the importance of the handloom industry and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

On the occasion, three primary weavers’ cooperative societies were felicitated for their successful completion of 75 years of service, each with a memento and cash award. Apart from this, three other cooperative societies were felicitated for highest sales turn over in last three years. The function will encourage the weavers to keep up their noble profession and inspire the young generation to take up the trade with enthusiasm.

## Very heavy rainfall expected in state as depression looms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** Parts of Odisha received very heavy rain Sunday with the state still bracing for more downpour over the next three days due to a depression that is set to take shape over the Bay of Bengal.

A low pressure area, which formed Saturday, has concentrated into a well-marked system over the northwest Bay of Bengal off the coasts of Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh, the Met office said.

It is expected to intensify into a depression during the next 48 hours and move northwestwards across Odisha and Chhattisgarh, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre explained. A red alert of extremely heavy rainfall of over 200 mm has been issued for some places in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts till Monday morning, the Met office said, adding that the monsoon trough was passing through Jharsuguda.

Fisherfolk have been advised not to venture off the coast till Thursday morning as squally weather with wind speed of 45-55 kmph and gusting up to 65 kmph is very likely over the northwestern Bay of Bengal. The weatherman issued an orange warning of heavy to very heavy rain in the districts of Khurda, Puri, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri and Koraput Monday.

Downpour can also occur in a few places in Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Subarnapur.

# Bakul Foundation’s Green Rakhi campaign for Raksha Bandhan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** On account of Raksha Bandhan, City-based Bakul Foundation is back this year with its unique Green Rakhi campaign.

Under this campaign, Bakul volunteers are urging everyone to gift a plant to their siblings. Moreover, the foundation has come up with a combo offer through which one can gift a plant and with it a ‘seed rakhi’ that can be planted.

This offer gives one the choice of selecting from different options of attractively packaged gift plants and also the choice of gifting a plantable organic seed rakhi.

This initiative is a part of the ‘My Tree Campaign’ of Bakul Foundation through which it has been promoting the idea of gifting and planting trees as a cultural practice so that there will develop a relationship between plants and people. Sujit Mohapatra, founder of Bakul said, “The seed bands are made from organic cotton grown in Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh by a group of artists, who work with farmers in the name of Gram Art Project.”

This rakhi is handcrafted from naturally dyed, handspun cotton yarn. The card on which it is wrapped is handmade, up-cycled and biodegradable. Both the Rakhi and the card on which it is tied are embedded with living seeds and are plantable.

Each Rakhi and the accompanying card together have about 5-6 different types of seeds. The most common seeds are basil, amaran-



Both the Rakhi and the card on which it is tied are embedded with living seeds and are plantable

thus/spinach, purslane, and also cotton, arbi and beans.

However, one cannot buy the seed rakhi alone. One can choose the type of seed rakhi one wants from the options to go with different kinds of gift plants, whether flowering such as Ixora; medicinal such as Tulasi or Basanga; tree growing such as Mango or Jamun; or Indoor plants such as Snake Plant or Money Plant. One can also choose between the attractive white bamboo basket or classy jute

packaging.

Hence, on any festival in which the culture of gifting is associated, Bakul promotes the idea of gifting plants, whether its personal such as birthdays, weddings and anniversaries or social such as Raksha Bandhan, Diwali, Valentine’s Day and New Year.

For each of the social festivals, Bakul Foundation promotes the idea of gifting plants with green products traditionally associated with that festival such as Rose Plants and chocolates for Valentine’s Day, Greeting Cards with seeds on New Year’s Day and Diwali hamper for Diwali.

The Combo Offer ranges from Rs 200 to Rs 400, and the gift plants can be purchased from the Bakul Library in 16 Satyanagar.

## PEOPLE’S DEMAND



Members of ‘Seva Pratinidhi’ staged a demonstration in front of Lingaraj PH (passenger halt) in City, demanding its upgradation as a full-fledged station

OP PHOTO

# BJP-BJD poster war ahead of Shah-Patnaik joint programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** A day before Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik are scheduled to attend a non-political function in the state Monday, a poster war came to the fore in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

While the two cities were bedecked with posters, banners and placards of Shah, mega pictures and hoardings of the ruling BJD and its president Naveen Patnaik had also been erected in the same places.

The BJP’s posters included huge cut-outs of Shah and in some places Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the saffron background, while Patnaik’s hoardings were done in green frameworks.

Bhubaneswar BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi put some hoardings with pictures of Shah, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president JP



Nadda and herself.

Some other BJP leaders also put their posters across the road from the Biju Patnaik International Airport here till Cuttack where the programme will be held Monday. Shah’s posters were seen near Lingaraj temple where the Union home minister will start his Odisha visit Monday.

Such posters were also seen all along the 25-kilometre-long road from Bhubaneswar to Cuttack and also within the Millennium City.

Before attending the 75th anniversary of Odia daily Prajatantra, founded by freedom fighter and

former chief minister Harekrushna Mahtab, the Union Minister will pay his tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the revolutionary leader’s birthplace at Odia Bazar in Cuttack.

Shah will go on a roadshow to an indoor stadium, about two kilometres crossing several localities of Cuttack city, where the programme will be held.

Patnaik, on the other hand, will reach Cuttack by a chopper. He will be taken in a procession covering about one kilometre from the helipad to the indoor stadium.

Keeping in view the race between the governing and opposition parties, sources said, the organiser has divided the seats in the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium into equal numbers.

Meanwhile, Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra said the Union home minister’s carcade will head for the indoor stadium from Phulnakhara.



ILLEGAL LOAN APP CASE

Mumbai police takes 3 fraudsters on remand

PNN AND AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** The Mumbai Police has taken three fraudsters, recently arrested by the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime branch, on transit remand in illegal loan app case. The accused were identified as Nitin Mallik of New Delhi, Rakshith and Sushanth of Udupi District, Karnataka.

July 13, the EOW sleuths had arrested Mallik, the Director of Good Start Business Services Pvt. Ltd, from Hari Nagar police station area of New Delhi while Rakshith and Sushanth were held from Karnataka June 10.

The accused duo Rakshith and Sushanth were the directors of illegal shell companies, Mudmate Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and Yellow Tune Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The shell companies were used to trans-



fer money from the bank accounts attached with the fake loan apps to the accounts of Chinese nationals through different channels.

They also used to make threatening and humiliating calls and send obscene massages to persons who had availed loans through illegal loan apps and their contacts through a call centre from Bangalore.

The SDJM Court Saturday allowed the West Region Cyber Police Station, BKC Bandra in Mumbai to take the duo on remand.

Similarly, Mallik with the connivance of Chinese masterminds used to purchase and run virtual phone numbers from BSNL, AIR-TEL and Vodafone to be used for running and facilitating the lending and recovery through different loan apps.

“Nitin Mallik was in direct and regular touch with at least three Chinese nationals and used to get huge sum/ salary for this job,” EOW claimed.

Mallik was taken on remand by the Mumbai police August 3.

The accused ran illegal shell companies and allegedly facilitated transaction of lending and recovery process of loans given through illegal digital loan apps like KOKO, JOJO and many other Apps.

The three persons are wanted by different investigating agencies across the nation, the EOW said.



AWARD FESTIVAL

Guru Sudhakar Sahoo Award-2022 festival was organised by Sadhana Cultural Academy at Rabinda Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

730 new Covid cases, two fatalities in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** the state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,18,875 Sunday as 730 more people, including 130 children, tested positive for the infection, while two fatalities pushed the toll to 9,148, a Health bulletin said. The state had logged 836 infections Saturday.

Sundargarh district reported the highest number of fresh infections at 157, followed by 96 in Khurda district.

The state now has 5,851 active Covid-19 cases, of which 1,395 are in Sundargarh. As many as 882 more people were cured of the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 13,03,823. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities thus far. The daily positivity rate was at 3.69 per cent as 19,823 samples were tested for the infection in the last 24 hours.

CLASSIFIED  
AFFIDAVIT

This is to inform to the public that MS. Padmavati and Padmawati Behera is one of the same only. Refer affidavit number 56AA773552.

CL-501

Affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Vyasanaagar, I have changed my name Surabhi Kusum Sahoo to Suravi Kusum Sahoo, At- Niladri Vihar, P.O/P.S.- Jajpur Road, Dist- Jajpur for all purposes. Suravi Kusum Sahoo

Tapaswini Bhuyan spouse of No- 15171350X Hav (RST) Tapash Ranjan Bhuyan resident of village- Niali, Post- Janak, Teh-Dhanmandal, Dist- Jajpur, State-Odisha, Pin- 755005 have changed my name from Tapaswini Bhuyan to Tapaswini Samal vide affidavit dated- 29th June 2022 before Executive Magistrate, Darpan. No.15171350X Hav (RST) Tapash Ranjan Bhuyan declares that wrong date of birth of my wife Tapaswini Samal 03.03.1985 is changed as 03.03.1983 as per affidavit No. M145476.

FIRING AT KOLKATA MUSEUM

CISF jawan remanded to 14-day police custody

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, August 7:** A lower court here Sunday remanded Akshay Kumar Mishra, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan, who resorted to indiscriminate firing in the Indian Museum premises at busy Park Street in central Kolkata Saturday evening, to 14 days of police custody. Mishra was holding the rank of head constable.

One assistant sub-inspector of CISF, Ranjit Sarongi was killed

and a CISF assistant commandant, Subit Ghosh was critically injured in that indiscriminate firing by Mishra, a resident of Odisha.

It is learnt that Mishra has been booked under Section 379 (punishment for attempt to suicide), Section 307 (punishment for murder) of Indian Penal Code and Section 27(punishment for using arms) of The Arms Act, 1959. He will be presented at the same court August 21.

After Mishra was apprehended

by police late Saturday evening from within the Indian Museum premises, he was taken to New Market Police station, where senior officials of the Kolkata Police questioned him throughout the night.

During interrogation, Mishra said that his main target was assistant commandant, Subit Ghosh as he was being denied legitimate leave for the last two and half months. He also expressed grievance against many of his colleagues for constantly humiliating him for

the last few months. He said that he was denied leave even after the news of his father's demise from his native village in Odisha.

After successful operation Saturday evening, the Kolkata Police heaved a sigh of relief as the casualty would have been much more, had the firing taken place during the visitors' hours. Meanwhile, the incident has created panic among the regular visitors of Indian Museum with the usual holiday crowd not being witnessed Sunday.



Women browsing through items at Gandhi Shilp Bazar at Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Gandhi Shilpa Bazar at Ekamra Haat inaugurated

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** Utkalika is organizing a national level Handicraft Exhibition “Gandhi Shilpa Bazar” at Ekamra Haat Bhubaneswar. The event is sponsored by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, government of India and co-sponsored by government of Odisha.

Rita Sahu, Minister of Handloom Textiles and Handicraft Department, government of Odisha inaugurated the Gandhi Silpa Bazaar-2022 Sunday in presence of Saroj Kumar Patel, Special Secretary, HT & H Department-cum-MD, Utkalika, Shyambhakta Mishra, Director, Handicrafts-cum-MD, Boyanika, Ashok Kumar Hota,

Assistant Director, O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and other dignitaries.

Handicraft artisans, who are participating in the Gandhi Shilpa Bazar, are from Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chattishgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Haryana, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Telengana and Uttarakhhand. The artisans are displaying the exclusive products of their respective states in the exhibition.

The major attraction of the Bazar are Stone Carving, Wood Carving, Pattachitra, Tassar Painting, Silver Filigree, Applique, Terracotta, Dhokra Casting, Golden Grass, Brass and Bell Metal, Paddy Craft, Lacquer Toys,

Soft Toy, Horn Crafts, Seashell, Paper Machie, Wooden Toy, Embroidery, Palm Leaf Engraving, Tribal Jewellery, Bamboo, Shitalpatti Craft, Jute Craft, Sikki Craft, Wooden Ware, Natural Fiber, Hand Printed Textiles, Zari Goods, Tie & Dye, Kalam Kari, Rajasthani painting, Madhubani Painting, Madur Kathi, Carpet ,Iron Craft Phulakari , Leather item, Zari & Zari goods.

The objective of Gandhi Shilpa Bazar is to provide marketing platform for the artisans and to display the richness and varieties of Handicrafts and Handloom items. With participation of 100 artisans, the event is expected to draw 40,000 visitors and customers. It is expected to generate a business of 50 lakhs for the artisans.

Climate change making weather prediction difficult: IMD DG

Continued from P1

Sister organisations such as the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting carry out atmospheric modelling and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services carries out ocean state modelling and supports the IMD's forecasting improvement. The weather bureau chief said the number of deaths due to cyclones, heat waves etc. Has reduced over the years because of an improvement in the early warning lead time and preparedness, planning, prevention and mitigation approaches.

He said the IMD's cyclone prediction with pinpoint accuracy is appreciated worldwide. The accuracy of heat wave forecasts is 92 percent. Heavy rainfall forecast accuracy at the meteorological sub-divisional level has improved from around 60 percent five years ago to 79 percent at present. The forecast accuracy with a five-day lead time is 60 percent which gives more time to the general public and agencies to prepare for extreme weather. The weather bureau's location-specific rainfall forecasts have improved by up to 30 percent in the last five years. False alarms have decreased to 20 percent. The IMD is providing forecasts for 1,096 cities and towns, up from 350 stations in 2019. Nowcast – forecast for the next three hours – is being issued for 1,116 stations as compared to just 120 stations in 2013. "There has been a tremendous improvement in service delivery – weather information for health, power, agriculture, air quality, hydrology, airports and marine sectors – in the last three years," Mohapatra, who took over as the IMD chief in 2019, said.

Amend AMASR Act: Naveen

Continued from P1

He said most of the state's tribal and KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) districts have been bypassed from new allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

"I would request the central government to immediately resolve this issue and allocate houses. The state government has complied to all the queries raised in this regard," he said.

The role played by Modi as the then chief minister of Gujarat in protecting and conserving step wells in Gujarat, including the Rani ka Vav listed as a UNESCO heritage site, is praise worthy, he said.

"I am sure with the inputs from the esteemed colleague chief ministers and the leadership of Hon'ble PM, Team India will keep shining in the true spirit of cooperative federalism," he said.

What is AMASR Act?

The AMASR Act is an act of the Parliament of India that provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance, for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects. It was passed in 1958. The Archaeological Survey of India functions under the provisions of this act. The rules stipulate that area in the vicinity of the monument, within 100 metres is prohibited area. The area within 200 meters of the monument is regulated category. Any repair or modifications of buildings in this area requires prior permission.

Make helmet, seat belt your best friend: STA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** On the occasion of Friendship Day, State Transport Authority Sunday asked commuters to wear helmet while riding two-wheelers and seatbelt while driving cars.

The State Transport Authority shared video and image saying, "A friend in need is a friend indeed, just like a two-wheeler and helmet and car and seat belt. This Friendship Day, take a pledge to never keep them apart. Make them your best friends for a safer travel."

According to Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019, riding without helmets will cause both rider and pillion to suffer a penalty of Rs 1,000 for the first time and for all subsequent violations, apart from the punishment, disqualification of li-

cense for up to 90 days.

