



## CANDID CONFESSION

Actor Ananya Panday shares the failed attempts behind her 'heroine moment' before camera

LEISURE P2



## FRESH DRILLS BY CHINA

China announces fresh military drills around Taiwan - a day after the scheduled end of its largest ever exercises

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SHARATH ACES SINGLES

Sharath Kamal caps his best ever performance at the Commonwealth Games by winning the men's singles gold

SPORTS P12

## AS GOOD AS GOLD



**LAURELS FOR INDIA:** PV Sindhu reacts (Left) after winning her maiden badminton singles gold in CWG, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (Middle) clinch the yellow metal in men's doubles, while Lakshya Sen (Right) reigns supreme in men's singles event as India bring home 22 gold medals finishing 4th in CWG-2022 in Birmingham, UK, Monday



## Add Commissioner of CT & GST in Vig net for amassing DA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The state Vigilance department Monday carried out simultaneous raids at different locations in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Jajpur related to Piyush Kanta Pani, the Additional Commissioner, CT & GST, Cuttack-1 on the charges of amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Seven Vigilance teams conducting the search include five DSPs, 11 inspectors and other Vigilance officials.

The teams were carrying out raids at the three-storeyed residential building of Pani located at Chakeisihani in the Capital city, two three-storeyed buildings and one single-storeyed building at his native Chorda Chowk in Jajpur, his office room at OFSC Tower at OMP area in Cuttack, and structures erected on his plot (7616/8329, 7626/8930, 7626/13477, 3683/14894, 2383 & 2180) at Andharua Mouza, Shampur Mouza (55/1890) and Sundarpur Mouza (1287) on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

The sleuths during the course of search found Pani and his family possessing seven plots in prime areas of Bhubaneswar worth approx ₹1.87 crore as per Registered Sale Deeds, a three-storeyed residential building including garage and single-storeyed building worth ₹59 lakh located at Chakeisihani here, three triple-storeyed buildings worth ₹68.46 lakh located at Chorda Chowk at Jajpur Road of Jajpur district, a farm house with outhouse valued at ₹38 lakh at Andharua on the outskirts of City, deposits worth ₹53.68 lakh in various bank accounts and insurance policies, six costly four wheeler vehicles worth ₹60 lakh, gold jewellery weighing 839 grams worth ₹20 lakh and cash, household articles worth ₹12.30 lakh.

The Vigilance team suspected deliberate undervaluation of the seven plots by Pani during registration to conceal the actual value, which may be several times more than shown in the documents.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I wanted gold but my financial advisor keeps telling me investing in silver is better

# Odisha experiencing 'achhe din', says Shah

PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, August 8:** Shortly after BJP and BJD supporters started a war of slogans during a non-political programme here Monday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah made it clear that the Centre seeks to develop Odisha in cooperation with the state government.

Shah, sharing the dais with BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, also said that with a number of people from Odisha heading some top offices of the country, the state has been experiencing "achhe din" (good times). Besides Shah and Patnaik, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended the 75th anniversary of 'Prajatantra', a leading Odia daily, at JN indoor stadium where an equal number of seats were allocated to supporters and leaders of the two parties.

As the programme was about to begin, slogans like "Amit Shah Zindabad" and "Naveen Patnaik Zindabad" rent the air in the stadium. There was a poster war between the two parties ahead of Shah's arrival in the state.

The supporters of the two parties stopped shouting slogans only after Pradhan made an appeal to the audience to calm down.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik light a lamp along with other dignitaries at an event to mark 75 years of Odia daily 'Prajatantra' in Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Monday

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, we are trying our best to achieve the overall development of Odisha in cooperation with the state government. He wants that as Team India, both the Central and state governments work together for the development," Shah said in his address.

Mentioning that "Achhe Din" has already come for Odisha, the Union home minister said that from the President of India to the RBI Governor, Odisha has the maximum number of representatives

at the national level. "A woman from a poor tribal village of Odisha has gone on to become the 'Mahamahim' (Honourable President) of India. Dharmendra Pradhan is the Union Education Minister and Ashwini Vaishnaw is the Railway Minister. (Bishwar) Tudu is also a member of the council of ministers. Odisha had never got such a huge representation at the national level since Independence. Therefore, it is 'achhe din' for the state," Shah said.

Continued on P4

## CHSE Plus II Arts results out

Pass percentage dips; no school logs nil result

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) Monday declared the much awaited Plus II Arts stream results. The results were announced at the CHSE office in City.

This year's pass percentage in Plus II Arts stream is 82.10 per cent. Last year the pass percentage was 89.49 per cent.

The boys' pass percentage is 75.08 while girls' pass percentage is 87.45. In total 1,71,288 students

passed the exam out of 2,08,631 who appeared, CHSE chairperson Ashwini Mishra said.

A total of 62,734 students have passed the Plus II Arts exam this year in the first division, 41,193 students in the second division, and 67,341 in the third division. 177 students got 90 per cent and above. 177 students cleared the exam with more than 90 per cent marks. Khurda district logged the highest pass percentage with 87.80 while Nabarangpur recorded the lowest with 64.67 per cent.

Continued on P4

## Rain pounds southern Odisha

A 'red alert' of extremely heavy rain has been issued in Gajapati, Ganjam and Kandhamal till Tuesday morning

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** Low-lying areas were inundated with rivers flowing in spate as torrential rain pummeled southern Odisha Monday due to a low-pressure area, which is set to concentrate into a depression.

The well-marked weather system lies over the northwest Bay of Bengal off the coasts of Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh, the Met office said.



### DEPRESSION BREWS IN BoB

It is expected to intensify into a depression during the next 24 hours and move northwards across Odisha and Chhattisgarh, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

The districts of Nabarangpur, Koraput, Kalahandi and Malkangiri, Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamal bore the brunt of heavy

to very heavy rain under the influence of a low pressure and an active monsoon trough, which is passing over southern Odisha.

Dabugaon in Nabarangpur recorded extremely heavy rain of 225 mm over a 24-hour-period till 8.30am, followed by 194 mm in Kotpat town of Koraput.

Continued on P4

# 8 in 10 Indian kids face cyberbullying, highest globally

Indian children reported cyberbullying up to 1.5 times more than kids in other countries across fourteen surveyed platforms, ranging from Facebook and Instagram to Snapchat and WhatsApp

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 8:** A whopping 85 per cent of Indian children faced cyberbullying well over twice the international average, according to a report published Monday.

The McAfee Cyberbullying Report showed that 42 per cent of Indian children have been the target of racist cyberbullying, strikingly 14 per cent higher than the rest of the world at 28 per cent.

Extreme forms of cyberbullying besides racism include trolling (36 per cent), personal attacks (29 per cent), sexual harassment (30 per cent), threat of personal harm (28 per cent) and doxing (publishing private information without consent 23 per cent); all of these are at almost double the global average.



Young girls in India also saw some of the highest rates of sexual harassment internationally, with girls 10 to 14 at 32 per cent and girls 15 to 16 at 34 per cent.

They were also at one of the highest internationally to face threat of personal harm, with girls 10 to 14 at 32 per cent and girls 15 to 16 at 34 per cent. However, this figure dropped

significantly at ages 17 to 18, down to 21 per cent.

Indian children reported cyberbullying up to 1.5 times more than children in other countries across fourteen surveyed platforms, ranging from Facebook and Instagram to Snapchat and WhatsApp.

India also reported prominent acts of cyberbullying such as spreading false rumours at 39 per cent, being excluded from groups and conversations at 35 per cent and name calling at 34 per cent.

About 45 per cent of Indian children said they hide their cyberbullying experiences from parents, perhaps due to the relative absence of conversation.

"Cyberbullying in India reaches alarming highs as more than one in three kids face cyber racism,

sexual harassment, and threats of physical harm as early as at the age of 10 - making India the number one nation for reported cyberbullying in the world," said Gagan Singh, Chief Product Officer, McAfee, in a statement.

"Parents are displaying important gaps of knowledge around cyberbullying but even more concerning, children aren't considering behaviours like jokes and name-calling harmful online," he added.

The report is based on a 10-country survey conducted from June 15 to July 5.

In total 11,687 parents and their children completed an email-survey from countries including India, the US, UK, France, Germany, Australia, Canada, Japan, Brazil, and Mexico.

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# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today, you feel free and liberated! And in that spirit, you want to travel or do things you loved doing as a child. A good time for a family outing, says Ganesh. Keeping in mind your mood, you may even make plans for the future for your near and dear.

**TAURUS**  
You are likely to stick to basics instead of letting your imagination run wild today, says Ganesh. At work, you may feel some pressure from your peers to do things differently. Think things out and be certain before you take any decision, advises Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
An auspicious day awaits you. You will pay more attention to your family than to your career or at the work-front. This will mean the resolution of some long pending issues and projects at home. An enjoyable time with your family and children awaits you, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Ganesh says that this is good day to buy new house or car. It is likely that you shift to a new house shortly. So be prepared for a ceremony like housewarming. You will achieve tranquil mind through yoga and meditation. It will radiate a new energy, enthusiasm and optimism in you.

**LEO**  
You will be in a very good mood today. You will inspire others to achieve substantial things in life. While you have been looking to take on an extremely challenging project, you have been unable to find the right opening so far. You ought to start such projects today, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Today you will find yourself delving deep into your inner self. You will reap a lot of monetary rewards, and will be generous in spending it on your near and dear ones. Ganesh says that you may make up for the pressures at work by entertaining yourself with material pleasures. You will seek the company of someone with whom you can have an intimate chat.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that you will be able to spend more time with your friend circle. You will be attracted to someone of the opposite sex. In the evening today you will be able to take out your beloved for a romantic evening combined with a drive and dinner at a restaurant.

**SCORPIO**  
The grey strands on your head is not just a colour, but speaks about your experiences. Your wisdom will make you take appropriate decisions at work. Ganeshji warns you to stay away from courtrooms and legal issues, or the trap may leave a deep scar.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Dressed to kill - this phrase is enough to describe you today, says Ganesh. Decked up from head to toe in chic attire and classy jewellery, you make a bold statement. Like a magnet, you will attract attention at a party. Don't get surprised if your list of admirers becomes longer.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your investments, inheritance, receipts, etc. will keep your packets filled with cash. No sooner you try to put them in safe; there will be more than one reason for some expenditure. Keeping a watch on incomes and expenses both will help you avoid any monetary problems, advises Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Most of the time it is your way or no other way, especially when you charging towards your goal. Today, you will push your limits to achieve what you have desired. You are talented, hard working, creative, and icing on the cake is your luck which is favouring you big time.

**PISCES**  
Sometimes you are so kind and charitable that you sacrifice your own well-being and happiness for the sake of others. This streak within you may emerge as you engage in a selfless deed. You will have a strong desire to do something for your family and your home.



## INTIMACY COORDINATORS SPOIL THE SPONTANEITY: SEAN BEAN

*Game of Thrones* actor Sean Bean says intimacy coordinators spoil the spontaneity of shooting a sex scene. "It would inhibit me more because it's drawing attention to things," Bean, who played Ned Stark in the hit fantasy show, said of having an intimacy coordinator in the room, reports *Variety*.

## KIM KARDASHIAN CALLS IT QUIT WITH PETE DAVIDSON

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian reportedly ended her nine-month relationship with Pete Davidson over his 'immaturity'. "Pete is impulsive and wants her to fly to him in a moment's notice but Kim has four kids and it isn't that easy," said a source on reasons behind their split.



# Ananya spills beans on her 'heroine moment'

**Mumbai:** Ananya Panday, who is busy promoting her upcoming movie *Liger*, co-starring Vijay Deverakonda, has treated her Insta family to new pictures from her recent song, *Aafat*. However, behind her stunning photos are many failed attempts. In the images, the actress was trying to have some 'heroine moment', but each time she posed for the camera, either she was 'attacked by feathers,' or her hair got stuck in a blower. Her caption read, "Expectation vs. Reality was trying to have my Heroine moment but I got attacked by feathers and my hair got stuck in the blower instead #AAFAT."

Currently, Ananya Panday and Vijay Deverakonda are in Ahmedabad to promote their movie *Liger*. Helmed by Puri Jagannadh and produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, *Liger* also stars Mike Tyson, Ronit Roy and Ramya Krishnan in pivotal roles. The movie is slated to release on August 25. The movie will release in five regional languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

## Mrunal basking in success

**Mumbai:** Actress Mrunal Thakur, whose recent Telugu release opposite Dulquer Salmaan *Sita Ramam* is getting positive response, will be essaying the lead character in her upcoming film *Pooja Meri Jaan*.

She shared that she feels comfortable as an actor to have the kind of roles she always wished for. Mrunal, who earlier worked for TV, made her Hindi film debut with *Love Sonia*, where she played the titular role. Having graduated from TV to films with lead roles instilled confidence in her. Expressing her gratitude, the actress said in a statement: "I am grateful to have got such opportunities so early in my career. Even when I entered the industry I was aware of the struggle that comes with it, but my sole focus was to give my best and let my journey speak through my work. And what makes me even happier is that people like it and appreciate it as well. It is the biggest encouragement that any actor can get."

The actress promised to continue to work hard to strive to get the kind of films and stories that she wants to be a part of. *Pooja Meri Jaan*, also stars Huma Qureshi, Vikram Singh Chauhan and Vijay Raaz.



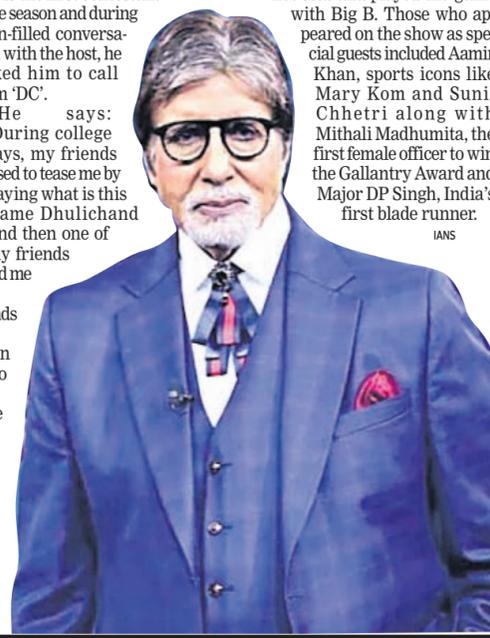
# KBC contestant asks Big B to give his money back

**Mumbai:** Megastar Amitabh Bachchan owes money to a contestant from his popular quiz-based show *Kaun Banega Crorepati* since 1970. In the latest promo of the show, Big B was seen sitting on the hot seat to answer the questions asked by contestant Dhulichand Aggarwal, from Durg, Chhattisgarh. He is the first contestant of the season and during a fun-filled conversation with the host, he asked him to call him 'DC'.

He says: "During college days, my friends used to tease me by saying what is this name Dhulichand and then one of my friends told me DC sounds too good on you. So please call me DC." Big B replies: "Your name is beautiful and defi-

nately you will feel good but to us it will sound like current, DC and AC." Later in a fun banter Dhulichand also shares that Amitabh Bachchan owes him money since 1970. Big B was surprised and he exchanged seats with him and sat on the hot seat.

*KBC 14* started August 7 and a number of celebrities took over the hot seat and played the game with Big B. Those who appeared on the show as special guests included Amir Khan, sports icons like Mary Kom and Sunil Chhetri along with Mithali Madhumita, the first female officer to win the Gallantry Award and Major DP Singh, India's first blade runner.



# BEYONCE'S RENAISSANCE TOPS BILLBOARD 200

**Los Angeles:** Singer Beyonce's *Renaissance* is at the No. 1 spot on the Billboard 200 albums chart as 2022's biggest week by a woman and the second-largest week of the year overall as the set launches atop the chart with 332,000 equivalent album units earned in the US in the week, according to Luminate.

According to billboard.com, *Renaissance*, Beyonce's seventh solo No. 1 album, is the first album released by a woman in 2022 to top the Billboard 200. The last woman at No. 1 was Adele with 30, which ruled for its first six weeks on the list (charts dated December 4, 2021 - January 8, 2022).

*Renaissance* is Beyonce's seventh solo studio album, and the first since the chart-topping *Lemonade* in 2016. Since then, she teamed with husband Jay-Z on *The Carters Everything Is Love* in 2018, released *Homecoming: The Live Album* and led *The Lion King: The Gift* soundtrack. Also in the new top 10 on the Billboard 200: *ATEEZ*, *ENHYPEN* and *Dance Gavin Dance* all score their first top 10 albums as their latest releases debut in the region, while *Suicideboys* collects its third top 10 effort with the No. 7 arrival of *Sing Me a Lullaby*, *My Sweet Temptation*.

## PEANUTS



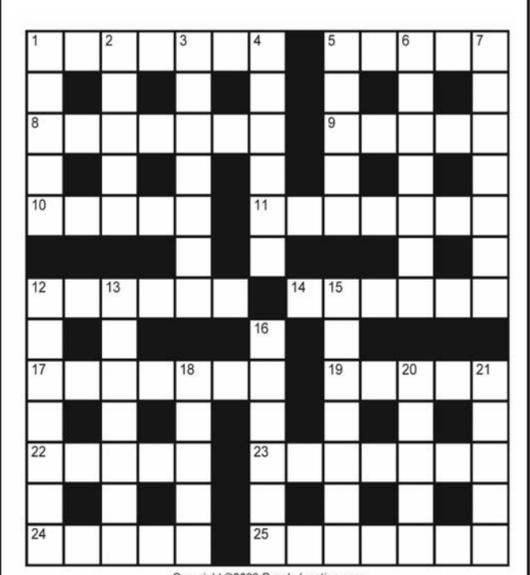
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



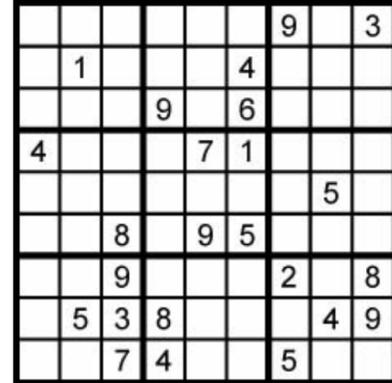
## FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Inebriant
  - 5 Internet messages (1-4)
  - 8 Rifle attachment
  - 9 Tenet
  - 10 Recipe direction
  - 11 Unrestrained
  - 12 Passive
  - 14 Grand Turk
  - 17 Destructive
  - 19 Thrills
  - 22 Boundary
  - 23 Shutdown
  - 24 Inert gas
  - 25 Dignify
  - 4 Small
  - 5 Empower
  - 6 Increase
  - 7 Go-between
  - 12 Learned one
  - 13 Egyptian monument
  - 15 Alien
  - 16 Platitude
  - 18 Resting place
  - 20 Fragment
  - 21 Public spat
- Down
- 1 French priests
  - 2 Glasgow's river
  - 3 Executioner

## SUDOKU

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



## SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



**STIR OVER PRICE RISE**  
Police personnel remove members of various outfits agitating near the ADM office in Bhubaneswar, Monday, against skyrocketing prices

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	58,97,04,805	56,12,69,045	64,37,249
India	4,41,61,899	4,34,99,659	5,26,730
Odisha	13,19,527	13,05,261	9,149

## POURING WOES



Commuters negotiate a waterlogged Rasulgarh-Bomikhil Road in Bhubaneswar as rain lashed the City, Monday

## KOLKATA POLICE NOTICE TO BHUBANESWAR ED OFFICIAL

**Bhubaneswar/Kolkata, August 8:** Kolkata Police has sent a notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) deputy director Subodh Kumar, currently posted in Bhubaneswar, in connection with the arrest of a Ranchi-based advocate at Kolkata with huge cash last week.

