

# AM/NS INDIA

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14 August – 04 September 2022, Pune – Maharashtra

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# Flood threat looms

Heavy rain is likely to cause flash floods as there will be significant rise in water levels of many rivers in the state



Floodwaters of Baitarani flowing at 18.20 metre, above the danger mark of 17.83 metre, at Akhuapada anicut in Bhadrak

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 13:** State may encounter a low flood in the Mahanadi river basin due to heavy downpour in the upper catchment areas and high water inflow in the Hirakud reservoir, officials said Saturday.

The situation may exacerbate as another low-pressure area has formed over the northern Bay of Bengal that can intensify into a depression, prompting the Met office to issue a red alert of torrential rain in many districts.

Fourteen more gates of Hirakud dam in Sambalpur district were opened in four phases during the day to release excess water into the Mahanadi's downstream areas, which was pounded by heavy rain over the past few days due to depression.

At 7pm, about 5.64 lakh cusecs

of water, against an inflow of 5.3 lakh cusecs, was discharged through 34 gates.

The water level stood at 617 ft in the reservoir, which has a maximum storage capacity of 630 ft, Water Resources engineer-in-chief Bijay Kumar Mishra told reporters, adding that they would try to bring down the level to 616 ft.

He said 6 lakh cusecs of water would reach Mundali in Cuttack district Sunday morning and over 7 lakh cusecs Monday morning. The water released from Hirakud, the longest earthen dam of the world, generally takes 36 hours to reach the area, which had a flow 3.42 lakh cusecs at 6 pm.

The Mahanadi, having a length of 494 km and a drainage area of 65,580 sq km in the state, is also getting additional water from the Hati river and Tel tributary.

"After considering today's situ-

ation, we think that there can be a small level of flood in the Mahanadi system if more water is needed to be released on the basis of the rain situation in upper catchment areas and Chhattisgarh," Mishra said.

The Baitarani river was flowing at 18.14 metres at 6pm at Akhuapada in Bhadrak against the danger level of 17.83 m. The Jalaka river in Balasore was also flowing at 6.31 m against the danger mark of 5.5 m.

The water level is rising in many rivers, including Mahanadi and some of its tributaries, Subarnarekha, Banshadhara and Rushikulya, but below the danger level, the official said

Sambalpur was battered by 129.2 mm of rain between 8:30am and 5:30pm, followed by 80.8 mm in Hirakud and 79 in Bargarh, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

## 'CHHATTISGARH GOVT NON-COOPERATIVE'

**Bhubaneswar:** Hirakud chief engineer Anand Chandra Sahu Saturday alleged lack of cooperation from Chhattisgarh government as Kalma barrage authorities are not passing information on discharge of floodwater from their side. Sahu added that the situation is being managed at Hirakud on the basis of the data from Central Water Commission. "We're monitoring the situation round the clock. The inflow is high and we have to open more gates if it rises further," he said. Mishra revealed that the neighbouring state requested Odisha to open more gates. "We will do it after reviewing the inflow, water level, safety of Hirakud Dam and flood situation in lower catchment areas," he said.

Balasore received 45.8 mm of rain, while Jagatsinghpur and Puri received 76 mm and 61 mm of showers, respectively. Incessant light rain has occurred in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack since the morning.

Water Resources superintendent engineer Prabhas Pradhan said they were keeping a close watch on the situation in Jalaka and were ready to tackle any possible breach of embankments.

The Sambalpur-Subarnapur road is cut off due to the floodwater overflowing at Gunderpur bridge, but no area is marooned, Collector Ananya Das said.

The Sambalpur administration evacuated at least 1,000 people from low-lying areas near the dam following heavy rain in upper catchment areas and sheltered them at seven flood centres, she added.

**Continued on P4**

# Rushdie on ventilator, may lose an eye

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, August 13:** Salman Rushdie was on a ventilator with damaged liver and might lose an eye after the Mumbai-born controversial author was stabbed in the neck and abdomen by a man at a speaking event in New York, sending shockwaves across the literary world which condemned the incident as an attack on freedom of expression.

"The news is not good," the 75-year-old writer's agent, Andrew Wylie, said after a profusely bleeding Rushdie was airlifted from a field adjacent to the venue in Western New York on Friday to a hospital in northwestern Pennsylvania and underwent surgery for several hours.



Rushdie, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident identified as Hadi Matar. Matar has been charged with attempted murder in the second degree and assault in the second degree, Chautauqua County District Attorney Jason Schmidt said Saturday. He was arraigned on Friday night and remanded with-

## IRAN DAILY PRAISES RUSHDIE ATTACKER

Although there was no official reaction yet in Iran to the attack on Salman Rushdie, the hardline Kayhan newspaper, whose editor-in-chief is appointed by Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, wrote: "A thousand bravos ... to the brave and dutiful person who attacked the apostate and evil Salman Rushdie in New York," adding, "The hand of the man who tore the neck of God's enemy must be kissed".

out bail, Schmidt said. "Salman will likely lose one eye; the nerves in his arm were severed; and his liver was stabbed and damaged," Wylie told The New York Times. **Continued on P4**



Students performed traditional dance during full dress rehearsal for Independence Day celebrations at Guru Nanak Stadium in Amritsar, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Good that you want to be a writer. But first adapt yourself to live in jails, in hiding or under death threat!

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	26.7°C	26.8°C
TEMP MIN	25.2°C	24.5°C
Humidity	100%	98%
Rainfall	14.3mm	6mm
Forecast: Moderate rain likely		

# HIZB CHIEF'S SON AMONG FOUR SACKED BY J&K GOVT

■ All the four have been dismissed for allegedly having links with forces working against India and spreading malicious propaganda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, August 13:** The Jammu and Kashmir government Saturday sacked four employees including son of Syed Salahuddin, the self-styled chief of banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen, and the wife of a jailed separatist who was also involved in fatal attack on minority community members.

All the four have been dismissed for allegedly having links with forces working against India and spreading malicious propaganda, officials said. They have been dismissed under Article 311 of the Constitution which enables the government to sack its employees without any inquiry.

Syed Abdul Mueed, son of Salahuddin (Syed Mohd Yusuf) and Manager (Information and Technology) at the Commerce and Industries department, is among the dismissed employees.

Mueed is the third son of the Hizb chief to have been sacked from the government job. Syed Ahmed Shakeel and Shahid Yusuf were dismissed from service last year.

According to officials, Mueed has allegedly been found having a role in three terror attacks on Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) complex at Sempora in Pampore and his presence in the institution has led to increased sympathy with the secessionist forces. Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan, wife of Farooq Ahmed Dar alias 'Bitta Karate' and a 2011-batch J&K Administrative Service officer, is alleged to have been found involved in providing false information for seeking a passport. **Continued on P4**

# Ramsar tag for 3 Odisha wetlands

Eleven Indian sites have been added to the Ramsar list, taking the number of wetlands of international importance to 75 in the 75th year of Independence

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 13:** Tampara and Ansupa lakes, and Hirakud Reservoir in Odisha are among the 11 more wetlands added to the list of Ramsar sites, as per Union Environment Ministry sources Saturday.

Eleven Indian sites have been added to the Ramsar list, taking the total number of wetlands of international importance in the country to 75 in the 75th year of Independence, said the ministry.

According to the ministry, Tampara Lake (300 ha), Hirakud Reservoir (65,400 ha) and Ansupa Lake (23 ha) in Odisha have been declared Ramsar sites. The ministry further said that four sites in Tamil Nadu, two in Jammu & Kashmir and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra declared Ramsar sites. The Ramsar list aims at "develop-



FILE PHOTO OF ANSUPA LAKE

oping and maintaining an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits".

A total of 26 sites were added to the Ramsar list from 1982 to 2013. Since 2014, 49 sites have bagged the coveted tag. Twenty-eight Indian sites have been declared wetlands of international importance this year itself.

The new Indian wetlands of international importance are: Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex, Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary and Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha; Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir; Thane Creek in Maharashtra and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.

## SHORT TAKES

### Police Mitra's brother held in Capital city

**Bhubaneswar:** In an embarrassment to Commissionerate Police, the brother of a 'Police Mitra' was arrested by the Excise sleuths of Bhubaneswar range Saturday for possessing brown sugar worth ₹21 lakh. The accused was identified as Tuna Nayak, 35, of Kedarpalli slum in Bapuji Nagar area. Tuna's younger brother, Sahadev Nayak, is one of the volunteers under the city police's community policing service programme, 'Basti Ku Chala'.

P3

### Delhi reports its 5th monkeypox case

**New Delhi:** Delhi reported its fifth monkeypox case with a 22-year-old African woman testing positive for the infection, official sources said Saturday. The woman had travelled to Nigeria a month ago. She was admitted to LNJP Hospital two days ago and her reports came out Friday night, confirming that she was positive.



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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### ARIES

Today, you will meet with success, and you do it on your own merit, without any divine intervention. You may be a student of science or arts, but you will excel due to your deep knowledge of the subject. There are chances you may decide to study further, says Ganesha.

### TAURUS

As an administrator, you will command with an iron fist today, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may find change slowly creeping in; you may discover a more harmonious approach to managing people as compared to a dictatorial style. You will come out with flying colours from any adverse situations.

### GEMINI

You are likely to take your time and read a situation carefully before you take any important decisions, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may go on a pleasure trip to recharge your batteries.

### CANCER

As a leader, you may deal with others with an iron hand masked under a velvet glove. You may come across as lenient and considerate on the face of it, but you will not spare anyone who crosses you. This may change as the day passes, but your colleagues and subordinates will be wary of you for the remainder of the day.

### LEO

Necessity is the mother of invention, and today, you will draw from your large pool of scientific and technological knowledge to achieve your goals at work. Family matters will keep you occupied in the afternoon, but do not let that come in the way of your evening activities that get your blood flowing through the veins, such as dance or music lessons.

### VIRGO

Take stock of the situation you are in. Assess first and only then make a move, cautions Ganesha. In the afternoon, get footloose and relieve yourself of the cramped and overworked environment of your desk. But bid your time on bids and sealed tenders using all of your experience and business sense, says Ganesha.

### LIBRA

You may get caught up in relationship issues today, foretells Ganesha. But your discretionary powers will help you steer clear of any misconceptions. Be willing to dig up the maximum support from your subordinates at work, but also keep an eye out on your opponents' moves. It always helps to know what others are up to!

### SCORPIO

Chances are your beloved will share the most intimate vibes with you today, says Ganesha. The entire day shall be quiet and peaceful. Ganesha hopes your skilled negotiation will rescue you from being short changed.

### SAGITTARIUS

A poignant and disturbing day is in the offing. At work, Lady Luck will be on your team. Don't let your sentiments cloud your logic though, says Ganesha. In relationship matters, don't keep high expectation, as they may put you under tremendous pressure.

### CAPRICORN

You will do a commendable job solving complicated problems at work, says Ganesha. In keeping with the circumstances, you will be spontaneous in coming up with solutions to pressing issues; and so accurate you may be in your assumptions about a likely situation that in future, your peers and subordinates will blindly accept whatever proposal you table. A news from outside the country can double your joys.

### AQUARIUS

You need a break! Plan a trip, go for a movie, join a weekend meditation retreat. You may be burning yourself out. A little holiday will get you going once again. If nothing else, a game of tennis, or a brisk walk in the evening should do the trick.

### PISCES

Today, you are likely to sign new agreements and ink new contracts, which will later prove to be milestones in your path to progress. Your financial position is also likely to grow stronger, and your savings ought to become more robust, planning as you are for future exigencies, says Ganesha.



## McCONAUGHEY FINDS IT THRILLING TO DO 'BAD STUFF' ON SCREEN

Doing 'bad stuff' and acting 'depraved' on screen is thrilling for Hollywood star Matthew McConaughey, who starred as deceiver and sorcerer Walter Padick in 2017 science fantasy Western 'The Dark Tower'. He says that playing characters that are evil or up to no-good is exhilarating for him.

## CARDI B'S HAIR GROWTH SECRET IS VEGETABLE WATER

Rapper Cardi B has tried every hair growth treatment going and she's now revealed the one with the best results. The 'WAP' hitmaker, in a TikTok video, captioned: "I've been using secret vegetable water on my hair. can you guess which vegetable it is?"



# TARA opens up about her love life

**Mumbai:** Tara Sutaria and Aadar Jain are one of the most adored couples in the Hindi film industry. They never shy away from showing off their love for each other and have been dating for a long time now.

Tara recently opened up about the bond with her boyfriend.

When asked about her dating life and how close the two are with each other's families, she said, "I get very attached to people, and I think both of us are similar that way. We get attached to that special person and the people close to him/her. It helps to understand who he or she is and who they are. A lot of people in his family remind me of people in my family."

"The warmth, love, and generosity that you will find in most Parsi households, you will find in Punjabi households too. It's been wonderful. I respect them and love them deeply because for me, it's important that if you love, you must love deeply," added the Tadap actress.

On the work front, Tara is fresh from her stint in Ek Villain Returns, where her performance as a struggling singer was lauded.

AGENCIES

## Kiara shares cryptic post on Instagram

**Mumbai:** The rumours about the alleged relationship between onscreen couple Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani refuse to die down. If anything, their recent conversation on the actress' Instagram has only fueled gossip further. Recently, their film 'Shershaah' that released in 2021 turned a year older and the actor along with the actress were seen celebrating the

anniversary of their film as they shared several posts on social media. Amidst that, Kiara posted a cryptic note on her Instagram post, followed by which her co-star Sid responded to.

The 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' actress took to Instagram to share, "@sid-malhotra Tu baatein toh badi badi karta tha, par tu bhi na 'Out of sight, Out of mind' type ka banda nikla!" Responding to the same, Sidharth responded, "Oye Sardarni, mujhe na sab yaad hai, bhul hi

nahi sakta. Aaj 6 baje milne aa-jaunga." The couple had this chat after which, they announced that they will be having a live chat together with fans.

Kiara and Sidharth were linked together ever since they started shooting for Shershaah. Although the two of them never accepted or denied the rumours, it fueled up further when they entered the Karan Johar birthday bash in the same car at Yash Raj Studios in May 2022.

AGENCIES



## Anne Heche pronounced brain dead

The 'Volcano' actress' life-support treatment will continue temporarily to check if she may be a match for a potential organ donation

**Los Angeles:** US actress Anne Heche has been declared dead by the hospital authorities Saturday. However, she will remain on life support to allow for a possible organ donation, her representative has said. The 53-year-old had been in a coma for a week after crashing her car into a house in Los Angeles, reports the BBC. "Today we lost a bright light, a kind and most joyful soul," her family said in a statement.

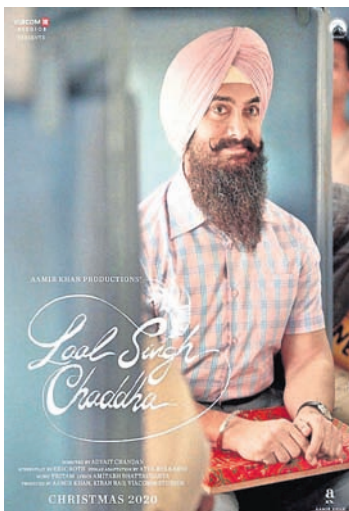
Heche appeared in films including 'Volcano', 'Donnie Brasco' and the 1996 remake of 'Psycho'. According to the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Heche's vehicle "erupted in heavy fire", which took 59 firefighters more than an hour to fully extinguish. The two-storey home she crashed into was left "uninhabitable". As well as suffering burns, the actress was left with "a severe anoxic brain injury", when the brain is deprived of oxygen, the BBC quoted her family as saying. When she was 13 years old, her father died of HIV/AIDS, and she later said in her 2001 memoir 'Call Me Crazy' that he had repeatedly raped her as a child. AGENCIES

## 'LSC' gets thumbs up from The Academy

**Mumbai:** Aamir Khan's latest release 'Laal Singh Chaddha', (LSC) which is a remake of the iconic Hollywood film 'Forest Gump', got a thumbs up from The Academy.

The official Twitter account of The Academy, which recognises excellence in the motion picture arts and sciences, shared a video compilation of snippets from 'Forest Gump' and the Aamir Khan-starrer. A tweet from The Academy called the Hindi film a "faithful Indian adaptation".

"Robert Zemeckis and Eric Roth's sweeping story of a man who changes the world with kind-

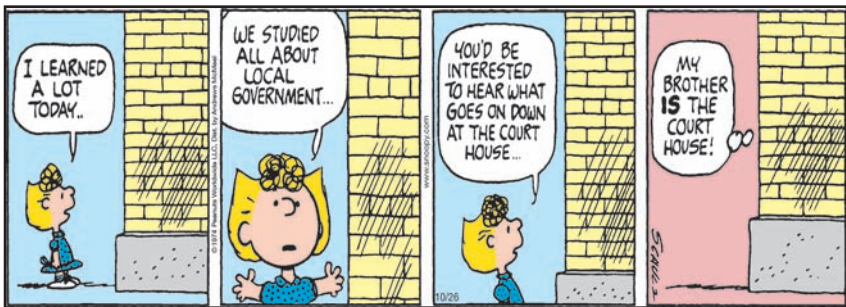


ness receives a faithful Indian adaptation in Advait Chandan and Atul Kulkarni's 'Laal Singh Chaddha' feat. Aamir Khan in the role made famous by Tom Hanks," read the tweet.