The STA often adopts innovative ways to attract the public's attention, such as coming up with catchy slogans like 'mishap brings tears, safety brings cheers,' and using pictures to communicate the benefits of religiously following traffic rules, to reduce the risk of deaths in road mishaps.

As per a recent report, Odisha's road fatality rate (death per 100 accidents) is 48 compared to the national average of 36. Transport department had recently informed that Odisha registered 4,738 road mishap deaths in 2020. The data shows, over-speeding contributed to 69 per cent of the fatalities, followed by helmet-less driving which contributed 41 per cent, and hit-and-run cases that accounted for 20 per cent of the deaths.

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# SP says Maoist menace in Malkangiri down by 90%



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, August 7:** The Martyrs' Week (PLGA Week) observed by Maoists in Malkangiri, Koraput and other districts from July 28 to August 3 had no impact as compared to violent incidents during the last one decade, said Malkangiri SP Nitesh Wadhvani here Sunday.

He also asserted that Maoist organisations have weakened by 90 per cent.

Usually, Left-wing ultras during celebration of PLGA Week build makeshift pillars in memory of their dead comrades, organise gatherings in remote areas, cut down trees to block roads, set vehicles afire

Unlike earlier occasions, makeshift pillars for martyred rebels have not been set up at any place this year

and trigger landmine explosions. But this year these districts witnessed a different scenario. The influence of ultras in Koraput and Malkangiri is declining during the last three years with setting up of BSF camps, the SP said. There are no reports of banners, posters, tree cutting, road blockades and violence in parts of the two districts. At least three Maoists have been killed between the last PLGA week and that of this year, he added.

No makeshift pillar for martyred rebels has been set up at any place, the top cop said.

Security forces and personnel of Odisha police have been deployed at many places in these two districts. Hence, 90 per cent of the areas in Malkangiri are free of Maoists' influence, he added.

# Submit DMF UCs in time, depts told

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharuguda, August 7:** Various departments which have been executing projects funded by the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) of Jharsuguda were asked to submit utilisation certificates (UCs) in time. This was revealed at a review meeting of executive body of the DMF here Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by Collector Saroj Kumar Samal and attended by chief executive officer of the zilla parishad and DFO Lalit Patra.

The Collector underscored the need for proper utilisation of DMF funds and timely submission of UCs as audit of fund utilization is of critical importance.

It was revealed that ₹1.067 crore has been received towards royalty from various mining companies and industries in the district while ₹997 crore has been sanctioned for various projects.

"All departments should ensure that UCs are furnished in time," the Collector said.



Women agricultural workers transplanting paddy saplings on a farmland in Ganjam district after a bout of rainfall, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Water levels in Kolab, Indravati on the rise

**Koraput:** Water levels of Kolab, Telengiri and Indravati reservoirs in Koraput district are on the rise following torrential rain during the last 24 hours due to a low pressure. The district has recorded 486.3 mm rainfall while Kotpad has received the highest rainfall of 76 mm. However, Pottangi has recorded the lowest rainfall at 8 mm. Water level in Telengiri and Upper Indravati is also rising. The water level at Telengiri reservoir has touched 626.80 metre while it is 848.25 metre and 633.08 metre at Kolab and Upper Indravati respectively. As heavy rain has been lashing various parts of the district, the water levels of these reservoirs are expected to rise further, sources said.

# Body found from railway tracks

**Berhampur:** A man's body was recovered from the railway tracks near Haldiapadar overbridge here, Government Railway Police (GRP) police said Sunday. The deceased, believed to be in his 30's, is yet to be identified. Preliminary inquiries suggested that the person might have died after falling off a moving train. GRP registered a case and conducted a post-mortem. Efforts are on to establish the identity of the deceased, said the GRP sources.

# Baripada ring road a non-starter

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, August 7:** Flood fear grips the residents of the municipality here every monsoon as they have seen massive waterlogging in the town due to the surging waters of Budhabalanga river flowing on the outskirts of this town.

The fear persists as the longstanding demand by the residents for construction of a ring road around the civic body to prevent the floodwaters from entering the town has remained a pipedream.

An automated sluice gate at confluence of Budhabalanga and three other rivers is also hanging fire. Survey for the project was conducted twice in the past but it is yet to be grounded. Locals have expressed their unhappiness over the official lethargy in this regard.

As Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is slated to visit the district



August 12, a private agency has started a survey on the ring road project, a dyke and an automated sluice gate. Notably Patnaik had announced execution of all the three projects during his visit to the town in 2019. But there has been no

**BUDHABALANGA FLOODS**

■ Flood fear persists as the longstanding demand by the residents for construction of a ring road around the civic body to prevent the floodwaters of Budhabalanga from entering the town has remained a pipedream



An automated sluice gate at confluence of Budhabalanga and three other rivers is also hanging fire

progress on the project, locals lamented.

Sources said, the administration has suddenly become active in view of the Chief Minister's visit. Some residents believe that all this is a gimmick and nothing will happen after the survey.

For long, locals have been urging for a ring road for Baripada town to control frequent floods from Budhabalanga river. During cyclonic storm Phailin, the town witnessed unprecedented floods as houses, shops and roads submerged under floodwater. Patients at the district headquarters hospital had a harrowing time after 10-ft high floodwater remained stagnant in-

# Jajpur tribals send missive to Prez for pattas

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chandikhole, August 7:** Scores of tribals living in Bairi panchayat under Barchana block of Jajpur district are a distressed lot as they have not been provided with land pattas under Forest Rights Act (FRA).

The tribals have expressed their resentment over the fact that M/s My Home Industries Pvt Ltd, which is going to establish its cement factory in the area, will be provided with 80 acres of land, but they are still deprived of records of rights for small patches of land where they have been living for generations.

The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and the district administration held a public hearing August 5 at Bairi to get approval of locals for the project. Scores of locals and people's representatives supported it.

However, there was not a single word about the demands of tribals who opposed the incident and took out a protest rally. They alleged that they were even not allowed to attend the public hearing.

The cement plant will come up in Bagau and Jhatiapada mouza of Bairi panchayat.

As many as 45 tribal families have been living in the area for over 30 years. But they have been



unsuccessfully running from pillar to post to get pattas for a gunth of their dwelling place. "We have been struggling for survival as well as land pattas, but nobody is listening to us," they said.

Upset over the administrative callousness, they have written a

letter to newly-elected President Draupadi Murmu about their plight. In the letter, they pointed out that Dalmia cement plant is already operating in their area. Before establishment of the cement factory, the administration and the company authorities had promised them a slew of developmental activities. However, all that was done is lighting facilities and that too became defunct a few months later. Lighting systems were later removed.

"We neither have a school nor a health centre in the locality. An Agnanwadi is set up at Jhatiapada, which is situated on the other side of a railway line. Our children fear to cross the railway line to study in

the school," they lamented.

They also said that they had urged the Darpanigarh tehsildar and the Jajpur Collector to issue pattas for their dwelling places, but to no avail.

On the other hand, the cement factory will be set up in their area and the government will provide land for it, they pointed out in the letter.

"We have to face displacement, even though we have been residing on the land over three decades. We have no way out, but written a letter to the President about our plight. We hope she would take steps for resolution of our issues," they said.

# Free ultrasound scan for Ganjam women



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, August 7:** The district administration has taken a novel step to curb maternal mortality and lessen the hardship faced by pregnant women in availing proper healthcare facilities.

Reports said pregnant women after being referred from government hospitals can get their ultrasound tests done thrice free of cost at private clinics and diagnostic centres. The expenses for such tests will be borne by the district administration. The novel facility has been named as 'Surakshit Janani Sahayata Yojana' by the district administration.

The sonography will be conducted compulsorily; first within 12 weeks of pregnancy, second within 16 to 34 weeks of pregnancy and third within 36 weeks of pregnancy. The women during their pregnancy can also get their ECG test done and avail facilities free of cost for which the district administration will buy 110 ECG machines at ₹66 lakh.

Any pregnant woman referred from government hospitals can also avail the facilities thrice at any of the private clinics and diagnostic centres. This will help in determining the health condition and treatment of the women.

The matter came to the fore after Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida issued an order in this regard, Saturday. As part of this move, the district administration has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 18 diagnos-

## NOVEL MOVE

**P**REGNANT WOMEN AFTER BEING REFERRED FROM GOVT HOSPITALS CAN GET THEIR ULTRASOUND TESTS DONE THRICE FREE OF COST AT PRIVATE CLINICS AND DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES

**A**SHA WORKERS WILL WORK TO MOTIVATE THE PREGNANT WOMEN TO GET THEIR ULTRASOUND TESTS DONE IN TIME FOR WHICH THEY WILL BE PAID WITH A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE OF ₹50 PER CASE BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

tic centres in the district. This apart, pregnant women can also get their ultrasound scans done free of cost at City Hospital in Berhampur and at Bhanjanagar sub-divisional hospital.

The administration has tagged the diagnostic centres with their nearest health centres and hospitals. ASHA workers will work to motivate the pregnant women to get their ultrasound tests done in time for which they will be paid with a special allowance of ₹50 per case by the district administration.

As many as 10 senior doctors and healthcare officials have been given the responsibility to monitor and supervise proper implementation of the scheme. These doctors and healthcare officials will have to submit a report every month to the district administration so that maternal mortality could be checked.

# Man gets 20-yr RI for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, August 7:** A special POCSO court here Saturday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of raping a minor girl in 2021.

The additional district and sessions judge-cum-special judge of POCSO court Ranjan Kumar Sutar handed down the punishment on Dinesh Marandi and also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on him for the offence. The judge also directed for ₹4 lakh financial assistance to the survivor by the district legal services authority. The judge passed the order after examining the statements recorded by 12 witnesses and 18 documents during the hearing. Special public prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government. The incident took place in Panpana area under Khantapada

**POCSO court also ordered to pay ₹4 lakh financial aid to survivor**

police limits of Balasore district when Marandi kidnapped the 13-year-old minor from home January 15, 2021.

Family members were fervently searching for the girl when Marandi dropped the girl at her home the same evening. Later, the girl fell sick after returning home when family members took her to a doctor. A medical examination of the girl found her pregnant following which the victim's kin met Marandi at his house and questioned him about the girl's ordeal.

This infuriated Marandi following which he abused and beat up the girl's family members. Later, her family members lodged a complaint at Khantapada police station leading to his arrest.

# Woman, son killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, August 7:** A woman and her son were killed after an unknown vehicle rammed their vehicle from behind and crushed them under its wheels on Malati river bridge of National Highway-53 under Sadar police limits in Sambalpur district, Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Gulekh Sohela, 35, a mason by profession, and his mother Bedamati Sohela, 58, of Ainthapali in Sambalpur town. They are natives of Tampargad Basupali village under Jujumura police limits in the district.

The mishap occurred when Gulekh with his mother on pillion were on their way to their native village on a bike. The mishap disrupted traffic on the route for some time. Locals were infuriated over the casualties and demanded action against the driver who mowed down the two. On being informed, Police reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem.



Schoolchildren attended the concluding day of a three-day workshop on 'Child Reporters' Training' at Panthanivas in Keonjhar, Sunday. The workshop organised jointly by Unicef, Dharitri and People's Cultural Centre (PECUC) dwelt on length on children's security and imparted basic knowledge of journalism to the participating students. District Social Security Officer Jagannath Modi spoke about how children can highlight the schemes on social security through reporting while Dharitri's Joda correspondent Manas Ranjan Mohanty trained the students on highlighting various problems before the administration through reporting. Unicef's communication advocacy Radhika Srivastav, PECUC Secretary Ranjan Kumar Mohanty and its executive director Anuradha Mohanty were present at the workshop. As many as 50 students from Patana block were provided school bags and study materials

OP PHOTO



If a religion is not universal, it cannot be eternal. A narrow religion, a sectarian religion, an exclusive religion can live only for a limited time and a limited purpose.

SRI AUROBINDO

# Not Taiwan, Business

The US provocation of China in the form of its House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and the immediate sabre-rattling in response by China dangerously close to Taiwan is a highly nerve wracking international drama, especially because Pelosi flew into the island nation in Air Force One. Using the personal aircraft of POTUS is a clear indication about the seriousness of the message given out to the world. However, the US' official position on the matter has been interestingly different. The Joe Biden administration has tried to create the impression that it was not in favour of the visit and even tried to dissuade Pelosi from going ahead with her programme. Washington has also clarified that it continues to respect China's position vis-a-vis Taiwan of "one country two systems." It would be naive to accept the American explanation. The Biden administration makes it clear that it would not leave Taiwan to be slaughtered by China's invading troops the way Ukraine has been left in the lurch. Ukraine is facing a humanitarian crisis with millions either fleeing the country in search of safe zones in European countries or being maimed, killed and denied basic amenities as they prefer or have no option but to stay put in their homes.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine immediately triggered the fear of similar incursions of the Chinese army into Taiwan. Many even believed China's President Xi Jinping was watching the West's response to the war waged against Ukraine by Russian President Vladimir Putin. If Russia could succeed in forcibly occupying territories in southern Ukraine and forming pro-Russian independent states in the Donbass region in the east despite the West's support to Ukraine, China would replicate the model in Taiwan.

China has been much emboldened that it has started threatening taking over Taiwan by force and reducing the Taiwanese population to the status of minorities. The day after Pelosi left Taiwan, there were reports of violations of air space by Chinese warplanes in the Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) of Taiwan and cyber-attacks targeting the websites of the President's office and the ministries of foreign affairs and defence. Signboards at railway stations and in-store screens at the ubiquitous 7-Eleven stores were also hacked to display messages calling Pelosi a warmonger. This was followed by dramatic escalation, with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) firing a dozen Dongfeng ballistic missiles. Taiwan sent navy vessels to drive away the PLA, scrambled jets and deployed land-based missile systems to monitor the situation. Its President Tsai Ing-wen called for international condemnation.

This is all part of the script seemingly prepared by the US. The message is it will not brook Chinese attempts to invade Taiwan and Pelosi's visit is to be construed as America's preparedness and commitment to defend the country. The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's remark that China's actions are "extreme, disproportionate and escalatory," is significant.

China does not seem to opt for open confrontation with the US over Taiwan. Yet, it has to prove it will not be intimidated. Hence, the military posturing and threats.

One indication of this shadow-boxing is that the people of Taiwan are shrugging off Chinese threats. The Pelosi gamble may pay off and China may shelve, at least for the time being, its plan for forcible occupation of Taiwan. All this drama could be a curtain raiser for the bigger theatre. With the American economy in serious slump, domestic politics disturbed by Trump and his henchmen in the Republican Party, the American efforts could be aimed at creating proxy wars where multinational forces are drawn into battling the other two large powers namely Russia and China. It is a known fact that War is Great Business. That might be prompting the Americans to create situations of mistrust which would culminate in wars. Once hostilities commence then the smaller unified nations would immediately need to purchase and upgrade their military arsenal spending vast amounts of their resources. All that money would flow back into the American Arms Industry thereby bolstering their currently limping economy.

## WISDOM CORNER

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.

VINCENT VAN GOGH

After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.

NELSON MANDELA

A thing of beauty is a joy forever: its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness.