Officials of Detective Department (DD) of Kolkata Police nabbed Ranchi-based advocate Rajiv Kumar with cash worth ₹60 lakh from a shopping mall in central Kolkata August 1. The money seized from him was an advance of an extortion amount from a Kolkata-based businessman, who paid the cash to Kumar for getting his name withdrawn from a PIL filed by the latter at Ranchi High Court.

ED official Subodh Kumar had his tenure in Ranchi from 2016 to 2022. Kolkata Police sources said that it was noticed from Rajiv Kumar's mobile that he had several



It was noticed from Ranchi-based advocate Rajiv Kumar's mobile that he had several conversations with Bhubaneswar-based ED official Subodh Kumar, says Kolkata Police

conversations with the said central agency official.

"We need to question him about his links with the ED official," a senior city police official said.

It is learnt that a team of Kolkata DD officials will visit Bhubaneswar and question the said ED official Tuesday.

Kolkata Police suspects that filing PILs was part of Rajiv Kumar's bigger ploy to trap and blackmail the rich and get a heavy ransom amount from them. "We are interrogating him," the official added.

A team of Kolkata Police officials also visited Rajiv's Ranchi-based residence and seized certain crucial documents that give clear hints about how he ran an extortion racket under the garb of PILs. He is currently in police custody and will be presented at a lower court in Kolkata August 10.

Subodh Kumar's counsel has claimed that his client was a victim of conspiracy. According to him, the shopping mall where he was purportedly arrested was under the Kareya police station, whereas the case was registered against him at Hare Street Police Station.

# CS FOR 300 CHECK DAMS THIS FISCAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has directed the Works and Rural Development departments to complete at least 300 bridge-cum-check dams during the current financial year.

The state government would spend ₹413.81 crore towards construction of these bridge-cum-check dams, the Chief Secretary said while chairing a high-level meeting here recently.

It is part of the government's plan in May to construct 1,000 such wire structures across the state in three years amid criticism for allegedly not creating more facilities for water storage in the state.

According to Mahapatra, the state government has constructed 45 bridge-cum-check dams in the last two months. Of these, 31 were



completed by Works department and the remaining 14 by Rural Development (RD) department.

While raising surface water level in the riverbeds, bridge-cum-check dams will significantly help in groundwater recharge and rejuvenation of ecosystem, he said.

"It's a cost-effective technology having multiple micro-level outcomes. The water conserved through this method could be used for irrigation on both sides of the river. The water could also

be used for drinking water projects," Mahapatra said.

It would also help create a green environment and check soil erosion. The raised water level could be effectively used for pisciculture through self-help groups, said the Chief Secretary.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena said the check dams also allow usual flow of water in the river/creek as the water is held only up to 1.5 metre in height. "The technology proved effective and helpful in terms of the geo-climatic conditions of Odisha," he said.

The Chief Secretary has directed both the departments to complete at least 300 bridges at an estimated cost of ₹413.81 crore during the current financial year.

Mahapatra has further directed the two departments to motivate and advise the farmers having land on both sides of the river/creek (where such constructions were completed) for raising the vegetables and cash crops.

Sources said one 1.5-metre high check dam could yield around 1,000 cubic metre of water. For example, a check dam under a 30 metre bridge could yield 30,000 cubic metre of water at a given point of time.

**The state government has constructed 45 bridge-cum-check dams in the last two months, says the Chief Secretary**

## 4 yrs on, Ratnabhandar repair in limbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, August 8:** Although four years have passed to experts highlighting the precarious condition of the Srimandir Ratnabhandar (temple treasury), the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) is yet to take any step to address the issue, sources said Monday.

In April 2018, a 17-member

committee of experts, comprising officials of the Srimandir, Puri district administration and Archaeological Survey of India, inspected the structural safety of Ratnabhandar. The committee told the media that they observed cracks on the walls of the inner and outer chambers of the temple treasury and water seeping through them.

The committee had submitted its report to the temple administration soon after its inspection.

"However, the temple administration is yet to act on it. It's sad that an important issue like this could not be raised in any of the temple managing committee meetings in the last four years," said an SJTA official requesting anonymity.

"Repair works could not be

done unless the temple managing committee raises the issue with the state government's Law department," the official said.

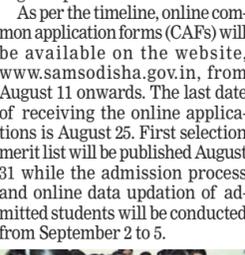
During the recently concluded Monsoon Session of the state Assembly, Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja has demanded the state government to reopen the Ratnabhandar and initiate measures for its repair.

## Plus III admissions to begin Sept 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The Higher Education (HE) department Monday released the timeline for e-admissions to undergraduate (UG) courses for the academic session 2022-23 according to which the first phase admissions will begin September 2.

As per the timeline, online common application forms (CAFs) will be available on the website, www.samsodisha.gov.in, from August 11 onwards. The last date of receiving the online applications is August 25. First selection merit list will be published August 31 while the admission process and online data updation of admitted students will be conducted from September 2 to 5.



The second selection merit list will be published September 11 while admission and online data updation of the students will take place from September 12 to 14.

Information about the vacant seats after second selection admissions will be published in Student Academic Management System (SAMS) website September 16, said the HE department sources.

Similarly, spot admissions will begin September 19. Applicants, who have registered and submitted their CAFs during the first phase admissions, will be eligible for spot admissions.

## 3 cybercrooks held from UP



The arrested cybercriminals

POST NEWS NETWORK

### MODUS OPERANDI

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** The Commissionerate Police has arrested three cybercriminals from Uttar Pradesh for duping a security guard of ₹2.40 lakh on the pretext of winning Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) lottery. The accused were identified as Deepak Kumar of Bihar and Mohit Singh and Mobin Kumar of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

All the accused were Monday produced before the court that sent them to judicial custody.

"One Baburam Samal, 20, Friday lodged a complaint at the Cybercrime and Economic Offence police station alleging that he was cheated of ₹2.40 by cyber fraudsters in the name of KBC lottery. Based on the complaint, we have registered a case and started an investigation. We later traced the accused to Lucknow by tracking the cellphones of the accused fraudsters," a police official said.

Samal, who is a native of Kendrapara district, has been residing at Niladri Vihar area in the Capital city. He reportedly received a message on WhatsApp July 26 that said he had won a lottery of ₹25 lakh. The tricksters also shared a phone number instructing him to contact the person immediately.

Samal later contacted the cybercriminals who told him that the winner would have to pay ₹2.50 lakh towards various taxes like GST and income tax in order to receive the amount. Accordingly, he deposited ₹2.40 lakh in three bank accounts provided by the accused.

When Samal tried to contact the accused after transferring the amount, the phone numbers of the accused were found switched off. Finding no other way, he sought the help of the Commissionerate Police to get back his money.

Police are yet to arrest one Ratan of Bihar who is stated to be the mastermind behind the racket.

- Victim Baburam Samal received a message on WhatsApp July 26 that said he had won a lottery of ₹25 lakh and that he would have to send ₹2.50 lakh towards various taxes
- The tricksters also shared a phone number instructing him to contact the person immediately
- Accordingly, Samal deposited ₹2.40 lakh in three bank accounts provided by the accused
- When Samal tried to contact the accused after transferring the amount, the phone numbers of the accused were found switched off

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(For Immovable Property)  
[See Rule-8-(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Utkal Grameen Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the said properties will be subject to the charge of the Utkal Grameen Bank for the amount stated below with interest, cost and incidental expenses thereon.

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice
<b>BADAKUTRU BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Baishnab Nial, S/o.: Pareswar Nial Alias Harijan, At: Badatemri, P.O.: Moter, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766017 / Guarantor: Pareswar Nial Alias Harijan, S/o.: Laxman Harijan, At: Badatemri, P.O.: Moter, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766017	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Badatemri, Tahasil: Jaipatna, Khata No.: 75, Plot No.: 305, Covering Area: 0.13 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari recorded in the name of Baishnab Nial, S/o.: Pareswar Nial Alias Harijan	₹ 17,59,124/- as on 03.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	08.11.2021 / 03.08.2022
<b>BADAKUTRU BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Ghanashyam Naik, S/o.: Sri Kamal Naik, At/PO.: Kalampur, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766013 / Guarantor: Narendra Chhatra, S/o.: Udaynath Chhatra, At/PO.: Badakutru, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766018	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Kalampur, Tahasil: Kalampur, Khata No.: 147/19, with Plot No.: 120, Area Covered: 0.03 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari, recorded in the name of Sri Ghanashyam Naik, S/o.: Kamal Naik	₹ 11,35,116/- as on 03.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	08.11.2021 / 03.08.2022
<b>MANDAL BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Dibya Ranjan Sahu, S/o.: Late Sadananda Sahu, At: Dhanpur, P.O.: Mingur, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766013 / Guarantors: 1) Smt. Nila Sahu, W/o.: Dibya Ranjan Sahu, 2) Sri Dinabandhu Rana, S/o.: Late Barna Rana, Both are At: Dhanpur, P.O.: Mingur, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766013,	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Dhanpur, Tahasil: Kalampur, Khata No.: 110, Plot No.: 549, Area: 0.10 Acres and Plot No.: 490/849 Area: 0.10 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari recorded in the name of Dibya Ranjan Sahu, S/o.: Late Sadananda Sahu	₹ 19,03,918/- as on 03.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	13.01.2022 / 03.08.2022
<b>DHARMAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Pramod Harijan, S/o.: Pitam Harijan, At: Jagannathpada, P.O.: Dharmagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766015	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Kebidi, Tahasil: Dharmagarh, Khata No.: 69/139, Plot No.: 808/1392, Covering Area: 0.06 Acres, KISSAM: Atta Mamuli (used for residential purpose) recorded in the name of Pramod Harijan, S/o.: Pitam Harijan	₹ 5,06,943/- as on 03.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	18.01.2019 / 03.08.2022
<b>BORDA BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Putel Jwad, S/o.: Machindra Jwad, At/PO.: Kanduljar, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766036 / Guarantor: Sri Bibhuti Bhusan Jwad, S/o.: Putel Jwad, At/PO.: Kanduljar, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766036	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Kanduljar, Tahasil: Kalahandi, Khata No.: 321, Plot No.: 1127, Area: 0.03 Acres, Plot No.: 1361, Area: 0.16 Acres, Plot No.: 1362, Area: 0.20 Acres and Plot No.: 1363, Area: 0.36 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari recorded in the name of Sri Putel Jwad, S/o.: Sri Machindra Jwad	₹ 11,45,852/- as on 04.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	14.01.2022 / 04.08.2022
<b>KASHRUPADA BRANCH /</b> Borrowers: 1) Subash Chandra Sahu, S/o.: Jagadish Sahu, 2) Sri Sanatan Sahu, S/o.: Jagadish Sahu, At/PO.: Turlakhaman, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766012	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Turlakhaman, Tahasil: Kesinga, Khata No.: 173, Plot No.: 1304, Area: 0.10 Acres, KISSAM: Ek Fasali, Khata No.: 186, Plot No.: 1454, Area: 0.43 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari, Khata No.: 338, Plot No.: 1064 and 1065, Area: 0.67 Acres, KISSAM: Ek Fasali, Khata No.: 320, Plot No.: 1450, Area: 0.18 Ac., KISSAM: Gharabari and Plot No.: 1039 of Khata No.: 91 Area: 0.04 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari recorded in the name of Subash Chandra Sahu and Sanatan Sahu, S/o.: Jagadish Sahu	₹ 4,28,063/- as on 04.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	08.02.2021 / 04.08.2022
<b>NANDOL BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Sukru Majhi, S/o.: Jagamohan Majhi, At: Rangiguda, PO.: Kutrukhamar, Dist.: Kalahandi / Guarantor: Subash Chandra Raut, S/o.: Madana Raut, At: Purnanpada, PO.: Bhawanipatna, Dist.: Kalahandi	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Rangiguda, Tahasil: Kalahandi, Dist.: Kalahandi of Plot No.: 581, Area: 0.04 Acres, Plot No.: 583, Area: 0.08 Dec., Plot No.: 584, Area: 0.01 Dec., of Khata No.: 148/28, (old khata No.: 111) under Total Area: ₹ 5,58,363/- as on 04.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	₹ 5,58,363/- as on 04.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	20.10.2016 / 04.08.2022
<b>NANDOL BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Chandramani Gahir, S/o.: Rohidas Gahir, At: Badli, PO.: Kutrukhamar, Dist.: Kalahandi / Guarantor: Sibaprasad Pradhan, At: Badli, PO.: Kutrukhamar, Dist.: Kalahandi	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Mouza: Badli, Tahasil: Kalahandi, Dist.: Kalahandi of Khata No.: 122, Plot No.: 793, Area: 0.03 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari recorded in the name of Sri Chandramani Gahir, S/o.: Sri Rohidas Gahir	₹ 7,99,138/- as on 04.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	20.10.2016 / 04.08.2022
<b>NANDOL BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Lachaman Mahanand, S/o.: Late Labanya Mahananda, At: Kendupati, PO.: Nandol, Dist.: Kalahandi / Guarantor: Rangadhar Mahanand, S/o.: Labanya Mahanand, At: Kendupati, PO.: Nandol, Dist.: Kalahandi	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Plot No.: 777, Area: 0.06 Acres, Plot No.: 778, Area: 0.01 Acres, Khata No.: 314, Mouza: Kendupati, Tahasil: Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, KISSAM: Gharabari recorded in name of Sri Lachaman Mahanand, S/o.: Sri Labanya Mahanand.	₹ 6,30,089/- as on 04.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	20.10.2016 / 04.08.2022
<b>RANIAL BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Himanshu Patel, S/o.: Khageswar Patel, At: Badatemri, PO.: Moter, Dist.: Kalahandi / Guarantors: 1) Dinger Patel, S/o.: Khageswar Patel, 2) Khageswar Patel, S/o.: Kamal Lochan Patel, Both are At: Badatemri, PO.: Moter, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN-766017	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Plot No.: 316, Khata No.: 40, Mouza: Badtemri, Tahasil: Jaipatna, Dist.: Kalahandi, Area: 0.05 Acres, KISSAM: Gharabari recorded in the name of Sri Himanshu Patel, S/o.: Sri Khageswar Patel	₹ 3,96,038/- as on 03.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	10.11.2021 / 03.08.2022
<b>JUNAGARH BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Ajit Kumar Meher, S/o.: Kishore Chandra Meher, At: Talabandhapada, PO.: Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN-766015 / Guarantor: Padma Nava Meher, S/o.: Chandra Sekhar Meher, At: Baidhiamal, PO.: Baidhiamal, Dist.: Kalahandi	All that Part & Parcel of the Property situated at Plot No.: 1331, Khata No.: 145, Mouza: Junagarh, Tahasil: Junagarh, Dist.: Kalahandi Area: 0.11 Acres, KISSAM: Mal Mamuli (used for residential purpose) recorded in the name of Sri Ajit Kumar Meher, S/o.: Sri Kishor Chandre Meher	₹ 3,08,064/- as on 03.08.2022 + interest & expenses thereon	08.08.2018 / 03.08.2022

Place: Bhawanipatna, Date: 08.08.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Utkal Grameen Bank

# State-run schools to have gender equity curriculum



THE CURRICULUM USES INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS TO ENCOURAGE ADOLESCENT BOYS AND GIRLS TO REFLECT ON THE CULTURALLY-EMBEDDED GENDER NORMS, ROLES AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

IT WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO THE SOCIAL STUDIES SYLLABUS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS FROM CLASSES 6-10 IN OVER 18,000 ELEMENTARY AND 5,000 SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY AUGUST

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** A gender equity curriculum will be integrated into the syllabus for students across government schools in Odisha to transform their attitudes, aspirations and behaviour.

The School Education Department signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-Pal), South Asia, and women rights' organisation Breakthrough in Bhubaneswar Monday.

The MoU was signed at the conference of District Education officers (DEO) and Additional District Education Officers (ADEO) in the presence of Samir Ranjan Dash, Minister for School and Mass Education Department, government of Odisha, Sohini Bhattacharya, CEO, Breakthrough and several other officials.

On the occasion, Minister Dash said, "Gender equality is very important. We are taking it very seriously." He also directed the DEOs and ADEOs to focus on development of education in the schools of the state.

The curriculum uses interactive classroom discussions to encourage adolescent boys and girls to reflect on the culturally-embedded gender norms, roles and dis-

crimatory practices, according to an official release.

It will be integrated into the social studies syllabus for boys and girls from classes 6-10 in over 18,000 elementary and 5,000 secondary schools by August.

"Adolescence presents a crucial window of opportunity to change even deeply-rooted norms and instil more progressive gender attitudes," J-Pal South Asia executive director Shobhini Mukerji said.

In Odisha, Breakthrough will work with the Department of School and Mass Education to contextualize and integrate the curriculum into the syllabus, to train teachers and key departmental personnel, and conduct gender sensitization workshops with principals across 23,000 state-run schools. The program will also leverage the Digital Infrastructure for School Education (DIKSHA), the Government of India's open-access education technology platform, train teachers, receive feedback from them, and engage parents in the sensitization process as well.

J-Pal will conduct independent monitoring activities to ensure that the programme is achieving its objectives to generate insights for sustained, high-quality government implementation of the

syllabus. The expected outcomes of the programme include positive gender attitudes, parents investing in education for daughters, improved sex ratio and more labour force participation by women.

The project aims to ensure that girls have choices for their education and work participation, retention of girls in schools for more number of years and reduction in dropouts and increase in age of marriage and first child birth.

Breakthrough chief executive officer Sohini Bhattacharya underlined that gender perceptions get formed at a young age.

"Therefore, we need to ensure that children, especially those between the 10-15 years, have access to the right information related to gender equality, legal rights, and healthy gender behaviours," Bhattacharya said.

