



## SPILLING BEANS

Actor Kiara Advani reveals the kind of equation that she shares with Sidharth Malhotra on Koffee With Karan

LEISURE P2



## BIGGEST DRILLS

The United States and South Korea begin their biggest combined military training in years

INTERNATIONAL P10



## GILL SCRIPTS INDIA WIN

Shubman Gill's maiden ODI century helps India complete clean sweep in three-match series against Zimbabwe

SPORTS P12

## MAHAPANCHAYAT



A farmer leader delivers a speech to farmers assembled at the Jantar Mantar following a call to stage a protest to press for a legal guarantee for MSP and other demands, in New Delhi

IANS PHOTO

## Russia detains IS fidayeen eyeing to kill Indian leader

The terrorist, who was not identified by the Russian intelligence agency, confessed that he was preparing an act of terrorism against a member of India's ruling circles for insulting the Prophet

AGENCIES

Moscow, August 22: Russia's top intelligence agency said Monday that it has detained an Islamic State terrorist from a Central Asian country who underwent special training to carry out a suicide attack against a member of India's leadership elite for the offensive comments on the Prophet.

According to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the foreign national was recruited by one of the Islamic State's ringleaders as a suicide bomber sometime between April and June 2022, while in Turkey, state-owned TASS news agency reported.

"The Federal Security Service has identified and apprehended in Russia a member of the outlawed (by the Russian Federation) Islamic State international terrorist organisation. The detainee is a native of a Central Asian country, who planned to commit a terrorist attack against a member of India's ruling circles by blowing himself up," the FSB said.

The terrorist's "ideological in-

doctrination was conducted remotely via Telegram messenger accounts and during personal meetings in Istanbul with an IS representative," the Russian Federal Security Service's Center for Public Relations (CPR) said.

The FSB noted that the would-be suicide bomber swore allegiance to the IS Emir (chief), after which he was instructed to leave for Russia, draw up the necessary documents and fly to India to commit this act of terrorism, the report said.

The terrorist, who was not identified by the Russian intelligence agency, confessed that he was preparing an act of terrorism against a member of India's ruling circles for insulting the Prophet Muhammad, the report added.

In a video of his interrogation released by the CPR Monday, the would-be suicide bomber said he swore allegiance to the IS Emir in April 2022 and underwent special training, after which he flew to Russia, from where he was to travel to India. "I was supposed to be given things there to commit a terrorist attack at the behest of the IS for insulting the Prophet Muhammad," he said.

BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma was suspended and the party's Delhi media head Naveen Kumar Jindal was expelled by the party after their controversial remarks against the Prophet which sparked protests in the Muslim world early this year.

## SUBARNAREKHA FLOOD GRIM, EVAC UNDERWAY

IMD bulletin forecasts heavy rain in northern Odisha districts today

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasore/Mayurbhanj/Jajpur, August 22: The flood situation in several northern districts was alarming Monday, as the swollen Subarnarekha river inundated low-lying areas and left people in over 100 villages marooned, officials said.

The water level in all the rivers located in north Odisha is in spate due to heavy rain caused by a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, and subsequent flood-water release from Jharkhand, they said.

Authorities in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts had Sunday launched a massive evacuation drive to shift people from vulnerable areas to safer locations, which is continuing Monday, they said.

Subarnarekha has been rising significantly since Sunday evening, inundating many areas in Baliapal, Bhograi, Basta and Jaleswar in Balasore by 11 am, the officials said. The Saraskana and Rasgovindpur blocks in Mayurbhanj districts have also been submerged.

The authorities expect peak flooding to take place after more water is released from the Galudih barrage in Jharkhand.

As per data of the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level of Subarnarekha at Rajghat in the district was 11.90 metre at 9 am as against the danger level of 10.36 metre, while at Jamsolaghat it was 50.04 metre as against the danger level of 49.15 metre. Apart from the Subarnarekha river, Balasore district is also af-



ected by the flood waters of river Budhabalang and Jalaka, they said. In Jajpur district, the Baitarani river inundated a number of blocks, including Dasrathpur and Korei, while in Keonjhar, several places in-

Hataidhi, Ghasipura and Anandapur are under water. Odisha Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu, after reviewing the flood situation, said, "Though the Subarnarekha river is still flowing above the dan-

## SANITARY NAPKINS AS FLOOD RELIEF

Amid flood threats in various areas of the state, the Odisha government has asked Collectors of 10 districts to distribute free sanitary pads to girls and women in the affected areas. Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena has written to the district collectors of Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar and Boudh asking them to distribute sanitary napkins free of cost to women marooned in the flood.

ger mark, the water level has remained stable for the last eight hours. We are keeping a close watch on it." She asserted that the authorities are fully prepared to deal with any eventuality. **Continued on P4**



## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Consulting people doesn't matter. What matters is transparency, like coming on TV at 8 pm & announcing a policy!

## SHORT TAKES

### 500 Red backers surrender in Malkangiri

BHUBANESWAR: More than 500 Maoist supporters surrendered before the Odisha Police in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district Monday, DGP SK Bansal said. "After surrender of 295 Maoists supporters before the police June 11 another 500 of Ralegada GP surrendered before the Malkangiri Police & @BSF today. They were motivated by developmental works of the Odisha government," the DGP tweeted. They also expressed their opposition towards the Maoist ideology by burning their dress and gave the slogan 'Maobadi (Maoist) Murdabad', he said. **P5**

### Five wagons of goods train derail in City

BHUBANESWAR: At least five wagons of a goods train derailed near Bhubaneswar railway station at about 2035 hours affecting train service for some time Monday evening, official sources said. However, there was no report of any injury or death in the incident. While Hirakhand Express remains stranded at home signal, the Rajdhani Express has been halted at Mancheswar. Similarly, the JanShatabdi Express is stranded en-route between Bhubaneswar and Junagarh Road Express yet to get a place at station. Puri-Durg, Tapaswini, Puri-Gandhidham, Puri-Howrah trains are also halted.

## BJP offered Delhi CM post: Sisodia

He also claims that BJP offered closure of all cases if he quit AAP and joined the saffron party

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad/New Delhi, August 22: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Monday claimed that he was offered the CM's post by the BJP and closure of all cases if he quit AAP and joined the saffron party, which hit back, accusing him of trying to deflect attention from the corruption charges. The startling claims of Sisodia



came days after his house was raided by the CBI over allegations of corruption in the implementation of the Delhi excise policy, even as Northeast Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari asked the AAP leader to name the person who made these of-

fers from the party.

Sisodia, who along with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is on a two-day visit to Gujarat to reach out to voters ahead of the assembly polls scheduled for later this year, also played the caste card.