JOHN KEATS

## WORDSWORTH

### Wanion

The first generation of editors of the Oxford English Dictionary were especially literate men and this shows in their definitions, which sometimes needed a dictionary to interpret them (luckily, the reader always had one immediately to hand, if a rather cumbersome one). Take wanion. Its still-current OED definition, written nearly a century ago, says: "An altered form of 'waniand' used in certain formulas of asseveration or imprecation." A modern dictionary aiming at plain English definitions might say instead that in set phrases it meant an emphatic statement or curse. In itself, wanion means "in the waning of the moon". It's from the Old English verb wanian, to lessen, from which we get wane. You may feel wanion is too mild and agreeable a word to be attached to a curse, but in bygone centuries the waning of the moon was thought to be an unlucky time. Various fixed expressions took on the word and the idea, such as with a (wild) wanion (with a plague or with a vengeance), a wanion on (a curse on) and fetch one a wanion (bring one a misfortune). Up, with a wild wanion! how long wilt thou lie? Up, I say, up, at once! up, up, let us go hence: It is time we were in the forest an hour since. The History of Jacob and Esau, 1557, probably written as a school play by an unknown headmaster for his pupils to perform. Look how thou stirrest now! come away, or I'll fetch thee with a wanion (Pericles, by William Shakespeare and George Wilkins, 1608). By the early nineteenth century the phrases were old-fashioned, if not archaic. They were resurrected by Sir Walter Scott, who loved such expressions and single-handedly made a number of them familiar to his readers in his historical romances, if not going so far as to return them into daily use. But, as he pressed upon her with a violence, of which the object could not be mistaken, and endeavoured to secure her right hand, she exclaimed, "Take it then, with a wanion to you!" — and struck him an almost stunning blow on the face, with the pebble which she held ready for such an extremity (Woodstock, by Sir Walter Scott, 1855). Our views of the moon today are coloured by romantic ideas of love or unrequited yearnings and we see no harm in its phases, whether waxing or waning.

### Waddle

The first known user of this word is William Shakespeare, in his play Romeo and Juliet of 1592, in a speech which Juliet's nurse is trying to explain in an outpouring of muddled exposition that her charge is not yet fourteen, along the way pretty much detailing Juliet's entire early history. A brief extract from the waterfall of words: "And since that time it is eleven years, for then she could stand alone. nay, by th'rood, she could have run and waddled all about". Waddle is most often used of ducks and geese and other wading birds, which is appropriate, since it is an extension of wade by adding the -le ending that indicates an action continually or regularly taken, what grammarians call a frequentative. In that, it joins a long list that includes crackle, crumple, dazzle, hobble, niddle, paddle, sparkle, topple and wriggle.

## FOCUS SOCIETY

# PATRIARCHY IN LANGUAGE

The question about how a woman who is elected to the post of President should be addressed in Hindi first came to the fore when Pratibha Patil became the first woman to occupy the highest constitutional post in India in 2007. There were debates about whether she should be addressed as '*Rashtrapati*' or '*Rasthrapatni*', but that debate did not invite the amount of uproar that was caused recently when Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, the Leader of Opposition in the Lower House addressed President Droupadi Murmu as '*Rasthrapatni*'. Unleashing a scathing attack on Choudhary, the ruling BJP demanded an apology from the Congress party for insulting President Murmu which led to huge drama both inside and outside the Parliament. Though Choudhary apologized for his remark citing his poor Hindi, the issue has sparked a much necessary debate that concerns the gendered nature of our language.

The controversy that emerged around Chaudhary's remark can only be understood if we look into what the two words '*pati*' and '*patni*' mean and what meanings are attributed when both these words are suffixed with *Rashtra* (nation). The Hindi word *Rashtrapati* is used as a translation of the English word 'President' which is generally used to refer to the presiding head of a group and is a gender-neutral term, but its Hindi translation as '*Rashtrapati*' is not neutral, because of the suffix '*pati*'. Etymologically the Hindi word '*pati*' is part of the Indo-European language family where it usually means 'lord' or 'master'. When used as a suffix it usually means 'lord of...'. For e.g. the Sanskrit word for a married householder is '*Grahapati*' which means lord of the household. Similarly, '*Senapati*' means the commander of the army; '*Ganapati*' means lord of the tribe; '*Chhatrapati*' means the lord of kings. Such examples can only be multiplied to show the



According to a study, about 75 per cent of the world's languages propagate sexism where one finds abundant use of male pronouns, and Hindi is no exception. In our everyday lives, we very often ignore the use of 'heavily' gendered terms in our conversations

power relation that the word '*pati*' denotes. In our everyday usage, the word '*pati*' generally means husband but again the inherent patriarchal power relation is reflected through compound words like '*pati-dev*' or '*pati-parmeshwar*', which refer to the husband as lord or god for the wife. In contrast to *pati*, the word '*patni*', which is used for 'wife', has no such meaning. It is a relational term unlike '*pati*' which is an independent term and is used only for a married woman. It is simply a female derivative of *pati* and therefore has an inherent sexual connotation and meaning attached to it. '*Patni*' is merely a sexual partner of a man, moreover, there is no counterpart to Hindi words like '*pati-dev*', or '*pati-parmeshwar*' in any Indian vernacular for a married woman, which only shows the power differential between *pati* and *patni* in Indian society. And herein lies the root of the recent *Rasthrapatni* row. The word '*Rashtrapati*' is a combination of two Hindi words,

'*Rashtra*' and '*Pati*'. When used as a translation for the English word President, it is usually understood to mean 'leader of the republic' and not 'husband of the nation'. And this meaning is in perfect congruence with other such words that have the suffix *pati*. But when the word '*patni*' is suffixed with the word '*Rashtra*' to produce the compound '*Rasthrapatni*', the meaning takes a sexual connotation to mean 'wife of the nation', which again is just a reflection of how the word '*patni*' is entrenched in the Indian mind-scape, that is, as a 'sexual being' and 'wife'. In an article titled 'Language and Woman's Place (1972), Robert Bakoff for the first time explored the relationship between language and gender and argued that "women generally use linguistic forms which are lower/subordinate to that of men with the use of tag questions (isn't it?, am I?), questioning expressions or mitigators (sort of, I think)". According to a study by

Francesca Di Garbo, Bruno Olsson, and Bernhard Wälchli titled 'Grammatical gender and linguistic complexity' (2011) about 75 per cent of the world's languages propagate sexism where one finds abundant use of male pronouns, and Hindi is no exception. In our everyday lives, we very often ignore the use of 'heavily' gendered terms in our conversations. When we use English words like 'policeman', 'fireman', 'chairman', and 'salesman', we skip the very fact of gender biases. As to why this sexism prevails in our everyday language, we need to look at the sources of our vocabulary formation like dictionaries, newspapers, or journals where editors are mostly men across the globe who probably don't understand the inference of using a particular language in a specific way. Hence, we can say the persistence of gendered language is managed by the overall structure itself. In fact, it is a common practice among all political parties to use the word '*adhyaksh*' while referring to their national as well as state presidents. Therefore, there stands no reason why the word '*Rashtrapati*' should not be replaced with '*Rashtra-adhyaksh*' or with another term '*pradhan*' which was used to refer to the 'president' in the draft Hindi version of the Indian Constitution, making the nomenclature of the highest constitutional position gender neutral. The '*Rasthrapatni*' row, though an outcome of odd political rationality, has presented us with an opportunity to reflect upon the patriarchal roots of certain popular Hindi terminologies like '*udhyogpati*' (industrialist), '*sabhapati*' (chairperson/man), '*lahkpati*' and '*crorepati*' in order to create gender-neutral terms for them.

The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi. Views are personal.

## SPECTRUM GREEN ENERGY

# Decarbonising aviation with sustainable fuels



Sanjib Kumar Karmee

SUBSTITUTING SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL FOR CONVENTIONAL JET FUEL IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TO DECARBONISE AVIATION

The aviation sector is growing fast and will continue to grow. The global fuel consumption by commercial airlines reached 95 billion gallons (359 billion litres) in 2019. In general, conventional aviation fuels are synthetic and petroleum derived. According to estimations, around 2-3% of global carbon dioxide emissions come from aviation. In addition, other aviation emissions such as, nitrogen oxides (NOx), water vapour, particulates, and condensation trails are known to have adverse environmental effects. In this context, air transport sector needs decarbonisation. However, only a limited number of options can be implemented. For instance, optimisation of flight routes, increase of energy efficiency of engines, and adopting fuel-efficient best practices. These approaches to curb aviation emissions will not be enough to reach the long term target set by the Air Transport Action Group for carbon dioxide reduction. Moreover, zero-carbon flying based on electric batteries and green hydrogen may not be a reality soon. Therefore, substituting sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for conventional jet fuel is a significant step to decarbonise aviation. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), to reach net zero by 2050, the aviation



sector will need ~ 450 billion litres of sustainable fuels. These fuels can be prepared from various feedstocks, namely CO2, non-edible plant oils, algae, tallows, waste oils, Babassu, Camelina, solid wastes (from homes and businesses) and biomass. Different methods such as pyrolysis, hydrothermal liquefaction, deoxygenation, hydro-processing, Fischer-Tropsch, fermentation and routes involving synthetic biology are employed to synthesise SAFs. As defined by ASTM International, seven routes are recommended to generate SAFs for commercial use. In this context, several industries like Shell, Worley, Boeing, Alder Fuels, and Fulcrum BioEnergy are working on the production of SAFs. Recently, Fulcrum BioEnergy Inc., USA completed construction of an industrial scale plant for the conversion of municipal solid waste into zero-carbon transportation fuels. The Sierra BioFuels plant (a subsidiary of Fulcrum) located at Reno, Nevada, can convert 175,000

tonnes of prepared municipal solid waste into 11 million gallons of syn-crude annually. Subsequently, the obtained product will be upgraded to transportation fuels such as SAF, renewable diesel and renewable gasoline. A consortium (Green Fuels Hamburg) comprising Uniper, Siemens Energy, Airbus, and Sasol ecoFT is investigating the feasibility of a project to produce SAFs in Germany. India can become a leader in low-carbon aviation fuels; but harnessing this potential would require development of low-carbon emitting solutions, a robust roadmap, and strong political will. Along this line, July 26 2022, addressing the Fortune India event in Bangalore, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said, "It is incumbent upon us to respect the environment and planet. And the civil aviation space has taken it very seriously. We have about 110 airports within the Airports Authority of India (AAI). I have charted with them a plan that by

2024-end, 94 out of those 110 airports will be completely and totally green. There will be no carbon footprint at all from roughly 90% of the airports in the public sector by 2024-end." In this regard, India should explore industrial scale production of bioethanol. An article by the World Economic Forum (July 6 2022) states that "in India, carbon in agricultural residues, solid waste, and industrial off-gases can provide more than 30 billion litres per year of sustainable ethanol. Harnessing just 5% of this potential with the alcohol-to-jet (ATJ) route can meet India's 10% SAF blending target and produce renewable diesel fuel." SAFs will be widely used in future since it has the potential to cut carbon emissions by up to 80%. However, implementing it has several challenges. At present, SAF's share in aviation is merely 0.1% as airlines are not using it because of high cost. This issue can be circumvented by using landfill waste as feedstock, which is abundant, low-cost and accessible. Some of the other challenges are: i) a few SAFs production pathways are immature and need further research; and ii) constraints in feedstock supply chain management. These issues must be addressed; so that, the air transport sector can achieve the key objectives to combat climate change.

The writer is a scientist.

# 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)

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## Young and depressed

Sir, The National Mental Health Survey of India has reported that 3% of India's youth have experienced a major depressive episode but many more will have experienced emotional distress with symptoms of anxiety and depression. Traumatic experiences in early childhood, frequent migration, negative life events, educational setbacks, early relationship problems, family history of mental illness as well as stress at school and in the family are linked in varying degrees to depression among children and adolescents. According to a review paper 'Depression in young people', depression is highly heterogeneous, more so in young people and spans across a spectrum of severity. According to a study published in The Lancet, the rate of depression among youngsters has risen sharply in the last decade, especially among girls, which is a concern because adolescence is a period of rapid social, emotional, and cognitive development and key life transitions. The key message of this review paper is the importance of prevention and early intervention by targeting the social environments of educational institutions for building emotional competencies in adolescents through life skills curricula. Depression in adolescents is under-recognised leaving it often under-treated. Suicide is a serious health problem as it is currently the third leading cause of death for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 24. Depression, which is also a serious problem for adolescents, is the most significant biological and psychological risk factor for teen suicide.

Hitesh Kumar Parida, PANIKOILI (JAJPUR)

## Thriving chess culture

Sir, There is little doubt that the 44th Chess Olympiad, which is currently underway at the historic tourist town of Mamallapuram, off Chennai, will aggrandize India's power and reputation in chess by several notches and will further fortify its image in the global arena of the mind game. Though the origin of chess in India dates back to 6th century, it took nearly four decades thereafter for the country to identify its first Grandmaster in the form of Viswanathan Anand, who received this prestigious award in 1988. Following Anand's triumphs in international tournaments, the number of GMs in India has risen drastically. From having only one GM in 1988, today Indian chess boasts of having 74 GMs, including some young stars like R. Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh and Raunak Sadhwani.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



## of the day quote

The biggest drawback of our education system is that we do not have faith in our children's ability to succeed. The question is not what do we write in the National Education Policy (NEP), but how we interact with our children in the classrooms and at homes. That shows that our lack of faith in them

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

The Eknath Shinde-led government in Maharashtra is illegal and will not last long

AADITYA THACKERAY | SHIV SENA LEADER

If I am providing free education in government schools, am I doing anything wrong? Shouldn't students get free and quality education? It is a work of nation-building

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Doctor booked

**Jalna:** Police registered a case against a gynaecologist after a panel of government doctors indicted her for negligence leading to the death of a 26-year-old woman post delivery at a private hospital in Jalna city of Maharashtra. The erring doctor had gone for a morning walk leaving the woman patient with inexperienced nursing staff, a police official said on Sunday citing a report of the committee of senior doctors of Government Hospital and Medical College (GHMC) Aurangabad, which probed the matter. The patient, Neha Lidhoriya, died of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) or heavy blood loss after giving birth on April 13, the police said.

### Racket busted

**New Delhi:** Deportation of a man from Kuwait led the IGI Police to bust a fake immigration cum visa racket and arrest a mastermind. DCP of IGI, Tanu Sharma said that the accused was identified as Mustaq alias Jamil Picturewala. He was held from Mumbai. "The accused is involved in arranging fake passport and visa along with his aides Zakir Yusuf Shaikh in Mumbai and Narayanbhai Chaudhary in Gujarat. They are mostly operating in areas of Gujrat and Mumbai and facilitate people in arranging fake passport and visa through which they can settle down in USA by unfair means," the official said.

### Drug peddler held

**New Delhi:** A woman who was allegedly involved in drug peddling has been arrested here, the police said on Sunday, adding 21 gm heroin was recovered from her possession. The arrested individual has been identified as Sunaina. A senior police officer said that on August 4, an input was received that a woman drug peddler would come near the Shiv Vihar area with heroin.

### RS to bid farewell to Naidu today

**New Delhi:** Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu will be accorded a farewell in the House on Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top leaders in attendance. Naidu demits office on Wednesday and his successor Jagdeep Dhankhar will take the oath of office on August 11. There will be no sitting of the House on Tuesday and Thursday on account of Muharram and Raksha Bandhan, sources said.