The implementation of the Gender Equity Programme will help in achieving the state's sustainable development goals (SDG) of quality education and gender equality.

"We'll have wide-ranging topics that will be covered in schools as part of this programme in our continued efforts to build a gender-equal world," principal secretary, school education secretary department, Bishnupada Sethi said.

## BE FRIENDS



Friendship Day celebration and Anti-ragging campaign by Ramadevi Women's University students in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

# Special drive against helmetless riding

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 8:** In a move to promote safety, starting August 16, the State Transport Authority will launch two-week long special drive against helmetless riders on the National Highways (NH) and State Highways (SH) across the state. Helmetless driving is widespread in the state especially on highways despite it being a major cause of injuries and fatalities.

As many as 1308 persons, including 868 riders and 440 pillion riders of motorised two-wheelers, were killed in road accidents in the year 2021. Most of them were not wearing helmets. A total of



1280 persons were grievously injured and 747 had sustained minor injuries in accidents involving two wheelers.

In a press note, Sanjay Biswal, Joint Commissioner Transport, Road Safety said, "It has been observed that out of the accidents taking place on NH/SH many are related to two-wheeler riders. Due

to continuous enforcement activities people are using helmets in the urban areas but are unfortunately avoiding wearing helmets on highways where protection is much more needed."

He further added, "Even though it is mandatory, helmets are rarely worn by the pillion riders despite similar risk of accidents like the driver. If riders take care of own safety by wearing helmets, they should not risk that of the pillion." Biswal appealed the two-wheeler riders and pillion to follow the traffic rules and wear helmets for their own safety.

Earlier in a crackdown on helmetless riders on NHs and SHs between May 15 and 21, the enforce-

ment officers had imposed penalties on 10,661 two-wheeler riders and suspended 2505 driving licenses. In a special drive conducted on July 30, 1469 riders were issued challan for helmetless driving and as many as 117 vehicles were seized.

During this special drive, triple riders and juveniles driving two-wheelers will also be penalised. The special drive will continue till August 30. According to the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019, riding without helmet attracts a penalty of ₹1,000. If a person riding pillion is not wearing helmet, then the driving licence of the rider will be suspended for three months and a fine of ₹1,000 will be imposed against him or her.

## CLASSIFIED

### LOST

I, Ravi Ranjan Kumar Sharma, S/o. Balmiki Sharma of Plot No. 1785/6188/7401, Mahadev Nagar, Road No. - 7, Jharpada, P.S.: Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha on dated 09.05.2022, when we were shifting our house from Kesura to Jharpada I lost our link document (Sale Deed and Patta in the name of Golak Bihari Sahoo) of Plot No. 613/1858 which was purchased from Golak Bihari Sahoo in the year 2018 by my mother Late Gitarani Sharma. If anybody found the above said link document kindly contact: 7008278112.

### AFFIDAVIT

I Basant Kumar Behera, aged about 45 years, S/o-Ganesh Prasad Behera of Village-Jagannathprasad, PO-Patanamishrapur, P.S-Naikaniidih, Dist-Bhadrak do hereby Solemnly affirm that my wife's actual name is Pratima Behera and it is mentioned in her Aadhaar card, PAN card, land papers etc. But in my service record in army postal service in place of wife's name has been mentioned as Pratima Rani Behera. That I am swearing Pratima Behera and Pratima Rani Behera is one and same person.

# It's a poignant day: Sasmit bids heartfelt farewell to Venkaiah

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 8:** As the tenure of Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu approaches an end, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra Monday said that it's a "poignant day" as he bid adieu to the Vice President.

Sasmit lauded the Vice President for promoting regional languages during his tenure and brought the appreciation note in the Rajya Sabha that he had received from Naidu for speaking for the first time in Odia in the House.

"The day was February 7, 2020. The day before, I had been to your chamber and you had said, 'Sasmit, why don't you speak in Oriya? It is your mother tongue! Speak more!' The next day, I spoke in Oriya, which was my first Zero Hour mention on a specific topic. You said, 'Uttam Kahuchhanti', meaning 'you spoke well. After a few minutes,

I get this brief note from you, Sir. What does it say? It is that evidence. 'Uttam Kahuchhanti', written by you, signed, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, to me, Sasmit Patra," the BJD MP said.

Patra also lauded Naidu for promoting youth in the house and spoke about his personal experience on how he, despite being a young MP, was appointed in the panel of Vice-Chairmen of Rajya Sabha.

"In August, 2020, suddenly I had a phone call in the evening saying that I have been appointed to the Panel of Vice-Chairmen of Rajya Sabha. I was surprised! I said, I am only thirteen months into Rajya Sabha. You were the person whom I called in the evening and asked, 'Do you think I am capable of presiding over this August House? Do you think I will be ever able to do justice?' You said, 'I believe in you; I stand by you; you do your work and keep working hard,'" Patra recalled.

## Odisha experiencing 'achhe din', says Shah

Continued from P1

Noting that Odisha has huge potential to emerge as a "state of possibilities", Shah said, "There is a long coastline, rich mineral resources, forests and talented human resources here. I see a great future here."

The Chief Minister, during his address, welcomed Shah to Odisha.

His statement came after a BJP MP alleged that neither state minister nor any senior official like the home secretary or the DGP was present to receive Shah at the airport when he landed at about 1.30am.

The MP, Aparajita Sarangi, tweeted: "How does one explain this callousness? Indifference or on purpose?"

A special secretary of the home department represented the state government there.

"It is a matter of happiness



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

Sasmit concluded his farewell speech for Naidu with the very famous lines of Robert Frost's poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening'. "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep," and echoed the sentiments of TMC MP Derek O'Brien that you (Naidu) have more than 20 years of public life left.

## Murmu for participation of MPs in public hearing

**New Delhi:** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Chandrani Murmu Monday urged the Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change ministry to make participation of public representatives like MPs and MLAs necessary in the public hearing. The BJD Lok Sabha MP, while speaking during the Zero Hour, informed that her constituency Keonjhar is enriched with natural resources like iron and manganese, and home to many corporations with their mining operations and mineral based industries. "Many times, I have received grievances from people, mostly from my dear tribals, regarding forest, environment and health issues. Ignorance of such issues by the damagers is a major point which is really to be considered. However, public hearings linked with such issues sound baseless if you analyse the current environment of my locality," Murmu said.

## BJD bats for more Central Universities

**NEW DELHI:** The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday supported the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in the Rajya Sabha and urged the Union government to consider setting up more central universities in Odisha.

BJD MP Sujeet Kumar said that the bill is the need of the hour. However, he asserted that there is no standardised protocol or criteria for setting up a central university in the country. He also highlighted the issue of large vacancies in Central Universities. He said there are close to 35 per cent vacancies in the central universities and urged the government to take steps to fill these vacancies. He also said that there is a need for quality manpower.

Significantly, the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022, passed by the Rajya Sabha seeks to convert the National Rail and Transportation Institute, Vadodra (a deemed university) to the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, which will be a central university. The Vishwavidyalaya will be sponsored and funded by the central government through the Ministry of Railways. The Bill also provides that the Vishwavidyalaya will take measures to provide quality teaching, research, and skill development in disciplines related to transportation, technology, and management. If required, the University may also establish centres in India and abroad. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha August 3.

## CHSE Plus II Arts results out

Continued from P1

As many as 28 schools have recorded 100 per cent results in the Plus II Arts exam this year, said the CHSE adding that no school has recorded nil result in the state.

Similarly, results of vocational stream were also declared Monday.

The pass percentage of vocational stream exam is 70.35 per cent. In total 5,673 students gave the exam out of which 3,991 passed the exam.

Earlier July 27, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash had declared the Plus II Science and commerce result. As many as 94.12 per cent Science students in Odisha have cleared the CHSE Plus-II (in Science) examinations while in commerce stream the pass percentage was 89.20 per cent.

## Rain pounds southern Odisha

Continued from P1

Agriculture fields and roads lay flooded as at least seven weather stations recorded very heavy rain of 116-204 mm, while 17 places were lashed by downpour of 65-115 mm.

Nabarangpur Collector Kamal Lochan Mishra inspected the flood situation at Papadahandi as water entered the houses there due to the swollen Turi river. He directed the tehsildar and the block administration to arrange relief for the affected people and keep a close watch on the situation. A state highway was cut off as a bridge over the Turi went underwater near Papadahandi. The collector deputised officials to the site to ascertain the safety of the bridge before allowing vehicles to ply. A 'red alert' of extremely heavy rain of over 204 mm has been issued for a few places in Gajapati, Ganjam and Kandhamal districts till Tuesday morning, the Met said.

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

# Illegal Bangla migrants a huge threat to Odisha's security

**KENDRAPARA DIST**



POST NEWS NETWORK REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

**Kendrapara, August 8:** Odisha's Minister of State for Labour and Employees' Insurance, Srikant Sahu recently informed the assembly that only 23 non-Odia labourers are working in Kendrapara district. In reality however, the picture is quite different. Sources informed that a huge number of labourers, mostly illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, are working in Kendrapara district. Such are their numbers that they wield considerable influence, more than the locals do. It is these Bangladeshi immigrant labourers who are calling the shots in Kendrapara district. They are mostly being employed by 29,249 licensed labour contractors in the district. This development has taken place due to illegal infiltration by Bangladeshis into Kendrapara district through both land and sea. It still continues as the district administration has not taken any concrete steps to prevent infiltration. All attempts to check infiltration have fallen flat due to manpower and infrastructure shortage plaguing the three marine police stations, Forest department and

the police station that it becomes almost impossible to reach it on a two-wheeler during monsoons. The police station also lacks speed boats and trained staff to patrol the sea. As per rules, each police station should have staff strength of 81 personnel. However, the total staff strength of the three police stations currently stands at 42. Sources informed that there is no proper verification of boats arriving and leaving the jetty. Former District Collector Reghu Jee had put in place a verification method, but it is yet to be implemented. As a result, the porous coastline, with no security system in place makes it very easy for the illegal immigrants to enter Kendrapara district in the darkness of the night. They not only become a serious threat to the security of the district but to Odisha and India also. Similarly, people peddling various illicit products have made the district their second home by renting places. They along with the illegal immigrants indulge in various acts of crime including human trafficking and selling of drugs. Sources said that criminal activities in the district have increased manifold in the last decade. The house owners give out their places for rent without verifying the antecedents of the takers. So locals have urged the police to carry out screening to identify the outsiders living in the district. When contacted, SDPO Rajiv Lochan Panda admitted to shortage of manpower and infrastructure in the marine police stations. He said the number of marine police stations will be increased this year while efforts are being made to fill up the vacant posts and ensure supply of speed boats.



Members of women self-help groups display Monday the Tricolours they have stitched under Mission Shakti initiative as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme at Rayagad in Gajapati district. OP PHOTO

# Sand mining rampant, says NGT report

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Baripada, August 8:** A National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointed joint committee has recommended for collection of penalty of ₹12.35 crore towards compensation damages to environment while submitting a report on illegal sand mining at Mahupura ghat under Badasahi tehsil of Mayurbhanj district, a report said. The committee comprising the district collector of Mayurbhanj, members of the State Environment Impact Assessment Committee (SEIAA), district Mines department, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Badasahi tehsildar, conducted a probe into the illegal sand mining activities from the river ghat, May 9, 2022. The committee has exposed large scale irregularities in sand mining



MAHUPURA GHAT FILE PHOTO

prescribed limits with the help of heavy earth moving equipment. The Union government had granted March 31, 2021 environmental clearance for mining of 2,400 cubic metre of sand annually from the river ghat. The permission was to mine sand manually by engaging labourers. However, heavy machinery were used to lift sands more than the prescribed limits, the petitioner stated in his petition. The NGT admitted the case for hearing and directed to conduct a probe and verify the charges by forming a joint committee. his petition had alleged that sand has been mined from Mahupura river ghat 20 times more than the

# Poultry farmers want proper marketing facilities

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Baripada, August 8:** Poultry farmers in the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district are reportedly in distress at present as they are unable to get fair price of their products due to lack of adequate marketing facilities. The poultry farmers are now producing 1.5 lakh eggs per day. However, the price at which they sell the eggs to local traders has gone down to ₹4.37 per piece. This has pushed the farmers into distress with many of them planning to down the shutters. Reports said that over 1 lakh eggs are produced from the farms at Jhinkapahadi in Duarsuni, Chhanchabani in Karanjia and at the Nalagaja farm in Rasagobindpur. Similarly, 20,000 eggs are produced from the poultry farms of 18 persons, 1,500 from 619 women farmers and 2,500 from 1,000 Khadia, Mankidia and other tribal families in the district. Lack of adequate marketing facilities has taken a heavy toll on the business, poultry farmers Pruthviraj Mohanta of Jashipur, Ghanashyam Hembram of Raruan and Tarilokyanath Giri of Bishoi



blocks alleged. Utkalmani Behera a representative of Karanjia women poultry farmers, Mamata Parida of Thakumunda block and Basantilata Sahu of Shukruli block demanded establishment of market facilities to sell their eggs in four subdivisions of the district. The sorry state of poultry business comes in the aftermath of the district administration being felicitated with the Best District Award in animal husbandry on the occasion of state level

# Bodies of 2 MCL officials fished out

**POST NEWS NETWORK**

**Sambalpur, August 8:** A team of Fire Services department and ODRAF personnel fished out the bodies of two MCL officials from the Hirakud reservoir Monday, a day after they went missing at Jhankrani temple ghat of the reservoir. The deceased were identified as Mahesh Chititori, 40, and Abhishek Kumar, 45. A doctor at the VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla pronounced them dead on arrival. The Fire Services and ODRAF team fished out their bodies after struggling for five hours during the rescue operation. Police registered a case and handed over the bodies to the respective family members after conducting post-mortem.

# GST IRE



Members of CITU, AIKS and AIAWU demanding withdrawal of GST on food products stage a demonstration outside the sub-collector's office in Berhampur, Monday. OP PHOTO

# Man killed over land dispute

on arrival, police official Krushna Saha said. Later, the body was sent for post-mortem to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. Police have registered a case and launched a manhunt to nab the assailants, IIC Jeetendra Kumar Mallick informed reporters. Panchu was working on his farmland Monday morning when he was attacked. Co-villager Subal Sahu, his three sons Manoj, Shankar and Sumant reached the place and assaulted Panchu with sharp-edged weapons. As a result, Panchu suffered critical injuries on his stomach, legs and face and collapsed on the spot. The deceased was identified as Panchu Sahu, 55, a resident of the same village. Palsara police rescued Panchu in a critical condition and rushed him to the Palsara community health centre (CHC). However, the doctors there pronounced Panchu dead

**AFFIDAVIT**  
By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar. I have declare that after marriage with Sidharth Kampal Rout I want to change my religion from Christian to Hindu. That, after change of my religion I want to change my name from Monica Barwa to Monica Rout, W/o Sidharth Kampal Rout for all purposes.

**FORM No. 13 BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ORISSA C-71, SECTOR - 7, CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA O. A. No. 200/2022**  
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ...Applicant  
S.K. Muktar & Another ...Defendant(s)  
1) S.K. Muktar  
S/o S.K. Samad, Residing at: New Siaria, Trijanga, Damagadi, Jajapur, Odisha, Pin-755018  
2) Rausnara Begum  
D/o S.K. Basar, Residing at: New Siaria, Trijanga, Damagadi, Jajapur, Odisha, Pin-755018  
**SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED**  
Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 200/2022 in the Court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 67,47,131.19 p only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 19.09.2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.  
Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.  
Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 02 Day of August, 2022  
Sd/- M. K. Patnalk Registrar

**MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM**  
Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.  
**Date and Venue:**  
Wednesday, 10th August, 2022: 6:30 p.m. onwards.  
at Hotel Sri Balaji, Church Road, Berhampur - 760 001, Odisha.  
For registration, please contact: Ashish Sahoo, Mobile: 82802 71280.  
Registration is compulsory.  
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.  
It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.  
No walk-ins will be allowed.

**भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान पटना**  
**Indian Institute of Technology Patna**  
**Spot Admission to M.Sc. and M.Tech Programme for Academic Session 2022-23**  
IIT Patna is inviting for spot admission from eligible candidates, in the Master of Science (M.Sc.) and M. Tech programs for few vacant seats in the academic session 2022-23. For details, please visit website <https://www.iitp.ac.in/>  
CBC 21366/12/0001/2223 **Dean, Academic, IIT Patna**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SONEPUR (R&B) DIVISION, SONEPUR**  
**E-procurement Notice**  
BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE/R&B/SNPR/ 11 / 2022-23  
E-mail - eepwdsnp@gmail.com Phone -06654-221081  
No.3181/Dt.04.08.22  
No.B-466:1.The Superintending Engineer, Sonepur (R&B) Division, Sonepur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single & Double Cover System in Online Mode for construction of Electricals works detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.  
2. No. of work : 06 (Six)  
3. Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/-for Serial No.1 & 2  
Rs.4,000/- for Serial No.3 to 6  
4. Class of Contractor : "HT" Electrical Contractor for Serial No.2 to 5  
: OEM/ Authorized dealer having tie up with Electrical contractor for Serial No. 1 and 6  
5. Date and time Available in Website & receipt of Bids: From 10.00 A.M. of 11.08.2022 to 5.00 P.M. of 22.08.2022.  
6. Date of Opening of Tender: 23.08.2022 at 11.30 A.M.  
7. The Bidders have to participate in Online bidding only further details can be seen from the Website.  
8. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Sonepur (R&B) Division, Sonepur  
OIPR-34081/11/0004/2223

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Education**  
**(Department of Higher Education)**  
**Application for the Post of Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi**  
Applications are invited from eminent academics for filling up the post of Vice-Chancellor in the National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi on transfer/deputation/contract basis. The post carries pay of Rs.2,10,000/- P.M. (fixed) and a special allowance of Rs.11,250/- per month along with other allowances as per 7th CPC. The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Government on terms & conditions similar to those of Vice-Chancellor of Central Universities. The period of deputation/contract shall ordinarily be for five years or till the age of 70 years whichever is earlier.  
The National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education. It is the apex training Institute in India for education planners and administrators. Its main functions cover the fields of training, research advisory and consultancy services, knowledge dissemination and networking with other institutions and international agencies. The Vice-Chancellor is the Principal Academic and Executive Officer of the Institute and should have experience in any of these fields. He/she must have impressive academic credentials as he/she is expected to spearhead the major initiatives towards achieving the objectives of NIEPA and administrative record for the efficient administration of the affairs of NIEPA.  
**Eligibility**  
(a) A person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment is to be appointed as Vice-Chancellor. The person to be appointed as a Vice-Chancellor should be a distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years' of experience as Professor in a University or ten years' of experience in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organisation with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. Experience in the area of educational planning and administration at National and International level.  
(b) She/he should not be more than 65 years of age as on the closing date of receipt of applications of this advertisement.  
**Procedure for appointment**  
(a) Appointment will be made from a panel names recommended by the Search-cum-Selection Committee.  
(b) The advertisement and the format of applications are available on the websites <http://www.education.gov.in> and [www.niepa.ac.in](http://www.niepa.ac.in).  
(c) Applications of eligible individual received by post through candidates/nominators shall be considered. The applications in the prescribed proforma should reach on or before 5th September, 2022, by Registered/Speed Post to:  
**Deputy Secretary (PN-I & EBSB), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Room No. 212-C, 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi**  
Applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor should be subscribed on the envelope.  
This department is not responsible for postal delay.  
CBC 21201/11/0003/2223

FOCUS SOPS

# WELFARE SPENDING MUST



During the pandemic not only has PMGKAY proved invaluable, but also MNREGA which acts as a proxy for unemployment insurance

torate? If the electorate expects parties to deliver on these promises, how can courts intervene? And why should they?