"I have received a message from the BJP - Leave AAP and join BJP. We will ensure that all cases by CBI and ED against you are shut," he said. "My reply to BJP - I am a descendant of Maharana Pratap and a Rajput. I am ready to get beheaded but can never bow down before conspirators and corrupt people. All the cases against me are false. Do whatever you want to do," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

## Naveen writes to Modi for seamless MGNREGS payment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi for addition of a default provision in NREGASoft to avoid delays in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) wage payments to workers.

The default provision will enable drawal, utilization and re-couplement of budgetary allocation towards State's Revolving Fund to prevent delay in payment of wages under the scheme.

Writing a letter to the Prime Minister, Naveen said the state government has taken a slew of proactive measures to ensure proper implementation of MGNREGS and has ensured that the benefits of the scheme reach the intended beneficiaries.

The state has done well in ensuring almost 100 per cent timely payment of wages, which is a testimony of the tremendous emphasis it has attached to the mandates of the Act, he pointed out.

Similarly, the Centre has also taken significant steps in raising its budgetary allocation towards MGNREGS during the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic which has enabled the state government to provide succour to the vulnerable rural households especially the migrant families, said the CM. **Continued on P4**

## Moms and the married too can be Miss Universe from '23

"We all believe that women should have agency over their lives and that a human's personal decisions should not be a barrier to their success," reads an internal memo of the Miss Universe pageant

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 22: Yes, you read that right! In a historic shift, the popular Miss Universe beauty pageant has decided to expand eligibility for the contest by letting mothers and married women to compete. Come 2023, marital and parental status will cease to be

roadblocks for pageant hopefuls according to Fox News.

The annual international beauty pageant serves as a platform for women from across the globe to not just showcase their talent, but prove themselves influential to support the betterment of society.

That being said, Miss Universe pageant's regulations have always required that winners be single women between the age of 18 and 28 and their status must



remain as such throughout their reign as the title-holder. Mothers have historically been excluded

as well and victors are typically required to avoid getting pregnant while serving as Miss Universe.

Putting an end to the archaic rule couldn't have come at a better time! As per reports, an internal memo of the Miss Universe pageant reads, "We all believe that women should have agency over their lives and that

a human's personal decisions should not be a barrier to their success."

Miss Universe 2020 Andrea Meza of Mexico, who was alleged to be married right after she won the title, also welcomed this change. "I honestly love that this is happening," Meza said in an interview. "Just like society changes and women are now occupying leadership positions where in the past only men could, it was about time pageants changed and opened up to women with families," she added.

Meza criticised the existing guidelines as being 'sexist' and 'unrealistic' in their endeavour to choose a winner that would appeal to the largest possible audience. **Continued on P4**



I honestly love that this is happening. Just like society changes and women are now occupying leadership positions where in the past only men could, it was about time pageants changed and opened up to women with families

ANDREA MEZA | MISS UNIVERSE 2020

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	58773.87 ↓ 872.28
NIFTY	17490.70 ↓ 267.80
DOLLAR	80.33 ↓ ₹0.04
EURO	79.52 ↓ ₹0.67
GOLD	₹51,156 ↓ ₹323
SILVER	₹55,069 ↓ ₹427

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	33.7°C	34.2°C
TEMP. MIN	24.5°C	24.4°C
Humidity	89%	83%
Rainfall	6.2mm	Nil
	Partly cloudy sky	

# leisure



## DEPP SET TO APPEAR AT 2022 MTV VMAs

Actor Johnny Depp will reportedly be making a surprise appearance at the 2022 *MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs)* next weekend. As per report, Depp has been in talks with the show's production team to dress up as the network's Moonman mascot.

## ROBBER BLAMES KIM FOR JEWELLERY HEIST IN PARIS

Yunis Abbas, one of the people who robbed Kim Kardashian of around \$10 million in jewellery in a Paris hotel, blamed the star for the heist. "Celebs who flaunt their wealth online should be a little less showy towards people who can't afford it," he said.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You are an imaginative and enterprising person, and today you may taste success. Ganesh says that you are ambitious but warns you not to take on more work than you can handle. You are positive about your capabilities, so work sincerely and have faith in God.

**TAURUS**  
There is every possibility that you will enjoy a good rapport with people around you, predicts Ganesh. You will think with your stomach today, craving for delicacies. Such a feeling might be because of repressed hunger. Something refreshingly different might be on the cards today, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Your mind will be uneasy and anxious due to some reason today. You will be unable to express your anxieties. You will be able to secure the love of your partner by sharing your feelings. You need to let go of the past and strive to keep on moving forward with confidence, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep your cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesh. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

**LEO**  
You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters today. You need to patiently listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today. Your self-confidence may take a beating today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says the inner artist in you will come to the surface today and you will showcase your imagination powers too. You will be able to focus on topics of interest today. Those of you in the field of interest will find themselves moving ahead. There may be signing of beneficial legal deals today for you.

**SCORPIO**  
You can be fondly called as 'the perfectionist' today. Right from being punctual to following a systematic method for your work, you do it all. All in all, you set an ideal example for the people around you, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Get ready to rule hearts today. Your thoughtful insights into other people's psyche might just help you write a book on it! In the battleground of love, you will win over your sweetheart all over again, probably with a nice, slow dance coupled with a fantastic candlelit dinner.

**CAPRICORN**  
It has become difficult for you to bear the heavy weight of responsibilities on your shoulders. But, be prepared for some more; the weight is about to get heavier as more responsibilities are going to be added. You will no longer enjoy the work, and it will bring down your efficiency level to an extent, feels Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesh congratulates you for that. You will inspire and motivate a number of people, and may create a fan following, too. This, however, doesn't mean that you throw your weight around.

**PISCES**  
Those who work hard to move towards their goals will do well today. It is a good day for business. You will be able to do a lot of new things in your job-business today. With Ganesh's blessings you will definitely succeed, but you need to work hard without getting disappointed.

## Kiara spills beans on her equation with Sidharth

**Mumbai:** Rumour mills have been abuzz with the hush-hush alleged romance of Shershaah lead acting pair - Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra but, Kiara who recently appeared on the Karan Johar-hosted chat show *Koffee With Karan*, spilled the beans on the kind of equation that she shares with Sidharth. In the eighth episode of Season 7 of his show, KJo engaged in a chat with Kiara as she openly admitted that she and Sidharth are "more than close friends."

During the show, Karan poked a question on marriage, Kiara took the conversation further, revealing that she believes in the institution of marriage. "I have seen beautiful marriages around me, and I see that hap-

pen in my life too. But I will not reveal when that is happening," she said. Considering the news is almost confirmed, Karan and Shahid say they would dance together to the song Dola re Dola whenever the wedding happens and confirm their invitation. The new episode of the weekly show *Koffee With Karan* Season 7 will be available to stream on Disney+ Hotstar, Thursday, August 25, at 12 midnight.