The same Parliament that expects the poor to express thanks at receiving five kg grains also says bad loans of Rs 10 lakh crore of corrupt businessmen have been waived in the last five years. Who has the first right over the government treasury?

VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

## 'PRATIRODH' MARCH

The Rashtriya Janata Dal Sunday held a 'Pratirodh' march in Bihar to protest against inflation and unemployment. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and several other leaders of opposition parties participated in the march



## NITI AAYOG MEET

# PM URGES STATES TO FOCUS ON 3Ts

Some states, during the meeting, came up with various suggestions for expeditious diversification of agriculture, said NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand while briefing reporters about the conference

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday made a strong case for modernising agriculture, animal husbandry and food-processing to help the country become self-sufficient and a global leader in the agriculture sector, even as some states demanded that the MSP mechanism be made more effective in case of pulses and oilseeds.

The Prime Minister also asked the states to focus on promoting



3Ts - Trade, Tourism, Technology - with a view to reducing imports and increasing exports, said an official release after the seventh meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog.

"We should encourage people to use local goods wherever possible," he said, adding 'Vocal for local' is not the agenda of a political party but a common goal. India, he said, needs to "focus on modernized agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing to become self-suf-

ficient and a global leader in the agriculture sector."

Some states, during the meeting, came up with various suggestions for expeditious diversification of agriculture, said NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand while briefing reporters about the conference.

"...States suggested that if they are helped in a particular way, they can go for diversification in a faster manner....Two states mentioned about making minimum support price (MSP) for pulses and oilseeds

more effective," said Chand. The Prime Minister, in his remarks, raised the issue of rapid urbanisation, saying it can become India's strength instead of weakness by leveraging technology to ensure ease of living, transparent service delivery, and improvement in the quality of life for every citizen.

He also appreciated the collective efforts of all the states in the spirit of cooperative federalism in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. "Every State played a crucial role according to its strength and contributed to India's fight against Covid. This led to India emerging as an example for the developing nations to look up to as a global leader," he said.

The Prime Minister underlined the need for collective action to increase collection of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), saying though the realisation has improved, "the potential is much more... And it is crucial for strengthening our economic position and becoming a USD 5 trillion economy."

## Telangana baby given drug worth ₹16 crore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, August 7:** A 23-month-old baby with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 1, received a new lease of life with Swiss drugmaker Novartis coming forward to donate gene therapy costing Rs 16 crore.

Baby Ellen was administered Zolgensma gene therapy, called the world's costliest drug, at a private hospital in Hyderabad on August 6, her father Rayapudi Praveen said Sunday. The baby with a rare genetic disease is currently under medical observation.

Hailing from Bhadradi Kothagudem district of Telangana, Praveen and his wife Stella, were struggling to raise the huge money required for the only treatment option for their child.

According to Praveen, they had registered their daughter under Managed Access Programme of Novartis and they received the information that the company had selected her as the beneficiary.

## A.2 strain of monkeypox found in first 2 cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** An analysis of India's first two monkeypox cases by an institute of the Indian Council of Medical Research revealed that the duo who returned from the UAE were infected with the virus strain A.2 - different from the one causing the outbreak in Europe.

The A.2 strain, which was detected in the US last year, has not been linked to major clusters. The current outbreak is being driven by the B.1 strain of monkeypox virus, Dr Pragya Yadav, a senior scientist at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) and lead author of the study, said.

The findings of the study have been published in the Research Square, a pre-print server, and have not been peer reviewed. India has reported nine cases of monkeypox and one death so far.

The foreign returnees from the United Arab Emirates presented with fever, myalgia, and vesicular lesions on the genital area with cervical lymphadenopathy. The oropharyngeal and nasopharyn-



The A.2 strain, which was detected in the US last year, has not been linked to major clusters

geal swab, EDTA blood, serum, urine, lesion samples from multiple sites were collected from both the cases on the ninth post onset day of illness.

The clinical specimens of both the cases were tested with real-time PCR for orthopoxvirus, monkeypox virus (MPXV). "The complete genome sequences obtained from skin lesions of cases 1 and 2 showed similarity of 99.91 and 99.96 per cent respectively with

## CUET-UG EXAM DATE OUT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** Facing criticism over cancellation of the common university entrance test (CUET) at some centres, UGC Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar Sunday said it was done in the best interests of students as there were indications of "sabotage".

The National Testing Agency announced that the test which was cancelled last week will now be conducted from August 24 to 28 and fresh admit cards will be issued. Kumar said strict action will be taken against those found involved

in any "willful sabotage" of the process. The CUET for admission to undergraduate courses in central universities is being conducted at 489 centres in over 250 cities across India and nine cities abroad. "There were reports and indications of sabotage in the process. NTA (National Testing Agency) immediately swung into action and cancelled and postponed examinations in centres which witnessed such a possibility. Strict action will be taken against anyone involved in willful sabotage of the process," Kumar said.

"Cancellation of the test in some centres was done keeping the best interests of the students in mind. NTA is constantly in touch with the students through email, messaging and voice mail to keep them informed of the changes and extra care is being taken in this regard," he added. On reports that some students were turned away from exam venues, the University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman said the staffers at certain centres should have shown more empathy with students.

## CELEBRATING TRADITION



Elephants participating in the Dasara celebrations being accorded a traditional welcome, near Veeranahosahalli village in Mysuru district

PTI PHOTO

# GEHLOT'S RAPE LAW REMARK DRAWS FLAK

Addressing a press conference in Delhi Friday, Chief Minister Gehlot said that the cases of murder after rape have increased in the country following the law providing death sentence for rape convicts came into force

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, August 7:** The BJP Sunday slammed Ashok Gehlot for his rape law remarks and said that the Rajasthan chief minister is try-

ing to hide his government's failures to curb rising incidents of atrocities against innocent girls in the state.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that the chief minister's statement is "unfortunate". "In the last three years, Rajasthan has become the centre for atrocities against young innocent girls. Nothing can be more unfortunate that the issue is being twisted by making controversial statements to hide their failures," said Shekhawat.

Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan Assembly Rajendra Rathore said Gehlot's statement is "unfortunate and shameful". The CM, who also heads the home de-

partment, cannot escape the failure of his government in curbing increasing rape cases in the state by making absurd statements, Rathore said.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi on Friday, Chief Minister Gehlot said that the cases of murder after rape have increased in the country following the law providing death sentence for rape convicts came into force.

"Ever since the death penalty (for rape convicts) is brought after Nirbhaya incident, the murders after rape have increased. The rapist sees that the girl will become a witness tomorrow, so he not only rapes but also kills her. This is happening across the country.



This is a very dangerous trend," Gehlot had said.

The CM was referring to December 16, 2012 Delhi gangrape incident, which was later called as the 'Nirbhaya' incident. According to the National Crime

Records Bureau (NCRB) 2020, Rajasthan has earned the dubious distinction of registering the highest number of rape cases in the country followed by Uttar Pradesh. Though the state continues to top in rape cases in 2020, the number of such cases (5997) has declined by 11.45% in comparison to 2019, the NCRB data shows.

Reacting to the CM's statement, BJP leader Rathore said the statistics of NCRB and police report show that the state ranks first in the country in rape cases. He also claimed that from January 2020 to January 2022, 4,091 cases have been registered under the POCSO Act. Rathore said that in the previous BJP government, a law was

made for the provision of capital punishment to those accused of raping a minor. Unfortunately, the CM, who has failed to curb the incidents of rape of innocent girls, is now opposing the provision of capital punishment. "If you have the courage to bring a resolution against this law in the assembly, then we will give a befitting reply to them," he said.

Rathore claimed that 16 incidents of rape are taking place in Rajasthan every day and Gehlot has stated that 48% of rape cases are false. By making such statements again and again, the CM is doing an act of encouraging the morale of the brutal rapists instead of breaking them, the BJP leader said.



# Ayodhya land scam: BJP MLA among 40 named as accused



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ayodhya, August 7:** City mayor, a local BJP MLA and a former party legislator are among the 40 people whom the Ayodhya Development Authority has accused of illegally trading plots and building infrastructure in such land.

Taking a dig at the BJP on the issue, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav said the saf-  
party's "bhrashtachari" (cor-  
rupt) should at least spare Ayodhya.  
Mayor Rishikesh Upadhyay and  
MLA Ved Prakash Gupta have,  
however, claimed innocence and al-  
leged foul play in the list of alleged  
offenders released by  
the authority.

"The list of 40 people who ille-  
gally bought and sold land and got  
construction work done in the au-  
thority area was released on  
Saturday night," the authority's  
vice chairman Vishal Singh told PTI  
Sunday. He said action will be taken  
against all 40 people.

Speaking to PTI, Upadhyay and  
Gupta alleged a conspiracy, say-  
ing they have been falsely implicated  
in the case.

The name of Gorakhnath Baba,  
a former BJP MLA from Milkipur,  
also features in the list.

Prior to the assembly elections  
held earlier this year, rival parties

**We have said it before  
and are repeating it  
again... The BJP's corrupt, at  
least spare Ayodhya**

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY  
PRESIDENT

in the state had raised the issue of  
illegal purchase and sale of land in  
Ayodhya.

Local MP Lallu Singh had writ-  
ten to Chief Minister Yogi  
Adityanath demanding a probe by  
a Special Investigation Team into  
the matter.

SP chief Yadav in a tweet in  
Hindi said, "We have said it be-  
fore and are repeating it again... The  
BJP's corrupt, at least spare  
Ayodhya."

Yadav also tagged a media re-  
port to back his allegation.

His party demanded an investi-  
gation into the matter and action  
against the culprits.

"Sin by BJP workers in  
Ayodhya! BJP's Mayor, local MLA  
and former MLA are establish-  
ing illegal colonies in association  
with land mafia. In collusion with  
responsible departments, 30 ille-  
gal colonies have been set up,  
causing loss of state revenue to the  
tune of hundreds of crores. The  
matter should be investigated.  
Action should be taken against  
the culprits," the SP said on its of-  
ficial twitter handle.



A rag-picker collects recyclable items from the offerings and idols of Goddess Dashama, left by devotees on the banks of the river Sabarmati, a day after the Dashama festival, in Ahmedabad, Sunday.  
PTI PHOTO

# BJP's outreach to Yadavs, Pasmanda Muslims

While OBC Yadavs and Muslims form the Samajwadi Party's 'MY' vote bank, Jatavs have been siding with the BSP led by Mayawati so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, August 7:** The BJP has  
planned to expand its base among  
the Yadavs, Jatavs and Pasmanda  
Muslims as part of its strategy to  
win all 80 Lok Sabha seats in the  
2024 general election.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief  
Minister and former state BJP  
president Keshav Prasad Maurya  
had also dropped a hint in a re-  
cent tweet, saying Yaduvanshi  
(Yadavs), Ravidasiyo (Jatavs) and  
Pasmanda Muslims will be brought  
closer to the BJP so that the lotus  
"blossoms" in every booth in UP.  
After the party's victory in the  
Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha  
bypolls, Chief Minister Yogi  
Adityanath had claimed that it  
will win all 80 seats in next general  
election.

While OBC Yadavs and Muslims  
form the Samajwadi Party's "MY"  
vote bank, Jatavs have been sid-  
ing with the BSP led by  
Mayawati so far.

SP's national secretary Rajendra  
Chaudhary trashed Maurya's as-  
sertions and said his party doesn't  
believe in politics of casteism.  
"Our ideology is based on social-  
ism and social justice," Chaudhary  
told PTI. Sources in the BJP said  
the party has planned to launch a  
comprehensive mass contact cam-  
paign to reach out to Yadavs, Jatavs

and Pasmanda Muslims in course  
of its "Tiranga Yatra" week from  
August 11 to 17.

Of 1.70 lakh booths in the 80 Lok  
Sabha seats in UP, the BJP feels it  
has comparatively lesser influence  
on 22,000.

According to sources, most of  
these booths are dominated by  
Yadav, Jatav and Muslim voters.

They said on state secretary (or-  
ganisation) Sunil Bansal's in-  
struction, BJP MPs and MLAs had  
recently undertaken mass contact  
programmes to increase the party's  
footprint.

The BJP has 64 MPs from Uttar  
Pradesh while its ally Apna Dal  
(Sonelal) has two.

The BSP has 10 MPs while the  
Samajwadi Party's tally came down  
to three after it lost Azamgarh and  
Rampur seats to the BJP in the by-  
polls held recently. Sonia Gandhi  
is the sole MP of the Congress.  
She represents the Rae Bareilly seat.

According to experts, Yadavs  
form 11 per cent of UP's population.  
Dalits are around 21 per cent of  
the population and Muslim's pres-  
ence is estimated at 18 per cent.

Among the Dalits, Jatavs are  
numerically strong.

Seventeen Lok Sabha seats are  
reserved for Scheduled Castes in UP.

Yadav and Muslim voters de-  
cide in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies  
each. A senior BJP leader Santraj



## THE NUMBER GAME

Of 1.70 lakh booths in  
the 80 Lok Sabha  
seats in UP, the BJP  
feels it has  
comparatively lesser  
influence on 22,000

Most of these booths are dominated by Yadav,  
Jatav and Muslim voters

Yadavs form 11 per cent of UP's population. Dalits  
are around 21 per cent of the population and  
Muslim's presence is estimated at 18 per cent

Yadav told PTI that a "majority of  
the Yadavs no longer want to stay  
with the SP while they don't see any  
hope in the Congress and the BSP  
is not of their liking." "So, the BJP  
is the best option for them where  
they are getting better opportuni-  
ties and importance," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
spared time from his busy sched-  
ule to virtually attend a programme  
held to mark the 10th death an-  
niversary of Harmohan Singh  
Yadav in Kanpur July 25.

Harmohan Singh Yadav had served  
as the president of the Yadav  
Mahasabha. His son Sukhram  
Singh Yadav, a former Rajya Sabha  
MP, lavishly praised the PM.

Sukhram's son Mohit Yadav has  
already taken the membership of  
the BJP. SP patron Mulayam Singh  
Yadav's younger daughter-in-law  
Aparna Yadav had joined the BJP  
on the eve of the assembly elec-  
tions while senior socialist leader  
Shivpal Singh Yadav is at odds  
with his nephew Akhilesh.

# Ahead of Guj elections, Kejriwal woos tribals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Vadodara, August 7:** Aam Aadmi  
Party national convener Arvind  
Kejriwal Sunday promised implemen-  
tation of the Constitution's  
Fifth Schedule and the Panchayat  
(Extension to Scheduled Areas)  
Act in tribal regions of Gujarat if  
the AAP is voted to power in the  
state.

Kejriwal also promised that  
Gujarat's tribal advisory com-  
mittee would be headed by a person  
from the community instead of  
the chief minister, as has been the  
case in the state. He claimed the  
Gujarat Assembly elections, due  
later this year, will be a direct con-  
test between the ruling BJP and the  
AAP. Talking to reporters in  
Vadodara before addressing a rally  
in tribal-dominated Chhota Udepur  
district, Kejriwal also said that if  
AAP comes to power in Gujarat,  
each tribal village will get a good  
government school and a  
"mohalla clinic."