The case of free electricity is worth examining. Technology like metering and remote measurement makes it possible to assure a limited quantity of free power, beyond which commercial rates can apply, or the user faces a termination of the connection. Most poor households will not cross the minimum threshold, since they don't own devices that consume massive amounts of electricity. Besides more than half the losses of all electricity distribution companies are on account of unpaid subsidies from state governments. The total cumulative losses of all discoms are only 10% of bad loans written off by public sector banks in the past five years. Surely those losses of banks are an egregious waste of taxpayer and voters' money. Hence the fiscal argument against so-called freebies does not stand, since much bigger fiscal giveaways exist as loan write-offs or in non-merit subsidies.

be stopped from offering "irrational freebies" and making populist promises that sways voters from making informed decisions.

It is not the first time that the courts have been approached to do something about the "freebie" culture. In 2006 the Madras High Court admitted a petition against the practice of offering free mixers, grinders and whatnot during election campaigns. The case was eventually resolved by the apex court, asking the Election Commission to include some provision for this in the model code of conduct. Then came the Amma Canteens (almost free, highly subsidised cooked food) of Tamil Nadu. Such subsidised canteens for the working urban poor have been emulated by other states as well.

The most discussed issue has been that of free power to farmers. This is a practice which has spread far beyond Punjab where it originated many years ago. It has led to many ill effects such as reckless proliferation of irrigation pumps, tube wells and an alarming lowering of water table. Not to speak of motors which get burnt often, leading to a thriving business of motor winding repair! Similarly, massive subsidies on urea lead to overuse, and increased salinity of the soil making the land fallow. High chemical fertiliser usage has also been linked to the increased incidence of cancer. But how many of these ill effects can be linked to the so-called freebie culture? And is this connection not for elected politicians to explain to their elec-

The writer is a noted economist. @THE BILLION PRESS

India has been managing the world's largest and longest running free food programme since April 2020. This is called the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). It ensures that more than 80 crore Indians get a ration of five kilos of either rice or wheat per person per month, completely free. This is a transformed version of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) passed in 2013, which guaranteed to three fourth of rural India and half of urban India, rice, wheat or coarse cereal at 3, 2 or 1 rupee a kilo respectively. PMGKAY has made the food distribution free of cost to the beneficiaries. It was launched during the pandemic and ensured that the economic and livelihood predicament did not become a food crisis. It has been extended beyond two years. The government also claims, validly, that the in-kind transfer of food has protected households from food inflation.

The critics of the NFSA back then (and there were many) had mainly focused on its huge fiscal burden. But NFSA was passed in Parliament after more than a decade-long movement called the right to food campaign. In the early days of the campaign there was a PIL in the apex court asking for its intervention to reduce hunger and malnutrition. It was especially shocking because hunger coexisted along with mountains of food grain stocks in government granaries. There was no question of not affording a programme to ensure nearly universal ration of subsidised food grain. The other objection to NFSA came from a cabinet minister himself, who famously quipped, that since it cost ₹18 to produce a kilo of rice and only ₹3 to buy it at ration shops, why would any farmer have the incentive to produce rice? It was a clever quip and pointed out the incentive effect of freebies.

But this lack-of-incentive argument fails, since the government has a large procurement programme which provides supply side incentives, and the food subsidy is the difference between cost of procurement and revenue from selling at low prices. The right to food along with the right to em-

ployment (MNREGA) and right to education was a new paradigm of rights-based development that the government initiated in the first decade of this century. This new rights-based approach of course does have a fiscal cost, but that cost is inevitable if we as a society believe that these are basic rights and must be enforced, whatever the cost. During the pandemic not only has PMGKAY proved invaluable, but also MNREGA which acts as a proxy for unemployment insurance. The government in the last decade has extended such rights to affordable housing (Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana), to health insurance (Ayushman Bharat), and to toilets (Swachh Bharat). All of these programmes have elements of subsidies, and nobody can accuse these programmes of inducing a freebie culture. Indeed, in developed countries even access to electricity and the internet have been raised to the level of basic rights. In Scandinavia even convicts in prisons have the right to internet access. But here sometimes the debate over subsidies, incentives, much needed support, welfare spending, basic rights and election campaign promises often gets mixed up in the slamming of "freebies."

The SC last week suggested setting up a specialised body to debate the issue of doing away with "irrational freebies" offered to voters during elections. Suggestions by the court follow a PIL that has been supported by the government. The PIL wants political parties to



Ajit Ranade

IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT WELFARE SPENDING IS ESSENTIAL TO PARTLY REDRESS THE WIDENING INEQUALITY IN INDIAN SOCIETY

We find in others what is in us. If we always find mud around us, it proves that there is mud somewhere in us.

THE MOTHER



## Wheat & War

The good news for countries facing food shortages and starvation, especially in Africa, Middle East and Asia, is that shipment of wheat from Ukraine has started after UN and Turkey brokered a deal between Russia and Ukraine. The first such ship to sail out of the Ukrainian port of Odessa is carrying over 2600 tonnes of wheat, while more than 20 million tonnes are locked up in the country, the fourth-largest wheat exporter in the world. Fears are still haunting the suppliers as Russian missiles had hit the Odessa port soon after the deal was struck. Though Russia has not violated the terms of the export agreement by striking the port, it seems to have sent the message that it may scupper the deal if it wishes so. If the deal brought calm to the trading markets, the missile strikes by Russia have caused some misgivings and added a new dimension to the efforts to tackle the global food crisis, rising above the thoughtless calculations of war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin probably wants to remind the world that while he is not short on goodwill gestures, he intends to remain in control. He has his own interest too, which is to loosen the Western stranglehold on his own exports. He may also be seeking to impress African and Asian countries that are still shying away from tilting towards the West, that Russia is not the troublemaker in the supply of provision to them. All the same, the UN's immediate condemnation of the Russian missile launches clearly shows Putin will not find it easy to determine the trajectory of food supplies as he pleases without endangering the agreement.

Kyiv and Moscow signed the agreement to allow the reopening of Ukrainian ports to resume wheat exports as the war enters its sixth month. Since the war broke out, Russia began a blockade preventing the shipment of Ukrainian wheat to different countries depending on it for their bread. The land routes Ukraine has been forced to take to export the essential commodity by trucks - through Poland, Lithuania and Romania - are woefully inadequate to mitigate the food crisis. The main objective of the deal is to prevent a grain shortage in the world market that would threaten several developing countries with famine.

The other provisions of the agreement are creation of secure shipping lanes in the Black Sea in order to transport grain stored mainly in Odessa, Chornomorsk and Yuzhne to Africa and Asia. Kyiv wants to protect its merchant ships from Russian attacks, while Moscow wants to ensure that ships entering Ukrainian ports do not carry weapons. The challenge is how to effectively fulfill the two conditions.

Ukraine and Russia together account for a third of world wheat trade. Wheat stocks from the 2021 harvest are estimated at between 6 and 6.5 million tonnes in Ukraine and double that in Russia. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said the stocks may rise to 75 million tonnes after this year's harvest, even though, due to the war, about 30 per cent of the 86 million tonnes of grain Ukraine normally produces will not be harvested, according to food security specialists. It normally produces 42 per cent of the world's sunflower oil and 16 per cent of its maize.

It reflects poorly on top leaders of the world that they either kept mum or were not fully aware of the impact the war between Russia and Ukraine would have on people across the continents. The West was smug in its confidence that sanctions against Russia would bring Putin to his knees. Western leaders had probably underestimated the price Putin would make the world pay. The Russian blockade of Ukrainian ports have greatly triggered the prospect of starvation, shortage of fuel and essential items of consumption which, in turn, have created soaring inflation globally. This has helped Putin successfully change the rules of this war game.

WISDOM CORNER

- Life is precious and time is a key element. Let's make every moment count and help those who have a greater need than our own. **HARMON KILLEBREW**
- Eighty percent of all choices are based on fear. Most people don't choose what they want; they choose what they think is safe. **PHIL MCGRAW**
- Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. **ALBERT SCHWEITZER**

WORDSWORTH

Wassail

In Saxon times you would have used the original form of this word, was hail, to greet or say goodbye to somebody; it literally meant "be in good health". By the twelfth century, it had become the salutation you offered as a toast, to which the standard reply was drinc hail, "drink good health". Hail is an older form of hale, healthy, which is now mainly confined to the set phrase hale and hearty and is also closely connected with hail meaning "to salute, greet, welcome". The toast seems to have come over with the Danes; by the twelfth century the Norman conquerors of Britain regarded was hail as one of the most characteristic sayings of the country. Later on, the word came to be used also for the drink in which the toast was offered, especially the spiced ale or mulled wine that was drunk on Christmas Eve or Twelfth Night. In the western counties of Britain, the tradition grew up on Twelfth Night of toasting the good health of the apple trees that would bear the crop from which next year's cider would be made. Pieces of bread soaked in cider might be placed in the crooks of trees, guns were fired to ward off evil spirits, and special songs were sung: *Let every man take off his hat; And shout out to th'old apple tree; Old apple tree we wassail thee; And hoping thou will bear.* Ceremonies like these have almost entirely died out, though one or two are self-consciously kept alive in Somerset.

Watershed

This first turns up in English near the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was then purely a scientific term for an imaginary line that separates two river systems. Think of it as the ridge of a roof: which river system rainwater flows into is determined by the side of the line the rain is deposited on. This is the same idea as the German Wasserscheide from which English borrowed the word (what linguists call a calque or loan translation). In English, the noun shed is the English equivalent of the German scheide, both of which have come down to us from the same Old German root. The English noun derives from the verb to shed. It's an old word for a division, split or separation - a shed could be a hair parting, for example, and could also be used for a ridge of land separating two areas of lower country, a divide. (These days a shed is usually a simple building for shelter or storage; this is an altered form of shade, and so has no link to this other sense of the word.) In North America, the word watershed often means not the dividing line, but the river catchment areas on either side of the ridge, the whole land area that drains into a particular river. How the sense shifted isn't clear. It came into use only around the 1870s, and may have been a misunderstanding. The difference in sense explains why Americans don't use the figurative sense of the word as much as the rest of us do. That refers to an important point of division or transition, as in this sentence from the Daily Telegraph in June 1999: "The Balkans conflict is at a watershed between a diplomatic settlement and the prospect of a ground war." This figurative usage only makes sense if you use watershed in its original meaning of a dividing line.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Human rights without handicaps



Eddie Ndopu

ACCORDING TO THE UN, 90-98% OF KIDS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH DO NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SCHOOL AT ALL

When the United Nations was built from the rubble of World War II, it would have been inconceivable for someone like me - a young, Black, gay wheelchair user - to be considered for a top job in the organisation. So, it is a stunning testament to the distance humanity has come since 1945 that I will be among candidates UN will consider to succeed Michelle Bachelet when she leaves her post next month as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

If selected, I would be the highest-ranking international civil servant with a disability since the UN was founded. This would be a historic victory for the 1.3 billion disabled people who, according to the UN, comprise the world's largest minority group. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed in 2007, has helped to advance inclusion across the board. But to see someone in a wheelchair in a position of power is still highly unusual. In many parts of the world today, the face of ostracisation is still that of a brown-skinned disabled kid. I could easily have been that kid. But you could say my experience as a human-rights advocate began at the age of six,

when - with tears streaming down my face - I told my mother, "I want to go to school."

Life for a kid in a wheelchair in Namibia, where I spent the first nine years of my life, is often extremely limited - as it is in much of the developing world. According to the UN, 90-98% of kids with disabilities in the Global South do not have the opportunity to go to school at all. At the time, indeed, I was beating the odds just to be alive. As a two-year-old, I was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy, a deadly degenerative disease that attacks the nervous system. Doctors told my mother I would most likely not live to see my fifth birthday. I am now 31.

My mother, who wiped the tears from my eyes, was determined. She found a school willing to take me. On my first day, I was placed at the very back of the classroom. It was clear little was expected of me. I stunned the teacher by writing my own name - something most of the other kids could not do. A smile spread across her face. She saw that I could learn just like, or maybe sometimes faster, than the others.

That experience taught me to reach high, no matter the obstacles in my path. My candidacy to succeed Bachelet seeks to push the

boundaries of possibility, not just for people with disabilities but for anyone who has ever felt devalued, underestimated, and marginalised.

If selected, I would be the youngest leader at the main leadership level. The UN often emphasises the importance of engaging young people, given our stake in the future. And yet we are an unrepresented demographic at the institution. Selecting a young leader for this position would give fresh impetus and authority to the work of the UN High Commissioner. Attainment of human rights for all very often feels like an impossible pursuit, especially now, when everything feels impossible. But, as Nelson Mandela pointed out, it always seems impossible until it is done.

At a time when the world is increasingly fractured and it feels as though we have simply stopped listening to one another, I think the office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is uniquely qualified to address the most pressing challenges of our day. For the first time since 2001, a majority of the world's population lives under non-democratic, rights-violating governments. We face heightened nationalism, an

emerging economic crisis, and a global pandemic - a health crisis that too many governments have met by claiming emergency powers and adopting restrictions that often violate rights. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said, human rights underpin "the entire UN system. [They] are essential to addressing the broad causes and impacts of all complex crises, and to building sustainable, safe, and peaceful societies."

Should the Secretary-General select me for this role, my job will be to identify and expose rights violations tirelessly, no matter what powerful interests stand in the way, and to engage with civil-society advocates to make the UN's work more participatory and more relevant to driving change. I am, admittedly, an outside-the-box candidate for this post - an impossible choice, some might say. But I believe, in these times especially, that fresh thinking, new energy, and an ability to see how to overcome seemingly impossible barriers is exactly what the world needs.

The writer is a Sustainable Development Goals advocate for the UN Secretary-General. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

Rise above partisanship

Sir, This refers to "Tackling friction will be Dhankhar's biggest challenge" **Orissa POST**, August 8. Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected the 14th Vice-President of India Saturday. His huge victory margin indicates that he managed to draw support even from the Opposition ranks, a fact underlined by the Prime Minister in his congratulatory message. This could be seen as an endorsement of Dhankhar's credentials as a leader to hold high office as much as it signifies the failure of the Opposition to stay together in an important political contest. The V-P, as the chair of Rajya Sabha, has the onerous task of conducting important legislative business in a polarised House. The immediate task for the new V-P would be to take the Opposition into confidence and, while drawing the line on discipline, to ensure that it's done with intent to accommodate rather than exclude. Dhankhar's tenure as Governor of West Bengal was marked by frequent run-ins with the TMC government. That's an image he may need to live down as V-P since this office, like that of the Governor, expects its occupant to rise above partisan interests and preside over the Upper House in a fair and objective manner. Dhankhar may have to don the robe of not only an impartial arbiter but also a persuasive negotiator whose primary intent shall be to protect the Rajya Sabha's sanctity as an inclusive and participatory legislative space. Welcome, Mr Vice President. **N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

Cheetah reintroduction

Sir, The government's decision to reintroduce cheetahs in Indian forests this month is an exciting and challenging move in terms of conservation as well as preserving its genetic diversity. It's quite exciting that a giant carnivore is being moved from one continent to another for the first time. The cheetah, the fastest land animal, has been rapidly heading towards extinction and is classified as a vulnerable species under the IUCN's red list of threatened species. An estimated 7,000 cheetahs remain in the wild and almost all of them are in Africa. The cheetah is the only large carnivore that has been totally lost from India, primarily as a result of poaching and habitat destruction and their come back to Indian jungles aids in maintaining India's critically threatened grassland ecosystems. The reintroduction of the cheetah has a number of biological goals since it will help to further worldwide conservation efforts and restore the previous evolutionary balance. **Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD**

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# national

## of the day quote

There are some people who call the provision of free education, free treatment by government facilities as 'reward' or 'freebies'. An atmosphere is being created in the country against provisions of free education at government schools and free treatment at government hospitals. We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the country's independence and we should be planning on strengthening such facilities but we are creating an atmosphere against them

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The Centre must declare Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project a national project and increase financial assistance for various centrally sponsored schemes

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

The Goa government will implement a hundred per cent of the syllabus in higher education institutes along the lines of the National Education Policy from the next academic year

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Ex-coal secy gets 3-year jail term

**New Delhi:** A Special court here Monday sentenced former coal secretary H.C. Gupta to three years imprisonment and former Joint Secretary K.S. Kropcha to two years jail term in a case related to the allocation of the Lohara East Coal block in Maharashtra. Special CBI Judge Arun Bhardwaj also imposed a fine of Rs 1 Lakh on Gupta, and Rs 50,000 on Kropcha for conspiring to cheat the government for the allocation of Grace Industries Ltd, Nagpur. Grace Industries was fined Rs 2 lakhs, and its Director and another accused in the case Mukesh Gupta was sentenced to four years imprisonment. He was also fined Rs 2 lakhs.

### IS man sent to NIA custody

**New Delhi:** A special court Monday remanded Mohsin Ahmad, the alleged IS man who was held by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday from Batla House, to NIA's custody till August 16. On Sunday, Ahmad was produced before the duty magistrate at Patiala House Courts which remanded him to only one-day NIA custody. Ahmad was again produced before the court on Monday by the NIA which sought his six-day remand. The case, the probe agency said, has links with several states and they need to take him to another state for the recovery of evidence and arresting his aide.

### Cop ends life

**Guwahati:** An Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Monday shot himself dead with his service revolver in Assam's Tinsukia town. The ASI has been identified as Dinakanta Sonowal, 50. Through he was rushed to a nearby hospital, his life could not be saved. Doctors said Sonowal sustained injuries on the head.

### Man arrested

**New Delhi:** A man was arrested for allegedly opening fire and injuring three children whom he had asked not to play on the street during a birthday party in northeast Delhi, police said Monday. The accused has been identified as Aamir alias Hamza (22), a resident of New Seelampur. He works as a casual labour and had been involved previously in another case, they said.