## Parineeti to hunt for clutter-breaking films

**Mumbai:** Parineeti Chopra is over the moon that three of her films *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar (SAFF)*, *The Girl On The Train* and *Saina* have become award season favourites! The acclaim and the accolades that Parineeti has got since then has been incredible and now these three films have collectively scored 16 nominations at Filmfare Awards, 10 out of them won by SAFF, including the prestigious Best Actress nomination.

About her recent run of form, Parineeti says, "It's hugely validating for me to taste success in this period where everything is in flux and we are recalibrating ourselves. With the pandemic, the taste and preference of audience has changed across the board. They want to only engage with exceptional content and I'm so happy that they have appreciated my films."

She adds, "It tells me that I need to focus on picking projects that speak to my heart and constantly keep the audience at mind because people want to see clutter-breaking films. I will continue to hunt for the scripts and roles that I can take on to disrupt."

## Allu represents country as Grand Marshal in NYC

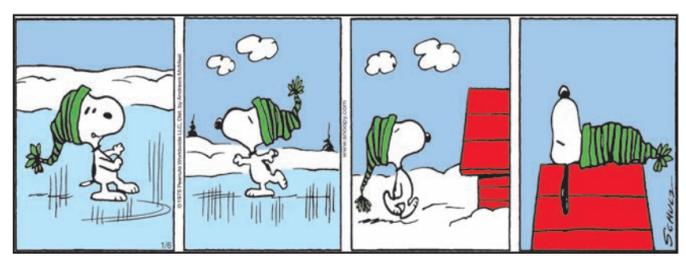
**New York:** South actor Allu Arjun Monday represented India as the Grand Marshal at the annual India Day parade in New York. Taking to Instagram, the *Pushpa* actor dropped some videos on stories, which he captioned, "Thank you it was the honour being the Grand Marshal at the India Day parade in NYC."

In the video, Allu donned a white Jodhpuri suit along with a tricoloured handkerchief while representing India's culture at its best. Moreover, the actor's love and respect for the country was seen when during the parade he addressed the people and was seen saying "Ye Bharat ka tiranga hai, kabhi jhukega nahi," having the Indian flag in his hand. As India marks its 75th year of Independence, the Pan-India star is acknowledged with the coveted title of Grand Marshal in the parade which was also shown on the LED Screens at Times Square. This is



one of the proudest moments for India, as an Indian actor represents the country globally. While he marked his presence in this mega parade, his fans trended him as #GrandMarshalAlluArjunAtNYC on social media.

### PEANUTS



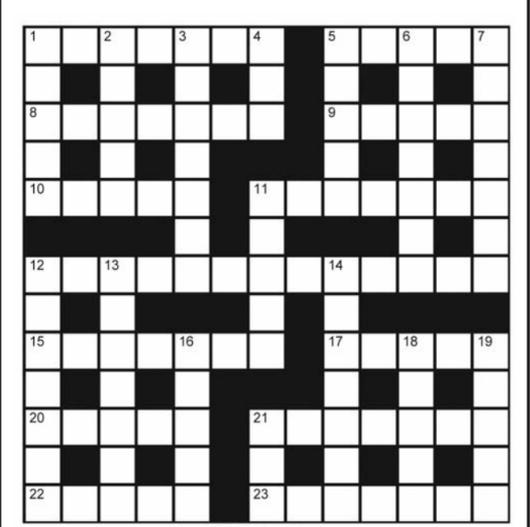
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



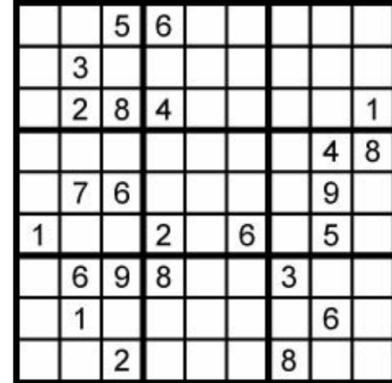
### FUN post CROSSWORD



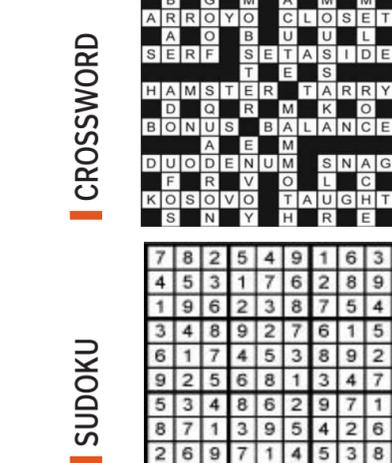
- Across**
- 1 Good manners
  - 5 Hotel employees
  - 8 Degeneration, as of muscles
  - 9 Compadre
  - 10 Fine fiddle
  - 11 Simple wind instrument
  - 12 Anthony Quinn's big hit (5,3,5)
  - 15 Oath
  - 17 Like some relationships
  - 20 Decennium parts
  - 21 Friendly singer
  - 22 Lustrous fabric
  - 23 Beryl variety
  - Down**
  - 1 Literary genre
  - 2 Around that date
  - 3 Copy
  - 4 Word of possibility
  - 5 Coffee shop order
  - 6 Put on a pedestal
  - 7 High-flying singer
  - 11 Earthy colour
  - 12 Gentle breezes
  - 13 Strong reprimand (4,3)
  - 14 African ruminant
  - 16 "Peer Gynt" dramatist
  - 18 Deadly snake
  - 19 Give way
  - 21 Fire truck item

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

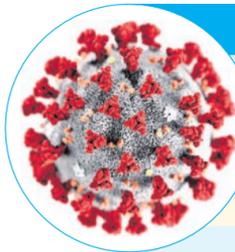


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,12,36,923	57,57,05,928	64,72,637
India	4,43,48,960	4,37,23,944	5,27,368
Odisha	13,25,264	13,13,679	9,164

**FIGHTING DENGUE**

Several outfits took out an awareness rally on dengue at Bhagatpur in Cuttack, Monday



# Complete IT towers in City by Oct: 5T Secy



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** In deference to a direction from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian Monday visited the new BMC building at Satya Nagar by Deloitte and O-Hub building by IBM in Infocity to review the progress of the projects and ensure their timely completion.

The opening of these development centres by such big multi-national corporations (MNCs) in Bhubaneswar will create huge job opportunities for the youths. Both the

MNCs are setting their foot in Odisha for the first time and both the centres are targeted to be operationalised by mid-October 2022.

He also directed early commissioning of the Bhubaneswar smart city command and control centre and expressed his satisfaction about the work in progress.