The Academy's twitter handle also mentions the number of Oscars nominations 'Forest Gump' had. "1994's 'Forrest Gump' was nominated for 13 Oscars including six wins for: Best Actor (Tom Hanks), Direction (Robert Zemeckis) Editing (Arthur Schmidt) Best Picture (Wendy Finerman, Steve Tisch and Steve Starkey, Producers) Adapted Screenplay (Eric Roth)".

Released August 11, 'Laal Singh Chaddha' also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan, Naga Chaitanya and Mona Singh. IANS

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

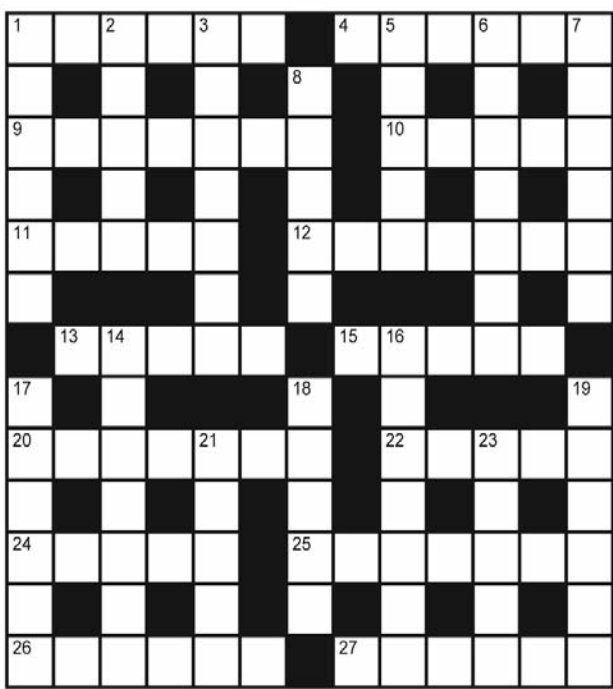


## BREVITY



## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



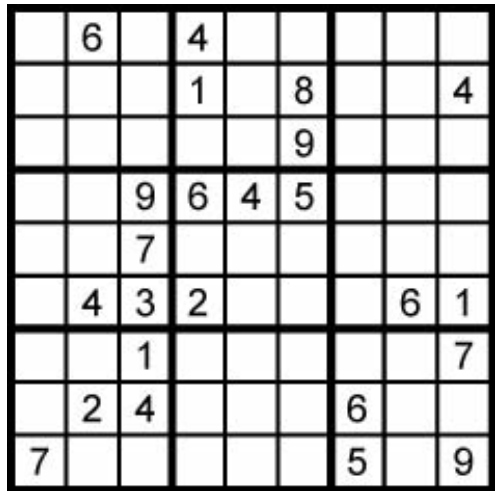
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- |  |                                      |                            |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Across</b>                                    | <b>20</b> Military weapon            | <b>3</b> Store employee    |
| <b>1</b> Employ                                  | <b>22</b> Utopian                    | <b>5</b> Parcel out        |
| <b>4</b> Gallivant                               | <b>24</b> Grownup                    | <b>6</b> Mexican dish      |
| <b>9</b> Exchange, like a car (5-2)              | <b>25</b> Elementary particle        | <b>7</b> Whirlpools        |
| <b>10</b> Shocking                               | <b>26</b> Depressing                 | <b>8</b> Busybody          |
| <b>11</b> Navigational aid                       | <b>27</b> Erse                       | <b>14</b> On the way (2,5) |
| <b>12</b> Silhouette                             |                                      | <b>16</b> Commendation     |
| <b>13</b> Black-and-white striped African animal | <b>Down</b>                          | <b>17</b> Panic-stricken   |
| <b>15</b> Spirit of a people                     | <b>1</b> Tempt                       | <b>18</b> Harbingers       |
|  | <b>2</b> Small yellow tropical fruit | <b>19</b> Medical building |
|  |                                      | <b>21</b> Fragrant oil     |
|  |                                      | <b>23</b> Snowy heron      |

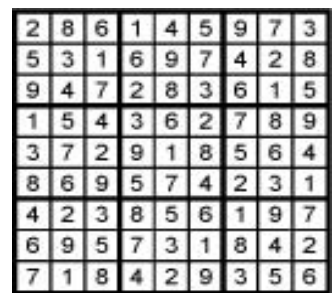
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## 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



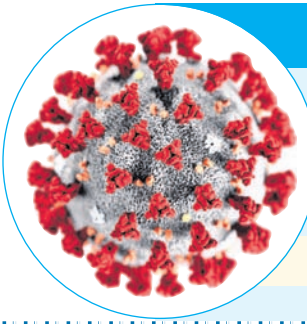


# downtown



## SCIENTIFIC TEMPER

A student of Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir in Ghodabazar area of Puri demonstrates a model to her schoolmates during a science exhibition on the school premises, Saturday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	59,44,02,750	56,66,23,238	64,52,703
India	4,42,39,372	4,35,93,112	5,26,996
Odisha	13,22,183	13,09,677	9,154

## OATH OF OFFICE



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar administers oath of office to newly-appointed HC judges Gourishankar Satapathy and Chittaranjan Dash at the court's conference hall in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

## Police Mitra's brother held

POST NEW NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 13:** In an embarrassment to the twin city Commissionerate Police, the brother of a 'Police Mitra' was arrested by the Excise sleuths of Bhubaneswar range Saturday for possessing brown sugar worth Rs 21 lakh.

The accused was identified as Tuna Nayak, 35, of Kedarpalli Slum in Bapuji Nagar area of the Capital City. Tuna's younger brother, Sahadev Nayak, is one of the volunteers under the city police's community policing service program, 'Basti Ku Chala'.

Acting on a tipoff, the Excise sleuths Saturday morning carried out a raid at the residence of Tuna and seized sachets containing brown sugar weighing 217 gram valued at Rs 21 lakh, said an official, adding that the accused had concealed the packets in the bathroom. The officials also picked up Sahadev for questioning about his alleged involvement in the illegal trade. However, later he was let off.



The Excise officials Saturday produced the accused before the court that sent him to judicial custody, said an official.

# SHGs stitch 30 lakh Tricolours for I-Day



Mission Shakti SHG members present handmade Tricolours to CM Naveen Patnaik

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 13:** Around 10,000 women members of 500 self-help groups (SHGs) across the state have stitched 30 lakh Tricolours for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to celebrate the 75 years of India's Independence, an official said Saturday.

The state government, under its Mission Shakti department, has engaged SHGs to make 30 lakh National Flags, which will be distributed among common people. Representatives from various

Mission Shakti SHGs met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday and presented him handmade Tricolours as a token of gratitude for reposing faith and entrusting them with the task of stitching 30 lakh National Flags.

Mission Shakti SHGs have come forward to stitch 30 lakh flags, having assessed the demand. The members have risen to the occasion and volunteered to undertake this as a challenge. Although it was a Herculean task, the tailoring unit ecosystem established in the state

proved to be vital in completion of this challenge, said a Mission Shakti official.

At an average, the SHGs made around 3.5 to 4 lakh Tricolours a day. The groups worked tirelessly to complete their orders, said the official.

"As an SHG, the target of stitching 20,000 flags was challenging. But our experience in stitching and 18 advanced skilled machines helped us complete the target in six days. We are proud to have worked on these flags," said an elated Satyabhama Nayak of Abhiram Parmhansa SHG in Nischintakoili.

# THE LIFE, MARTYRDOM OF 'GANDHI OF MALKANGIRI'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, August 13:** India attained freedom from the British Raj after a ceaseless struggle spanning around 200 years and sacrificing lakhs of its brave sons.

While some bravehearts got their due recognition, several others were left in almost complete oblivion. Odisha-born Shaheed Laxman Nayak, popularly called Gandhi of Malkangiri, is one such freedom fighter who has been unfortunately forgotten by the current generation.

Laxman was born into a family of Bhumia tribe November 22, 1899 in Boipariguda block's Tentuligumma village in Koraput district. His father, Padlam Nayak, was a 'Mustadaar' or tax collector, and king's representative in the village, under the local chieftain of Jeypore.

Laxman spent his childhood days playing, hunting and swimming with his friends. He never believed in casteism and untouchability. Even though people from his tribe were not allowed to eat with the Domb community, he would often eat with his best friend Bhalu Domb without caring about receiving backlash from his father.

Tentuligumma, situated near Kolab River, was a remote village with no schools or hospitals and almost every villager was illiterate. However, Laxman's father taught him to read and write.

At the age of 19, he got married to Ghasi Bhumia's 17-year-old daughter, Manguli, from nearby Sanagumma village. The couple was blessed with a son, Raghunath, and daughter, Kaushalya, within a few years.

However, Laxman's heart could never be at peace seeing the atrocities on poor tribal villagers by the police and officers of the local chieftain.

The kings lived a lavish lifestyle by extracting money from the poor people through heavy taxes. They also forced the poor and vulnerable tribals to work in



their palaces and fields for free.

With the passage of time, Laxman mastered the art of tribal witchcraft, herbal medicine and started working as a 'dishari' (tribal priest). He also learnt to use a gun from one of his friends, Chandrakutia, of Koya tribe.

Laxman was appointed as 'Mustadar' after his father's death in 1930. As the village chief, he always stood by his people in every tragedy or difficult situation. Over the years, his influence expanded in surrounding areas such as Malkangiri. People often sought his help to cure diseases and perform pujas.

Meanwhile, he came in contact with a noted Congress worker, Nilkantha Patra, from Koraput district's Baipariguda. The Gandhian non-violence policy influenced Laxman so much that he strictly started following all his principles in every sphere of his life.

He also learnt spinning after joining the Congress-run training centre at Nuaput village near Jeypore in 1937. Due to Laxman's popularity, hundreds of tribals in Matili and surrounding areas also joined the Congress between 1941 and 1942.

When Laxman received the news of

Mahatma Gandhi's call for nationwide peaceful agitations before government offices under the Quit India Movement, August 21, 1942, he, along with 400 tribal people, conducted a peaceful agitation in front of Mathili Police station, and refused to obey their prohibitory orders.

When the agitators tried to unfurl the national flag at Mathili Police station, the officials opened fire at the Congress workers, killing Satyagrahis and severely injuring several others. Laxman also sustained grievous injuries.

The cops not only beat him up brutally but also burned his moustache, post which, Laxman fell unconscious.

He gained consciousness after long hours and walked 51 km to Jaypore where he stayed at the house of a Congress worker. He went to Ramgiri hills later, to escape the police, but soon returned to his village when he heard about the brutal attacks by police on the villagers.

Upon his return September 2, 1942, the sleuths arrested him. He was later falsely implicated in the murder case of Forest Guard, G Ramayya, who was deployed at Mathili Police station to drive away the demonstrators.

Even though Laxman told the court that Ramayya succumbed to the bullet injuries sustained during police firing, V Ramanathan, additional sessions judge, Koraput, solely relying on the false police version, held Laxman guilty of instigating people for arson, riots and beating Ramayya to death during the demonstration. He was given a death sentence by the judge under Sections 302 of the IPC.

On November 16, 1942, he was shifted to Berhampur jail where he was kept in the condemned cell. He was hanged March 29, 1943.

Lives of heroes like Shaheed Laxman Nayak continue to inspire millions of people across the nation. It is time to pay a fitting tribute to the man whom people fondly called the 'Gandhi of Malkangiri'.

## Organ donation is priceless gift: CM

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 13:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday stressed the need to raise awareness on organ donation and encourage people to pledge to donate their organs after death in order to save precious lives.

The CM said organ donation

brings hope to many families. Saving another's life is the greatest virtue. Organ donation is a brave and courageous decision. He said that the sacrifice of a family that donates organs is incomparable.

"Organ donation is one of the priceless life saving gifts. On #WorldOrganDonationDay, let's raise awareness on this noble cause

and encourage people to pledge to donate their organs after death to save precious lives. #Odisha promotes organ donation with annual #SurajSamman award," Patnaik tweeted.

On Saturday the CM awarded Suraj Award 2022 to two families in Ganjam district for donating body parts of their kin after their deaths.

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**  
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**Union Bank of India**

**आंध्र प्रदेश**  
Andhra Pradesh

**संघीय सहकारिता**  
Co-operative

**REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE**  
MANIKHAMB, OT ROAD, POLICE LINE,  
BHASKARGANJ, DIST.: BALASORE, PIN-756001,  
Email: cb8832recovery@unionbankofindia.bank,  
Mob.: 8249176744

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
(E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable/ Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/symbolic/physical possession** of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" and "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **30.08.2022**, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union Bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

**BHADRAK BRANCH - 1, BHADRAK,**  
Dist.: BHADRAK, Ph No.: 7381782969, Email: ubin0538591@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower:</b> M/s. Dharitri Trading Agency, Prop.: Mr. Pawan Kumar Bagaria, At: AK-163, Saltlake City, Near Tank No. 08, Sector-2, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, West Bengal, <b>Partners:</b> Mr. Pawan Kumar Bagaria, S/o: Late Nandlal Bagaria, Mrs. Gayatri Devi Bagaria, W/o: Late Nandlal Bagaria, Both are At: Chandan Bazar, P.S.: Puruna Bazar, PO/Dist: Bhadrak-756100, Odisha.	<b>₹ 1,44,90,000/- as on 31.05.2021</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.1:</b> Existing EM of freehold homestead land in the name of Mr. Pawan Kumar Bagaria & 848 sq.ft RCC building, Khata No.: 660/16 and Plot No.: 960 & 961 of Area: 4.3 dec at Mouza: Muruna, Dist: Balasore.	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹3,16,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹31,60,000/-	

**BHADRAK BRANCH-2,**  
Dist.: Bhadrak, Ph. No.: 06784-241120, Email: bm1812@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower / Co-obligant:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower:</b> M/s. R K Chemicals, Prop.: Mr. Ratnakar Mallick, At: Taragana, P.O.: Ichhapur, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756100, <b>Proprietor:</b> Mr. Ratnakar Mallick, At: Taragana, P.O.: Ichhapur, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756100 / <b>Co-obligant:</b> Mrs. Tulasi Mallick, W/o: Mr. Ratnakar Mallick, At: Taragana, P.O.: Ichhapur, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756100	<b>₹ 54,71,947.96 as on 27.09.2021</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.2 :</b> Land and Building - Rural Homestead land, Factory shed and residential building there on over Plot No.: 315 under Khata No.: 757/277 in an area of Ac.0.600 dec i.e 26136 sq.ft in the name of <b>Mrs. Tulasi Mallick</b> at Mouza: Taragana, P.O.: Ichhapur, P.S.: Bhadrak(R), Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha, PIN-756100, Bounded by North: Ramamani Mallick, South: Water Canal, East: Road, West: Canal	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹2,03,78,247/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹20,37,825/-	

**BHADRAK BRANCH - 3, DIST.: BHADRAK - 756100,**  
Ph. No.: 8917493248, Email: ubin0966562@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantors:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower:</b> M/s. N C Sen, Prop.: Nabin Chandra Sen, S/o: Narendra Chandra Sen, At: Kacheri Bazar, Near Bonth Square, Bhadrak/Guarantors: 1) <b>Shri Pradip Kumar Sen</b> , S/o: Shri Nabin Chandra Sen, At: Kacheri Bazar, Near Bonth Square, Bhadrak, 2) <b>Shri Nirmal Chandra Sen</b> , S/o: Shri Narendra Chandra Sen, At: Puruna Bazar, Bhadrak, 3) <b>Smt. Ajodhya Sen</b> , W/o: Shri Nirmal Chandra Sen, At: Bajetol, Bhadrak	<b>₹ 56,43,696/- as on 30.04.2021</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.3 :</b> Open Homestead Land in the name of <b>Shri Pradip Kumar Sen</b> , S/o: Nabin Chandra Sen, Khata No.: 258/248, Plot No.: 603/1053, at Mouza: Baincha, P.S. No.: 50, Tahasil: Chandballi, Measuring an Area: Ac.1.07 dec. & Plot No.: 605/1054, Measuring an Area: Ac.0.13 dec., Bounded by North & South Side: Plot of Sidheswar Mandal, East Side: Plot No.: 606, 607 & 605 and West Side: Plot No.: 605, KISSAM: Homestead & Open Homestead Land in the name of <b>Shri Pradip Kumar Sen</b> , S/o: Shri Nabin Chandra Sen, Khata No.: 72/43, Plot No.: 210/276 at Mouza: Bijipur, Tahasil: Chandballi, Measuring an Area: Ac.1.10 dec., Bounded by South Side: Plot of Sidheswar Mandal, North Side: Plot of Sidheswar Mandal, East Side: Plot No.: 603/1053 and 605, West Side: Dhamara Road.	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹1,73,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹17,30,000/-	

Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor/Co-applicant:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower :</b> M/s. Trishakti Filling Station, Prop.: Mr. Ranjan Kumar Singh, At: Pahimahura, Barikpur, Dhamnagar, NH-5, Dist.: Bhadrak-756112 / <b>Guarantor/Co-applicant:</b> Mr. Ranjan Kumar Singh, S/o: Rabindra Nath Singh, At/P.O.: B.T. Pur, P.S.: Agarpada, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha-756115	<b>₹ 2,73,61,000/- as on 30.04.2021</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.4:</b> All that part and parcel of the Land and Building in the name of <b>Mr. Ranjan Kumar Singh</b> , Khata No.: 147/50, Plot No.: 730/853, Measuring Area: Ac.0.30 Dec., Plot No.: 729/852, Area: Ac.0.15 Dec., <b>Total Area: Ac.0.45 Dec.</b> with Gharabari KISSAM, Mouza: Pahimahura, P.S.: Dhamnagar-21, Tahasil: Bhandaripokhari-173, Dist.: Bhadrak, A single storey Building having plinth area 675.00 sq ft., Bounded by East: Sukadev saho, West: Road, North: Rest Part of the Plot, South: Rest Part of the Plot.	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹1,36,41,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹13,64,100/-	

**BARIPADA BRANCH-2, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha,**  
Ph.: 6370231681, Email: ubin0810622@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-applicant/Guarantor:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower :</b> M/s. Maa Kamakshya Associates, Prop.: Mr. Abhijit Satapathi, At: Badamtalia IMFL Shop No.: 02, Rairangpur, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha, <b>Prop.: Mr. Abhijit Satapathi</b> , At: Ward No.: 21, Purnachandrapur, P.O./P.S.: Baripada, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha, PIN-757002 / <b>Co-Applicant/ Guarantor:</b> Mrs. Nilima Satapathi, W/o: Bibekananda Satapathi, At: Ward No.: 21, Purnachandrapur, P.O./P.S.: Baripada, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha, PIN-757002	<b>₹ 28,06,609/- as on 30.06.2021</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.5:</b> All that part and parcel of the Residential Land and Building belonging to <b>Mrs. Nilima Satapathi</b> , W/o: Bibekananda Satapathi, Plot No.: 194/878/913 (Area: Ac.0.040 Dec.) and Plot No.: 194/878 (Area: Ac.0.030 Dec.), <b>Total Area: Ac.0.070 Dec.</b> , situated at Mouza: Purnachandrapur, P.S.: Baripada, No.: 118, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 202, South: Property of Fuleswari Mohanta, East: Digambar Mohanta, West: Santosh Kumar Parida	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹75,28,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹7,52,800/-	

**JAIPUR ROAD BRANCH-2,**  
Dist.: Jaipur, Ph. No.: 06766-253783, Email: ubin0802751@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrowers:	Amount Due
<b>Borrowers:</b> 1) Badajena Iron and Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by it's Director: Ranjit Kumar Badajena, 2) <b>Ranjit Kumar Badajena</b> , S/o: Prafulla Kumar Jena, 3) <b>Aiswarika Badajena</b> , W/o: Ranjit Kumar Badajena, All are at Plot No.: HIG-165, Kanana Vihar, Phase-1, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda	<b>₹ 2,68,95,508/- as on 26.10.2019</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.6:</b> Land and Building - Residential belonging to <b>Ranjit Kumar Badajena (Owner of the Property)</b> , situated at Semi Urban Residential Land & Building, Area: Ac.1.64dec. at Mouza: Mangarajpur, P.S.: Byasanagar, Dist.: Jaipur, Khata No.: 199/69, Plot No.: 18, Area: Ac.0.140Dec., Plot No.: 34/975, Area: Ac.0.030Dec. & Plot No.: 33/974, Area: Ac.0.130Dec., Khata No.: 113, Plot No.: 11, Area: Ac.0.080Dec., Plot No.: 14, Area: Ac.0.040Dec., Plot No.: 25, Area: Ac.0.040Dec., Plot No.: 29, Area: Ac.0.060Dec., Plot No.: 30, Area: Ac.0.490Dec., Plot No.: 38, Area: Ac.0.080Dec. & Plot No.: 42, Area: Ac.0.300Dec., Khata No.: 199/72, Plot No.: 10, Area: Ac.0.060Dec., Plot No.: 15, Area: Ac.0.030Dec. & Plot No.:32, Area: Ac.0.060Dec., Khata No.: 160, Plot No.: 31, Area: Ac.0.090Dec. and Bounded by East: NH-215, West: Self, Ranjit Badajena, Pabitra Rout & Govt. Land, North: Bhaskar Mallick, Tilotma Mallick, Raghu Mallick, Sara Mallick, Krushna Chandra Swain, Pond Embankment, South: Sankarshan Behera, Bhaskar Mallick	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹2,39,89,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹23,98,900/-	

**KEONJHAR BRANCH-2, Near Thana Chowk, Keonjhar, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001,**  
Ph.: 7567438448, Email: ubin0812994@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-applicant/Guarantor:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower :</b> Chitta Ranjan Giri, S/o: Pradeep Kumar Giri, At: Dhanurajpur, Old Town, Keonjhar, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 / <b>Co-applicant/Guarantor:</b> Mr. Pradeep Kumar Giri, S/o: Kamalakant Giri, At: Dhanurajpur, Old Town, Keonjhar, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001	<b>₹ 21,62,168/- as on 26.10.2021</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.7:</b> All that part and parcel of the Residential Land and Building in the Name of <b>Chitta Ranjan Giri</b> , S/o: Pradeep Kumar Giri, At/P.O.: Dhanurajpur, Unit No.: 4, P.S.: Keonjhar Sadar, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN-758001, Khata No.: 313/240, Plot No.: 492/1452, <b>Total Area: Ac.0.050 Dec.</b> , Bounded by North: Pond Embankment, South: Private Road, East: Property of Rabindra Das, West: Property of Debendra Mohanty	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹40,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,00,000/-	

**KEONJHAR BRANCH - 3, Dist.: Keonjhar, Ph. No.: 7978738752,**  
Email: ubin0929701@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower:</b> M/s. Star Enterprises, Prop.: Mr. Biswajeet Bej, At/P.O.: Jail Road, Nuasahi, Keonjhar, PIN-758001 / <b>Guarantor:</b> Chandrakala Bej, At/P.O.: Jail Road, Nuasahi, Keonjhar, PIN-758001	<b>₹ 35,18,663/- as on 31.03.2021</b> with further interest, Cost and expenses
<b>Property No.8:</b> All that part of the property consisting Residential Land belonging to <b>Chandrakala Bej</b> , situated over Khata No.: 73/81, Plot No.: 222/407, Area: Ac.0.050dec., Mouza: Mochigaon, Taluk: Keonjhar Sadar, Bounded by North: Radha Sahoo, South: Road, East: Srikanta Sahoo & others, West: Srikanta Sahoo & others	
<b>Type of Possession:</b> Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹52,60,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹5,26,000/-	

**BID INCREMENT AMOUNT FOR EACH PROPERTY : ₹10,000/-**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 30.08.2022 between 01:00 P.M. to 05:00 P.M.**  
(with 10 minutes unlimited auto extention), e-Auction Website : [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit:  
<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/aucautionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>  
For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in  
<https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/tendelviewwallauction.aspx>

**Place : Balasore, Date: 12.08.2022**  
**Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India**



Flood threat looms

**Continued from P1**

The administration is following the standard operating procedures for flood control in Sambalpur and other districts on the Mahanadi bank. It is taking steps to clear the excess water from the medium reservoirs and bring down the storage level to 75 per cent in view of the anticipated heavy rain.

The Water Resources department has deputed senior officials to seven districts, cancelled leaves and put the coastal division on alert. The low-pressure area, which formed in the morning, is set to move northwards and become well-marked during the next 12 hours. The system is expected to concentrate into a depression during the subsequent 24 hours, the Met said. It issued a red warning of extremely heavy rain in Cuttack, Puri, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Kendrapara districts till Sunday morning. Extremely heavy down-pour is in forecast for Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Angul Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi and Nuapada Sunday.

It may lead to a significant rise in the water level of rivers, flash flood, landslides, inundation of low-lying areas and agricultural fields, besides damage to houses and roads. The weather office warned of heavy to very heavy rain in the rest of the districts till Monday morning. Fisherfolks have been advised not to venture off the coast till Monday as the sea will be rough and wind speed of 45-65 kmph is expected over the west-central Bay of Bengal. The Met asked farmers to suspend the use of fertilisers and pesticides for three-four days and make arrangements for drainage of excess water from the land.

Rushdie on ventilator...

**Continued from P1**

Police are working with the FBI and local authorities to determine the motive.

A preliminary review of Matar's social media accounts by law enforcement showed him to be sympathetic to Shia extremism and the causes of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a law enforcement person with direct knowledge of the investigation told NBC News.

Authorities are also working to obtain search warrants for several items found at the scene, including a backpack and electronic devices, Staniszewski said.

Replying to a question about the attacker's nationality, Staniszewski said, "I don't know yet." Authorities believe the suspect was alone but are investigating "to make sure that was the case," Staniszewski said, adding that authorities will determine "appropriate charges" as the investigation continues. Rushdie's fourth book The Satanic Verses in 1988 forced him into hiding for nine years.

The late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini accused Rushdie of blasphemy over the book and in 1989 issued a fatwa against him, calling for his death. Rushdie's writing has led to death threats from Iran, which has offered a USD 3 million reward for anyone who kills him. Rushdie was stabbed as he was on the stage at the Chautauqua Institution, a not-for-profit community on Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York state.

CLASSIFIED  
AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar: I, Monalisa Nayak, D/o- Lal Mohan Nayak, residing at Flat No. B-404, Subhadra Apartment, Patia, BBSR do hereby solemnly that my correct name is Monalisa Nayak as per Govt. Documents but in Passport my name is wrongly recorded as Monalisha Nayak. That I therefore request the Concerned Authorities to may update and rectify my name as Monalisa Nayak instead of Monalisha Nayak.

Diarrhoea spreads in 3 panchayats of Jharsuguda district

THE WATER-BORNE DISEASE HAS CLAIMED ONE LIFE AND INFECTED OVER 70 IN THIS AREA



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, August 13:** After Rayagada, Gajapati and Nuapada districts, diarrhoea has been spreading at a rapid pace in Pithinda, Badimal and Bhanrkhol panchayats under Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district. Officials said Friday that over 70 people have been infected with diarrhoea, while the water-borne disease claimed one life, Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Priyanka Pradhan (20) of Badimal.

Medical officer of Lakhanpur CHC, Dr Baikunthanath Kashyap said that 45 people affected by diarrhoea in Pithinda have been admitted to the CHC while 14 of them

The transformer of Pithinda has been lying defunct for the last two months, forcing people to drink contaminated water from a pond

were forwarded to the district headquarters hospital after their conditions deteriorated. Other than that, 14 infected persons of Badimal are also undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital.

A medical team visited these villages while health officials have collected water samples for testing. Sources said that the transformer of Pithinda has been lying defunct for the last two months. As a result supply of piped water has been disrupted. People have been forced to drink contaminated water from a pond which led to the outbreak of diarrhoea in Pithinda block.

Panchayats of the three blocks are supplying hygienic drinking water through tankers. Officials are also supplying ORS powder sachets and halogen tablets to the people of the three blocks.



Dignitaries attended a national seminar organised by Odisha Engineers Forum at Bhubanananda Odisha Engineering School in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

CUO launches Tribal Digital Literacy Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 13:** To focus on digital skills and literacy among tribal youths, the Central University of Odisha Saturday launched a Tribal Digital Literacy programme at its Campus in collaboration with Forum for Integrated Development and Research, (FIDR), Bhubaneswar.

The Centre will be operative at the Centre for Tribal Welfare and Community Development (CTWCD) of the University at Koraput to train the youths belonging to ST, SC, OBC, and other marginalised communities of the

Koraput district on digital skills.

The Tribal Digital Literacy Centre aims to provide computer knowledge to marginalized sections of the society in the age group of 16-25 years free of cost for a period of three years. Initially, different certificate courses of varying durations will continue with few batches of students, consisting of class 10 pass outs or non-pass outs, including also class 12 pass outs and non-pass outs.

The Centre was formally inaugurated by the Sharat Kumar Palita, Vice Chancellor (I/c) of the university and Charudatta Panigrahi, founder chairman of FIDR.

peaking on this occasion, Palita informed the audience that the launching of the programme is a landmark event in the sense that it offers hope for the marginalised sections of the Koraput district to be digitally literate—a step towards self-employability. Though the programme starts with some basic computer courses, it will offer higher courses in future.

Panigrahi emphasized on the development of the livelihood of the people of backward regions by referring to Atma Nirbhar Bharat launched by the government

Hizb chief's son...

**Continued from P1**

She is alleged to "have links with foreign people who have been indexed by the Indian security and intelligence to be on the pay-rolls of the ISI". Also her involvement in ferrying consignment of money for funding anti-India activities in Jammu and Kashmir has been reported, the officials said.

'Bitta Karate' has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2017 in a case related to terror-funding. He was also involved in the killings of several members of the minority community in the early 1990s.

Also sacked from the government is Muheet Ahmad Bhat, posted as a scientist in the Post Graduate Department of Computer Science in Kashmir University. He is alleged to have been found involved in propagating secessionist-terrorist agenda in the university by radicalising students for advancing the programme and agenda of Pakistan and its proxies. Majid Hussain Qadri, a senior Assistant Professor in Kashmir University, is alleged to have a long association with terror organisations including the banned Lashker-e-Taiba. He had earlier been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act and figures in a number of FIRs related to various terror cases.

Around 40 employees have been dismissed so far from the government services in Jammu and Kashmir Officials said the sacking was effected after the Lt governor was satisfied, upon considering facts and circumstances of the cases and based on the information available, that the activities of these employees warrant dismissal from service under provision of Article 311 (2) (C) of the Constitution. Under this provision, the sacked employees can only approach the High Court with their plea against their dismissal.



Lok Adalat was organised on the premises of District Judge Court in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

CIPET celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with rallies

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 13:** Cental Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) organised a two-day bicycle and bike rally in Bhubaneswar as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

On the first day CIPET organized a cycle rally for the students of Manchanath Dev High School located at Mancheswar Industrial Estate. The rally started from Mancheswar located CIPET premises Wednesday. Patia CIPET Chief PK Sahu, Mancheswar CIPET (CSTS) Director and Head BP Patro and Administrative Officer, Jayant Kumar Das flagged off the procession by freeing white dove. The students on this occasion were dressed as Mahatma Gandhi and his three monkeys, Subhash Chandra Boase, Bharat Mata and Rani Laxmi Bai. The students were holding Tiranga flag in their hands. The procession ended at



Manchanath Dev High School campus.

The next day, all the Mancheswar CIPET staff along with Director of CIPET Mancheswar took part in the bike rally by carrying the National flag. Led by administrative officer, Jayant Kumar Das, the motorcycle rally reached at CIPET, Patia with a National flag to celebrate the ensuing 75th Independence Day which was handed over to the Principal Director & Head PK Sahoo by the Director of CIPET Mancheswar.

Sweden's controversial Covid strategy let down the elderly

As much of the world shut down early in the Covid pandemic, Sweden remained open. The country's approach was controversial, with some calling it "the Swedish experiment". But almost two-and-a-half years after the pandemic began, what can we say today about the outcomes of this "experiment"?

First, let's recap what Sweden's strategy looked like. The country largely stuck to its pandemic plan, originally developed to be used in the event of an influenza pandemic. Instead of lockdowns, the goal was to achieve social distancing through public health recommendations.

Swedes were encouraged to work from home if possible and limit travel within the country. In addition, people aged 70 or older were asked to limit social contact, and people with Covid symptoms were asked to self-isolate. The goal was to protect the elderly and other high-risk groups while slowing down the spread of the virus so the healthcare system wouldn't become overwhelmed.

As the number of cases surged, some restrictions were imposed. Public events were limited to a maximum of 50 people in March

2020, and eight people in November 2020. Visits to nursing homes were banned and upper secondary schools closed. Primary schools did, however, remain open throughout the pandemic.

Face masks were not recommended for the general public during the first wave, and only in certain situations later in the pandemic.

During spring 2020, the reported COVID death rate in Sweden was among the highest in the world. Neighbouring countries that implemented rapid lockdown measures, such as Norway and Denmark, were faring much better, and Sweden received harsh criticism for its lax approach.

But defenders of the Swedish strategy claimed it would pay off in the long run, arguing that draconian measures were not sustainable and that the pandemic was a marathon, not a sprint.

Let's look at excess mortality as a key example. This metric takes the total number of deaths and compares this figure with pre-pandemic levels, capturing the wider effects of the pandemic and accounting for incorrect reporting of Covid deaths.

The decision to keep primary



schools open also paid off. The incidence of severe acute Covid in children has been low, and a recent study showed that Swedish children didn't suffer the learning loss seen in many other countries.

In this light, the Swedish strategy has gone from being called "a disaster" and "cautionary tale" to a "Scandinavian success". But to draw any relevant conclusions, it's crucial we dig a little further into how Swedes navigated the pandemic. Notably, any perceptions that people in Sweden went on with their everyday lives during the

pandemic as if nothing had changed are untrue.