BJP does not respect the Constitution, national anthem and national flag. The celebration of the 75th year of Independence is being turned into a political event

SIDDARAMAIAH | CONGRESS LEADER

## STRICT VIGIL

More than 10,000 police personnel would be deployed around the historic Red Fort on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day August 15, the Delhi police said Monday



# Marred by disruptions, Monsoon session ends



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** The Monsoon session of Parliament ended Monday, four days ahead of schedule, after continued disruptions during the last three weeks over issues like price rise, suspension of 27 MPs, the controversial "Rashtrapati" remark and the Enforcement Directorate's action. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, which were adjourned sine die this afternoon, saw the passage of seven and five bills, respectively during the session which was to end on August 12. While Lok Sabha saw a total of 16 sittings that lasted for 44 hours and 29 minutes, the upper house met for 38 hours with as many as 47 hours lost due to disruptions, an issue flagged by outgoing Chairman Venkaiah Naidu who has frequently expressed unhappiness over the stalling of proceedings. Rajya Sabha also bid farewell to Vice President Naidu, whose tenure ends on August 10. During the next session, Rajya Sabha pro-

This is the seventh consecutive time Parliament session has been cut short. Stop mocking #Parliament. We will fight for its sanctity and prevent PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah from turning this great institution into the Gujarat Gymkhana

DEREK O'BRIEN  
TRINAMOL CONGRESS MP

ceedings would be chaired by Jagdeep Dhakhar, who will take over on August 11. Members cutting across party lines recalled the contributions of Naidu, noting how he inspired and allowed them to speak in their native languages. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his witty one-liners were "reversed, and never countered". He hailed Naidu's highly productive five-year term as vice president of India and Rajya Sabha chair-

man and said the attendance of members in the House increased during his tenure. The prime minister said a record 177 bills were passed or discussed during these five years. "Your one-liners are wit-liners and win-liners as well... There is nothing left to be said after that. Your every word is heard, preferred, revered and never countered," said the prime minister, imitating Naidu's trademark style of making incisive, witty and rhyming remarks. In his remarks, Naidu said people expect Parliament "to discuss, debate and not disrupt" and appealed to members to maintain "decency, dignity and decorum" so that the image and respect of the house are maintained. While adjourning the House also, he lamented that over 47 hours were lost due to disruptions in the upper house that prevented members from raising issues of public importance. Brushing aside speculation, Naidu said, "People now often talk - either president, otherwise dissident or a resident. I am not going to all these three." Before adjourning Rajya Sabha, which he presided over for the last time, Naidu said the house had 16 sittings during which it conducted business for more than 38 hours. Five government bills were discussed and passed. "However, more than 47 hours were lost due to interruptions which is a sad reflection of the functioning of the upper house of Parliament," Naidu said.

## 3 killed, 4 injured in Rajasthan stampede

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sikar (Rajasthan), August 8:** Three women were killed in a stampede outside the district's Khatu Shyamji temple when people waiting in queues tried to rush in as its doors opened in the early hours of Monday. Four others were injured in the incident on a day when tens of thousands of people from Rajasthan and neighbouring states were headed to the famous temple to mark "Gyaras" or "Ekadashi". Sikar Collector Avichal Chaturvedi said close to one lakh people were outside the main gate, queuing up after the doors closed the previous night. The stampede took place a little before 4.30 a.m. There was rush to enter and a woman fell, triggering the brief stampede that also killed two others, according to officials. "Prima facie, they died of suffocation but the exact cause of death will be clear after post-mortem," Chaturvedi told reporters. "The incident is unfortunate. The women fell due to the pressure of the crowd in their line. The lines for the entry to the temple start at different points and converge at the entry point," he said. Superintendent of Police K Rashtradeep said a 63-year-old woman who suffered from a heart ailment collapsed. "Two women behind her too fell due to the rush." Victim Shanti Devi's brother Mangat Ram was among those in the queue. "The stampede took place as soon as the temple opened for prayers. Somehow, we managed to escape. My sister was old, she got stuck and died. Others from my family suffered injuries," he said.

Superintendent of Police K Rashtradeep said a 63-year-old woman who suffered from a heart ailment collapsed. "Two women behind her too fell due to the rush." Victim Shanti Devi's brother Mangat Ram was among those in the queue. "The stampede took place as soon as the temple opened for prayers. Somehow, we managed to escape. My sister was old, she got stuck and died. Others from my family suffered injuries," he said.

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## SC notice to Centre on plea for law to control population

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 8:** The Supreme Court Monday issued notice to the Centre on a plea seeking a central law to control the "population explosion" in the country. Seeking the government's response, a bench of Justices S. Abdul Nazeer and J.K. Maheshwari tagged the petition with a similar plea filed by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Upadhyay. The Public Interest Litigation (PIL), filed through advocate Ashutosh Dubey, sought direction from the Centre to control the population explosion in order to se-

cure the basic rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21 of the Constitution. "Population explosion is also the root cause of the pitiable condition of our International Ranking. We are ranked 103rd in the Global Hunger Index, 43rd in Suicide Rate, 168th in Literacy Rate, 133rd in World Happiness Index, 125th in Gender Discrimination, 124th in Minimum Pay, 42nd in Employment Rate, 69th in Rule of Law Index, 43rd in Quality-of-Life Index, 51st in Financial Development Index, 177th in Environment Performance Index, 139th in GDP Per Capita," the plea said.

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## Sibal's SC remark stokes row

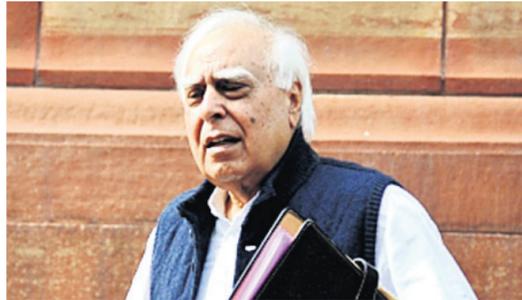
Sibal, a former law minister had criticised the apex court over its recent judgments, including on the PMLA, at an event Saturday and said he would complete 50 years as an advocate in the top court and after five decades, he had 'no hope left' in the institution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Kapil Sibal's "no hope left" from the Supreme Court remark stoked a controversy Monday, with the All India Bar Association terming it "contemptuous" and Law Minister Kiran Rijiju saying it was "very sad for the entire country" that opposition leaders start attacking constitutional bodies after verdicts do not favour them. Also on Monday, two lawyers filed separate pleas with Attorney General KK Venugopal, seeking his consent to initiate contempt proceedings against Sibal while BJP IT chief Amit Malviya asked the top court if it will invoke contempt against the former Congress leader for questioning the powers of the Chief Justice of India and other decisions of the SC. Sibal, a former law minister had criticised the apex court over its recent judgments, including on the PMLA, at an event Saturday and said he would complete 50 years as an advocate in the top court and after five decades, he had "no hope left" in the institution. "It is a misconception that you get solutions in the Supreme Court," he said and alleged that "sensitive" cases are now invariably assigned to a few select judges in the Supreme Court, and the legal fraternity usually knows what the judgment would be. Lashing out at him, Rijiju said statements made by Sibal and some Congress leaders "betray a mind-

set" that courts or any constitutional authority must favour them or work according to their interest. Whenever courts give a decree or a judgment against their mindset, they start attacking the constitutional authorities, he told reporters. This is "very very sad for the entire country" that prominent leaders and parties are criticizing constitutional institutions like the Supreme Court, high courts, Election Commission and other important agencies, the BJP leader said. These agencies and institutions

are absolutely autonomous and work according to the rule of law and are guided by the statutes, he said. "Our government is absolutely clear in its mind that the country must be governed by the constitutional proprieties as well as the rule of law. Any kind of attack on the constitutional authorities and the courts is very unfortunate and condemnable," Rijiju said. Taking to Twitter, Malviya said, "Kapil Sibal, who it is widely believed presides over a caucus that manages cases in the top court, questions SC's latest judgment on PMLA, a law he signed off on as a minister in the UPA. He also questions powers of the CJI and other decisions of the SC. "Will SC invoke contempt?" Reacting strongly, AIBA chairman and senior advocate Adish C Aggarwala said the courts decide cases by applying law to the facts presented by cases before them and they owe allegiance to the Constitution. These agencies and institutions



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## Stolen idol traced to NY auction house

According to the police, the Parvati idol was part of five idols that were burgled from the Nandanapureshwarar temple at Kumbakonam May 12, 1971

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, August 8:** The Tamil Nadu Police's Idol Wing has traced an idol of Goddess Parvati that was stolen from a temple in the state in 1971 to the Bonhams auction house in New York, officials said Monday. According to the police, the Parvati idol was part of five idols that were burgled from the Nandanapureshwarar temple at Kumbakonam on May 12, 1971. Police have now commenced the process to retrieve the idol and bring it back to India under the UNESCO's World Heritage Convention 1972. DGP, CID-Idol Wing Jayanth Murali, said: "We sought the help of an archaeologist who said that the photograph of the idol of Parvati that was kept at the French Institute of Pondicherry and the idol of Parvati on sale at Bonham's auction house is the same. This means that the idol of Parvati at Bonhams belongs to the



Devotees offer prayers to Lord Shiva on the last Somwar (Monday) of the holy month of Shravan in Moradabad. PTI PHOTO

## JEE-MAIN RESULT OUT

# 24 candidates score perfect 100

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Twenty-four candidates have got the perfect score in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main, results of which were announced Monday, according to the National Testing Agency. The top scorers include two girl students. Results of five candidates have been withheld by the agency for using unfair means. Maximum candidates bagging the top score in the first edition of JEE-Main, 2022

are from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (5) followed by Rajasthan (4) and Uttar Pradesh (2). One candidate each from Haryana, Maharashtra, Assam, Bihar, Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka and Jharkhand, has bagged the perfect score. The top scorers from Telangana are Rupesh Biyani, Dheeraj Kurukunda, Jasti Yashwanth V V S, Busa Siva Naga Venkata Aditya and Aniket Chattopadhyay. Menda Hima Vamsi, Koyyana Suhas, Palli Jalajakshi, Penikalapati

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Ravi Kishore and Polisetty Karthikeya are the top scorers from Andhra Pradesh. The top scorers from Rajasthan are Krishna Sharma, Mayank Motwani and Parth Bhardwaj. Other candidates who scored 100 are Sarthak Maheshwari (Haryana), Kushagra Srivastava (Jharkhand), Mrinal Garg (Punjab), Sneha Pareek (Assam), Boya Harsen Sathvik (Karnataka) and Saumitra Garg and Kanishka Sharma from Uttar Pradesh.

## Illegal structures at Tyagi's house razed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Noida, August 8:** Acting tough against the self-claimed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Shrikant Tyagi, the Noida Administration Monday razed to the ground - the illegally constructed permanent structure - by the abusive 'politician' inside a high-rise society here. The administration's tough stand came just three days after Tyagi indulged in a verbal spat with a woman over the plantation of palm trees. Tyagi had encroached the common area of the society and constructed a wooden shed that had multiple pillars below it. The demolition exercise was carried out by the Noida Authority in the morning around 9 a.m. As the bulldozers rolled on Tyagi's encroached area, the residents of the society expressed happiness and also distributed sweets among themselves. Later in the day, Additional Director General of UP police (law and order) Prashant Kumar, informed that the Uttar Pradesh Police have suspended six police personnel for their laxity in the case. "The in-charge of the local police station has been suspended. Besides, a sub-inspector and four constables have also been suspended for laxity in work," the senior official said. Apart from the strict action against its own officials, Kumar said for the safety of the woman complainant, two personal security officers (PSOs) have been assigned to her. Kumar assured that



The administration's tough stand came just three days after Tyagi indulged in a verbal spat with a woman over the plantation of palm trees

Noida Police has also declared a reward of Rs 25,000 for the person who gives information on the location of the absconding politician

the accused Tyagi, who is still at large, will soon be arrested as multiple teams are currently working on the case.

Noida Police has also declared a reward of Rs 25,000 for the person who gives information on the location of absconding politician. According to sources, an intense operation to nab the absconding accused is currently underway and multiple teams of the Noida Police are working in co-ordination to zero in on his location.

Sources told IANS that Tyagi's last location was traced in Uttarakhand between Haridwar and Rishikesh and multiple police teams went there but still he was not found.



Nandanapureshwarar temple at Kumbakonam.

Following the complaint after they were stolen in 1971, temple trustee K. Vasu, in 2019, lodged another complaint and said that he had seen the idols in 1971 when they were in public worship, and after that, he had not seen them. In the complaint, Vasu said that he had seen the locks of the temple broken while reaching there for worship and then two trustees of the temple had complained to the Nachiarkoyil police and the inspector had visited the temple. Vasu also said that no FIR was lodged then and hence he was filing the complaint. He filed the complaint with the Special Officer, Idol Wing, S.G. Pon Manickavel, and a case was registered in 2019.

# Leopards a worry as Kuno set to welcome cheetahs

EXPERTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT SAY SOME CONFLICT BETWEEN LEOPARDS AND CHEETAHS IS INEVITABLE, BUT THE FENCED OFF ENCLOSURE WILL GIVE THE CHEETAHS A LEVEL OF PROTECTION DURING THEIR MOST VULNERABLE TIME AS THEY COME TO TERMS WITH THEIR NEW HOME

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, August 8:** Spread over 344 sq.km, the Kuno National Park located in Sheopur and Morena districts of Gwalior-Chambal division in Madhya Pradesh, is getting ready to welcome the first batch of cheetahs from two African countries - South Africa and Namibia.

The Union government signed the MoU with Namibia last month in New Delhi, and if all goes as per the plan, four to eight cheetahs are likely to arrive in the first lot before August 15. However, Madhya Pradesh Wildlife was yet to receive a confirmed date from the Centre.

These African cheetahs will be brought to India under a translocation project. In India, the project is being managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Union Environment Ministry.

As per the wildlife officials in Madhya Pradesh, cheetahs from Namibia will be flown to South Africa and then to Delhi. After that they will be flown to Gwalior, subsequently they will be taken to Kuno National Park via road.

The official said that the animal will return to a wild enclosure in India 69 years after the last recorded cheetah was hunted down in what is now Chhattisgarh in 1952.

Meanwhile, authorities at Kuno have finalised preparations but the presence of three leopards in the enclosure of cheetahs is creating problems for them. The old dweller



of the forest (leopards) doesn't seem ready to share space with the foreigners.

Sources said the forest officials are scrambling to get things ready for the translocation. At least six leopards have been trapped so far. "Unless these leopards are evicted, the cheetahs cannot be brought in. Leopards are much larger than cheetahs and are known to injure or even kill them. Drop-door cages with goats have been used but only two cubs were caught and released outside the enclosure," said a wildlife official.

Officials in Kuno National Park told IANS that a 12 km-long and 9-feet high fence with electric overhangs and a 24x7 CCTV watch,

say some conflict between leopards and cheetahs is inevitable, but the fenced off enclosure will give the cheetahs a level of protection during their most vulnerable time as they come to terms with their new home.

"We were trying to shift the leopards naturally but now our priority is to shift them as soon as possible. The trap has been installed but the leopards are eluding the forest officials. Now, the forest officials will tranquilise the animals to remove them from the enclosure of 500 hectares," said JS Chauhan, principal chief conservator of forests in Madhya Pradesh.

Experts said the African cheetahs would be quarantined for at least two weeks, which is called a 'soft release.' During this period their health and activities will be closely monitored.

## 250 chital deer herded for cheetahs to prey on

**Bhopal:** The Forest department has herded 250 chital or spotted deer as the prey into the enclosure meant for cheetahs being brought to Kuno-Palpur National Park (KNP) from Africa shortly, a senior official said Monday. "We have put more than 250 chitals (spotted deer or axis deer) in the 'soft release enclosure' meant to acclimatize the cheetahs at the KNP," MP Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) JS Chauhan told PTI. The chital deer have been brought from the Pench Tiger Reserve and the Wildlife Sanctuary of Narsinghar in MP, he said. Chauhan said 500 more chital deer will be placed in the enclosure for the cheetah to prey on. Preparations are on to provide a good environment to the cheetahs given the fact that these mammals are coming to India from far off Africa and would be stressed and fatigued after such a long journey.

will give the cheetahs some degree of protection as they settle in their new home. Experts associated with the project

The second process is called a 'hard release,' during which cheetahs will be set free to move into the forest.

# 'Attack on states' rights': Mann on electricity amendment bill

Questioning the Centre's intent, Mann said when the states provide electricity to people on their own, then why their feedback was not sought while introducing the bill in Parliament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, August 8:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday said the Centre introducing the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 in Parliament was an attack on the constitutional rights of the states.

He accused the Union government of "weakening" the foundations of the federal structure through "such nefarious designs".

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 to allow non-discriminatory open access to distribution networks of power suppliers was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Centre Monday amid protests by the Opposition, which claimed that it seeks to take away certain rights of state governments.

Mann said it was another attempt of the central government to "undermine" the authority of the states.

He said the Centre should not consider the states as puppets. The states will not sit silently against this attempt of the government of India to "dilute the federal spirit of our democracy," Mann said in a statement issued here.

He said the states will fight from the road to Parliament to protect their rights.

The Union government should have consulted the states before introducing any bill related to



the power sector, the Punjab chief minister said.

"Instead, this Bill is being imposed on the states, which is a direct attack on the federal structure," he charged.

Questioning the Centre's intent, Mann said when the states provide electricity to people on their own, then why their feedback was not sought while introducing the bill in Parliament.

Citing the example of Punjab, he said farmers in the state are being given free electricity for agriculture purposes.

Likewise, free power supply is also being provided to domestic consumers and if the Centre is amending the Electricity Act as per its own conditions, the farmers and other sections will get a big blow as states like Punjab will not be able to continue such pro-people initiatives, he said.

Mann said the Centre should "desist from playing with fire".

It should not repeat the previous "mistake" of implementing the three "draconian" agricultural

laws, he added.

Mann asked the Union government to reconsider its move as the people of the country will never tolerate such "unilateral" decisions.

He demanded that the central government should take feedback from the states before enacting any law in the power sector.

Sunday, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 to allow for widespread consultation with all stakeholders including the states, farmers and farm unions.

He had said when the central government decided to repeal the three farm laws on December 9, 2021, it had assured that it would not go ahead with enacting the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 without holding prior consultation with all stakeholders including the states, political parties, farmers and farmer associations.

# Hoisting of Tricolour: Radicals pushed to the corner in Punjab

THE CONTROVERSY WAS RAKED UP BY THE 'RABBLE ROUSING' MP FROM SANGRUR, SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN, WHO IN A VIDEO MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OPPOSED THE HOISTING OF THE TRICOLOUR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 8:** With almost all mainstream political parties coming together on the issue of hoisting the Tricolour on rooftops of Independence Day, the hardliners in Punjab seem to have been pushed to the corner.