Pandian laid emphasis on creation of quality common use facilities like meeting halls, canteen and parking lots and overall eco-system in both the new buildings.

The second tower of O-Hub work has been prioritised. It's now planned

The opening of these twin centres by such big MNCs in Bhubaneswar will create huge job opportunities for the youths

Pandian laid emphasis on creation of quality common use facilities like meeting halls, canteen and parking lots and overall eco-system in both the buildings

to have incubation centres, co-working spaces along with office spaces for the startups which will graduate into regular companies.

While inspecting Infocity area, the 5T Secretary has also suggested for a multilevel parking to be planned inside Infocity to address the growing parking needs of the IT companies.

During the visit, Pandian was accompanied by Industries secretary Hemant Sharma, IT secretary Manoj Mishra, Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) chairman Sanjay Singh, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange and Idco managing director Bhupinder Singh Poonia, along with other senior officers of respective departments.

## DEFT HANDS



An artisan giving brushstrokes to an earthen idol of Lord Ganesha at Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack, Monday

OP PHOTO

# Boyfriend abetted suicide: Sweta's kin

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** The family members of a 24-year-old software engineer, who recently committed suicide by hanging herself in an apartment here, have lodged a complaint with Chandrasekharpur police accusing her boyfriend of abetting the suicide.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case under Section 306 of the IPC and started an investigation into the matter.

The deceased identified as Sweta Utkal Kumari was a resident of Bhadrak district. She had been working at a reputed IT firm in Infocity area since 2018.

It was alleged in the complaint that Soumyajit Mahapatra, the male colleague of Sweta, fell in an unrequited love with the deceased.



SWETA UTKAL KUMARI, A RESIDENT OF BHADRAK DISTRICT, COMMITTED SUICIDE BY HANGING HERSELF AT GREEN APARTMENT IN SAILASHREE VIHAR

THE LADY TECHIE'S FATHER ACCUSED SOUMYAJIT'S FAMILY OF DEMANDING ₹30 LAKH IN DOWRY

Sweta had initially rejected his proposal, but she started reciprocating later. Soon, she got into a live-in relationship with Soumyajit.

Meanwhile, Soumyajit allegedly managed to capture some obscene pictures and intimate videos. He later left the job and took admission

in management institution to pursue MBA. As per the complaint, Soumyajit used to take money from Sweta after he left his job.

When Sweta's family members came to know about their relationship, they talked to the family of Soumyajit about the couple's

marriage. Sweta's father accused Soumyajit's family of demanding ₹30 lakh as dowry.

Soumyajit allegedly blackmailed Sweta threatening to make viral her intimate photos and videos on social media, alleged her father. Soumyajit was allegedly torturing Sweta through various means since 2020. When the torture became unbearable, Sweta ended her life in her rental accommodation at Green Apartment in Sailashree Vihar area late Friday night, her family members said.

Meanwhile, an audio recording purportedly the last conversation between Sweta and Soumyajit, has gone viral. Sweta was reportedly heard pleading with the accused not to snap the relationship. She also allegedly threatened Soumyajit to file police complaint against him.

# BMC tax collector, aide held for receiving bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** Vigilance sleuths Monday arrested tax collector-cum-ward officer of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and his assistant for receiving bribe of ₹15,000 from a person to reduce the holding tax on the latter's house.

The accused were identified as Hemanta Kumar Sahoo, the tax collector and Jogendra Pradhan, retired tax collector and assistant of the former. Sahoo works at ward office-23, Khandagiri Bari Community Centre. Pradhan also used to visit the office after retirement. Vigilance sources claimed that when the complainant, Sanjay Kumar Sahoo of Ghatikia area, contacted the ac-

cused persons to slash his holding tax, they demanded ₹15,000 bribe for the purpose.

An aggrieved Sanjay later lodged a complaint with the Vigilance in this regard. Based on the complaint, Vigilance officials Saturday registered a case (26/22) and laid a trap to arrest the duo.

"Following the trap, simultaneous searches were launched on the house of Sahoo at Soubhagya Nagar in Baramunda area and office room at Khandagiri Bari Community Centre, Bhubaneswar. Both the accused Sri Hemanta Kumar Sahoo, Tax Collector/Ward Officer and Sri Jogendra Pradhan, Ex-Tax Collector (Retired) have been arrested and are being forwarded to the Court," said a Vigilance official.

# Special trains for RRB examination

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** Keeping in view the demands from the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) examinees, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) Monday decided to run special trains for their convenience.

As per ECOR sources, 08046/08045 Hatia-Cuttack-Hatia Examination Special from Hatia will leave at 16:50 hrs (4:50pm) August 22 and 24, 2022 towards Cuttack. In return direction, this train will leave Cuttack at 21:40 hrs (9:40pm) August



23 and 25, 2022 having stoppages at Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur City, Angul & Dhenkanal between Hatia and Cuttack from both the directions.

This train has two AC-3 Tier, four Sleeper Class, three Second Class Chair Car, five Second Class Seating and two Guard-cum-Luggage Vans in its composition. More number of special trains have been planned to run for RRB Examination candidates across the country for appearing computer based test (CBT) being scheduled in different cities.

Earlier, keeping in view the demands from passengers, ECOR has decided to provide stoppage for three pairs of trains at Nuapada Road Station on an experimental basis for a period of six months.

They are: Peri-Ahmedabad-Puri Express, Korba-Visakhapatnam-Korba Express and Bilaspur-Tirupati-Bilaspur Express.

# ₹132cr livelihood promotion plan through forestry gets nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** In a move to enhance livelihood activities through forestry, the state government Monday approved annual plans of operation (APO) of ₹132.01 crore for the financial year 2022-23.

The High Power Committee of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) led by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has approved the annual plan.

The committee has approved the APO of ₹132.01 crore for OFSDP Phase-II, and ₹58.24 crore for Ama Jangal Yojana (AJY). Besides, ₹43.43 crore financial outlay was made from OMBADC for livelihood activities, officials said.

Mahapatra directed the officials to intensify livelihood activities for making those sustainable even after end of the project period.

The Chief Secretary directed different departments to prop up convergence of resources with OFSDS proactively for boosting sustainable livelihood programs in forest fringe villages.

"People living in these villages are mostly poor, and they need to be assisted through income generation activities (IGA). Such activities also add to conservation and growth of forest," he said.

Mahapatra also directed to ensure survival of the seedlings with close supervision, and replace deceased plants after resolving the cause of casualty. It was decided to implement local specific IGAs through VSS



and women self-help groups (SHGs).