In a survey by Sweden's Public Health Agency from the spring of 2020, more than 80% of Swedes reported they had adjusted their behaviour, for example by practising social distancing, avoiding crowds and public transport, and working from home. Aggregated mobile data confirmed that Swedes reduced their travel and mobility during the pandemic.

Swedes were not forced to take action against the spread of the virus, but they did so anyway. This

THE COUNTRY LARGELY STUCK TO ITS PANDEMIC PLAN, ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED TO BE USED IN THE EVENT OF AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC. INSTEAD OF LOCKDOWNS, THE GOAL WAS TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL DISTANCING THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

ALMOST 90% OF THOSE WHO HAD DIED WITH COVID IN SWEDEN WERE 70 OR OLDER. HALF OF THESE PEOPLE WERE LIVING IN A CARE HOME, AND JUST UNDER 30% WERE RECEIVING HOME HELP SERVICES

who had died with Covid in Sweden were 70 or older. Half of these people were living in a care home, and just under 30% were receiving home help services.

Indeed, numerous problems within elderly care in Sweden became evident during the pandemic. Structural shortcomings such as insufficient staffing levels left nursing homes unprepared and ill-equipped to handle the situation.

In its final report on the pandemic response, the Corona Commission concluded that tougher measures should have been taken early in the pandemic, such as quarantine for those returning from high-risk areas and a temporary ban on entry to Sweden.

The commission did, however, state that the no-lockdown strategy was fundamentally reasonable. By comparison, the Corona Commission in Norway, one of the few countries in Europe with lower excess mortality than Sweden, concluded that although the handling of the pandemic in Norway was generally good, children were hit hard by lockdowns and the authorities did not adequately protect them.

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“My God is love and sweetly suffers all.”

SRI AUROBINDO



# Things to Consider

The four stages of life, according to some of our Hindu texts, are brahmacharya, grihastha, vanaprastha and sanyasa. These are supposed to be broken into segments of 25 years each. The first quarter century is the life of studying and abstinence and poverty. For us, as a nation, this was from 1947 to 1972. It is not easy to deny that indeed we were poor and we were finding our way in these years. It was a period of struggle and defeat but hopefully also one of learning. Our population went from 350 million to 500 million in this period. Our per capita income when we came out of this era was not very different from when we entered it. In 1972, the average Indian made the equivalent of about ₹1000 a month: a student's allowance. The second stage, grihastha, is from the early 1970s to 1997. This is meant to be the period of productivity. It is when we establish the household and it is considered to be the most critical of the four stages. The phase when we get things done. Our population doubled from 500 million in 1972 to 1 billion in 1997. Our household expanded as never before. How we performed economically in this quarter century is for the historians to determine when they assess us fully after we finish 100 years. But consider that this is the same period in which the few successful nations of the 20th century usually took off, including South Korea, Singapore, Japan and even China. All of us — Korea, China, Taiwan and Japan came into their new independence the same time as India, and Singapore became independent in 1965 — entered into the phase of grihastha more or less together. Japan's per capita income went from \$3000 in 1972 to \$40,000 by the mid-1990s. Korea's went from \$300, which was the same as us at the time, to \$12,000.

The most significant economic activity that individuals (and I suppose nations) do usually comes in this period. Here in South Asia we have remained with our sisters and brothers in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Bangladesh is today slightly ahead of us in per capita income and Pakistan slightly behind.

The third phase was from 1997 to 2022. This was our period of vanaprastha, meaning retirement. When the household is handed over to the next generation, and when there is change and when the adult withdraws from duties. The responsibility is over and Japan, Korea and China are today ageing. China's median age is 40, Japan's is 50 and Korea's is somewhere in the middle. India's is not yet 30. Japan has 20 times our per capita income, China six times and Korea 16 times. Vietnam, with which we were even just a decade ago, now has twice our per capita income. Have we done enough economically to pass on something meaningful to the next generation? Again, this is something for later Indians to determine. It is undeniable however that there was a change of householder here. The old political party gave way to the new.

Now, at 75, we have entered sanyasa, where we have to be ideally be free of material desires and passions and prejudices. This era is to last for the next 25 years till 2047. And yet we have come into sanyasa full of passion and prejudice. What we have renunciated is the promise of pluralism in our Constitution and the quest for a secular state. Our passions are about how to punish other Indians and how to further privilege one religion. Our desire and enthusiasm for nationalism is expressed through ceremonial things like polyester flags and aggressive slogans. Dry numbers like per capita income do not quicken our pulse. Falling behind even Bangladesh in per capita income is not something that has disappointed us and we do not feel the need to mourn. We have been told to celebrate this current period as our amrit mahotsav. It is not clear whether we are celebrating the achievements of our previous three phases or celebrating what is to come in the quarter century beginning this week. If the former then, truth be told, we do not have much in the cupboard or in the trophy case to show the world as achievement. If we are celebrating the latter, we have not been told what we are doing that is going to produce a break and a change from the past. We have been told to celebrate and we are celebrating on the assurance that years leading to 2047 will be India's immortal era.

If we showed a youthfulness in our brahmacharya we are not exhibiting a cool detachment in our retirement. We are showing signs of anxiety punctuated by frenzy. It is not the behaviour of the mature person and not reflective of the wisdom of the aged. It is unusual and one wonders what, given the recent past and the record since 1947, the next quarter century holds in store for India. These are some of the things we might want to consider as we celebrate another Independence Day.



Aakar Patel

Have we done enough economically to pass on something meaningful to the next generation?



Sushanta Mallick & Brigitte Granville

INDIA'S PURCHASES OF DISCOUNTED RUSSIAN OIL ARE NOT ONLY CUSHIONING THE BLOW TO ITSELF AS A POOR ENERGY-IMPORTING COUNTRY, BUT ALSO HELPING TO PREVENT EVEN MORE ECONOMIC PAIN FOR EUROPE

## SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

# Climate crisis challenging governance



Ishan Chauhan

IN TODAY'S UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION, TOUGH CALLS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE FOR THE CAUSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## WISDOM CORNER

- “Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.”
- PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY
- “Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control; these three alone lead life to sovereign power.”
- ALFRED LORD TENNYSON
- “Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.”
- PABLO PICASSO

## WORDSWORTH

### ■ Whelmed

Underwhelmed started life as a joke based on overwhelmed and in language terms is relatively recent — it was first recorded in 1956, but became popular only a decade or so later. It's common these days, because it fills a need for a single word to communicate the concept of failing to impress. The verb whelm does exist, though you might search for some time before you find examples in modern prose. That's excluding fantasy and historical fiction, of course — when S M Stirling wrote in *On the Oceans of Eternity*, “Whelm not our ships with Your anger, but give us swift voyaging and good winds, full nets and victory”, his choice of whelm was deliberately archaic, to help convey to his readers the sense of being in another time and place. On the other hand, to come across “It was a late-arriving crowd that saw the Hurricanes whelm the Philadelphia Flyers Saturday night”, which appeared in *The News & Record of North Carolina* back in 1998, is to be brought up short, wondering if the word's a misprint. But it was once common. It started as a medieval English sea term meaning to capsize — it's related to the even older whelve, to overturn. Around 1513, Robert Fabyan used it in *The Newe Cronycles of Englande* and of France: “By the mysydyngne of the sterysman, he was set vpon the pyllys of the brydge, and the barge whelmyd” (in modern spelling “By the misguidance of the steersman, he was set upon the piles of the bridge, and the barge whelmed”). It could also mean to turn a hollow vessel upside down to cover something; in 1842 the *Florist's Journal* wrote that “Pansies that were planted out in the autumn, should be protected by whelming a small pot over each plant.” It also came to mean, as an extension of the capsize sense, being covered by water or drowning. Sir Charles Lyall used it that way in his *Principles of Geology* (1830): “Marsh land ... has at last been overflowed, and thousands of the inhabitants whelmed in the waves.” One might once have talked about the whelm of the tide, which covers the shore as it rises. But a writer can't use any of these senses any more, unless he's deliberately using an archaism for effect, or is showing off his knowledge of language, or is perhaps archly trying to invent a new word, not knowing that whelm exists.

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

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## FOCUS OIL GAME

# ADVANTAGE INDIA

If there was a prize for the most quotable comment on international relations so far in 2022, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar would be in the running. Responding to criticism of his country's neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine war at a security forum in Slovakia in June, Jaishankar said that “Europe has to grow out of the mindset that Europe's problems are the world's problems, but the world's problems are not Europe's problems.”

Like most major crises, the war is shedding stark light on our era, and India's response to it is particularly illuminating. India's current foreign policy does more than just exemplify how the conflict has intensified globalisation trends. It also highlights the paradox inherent in the country's increasing emphasis on “strategic autonomy” as the world fragments into rival power centers: the United States and its alliance system versus China and its major satellite, Russia. The essence of this paradox is that India's quest for self-reliance — keeping its distance from the principals of Cold War 2.0 and seeking advantage from diverse relationships — entails multidimensional international engagement. For example, European politicians painfully weaning their countries off imported Russian energy have criticized India for buying more Russian oil — after Western sanctions reduced its price by about a third relative to the world market price. Indian purchases of Russian crude increased to 1.1 million barrels per day (mbpd) by late July and now account for over one-fifth of Indian oil consumption, compared to just 2% last year. The standard official Indian response is that, despite Europe's extensive sanctions, the continent's energy trade with Russia still dwarfs India's. More tellingly, however, India's purchases of discounted Russian oil are not only cushioning the blow to itself as a poor energy-importing country, but also



India is playing this multifaceted game adroitly. The country's relations with Russia are part of its nuanced and multidimensional foreign policy

helping to prevent even more economic pain for Europe. If the 4.3 mbpd of crude oil that Russia sold to the West last year (or six mbpd including oil products) had no alternative markets like India, the world oil price would be even higher. Recognising the importance of keeping Russian oil on the market, the G7 has now come up with an alternative sanctions strategy that could present India with its next big test. The West's Plan A was to combine, by the end of 2022, a partial embargo on direct imports of Russian oil with an attempt to choke off Russian oil exports to third countries by leveraging Western (and especially British) dominance of the global marine insurance market. Plan B is the so-called “price cap” mechanism. This would allow Russia to continue exporting oil but set a maximum price just sufficient to cover its production costs, thereby depriving the Russian state of any war-financing rent. When the price cap scheme was first officially aired at the G7 summit in June, several leaders, notably German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, publicly questioned its viability — especially regarding compliance by third-party buyers of Russian oil. Even if Russia agreed to the cap, who would get access to its deeply discounted oil, and who would pay the full market rate? Russia would be much more likely simply to reduce output, hoping to offset

its losses with the resulting further price surge for whatever residual oil exports evaded the Western insurance net. Either way, India will be in a pivotal position. While Russia's opaque oil sales to China will continue regardless, India can look forward to various arbitrage opportunities. It will continue importing substantial quantities of Russian oil at ever cheaper prices. And in the event that such imports weakened Western measures to squeeze Russia's oil rents, the US would be unlikely to threaten — much less impose — secondary sanctions on India. After all, successive US administrations — under Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden — have refrained from using their legal powers under existing legislation to place secondary sanctions on India for continuing to buy Russian weapons. The reason for this is clear: A closer security partnership with India has become a vital part of America's China policy. Specifically, the Quad — an informal security grouping comprising the US, Japan, Australia, and India — has emerged as a cornerstone of US Indo-Pacific strategy, and would not survive the US sanctioning one of its members. Of course, the US-India security relationship is mutual, given the live Chinese threat to Indian territory along the Himalayan Line of Actual Control — as the deadly June 2020 border skirmish

showed. But India's fear of China also implies a strategic dimension to its ties with Russia that goes well beyond opportunistic oil and arms purchases. India has an interest in keeping Russia close and not allowing a monolithic and estranged Russia-China Eurasian axis to loom over the Indian subcontinent. India is playing this multifaceted game adroitly. In defense procurement, it has acquired advanced Russian S-400 air-defense systems and agreed to extend until 2031 the licensed local production of Russian weapons. But it has also increased arms purchases from NATO members, notably France. Moreover, India has ample options for managing broader US sensitivities vis-à-vis Russia. For example, Russia urgently needs to replace industrial inputs that it previously imported from the West. This could provide further opportunities for Indian exports, which are already a third higher than their pre-pandemic level, owing in part to the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat (“self-reliant India”) stimulus programme for manufacturing. Increased Indian pharmaceutical and automotive exports to Russia need not involve military support of the kind that has already led the US to sanction various Chinese electronics manufacturers, as announced on June 28. India's relations with Russia are part of its nuanced and multidimensional foreign policy. This approach means that the upcoming 75th anniversary of Indian Independence will coincide with the country achieving significant — and advantageous — geopolitical autonomy.

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default through an economic lens, a decision made in the public interest could be a fundamentally life-altering one for those involved, especially for those living within the demarcated ESZs. For instance, there are buildings near and hutment colonies on the border of Mumbai's Sanjay Gandhi National Park. They have been there for years and cannot be relocated. On the other side, there is a necessity to protect sanctuaries and national parks. When the citizenry lives in ever-densifying concrete jungles, these pockets of flora and fauna play a crucial role in the quality of their lives. To state the obvious, in these demarcated areas, protection of biodiversity, tree cover, wildlife — and the consequential reduction in CO2 — are all essential in the fight against the climate crisis confronting us. Speaking of national parks and sanctuaries, India has been ranked, generally, 179th out of 180 in biodiversity; it is 175th on the Biodiversity Index of the Yale/Columbia Environmental Performance Index (EPI). India has rejected the EPI, saying it is based on “surmises and unscientific methods”; and while there may be some truth in that, it may be noted that a repudiation came only when the country was placed near last, whereas the EPI assessments began some time ago. This sends out a dangerous message of selective disagreement.

The rejection of the EPI and the seeking of a review of the SC judgement on ESZs in view of the protests against it are one side of the picture. On the other side are other recent judgements of the SC, where the non-obtaining of environmental clearances where required have been merely termed as “technical irregularities”. However, in today's uncomfortable situation, tough calls will have to be made for the cause of the environment. This will, unfortunately, become a regular part of our lives. Constructive steps must be taken on planning for such eventualities, because at the current rate of emissions and the full-steam-ahead nature of general human activities, climate-related displacements can only rise. We will increasingly witness such events. Who would have imagined that 18 July this year; the town of Cazaux in France would record 42.4 degrees Celsius, the hottest day since its weather station first opened more than 100 years ago? Who connected Europe with this kind of heat? The challenge is — what kind of line can be drawn, and where, to ensure the best interests of those immediately concerned as well as of all those who will be concerned.

*The writer is an independent researcher and author.*

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## A welcome step

Sir, It is heartening and satisfying to learn that, the state Health and Family Welfare Department will distribute free kits containing contraceptive pills and other birth control equipment to newlywed couples in the state under a Central government initiative, Mission Pravar Vikas. Called ‘Nayi Pahal’ or ‘Nabadampati Kit’, it will be distributed by ASHAs (accredited social health activists) and will also carry brochures, guidelines and other important literature on the importance of safe sex, family planning and spacing out births. This is a welcome step. Unwanted child births are harmful for newlywed couples. They cast an adverse effect on maternal and infant health. By use of contraceptives, unwanted pregnancy can be kept at a bay. Population explosion is deleterious for the world economy and the global demography. Such a noble effort by the Health and Family Welfare Department will go a long way in containing the population growth in the state at large.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

## Perils of gambling

Sir, Many people are shocked given how quickly online gaming is gaining popularity in the country. Even if it is illegal to gamble in India, it is not against the law to do so online. As a result, players are utilising the convenience of real money gambling sites like Teen Patti, Rummy, Snooker; Cricketing, Lodo and many others. Due to the platforms' compatibility with the mobile devices, a higher number of gamblers play these games on their cellphones. Indian online gamblers are particularly interested in traditional card games, but they also enjoy fast-paced, graphically appealing games on their smartphones. The majority of the players prefer live dealer game styles, which assist to replicate a true casino experience. States in India, including Telangana, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh, have outlawed online gambling games due to concerns about addiction and mental health. The bans in some other states, like Kerala and Karnataka, have been overturned by the courts. The Supreme Court of India is still hearing some petitions pertaining to the matter from many years. While many experts have debated the benefits and drawbacks of online gambling, the problems gambling cause cannot be disregarded. If the sector keeps on expanding without stringent guidelines and attention to gambling addiction, it can lead to more serious issues among young Indians.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR (KARNATAKA)



## of the day quote

India did not let China enter its territory and political parties must try not to politicise issues related to the country's security



**RAJNATH SINGH** | DEFENCE MINISTER

The third rake of Vande Bharat Express train that was designed, developed, and manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory will be tested for about 15,000 kilometres



**ASHWINI VAISHNAW** | RAILWAYS MINISTER

I am hopeful that the Central government and the NSCN-IM would soon resolve all aspects relating to the protracted Naga political issues



**NEIPHIU RIO** | NAGALAND CM

## SHORT TAKES

### CRPF officer hurt

**Srinagar:** A CRPF officer was injured when militants hurled a powerful hand grenade at a security forces bunker in Srinagar city on Saturday evening, police said. Militants hurled a grenade at a CRPF bunker in Aali Masjid Eidgah area. "The grenade exploded in which CRPF sub-inspector, Parvez Rana of 161 Battalion sustained minor injuries. "The area has been cordoned off for searches," a police source said.