The controversy has been raked up by the 'rabble rousing' MP from Sangrur, Simranjit Singh Mann, president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) who in a video message to the people opposed the hoisting of the 'tiranga'. He was supported by the Dal Khalsa, a radical Sikh organisation that strived for the creation of Khalistan.

The state president of the Congress, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring criticised the radicals for "trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the state."

He said, "The Tricolour is a national symbol and every Indian should respect it. Tens of thousands of people, most of them Punjabis and Sikhs, laid down their lives to safeguard the honour of the Tricolour..."

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann who is also the AAP's Punjab convener, ridiculed Simranjit Singh Mann saying, "this country has been freed from the British after sacrifices made by our forefathers and those opposing the Tricolour have recently taken the oath of Constitution of India to be able to sit in the Parliament."

BJP spokesman and All India Working Committee member Harjit Singh Grewal said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is aimed at unifying the nation. Those opposed to the hoisting of Tiranga are doing a disservice to the country and such elements will automatically get alienated."

Surprisingly, MP Sukhbir Badal of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is yet undecided as to what stand to take on the issue. "I don't know what to say. Besides, the party doesn't need to take a stand on every issue," said a functionary of the SAD.

The SGPC, known as the mini-parliament of the Sikhs, is silent on the issue. A meeting of the executive committee is fixed for August 10, following which it may issue a statement.



# MP to generate extra 20K MW of green power by 2030

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, August 8:** Madhya Pradesh has set an ambitious target of generating an additional 20,000 megawatt (MW) of green power by 2030 through renewable energy sources, including setting up of a solar plant in the Chambal region once notorious for dacoits, and supplying it to other states.

The state currently produces 5,500 MW of green energy through various renewable power sources and a major part of it is sourced through solar power.

"We have set a target to produce an additional 20,000 MW of green power by 2030 through renewable energy sources in the state for supplying it to other states," Madhya Pradesh energy and renewable energy department's principal secretary, Sanjay Dubey, told PTI.

"Besides, in the next three-four years, the government has set a target to generate 10,000 MW of green power by establishing the 1,500 MW capacity Agar-Shajapur-Neemuch solar park, 600 MW Omkareshwar floating solar power plant, which is among the world's biggest such facility, 750 MW hybrid project, 950 MW hybrid storage Chattarpur project, 500 MW Kusum-A and 1,250 MW Kusum-C projects will be implemented among others," he said. Megawatts are used to measure the output of a power plant or the amount of electricity required by an entire

The state currently produces 5,500 MW of green energy through various renewable power sources and a major part of it is sourced through solar power



city. Dubey said under a hybrid facility, both solar panels and windmills are established to generate green energy by taking advantage of Sun rays as well as wind velocity by taking the advantage of both mediums. Similarly, under the Kusum Scheme, small renewable energy plants are being set up by farmers and others for generating 2-3 MW of green power, the senior official said.

"This will turn them (farmers) from producers of traditional food grains into developers of clean energy which will also supplement their income," he said.

The state government is also setting up a 1,400 MW solar power plant in the Chambal region in the Morena district.

This region was earlier ill-famous for bandits, but now the Chambal expressway and the solar power plant are coming up in this area as part of the government's development plans.

Dubey said the government is also planning to establish a solar power plant in the vast Chambal ravines which will be implemented in the next few years.

Referring to the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project, he said that it was Madhya Pradesh's first, India's largest and one of the biggest floating solar power plants in the world. Under the first phase, 278 MW of power will be generated for which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked recently.

The floating solar project is being

implemented under the Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks Scheme (UMREPP).

The entire 600 MW of power generated from the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project will be procured by the state discoms (distribution companies) through the Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company (MPPMCL), an official associated with the project said.

The first phase of the 278 MW capacity of this project is proposed to be completed by September 2023.

The Omkareshwar project would be one of the multi-purpose projects in India wherein apart from the existing utilities such as irrigation and hydropower generation, solar energy will also be gener-

ated along with the promotion of tourism, the official said.

In addition, the project will bring many benefits to the people of Madhya Pradesh such as a reduction of about 12 lakh tons of carbon emission in meeting the energy demand, saving of about 1200 hectares of precious land that may find utility in agriculture or other industry for boosting the state economy.

No need for land has effectively eliminated the requirement of displacing the people from their natural habitat, which is quite pleasant from the social point of view, the official added.

"In ground-mounted solar projects, underground water is used to clean the solar panel. However, in the floating solar project, water from the reservoir will be used for cleaning purposes which would flow back into the reservoir, leading to virtually no loss of water besides saving the valuable groundwater," the official explained.

In addition to saving groundwater, it will be possible to save the reservoir water from evaporation from the floating solar project.

"Due to low evaporation, there will be an annual saving of about 32.4 million cubic meters of water. This amount of water saving is almost enough to meet the daily demand of water for a city like Indore for up to 112 days," the official added.

# 92-yr-old man to reunite with kin in Pakistan

Two YouTubers from India and Pakistan played a role in helping the two relatives reconnect after 75 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jalandhar, August 8:** A 92-year-old man hailing from Punjab will reunite with his nephew from Pakistan, 75 years after they were separated at the time of Partition, and many of their relatives were killed in the communal violence.

Nonagenarian Sarwan Singh will be meeting his brother's son Mohan Singh at the historic Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, the final resting place of Sikhism's founder Guru Nanak Dev, in Pakistan. "Nana ji (Sarwan Singh) was

quite happy today when he was going to meet his nephew at Kartarpur Sahib," Parvinder told PTI over the phone.

At the time of Partition, Mohan Singh, who now has a new identity, having a Muslim name, after being raised by a Muslim family in Pakistan, was about six years old, said Parvinder.

Two YouTubers from India and Pakistan played a role in helping the two relatives reconnect after 75 years.

A Jandiala-based YouTuber had documented several Partition stories and a few months ago he



met Sarwan Singh and posted a video of his life story on his YouTube channel.

Across the border, a Pakistani YouTuber narrated the story of Mohan Singh who was separated from his family at the time of Partition.

Incidentally, a Punjab-origin man based in Australia saw the two videos and helped the relatives connect.

In one of the videos, Sarwan mentioned the identity marks of his missing nephew, saying he had two thumbs on one hand and a prominent mole on one of his thighs. On the other hand, in the video posted by the Pakistani YouTuber similar things were shared about Mohan, said Parvinder.

Later, the Australia-based man managed to get in touch with both families on either side of the border.

The grandfather identified Mohan with his identity marks, said Parvinder.

Sarwan's family used to live in village Chak 37, now in Pakistan, and 22 members of his extended family were killed in communal violence at the time of Partition.

Sarwan and other family members managed to cross over to India but Mohan Singh, who escaped the violence, was later raised by a Muslim family in Pakistan.

Sarwan, who was living in Canada with his son, has been staying at village Sandhman near Jalandhar at his daughter's home since the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

Parvinder said his mother Rachhpal Kaur is accompanying Sarwan who will meet his nephew at Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

of the day quote

It is both a tragedy and a comedy to witness husbands of elected women representatives take oath as 'members' of Panchayats in Madhya Pradesh!

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

There is an acute shortage of irrigation facilities in the state. The existing facilities can cover only 20 per cent of the land.

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

The Centre should not go against the federal structure of the Constitution and legislation on subjects listed in its concurrent list should be carried out in consultation with the states

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

SHORT TAKES

5 killed in AP

Amaravati: Five persons were killed in a road accident in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district in the early hours of Monday.

Smuggler held

Guwahati: A Bangladeshi national has been arrested in Assam 'Morigaon over suspicion of smuggling cattle from India to Bangladesh, said an official.

Two dead

Gandhidham (Gujarat): Two labourers were killed in an explosion at a scrap yard in Anjar town in Gujarat's Kutch district, police said Monday.

Two arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested two people for threatening and wrongfully restraining and harassing a 45-year-old man for not paying a debt of Rs 20 lakh, an official said Monday.

SPO ends life

Jammu: A special police officer (SPO) killed himself with his service rifle Monday in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.



The governments ruling the national capital have failed to serve Delhiites' interests amidst their fight and furthering of political interests

MAYAWATI | BSP LEADER

PLEA REJECTED

Authorities of the Presidency Central Correctional Home, where Trinamool Congress leader and former West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee is lodged, have denied the latter's plea for rice at both meals on medical grounds



Maha cabinet expansion today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 8: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will expand his 40-day-old ministry August 9, a close aide of the CM said Monday. Shinde was sworn in as the CM on June 30 along with Devendra Fadnis, who took oath as Deputy CM.

Ajit Pawar, Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly, said Shinde had promised a ministerial berth to every MLA who joined him. "Now Shinde is not able to fulfil his promise, hence the delay in cabinet expansion."

73 PEOPLE DIE DUE TO FLOOD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 8: As many as 73 people lost their lives while 7,386 people have taken shelter in 75 relief camps in Karnataka due to floods and rain-related incidents during the ongoing monsoon, state Revenue Minister R Ashoka said Monday.

The minister said 161 villages in 14 districts were badly hit by the heavy rains and floods affected 21,727 people in recent days. "As many as 73 people lost their lives, which comprises 15 deaths due to lightning, five due to tree collapse, 19 due to house collapse, 24 swept away in rivers, nine due to landslide and one due to electrocution."

As many as 8,197 people were shifted to safety, Ashoka said, adding, 75 relief camps have been opened where 7,386 people have taken shelter. The minister said 666 houses have been completely damaged.

CJI has 10 days and 5 judgments to deliver

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 8: With just 10 days left in office, Chief Justice N.V. Ramana's decision is awaited on five key matters - Maharashtra political scenario, report by Pegasus panel, PMS security lapse in Punjab, attempt by Maharashtra Wakf Board to replace Attorney General K.K. Venugopal as the counsel in the case, setting up of a bench to hear petitions against the Karnataka High Court judgment banning wearing of hijab in pre-university colleges in the state - and others, which include petitions challenging Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and listing of pe-

titions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, which provided a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Justice Ramana has been vocal about non-filling up of judicial vacancies and not improving the judicial infrastructure as the main reason for pendency of cases in the country. He has also emphasised access to justice for the people from the weaker sections of the society.

Ramana has minced no words in criticising the government while speaking at public fora and also tried to decide matters of constitutional salience - on May 11, a bench headed by him put on hold the colonial-era penal provision of sedition, saying



the court is cognizant of the integrity of the state on one hand, and the civil liberties of citizens on the other. The Chief Justice is scheduled to retire on August 26.

Last week, the Chief Justice shot a volley of questions at senior

advocate Harish Salve, representing Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, while hearing petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs on constitutional issues of split, merger, defection, and disqualification. On August 4, a three-judge bench headed by him had said that the court would decide on August 8 whether to refer some issues involved in the Maharashtra political crisis to a five-judge constitutional bench.

The apex court had also asked the Election Commission of India not to decide the application filed by the Shiv Sena camp for recognising them as the real Shiv Sena and allotment of the party symbol. The matter is

likely to come up for hearing soon.

Reportedly, the court-constituted Pegasus panel has submitted its report in the alleged misuse of the Pegasus spyware to spy on journalists, politicians and activists. The committee is headed by former Supreme Court judge R.V. Raveendran. The contents of the report remain confidential. The top court decision on the panel's report is awaited. On August 3, the Supreme Court had agreed to set up a bench to consider a clutch of pleas against the Karnataka High Court judgment, which upheld the right of educational institutions to ban wearing of hijab in pre-university colleges in the state.

POLITICAL CRISIS BREWS IN BIHAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna/Kolkata/New Delhi, August 8: Amid a brewing political crisis in Bihar, the leading opposition party RJD Monday said it was ready to "embrace" Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his JD(U) if he broke ranks with the BJP.

The Congress and Left parties too indicated Monday that they would support such a move, intensifying speculation which has been rife for some time that a final break between Kumar's JD(U) and the saffron camp is imminent.

Announcements that MLAs of both the Janata Dal (United) and Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal would be holding meetings tomorrow have only fed the political frenzy in this highly politicised state.

Ostensibly, Kumar has convened a meeting of JD(U) MLAs and MPs on Tuesday to discuss the scenario that has emerged following the exit of former national president RCP Singh.

A day ahead of a key meeting, the Janata Dal (United) on Monday significantly said whatever decision is taken under the leadership of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will be accepted by everyone in the organisation.

JD(U) spokesperson K C Tyagi said, "Nitish Kumar is the undis-



puted leader of the JD(U). He commands respect in the rank and file of the party. Therefore there is no question of any kind of split in the party. Whatever decision is taken by the party under Nitish Kumar's leadership will be accepted by everyone."

RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwary said that convening meetings of legislators by both parties on Tuesday were a clear indication that the situation was extraordinary.

"Personally, I am not aware of the goings on. But we cannot ignore the fact that both parties, which together had sufficient numbers to muster a majority, have convened such meetings when an assembly session is not round the corner," Tiwary told reporters here.

"If Nitish chooses to dump NDA, what choice do we have except to embrace him ('gale lagaenge'). RJD is committed to fighting the BJP. If the chief minister decides to join this fight, we will have to take him

along," said Tiwary. He was also asked whether the RJD would be willing to forget bitter episodes of the past. Kumar had done a volte face and returned to the NDA in 2017 leaving a coalition government with RJD and Congress which he led as chief minister, high and dry.

This happened after the wily leader, who had been a chief minister of a coalition government with BJP for three terms, left the NDA in 2014 to join hands with Congress and RJD and form a new grand alliance government. "In politics, we cannot remain prisoners of the past. We socialists had started off opposing the Congress which was then in power. The Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi was imposed invoking the Constitution. "The BJP, which has now become a behemoth, seems out to destroy the Constitution. We have to respond to the challenges of the times," Tiwary said.

Raut sent to 14-day judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 8: A special court here Monday remanded Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut to 14-day judicial custody in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the redevelopment of a Mumbai 'chawl'.

The court allowed Raut's plea for home food and medicines, but refused to pass an order on his prayer for bedding. The judge said as per the prison manual, jail authorities make adequate bed arrangements.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which had arrested the Sena Rajya Sabha member on August 1, said during the course of custodial interrogation, Raut did not explain about his involvement into the alleged crime. The release of the accused at this stage will hamper the investigation, the probe agency said in its application.

"Being a very influential person, against whom allegations of threatening of the witnesses have surfaced, it is apprehended that he may tamper with the evidence and ensure the trail of proceeds of crime is completely obfuscated," it said. Therefore, the accused may be remanded to judicial custody



The court allowed Raut's plea for home food and medicines, but refused to pass an order on his prayer for bedding

in the interest of the ongoing investigation, it added.

Raut, 60, was arrested by the ED in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl (row tenement) in suburban Goregaon. He was produced before special PMLA judge M G Deshpande at the end of his ED custody on Monday.

The federal probe agency did not seek further extension of his custody. The ED said during the course of custodial interrogation, Raut did not explain about his involvement which was within his exclusive knowledge, and gave evasive replies.

NIA carries out raids in Doda, Jammu against JeI members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu/Doda, August 8: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Monday carried out searches at multiple places in Jammu and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir against members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in a terror-funding case, officials said.

Simultaneous raids were conducted at seven premises of JeI office-bearers and members in different parts of the two districts in the early hours of Monday, they said. "NIA conducted searches at premises of six suspects in Doda and one in Jammu in the case pertaining to JeI, which even after its declaration as an unlawful association in 2019, continues to raise funds in various forms purportedly for charitable purposes," an NIA spokesperson said.

The NIA said the searches led to the recovery of incriminating literature, receipts of funds raised by JeI, bank and property-related documents, and electronic devices. Official sources said the raids were carried out at Dhara-Gundana, Munshi Mohalla, Akramband, Nagri Nai Basti, Kharoti Bhagwah, Thalela and Malothi Bhalla in Doda district and Bhatindi in Jammu.

The searches were carried out in a case related to terror funding, they said. The case, registered by NIA suo motu on February 5 last year, pertains to the activities of the Jamaat-e-Islami members who have been collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations, particularly in the form of 'Zakat, Mowda and Bait-ul-Mal' purportedly to further charity and other welfare activities but are using the money for "violent and secessionist" activities.

PATRIOTIC TOUCH



Students participate in an umbrella painting workshop, organised under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, in Varanasi. Students made paintings on umbrellas on the theme of freedom struggle

The past has a way of returning to haunt the future

Even as the Supreme Court arbitrates on the constitutional aspects of the political imbroglio caused by the splintering of the Shiv Sena and the fall of the MVA government, the traditional Gujarat-Maharashtra rivalry is set to influence political events for quite some time to come.

The first indication that the surface calm hides inner turmoil emerged with the backlash to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's statement in Mumbai. He was quoted as saying that if Gujaratis and Rajasthanis are removed from the state, especially Mumbai and Thane, it would be left with no money and would cease to be the financial capital of the country. The reaction was swift with the NCP, Shiv Sena, Congress and even Chief Minister Eknath Shinde criticising it.

The Governor had inadvertently walked into a minefield at a time when feelings ran high amongst cadres of the NCP and the Congress and particularly Shiv Sena which rose under the leadership of Bal Thackeray riding astride 'Marathi pride'. The unseating of his son Uddhav from chief ministership has hit where it hurts most. The clarification on Saturday that the Governor had been misquoted and no hurt to Marathi pride was intended failed to assuage sentiments primarily because it has added to the perception that the move has the blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has been executed by his 'chanakya' Amit Shah. That the two hail from the neighbouring state, may be incidental but has heightened the hurt. For Uddhav Thackeray the feeling of betrayal hits harder because Bal Thackeray had sup-

ported Modi rock-like when he was under a cloud in the aftermath of the 2002 communal riots, even pleading with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee against re-



placing him.

Maharashtra and Gujarat came into being in 1960 following the bifurcation of bi-lingual Bombay state after a struggle that saw the Marathi and Gujarati speaking population at loggerheads. The transition was not smooth due to claims and counter-claims on towns and cities though these were ulti-

mately settled but resentment lingered due to Gujarati domination of business in Maharashtra.

According to a published report this rivalry was best exemplified in the close race between the two political parties in the 2017 in the Brihanmumbai municipal corporation results. Not only is there a growing perception that Modi wants Maharashtra in his kitty whatever the cost but also that this was the reason for the earlier attempt at splitting the NCP which was thwarted by veteran Sharad Pawar.

Old political hands also believe that the move to split the Sena is a game plan to decimate it so that BJP remains the sole political heir of Hindutva. Koshiyari's controversial statement is also viewed as a part of this Modi-Shah narrative. The choice of Surat in Gujarat as the regrouping point for the Shinde

led splinter group before being flown to Assam further strengthens this belief.