The main activities under OFSDP included entry point activities, sustainable forest management, biodiversity management, livelihood promotion, capacity building of VSS and SHGs, support activities,

assisted natural plant regeneration and block plantation, construction of soil moisture conservation measures, forest protection, fire guarding, construction of IGA Centre, community mobilisation, product mapping of different VSSs, for-

mulation of VSS-wise livelihood plan and skill training. Project director Meeta Biswal appraised that OFSDP is being implemented in 12 forest divisions and two wildlife divisions across 10 districts. A total number of 1,211 VSSs are actively involved in conservation, growth and promotional activities. Perspective 10-year micro plans for all VSSs were also prepared by them.

Around 56,031 hectares of forest land were developed through them. Soil moisture conservation measures over 2,250 hectares, fire lines across 1,710 km and forest boundaries across 1,900 km were constructed, and being maintained through respective VSSs.

Six hi-tech nurseries with provision of raising 4.40 lakh quality

seedlings were also established and being run through them.

A total of 4,118 hectares were covered under farm forestry with 29 lakh seedlings for providing remunerative income to members of 777 VSSs. The balance VSSs would be covered in phases.

Construction of multi product clusters for aggregation and value addition of minor forest produce and agri products were in process. Sal leaf clusters in three project divisions namely Karanjia, Baripada and Rairangpur were made operational, sources said. Under AJY, altogether 4,601 VSSs and 14,263 women SHGs across 22 territorial divisions were involved in forest conservation and associated livelihood activities with an investment of around ₹545.65 crore by end of July 2022.

seedlings were also established and being run through them.

A total of 4,118 hectares were covered under farm forestry with 29 lakh seedlings for providing remunerative income to members of 777 VSSs. The balance VSSs would be covered in phases.

Construction of multi product clusters for aggregation and value addition of minor forest produce and agri products were in process. Sal leaf clusters in three project divisions namely Karanjia, Baripada and Rairangpur were made operational, sources said. Under AJY, altogether 4,601 VSSs and 14,263 women SHGs across 22 territorial divisions were involved in forest conservation and associated livelihood activities with an investment of around ₹545.65 crore by end of July 2022.

# TRIBAL ART EXHIBITION KICKS OFF IN NEW DELHI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 22:** A four-day long tribal art exhibition, organised by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, commenced at India Habitats Centre in New Delhi, Monday.

The exhibition, which will continue till August 26, will showcase the rich aesthetic sense of ethnic tribe arts drawn by 40 tribal artists from several districts of Odisha. As many as 40 paintings are being exhibited at the centre to promote tribal art of Odisha.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Additional Chief Secretary of Odia Language, Literature & Culture department Madhusudan Padhi and attended by international Sand Artist Sudarsan Pattanaik said that to foster the tradition of tribal art and its cultural heritage, the Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi had organised an Odishan tribal artist camp and painting exhibition at Bangalore in July. This was for the first time an exhibition was organised out of Odisha, he said.



art and said that it will provide a big opportunity to tribal artists to interact with artists and art lovers from the country and abroad.

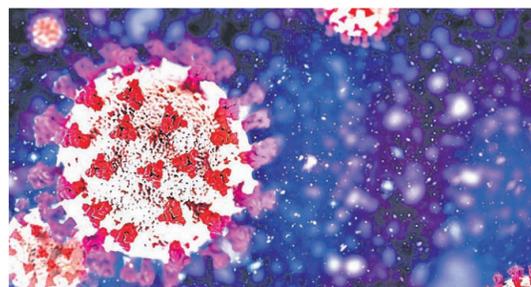
International Sand Artist Sudarsan Pattanaik said that to foster the tradition of tribal art and its cultural heritage, the Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi had organised an Odishan tribal artist camp and painting exhibition at Bangalore in July. This was for the first time an exhibition was organised out of Odisha, he said.

# Heart inflammation 11X higher among unvaccinated: Study

The risk of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) in unvaccinated individuals post Covid infection was at least 11 times higher as compared to people who developed the heart condition after receiving a vaccine or booster dose, a detailed analysis of nearly 43 million people, aged 13 and older, has revealed.

Several previous studies and reports from public health agencies, including the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have highlighted a possible connection and potentially increased risk of myocarditis after receiving an mRNA Covid-19 vaccine, generating considerable scientific, policy and public interest.

"We found that the entire Covid-19-vaccinated population of England during an important 12-month period of the pandemic when the vaccines first became available, the risk of myocarditis following vaccination was quite small as compared to the risk of myocarditis after infection," said Martina Patone, a statistician at the



University of Oxford.

"This analysis provides important information that may help guide public health vaccine campaigns, particularly since Covid-19 vaccination has expanded in many parts of the world to include children as young as 6 months old," Patone said in the study published in the American Heart Association's peer-reviewed journal Circulation.

In this study, Patone and colleagues evaluated database of Covid-19 vaccinations for all people aged 13 or older who had received at

least one dose of the University of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna vaccine between December 1, 2020 and December 15, 2021.

This dataset totaled nearly 43 million people, which included more than 21 million who had received a booster dose of any of the Covid-19 vaccines.

Nearly 6 million people tested positive for Covid-19 infection either before or after Covid-19 vaccination during the study period. The database records were then

## COVID BLUES

NEARLY 6 MILLION PEOPLE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 INFECTION EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION DURING THE STUDY PERIOD

THE ANALYSIS FOUND THAT LESS THAN 3,000 PEOPLE WERE HOSPITALISED OR DIED WITH MYOCARDITIS DURING THE ONE-YEAR STUDY PERIOD

cross-referenced and matched to the national offices with data on Covid infection, hospital admission and death certificates for the same time period.

The analysis found that less than 3,000 people were hospitalised or died with myocarditis during the one-year study period.

People who were infected with Covid-19 before receiving any doses of the vaccines were 11 times more at risk for developing myocardi-

tis during days 1-28 after a Covid-19 positive test, the findings showed.

"It is important for the public to understand that myocarditis is rare, and the risk of developing myocarditis after a Covid-19 vaccine is also rare. This risk should be balanced against the benefits of the vaccines in preventing severe infection," said Professor Nicholas Mills, the Butler British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiology at the University of Edinburgh and a co-author of the paper.

It is also crucial to understand who is at a higher risk for myocarditis and which vaccine type is associated with increased myocarditis risk, Mills added.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to shift, and more contagious variants arise.

"Our hope is that this data may enable a more well-informed discussion on the risk of vaccine-associated myocarditis when considered in contrast to the net benefits of vaccination," said co-author Julia Hippisley-Cox.

# Check prices of essential commodities: FS&CW Secy



In order to check hoarding and control the rise in prices of essential commodities, the Collectors have been requested to actively monitor the flow of essential goods in their own jurisdictions

scarcity in the market. In order to check hoarding and control the rise in prices of essential commodities, the Collectors have been requested to actively monitor the flow of essential goods and their availability in their own jurisdictions. If required, they have also been asked to take action against the hoarders and unscrupulous traders under the provisions of the E.C Act., 1955. Action taken in the matter may be intimated to this Department for information of the Government.