### Punjab makes masks mandatory

**Chandigarh:** Amid the spike in Covid-19 cases, the Punjab government on Saturday made face masks mandatory at public places. In an advisory, the government said all must ensure wearing of masks in all educational institutions, government and private offices, indoor and outdoor gatherings, malls, and public places.

### Man slits wife's throat

**Hassan (Karnataka):** In a shocking incident, a man slit his wife's throat in the premises of a local court in Karnataka's Hassan district on Saturday and tried to attack his baby before bystanders intervened and saved the child, police said. The incident took place in the premises of Holenarasipura town court. The deceased woman has been identified as Chaitra, a resident of Thattekere village, while her husband was identified as Shivakumar from Holenarasipura taluka. According to police, the couple were married seven years ago, but had filed a petition of divorce before the court as they could not lead a cordial life.

### Hooch claims seven in Bihar

**Saran (Bihar):** At least seven people have died in the last three days allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in Saran district of Bihar which is a dry state, a senior police officer said Saturday. The incident occurred after 11 people died and several others fell ill after drinking hooch in the same district last week.

### 4 dead in MP

**Vidisha:** Four persons were killed after a speeding car hit two motorcycles in Vidisha district in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said Saturday. The incident took place in Gyarspur, some 35 kilometres from the district headquarters, on Friday, and police said the accident may have been caused by some stray cattle sitting on the road.



**The BJP is making fun of AAP's welfare schemes by calling them 'Free ki Revdi' (freebies)**

**MANISH SISODIA** | DELHI DEPUTY CM

## SONIA TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID AGAIN

Over two months after contracting the coronavirus infection, Congress president Sonia Gandhi Saturday tested positive for Covid again and will remain in isolation



# Pak to participate in SCO counter-terror drills in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, August 13:** Pakistan will attend the counter-terrorism drills hosted by India under the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in October, despite a chill in bilateral ties, a media report said on Saturday.

While Pakistani and Indian military contingents have taken part in counter-terrorism exercises together, this will be the first time that Pakistan will be attending such drills in India, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Pakistan will attend the international counter-terrorism exercise scheduled in October this year under SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), the newspaper quoted Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Asim Iftikhar as saying on Friday at the weekly briefing.

"Yes, there will be exercises under the ambit of SCO RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure)," the spokesperson said, adding that India was chairing the SCO RATS this year. "These exercises are scheduled to be held in India in Mahesar in October; and as Pakistan is a member, we will participate," he said.

"At what level, I think we will approach that, we will let you know,"



India and Pakistan, under the banner of the SCO are part of the 9-member Beijing-based regional body

The move is termed to be significant given the tensions between India and Pakistan after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019

India has said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence

India and Pakistan, under the banner of the SCO are part of the nine-member Beijing-based regional body. The move is termed to be significant given the tensions between India and Pakistan after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy. India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country India has said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence.

the FO spokesperson added. The exercise scheduled to be held in Manesar in Haryana will see participation from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, besides India.

## NEW POST FOR SHAH FAESAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 13:** IAS officer Shah Faesal, who had a brief stint in politics, has been posted as a deputy secretary in the union tourism ministry over three months after being reinstated, officials said Saturday.

The order on the posting of 2010-batch IAS officer from erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre was cleared earlier this week. He was reinstated in the last week of April after the government accepted his application for withdrawing his resignation.

Faesal could not be reached for a comment through calls or messages. Faesal, who was the first Indian Administrative Service exam topper from Jammu and Kashmir, had earlier this year dropped hints about his return to the government service when he sent out a series of tweets speaking about his idealism letting him down in 2019 when he had resigned.

He had said, "8 months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years. Job. Friends. Reputation. Public goodwill. But I never lost hope. My idealism had let me down," he had said.

"But I had faith in myself. That I would undo the mistakes I had made. That life would give me another chance. A part of me is exhausted with the memory of those 8 months and wants to erase that legacy. Much of it is already gone. Time will mop off the rest in believe," he had tweeted.

"It is always worth giving ourselves another chance. Setbacks make us stronger. And there is an amazing world beyond the shadows of the past. I turn 39 next month. And I'm really excited to start all over again," he tweeted in April.



A visitor takes pictures of helium-filled balloons during the Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival at Mamallapuram near Chennai

PTI PHOTO

## Anti-aircraft ammunition seized in Meghalaya

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Shillong, August 13:** In a major success, the Meghalaya Police Saturday recovered a large cache of weapons, including 79 rounds of anti-aircraft ammunition from a forest in Pilgonggre area of the state's East Garo Hills district, an official said.

A police official said that the arms and ammunition were suspected to be of the banned militant outfit Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA). Acting on a tip off, a police team launched an opera-



tion in the forest area under Williamnagar police station early on Saturday and recovered the huge cache of arms and ammunition, the official added.

The recovered weapons included 79 rounds of live anti-aircraft am-

munition, 175 rounds of 7.7 ammunition, 10 electrical detonators, one 12-bore double barrel and approximately 250 grams of gelatin.

A police official said that the arms and ammunition were suspected to be of the banned militant outfit Garo National Liberation Army

proximately 250 grams of gelatin. It is suspected that the arms might be hidden by GNLA chief Sohan D Shira, who died in a police encounter in 2018.

A case has been registered, and police have launched a probe into the recovery of the huge cache of arms and explosives. On a few occasions earlier, the security forces recovered arms and ammunition, mostly belonging to the GNLA, from the deep jungle. Many cadres of the militant group have been arrested in the past by the Meghalaya Police.

It has also been decided to station additional technical manpower by deploying the facility of Associate Professor level as technical observer at every centre to ensure smooth conduct of examination.

The second phase of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) was marred with glitches prompting the agency to cancel exams at various centres.

Kumar had last week said the exam was cancelled at various centres following indications and reports of "sabotage".

## Pakistan and India have fought three wars since Independence, two over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, which they both claim in full

Pakistan marks independence on Sunday, majority-Hindu archrival India on Monday.

The Baqai families last met eight years ago when the older brother travelled to New Delhi. Repeated subsequent attempts for visas by the two families have been rejected from both sides, the brothers said.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since independence, two over the disputed Himalayan

region of Kashmir, which they both claim in full. Tensions peaked in 2019 when each sent combat fighters into the other's airspace. Britain's carving out new nations by splitting the two, as its empire ebbed after World War Two, triggered mass sectarian migration in both directions, marred by bloodshed and violence on both sides.

About 15 million people changed countries, mainly based on religion, and more than a million were killed in religious riots in the 1947 partition, according to independent estimates. Among the divided, the Baqais have not been able to share each other's happiest or saddest moments. Ali Hasan, the older brother, was not allowed to attend the Indian funerals of his two sisters and mother in New Delhi.



Ashok Kamble, Manoj Sansare, and Sanjay Kambale.

According to the official order, it has not been proved that Wankhede and his father Dnyandeve Wankhede had renounced Hinduism to convert to Islam and they both belonged to the Mahar 37 Scheduled Caste, and rejected all the complaints filed against them in the matter.

Soon afterwards, Wankhede tweeted - "Satyameva Jayate" - signifying 'victory of truth', and said he and his family had undergone a lot of trauma due to the matter. Lawyer for Ashok Kamble, advocate Nitin Satpute said that Wankhede's caste issue is already under challenge in the Bombay High Court in a writ petition filed last year.

"We had not much expectations from the Caste Scrutiny Committee, have faith in the high court," he said. "We shall now modify our petition in view of the latest order... It is not final and we shall request the high court to order a full probe into the matter," Satpute added.

## CUET-UG phase 4 exam deferred

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 13:** The Central Universities Entrance Test-UG for over 11,000 candidates who were scheduled to appear in the fourth phase of the exam has been deferred to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for centre, officials said Saturday.

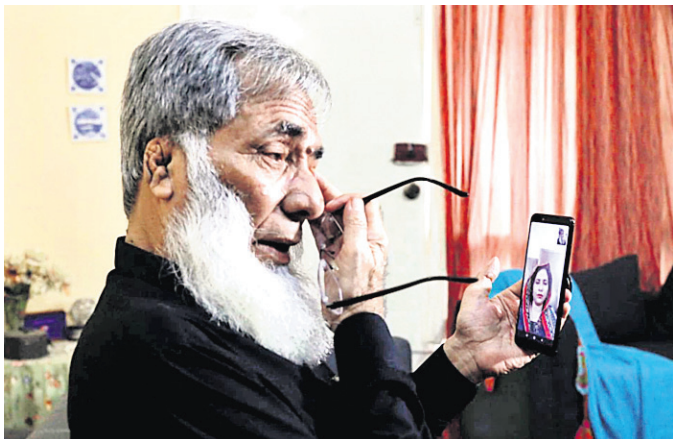
The fourth phase of the CUET for admission in undergraduate courses was scheduled from August 17-20 and a total of 3.72 lakh candidates were set to appear. According to the initial plan, all phases of the exam were scheduled to conclude on August 20. The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the exam, had later announced that all phases of the exam will conclude August 28.

However, now the schedule has been further deferred and the exam split into six phases. "The exam for over 11,000 out of 3.72 lakh candidates has been postponed to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for exam centre. The NTA (National Testing Agency) has increased the capacity at centres and also added more exam centres besides making efforts to ensure the quality of the centres is enhanced," UGC Chairman Jagadeesh Kumar said.

"It has also been decided to station additional technical manpower by deploying the facility of Associate Professor level as technical observer at every centre to ensure smooth conduct of examination."

The second phase of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) was marred with glitches prompting the agency to cancel exams at various centres.

Kumar had last week said the exam was cancelled at various centres following indications and reports of "sabotage".



Ali Hassan Baqai, 76, whose family was divided by the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, weeps while speaking on a video call with his Indian citizen sister Shehla, 45, who lives in Delhi, India, at home in Karachi, Pakistan

REUTERS



# Himachal bans 'mass conversion'

THE RULING BJP HAS BEEN A VOCAL SUPPORTER OF ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS AND MANY PARTY-RULED STATES HAVE INTRODUCED SIMILAR MEASURES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, August 13:** The Himachal Pradesh Assembly approved a bill Saturday to make the state's 2019 anti-conversion law more stringent by forbidding a convert from availing "any benefit" of parents' religion or caste and enhancing the maximum punishment to 10 years imprisonment.

Passed by a voice vote, the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022, also bans "mass conversion" - described as two or more people converting at the same time - through force or allurement.

The bill proposes to increase the punishment for illegal conversions to a maximum of 10 years from seven years.

The BJP government introduced the bill Friday for amending the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2019, which came into force barely 18 months ago.

Objecting to certain provisions, Congress legislator Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and CPI (M) legislator Rakesh Singha demanded that the bill be sent to a select committee for examination. The bill will become law after the assent of the governor.

Congress legislator Sukhu had reservations about the provisions that barred a convert from taking



any benefit of his parent religion or caste, but the government insisted that it is in line with the Constitution.

The Constitution (Scheduled Caste) Order, 1950, says no person who professes a religion different from Hindus, Sikhs or Buddhists shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

The Congress legislator from Kinnaur, Jagat Singh Negi, said that even if the government makes the Act stringent, the conversion "will not stop until the mentality is changed."

He claimed that depriving scheduled castes who convert to other religions of the benefit of reservation was against the spirit of the Constitution.

CPI (M) legislator Rakesh Singha also demanded that the bill be re-

ferred to a select committee as the matter is under judicial scrutiny.

Replying to the objections, Parliamentary Affairs minister Suresh Bhardwaj said that the rights of the tribal people will not change.

He said under the bill, a self-declaration is required that the converted person will not take any benefit of his parents' religion.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur stated that followers of some religions are focussing on tribal areas of the hill state to convert Scheduled Castes and his party was more conscious than others about protecting the rights of the SC community.

The 2019 anti-conversion bill was notified only December 21, 2020, 15 months after it was passed in the state assembly. It had re-

placed the 2006 law brought by the Virbhadra Singh-led Congress government.

The words "and to the effect that he shall not take any benefit of his parent religion or caste after conversion" have been inserted after the words "fraudulent means" in section 7 (1) of the Principal Act.

It stipulates that the complaints made under the Act will be investigated by a police officer not below the rank of a sub-inspector. The offences will now be tried by a sessions court. The bill seeks to amend sections 2,4,7 and 13 and insert section 8A in the 2019 Act.

The maximum punishment under the bill is 10 years, up from seven in the 2019 Act and three in the old Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2006.

The current law says no person or organisation violating its provisions will be allowed to accept a donation or contribution of any kind from within or outside the country.

The ruling BJP has been a vocal supporter of anti-conversion laws and many party-ruled states have introduced similar measures.

Chief Minister Thakur had said the 2019 Act did not have a provision to curb mass conversion. "Therefore, a provision to this effect is being made."

# Guj polls: Ghosts of polarisation to haunt as campaign takes off

*There is no doubt that the election campaign will start with development issues, but as election approaches, the tone will change slowly and turn into polarising voters on communal lines*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



**Gandhinagar, August 13:** The Gujarat Assembly elections will see core issues like development, failure of Opposition, a plan for what the people of Gujarat want, drug smuggling, law and order. However, once the campaign heats up communal polarization is likely to overtake all these issues, as has been the experience in the last few elections.

The Bharatiya Janata Party government has taken up many development works in the last 20 years. "The party will take up issues like bringing SAUNI, Sujalam Sufalam irrigation and drinking water projects for Saurashtra-Kutch and North Gujarat, industrial investments in the state generating employment, roof-top solar programmes that benefitted lakhs of households, electric vehicles policy giving subsidy, agriculture policy, Metro train for Ahmedabad

and Surat, high speed train for Gujarat to win people's hearts for the sixth consecutive time," said Yamal Vyas, chief spokesman of the party.

Over and above the development work, the party is conducting surveys at several levels and segments of the society, getting citizens feedback on what their expectations are from the BJP government. Based on the feedback a new development road map will be prepared and implemented, said Vyas.

There is no doubt that the election campaign will start with the development issues, but as the election approaches, the campaign tone will change slowly and turn into polarising the voters on communal lines. Once the nomination of candidates is completed, it will reach a peak, observed Hemant Shah, economist and political analyst.

The burning issues of the state are quality education and privatisation, free electricity upto 300 units, contractual employment, which should be debated in the campaign but these are on the backburner, believes Shah.

Says senior Congress leader Deepak Babaria, the people of the state are suffering from inflation, high education expenditure, shrinking space for democracy, corruption, Gujarat becoming the hub of landing drugs, deteriorating law and order situation, increase in human trafficking. The BJP would not like to talk about these issues, but the Congress campaign will focus on them, he added.

But, he too fears that in the last leg of the campaign, caste politics and communal polarisation will be the front-runners, and the core issues will be overshadowed.

# WILL CONG BE DENTED BY AAP'S GROWING PRESENCE IN GUJARAT?

*The BJP has started taking the AAP as a serious threat and if the AAP's freebies promises work, it can prove a big challenge to both the national parties*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ahmedabad, August 13:** This time there will be a triangular contest on many seats in the Gujarat assembly elections. After almost three decades a third force is emerging in the state with good numbers. But even after the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) entry into the state politics, there will be a straight fight between the Congress and the BJP on a majority of the seats, say political analysts.

The Gujarat Assembly has 182 seats and the elections are scheduled this December.

The last successful alliance was of the Janata Dal and the BJP, who formed the government in 1990 for a very short period.

This time the AAP will be able to put up a big show, its presence in the elections is visible six months prior to the polls, its social media campaign is very effective in building the party's image among the masses, yet it can at the most make it to double digits. It is not likely to be a threat either to the Congress or the BJP, is the reading of political analyst Hari Desai.

An early assumption was that the AAP will sabotage the prospects of the Congress, but the way free electricity and a stipend to the youths has been promised by the AAP it can influence the urban voters. If that happens it will hurt the BJP, thinks Desai.