Multi-speciality hospitals will  
also be set up in the region for free  
treatment of tribals, the Delhi chief  
minister said. He also promised  
simplification of the caste certi-  
ficate issuance process and houses  
to those who do not own one. The  
government will also connect tribal  
villages with roads, he said.

The Fifth Schedule of the  
Constitution deals with provisions



**Because they  
(BJP) are  
worried (of the  
outcome) in  
Gujarat, they  
harass us  
(AAP leaders)  
in Delhi**

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP  
NATIONAL CONVENER

related to the administration and  
control of scheduled areas and  
scheduled tribes. The PESA Act  
was enacted by Parliament in 1996  
to ensure self-governance for peo-  
ple living in scheduled areas. The  
states were required to formulate  
rules for the effective implemen-  
tation of the Act to strengthen  
gram sabhas in scheduled areas.

Kejriwal said despite 75 years of  
Independence, tribals have remained  
backward. "They are remembered  
before elections and have only been  
exploited by all. The Constitution  
provides for a separate system for  
tribals because the community has  
a different culture and is very back-  
ward," he said.

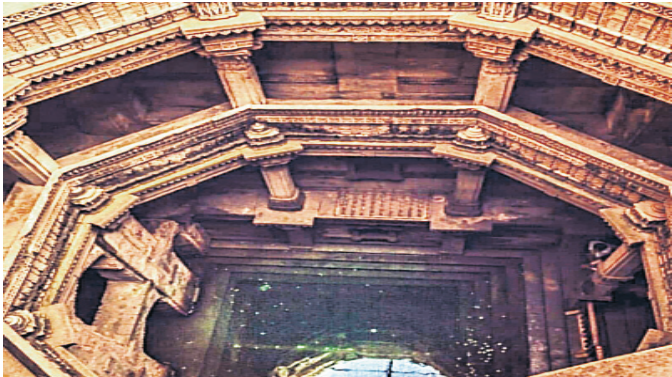
No government is ready to im-  
plement provisions made for them  
in the Indian Constitution because  
they are always eager to usurp their  
natural resources, Kejriwal claimed  
on the second day of his two-day visit  
to Gujarat. Kejriwal said tribals

will also be provided employment  
and free electricity which he has  
guaranteed for everyone in Gujarat.

"So many Congress leaders have  
joined the BJP, many more will  
flock the saffron party, and the re-  
maining will join the BJP after the  
election. It is more or less a merger  
of the Gujarat Congress into the  
Gujarat BJP," he further claimed.

"The ILU (I love you) politics  
between the two parties has come  
to an end. Now it will be politics of  
people, which is what the AAP  
does," he said. "I guarantee you  
that we will make the future of  
your children. But if you vote them  
to power, they will offer you spurious  
liquor," he said. "Because they  
(BJP) are worried (of the outcome)  
in Gujarat, they harass us (AAP  
leaders) in Delhi," he alleged.

Asked about the AAP's chief  
ministerial face in Gujarat, Kejriwal  
said every person is his party's  
CM face.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ahmedabad, August 7:** Gujarat  
and Rajasthan, which have low  
rainfall and have faced droughts,  
have many stepwells, and the an-  
cient water storage methods can still  
be useful today. Considered to be a  
fine example of Gujarati archi-  
tecture, Vav or stepwell is not only  
an ancient site but also has a cul-  
tural tradition associated with it.

Amritalingam's book 'Ecological  
Traditions of India' states: "Wells  
and stepwells have played a very im-  
portant role in the history of Indian  
architecture."  
"Even in the ruins of the cities  
of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, the  
existence of Vav and wells could be  
seen. Vav is also mentioned in the  
Vedas and is believed to be the God  
of water and a form of blessing, as  
it provides water in times of  
drought. As mentioned in the book,  
it is estimated that the step wells ex-  
isted in the western-eastern re-  
gions of India since 600 BC."

Purnima Mehta Bhatt, in her  
book 'Her Space, Her Story -  
Exploring the Stepwells of Gujarat',  
writes: "Women who were usually  
busy with household chores could  
go out on the pretext of drawing  
water and experiencing freedom.  
They could interact with the outside  
world. And could feel at peace in  
the artistic and cool environment."  
"Centuries ago in the water-scarce  
Gujarat region, life and agriculture  
survived and flourished due to such  
water storages. The role of women  
is important in creating a system that  
binds together the three types of  
worlds - earthly, subterranean, and  
divine. Usually a Vav was built in  
memory of a wife, mother, local  
Goddess, or lover."

Kapil Thacker, a history and ar-  
chitecture lover of Ahmedabad,  
has taken up the challenge of restor-  
ing these places to their former  
glory and importance. He has been  
running a magazine called 'Atulya  
Varso' on water body tradition and  
architecture for a long time with  
a special focus on architecture and  
culture. Thacker recently adopted  
a stepwell and a well.

He said, "We have adopted Vav in  
Uwarasad near Gandhinagar and  
Halisa Lake near Dehgam. In 2018,  
we adopted the stepwell of Uwarasad  
village. Then it was redeveloped by  
funding with the help of the gov-

His proximity to the BJP was  
clearly visible in the recent presi-  
dential elections where he voted for  
NDA's candidate Droupadi Murmu.

The BJP is also giving promi-  
nence to Jatavs. Changing its track,  
the BJP, which earlier gave more  
importance to Kori, Dhanuk, Khatik  
and Passi sections among the Dalits,  
concentrated on the Jatavs in the  
Assembly polls.

A leader of the state BJP SC  
morchha said, "Our interest is safe  
in the BJP only. The double dose of  
ration during the coronavirus pan-  
demic, houses and Rs 5 lakh med-  
ical cover have been provided to  
everybody by the Modi govern-  
ment. In Modi rule, nobody  
sleeps hungry."

The BJP is also trying to win  
over Pasmanda Muslims. The party  
gave place to Danish Azad Ansari  
in Adityanath's cabinet. He has  
been made the minister of state  
for minority affairs.

Mohsin Raza, the lone Muslim  
minister in the previous term, is a  
Shia. Post-poll surveys indicated  
that the BJP's vote share among  
Muslims rose to 8 per cent, one per  
cent rise vis-à-vis 2017 election.

State BJP minority cell chief  
Basit Ali told PTI, "There are sev-  
eral beneficiaries from Muslims  
in welfare schemes launched by  
the Modi government. The party is  
in touch with them."

# Guj researcher adopts stepwells to recharge depleted water reserves

**Considered to be a fine  
example of Gujarati  
architecture, Vav or  
stepwell is not only an  
ancient site but also  
has a cultural tradition  
associated with it**

ernment. It was renovated in 2019  
and we did various activities there.  
In 2021 we handed over this site to  
Uwarasad Gram Panchayat. But if  
there is no public participation and  
people are not proud of the archi-  
tecture of their village, even after re-  
pairs, the architecture cannot be  
maintained. For that purpose we  
have again adopted this Vav. This  
time our project is 2022-25. We also  
have plans to start our Stepwell  
Interpretation Center and Stepwell  
Museum. Since these sites come  
under the Gram Panchayat, the  
adoption process is easy. Otherwise  
it would have been tough for us if the  
sites were under ASI. We met with  
the village panchayat president and  
members and explained to them  
that we do not give or take money."

About the idea of adopting a his-  
torical monument, Thacker said,  
"Our priority is to recharge the  
wells and Vavs. Can't we recharge  
the architectures that were built  
thousands of years ago in the 21st  
century? But no such attempt has  
been made. It is still possible in vil-  
lages. If the wells are recharged,  
the groundwater level will also rise.  
We want to plan a long-term plan  
where locals can connect with and  
take pride in this architecture, rather  
than just the development of the  
surrounding area. So, we organised  
various programmes together with  
the villagers in Uwarasad's Vav.  
Also we started village walks."

"A programme has been started  
in which students from the city visit  
the village to understand the culture  
of the village and also visit the step-  
well. Such efforts will keep the ar-  
chitecture like Vav alive and also in-  
crease their pride among the locals.  
Villagers will maintain these places  
only if they see their benefit. We  
can see almost 60 percent change in  
the perspective of Uwarasad's peo-  
ple. Last year 15,000-20,000 people  
including students, researchers and  
photographers visited the place."

# How Akhilesh & Priyanka are twinning in UP politics

**IF AKHILESH'S 'COTERIE' IS IN THE LINE OF  
FIRE IN SAMAJWADI PARTY, IT IS  
PRIYANKA'S 'TEAM' THAT HAS LED TO  
WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT IN  
THE STATE CONGRESS**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, August 7:** In politics,  
horoscopes are not matched nec-  
essarily but circumstances often  
bring out similarities between  
politicians even though they may  
not tread the same path.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president  
Akhilesh Yadav and Priyanka  
Gandhi Vadra, general secretary in  
charge of Congress in Uttar  
Pradesh, have developed a style of  
working that is strikingly similar  
and so is the outcome.

"They are almost twinning when  
it comes to politics. Both had a sea  
of opportunities before them but  
they seem to be destroying the  
legacy they inherited. Their parties  
are nose diving ever since they  
took," said RK Singh, a senior po-  
litical analyst.

The most common complaint  
against Akhilesh and Priyanka is  
their inaccessibility to party work-  
ers. Akhilesh, for reasons best  
known to him, keep the gates of his

home and office firmly shut for  
party workers and meets only those  
who are members of his coterie.

A senior SP MLA says: "It is  
much more difficult to meet  
Akhilesh Yadav than it is to meet  
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.  
Even during the Assembly elec-  
tions, I left several messages with  
his office but was not given time.  
This kind of behaviour of a polit-  
ical leader, one is leader a political  
party, is detrimental to party in-  
terests and also a major reason for  
discontent."

Party leaders also blame  
Akhilesh's coterie of being arrogant.  
Recently, Abdullah Azam, son  
of SP leader Mohd Azam Khan,  
expressed his displeasure over the  
comments made by a party  
spokesman Udaiveer Singh, known  
for his proximity to Akhilesh.

"I have noticed a statement by a  
spokesperson of the SP. These are  
the people responsible for SP's  
ruin. I request them to comment  
only as per their level, and not at-

tempt to bring in Azam Khan  
saheb... or else many things would  
worsen," he said in a tweet.

If Akhilesh's 'coterie' is in the  
line of fire in SP, it is Priyanka's  
'team' that has led to widespread  
resentment in the state Congress.

Priyanka's personal secretary  
Sandeep Singh and others are  
known for their arrogance and  
misbehaviour with party workers.  
Their audio clips where conver-  
sations are interspersed with ab-  
usive language are made viral of  
the party's WhatsApp groups with  
an alarming frequency.

"This team serves as a barrier  
between Priyanka and party work-  
ers. No one can meet Priyanka  
without the sanction of her team  
and, therefore, she is completely in-  
accessible for party workers now.  
Even in Delhi, she meets only those  
who have permission from Sandeep  
Singh. She has not visited UP in re-  
cent months," said a former  
Congress MLA.

Another factor that is common  
between Akhilesh and Priyanka is  
their disdain for senior leaders in  
the party.

Both have completely sidelined  
veterans and are pinning their  
hopes on younger leaders who are  
not even familiar with the party ide-  
ology. In the SP, veterans who be-  
long to the Mulayam Singh era



are nowhere to be seen. Leaders like  
Ambica Chaudhary, Om Prakash  
Singh, Narad Rai are biding their  
time in the wings.

In the Uttar Pradesh Congress,  
former UPCC presidents like  
Nirmal Khatri, Shri Prakash  
Jaiswal, Arun Kumar Singh  
Munna, Raj Babbar have been  
pushed into oblivion and the re-  
maining have been expelled from  
the party.

As a result, the two parties are  
rapidly losing ground by the day.



Under Akhilesh's leadership,  
the SP has lost the 2017 Assembly,  
2019 Lok Sabha and 2022 Assembly  
elections. The Congress has al-  
ready hit rock bottom ever since  
Priyanka took over the reins in  
2019.

What worries party workers is  
the fact that the two leaders re-  
fuse to see the writing on the wall.  
They continue to wage political  
battles on social media and have  
disconnected themselves from  
ground realities.



of the day quote

Since Parliament began, the BJP is introducing new restrictions on opposition parties- from deciding what we speak to suspending 24 MPs. Now Home Minister wants to decide the colour of our clothes and the day of protest. Indian democracy will not bow down before Shahenshah Modi

Patients in the state will not require the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana scheme by next year as the state will have Mohalla clinics and improved hospital infrastructure

The Central Administrative Tribunal, which adjudicates government employees service matters, has achieved a disposal rate of over 91 per cent in five years

SHORT TAKES

**Two fishermen missing in Kerala**  
**Thiruvananthapuram:** Two fishermen, who had gone to the sea Sunday morning from here, were missing after their boat capsized in Muthala Pozhi near Perumathura. The missing fishermen have been identified as Suneer and Safer, who are from Cherumnathurthu here. The fishing boat in which they had gone to the sea along with another fisherman Ansari overturned near the Muthala Pozhi due to high waves and wind. Ansari swam to safety and reached the shores while Suneer and Safer have not been found till now. Kerala Marine police and local fishermen were trying to rescue the two fishermen but high waves and winds were preventing the rescue operation.

**US Navy ship arrives for repairs**  
**New Delhi:** US naval ship Charles Drew docked at Larsen & Toubro's shipyard at Kattupalli in Chennai Sunday for undertaking repairs and allied services, in the first such voyage to India by an American vessel. The defence ministry described it as a "huge boost" to 'Make in India' and said the visit added a new dimension to the burgeoning Indo-US strategic partnership. "This is the first ever repair of a US Navy ship in India. The US Navy had awarded a contract to L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking maintenance of the ship," the ministry said in a statement. The UNSN Charles Drew will be at the Kattupalli shipyard for 11 days.

**ITBP jawan held**  
**Gangtok:** An ITBP jawan was arrested in Sikkim for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl multiple times at his official quarters after which she became pregnant, police said Sunday. The incident happened in Rangpo town in Pakyong district, they said. In her complaint, the girl's mother alleged that a teenaged local boy also sexually assaulted her for months. Police said they have detained the boy as well.

**3 children hurt**  
**New Delhi:** At least three children, all aged around 7-8 years, were injured during a celebratory firing here on Saturday, the police said. Information was received at Seelampur police station that three children have been injured in a firing incident after which the police rushed to the spot at J block Jhuggi area in northeast Delhi's Seelampur.



Institutions have been tamed or emasculated or captured. Democracy is gasping for breath. We may have the shell of democracy, but inside, the shell has been hollowed out. This applies to almost all institutions

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

WELCOME MOVE

Interpreters and special desks at 10 airports, a multi-lingual portal and simplified visa norms are going to be the highlights of the government's 'Heal in India' initiative to boost medical tourism



Tackling friction will be Dhankhar's biggest challenge

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** For Jagdeep Dhankhar, the win in the Vice Presidential poll was easy, but his biggest challenge will be to manage the friction in the Rajya Sabha. As the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha -- the Upper House of Parliament -- running the House smoothly, after he takes the oath, will require all his managing skills. As the tenure of the current Vice President Venkaiah Naidu is ending on August 10, Dhankhar will take over as the new Vice President of the country on August 11. As per the schedule, the current Monsoon Session of Parliament is to conclude on August 12, but if the Parliament session does not conclude before the scheduled time, then Dhankhar, as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha can conduct the proceedings of the Upper House for the last two days of the current session.