The flight of the Shiv Sena rebels to Assam draws interesting parallels with a similar rebellion that was crafted in 1995 against the first BJP government in Gujarat headed by Keshubhai Patel. Shankersinh Vaghela, a senior BJP leader was the architect of the rebellion wherein 47 of the total 121 BJP legislators in a House of 182 had flown away to Khajuraho by a chartered flight after withdrawing support. Modi was the organization secretary of the state party and in the truce that was brokered by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Keshubhai Patel was replaced by Suresh Mehta as Chief Minister and Modi was transferred out of Gujarat. However the truce did not last and Vaghela

came to power as chief minister heading a regional party with the support of the Congress. If Modi's boys refined the Khajuraho experience in Assam, the Thackerays too have taken a page out of Modi's strategy book to turn the tables on him at a time of his choosing.

Modi's entire chief ministerial stint in Gujarat was spent in branding UPA chairman Mrs Sonia Gandhi, the Nehru family and the Manmohan Singh-led Congress government as anti-Gujarat. His entire political plank entailed Centre-bashing and cashed-in on the injured innocence of 'gujarati asmita' (Gujarati pride). It won him good until he left in 2014 to take over as prime minister. Thackeray intends to do a Modi on BJP in Maharashtra. He is holding his fire until the apex court ruling.

# international



**Around us, a storm is gathering. US-China relations are worsening, with intractable issues, deep suspicions, and limited engagement**  
LEE HSIEN LOONG | PM, SINGAPORE

## CHILE SINKHOLE GROWING

A sinkhole in Chile has doubled in size, growing large enough to engulf France's Arc de Triomphe and prompting officials to order work to stop at a nearby copper mine. The sinkhole, which emerged July 30, now stretches 50 meters across and goes down 200 meters



## of the day quote

The Ukrainian delegation has gone off the radar, there is no negotiation process now. As for a meeting between Presidents Putin and Zelenskyy, it is possible only after all the homework has been done by the delegations  
DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESPERSON, KREMLIN

Our country's position remains what it always has been. We will give up nothing of what is ours  
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Families are facing a long, hard winter with rising bills. Yet Liz's plan to deal with that is to give a big bung to large businesses and the well-off, leaving those who most need help out in the cold  
RISHI SUNAK | FORMER CHANCELLOR, UK

## SHORT TAKES

### Fragile Israel, Gaza ceasefire holding

**Gaza City:** A fragile cease-fire deal to end nearly three days of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza held into Monday morning — a sign the latest round of violence may have abated. The flare-up was the worst fighting between Israel and Gaza militant groups since Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers fought an 11-day war last year. Over three days of fighting, 44 Palestinians were killed, including 15 children and four women, and 311 were wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

### Over 80K tourists stranded in China

**Beijing:** The capital of China's Hainan province has locked down its residents for 13 hours Monday as a Covid-19 outbreak grows on the tropical island during the summer school holidays. Some 80,000 tourists have reportedly been stranded by the lockdown in Sanya. Those wanting to depart have to test negative five times over seven days. More than 470 new cases were recorded in the province Sunday, of which 245 did not show symptoms. Overall, China reported more than 760 new daily cases, the National Health Commission said Monday.

### TTP chief killed in Af bombing

**Islamabad:** The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Monday confirmed that one of its top commanders, who was behind some of deadliest attacks in recent years, was killed in a bombing in Afghanistan. Abdul Wali Mohmand, also known under the alias Omar Khalid Khorasani, was on the US State Department's wanted list and was offering a reward of up to \$3 million for information on his whereabouts, reports dpa news agency. At least two other commanders were also killed in the bombing which came exactly a week after a US drone strike in Kabul had killed Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri.

### 52% fuel price hike: Protests in B'desh

**Dhaka:** A steep increase in fuel prices in Bangladesh saw protests erupting across the country. The hike, which according to Bangladeshi media is "highest ever", has increased the prices of petrol and diesel by more than 50 per cent. Bangladesh is another of India's neighbour after the island country of Sri Lanka, to have been hit by such demonstrations. Angry demonstrators surrounded fuel stations throughout Bangladesh demanding the unexpected price increase be reversed.

## NO RESPITE FOR TAIWAN

# China extends military drills

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan last week infuriated China, which regards the self-ruled island as its own and responded with test launches of ballistic missiles over Taipei for the first time, as well as ditching some lines of dialogue with Washington

REUTERS

**Taipei, August 8:** China's military announced fresh military drills Monday in the seas and air-space around Taiwan - a day after the scheduled end of its largest ever exercises to protest against last week's visit to Taipei by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. China's Eastern Theatre Command said it would conduct joint drills focusing on anti-submarine and sea assault operations - confirming the fears of some security analysts and diplomats that Beijing would continue to maintain pressure on Taiwan's defences. "In the face of military intimidation created by China, Taiwan will not be afraid nor back down, and will more firmly defend its sovereignty, national security, and free and democratic way of life," the ministry said in a statement.

The duration and precise location of the latest drills is not yet known, but Taiwan has already eased flight restrictions near the six earlier Chinese exercise areas surrounding the island. Beyond the firing of 11 short-range ballistic missiles during the four earlier days of exercises, Chinese warships, fighter jets and drones manoeuvred extensively around the island. Shortly before those drills ended Sunday, about 10 warships each from China and Taiwan manoeuvred at close quarters around the unofficial median line of the Taiwan Strait, according to a person familiar with the situation who is involved with security planning.

**MILITARY TALKS SHELVED**  
In Taipei, defence ministry spokesman Sun Li-fang told reporters that Taiwan's armed forces had "calmly" handled the Chinese drills. Earlier, the ministry had said the drills had used warships, aircraft and drones to simulate attacks on the island and its navy. China's designated no fly zones, and crossings of the median line, have "compressed" Taiwan's training space and will affect the normal operation of international flights and air routes in the future, the ministry said in a statement.



China was supposed to end military drills Sunday but has extended the schedule of war games in a show of escalation

A Chinese state television commentator said late Sunday that the Chinese military would now conduct "regular" drills on the Taiwan side of the line

Taiwan's foreign ministry condemned the move, saying China was deliberately creating crises. It demanded Beijing stop its military actions and "pull back from the edge"

China's designated no fly zones, and crossings of the median line, have "compressed" Taiwan's training space and will affect the normal operation of international flights and air routes in the future, the ministry said in a statement.

China called off formal talks involving theatre-level commands, defence policy co-ordination and military maritime consultations Friday as Pelosi left the region.

## 'TAIWAN IS NOT A PART OF US BUT CHINESE TERRITORY'

**BEIJING:** Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that Taiwan is not part of the United States but Chinese territory, in the latest diplomatic inective against US policy since a visit to Taiwan by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. He also said China is conducting normal military exercises "in our own waters" in an open, transparent and professional way. 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.

## CHERNOBYL-STYLE CATASTROPHE

# Russian bombing on Ukraine N-plant triggers global alarm

Moscow and Kyiv have blamed each other for strikes on the Europe's largest nuclear power plant, where recent fighting sparked a UN warning of a potential nuclear disaster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Kyiv, August 8:** International alarm over weekend artillery attacks on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear complex grew Monday with Kyiv warning of the risk of a Chernobyl-style catastrophe and appealing for the area to be made a demilitarised zone.

The United Nations chief called for access to the plant as Kyiv and Moscow traded blame for the shelling in a southern region captured by Russian invaders in March and now targeted by Kyiv for a counter-offensive. "Any attack (on) a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told a news conference Monday.

Petro Kotin, head of Ukraine's state nuclear power company Energoatom, called for a team of peacekeepers to be deployed at the Zaporizhzhia site, which is still run by Ukrainian technicians.

"The decision that we demand from the world community and all our partners... is to withdraw the invaders from the territory of the station and create a demilitarised zone on the territory of the station," Kotin said on television. Russia's defence ministry said that Ukrainian shelling had damaged high-voltage power lines servicing the Soviet-era plant and forced it to reduce output by two of its six reactors to "prevent disruption".

## US Senate approves Biden's landmark Bill



The move would give Biden a clear victory on one of his top agenda items and go some way toward restoring US leadership in meeting the global climate challenge

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, August 8:** After 18 months of arduous negotiations and a marathon night of debate, the US Senate on Sunday passed Joe Biden's ambitious climate, tax and health care plan - a significant victory for the president ahead of crucial midterm elections.

Voting as a unified bloc and with the tie-breaking vote cast by Vice President Kamala Harris, Democrats approved the \$430 billion spending plan, which will go to the House of Representatives next week, where it is expected to pass before being signed into law by Biden.

The plan, crafted in sensitive talks with members on the right wing of his Democratic Party, would include the biggest US investment ever on climate - \$370 billion aimed

at effecting a 40 percent drop in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Biden hailed the passage of the bill, highlighting the work that went into it - and acknowledging that not everyone is happy with the final result.

"It required many compromises. Doing important things almost always does. The House should pass this as soon as possible and I look forward to signing it into law," the president said in a statement.

The bill would provide ordinary Americans with a tax credit of up to \$7,500 when purchasing an electric car, plus a 30 percent discount when they install solar panels on their roofs.

It would also provide millions to help protect and conserve forests - which have been increasingly ravaged in recent years by wildfires during record heat waves that scientists say are linked to global warming.

Billions of dollars in tax credits would also go to some of the country's worst-polluting industries to help their transition to greener methods - a measure bitterly opposed by some liberal Democrats who have, however, accepted this as a least-bad alternative after months of frustration.

## INDO-PAK 'BACKCHANNEL' TALKS HIT A DEAD END



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Islamabad, August 8:** Backchannel talks between Pakistan and India have met a dead end as both sides have struggled to agree on the moves that may pave the way for slow but gradual improvement in the relationship, a media report said citing an informed source.

"Talks have been going on but have reached a point where things aren't moving anywhere," The Express Tribune report quoted the source as saying.

There has been a desire from both sides to break the impasse but the issue is how to move forward from this point onwards, the source explained. What has slowed down the process was the political uncertainty in Pakistan, The Express

Tribune reported.

There was a glimmer of hope for a possible thaw in the relationship following the change of government in Pakistan in April.

What spurred the optimism was that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first leaders to congratulate his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif when the latter assumed office in April.

The source said backchannel contacts that began during the PTI government's tenure picked up pace in April after the change of government. But despite "intense" backchannel diplomacy, the two sides were not willing to concede an inch on their respective issues.

Pakistan is keen that India must take steps with regards to Kashmir before any process of normalisation of ties begins. New Delhi, however, is more interested in Islamabad first exploring the option of resuming bilateral trade, The Express Tribune quoted the source as saying further.

The friction in the relationship prevented Pakistani and Indian foreign ministers from interacting with each other at the recent meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tashkent.

## Heat rises as France tackles its worst drought on record

National weather agency Meteo France said it was the worst drought since records began in 1958 and that the drought was expected to worsen until at least the middle of the month

REUTERS



Cracked and dry earth is seen on the banks of Le Broc lake, as a historical drought hits France

Water restrictions are in place across almost all of mainland France to conserve water

for the baking hot air spreads north early in the week.

"This new heatwave is likely to set in," La Chaîne Meteo, similar to the US cable service The Weather Channel, said.

National weather agency Meteo France said it was the worst drought since records began in 1958 and that the drought was expected to worsen until at least the middle of the month. On average, less than 1cm of rain fell across France in July.

The corn harvest is expected to be 18.5% lower this year compared with 2021, the agriculture ministry has said, just as Europeans contend with higher

power output and stressed crops. Temperatures were expected to hit 37 Celsius in the southwest be-

food prices as a result of lower-than-normal grain exports from Russia and Ukraine.

Meanwhile, a shortage of fodder because of the drought meant there could be a shortage of milk in the months ahead, the National Federation of Farmers' Unions said.

Nuclear operator EDF last week reduced its power output at a plant in southwestern France due to high river temperatures on the Garonne, and it has issued rolling warnings for reactors along the Rhone river.

The hot weather has compounded the utility's problems, with corrosion problems and extended maintenance at half of its 56 reactors reducing capacity as Europe faces an energy crunch.

## SPY SHIP ROW Stop disturbing exchange with SL, China slams India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, August 8:** Riled by Sri Lanka's request to defer the planned docking of a high-tech Chinese research vessel at the strategic Hambantota Port, China Monday took a dig at India, saying it was "senseless to pressure" Colombo by citing the issue of security concerns.

According to reports from Colombo, Sri Lanka has asked Beijing to defer the arrival of the Chinese space and satellite tracking research vessel 'Yuan Wang 5' which was scheduled to dock at the Hambantota Port from August 11 to 17 due to security concerns expressed by India.

Responding to the reports, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that Beijing has taken note of the reports and asserted that "the cooperation between China and Sri Lanka is independently chosen by the two countries and meets common interests. It does not target any third party".

It is "senseless to pressure Sri Lanka" by citing the issue of security concerns, he said, in reference to the reports that Sri Lanka's move was attributed to concerns expressed by India. "Sri Lanka is a sovereign state. It can develop relations with other countries in the light of its own development interests," he said.

"China urges relevant parties to see scientific explorations in a reasonable way and stop disturbing the normal exchange between China and Sri Lanka," Mr Wang said.

Sri Lanka is a transport hub in the Indian Ocean. Many scientific exploration ships including those from China have stopped at the port of Sri Lanka for resupplies, he said. "China has always exercised the freedom of navigation in the high seas and fully respects the jurisdiction of coastal states for the scientific exploration activities within their waters," he said.

According to reports, India informed Sri Lanka that the docking of the high-tech Chinese research vessel could pose a threat to its national security. Sri Lanka received strong messages of protests from India as the ship was said to have the capability to track satellites and intercontinental ballistic missiles, the reports said.

## of the day quote

Over the next 12 months our investments across the Green Energy value chain will gradually start going live, scaling up over the next couple of years

**MUKESH AMBANI** | CHAIRMAN, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

2022 is driven more by the chip issue, so the real situation of demand will only emerge once we are able to produce with no constraints of semiconductor supplies and that is sometime away

**TARUN GARG** | DIRECTOR (SALES, MARKETING AND SERVICE), HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA

The total planned capex for the next three years is ₹48,700 crore, which includes ₹20,000 crore planned for this current financial year

**SAJJAN JINDAL** | CMD, JSW STEEL

## SHORT TAKES

### Rupee closes at 79.64 against \$

**Mumbai:** The rupee fell 40 paise to close at 79.64 (provisional) against the US dollar Monday amid waning risk appetite among investors. Lower global crude prices and a rally in domestic equities restricted the losses to some extent, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened weak at 79.50 per dollar. It oscillated between a high of 79.45 and a low of 79.65 during the session. It finally settled at 79.64, down 40 paise over its previous close of 79.24.

### Bharti Airtel Q1 profit up five-fold

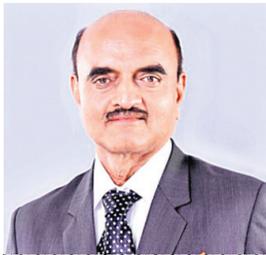
**New Delhi:** Telecom operator Bharti Airtel Monday reported an over five-fold rise in its consolidated profit to ₹1,607 crore for the first quarter ended June 30. The company had posted a profit of ₹283.5 crore in the year-ago period. Its consolidated revenue from operations increased by about 22 per cent to ₹32,805 crore during the reported quarter from ₹26,854 crore a year ago. The company's revenue rose 24 per cent to ₹23,319 crore in June 2022 quarter from ₹18,828.4 crore in the year-ago quarter.

### RIL invests ₹30k-cr in retail in FY22

**New Delhi:** Reliance Industries invested ₹30,000 crore (around \$3.76 billion) in its retail business and added 2,500 stores, taking the total storecount to 15,196 in FY22. Besides, Reliance Retail added 11.1 million square feet of warehousing space during the year, nearly doubling the warehousing space to 22.7 million square feet, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) said in the annual report for FY22. In FY22, Reliance Retail added over 1.50 lakh jobs, taking its total headcount to 3.61 lakh.

### IOC to expand ops in Sri Lanka

**Colombo:** The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will expand its operations in Sri Lanka by opening 50 fuelling stations, a top official of the LIOC said Monday, amidst the worst economic as well as fuel crisis facing the island nation. The Lanka Indian Oil Corporation (LIOC) would invest in storage tanks and other equipment while the dealers are expected to have the land and bear other infrastructure costs, Lanka IOC Managing Director Manoj Gupta said. "Expressing gratitude to the Sri Lanka government, we feel proud to have received permission for the opening of 50 new sheds (fuelling stations)," Gupta told reporters here.



**Government of India has decided to call off the present EoI process for strategic disinvestment of BPCL. The decision on re-initiation of the strategic disinvestment process of BPCL depends on the review of the situation in due course**

**BHAGWAT KISHANRAO KARAD** | MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

### ALEXA! START MY ROOMBA

Amazon will acquire iRobot Corp, maker of the robotic vacuum cleaner Roomba, in an all-cash deal for about \$1.7 billion in the latest push by the world's largest online retailer to expand its stable of smart home devices



## SPEEDING UP INDIA

# 5G roll out likely in a month: Govt

ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOM, 5G TECHNOLOGY IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER 10 TIMES BETTER DOWNLOAD SPEED THAN THAT OF 4G

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** The long-awaited high-speed 5G services are expected to be rolled out in about a month, Minister of State for Telecom Devusinh Chauhan said Monday.

Addressing the event of the International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardisation Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region, Chauhan said India is likely to deploy indigenously developed and manufactured 5G telecom gears by end of this year for 5G services.

"In about a month, 5G mobile services will roll out in the country, which will have multiplier effects on the development of all sectors. A 6G Technology Innovations Group, has also been set up, which is working towards the development of indigenous 6G stack," Chauhan said.

He said that the government is promoting, the indigenously designed, developed and manufactured advanced telecom technology, and as a result, India today has a strong home-grown 5G mobile communications ecosystem.

India's biggest ever auction of telecom spectrum that concluded August 1 (Monday) received a record ₹1.5 lakh crore of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with an ₹88,078 crore bid.

"We initiated a number of structural and procedural reforms in the telecom sector. These reforms have created a very positive, and forward-looking environment for the



**"We have developed a fully indigenous 5G test bed, which will facilitate testing of 5G network elements. By the end of this year, we are likely to see indigenously developed, and manufactured 5G stack, getting deployed in rolling out 5G network in India"**

**DEVUSINH CHAUHAN** | MINISTER OF STATE FOR TELECOM

### Jio completes 5G planning in top 1K cities

**New Delhi:** Country's largest telecom player Jio has completed 5G coverage planning in top 1,000 cities and conducted field trials of its home-grown 5G telecom gears, Reliance Industries said in its annual report. In the report, RIL (Reliance Industries Limited) said that Jio took major steps during 2021-22 in getting ready for 5G with its 100 per cent indigenous technology. "Jio's 5G coverage planning has been completed in top 1,000 cities based on targeted customer consumption and revenue potential using heat maps, 3D maps and ray tracing technology," the report released August 7 said. Jio has also joined hands with University of Oulu in Finland -- the leader of the world's first major 6G research programme -- to accelerate research and standardisation in 6G. The company has done active trials of 5G use cases ranging from augmented reality, virtual reality, low-latency cloud gaming, network slicing and multi-tenancy for video delivery, TV streaming, connected hospitals and industrial applications.

telecom industry. As a result, a recent 5G spectrum auction in India has fetched bids of \$20 billion (Rs 1.5 lakh crore)," Chauhan said.