In Gujarat, neither of the two national parties, the BJP and the Congress, seem to be in any mood to ally with any other national or regional party. The BJP has already hinted at allying with the

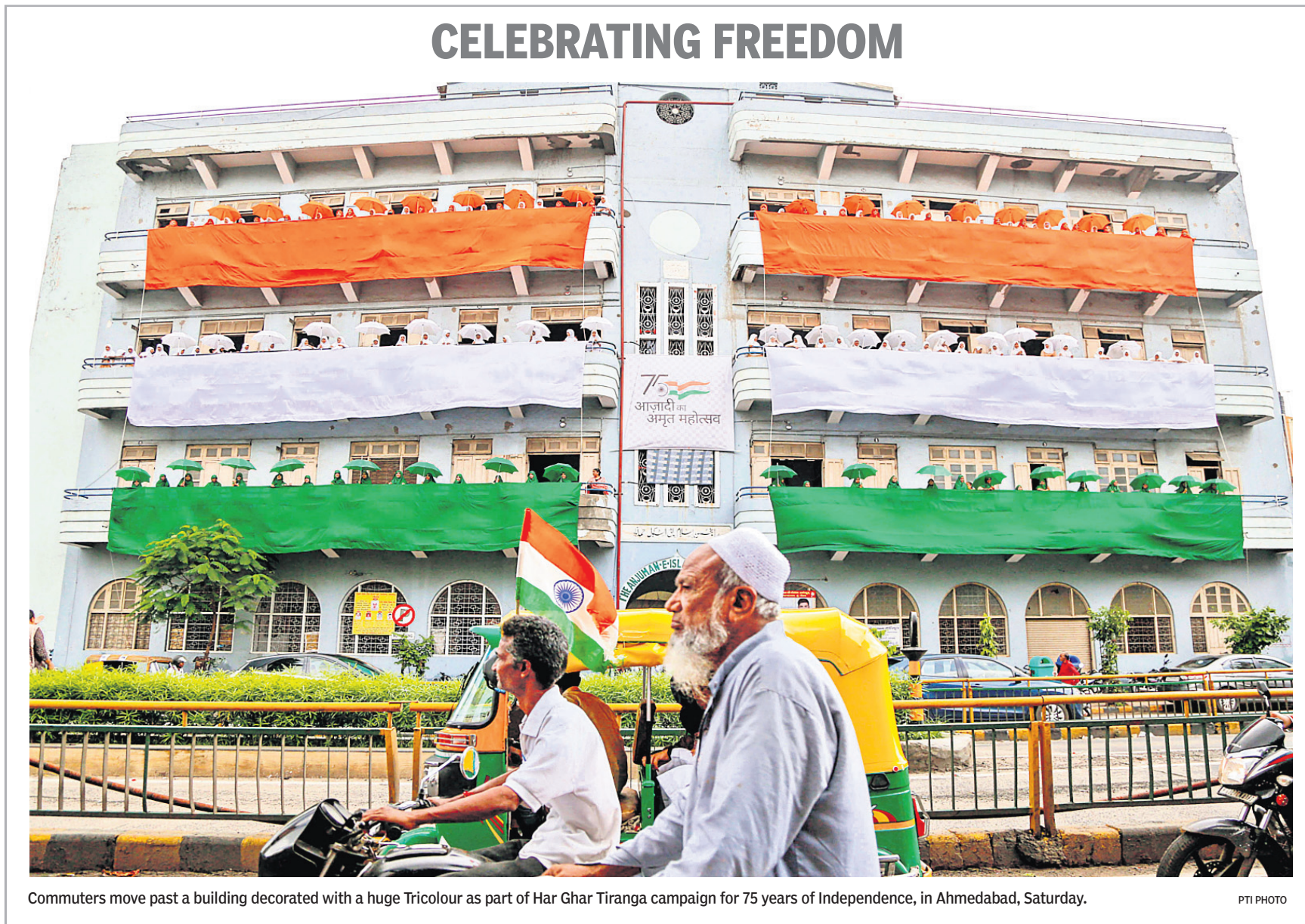
AAP. There is no question of the AIMIM allying with any other party, so there will not be a serious pre-poll alliance this time.

Political analyst Dilip Gohil thinks there will be triangular contests, but not on all seats. It will depend on how many serious and influential candidates are fielded by the AAP. Recently the AAP declared the names of 10 candidates, out of which only three candidates can likely give a fight to the BJP or Congress candidates, the rest are completely new faces, he says.

Gohil says the BJP has started taking the AAP as a serious threat and if the AAP's freebies promises work, it can prove a big challenge to both the national parties.

The election commission's data shows that a third party presence in the elections has always dented the Congress vote bank. In 2012 the Gujarat Parivartan Party led by former chief minister late Keshubhai Patel sabotaged the BJP in eight seats and the Congress in five seats.

In the 2017 assembly elections the BSP and the NCP wanted to ally with the Congress, but their seat sharing expectations were too high. The BSP had demanded 25 seats and the NCP had asked for six seats, to which the Congress did not agree. The BSP contested on 138 seats, and the NCP on 57 seats, damaging the Congress candidates' prospects. The BSP could not win a single seat, whereas the NCP could win only one seat, but both together damaged 12 seats, where the Congress candidates lost with thin margins, shows the EC data.



Commuters move past a building decorated with a huge Tricolour as part of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign for 75 years of Independence, in Ahmedabad, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

# HP's outstanding debt-GSDP ratio at 42.91%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, August 13:** Himachal Pradesh's outstanding debt-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio is much above the target set by the 15th Finance Commission (FC), according to a CAG report.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in its report, tabled by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in the Assembly Saturday, said the total outstanding debt-GSDP ratio, which stood at 42.91 per cent, was above the target set by the 15th Finance Commission (36 per cent).

The CAG report for the year ended March 31, 2021, further stated that the state government passed the Himachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (HP-FRBM) Act in April 2005 and provided for quantitative targets to be adhered to by the state with regard to deficit measures and debt levels.

The HP-FRBM Act was required to be amended to prescribe revised targets for deficit and debt levels. However, the same had not been done by the state gov-



ernment, it added.

Against the target of maintaining the revenue surplus prescribed by the 15th Finance Commission (FC) and in HP-FRBM Act, there was revenue deficit (Rs 97 crore) during 2020-21. Actual Fiscal Deficit at 3.64 per cent of GSDP remained within the 15th FC target, but exceeded the targets set in the FRBM Act, it added.

During the year 2020-21, there was a revenue deficit of ₹97 crore, as against the previous year's revenue surplus of ₹12 crore. The fiscal deficit (₹ 5,700 crore) increased by ₹2,103 crore over the previous year (₹3,597 crore). Primary deficit decreased to ₹21,228 crore during 2020-21 from ₹1,363 crore in 2019-20, it added.

During the year 2020-21, there was an increase of 8.77 per cent ( ₹2,695.86 crore) in Revenue Receipts over the previous year but only 31 per cent of the Revenue Receipts came from the state's own resources comprising taxes and non-taxes, while the remaining 69 per cent were contributed by central transfers comprising the state's share in central taxes and duties (14 per cent) and Grants-in-Aid from Government of India (55 per cent), it added.

Total expenditure increased by ₹7,031.31 crore (21.88 per cent) over a period of five years (2016-21). During 2020-21, total expenditure (Rs 39,164.25 crore) of the state increased by ₹2,801.70 crore (7.70 per cent) over the year 2019-20. Share of revenue expenditure in total expenditure ranged from

78.9 per cent to 86.7 per cent during the period 2016-21, it added.

Rate of growth of revenue expenditure displayed a fluctuating trend over the same period. The committed expenditure accounted for a dominant share (67-71 per cent) of revenue expenditure and revenue receipts (65-70 per cent) of the State during the five-year period 2016-21, it added.

During 2020-21, capital expenditure (Rs 5,309 crore) increased by ₹136 crore (2.62 per cent) over the previous year 2019-20 (Rs 5,174 crore), and constituted 13.56 per cent of total expenditure as compared to 14.23 per cent during 2019-20, it added.

The overall fiscal liabilities at the end of the year were ₹67,164.75 crore, after excluding ₹1,717 crore received as back-to-back loans to State from Gol in lieu of GST compensation shortfall, it added.

These had increased by 7.96 per cent in 2020-21 as compared with 14.57 per cent in the previous year. The ratio of fiscal liabilities to GSDP in 2020-21 was 42.91 per cent (calculated by excluding ₹1,717 crore received as back-to-back loans), it added.

# 24 Pakistan Hindus get Indian citizenship



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Rajkot, August 13:** Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi Friday handed over citizenship certificates to 24 Pakistani Hindus who were living in India on long-term visa in Rajkot and had applied for Indian citizenship.

Addressing all 24 individuals, Sanghavi said: "I welcome you all as brothers and sisters of this big country... hope like all of us here, you too will join the development motto, and we promise you all that we will extend support to you all for your growth and progress."

Describing it as the happiest moment of her life, Kesarbhai Sankalchand, a 22-year-old Pakistani Hindu after receiving Indian citizenship, said: "Now I will be able to complete my graduation and fulfill our dreams in my country India."



of the day quote

Russian authorities repeatedly have blocked efforts to provide state-subsidised drugs to people in occupied cities, towns and villages

**VIKTOR LIASHKO** | UKRAINIAN HEALTH MINISTER

The attempt on the life of renowned writer Salman Rushdie is appalling and reprehensible

**JAKE SULLIVAN** | US NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

The African Union Commission condemns the recent acts of violent protests in Sierra Leone

**MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT** | CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

SHORT TAKES

Taliban break up rare women stir

**Kabul:** Taliban fighters beat women protesters and fired into the air Saturday as they violently dispersed a rare rally in the Afghan capital, days ahead of the first anniversary of the hardline Islamists' return to power. Since seizing power on August 15 last year, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women during the two decades of US intervention in Afghanistan. About 40 women - chanting "Bread, work and freedom" - marched in front of the education ministry building in Kabul, before the fighters dispersed them by firing their guns into the air.

Festival stage mishap kills one

**Madrid:** One person was killed and dozens were injured when high winds caused part of the main stage to collapse at a dance music festival near the Spanish city of Valencia in the early hours of Saturday, regional emergency services said. Other infrastructure was also damaged when gusts battered the Medusa Festival, a huge electronic music festival held over six days in the east coast town of Cullera, south of Valencia. The festival, where French DJ David Guetta was due to play on Saturday, had DJs scheduled to play throughout the night on Friday across five stages.

North Korea lifts mask mandate

**Seoul:** North Korea has lifted a mask mandate and eased other virus restrictions, state media said Saturday, days after leader Kim Jong Un declared "victory" over COVID-19. The announcement comes after Pyongyang earlier this week blamed Seoul for causing the COVID-19 outbreak in the North and threatened to "wipe out" the South Korean authorities, if necessary. Virus restrictions were eased as "the public health crisis created in the country was completely defused and its whole territory was turned into a clean one free from the malignant virus in the shortest period," Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

Red alert in China

**Shenzhen:** Several regions of China including the major southwestern city of Chongqing baked in temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius Saturday, while the country's national observatory continued its red alert for extreme heat. In Zhejiang, home to many factories and exporters, a meteorological official said that the eastern province has broken its previous record for high temperature days this year, with 31 days above 35C and 16 days above 38C.



China's actions are fundamentally at odds with the goal of peace and stability

**KURT CAMPBELL** | COORDINATOR FOR THE INDO PACIFIC, US

MAJOR BLOW TO SUNAK

A senior Cabinet minister who was backing Rishi Sunak in the UK prime ministerial contest Saturday became the first high-profile figure to switch sides to the opposing camp of Foreign Secretary Liz Truss. Writing in 'The Daily Telegraph', Sir Robert Buckland said he now believes Truss is the "right person to take the country forward"



Espionage allegations against Trump

THE SEARCH WAS CARRIED OUT AS PART OF A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO WHETHER TRUMP ILLEGALLY REMOVED DOCUMENTS WHEN HE LEFT OFFICE IN JANUARY 2021 AFTER LOSING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TWO MONTHS EARLIER TO DEMOCRAT JOE BIDEN

REUTERS

**Washington, August 12:** FBI agents in this week's search of former U.S. President Donald Trump's Florida home removed 11 sets of classified documents including some marked as top secret, the Justice Department said Friday, while also disclosing it had probable cause to conduct the search based on possible Espionage Act violations.

The bombshell disclosures were made in a search warrant approved by a US magistrate judge and accompanying documents released four days after agents searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Palm Beach. The Espionage Act, one of three laws cited in the warrant application, dates to 1917 and makes it a crime to release information that could harm national security.

Trump, in a statement on his social media platform, said the records were "all declassified" and placed in "secure storage."

"They didn't need to seize anything. They could have had it anytime they wanted without playing politics and breaking into Mar-a-Lago," the Republican businessman-turned-politician said.

Although the FBI Monday carted away material labeled as classified, the three laws cited as the basis for the warrant make it a crime to mishandle government records, regardless of whether they are classified. As such, Trump's claims that he declassified the documents would have no bearing on the potential legal violations at issue.



FBI agents took more than 30 items including more than 20 boxes, binders of photos, a handwritten note and the executive grant of clemency for Trump's ally and longtime adviser Roger Stone, a list of items removed showed. Also included in the list was information about the "President of France."

The warrant showed that FBI agents were asked to search a room called "the 45 Office" - Trump was the 45th US president - as well as all other rooms and structures or buildings on the estate used by Trump or his staff where boxes or documents could be stored.

The Justice Department said in the warrant application approved by US Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart that it had probable cause to believe violations of the Espionage Act had occurred at

Trump says the seized records were "all declassified"

FBI agents searched Mar-a-Lago property Monday

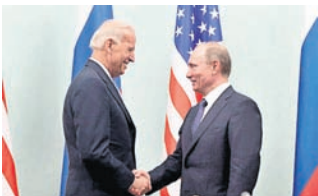
Agents took more than 30 items, including 20-plus boxes

Trump's home.

That law was initially enacted to combat spying. Prosecutions under it were relatively uncommon until the Justice Department ramped up its use under both Trump and his predecessor Barack Obama to go after leakers of national security information, including leaks to the news media.

The Justice Department has used the Espionage Act in high-profile cases in recent years including former National Security Agency contractor Edward

Moscow warns of end to Russia-US relations



REUTERS

**Moscow, August 13:** Any possible seizure of Russian assets by the United States will completely destroy Moscow's bilateral relations with Washington, TASS quoted the head of the North American Department at the Russian foreign ministry as saying Saturday.

Russia's relations with the West have deteriorated sharply since Moscow sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine February 24, calling it a special military operation. The West responded with unprecedented economic, financial and diplomatic sanctions, including freezing around half of Russia's gold and foreign exchange reserves that stood near \$640 billion before February 24.

Top Western officials, including European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, have suggested seizing the frozen reserves to help

We warn the Americans of the detrimental consequences of such actions that will permanently damage bilateral relations, which is neither in their nor in our interests

**ALEXANDER DARCHIEV** | HEAD OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT, RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

fund the future reconstruction of Ukraine.

It was not immediately clear which assets he was referring to. The United States and its European allies have also frozen \$30 billion of assets held by wealthy individuals with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, including yachts, helicopters, real estate and art, according to the Biden administration.

The US Department of Justice was seeking broader authority from Congress to seize Russian oligarchs' assets as a means to pressure Moscow over its actions in Ukraine, a prosecutor said in July. Darchiev also said that Russia warned the United States that diplomatic ties would be badly damaged and could even be broken if Russia is declared a state sponsor of terrorism.



Italy's worst drought in decades has reduced Lake Garda, the country's largest lake, to near its lowest level ever recorded, exposing swaths of previously underwater rocks and warming the water to temperatures that approach the average in the Caribbean Sea

AP PHOTO

How a 33-year-old fatwa changed Salman Rushdie's life

A fatwa is a decree from an Islamic religious leader. In Rushdie's case, Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned 'The Satanic Verses' as blasphemy in February 1989 and called for the writer's death

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Paris, August 13:** Friday's knife attack on Salman Rushdie comes more than 33 years after the fatwa against him by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in which he sentenced him to death.

**The Fatwa**

On February 14, 1989 Khomeini called for him to be killed for writ-

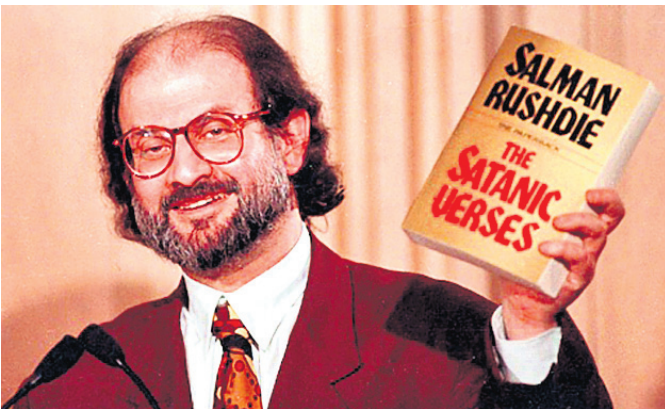
ing "The Satanic Verses", which the cleric said insulted Islam.

In a fatwa, or religious decree, Khomeini urged "Muslims of the world rapidly to execute the author and the publishers of the book" so that "no one will any longer dare to offend the sacred values of Islam."

Khomeini, who was 89 and had just four months to live, added that anyone who was killed trying to carry out the death sentence should be considered a "martyr" who would go to paradise. A \$2.8-million bounty was put on the writer's head.

For almost 13 years he moved between safe houses under the pseudonym of Joseph Anton, changing base 56 times in the first six months. His solitude was worsened by the split with his wife American novelist Marianne Wiggins, to whom "The Satanic Verses" are dedicated.

"I am gagged and imprisoned," he recalled writing in his diary in



his 2012 memoir, "Joseph Anton".

**'Blasphemous'**

Viking Penguin published "The Satanic Verses" in September 1988 to critical acclaim. The book is set by turns in the London of Conservative British prime minister Margaret Thatcher and ancient Mecca, Islam's holiest site.