Considering the tussle going on between the government and the opposition inside and outside Parliament, it is believed that Dhankhar as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha will realise in the first two days the degree of difficulty in conducting the House and the eyes of the entire country will be on him. In the Rajya Sabha, the NDA still does not have a majority and this is the reason why the opposition seems to be more aggressive here than in the Lok Sabha. Even during the current Monsoon Session, the opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha were constantly trying to target the government on the issue of hiked GST rates on food items, inflation and misuse



of Central investigative agencies. During the last several sessions, there had been incidents of uproar, suspension of MPs in the Rajya Sabha and sit-in demonstrations at the Gandhi statue. Amid the continued opposition

In the Rajya Sabha, the NDA still does not have a majority and this is the reason why the Opposition seems to be more aggressive here than in the Lok Sabha

uproar, current Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has been seen struggling to run the proceedings smoothly and now Dhankhar will have to face the same challenge for the next five years. The strategists of the government are also well aware of the challenges in the Rajya Sabha, so alongwith hailing the victory, they are hopeful that Dhankhar's long legal, legislative and public life experience will help him run the House smoothly.

Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha and Union Minister Piyush Goyal congratulated Dhankhar on being elected to the post of Vice President, saying, his tenure as Chairman will prove ideal in running the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha efficiently and will benefit the public on issues of national interest. While Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, who played an important role in strategising the conduct of the Parliament session on behalf of the government, congratulated Dhankhar for the overwhelming victory and said that he has a long experience of legal, legislative and public life, which will be of great use to the country in running the House.

LIGHTNING CLAIMS 9 LIVES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, August 7:** Nine people were killed and two others injured after lightning struck them in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha, Satna and Guna districts in the last 24 hours, officials said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rainfall and thunderstorms with lightning at isolated places in the state on Sunday. In Vidisha, four people were killed after lightning struck them Saturday evening while they were standing under a tree for shelter during rain in Agasod village in Ganjbasoda tehsil, about 45 km from the district headquarters, city police station inspector Kunwar Singh Mukati said. The bodies were handed over to their families after postmortem, he added. In Satna, four people were killed and two minor boys injured in separate incidents of lightning strike in Podi-Pataura and Jatwara areas on Saturday, police said. The injured boys, aged 12 and 16, were admitted to a hospital, the police said. In Guna, 45-year-old woman Manu Ahirwar was killed after being struck by lightning in Bhora village on Saturday, police said. Many districts in the state received showers over the last 24 hours. Gwalior recorded 54.6 mm rains in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Sunday, as per the IMD. A low pressure area formed over north-west Bay of Bengal was bringing in moisture to Madhya Pradesh causing rain, IMD Bhopal office senior meteorologist Ved Prakash Singh said. Besides, the monsoon trough line was passing across the state, he added.

RAPE CAPITAL?

Delhi sees spike in rape cases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** Delhi witnessed a heart-wrenching incident on May 18 when it was learnt that a 13-year-old girl was gang raped by eight people, including one juvenile, raising questions over the safety of women in the national capital. The victim was initially abducted, sedated and then raped by three people. Then they passed her further to another, then another, then another... crossing the limits of humanity. Devastated and traumatised for a week, the girl who went missing on April 24 was found in a despondent state on May 2 at the Saket Metro station. The incident is one of the many gruesome crimes that happen on almost a daily basis in the national capital. How could one forget the horrifying and brutal act of assault and gang rape at Kasturba Nagar area in Shahdara.



The incident, that sent chills down the spine people in the national capital, occurred on January 26 when the victim woman was allegedly attacked by a group of people, including women, who tounded her head, tore her clothes, blackened her face, and then paraded her on the streets wearing a garland of slippers. For the heinous crime, 21 people -- 12 women, four men, two girls and three boys -- were charge

According to the data compiled by the Delhi Police, 1,100 women have been allegedly raped in the current year till July 15. In another surprising number, nearly 2,200 women have been kidnapped in the national capital so far, again raising serious concerns about the safety of women sheeted. Crime against women in Delhi continues to show an upward trajectory, compared to last year's data. According to the data compiled by the Delhi Police, 1,100 women have been allegedly raped in the current year till July 15. In 2021, 1,033 women had to face the heinous crime till the same period. Comparing this year's data with that of 2021, there has been an increase of 6.48 per cent.

CSIR GETS FIRST WOMAN HEAD



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** Senior scientist Nallathambi Kalaiselvi has been appointed as the first woman Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a consortium of 38 research institutes across the country. She is known for her work on the subject of lithium ion batteries, and she is the current director of the CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI) at Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu. Her appointment is for a period of two years with the day from the date of assumption of charge or till further orders, whichever is earlier; a personnel ministry order stated on Saturday. Kalaiselvi broke the glass ceiling by a becoming scientist to head the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI) in February 2019.

MOCK DRILL



Security personnel during a mock drill for maintaining law and order, ahead of the Independence Day, at New Police Lines ground in Ranchi



400 officers sent packing

Nearly 400 senior officers in the Central Service have either been compulsorily retired or decided to opt for voluntary retirement during the past eight years under Modi dispensation. These officers in senior positions in the government quit due to many reasons between July 2014 and June 2022 which is a record of sorts. This is despite the fact that there is a huge

shortage of officers at the senior levels as states are not relieving officers due to their own compulsions. As per official sources in the Ministry of Personnel, as many as 203 officers falling in Group A and 192 in Group-B categories have prematurely been sacked or allowed to seek voluntary retirement during this period.

ED's twin challenges

After the SC verdict upholding the Constitutional validity of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Enforcement Directorate's big challenge is to conclude investigation into thousands of pending cases under the PMLA and FEMA. This is at a time when the ED is facing a huge shortage of staff. According to a 2020 report, the ED was facing a shortage of as much as 40%. According to a reply given in the Lok Sabha recently, the ED could

obtain convictions only in 23 cases under the PMLA ever since the act came into being in 2002 after what was called "draconian FERA". ED is probing a large number of high profile cases involving several sitting and former Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, MPs and MLAs and business houses across India. It may be mentioned that the trial in many of these cases had almost come to a grinding halt after more than 200 petitions were filed in the Supreme Court challenging many provisions, dealing with its powers to arrest, search and seizure. It may also be mentioned that ED is functioning with 40% strength of its total sanctioned staff capacity of 2,064.

No FIR is a concession

When an upset UP PWD Minister Jitin Prasada rushed to Delhi to complain to the party high command over the

removal of his OSD by Chief Minister Yogi, someone at the top gave him a pep talk. "You are new to the BJP, learn to live with leaders like Yogi. You were given a plum department like PWD in the first shot. But it seems your OSD forgot that there is zero tolerance towards corruption under the Yogi regime." Poor Jitin Prasada returned to Lucknow as there was no one to talk to him at his bidding. When a senior leader contacted the CM on the phone about it, Yogi is reported to have said, "I have already given him one concession.... No FIR registered against the OSD." The matter was closed.

Gehlot's Nashik nightmare

With the change of regime in Maharashtra, fortune of many leaders may also change. It transpires that a police case in Nashik against Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Rajasthan Chief

Minister Ashok Gehlot, may witness twists and turns. The case came to light when a businessman in Nashik got a case of Rs 6.89 crores cheating registered against Vaibhav Gehlot and 13 others in March this year. But the Police under the MVA government was reluctant to register the case and the businessman approached the court. The court directed the Police to register an FIR. The case was transferred to the Economic Offenses Wing (EOW) for a probe. Within days, the complainant approached the court again saying he would not like to pursue the case against Vaibhav Gehlot as he misunderstood. But the court did not proceed with as much alacrity as the complainant. In the meantime, the Uddhav Thackeray government fell and the businessman is under a watch again. Obviously, the Gehlots may also witness some turbulence.



## of the day quote

The social media campaign belittling & ridiculing the sacrifices of our martyrs was horrifying. This is what self-righteous political narratives do: they poison the minds of the youth & weaponise hate speech. Which way are we headed?

**SHEHBAZ SHARIF** | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

President Biden has made solidarity with the Pacific Islands a priority for his entire administration from the very beginning

**WENDY SHERMAN** | DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

Indiana's latest legislation on abortion institutes a near-total abortion ban in the US state. It is a devastating step

**KARINE JEAN-PIERRE** | WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

## SHORT TAKES

### Blinken in SA on Africa tour

**Johannesburg:** US Secretary of State Antony Blinken began his three-nation tour of Africa with his arrival in South Africa Sunday. Blinken's visit to Africa is seen as part of a competition between Russia and Western powers for support from African countries over the war in Ukraine. Blinken's trip to Africa follows recent tours by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and French President Emmanuel Macron. South Africa is one of many African countries that have maintained a neutral stance on the war and have not publicly criticized Russia. On Sunday after an early morning arrival, Blinken is to visit the Hector Pieterse memorial in Soweto township, which commemorates a student killed in 1976 when protesting South Africa's regime of racial oppression, apartheid, which ended in 1994.

### 9 wounded in shooting

**Cincinnati (US):** At least nine people were wounded – none critically – in a shooting outside a Cincinnati bar early Sunday, police there said. Most of the victims suffered wounds to their lower halves, Lt. Col. Mike John of the Cincinnati police told news outlets. A police officer fired at a suspect who fled the scene, but it was unclear if that person was actually shot. The suspect was not in custody as of Sunday morning.

### 77 hurt in fire at Cuban oil facility

**Havana:** A massive blaze in a crude oil tank in the port of Matanzas in Cuba caused several explosions that have left at least 77 people injured, local authorities said, adding that 17 firefighters were reportedly missing. Local newspaper Granma said there was "a high probability" that some of the missing people were dead, dpa news agency reported.



**Russian nuclear terror requires a stronger response from the international community - sanctions on the Russian nuclear industry and nuclear fuel**

**VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY** | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

### BIDEN TESTS COVID NEGATIVE

US President Joe Biden tested negative for Covid-19, his physician has announced. The 79-year-old commander in chief, who was diagnosed with coronavirus in July, will continue to isolate until he tests negative a second time, dpa news agency reported



## GET SET, GO



People prepare to start on their stand-up paddle (SUP) boards at Moyka River during annual costumed 'Fontanka' SUP-boards festival in St. Petersburg, Russia

# China, Taiwan warships play 'cat and mouse'

AGENCIES

**Taipei, August 7:** Chinese and Taiwanese warships played high seas "cat and mouse" Sunday ahead of the scheduled end of four days of unprecedented Chinese military exercises launched in reaction to a visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi's visit last week infuriated China, which regards the self-ruled island as its territory and which responded with test launches of ballistic missiles over the island's capital for the first time and the cutting of some areas of dialogue with Washington.

About 10 warships each from China and Taiwan sailed at close quarters in the Taiwan Strait, with some Chinese vessels crossing the median line, an unofficial buffer separating the two sides, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

The island's defence ministry said multiple Chinese military ships, aircraft, and drones were simulating attacks on the island and its navy. It said it had sent aircraft and ships to react "appropriately". In a statement later Sunday, the ministry said it had detected 14 Chinese warships and 66 Chinese aircraft in and around the Taiwan Strait.

It was not immediately clear if China had ended the drills Sunday, as previously announced. But a late-evening commentator on



Taiwan Navy ships are seen at the port in Keelung, Taiwan

### US, Oz, Japan urge China to cease military exercises

**Washington:** The United States, Australia and Japan have urged China to immediately cease its military exercises launched following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, as they reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. China fired a barrage of ballistic missiles into the waters around Taiwan as it launched large-scale military exercises in response to her visit to Taipei. A joint statement was issued by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa after their in-person meeting in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, on the margins of the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting. "The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the statement said Saturday.

Chinese state television said the Chinese military would now conduct "regular" drills on the Taiwan side of the line, saying the "historic task" of China's "reunification" could be realised.

As Chinese forces "pressed" the line, as they did Saturday, the Taiwan side stayed close to monitor and, where possible, deny the Chinese the ability to cross, said the person with knowledge of the situation who declined to be identified.

"The two sides are showing restraint," the person said, describing the manoeuvres as high seas "cat and mouse".

Taiwan said its shore-based anti-air missiles and its Patriot surface-to-air missiles were on stand-by. The defence ministry said its F-16 jet fighters were flying with advanced anti-aircraft missiles.

It issued photographs of Harpoon anti-air weapons being loaded on another. Speaking dur-

- SHIPS CIRCLE IN HIGH SEAS "CAT AND MOUSE"
- FOUR DAYS OF CHINESE DRILLS DUE TO END AT MIDDAY
- CHINA'S FOREIGN MINISTER: TAIWAN IS NOT A PART OF THE US
- CHINESE STATE MEDIA CONDEMNS PELOSI'S 'POLITICAL STUNT'

### Taiwan is part of China, not US: Beijing

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said Sunday that Taiwan is not part of the United States but Chinese territory, in the latest diplomatic invective against US policy since a visit to Taiwan by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The United States has been engaging in "sophistry" on the Taiwan question, and China's actions on Taiwan have been just, appropriate and legal, as well as being aimed at safeguarding the country's sacred sovereignty and territorial integrity, Wang said during a visit to Bangladesh.

ing a visit to Bangladesh, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said his country's actions were "legitimate, reasonable, in accordance with the law," and aimed at protecting China's "sacred sovereignty".

# China seeks urgent meeting with Sri Lankan authorities

**THE CHINESE SPACE AND SATELLITE TRACKING RESEARCH VESSEL 'YUAN WANG 5' WAS SCHEDULED TO DOCK AT SRI LANKA'S HAMBANTOTA PORT FROM AUGUST 11 TO 17**

AGENCIES

**Colombo, August 7:** China's embassy here has sought an urgent meeting with senior Sri Lankan authorities after Colombo sought a deferment of the planned docking of a high-tech Chinese research



vessel at the strategic Hambantota port over which India raised concerns, sources said.

The Chinese space and satellite tracking research vessel 'Yuan Wang 5' was scheduled to dock at the Hambantota Port from August

11 to 17, weeks after Sri Lanka witnessed a major political turmoil following massive mass protests over the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

A 'third-person' note from Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry to the

Chinese embassy in Colombo dated August 5 says "the ministry wishes to request that the arrival of the vessel Yuan Wang 5 in Hambantota to be deferred until further consultations are made on the matter."

Some media reports said that India was worried the vessel would be used to spy on its activities and that it had lodged a complaint with Sri Lanka. The Chinese embassy in Colombo sought an urgent meeting with the higher Sri Lankan authorities to discuss the issue after receiving the note from the Foreign Ministry seeking a delay in the visit, sources here said. Some Sri Lankan news portals also reported that Sri Lankan President

Ranil Wickremesinghe held a closed-door meeting with China's Ambassador Qi Zhenhong after Colombo sought a deferment of the planned docking.

But the President's Office denied the media reports over the meeting. On July 12, amidst the political turmoil in Sri Lanka, the then government approved the Chinese vessel's docking at the Hambantota port. The Chinese vessel was expected to dock at the Sri Lankan port for "refuelling and 'replenishment' and will conduct satellite control and research tracking in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean region through August and September."

curated at different times around the globe - meaning there should be variation in timing of skull changes seen in different populations.