Vir Vikram Yadav, secretary of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, said that due to the floods the prices of essential commodities may go up as there will be disruption in communication and in arrival of such commodities in the state. That may lead to a gap between the demand and supply of the essential commodities. Taking advantage of such situation, the unscrupulous traders may resort to hoarding and creating artificial

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** The state Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department has directed all the Collectors of the state to check the prices of essential commodities as the flood situation persists. They have also been directed to keep a close eye on the arrival of such commodities and their availability in the market, at a reasonable price.



A bulldozer deployed by BDA razes illegal structures in Ghatikia area of Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

## RAZING DOWN

### Subarnarekha flood...

**Continued from P1**  
“Nearly 156 villages in 83 gram panchayats in Balasore district have been hit by the flood. The administration has evacuated 40,000 people by Monday noon, and they are housed in 227 temporary shelters. The process is still underway,” Balasore District Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde said. On Sunday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik delegated the powers of a special relief commissioner to the collector of Balasore district so that the local administration could be more effective. A helicopter was also placed at his disposal to deal with any emergency. An IMD bulletin has forecast heavy rain in northern Odisha districts Tuesday. Odisha is already reeling under the impact of moderate flood in the Mahanadi river system, following incessant rainfall, which has affected over eight lakh people. Nearly five lakh are still marooned in 763 villages, according to government estimates.

### Moms and the married...

**Continued from P1**  
“A few people are against these changes because they always wanted to see a single beautiful woman who is available for a relationship. They always wanted to see a woman that, from the outside, looks so perfect that she’s almost unreachable,” she added. The Miss Universe pageant is broadcast in over 160 territories and countries around the world. Harnaaz Sandhu of India was crowned Miss Universe 2021. Hailing from Punjab, she represented India at the 70th Miss Universe 2021 pageant, which was held in Eilat, Israel.

# State gears up for Hockey Men’s World Cup, 2023

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** With only a few months left for the Hockey Men’s World Cup, 2023, the state government is moving into top gear to set global benchmarks by successfully hosting the mega sporting event.

The state is going to host the event for the second time in a row after its massive success in Hockey Men’s World Cup of 2018. The Asian Athletics Championship in 2017 was also a resounding success.

To ensure that the marquee event is even bigger and better than its previous edition, the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) held a meeting here Monday.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra emphasised on the challenges of the event as it will be held in two cities at the same time. Private Secretary to Chief Minister (ST), VK Pandiyani said that it is a matter of great pride that Odisha has got the opportunity to host the consecutive edition of the Men’s Hockey World Cup

“We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming the top teams of the world. There are certain areas that need special attention and we will be reviewing the development periodically,” he stressed.

Different government departments have worked seamlessly and efficiently and executed an exceptional event in 2018 that made a global impact on Odisha’s image, and the same has been asked of them for this edition.



Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra emphasised on the challenges of the event as it will be held in two cities at the same time

Private Secretary to Chief Minister (ST), VK Pandiyani said that it is a matter of great pride that Odisha has got the opportunity to host the consecutive edition of the Men’s Hockey World Cup

In fact, the state is hoping to better the last by adding new aspects to draw in more crowds, engage fans and also positively impress the visiting tourists, the Chief Secretary added.

Private Secretary to Chief Minister (ST), VK Pandiyani said that it is a matter of great pride that Odisha has got the opportunity to host the consecutive edition of the Men’s Hockey World Cup that too at

two different venues. “This has never happened before and we should be extremely proud of this. Odisha has set a benchmark in hosting international events,” he said.

Pandian further said that the Chief Minister has directed to use this world cup as an opportunity to showcase not only Odisha’s capability as a remarkable host but also the art, culture and heritage of the state.

He encouraged all department heads to come together and ensure players and fans have a memorable experience and return as brand ambassadors.

Sports secretary, R. Vineel Krishna said that the construction of the infrastructure and facilities in co-host city, Rourkela, is going on in full swing and the development is being monitored closely and will be ready in the coming months.

### Check caste-based atrocities: Athawale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** Union Minister Ramdas Athawale Monday urged the state government to take steps to check atrocities on Dalits and tribals in the state.

Addressing a press meet here, the Union minister of state for Social Justice and Empowerment noted that Odisha recorded 2,823 cases of crime against people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) or the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in 2020-21.

The year before, the figure stood at 2,768, he said adding that the Center and the state need to work in coordination to stop the cases of atrocities.

“I appeal to the Odisha government to take steps to check atrocities on SC/ST people,” Athawale, who reviewed the implementation of Social Justice Ministry’s schemes in the state during a meeting with government officials, said at the press meet.

The minister underlined that there is a need to encourage inter-caste marriages to unite the society and end discriminations.

The state reported 2,428 inter-caste marriages in 2021-22 as against 1,847 in the previous fiscal.

He suggested that the administration could come up with a job scheme to encourage inter-caste marriages.

### JSP wins National CSR Award 2020 in 2 categories

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, August 22:** Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) has been selected for the prestigious National CSR Award 2020 in two categories by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

As per an announcement, Jindal Steel & Power, led by Naveen Jindal, has been declared as the winner in the category of ‘CSR in Aspirational Districts / Difficult Terrains (Eastern India) and Contribution in National Priority Areas’. JSP has been selected for this coveted award after a rigorous three-stage selection process initiated by the Ministry based on its prescribed systems of nominations by various Ministries, state government, three eminent professional institutes in India and Industry & Trade

Chambers. Chairman, JSP, Naveen Jindal said, “We have been implementing multidimensional social development programmes under our CSR to improve the quality of life of the community sustainably in the geography of our operational locations and beyond. The National CSR Award by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to JSP under two categories is indeed a recognition of our philosophy of passion for people. For us, it is always people first”.

Expressing her gratitude to the government of India for recognizing Jindal Steel & Power with the National CSR Award, Shalini Jindal, Chairperson of JSP Foundation said, “We are humbled and encouraged that the Government of India has awarded us the highest recognition for our CSR programmes

### 1 gets life term for killing wife

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 22:** The court of Additional Sessions Judge, Khurda here Monday sentenced a man to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of killing his wife at his Damduma Housing Board Colony residence in Khandagiri area in 2016. The court also slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 on him and six month additional jail term in case of defaulting on payment.

The convict identified as Rajendra Singh alias Babu, 55, had married the victim, Sasmita Singh, around 19 years ago. He would often beat his wife on different pretexts.