It centres on the adventures of two Indian actors, Gibreel and Saladin, whose hijacked plane explodes over the English Channel. They re-emerge on a beach and mix with immigrants in London, the story unfolding in surreal sequences reflecting his magic realism style. The book was deemed blasphemous and sacrilegious by many Muslims including over references to verses alleged by some scholars to have been an early version of the Koran and later removed. These verses allow for prayers to be made to three pagan goddesses, contrary to Islam's strict belief that there is only one God.

Controversially, Rushdie writes of the involvement of a prophet resembling the founder of Islam, Mohammed. This prophet is tricked into striking a deal with Satan in which he exchanges some of his monotheistic dogmatism in favour of the three goddesses. Khomeini and others insist he had depicted the prophet irreverently.

**'Hang Rushdie'**

In October 1988, PM Rajiv Gandhi banned the import of the book, hoping to win Muslim support ahead of elections. Some 20 countries went on to outlaw it. In January 1989, Muslims in Britain's northern city of Bradford

burned copies in public.

A month later, thousands of Pakistanis attacked the US Information Center, shouting "hang Salman Rushdie". Police opened fire, killing five. Khomeini's fatwa provoked horror around the Western world. There were protests in Europe, and London and Tehran broke off diplomatic relations for nearly two years.

**'Islamophobia'**

Many Muslims were furious when Rushdie was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2007 for his services to literature. Iran accused Britain of "Islamophobia", saying its fatwa still stood, and there were widespread Muslim protests, notably in Pakistan.

After many years living in the shadows, he became something of a socialite and is seen by many in the West as a free speech hero. Until Friday's knife attack, he had very much resumed a normal life.



Europe is sweltering under a severe heatwave and drought that have produced tragic consequences for farmers and ecosystems already under threat from climate change and pollution. Climate change is exacerbating conditions as hotter temperatures have triggered monstrous wildfires across the region. Heatwaves have become more frequent, more intense and longer-lasting. The world has already warmed by about 1.1 degrees Celsius since the industrial era began. Europe isn't alone in the crisis, with drought conditions also reported in East Africa, the western United States and northern Mexico



# Climate change driving extreme heat, flooding

In the last three months, monsoon rains unleashed disastrous flooding in Bangladesh, and brutal heatwaves seared parts of South Asia and Europe. Meanwhile, prolonged drought has left millions on the brink of famine in East Africa

REUTERS

**London:** Extreme weather events – from scorching heatwaves to unusually heavy downpours – have caused widespread upheaval across the globe this year, with thousands of people killed and millions more displaced.

In the last three months, monsoon rains unleashed disastrous flooding in Bangladesh, and brutal heatwaves seared parts of South Asia and Europe. Meanwhile, prolonged drought has left millions on the brink of famine in East Africa.

Much of this, scientists say, is what's expected from climate change.

A team of climate scientists published a study in the journal Environmental Research: Climate. The researchers scrutinized the role climate change has played in individual weather events over the past two decades.

The findings confirm warnings of how global warming will change our world – and also make clear what

information is missing.

## HEATWAVES

With heatwaves, it's highly probable that climate change is making things worse. "Pretty much all heatwaves across the world have been made more intense and more likely by climate change," said study co-author Ben Clarke, an environmental scientist at the University of Oxford.

In general, a heatwave that previously had a 1 in 10 chance of occurring is now nearly three times as likely – and peaking at temperatures around 1 degree Celsius higher – than it would have been without climate change.

An April heatwave that saw the mercury climb above 50C (122 Fahrenheit) in India and Pakistan, for example, was made 30 times more likely by climate change, according to WWA.

## RAINFALL AND FLOODING

Last week, China saw extensive flooding, following heavy rains. At the same time, Bangladesh was hit with a flood-triggering deluge.

Overall, episodes of heavy rainfall are becoming more common and more intense. That's because warmer air holds more moisture, so storm clouds are "heavier" before they eventually break.

On a global scale, the frequency of storms hasn't increased. However, cyclones are now more common in the central Pacific and North Atlantic, and less so in the Bay of Bengal, western North Pacific and southern Indian Ocean, the study said.



# Streak of hottest summers

IN JUST OVER TWO DECADES, THE CONTINENT HAS EXPERIENCED ITS FIVE HOTTEST SUMMERS SINCE 1500

**PARIS:** Europe's increasingly frequent heatwaves are back under the spotlight over devastating wildfires and with sweltering temperatures forecast to hit record highs in Britain and France this week.

A heatwave engulfing western Europe, the second in a month, sparks huge wildfires and has smashed heat records in Britain and France.

Fires in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain forced about 10,000 people to flee and kill several people, including a Spanish shepherd and a firefighter.

Firefighters from across Europe struggled to contain a huge wildfire in France that has swept through a large swath of pine forest, while Germans and Poles faced a mass fish die-off in a river flowing between their countries.

A brutal heatwave with spikes well above 40 Celsius settled over southern Europe last week, part of a global pattern of rising temperatures, widely attributed by scientists and climatologists to human activity. It is forecast to dump searing heat on much of China into late August.

In Britain, where temperatures hit a record 40.3 degrees Celsius in July, it has been one of the driest summers on record



in southern Britain, and the Met Office weather service said there is an "exceptional risk" of wildfires over the next few days.

Wildfires burned in several areas of Italy, including one that threatened to leave part of the northeastern city of Trieste without power and water, and 14 metropolitan areas including Rome, Milan and Florence were due to be put on the country's highest heatwave alert.

Forecasters there said that temperatures were expected to hit 40 degrees Celsius across a swathe of the north and centre this

week. That mark was topped in Britain for the first time this year, shattering the country's previous temperature record by 1.6 degrees Celsius. At least 13 people have died while swimming to cool off.

In France, which is enduring its worst drought on record, flames raged through pine forests overnight, illuminating the sky with an intense orange light in the Gironde region, which was already ravaged by flames last month, and in neighboring Landes. More than 68 square kilometers have burned.

## 2021: Hottest ever

Last year is Europe's hottest summer on record, according to the European climate change monitoring service Copernicus. Between late July and early August 2021, Greece endures what PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis calls the country's worst heatwave in over 30 years, with temperatures hitting 45 degrees Celsius in some regions.

## 2019: Northern Europe swelters

The summer of 2019 brings two heatwaves, which leave around 2,500 people dead, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters of Belgium's Louvain University. In France, temperatures hit a record 46 degrees Celsius June 28 in the southern town of Verargues.

## 2018: Drought drains the Danube

The second half of July and beginning of August 2018 sees very high temperatures across much of Europe and rivers running dry due to drought. The Danube falls to its lowest level in 100 years in some areas, notably exposing WW II tanks in Serbia that were submerged since the conflict.

# BRITAIN DRYING UP

RIVER THAMES' SOURCE MOVES 8KM DOWNSTREAM FOR 1ST TIME IN HISTORY



**LONDON:** Britain officially declared a drought in parts of England Friday as households faced new water usage restrictions during a period of prolonged hot and dry weather that has already severely tested the nation's infrastructure.

Parts of southern, central and eastern England are now in drought status, meaning that water companies will step up efforts to manage the impact of dry weather on farmers and the environment, the Environment Agency said.

"All water companies have reassured us that essential supplies are still safe, and we have made it clear it is their duty to maintain those supplies," Water Minister Steve Double said, following a meeting of the National Drought Group.

The meeting followed what was the driest July in England since 1935. Only 35% of the average rainfall for the month fell, and parts of England and Wales are now in the middle of a four-day "extreme heat" alert. The last drought in England was 2018.

When the dry weather breaks early next week, rain and thunderstorms mean there is a small chance of flooding in some parts of the country, the Met Office national forecaster said Friday, issuing a warning for Monday.

The source of the River Thames has dried up further downstream than ever before, as England enters a drought that some experts say the country is unprepared for.

## FRENCH FIRES

# Carbon emissions touch record high



**London:** Ongoing wildfires in France have already released record amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, new satellite data has shown.

The fires, which have burned large parts of the southwestern Gironde region, unleashed nearly 1 million metric tonne of carbon from June to August, according to the European Union's Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS).

That is roughly equal to the yearly carbon dioxide emissions from 790,000 cars. In the past two decades, France has averaged around 300,000 tonne of annual carbon emissions from fires.

The only year that has come close to this summer's record for France is 2003 – coincidentally the same year that satellite monitoring began. Intense summer heat and dry conditions then saw about 650,000 metric tonne of carbon released from June to August wildfires.

Spain also registered record wildfire emissions during a mid-July heatwave, CAMS reported last month. read more By comparison, Portugal wildfires resulted in lower emissions than previous years.

More than 60,000 hectares have burned so far in France this year, six times the full-year average from 2006 to 2021, according to data from European Forest Fire Information System.

The shift in climate is leading to more wildfires and will force France and the European Union to take structural decisions...in the years to come

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE





of the day quote

Crop diversification must be promoted in a big way. Instead of focusing on wheat and rice, cultivation of 3Ms – Maize, Moong & Mustard – should be promoted as it can help the country in attaining self-sufficiency and at the same time help in enhancing the income of farmers

AK SINGH | DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (AGRICULTURE EXTENSION), ICAR

There are real concerns that our productivity as a whole is not where it needs to be for the head count we have

SUNDAR PICHAU | CEO, ALPHABET & GOOGLE

The company targets to achieve 46 million tonne of iron ore production in the current fiscal, 10 per cent higher than that of last year

SUMIT DEB | CHAIRMAN & MD, NMDC LTD

SHORT TAKES

Corporate tax mop-up 34%

**New Delhi:** Tax collected on income of companies surged by 34 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal that began in April, indicating that a simplified tax regime with low rates is yielding results, the Income Tax Department said. The tax department said corporate tax collections at ₹7.23 lakh crore in fiscal 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022) were 58 per cent higher than the mop-up in the previous financial year.

HDFC Bank, HDFC get nod to merge

**New Delhi:** Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger proposal of HDFC Bank and its parent HDFC Ltd. The proposed combination envisages the merger of HDFC Investments and HDFC Holdings with HDFC Ltd in the first step and subsequently, the merger of HDFC Ltd into HDFC Bank. In a tweet on Friday, CCI said it has approved the “proposed combination involving amalgamation of HDFC Limited, HDFC Bank, HDFC Investments and HDFC Holdings.

Q1 Nayara Energy posts record profit

**New Delhi:** Russian oil major Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy has reported a record quarterly profit in April-June as it made hay on export of fuel made from discounted Russian oil. Net profit of ₹3,563.7 crore, or ₹23.91 per share, in April-June compared with a loss of ₹139.1 crore in the same period a year back, it said in a late evening stock exchange filing Friday. The profit was up from ₹409.5 crore in the preceding January-March quarter.

CCI nod to Adani Holcim deal

**New Delhi:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the acquisition of Holcim's stake in Ambuja Ltd and ACC Ltd by the Adani Group. In a tweet Friday, the watchdog said it has approved the “acquisition of the stake in Holderind Investments, Ambuja Cements and ACC by Endeavour Trade and Investment”. The proposed combination involves acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Holderind Investments Ltd by Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd. Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd is a Mauritius-based company and belongs to the Adani Group.



India can bend time and catapult to an 11 per cent growth rate in the next decade if it capitalises on the demographic dividend, and boosts manufacturing, as well as exports

MICHAEL PATRA | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

I'm a Chinese, not a terrorist: Huawei CEO

Recently Li had approached the Delhi High Court seeking quashing of a Look Out Circular against him which restrained the Chinese national from leaving the country

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 13:** In an apparent reference to a dialogue from

a Bollywood movie, Huawei India CEO Li Xiongwei told a court here: “I am a Chinese and not a terrorist.”

The CEO's comment through his lawyer was during a hearing Friday, in connection with an Income Tax case.

In the earlier hearing, the Income Tax Department stated that Huawei had a “willful failure” of providing account books and relevant documents during a search at the Chinese electronic company's Gurugram office.

“The culpable mental state of the accused persons is to be pre-



sumed,” stated Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Anurag Thakur in a recent order.

He stated that there is sufficient material on record to summon the

VITTAL BECOMES AIRTEL MD FOR 5 YEARS

Bharti Airtel's shareholders have approved the re-appointment of Gopal Vittal as managing director of the company for a period of five years with effect from February 1, 2023. Over 97 per cent of total votes polled were in favour of the resolution, and the same “has been passed with requisite majority”, the telco said in a regulatory filing on the outcome of its Annual General Meeting



Stronger dollar down for week as clues point to inflation peak



REUTERS

**New York, August 13:** The dollar rallied Friday but was set for a weekly drop as traders weighed improving US inflation data against comments from Federal Reserve officials who cautioned the battle against rising prices was far from over.

US import prices declined for the first time in seven months in July on lower costs for both fuel and non-fuel products, data showed Friday, in the third report this week to hint inflation may have topped out.

Another two key inflation measures, for consumer prices and producer prices, cooled in July, data Wednesday and Thursday showed, prompting traders to pare back views that the Fed will raise interest rates by 75 basis points for a third consecutive time when it meets in September.

After four straight down days, including a more than 1% drop Wednesday, the dollar rallied against its major rivals Friday, but was still on track for a decline of around 0.84 for the week.

“There's a little bit of anxiety still out there, I believe, because we need to see more evidence that inflation is – I'm not going to say abating - but peaking,” said Amo Sahota, director at Klarity FX.

The greenback's turnaround followed a steady drumbeat from Fed officials who made clear they would continue to tighten. San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank President Mary Daly said Thursday she was open to the possibility of another 75 basis point hike in September. Traders were pricing in around a 42.5% chance of a 75 bps Fed rate hike in September and a 57.5% chance of 50 bps.

The dollar was up 0.39% against Japan's currency, with the greenback at 133.495 yen.

The British pound fell 0.6% to \$1.2141 versus the dollar. Data showed UK GDP contracted by less than forecast in June, even though an extra public holiday had been expected to cause a big drag.

The euro was down 0.53% at \$1.02625. French inflation was up 6.8% year-on-year in July, while for Spain it was 10.8%, the highest since 1984, data showed.

India set to miss RE goal, say experts

India, the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide after China and the US, recently finalised its climate targets and pledged that 50% of power generation will be from clean energy sources by 2030

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New Delhi, August 13:** India will miss its renewable energy (RE) target for the end of the year, with experts saying “multiple challenges” including a lack of financial help and taxes on imported components are stalling the clean energy industry.

The country has installed just over half of its planned renewable energy capacity, a high level parliamentary report found last week.

The target, set in January 2018, would have increased India's renewable energy capacity to 43% of its current energy mix. The government now says it hopes to achieve the goal by mid-2023.

The shortfall is down to “inconsistent federal and state-level renewable energy policies, excessive custom duties on renewable energy related products as well as financing issues,” said Vibhuti Garg, an energy economist based in New Delhi, who added that the solar industry is particularly vulnerable to such roadblocks.

She added that “improving the financial health of government-owned power companies” would help build out renewable capacity in India.



THE COUNTRY HAS INSTALLED JUST OVER HALF OF ITS PLANNED RE CAPACITY

COMPANIES OWE ₹117 BILLION TO RE GENERATORS AND DEVELOPERS

INDIA'S ENERGY NEEDS ARE EXPECTED TO DOUBLE BY THE END OF THE DECADE AS THE POPULATIONS GROWS

We need to start retiring old, expensive coal plants and replacing them with renewable energy. This can save energy companies and consumers a lot of money as well

ASHISH FERNANDES | CLIMATE RISK HORIZONS

State-owned power companies have been struggling because of delays in government grants and consumer payments and the Covid-19 pandemic which led to shutdowns of energy-heavy industries.

India's parliamentary committee stated that ministry-level approvals for solar projects take “an unduly long time” making it difficult for new solar parks to open.

It added that state-owned energy companies owe ₹117 billion (\$1.5 billion) to renewable energy generators and developers and the debt contributed to the slow build out of clean energy.

The Indian government's min-

istry of new and renewable energy, which is in charge of meeting the nation's renewable energy targets, attributed the failure to meet targets to the Covid-19 pandemic.

India's climate targets were rated as “insufficient” by Climate Action Tracker, an organisation which conducts independent scientific analysis to determine if a country's ambitions are in line with limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) or 2C (3.6F).

Other observers say that the failure to meet these targets is not as big a setback as it appears to be.

RBI DEPUTY GUV SAID HE WAS TOLD THE RUSSIAN CRUDE WAS PROCESSED AND CONVERTED INTO A DISTILLATE USED FOR MAKING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 13:** The United States has expressed concern to India that it was being used to export fuel made from Russian crude, through high-seas transfers to hide its origin, to New York in violation of US sanctions, a top Indian central banker said Saturday.

The US Treasury Department told India that an Indian ship picked up oil from a Russian tanker on the high seas and brought it to a port in Gujarat on the west coast, where it was refined and shipped on, said Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Michael Patra.

US sanctions on Moscow for its February invasion of Ukraine pro-

hibit the import to the United States of Russian-origin energy products including crude oil, refined fuels, distillates, coal and gas.

“The refined output was put back on that ship and it set sail without a destination. In the mid-seas it received the destination so it reached at its course, went to New York,” Michael Patra said at an event to celebrate 75 years of India's independence.