However, the previous dataset sampled only 23 crania from the timeframe critical to the brain shrinkage hypothesis and lumped together specimens from locations including England, China, Mali, and Algeria. The previous dataset is also heavily skewed because more than half of the 987 skulls examined represent only the last 100 years of a 9.8-million-year span of time, and therefore don't give scientists a good idea of how much cranial size has changed over time, Villmoare said.

They noted the rise of agriculture and complex societies oc-



An Iron Dome anti-missile system fires an interceptor missile as a rocket is launched from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, at the sky near the Israel-Gaza border August 7

## Aarya Walvekar wins Miss India USA '22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, August 7:** Indian American teenager Aarya Walvekar from Virginia has been crowned Miss India USA 2022 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey.

An aspiring actress Aarya (18), said, "It has been my childhood dream to see myself on the silver screen and work in films and TV." Her hobbies include exploring new places, cooking and debating, she said. Saumya Sharma, a second-year pre-medical student at the University of Virginia, was declared first runner



up and Sanjana Chekuri of New Jersey was the second runner up. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the pageant which is the longest running Indian pageant outside of India.

Akshi Jain of Washington State was crowned Mrs. India USA and Tanvi Grover of New York was crowned as Miss Teen India USA. As many as 74 contestants representing 30 states participated in three different pageants - Miss India USA, Mrs. India USA and Miss Teen India USA.

## LUMPY SKIN DISEASE IN INDIA

### 'Mass vaccination of cattle needed'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, August 7:** A leading Indian-American veterinary doctor has called for mass vaccination of cattle and immediate restriction on their inter-district movement to prevent the spread of lumpy skin disease (LSD), a viral infection that has killed thousands of cows and buffaloes in India.

Over the last few weeks, more than 3,000 cattle have died in Rajasthan and Gujarat and over 400 in Punjab due to the viral infection that causes prolonged morbidity in cattle. Members of the



Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) have galvanised themselves over the past few days to extend support to the farmers in their home state in their efforts to save cattle from the disease. Mass vaccination of cattle and putting an immediate stop on their inter-district movement are the two major steps that are needed to prevent any further spread of the deadly disease, Ravi Murarka, President of the American Association of Veterinarians of Indian-Origin told PTI Saturday.

# Human brain did not shrink 3K years ago: Study

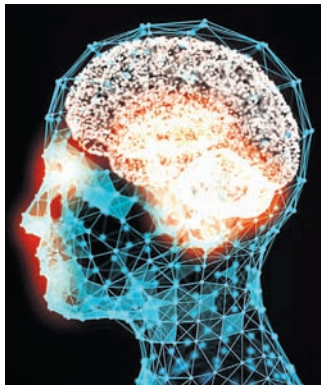
Last year, a group of scientists made headlines when they concluded that the human brain shrank during the transition to modern urban societies about 3,000 years ago because, they said, our ancestors' ability to store information externally in social groups decreased our need to maintain large brains

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New York, August 7:** As speculated earlier, the 12th century BCE, a time when humans were forging great empires and developing new forms of written text, did not coincide with an evolutionary reduction in brain size, say a team of researchers re-

futing the popular hypothesis among the science community.

Last year, a group of scientists made headlines when they concluded that the human brain shrank during the transition to modern urban societies about 3,000 years ago because, they said, our ancestors' ability to store information externally in social groups decreased



our need to maintain large brains. Their hypothesis, which explored decades-old ideas on the evolu-

tionary reduction of modern human brain size, was based on a comparison to evolutionary patterns seen in ant colonies.

Not so fast, said the team from University of Nevada-Los Angeles. "We were struck by the implications of a substantial reduction in modern human brain size at roughly 3,000 years ago, during an era of many important innovations and historical events, the appearance of Egypt's New Kingdom, the development of Chinese script, the Trojan War, and the emergence of the Olmec civilization, among many others," said anthropologist Brian Villmoare from the varsity.

In a new paper published in Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, they re-examined the previous dataset and found that human brain size has not changed in 30,000 years, and probably not in 300,000 years. "In fact, based on this dataset, we can identify no reduction in brain size in modern humans over any time-period since the origins of our species," Villmoare said.

The team questioned several of the previous hypotheses that gleaned from a dataset of nearly 1,000 early human fossil and museum specimens.

They noted the rise of agricul-



of the day **quote**

There is a marginal impact on demand. We don't see any significant impact on the demand side because of interest rate hikes

**SHARAT MADAN** | CFO, ESCORTS KUBOTA

We appreciate the need to control inflation and the need for some short-term measures like the export duty, prolonging this duty even after steel prices have settled at much lower levels is detrimental to the profitability of the industry

**TV NARENDRA** | CEO & MD, TATA STEEL

We had laid out Rs 10,000 crore as our goal for booking values during the current fiscal year. We have already achieved 25 per cent of our target which is a good start, especially considering that sales in the third and fourth quarter are generally strongest

**PIROJSHA GODREJ** | EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, GPL

**SHORT TAKES**

**Musk dares Agrawal**

**Washington:** Elon Musk Saturday challenged Twitter Inc Chief Executive Officer Parag Agrawal to a public debate about the percentage of bots on the social media platform. "Let him prove to the public that Twitter has <5% fake or spam daily users!," Musk said in a tweet. Twitter Thursday dismissed a claim by Musk that he was hoodwinked into signing a \$44 billion agreement to buy the company. Musk filed a countersuit against Twitter July 29, escalating his legal fight against the company over his bid to walk away from the purchase agreement.

**Buffett's co logs loss of \$43.8bn**

**New York:** The slide in US stock prices punished Berkshire Hathaway Inc's bottom line in the second quarter, as the conglomerate run by billionaire Warren Buffett Saturday reported a \$43.8 billion loss. Berkshire nevertheless generated nearly \$9.3 billion of operating profit, as gains from reinsurance and the BNSF railroad offset fresh losses at the Geico car insurer, where parts shortages and higher used vehicle prices boosted accident claims.

**Irdai to launch Bima Bharosa**

**New Delhi:** Insurance regulator Irdai will soon launch a revamped grievance redressal mechanism to make complaint redressal more efficient with the option of customers filing their complaints in regional languages. It is to be renamed as Bima Bharosa, sources said. The new portal will not only be a gateway for registering and tracking grievances online but also act as an industry-wide grievance repository for the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to monitor disposal of grievances by insurance companies.

**VIL for tariff hikes at regular gaps**

**New Delhi:** Struggling telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) says the industry needs to raise mobile tariffs at regular intervals as the sector still operates at unsustainably low prices and revisions will allow it to generate reasonable returns and support future investments. All three private telecom operators -- Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and VIL -- last year raised charges for data, arresting average revenue per user declines.



**We expect the festive season this year to be the best in terms of passenger vehicle sales on the back of new launches and improved production activity**

**VINKESH GULATI** | PRESIDENT, FADA

**NEW AKASA AIR STARTS OPERATIONS**

Akasa Air, India's brand new carrier backed by ace investor and billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, has finally taken off. The airline's inaugural flight between Mumbai and Ahmedabad was cleared by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia and MoS General Vijay Kumar Singh Sunday. "We can't wait to finally check you in to Your Sky! #OurFirstAkasa," the airline said in a tweet



**SOFTENING DOLLAR INDEX**

**FPIs buy shares worth ₹14,175crore in a week**

**FPIs HAD TURNED BUYERS IN JULY AFTER NINE STRAIGHT MONTHS OF HEAVY NET OUTFLOWS, WHICH STARTED FROM OCT LAST YEAR. BETWEEN OCT 2021 AND JUNE 2022, THEY SOLD A MASSIVE ₹2.46 TRILLION IN THE EQUITY MARKETS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** After turning net buyers last month, foreign investors continued their positive stance on Indian equities and invested over Rs 14,000 crore in the first week of August amid softening of the dollar index.

This was way higher than the net investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in entire July, data with depositors showed.

According to data with depositors, FPIs infused a net amount of Rs 14,175 crore in Indian equities in the first week of August. The change in FPI strategy has imparted strength to the recent market rally.

FPIs had turned buyers in July after nine straight months of heavy net outflows, which started from October last year: Between October 2021 and June 2022, they sold a massive Rs 2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity markets.

Hitesh Jain, Lead Analyst - Institutional Equities, Yes Securities, said FPI flows are expected to remain positive during August as the worst for the rupee seems to be over and crude oil price seems to be confined in a range.

"Also, earnings story still remains strong where sturdy revenue growth is offsetting contraction in profit margins," he added.

Also, comments from Fed Chair Jerome Powell that currently the US is not in a recession has helped im-



- Foreign investors infused nearly ₹5K-cr in July
- FPIs poured ₹230cr in the debt market in the first week of August
- FPIs have turned buyers in sectors like capital goods, FMCG, construction and power
- Rising tensions between China and Taiwan could adversely impact flows, says expert

prove sentiment and risk appetite globally, said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India.

The recent correction in the Indian equity markets have also provided a good buying opportunity, and FPIs have been taking advantage of the same by hand-picking high quality companies, he added.

In addition, FPIs poured a net amount of Rs 230 crore in the debt market during the month under review.

According to Srivastava, the flows have been largely driven by short-term trends. "Further, the

**The decline in the dollar index from the high of above 109 last month to below 106 now is the principal reason for FPI inflows. This trend may continue**

**VK VIJAYAKUMAR** | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEJOIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

China and Taiwan equation is another watching point and rising tensions between the two could disturb and enhance geopolitical risks in the region. This could adversely impact the flows," he said.

**M-cap of eight of top-10 companies add ₹98,235 crore**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** Eight of the 10 most valued firms together added Rs 98,234.82 crore in market valuation last week, with IT majors Infosys and TCS emerging as the biggest gainers amid a positive momentum in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex advanced 817.68 points or 1.42 per cent. From the top-10 pack, HDFC twins were the only laggards.

The market valuation of Infosys jumped Rs 28,170.02 crore to reach Rs 6,80,182.93 crore. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) added Rs 23,582.58 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 12,31,362.26 crore. The valuation of Reliance climbed Rs 17,048.21 crore to stand at Rs 17,14,256.39 crore and that of ICICI Bank advanced Rs 13,861.32 crore to Rs 5,83,261.75 crore.

The market capitalisation (m-cap) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) went higher by Rs 6,008.75 crore to Rs 4,34,748.72 crore and that of Bajaj Finance increased Rs 5,709.2 crore to Rs 4,42,157.08 crore. SBI's valuation went up by Rs 2,186.53 crore to Rs 4,73,584.52 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) advanced by Rs 1,668.21 crore to Rs 6,21,220.18 crore. The m-cap of HDFC declined by Rs 4,599.68 crore to Rs 4,27,079.97 crore. HDFC Bank's valuation dipped Rs 4,390.73 crore to Rs 7,92,860.45 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance retained the title of the most valued domestic firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, HUL, ICICI Bank, SBI, Bajaj Finance, LIC and HDFC.



**HIT HARD BY FUEL PRICE FREEZE**

**Oil players' Q1 loss at all-time high**

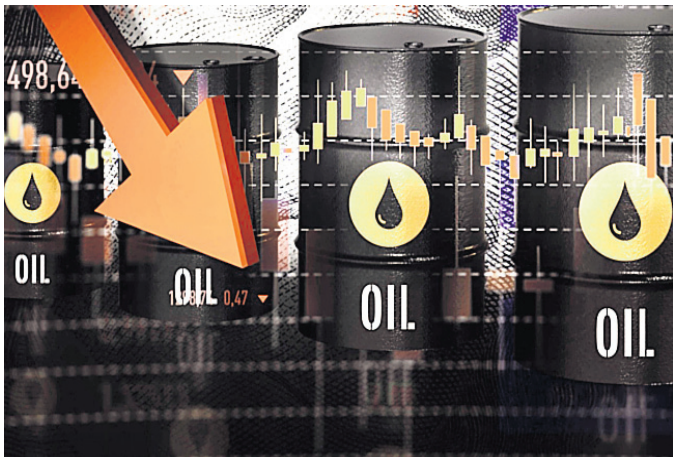
*The current freeze on petrol and diesel prices, excluding the reduction due to a cut in excise duty, is now 123 days old*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) posted a combined loss of Rs 18,480 crore on holding petrol and diesel prices despite a rise in cost.

According to stock exchange filings by the three fuel retailers, the losses were due to erosion in the marketing margin on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG.

This wiped away gains from the record refining margin. IOC, HPCL and BPCL, which are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily in line with cost, have not changed rates for four months now despite international oil prices shooting up. They have also not changed cooking gas LPG rates in tandem with



cost. IOC on July 29 reported a net loss of Rs 1,995.3 crore for the April-June quarter. On Saturday, HPCL reported its highest ever quarterly loss of Rs 10,196.94 crore and BPCL posted a loss of Rs 6,290.8 crore.

The combined loss at Rs 18,480.27 crore is the highest ever for any quarter including the era when petrol and diesel prices were regulated and the government used to give subsidies to the three retailers. During April-June, IOC, BPCL

**28 firms secure Sebi's approval to float IPOs worth ₹45,000 crore**



**The lack of appetite for the IPO in current fiscal could be attributed to sharp correction in the secondary market, disastrous performance of new digital companies, like Paytm and Zomato, and poor post listing performance of LIC negatively impacting the sentiments**

**PRASHANT RAO** | DIRECTOR, ANAND RATHI INVESTMENT BANKING

*This came after as many as 52 companies tapped the primary market to raise a record ₹1.11 trillion in the entire 2021-22*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 7:** Sebi has given its nod to 28 companies to raise funds totalling Rs 45,000 crore through initial public offerings (IPOs) in April-July period of 2022-23 which has already seen 11 debutantes raising over Rs 33,000 crore.

Among the firms that have secured the regulator's clearance include Lifestyle retail brand FabIndia; Bharat FIH, a subsidiary of FIH Mobiles and a Foxconn Technology Group; TVS Supply Chain Solutions; Blackstone-backed Aadhar Housing Finance; Macleods Pharmaceuticals and Kids Clinic India, which operates super-specialty mother and baby care chain Cloudnine.

These firms are yet to announce the launch date of their IPOs and are waiting for the right time to float their issues as current market conditions are challenging, merchant bankers said.

"Current environment is challenging and companies with approvals in hand are waiting for the

right window of opportunity to launch the initial share-sales. In fact, many of them have concluded the roadshows and are waiting for the right time," Prashant Rao, Director and Head Equity Capital Markets, Anand Rathi Investment Banking, said.

Going by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, total 28 companies obtained the regulator's clearance to tap the IPO route for fundraising during April-July 2022-23. Together, these firms are expected to mop up Rs 45,000 crore.

So far in current fiscal year, 11 companies have gone public to garner Rs 33,254 crore. Of these, a lion's share (Rs 20,557 crore) was raised by the public issue of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

All these companies hit the primary market during April-May and not a single public issue was launched after May, suggesting a dry spell in the IPO market.

Interestingly, there is a sudden rush among companies for filing preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in the last two months. During June-July, total 15 companies, including Sula Vineyards, Allied Blenders and Distillers, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, and Sai Silk Kalamandir, approached Sebi with their draft papers to garner funds through initial share-sales.