He said that Indian engineers have developed a set of 5G standards, which will facilitate the spread of the 5G network in rural areas.

## Equity MF's inflow dips 43% in July

Mutual fund industry registered a net inflow of ₹23,605 crore in July as compared to withdrawal of ₹69,853 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Equity mutual funds attracted ₹8,898 crore in July, a sharp decline of 43 per cent from the preceding month, amid volatile market conditions.

Although, this was the 17th straight month of positive inflow



in equity schemes.

The net inflows in July were lower compared to the net inflow of ₹15,495 crore seen in June, ₹18,529 crore seen in May and ₹15,890 crore in April, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) Monday.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021, highlighting the positive sentiment among investors. Prior to this, such schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore.

All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in July with the Small Cap Fund category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹1,780 crore. This was followed by the Flexi Cap Fund fund that witnessed ₹1,381 crore net infusion.

### SoftBank posts \$23bn loss in Q1

**Tokyo:** Japanese technology company SoftBank Group posted a \$23.4 billion loss in the April-June quarter as the value of its investments sank amid global worries about inflation and interest rates. SoftBank Group Corp's loss of 3.16 trillion yen was a reversal from its 762 billion yen profit in the same quarter a year earlier. Quarterly sales rose 6 per cent to 1.57 trillion yen (\$11.6 billion). "I must humbly and honestly acknowledge that things are really bad," a somber Chief Executive Masayoshi Son told reporters Monday. "I must face up to this," he added.

## BIZ BUZZ



Aditi Patra won the lucky draw of 5th week of 13th Cottonfab. Aditi's father received the prize money on her behalf from Secretary Javed Alam

# Govt could scrap import duty to cool domestic wheat prices

Traders fells if the government removes the duty, and international prices also fall, then they could start importing, especially during the upcoming festival season, when higher demand typically drives domestic prices higher

REUTERS

**Mumbai, August 8:** India could scrap a 40% duty on wheat imports

and cap the amount of stocks traders can hold to try to dampen record high domestic prices in the world's second biggest producer, government and trade officials told Reuters Monday.

The government barred wheat exports in May after as the crop suffered a heatwave, but domestic prices still rose to a record high. Yet, international prices are still way above the domestic market, making it unviable for traders to buy from abroad.

If the government does remove the duty, and international prices also fall, then traders say they could start importing, especially during the upcoming festival season, when higher demand typi-

## BATTERED BY HEATWAVE

**G**ovt barred wheat exports in May  
**D**omestic wheat prices at record high  
**I**ndian wheat cheapest in the world



cally drives domestic prices higher. "We are exploring all possible op-

### Tata Motors inks pact to buy Ford's plant for ₹726cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Tata Motors has inked a pact to acquire Ford India's Sanand-based manufacturing plant for ₹725.7 crore, as it aims to bolster its passenger vehicle production capacity.

As part of the deal, Tata Motors will get the entire land and buildings, vehicle manufacturing plant along with machinery and equipment situated therein, the Mumbai-based auto major said in a statement. The deal also includes the transfer of all eligible employees, it added.

Tata Motors said with its manufacturing capacity nearing saturation, the acquisition is timely and a win-win for all stakeholders. The Sanand plant has a manufacturing capacity of 3 lakh units per annum, which is scalable to 4.2 lakh units per annum.

Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd (TPEML) will make the necessary investments to reconfigure the plant to adapt to Tata Motors' existing and future vehicle platforms, the automaker said.

"The agreement with FIPL signed today is beneficial to all stakeholders and reflects Tata Motors' strong aspiration to further strengthen its market position in the passenger vehicles segment and to continue to build on its leadership position in the electric vehicle segment," Tata Motors' Passenger Vehicles MD Shailesh Chandra noted.

TPEML, a subsidiary of Tata Motors and Ford India Pvt Ltd (FIPL), have signed a Unit Transfer Agreement (UTA) for the acquisition of the Gujarat-based plant.

The Gujarat government, TPEML and FIPL executed a tripartite MoU May 30, 2022, to support all relevant approvals for the above transaction. As part of the arrangement, FIPL will continue to operate its power train manufacturing facility by leasing back the land and buildings of the plant from TPEML on mutually agreed terms, Tata Motors said.

## India plans to end China firms' budget phone dominance

Chinese firms account for a major chunk of entry-level smartphones that are popular among users shifting away from traditional devices in India, which is the second largest mobile market in the world

REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 8:** India is seeking to restrict Chinese companies from its sub-\$150 phone market in a bid to revive the prospects of domestic players, Bloomberg News reported Monday, citing unidentified sources.

The move would be a blow to Chinese companies such as Xiaomi, according to the report. The plans coincide with rising concerns in India about Chinese brands undercutting local smartphone makers, it added.

It is unclear if the Indian government will announce policies

or use informal channels to execute the block on Chinese smartphone makers, Bloomberg said, citing people familiar with the matter.

Chinese firms account for a major chunk of entry-level smartphones that are popular among users shifting away from traditional devices in India, which is the second largest mobile market in the world.

Indian firms such as Lava and MicroMax rapidly gained popularity after their launch over a decade ago, but have since lost market share to stiff competition from Chinese players.

Many Chinese companies have struggled to do business in India due to political tensions following a border clash in 2020. India cited security concerns in banning more than 300 Chinese apps, and has also tightened rules for Chinese companies investing in India.

Xiaomi and rival Vivo are being investigated by India's financial crime fighting agency for alleged illegal remittances and money laundering. Both deny any wrongdoing.



Many Chinese companies have struggled to do business in India due to political tensions following a border clash in 2020

Xiaomi and rival Vivo are being investigated by India's financial crime fighting agency for alleged illegal remittances and money laundering

## Gupta Distributors coming up with its biggest store

With a humble beginning of a single store dealing only in fans and home appliances, Gupta Distributors has now spanned across Odisha with 26 outlets. Having a strong customer base, the enterprise now takes head on online competitors and private giants.

In a conversation with Aviral Mishra of **Orissa POST**, Rajesh Gupta, Managing Partner of Gupta Distributors, talks about challenges, expansion and the grand opening of its biggest store in Patrapada, Bhubaneswar

### Tell us about your journey so far?

■ My family started this business in 1972 with a modest 200-square feet store in Cuttack. Initially we began with home appliances and fans but now we deal in electronics, home appliances, mobile phones, laptops and even furniture. Our second showroom came up in 1979. However, we went into expansion mode in 2015. Ever since we have been opening 2-3 stores every year across Odisha and will now be opening our 27th store.

■ How different will be your 27th store as compared to other outlets in rest of the state?

■ Our 27th store will open August 12 in Patrapada. With a space of 20,000 square feet, this will be our biggest store in the state. On the grand opening, the store will provide a range of offers to our customers. A cashback offer of 22.5%

will be given with additional one year warranty along with 7.5% extra cashback on all electrical goods. We will also give 40% discount on furniture and additional 10% on exchange of old furniture. Lowest EMI schemes will also be given on select products.

### What challenges do you face in the growth of your business?

■ Over the years, our business has faced different challenges but we have always been on the top of our game due to our strong customer support and goodwill. Presently, we have a stiff competition against online markets and large scale retailers such as Reliance Digital, Croma among others. In fact we will provide products at our new store at reduced prices which will be almost same as offered online.

### What separates your enterprise from the rest of your competitors?

■ We have been in the business for more than 50 years. This has helped in developing a strong trust with our customers. Our after-sale services are also premium and we support and assist our buyers in all regards. We also guide and suggest our customers for best offers at exclusive prices, something which is almost non-existent in on-line businesses.



# GOLDEN CLIMAX

Sindhu claims her first gold medal at Commonwealth Games winning the women's singles event, before Lakshya joins the party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MEDAL TALLY				
COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
AUSTRALIA	67	57	54	178
ENGLAND	57	66	53	176
CANADA	26	32	34	92
INDIA	22	16	23	61
NEW ZEALAND	20	12	17	49

**Birmingham, August 8:** Superstar PV Sindhu and young gun Lakshya Sen lived up to expectations by grabbing gold medals as India swept the singles badminton competition at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) for the first time here, Monday.

India's sporting icon Sindhu added a CWG gold to her already bulging collection with a convincing straight game win over Canada's Michelle Li. The World No.7 Indian outplayed her 13th ranked opponent 21-15, 21-13 in front of a packed crowd at the NEC arena.

Later in the day, 10th-ranked Sen came from behind to end Ng Tze Yong's giant-killing run in the competition. The 20-year-old defeated the world number 42 from Malaysia 19-21, 21-9, 21-16. Sen trailed for majority of the first game but stayed close to the Malaysians who had accounted for world champion Yew Kean Loh and Kidambi Srikanth in his previous two matches.

Sen made it 19-18 from 16-19 before Yong produced back-to-back forehand winners to gain a game point. Sen misjudged a baseline call after a gruelling rally to hand the advantage to Yong.

The second game was one-way traffic after Sen led 11-9 at the in-

terval. The Indian took 12 points in a row post the break to level the final. Yong made a slew of unforced errors and it seemed he wanted to preserve energy for the third game.

Sen was at his attacking best in the decider and led until the end. Yong tried his best to mount a comeback but Sen was unstoppable. He converted his first match point following a long rally, leading to a frenzied celebration that saw him throw his racket into the stands.

Earlier, the 30-year-old Michelle had to produce something special for her first win against Sindhu in eight years but the Indian did not give her a window. Sindhu was clinical in her short game and pounced on the slightest of attacking opportunities.

In the first game, Michelle was trying to get points by playing close to the net while Sindhu has the more attacking one. A smash on Li's



left made it 7-5 before the Canadian came with a drop shot on Sindhu's right to make it 7-6.

Sindhu took three straight points after the interval to stretch her lead to 14-8. Michelle then netted a regulation forehand drop, leaving her smiling in frustration.

Michelle did come up with two consecutive backhand winners for 14-17 but Sindhu bagged the first game with a swat shot on the

Candian's body.

The Hyderabad took a 4-2 lead in the second with a brilliant retrieve off her body and was cruising 11-6 at the interval. The crowd sensed a comeback from Michelle who won the longest rally of the match with a forehand winner. Sindhu however shut the door on her and completed a fine win with a cross court winner.

## CHIRAG-SATWIK PAIR REIGNS SUPREME IN MEN'S DOUBLES EVENT

**BIRMINGHAM:** India's star doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy won the country's third gold from the badminton court with a straight game victory over England's Ben Lane and Sean Mendy. The Indian duo won 21-15, 21-13. India thus finished a fantastic badminton campaign with three gold, one silver and two bronze. The silver came in team championship and the bronze medals were won by Kidambi Srikanth in the men's singles and Tresa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand in the women's doubles.



## Covid-19 drama no excuse for Harman



Harmanpreet Kaur looks dejected during the medal ceremony

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Birmingham, August 8:** India captain Harmanpreet Kaur was not using the drama surrounding Tahlia McGrath's positive Covid-19 test as an excuse for her side's disappointing loss to Australia in the CWG gold medal match Sunday.

McGrath tested positive to Covid-19 on the morning of the gold medal match in Birmingham, but was allowed to take the field due to the fact that she was only suffering from minor symptoms.

The talented 26-year-old went wicketless and only managed two runs with the bat as Australia clinched a thrilling nine-run victory, but conjecture surrounded whether or not she should have been able to take the field at all and the toss was even delayed by more than 10 minutes as the issue was discussed.

Harmanpreet said the Indian team had been informed of McGrath's positive test prior to the toss and had no objections to al-

lowing her to take her place in Australia's side. "They informed us before the toss," Harmanpreet said.

"That was something not in our control because the Commonwealth has to take the decision. We were OK because she (Tahlia McGrath) wasn't very ill, so we just decided to play. We had to show the sportsman's spirit. We're happy that we didn't say no to Tahlia because that (missing the final) would have been very hard-hitting for her," she said.

Isolation rules in the UK are slightly more relaxed than in other parts of the world. It meant McGrath was able to take the field for the gold medal match and Commonwealth Games Australia team released a statement to explain the decision.

McGrath took a catch to dismiss Shafali Verma early in India's run chase, but celebrations were somewhat subdued as she stayed away from the rest of her team-mates.

All precautions went out the window at the end of the match, with McGrath seen celebrating with the rest of her Australia team-mates while wearing a mask.

While Australia opener Beth Mooney was happy that the decision was made to allow McGrath to play, she queried why the news had to be announced to all participants.

"It's a real shame that in elite sport you get publicly shamed for having Covid when over here probably 90 per cent in this room have it right now," Mooney said. "No one is testing, no one is doing anything. It's a shame she couldn't really celebrate with us.

"At the same time, I think the right decision was made in terms of letting her play given we've spoken about protocols and making sure we were trying to keep everyone safe throughout the game. Hopefully people aren't too upset by it," Mooney added.



Tahlia McGrath keeps distance from her teammates before the start of Indian innings

## 40 and still going strong



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 8:** Sharath Kamal showed age is just a number as the 40-year-old capped his best ever performance at the CWG by winning the men's singles gold here Monday.

After losing the first game that he should have closed, Sharath beat a much younger yet experienced Liam Pitchford of England 11-13, 11-7, 11-2, 11-6, 11-8 at the NEC arena.

Sharath, who had first won the singles gold back in 2006, had already claimed two golds here in

the team and mixed doubles event alongside Sreeja Akula. With this yellow metal, he increased his tally to a staggering 13 medals across five CWG appearances

the team and mixed doubles event alongside Sreeja Akula. With this yellow metal, he increased his tally

to a staggering 13 medals across five CWG appearances.

In the final, he was at his finest, firing winners from both sides. Long rallies away from the table was the order of the day and Sharath won majority of them. He was also brilliant in cutting the points short with perfectly placed backhand winners.

In what turned out to be the final game of the title clash, Sharath led 6-1 before Pitchford reduced the deficit to 5-6 by winning the best rally of the match. Sharath absorbed the pressure to make it 10-6 after time out.

He thought he had converted his second match point but the umpires awarded the point to his opponent as the ball was close to Sharath's body at the time of his retrieve. He converted the next one to complete a memorable run in Birmingham.

G Sathiyani secured the bronze after a marathon battle against England's Paul Drinkhall. Sathiyani bagged his maiden CWG singles medal after beating home-favourite Drinkhall 4-3 in front of a packed crowd.

The Indian thus avenged his men's doubles final loss against the same opponent by winning 11-9, 11-3, 11-5, 8-11, 9-11, 10-12 and 11-9. The bronze was Sathiyani's sixth overall medal at the CWG since Gold Coast 2018.

Sunday, Sathiyani paired up with the Sharath to claim the men's doubles silver after going down to the English duo of Drinkhall and Pitchford.

## Humiliation for Manpreet & Co

INDIA MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM SUFFER A 0-7 DEFEAT VS AUSTRALIA IN FINAL TO BE CONTENT WITH SILVER



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, August 8:** In one of their worst performances in recent times, the Indian men's hockey team suffered an embarrassing 0-7 drubbing at the hands of defending champions Australia to settle for a silver medal at the CWG here, Monday.

Australia blew away India with their whirlwind speed and relentless attacks, extending their dominance of the CWG stage. Since hockey's introduction at the Games in 1998, Australia has always stood on top of the podium.

This is India's third defeat against Australia in a CWG final, having lost to them in the 2010 and the 2014 editions of the Games.

Nathan Ephraums and Tom

Wickham scored a brace each while Blake Govers, Jacob Anderson, and Flynn Ogilvie also found the net in the lopsided contest. It was a far cry from what was expected in a gold medal clash as a dominant Australia pumped in five goals in the first half to take the game away from India.

The other time India suffered such a heavy defeat in CWG was in 2010 edition in New Delhi, where Australia hammered the hosts 8-0.

The Indians looked rusty and clueless as they conceded too much space to the Australians in the mid-field, which allowed the Kookaburras to make inroads. The structure which the Indians are known for was nowhere to be seen. Such was India's struggle that the team could not secure a single penalty corner.

## KOHLI, RAHUL BACK FOR ASIA CUP; BUMRAH RULED OUT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 8:** Former skipper Virat Kohli and a fit-again KL Rahul Monday returned to a 15-member Indian squad for the Asia Cup while senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah missed out owing to a back injury. The Asia Cup will be held in Dubai and Sharjah from August 27 to September 11.

Rahul, who did not feature in the T20 series against the West Indies due to COVID-19, has recuperated from his sports hernia surgery, and is back as vice-captain.

The notable names dropped from the main squad are batter

Shreyas Iyer and left-arm spinner Axar Patel. Seamer Deepak Chahar, who has had a four-month lay-off due to a hamstring tear and a back injury was also among reserves. The other absentee from the squad was pacer Harshal Patel, owing to a rib injury.

"Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel were not available for selection owing to injuries. They are currently undergoing rehab at the NCA in Bangalore," the BCCI said.

Coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma, along with the five-member selection committee, have identified the core 20 players going

### THE SQUAD

Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (VC), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh & Avesh Khan;

### STANDBYS

Deepak Chahar, Axar Patel & Shreyas Iyer.

ahead and it is only logical that there won't be any massive changes by the time the T20 World

Cup-bound squad is announced.

The 15 for the Asia Cup, the three standbys and the two injured players (Bumrah and Harshal) are now the core team.

While Axar, who has been in fine form of late could feel a bit shortchanged, the presence of four spinners - R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravi Bishnoi and Yuzvendra Chahal - meant that there wasn't a space for a fifth slow bowler.

Since the matches will be held on the slower tracks in the UAE, there are only three specialist pacers in the side in Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan

and Arshdeep Singh, with Hardik Pandya being the fourth pacer in the attack.

As far as keepers are concerned, Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Kartik have sealed the two spots by a fair distance, with both Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson failing to grab the opportunities that came their way.

Kishan cannot be picked as India now have multiple attacking opening options, apart from Rohit and Rahul, which includes Pant and Suryakumar Yadav. In case of Deepak Hooda, it was his off-breaks that helped him pip Shreyas.

**I HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THIS GOLD FOR A LONG TIME AND FINALLY I HAVE GOT IT. I AM SUPER HAPPY. THANKS TO THE CROWD, THEY MADE ME WIN TODAY (MONDAY)**  
**PV SINDHU**