Michael Patra's comments are India's first official public reference to such US concerns. Delhi has not joined the sanctions against Russia or condemned what Moscow calls a “special military operation” in its neighbour.

Patra said he was told the Russian crude was processed and converted into a distillate used for making single-use plastic. He did not identify the Indian vessel or refiner. “So that's the way war works. It works in strange ways,” he said.

India, the world's number 3 oil importer and consumer rarely bought Russian oil in the past. But since the war started, Indian refiners have been snapping up discounted Russian oil, shunned by many Western countries and companies.



BIZ BUZZ

PNB hands over National Flag to Guv

**Bhubaneswar:** On the eve of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar handed a National Flag under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign to Governor of Odisha, Ganeshi Lal. A Udaya Bhaskar Reddy, Zonal Manager has handed over the National Flag to Governor and also distributed the flags to all staff members of Raj Bhawan. Among others Janmenjay Dixit, Dy ZM, Umakant Das, DGM, Chitta Ranjan Prusty, Circle Head, Bhubaneswar Circle and Pratap Kumar Bairiganjan, Zonal Marketing Head were present.



BoB holds Har Ghar Tiranga programme

**Bhubaneswar:** Under Har Ghar Tiranga programme, Bank of Baroda (BoB), Regional Office, Sambalpur distributed tricolour Flags among local Malipali, UP and Sankarma Primary School students. On this occasion, Surendra Gound, Regional Head expressed his views on the immortal sacrifice of the freedom fighters and contribution of all Indians in India's independence. Gound inspired the students to fly tricolour in their homes. The bank also inaugurated an exhibition titled ‘Bibhajan Ki Bibhisika’. Nilakantha Behera, DRM, Manas Padhi, Ajaya Gupta, Sujit Panda were present on this occasion.



RIISING CHINA-US TENSIONS

Beijing and Washington are in talks to resolve a long-running audit dispute which could potentially result in Chinese companies being banned from US exchanges if they do not comply with US rules

REUTERS

**Shanghai, August 13:** Five Chinese state-owned companies, including oil giant Sinopec and China Life Insurance, said Friday they would delist from the New York Stock Exchange, amid economic and diplomatic tensions with the United States.

The companies, which also include Aluminium Corporation of China, PetroChina and a separate Sinopec entity, Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical Co, each said they

would apply to delist their American Depository Shares this month.

The five, which in May were flagged by the US securities regulator as failing to meet its auditing standards, will keep their listings in Hong Kong and mainland Chinese markets.

Washington has long demanded complete access to the books of US-listed Chinese companies, but Beijing bars foreign inspection of audit documents from local accounting firms, citing national security concerns.

Five Chinese state-owned firms to delist from NYSE



There was no mention of the auditing dispute in separate statements by the Chinese companies outlining their moves, which come amid heightened tensions after last week's visit to Taiwan by US

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

“These companies have strictly complied with the rules and regulatory requirements of the US capital market since their listing

China is sending a message that its patience is wearing thin in the audit talks

KAI ZHAN | SENIOR COUNSEL, CHINESE LAW FIRM YUANDA

in the US and made the delisting choice for their own business considerations,” the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said in a statement.

The agency added that it would keep “communication open with relevant overseas regulatory agencies.”

The oversight row, which has been simmering for more than a decade, came to a head in December when the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) finalized rules to potentially prohibit trading in

Chinese companies under the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act. It said 273 companies were at risk.

Some of China's largest companies including Alibaba Group Holdings, JD.com Inc, and Baidu Inc are among them. Alibaba said last week it would convert its Hong Kong secondary listing into a dual primary listing which analysts said could ease the way for the Chinese e-commerce giant to switch primary listing venues in the future.

In trading Friday, US-listed shares of China Life Insurance and oil giant Sinopec fell 3.06% and 3.26% respectively. Aluminium Corporation of China dropped 3.14%, while PetroChina shed 2.85%. Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical Co shed 3.54%.



SILVER WINNING SHOW AT CWG INDICATES GREAT DAYS AHEAD FOR INDIAN WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM

# Promising future awaits eves



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 13:** When 44 runs are needed from 32 balls in a T20 game, one would think that any chasing side would chase it down easily. That was exactly the case with India when they were on their way to a famous victory over Australia in the gold medal match of women's T20 cricket at 2022 Commonwealth Games in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues were ticking along nicely; the skipper playing a captain's knock in the big final while her younger partner was giving the support she needed in the

chase of 166. But from there, Australia made a comeback into the match. That sinking feeling arrived yet again.

Not for the first time for India. In 2017, Harmanpreet had scored a fifty alongside Punam Raut, who top-scored with 86, in the ODI World Cup final against England at Lord's. But as Harmanpreet fell, India too fell nine runs short of the target of 229, with the last seven wickets falling for 28 runs.

At Birmingham, the eves were eventually all out for 152, missing out on the gold by nine runs, the exact same margin by which they lost the 2017 ODI World Cup final. It was also the third time India

lost a major cricketing final in last five years, including being blown away by the Alyssa Healy-Beth Mooney combination in the 2020 T20 World Cup final.

During the medal ceremony, one could see the sadness writ large on Harmanpreet's face despite trying to put on a smile when the silver medals were being given to the Indian team. Yes, they left a huge mark in women's T20 cricket's first foray into the CWG.

"Every time in big finals, we make the same mistakes again and again (with the bat), that is something we have to improve. We don't make these mistakes in the league phase or in bilateral. That is block-

ing our mind somewhere," were Harmanpreet's words after the match.

There is no doubt that the CWG has given India tons of positive points to build upon after they didn't make it to the knockouts for the ODI World Cup earlier this year. Renuka Thakur, with her in-swing, was a standout bowler.

The top-order, led by Smriti Mandhana, brought out their aggressive style of play. The spinners, mainly Deepti Sharma and Sneha Rana, were at their best while the fielding, led by Deepti and Radha Yadav, especially in the gold medal match, was top-notch and heartwarming at the same time.

# Comfortable wins for City, Arsenal in EPL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, August 13:** Erling Haaland might not hog all of Manchester City's goals this season, after all. Ilkay Gundogan, Kevin De Bruyne and Phil Foden were City's scorers — along with an own-goal — in a 4-0 win over Bournemouth in the Premier League Saturday, with Haaland barely getting a sight on goal at Etihad Stadium.

Elsewhere, Gabriel Jesus didn't take long to make an impression at the Emirates stadium. The Brazil striker marked his home debut for Arsenal with two goals and two assists in a 4-2 win against Leicester.

City's midfielders reaped the benefits of the extra focus on Haaland. Gundogan's goal did involve City's new star striker, with Haaland holding off his marker with his back to goal and clipping a ball through to the German midfielder. Gundogan's left-footed finish found the bottom corner in the 19th for his 50th goal for City.

De Bruyne scored the pick of the goals, the playmaker cutting inside on a counterattack led by Foden in the 31st, beating a defender and bending his shot with the outside of his right foot into the far corner.

De Bruyne returned the favor for Foden six minutes later, slipping a brilliant pass through the legs of a defender and into the path of his teammate, who took a touch and fired in a deflected shot that beat goalkeeper Mark Travers.

The scoring was completed by Jefferson Lerma, who unwittingly turned a cross from Joao Cancelo into his own net from inside Bournemouth's six-yard box.

Jesus, who joined from Man City as Arsenal's marquee summer signing so far, opened his account for the Gunners in the 23rd minute



Gabriel Jesus celebrates after scoring

with a brilliant, curling finish. He got his second in the 35th from a header and had several chances to finish the game with a hat-trick.

The two times Leicester found itself back in the match, Arsenal responded right away. The visitors made it 1-2 from an own goal by William Saliba in the 53rd, but Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka restored the home side's two-goal cushion two minutes later.

Xhaka scored after Jesus poked a loose ball into his path after Leicester goalkeeper Danny Ward failed to hold on to a routine cross into the box and collided with defender Wesley Fofana.

Leicester attacking midfielder James Maddison made it 3-2 in the 74th when he sent a low shot through the legs of Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale.

Jesus then drove forward before squaring the ball to forward Gabriel Martinelli, who fired from just outside the area to beat Ward at the back post to make it 4-2.

# Djoko pulls out of Cincinnati tourney



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cincinnati, August 13:** Novak Djokovic pulled out of next week's hard-court tournament in Cincinnati because he has not gotten any COVID-19 vaccine shots and is not allowed to travel to the United States.

That is also why Djokovic is not expected to be able to enter the US Open, the year's last Grand Slam tournament, which begins in New York August 29.

Djokovic is a 35-year-old from Serbia who owns 21 major championships, one behind Rafael Nadal for the men's record. Djokovic has said he won't get vaccinated against the illness caused by the coronavirus, even if that prevents him from playing in certain tournaments.

He missed the Australian Open in January after being deported from that country and needed to sit out two events in the United States earlier this year, along with a tournament in Montreal this week.

Unvaccinated foreign citizens can't go to Canada or the US currently; the Cincinnati tournament's news release announcing Djokovic's withdrawal cited "travel restrictions." Djokovic has said he was still holding out hope of being able to enter the US Open, but that would require a change of government policy, which the US Tennis Association says it will adhere to.

Djokovic is a three-time champion at the US Open and was the runner-up last year to Daniil Medvedev.

Other men who have withdrawn from the field in Cincinnati include defending champion Alexander Zverev — the 2020 US Open runner-up tore ankle ligaments at the French Open in June — and injured players Gael Monfils, Reilly Opelka, Oscar Otte and Dominic Thiem.

Australian Open finalist Danielle Collins pulled out of the women's draw because of a neck injury, while three-time major champion Angelique Kerber made a scheduling change and opted not to compete in Cincinnati.

Serena Williams is entered in the field for what is expected to be one of her last appearances on tour:

# Hockey teams need consistency



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Birmingham, August 13:** When it comes to actual result, most sportspersons consider a silver medal as a loss and a bronze medal as a win.

This is especially true for sports that have separate matches for gold and bronze medals. The logic is simple, one gets a silver after losing the final or gold medal match, while a bronze medal is awarded after winning the match.

In that sense, the Indian men's and women's hockey teams at the recently-concluded Birmingham Commonwealth Games (CWG) went through these same emotions — the men's team was subdued in its celebrations after losing the final to Australia, while the girls were exuberant and celebrated their win over New Zealand in the shootout with verve gusto to win the bronze.

Before thinking about the 2024 Paris Olympics, the Indian teams

have a big test to pass in next year's Asian Games as that is the qualifying event for the Olympics.

Though in the current qualification programme, in which the focus is on continental events, qualifying for Paris 2024 may not be so arduous, winning the Asian Games will surely be a great morale booster ahead of the Olympic Games.

But to be medal contenders in Paris, the teams need to work on a few areas and tighten their game in some sections.

The Indian coaches would like to see their teams coming up with more consistent efforts, making better use of their chances, and scoring more goals off penalty corners.

The men's team need to have more options or more versatile players so that it does not suffer as it did against Australia in the CWG final, when it lost both Vivek Sagar Prasad and Manpreet Singh — the skipper suffered a shoulder injury



midway through the game while Vivek missed the match due to an injury.

The men's team also need to work on its attack and make better use of penalty corners. While they have three-four good penalty corner specialists, the forwards need to earn PCs for the experts to make use of them.

Though the defence was torn to shreds by Australia in Birmingham, it performed well over the last year, finishing third in the FIH Pro League.

The issues plaguing the women's team are different and varied — they had a good first half of the year but the FIH Women's World Cup was a disaster as the team failed to qualify for the quarterfinals after losing to New Zealand and Spain.

The team also need to get former captain Rani Rampal recover from her injury and be ready for the tough battles at the Asian Games and Paris 2024. While she will be 29

by the time the Olympics get underway in Paris, Rani still has a couple of years for international hockey left in her. She is not only a good forward, but a talismanic leader as well, as she proved at the Tokyo Olympics.

In her absence, forwards like Vandana Katarjya and Lahremisami have done well, but they have not been able to take charge as Rani did. Vandana is maturing into a great forward, but she needs support.

In the World Cup, the Indian eves created many chances but failed to capitalise on the numerous penalty corners it earned. Though drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur and defender Deep Grace Ekka shouldered the responsibility, they were not as successful as they would have liked.

If they have to bag medals at the Asian Games and the Paris Olympics, they need to brush up their act and be more consistent in all aspects of the game.

# Taylor was 'slapped' by one of RR owners across face 3-4 times

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 13:** In a stunning revelation, former New Zealand batter Ross Taylor has claimed that he was "slapped" by one of the owners of Rajasthan Royals franchise during the 2011 season of the IPL.

The Kiwi said that he was slapped by the franchise's owner after he was dismissed for a duck during a game against Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) in Mohali.

Taylor made the revelation in his new autobiography, Ross Taylor: Black & White. "The chase was 195, I was lbw for a duck and we didn't get close," Taylor wrote in his book, an excerpt of which was published on "stuff.co.nz".

"Afterwards, the team, support staff and management were in the bar on the top floor of the hotel. Liz Hurley was there with Warnie (Shane Warne).

"One of the Royals owners said to me, 'Ross, we didn't pay you a million dollars to get a duck,' and slapped me across the face three or four times. He was laughing and they weren't hard slaps but I'm not sure that it was entirely playful.

"Under the circumstances I wasn't going to make an issue of it, but I couldn't imagine it happening in many professional sporting environments."

The 38-year-old Taylor played for Royal Challengers Bangalore from 2008 to 2010 and was with RR in 2011. He also represented Delhi Capitals, then called Delhi Daredevils, as well as the now-defunct Pune Warriors India.

"When you fetch that sort of money, you're desperately keen to prove that you're worth it. And those who are paying you that sort of money have high expectations — that's professional sport and human nature.

"I'd paid my dues at RCB; if I'd had a lean trot, the management would have had faith in me because of what I'd done in the past. When you go to a new team, you don't get that backing.

"You never feel comfortable because you know that if you go two or three games without a score, you come under cold-eyed scrutiny."

The autobiography made headlines after Taylor claimed he experienced racism during his 16-year career with the New Zealand team.

Taylor, who is of Samoan heritage, had described racist locker room "banter" and casually racist comments from some New Zealand team officials.



# MESSI OMITTED FROM LIST OF BALLON D'OR NOMINEES

**Nyon, August 13:** Seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi was omitted from the 30-man list of nominees for the prestigious award Friday for the first time since 2005.

The Argentina great edged out Poland striker Robert Lewandowski for the Ballon d'Or last year but was not nominated this time after an underwhelming first season at Paris Saint-Germain. The 35-year-old forward also won the prize in 2019 — it was not held in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Neymar also missed the cut this time.

Lewandowski,

Kylian Mbappe, Karim Benzema, Erling Haaland and five-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo were all included, as were Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane, Kevin De Bruyne, Harry Kane and Son Heung-min.

The list features six Manchester City players: Phil Foden, Joao Cancelo, De Bruyne, Riyad Mahrez, Bernardo Silva and new signing Haaland (formerly Borussia Dortmund). Liverpool also has six nominees: Trent Alexander-Arnold, Luis Diaz, Fabinho, Darwin Nunez, Salah and Virgil van Dijk.

Mane, who helped Senegal win their first African Cup before leaving Liverpool for Bayern Munich, is included, as is Bayern teammate Joshua Kimmich.

Benzema leads a group of six Real Madrid players. The others are Casemiro, Thibaut Courtois, Luka Modric, Vinicius Junior and new

signing Antonio Rudiger.

The other nominated players are Sebastian Haller (Ajax), Rafael Leao and Mike Maignan (both of AC Milan), Christopher Nkunku (Leipzig) and Dusan Vlahovic (Juventus). The award will be presented October 17.

Among changes announced in March, the award is now being awarded based on performances over the course of a regular European season, rather than a calendar year.

A reduction in the number of voters was among other changes, with the goal of streamlining the process. Voters also will no longer consider a player's career accomplishments.

France Football magazine has given out the award to men every year since 1956 and to women each year since 2018, though both were cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic.

# Halep beats Gauff to reach Toronto semis



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Toronto, August 13:** Two-time champion Simona Halep beat Coco Gauff 6-4, 7-6(7-2) to reach the National Bank Open semifinals. The 15th-seeded Halep is 4-0 against the Gauff, the 18-year-old American seeded 10th.

Halep, the 30-year-old from Romania, won the event in Montreal in 2016 and 2018. She will face seventh-seeded Jessica Pegula, a 6-3,

6-3 winner over Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan.

In the night session, Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil ousted 12th-seeded Belinda Bencic of Switzerland 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. Thursday, Haddad Maia beat top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland. In the late match, 14th-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic played Zheng Qinwen of China.

**RUUD ADVANCES**

Fourth-seeded Casper Ruud of Norway routed hometown favorite Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-1, 6-2 in the National Bank Open quarterfinals in Montreal. Ruud will face eighth-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland, a 7-6(7-4), 6-7(5-7), 6-1 winner over Nick Kyrgios of Australia.

In the night session, Britain's Daniel Evans beat American Tommy Paul 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta topped British qualifier Jack Draper 7-6(7-4), 6-1,