On December 31, 2016, Rajendra engaged in a heated argument with his wife over some money related issues. Soon, the argument turned violent and Rajendra hit Sasmita on his head and strangled her. The convict also made telephonic call to the complainant, cousin brother of the victim, and told him to have murdered his sister. Later, the complainant, along with the family members of Sasmita, reached the house of Rajendra. Meanwhile, police also rushed to the spot, recovered the body and arrested Rajendra.

“After completion of trial, the judgment was pronounced in the open court and the accused was found guilty u/s 302 IPC. Today i.e. 22.08.2022 hearing on question of sentence, accused was sentenced to Life imprisonment and fine of Rs.50,000/- was imposed and in default he has to undergo RI for further six months”, said the commissionerate police.

### Naveen writes...

Continued from P1

In order to ensure timely payment of wages, whenever there is a delay in receipt of funds from the Government of India towards the payment of wage liabilities, the state government has created the Revolving Fund for payment of wages to the job card holders within the stipulated time as a contingent measure.

For this, the state government has also made a budgetary allocation of Rs 1,000 crore for the financial year 2022-23. The Revolving Fund is to be recouped after receipt of the fund in this regard from the Centre. However, there is no provision for the recoupment of the fund in the NREGASoft, the software of the scheme.

The Ministry of Rural Development has been requested earlier for addition of a default provision in NREGASoft for default, utilisation & recoupment of budgetary allocation towards state’s Revolving Fund to prevent delay in payment of wages. However, the ministry is yet to take any action on the aforesaid proposals of the state, he added.

# Turning data into sound could help astronomy

We often think of astronomy as a visual science with beautiful images of the universe. However, astronomers use a wide range of analysis tools beyond images to understand nature at a deeper level.

Data sonification is the process of converting data into sound. It has powerful applications in research, education and outreach, and also enables blind and visually impaired communities to understand plots, images and other data.

Its use as a tool in science is still in its early stages – but astronomy groups are leading the way.

In a paper published in Nature Astronomy, scientists discuss the current state of data sonification in astronomy and other fields, provide an overview of 100 sound-based projects and explore its future directions.

Imagine this scene: you’re at a crowded party that’s quite noisy. You don’t know anyone and they’re all speaking a language you can’t understand – not good. Then you hear bits of a conversation in a far corner in your language. You focus



on it and head over to introduce yourself.

While you may have never experienced such a party, the thought of hearing a recognisable voice or language in a noisy room is familiar. The ability of the human ear and brain to filter out undesired sounds and retrieve desired sounds is called the “cocktail party effect”.

Similarly, science is always pushing the boundaries of what can be detected, which often requires extracting very faint signals from noisy data. In astronomy we often push to find the faintest, farthest or most fleeting of signals. Data sonification helps us to push these boundaries further.

Fast radio bursts are millisecond

bursts of radio emission that can be detected halfway across the universe. We don’t yet know what causes them. Detecting them in other wavelengths is the key to understanding their nature. When we explore the universe with telescopes, we find it’s full of cataclysmic explosions including the supernova deaths of stars, mergers of black holes and neutron stars that create gravitational waves, and fast radio bursts. These events allow us to understand extreme physics at the highest-known energies and densities. They help us to measure the expansion rate of the universe and how much matter it contains, and to determine where and how the elements were cre-

Data sonification is the process of converting data into sound. It has powerful applications in research, education and outreach, and also enables blind and visually impaired communities to understand plots, images and other data.

Plotting data in ten or more dimensions simultaneously is too complex, and interpreting it is too confusing. However, the same data can be comprehended much more easily through sonification

ated, among other things.

However, the majority of these events are faint bursts, and computers are only so good at finding them. A computer can pick out a faint burst if it’s given a template of the “desired” signal. But if signals depart from this expected behaviour, they become lost.

And it’s often these very events that are the most interesting and yield the biggest insight into the nature of the universe. Using data sonification to verify these signals and identify outliers can be powerful.

Data sonification is useful for interpreting science because hu-

mans interpret audio information faster than visual information. Also, the ear can discern more pitch levels than the eye can discern levels of colour (and over a wider range). Plotting data in ten or more dimensions simultaneously is too complex, and interpreting it is too confusing. However, the same data can be comprehended much more easily through sonification.

As it turns out, the human ear can tell the difference between the sound of a trumpet and flute immediately, even if they play the same note (frequency) at the same loudness and duration.

Why? Because each sound includes higher-order harmonics that help determine the sound quality, or timbre. The different strengths of the higher-order harmonics enable the listener to quickly identify the instrument.

Now imagine placing information – different properties of data – as different strengths of higher-order harmonics. Each object studied would have a unique tone, or belong to a class of tones, depending on its overall properties. **PTI**

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

# 680 Maoists, sympathisers surrender in Malkangiri dist



Maoist members who surrendered; (Inset): Effigies of Maoist leaders being burnt

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, August 22:** A total of 180 Maoist cadres and over 500 sympathisers of the Red rebels surrendered Monday before security forces at a special public relations programme held at the BSF camp in Gurupriya at Swabhimana Anchal of this district. Those who surrendered burnt effigies of various Maoist leaders and pledged their allegiance to the Odisha government in the presence of BSF DIG Shailendra Kumar Sinha and Malkangiri SP Nitesh Wadhvani.

The ultras said they have surrendered because they want to return to the mainstream. They also expressed satisfaction on the development works being implemented by the Odisha government.

They also took an oath in this regard. Several materials like clothes and sports goods were distributed to all those present on the occasion.

Sources said people in the area were once finding it difficult to lead a normal life which was once a safe haven for the Maoist. The order of the ultras was the norm. Maoists used to kill people dubbing them 'police informers' if anyone opposed them. They also prevented the people from raising the Tricolour on Independence Day and Republic Day.

However, things started changing for the better after the construction of Gurupriya bridge. Various developmental works un-

dertaken by the Odisha government and the establishment of a BSF camp also boosted the confidence of people living in the area.

The success in getting so many people surrender on one go has been achieved due to the joint operation by the district administration, Odisha Police, BSF, the district voluntary force and personnel of the Special Operation Groups, the DIG and SP said.

The ultras who surrendered also expressed their opposition towards the Maoist ideology by burning their dresses while giving like 'Maobadi (Maoist) Murbad', said an official.

The militia includes both men and women who hail from Dabal Pahad, Ralegada, Chintalduli, Korrapalli, Tekpadar, Palankrayi, Tatipahad, Eskapalli, Sarukabandha, Durgam, Banajholi, Chikatpalli, Jajpalli, Gajalmamidi and Sitapalli villages in Ralegada gram panchayat locality under the jurisdiction of Papermetla police station.