**The basket of crude oil India imports during the quarter averaged \$109 per barrel but the retail pump rates were aligned to about \$85-86 a barrel cost**

import parity rates. But if the marketing division sells it at prices less than import parity, losses are booked.

State fuel retailers are supposed to align rates with an international cost every day. But they have periodically frozen prices before crucial elections.

The government in May cut excise duty on petrol and diesel which was passed on to consumers instead of being used to square off mounting losses on the two fuel sales.

Last month, ICICI Securities in a report stated that IOC, BPCL and HPCL sold petrol and diesel at a loss of Rs 12-14 per litre, completely offsetting the strong refining performance during the quarter.

**Crackdown on Chinese firms may push them to leave India**

*Hopefully India can provide a fair and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese investors, which will be mutually beneficial to both Chinese enterprises and India's manufacturing ambitions, said Chinese state media*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 7:** For Chinese processing and manufacturing enterprises that originally tried to make India an overseas product-processing centre, if it is indeed increasingly difficult and unprofitable to operate in the country, then withdrawing from India is also an available option, state-run Global Times has said.

The Indian government is looking into cases of alleged tax evasion by three Chinese mobile companies -- OPPO, Vivo India and Xiaomi.

"Frequent investigations by the Indian side into Chinese enterprises not only disrupt those companies' normal business activities, but also impedes the improvement of business environment in India and chills the confidence and willingness of market entities, especially Chinese enterprises, to invest and operate in India," read a commentary in the publication.

Since April 2020, out of 382 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals the central government received from Chinese firms, India



approved only 80 as June 29.

"The number presents the increasingly difficult business en-

vironment facing Chinese investment and companies doing business in India," the report said.

Since April 2020, out of 382 FDI proposals received from Chinese firms, India approved only 80 as June 29

Manufacturers have turned their eyes to Southeast Asian nations such as Vietnam after withdrawing from India

Despite the pandemic, the China-India trade is on course to cross \$100bn for the second consecutive year as it has gone up to \$67.1bn in the first half of 2022

"Faced with competition from Vietnam, India should no longer set obstacles for its manufacturing development, and should stop carrying out crackdown on Chinese investment," the report added. OPPO India, Xiaomi India and

Vivo India were served notices by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for duty evasion, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha this week.

A show-cause notice demanding Rs 4,403.88 crore has been served to OPPO Mobiles India Ltd based on an investigation conducted by the DRI, while five cases of Customs duty evasion have been registered against Xiaomi Technology India, Sitharaman said in a written reply.

The DRI detected customs duty evasion of around Rs 2,217 crore by Vivo Mobile India Private Ltd. A show-cause notice has been issued to Vivo India demanding customs duty amounting to Rs 2,217 crore, under the provisions of the Customs Act.



# Zareen eyes Olympic glory

CWG GOLD WINNER WILL NOW TURN HER ATTENTION TO THE PARIS OLYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 7:** Newly-crowned Commonwealth Games (CWG) light flyweight champion Nikhat Zareen will continue to ply her trade in 50kg weight category till the 2024 Paris Olympics. She had earlier won the world championship in May in the 52kg. However, she reduced her weight to 50kg to assess how her body adapts to the lower weight class.

“I prefer losing weight and boxing in lower weight categories, so I will continue in this segment. I feel in this category I can win a medal in Paris (Olympics),” Zareen said after winning the gold Sunday.

In the absence of her preferred 52kg weight division in the Paris Olympics, the 26-year-old is facing with a dilemma of either moving down to 50kg or climbing up to 54kg. However, after her dominant display at the CWG which saw her winning the gold in her maiden appearance, it seems that the 2019 Asian Championships bronze medallist is at ease with her new weight class.

“It’s (the win) very important for me as it has come in a new category. I had to work harder for this to cut down two kilograms and at the same time not letting up the speed and power,” Zareen said.

“The competition here was not close to the one I had at the World Championships. But for me, it (weight category) was a new experience for me. I was confident of doing well. But you never know how it pans out in the ring,” added the boxer.

Having become a household name after her spectacular World Championships win, the expectations on Zareen to return with a gold medal from Birmingham were



FEMME FATALE: Nikhat Zareen was in devastating form in the final of the 50kg at the Birmingham CWG

PTI PHOTO

high. “There were a lot of expectations on me after winning the World Championships, no doubt about that. But it’s good to be in a pressure situation. I don’t want to take it easy in the ring. I should feel that I’m under pressure and people expect a medal from me,” Zareen pointed out.

“I’ve more expectations from me than the people. Pressure only brings out the best out of me,” she added.

“Ice cream laye hain? (Have you got my share of the ice cream?),” Zareen then asked a scribe. It was her time to indulge in some cravings and may be have a cheat meal. Zareen had been withholding her desire to eat ice-cream as she had to cut two kilograms for the CWG.

“I love the pressure of expectation as it brings out the best in me; frankly speaking I enjoy pressure as it keeps me alert

NIKHAT ZAREEN

But now with the gold medal dangling around her neck, the Nizamabad pugilist can enjoy all the sweet treats she wants.

Fighting in back-to-back tournaments and trials, it has been hectic year for Zareen and now she wants to take a break and enjoy the ‘moments of life’.

“Now I want to just enjoy the moment and take a break as I’ve been fighting, training in back-to-back championships since January. I’ve not able to celebrate any of my wins,” Zareen stated.

Zareen could not be with her ‘Ammi’ (mother) on her birthday three days back but now she hopes to make up for it by gifting her the CWG gold. “This is a gift to her. I will put this around her neck after going back to home,” she said.

The first thing Zareen did after coming back from the medal ceremony was to put it around her coach Bhaskar Bhatt’s neck and take blessings. “Bitiya hai meri (she is my daughter),” a beaming Bhatt said.

## SINDHU, SEN SEAL FINAL SPOTS AT CWG

INDIA ASSURED OF 2 MEDALS IN BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 7:** Double Olympic medallist and former World No. 1 PV Sindhu stayed on course for an elusive gold medal while Laskhya Sen entered his maiden final at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) here Sunday. Sindhu rode on her technical superiority to outwit Singapore’s Yeo Jia Min 21-19, 21-17 in a 49-minute contest to reach her second successive final.

Then Sen, the World No. 10 overcame a mid-match slump to beat 87-ranked Jia Heng Teh of Singapore 21-10, 18-21, 21-16 in the men’s singles semifinals.

The 20-year-old relied on relentless attack to put his opponent on the back-foot. A couple of fore-

hand smashes on the Singaporean’s right helped him take a 1-0 lead in the match. However, Jia came back in the second game strongly to restore parity in the tie.

Sen built an 11-7 lead in the decider though Jia made the Indian work hard for every point. Sen got four match points and converted the first one with a deft drop shot that set up a backhand winner.

“I didn’t get in the rhythm in the second game but I managed to pull it off in the end. The crowd support also helped a lot in the first game,” said Sen.

Earlier Sindhu, who has a silver and a bronze from the 2018 and 2014 CWG editions, was clearly the better player on display as she kept a firm grip on the match.



PV Sindhu is all pumped up after her win Sunday

PTI PHOTO

### SHORT TAKES

#### Braving all odds

**Birmingham:** Star Indian para table tennis player Bhavina Patel won a gold medal in the women’s singles class 3-5 at the Commonwealth Games here Saturday. The 35-year-old from Gujarat, who had won a silver at Tokyo Paralympics, prevailed 12-10, 11-2, 11-9 over Nigeria’s Ifechukwude Christiana Ikpeoyi. Bhavina is currently ranked No. 2 in the world in her category.

#### Bhullar triumphs

**Jakarta (Indonesia):** Gaganjeet Bhullar ended India’s four-year long wait for an international title with his two-shot victory at the Bank Mandiri Indonesia Open golf tournament at the Pondok Indah Golf Course here Sunday. Bhullar (68-67-68-65) saw it home with a sublime and error-free final round effort of seven-under 65 that took his tournament total to 20-under 268. The 34-year-old Gaganjeet thus sealed his 11th international win and 10th title on the Asian Tour. The Indian also became the first player to register three wins at the Indonesia Open following his previous successes at the event in 2013 and 2016.

#### Neymar shines

**Paris:** Neymar was simply unstoppable as he scored a goal and helped with three assists to lead defending champion Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) to a 5-0 win at Clermont in the Ligue 1 here Saturday. The other goals were scored by Lionel Messi (2), Achraf Hakimi and Marquinhos. Neymar also did the spadework for Messi’s first goal in the second half. “What I have liked is the team’s desire to win the ball back very quickly, to play with a lot of intensity,” PSG coach Christophe Galtier said.

#### Kyrgios in final

**Washington:** Nick Kyrgios found the consistency that has long eluded him, reaching a second consecutive tournament final for the first time in his career with a 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 victory over Mikael Ymer at the Citi Open tennis tournament here Saturday night. Kyrgios, the runner-up at Wimbledon to Novak Djokovic, adjusted well to the hot, humid conditions at this hard court US Open tune-up to control the pace of the match and win comfortably. AGENCIES

# Indian eves end 16-yr wait with hockey bronze medal

GOALKEEPER AND SKIPPER SAVITA PUNIA MAKES 3 BRILLIANT SAVES IN SHOOTOUT TO ENSURE A THIRD-PLACE FINISH FOR TEAM INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 7:** Skipper Savita Punia led from the front with a spectacular display as the Indian women’s hockey team overcame the stopwatch controversy to beat New Zealand 2-1 in shootout and win the bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) here Sunday. This is the first medal at CWG in 16 years for the Indian eves.

Leading 1-0, India conceded a penalty corner with less than 30 seconds to go for the final hooter. Olivia Merry equalised by converting the penalty corner for the Black Sticks.

In the regulation time, India got the lead through Salima Tete in the 29th minute.

Coming off their heart-breaking loss to Australia in a controversial semifinal, India showed the intent to wrap up their campaign with a win

and earn a podium finish.

In the shootout Sunday, Savita showed her class, pulling off three spectacular saves to give her side their third CWG medal. After Megan Hull put New Zealand ahead, an agile Savita denied Rose Tynan, Katie Doar and Olivia Shanon, while Sonika and Navneet scored for India to register a famous win.

The Indians came out attacking and made plenty of circle penetrations but failed to break the solid New Zealand defence. They created a number of chances, but lacked finish. Sangita Kumari’s shot on target was blocked by the Kiwi defence. Then seconds later Salima’s shot zoomed across the right side of New Zealand goal.

India finally broke the New Zealand defence a minute from half time through Salima, who scored off a rebound with a reverse hit after Navneet Kaur’s initial shot

## Men enter final

**Birmingham:** Olympic bronze medallist India eked out a hard-fought 3-2 win over South Africa to qualify for the men’s hockey final of the Commonwealth Games here late Saturday evening. Abhishek (20th), Mandeep Singh (28th) and Jugraj Singh (58th) scored for India, while South Africa’s goals came from the sticks of Ryan Julius (33rd) and Mustapha Cassiem (59th). The margin could have been much more but for the brilliant display by South African custodian Gowan Jones.

was saved by the opposition goalie.

In the second half, Sonika was set up by by Navneet and Neha Goyal but she failed to tap the ball in.

India got three penalty corners in succession in the 52nd minute but Gurjit Kaur failed to get past New Zealand custodian Grace O’Hanlon.



LONG WAIT ENDS: The Indian eves celebrate Sunday after winning the hockey bronze at the Birmingham CWG

PTI PHOTO

## PAUL JUMPS INTO HISTORY

MANY FIRSTS AS TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES SHINE AND ADD TO INDIA’S TALLY

AGENCIES

**Birmingham, August 7:** It was a good day for India at the track and field events as a number of athletes created history with their respective feats at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) here Sunday.

Eldhose Paul led India’s historic 1-2 finish in men’s triple jump as he won a rare gold medal while the silver went to fellow Kerala athlete Abdulla Aboobacker. Paul produced his best effort of 17.03m in his third attempt while Aboobacker was not behind much as he finished at 17.02m, which he managed in his fifth attempt. Jah-Nhal Perinchief of Bermuda won the bronze with his best jump of 16.92m.

Incidentally it was India’s first gold medal in track and field at the ongoing CWG here. India have won four triple jump medals in the past editions but this is the first time two athletes from the country have got podium finishes.

Earlier Annu Rani scripted history as she became the first Indian female javelin thrower to win a medal, a bronze, in the CWG. Rani sent the spear to a distance of 60m in her fourth attempt to finish third.

World Champion Kelsey-Lee Barber of Australia got the gold with a final round throw of 64.43m from compatriot Mackenzie Little (64.27m) who was leading till the end of the penultimate round.

Before Rani, only Kashinath



GOLDEN JUMP: Eldhose Paul in action during the triple jump event at the CWG in Birmingham, Sunday

Naik (2010) and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra (2018) had won a bronze and a gold in the men’s javelin throw respectively.

Sandeep Kumar won a bronze for India in the men’s 10,000m racewalk event with a personal best time

here. Kumar clocked 38:49.21 seconds to finish behind gold winner Evan Dunfee (38:36.37s) of Canada and Declan Tingay (38:42.33s) of Australia. The other Indian in the fray, Amit Khatri finished ninth with a season best time of 43:04.97s.

## Odisha FC women’s team sign promising goalkeeper Shreya

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 7:** Odisha FC women’s football team have signed promising goalkeeper Shreya Hooda for the upcoming season. The club management called it a ‘good signing’ keeping in mind Shreya’s age. Shreya incidentally has also represented the senior national side on a number of occasions.

Shreya, who hails from Sonipat in Haryana, started playing football when she was 13. She has represented India in the under-14 and under-16 categories as a goalkeeper, before making her seniors debut in 2021.

Shreya was part of the Gokulam Kerala FC team that won the IWL title last season. Later on she went on to represent the Kerala side in the AFC Women’s Club Championships. She was a part of the Haryana under-21 squad that won the title at the Khelo India Games.

## Contrasting fortunes for Manchester teams

AGENCIES

**Manchester, August 7:** Erling Haaland scored a brace on his Manchester City debut as the defending Premier League champions opened their 2022-23 with a 2-0 win over West Ham here Sunday.

Haaland who had joined City a couple of months back made his presence felt immediately with his speedy runs and quick passing.

However, Erik ten Hag’s tenure at Old Trafford started on a disastrous note Sunday as Manchester United lost their opening game 1-2 against Brighton.

Pascal Gross’ first half brace stunned the home supporters, who were desperate to see Manchester United put a miserable end to last season behind them. However, United were totally outplayed in that opening period by Graham Potter’s team.

Not even the second half introduction of Cristiano Ronaldo could deny Brighton, although Manchester United did threaten a comeback when a scramble inside the visitors box ended with Alexis Mac Allister turning the ball into his own net after goalkeeper Robert Sanchez had touched it into his path under pressure from Harry Maguire.

In nine previous league visits to the Old Trafford, Brighton had managed only one draw, so this victory was historic.

Man City however, was always the better side against West Ham scoring once in each half. The first of Haaland’s goal came from the penalty spot, while the second was off a lightning-quick counter-attack with Haaland coolly slotting the ball past the opposition keeper. Kevin De Bruyne also had a goal disallowed in the first half.