Commandant Binod Soren of 88 BSF Battalion, SDPO Anshuman Dwivedi, police official Lakshmi Narayan Muduli and Jodamba IIC Chandrakant Tandi were present on the occasion.



Effigies of Maoist leaders being burnt



Tribals display their traditional bows and arrows and play musical instruments during a demonstration organised by Paschim Odisha Adivasi Mahasangha outside the RDC office in Sambalpur, Monday

# ED heat on Thakurani Iron Ore Mines

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barbil, August 22:** Officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided Monday the office of the Thakurani Iron Ore Mines at B-block here belonging to Sarada Mines Private Ltd under Barbil police limits and Joda mining circle in Keonjhar district. The raids were conducted on alleged charges of illegal mining and money laundering.

Reports said a team of ED officials launched a surprise raid at the office located in Sayabali Colony at 9.00am. The team also conducted raids at the residence of a director



of the company as well as another senior official living in the same colony. The security guards of the company however, prevented mediapersons from doing their duty in a proper manner. They were refused entry inside the company

premises while officials also remained tight-lipped over the whole incident.

Sources pointed out that the raids took place over alleged large scale transactions of minerals and money by the firm with Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. Even though local police were kept in the dark about the raids, the ED team was accompanied by personnel of Chhattisgarh police.

The ED officials however, failed to question many senior officials as they were on tour. They collected data from hard disks of various computers in the office. A notice was also issued to those officials who are on tour to return immediately and face interrogation. ED officials however, did not divulge any information as to what they have gathered during the raids.

# Married couple set on fire, critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, August 22:** A couple sustained serious injuries after miscreants tried to burn them alive by pouring petrol and setting them on fire while they were sleeping at Padhan Sahi in Dhogotha village under Harichandanpur police limits in this district, late Sunday night. The injured couple was identified as Ugrasen Palai and his wife Jayanti of the same village. The incident has created shockwaves in the area with angry residents demanding the arrest of the accused and stringent action against them.

The couple who got married two years back is now battling for their lives at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The two were first admitted to the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital from where they were shifted to Cuttack as their conditions deteriorated. Their house has also been reduced to ashes.

The miscreants before setting the victims on fire locked their house from outside. With the doors bolted, the couple did not have any chance to escape the flames. Villagers rushed to the spot on hearing their screams of



anguish and broke open the doors and rescued the duo. Harichandanpur police personnel also rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. A forensic team has also been pressed into service.

Family members suspect the hand of a woman behind the entire incident. They said that the woman was in love with Ugrasen when he was not married. A complaint has been lodged against the woman, police said, but did not divulge her name as it may hamper investigation. A police team has left for the woman's village under Banshapal block, Harichandanpur IIC Debaki Nayak said. She however, did not provide any further details.

# Surgeons remove steel glass from man's rectum

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, August 22:** Doctors of a government-run hospital in Ganjam district have successfully removed a steel glass from the rectum of a man through surgery. The glass, around eight centimetres in diameter and 15cm long, was allegedly inserted in the anus of Krushna Chandra Rout around 10 days ago by inebriated friends at a booze party in Surat, Gujarat, where liquor is prohibited.

Rout experienced acute stomach pain, but he did not reveal it to anyone due to the rule in Gujarat. Instead of undergoing treatment in Surat, where he was working at a textile mill, he preferred to return to Balipadar his native place in Buguda block. The 45-year old's stomach started swelling and he could not defecate since the incident. Worried about his condition, Rout's family members rushed him to



MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur city last Friday.

During consultation, Rout did not say that the glass was inside his rectum (sigmoid colon) until an X-ray revealed so, surgery department assistant professor Sanjit Nayak said. "We formed a team of doctors to retrieve the glass by conducting a surgery on the same day as his condition was serious," said Dr Charan Panda, a professor in the surgery department.

Initially, the surgeons tried to remove the glass through the anus. Later, they decided to conduct a 'laparotomy', an abdominal incision, because of chances of infection due to a possible rupture in the rectum. "It took around 2.5 hours to remove the glass. The condition of the patient is good and he will remain for another four-five days under observation," Dr Panda said.

A colostomy-sheet has been attached to Rout and it will remain for a few days for defecation. He, however, is not facing any problems while urinating, sources said.

# Woman killed in bear attack; hubby, daughter critical

**Phulbani:** In a shocking incident Monday, a woman was killed when a bear attacked her while her husband and daughter were also mauled by the animal in a jungle near Tangam village under Baliguda police limits in Kandhamal district. The deceased has been identified as Baduli Mallick, 40. The two injured are Banchha Mallick, 50, and Suneli Mallick, 20. The incident occurred when the couple and their daughter entered the Kargisaru jungle under Tumudibandha forest range to collect leaves. They were collecting leaves when a bear attacked Baduli and then the animal turned its attention to her husband and daughter. The injured daughter ran back to village and informed family members and other villagers. However, by the time the rescue team arrived, Baduli was already dead while her husband lay critically injured.

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

# Mushroom farming turns profitable for women of Kujang



Paradip, August 22: With the Odisha government taking up a host of measures under 'Mission Shakti' programme to push women empowerment, a total of 362 women of three SHGs in Kujang block of Jagatsinghpur district have made themselves self-sufficient through mushroom and vegetable farming.

Mushroom and seasonal vegetable farming have opened up new avenues of livelihood for them. These women have now become economically independent through this project.

In fact, 30 women of three SHGs, who have formed the 'Dayanidhi Mushroom Producers Group', have turned into small entrepreneurs. By managing the finances of their respective families, they have become a role model for others.

Apart from household chores, they utilise two hours for mushroom and vegetable

farming every day.

Traders from Paradip and Kujang buy the produce from their doorsteps. They earn ₹12,000 to ₹15,000 each on a monthly basis, said Swarnalata Swain, the president of Dayanidhi Mushroom Producers Group.

They started mushroom farming in 2019. Master trainer of mushroom farming, Mounabati Swain said that PPL extended financial support for this initiative, apart from providing training and tools. They have now adopted organic ways of cultivating bitter gourd, cucumber, ridge gourd, okra, brinjal, snake gourd and pumpkins on a patch of land. Mushroom cultivation involves fabrication of sheds with very little need for land.

SHG members have laid over 100 beds. The process of mushroom farming involves compost preparation, spawn-run, casing and harvesting. The mushroom sheds of several layers are made up of wood. Compost is used as a substrate for growing white button mushrooms, while straw is used as a base material for mushroom farming.

"Around 500gm to 1 kg of mushroom is collected from each bed every day. We spend ₹70 for one bed of mushroom. We sell a kilogram of mushroom for ₹130," they said.

Some of these women have now been chosen as master trainers to guide the SHGs on mushroom farming. This has been done so that utility of mushroom farming can be spread to other areas also.

**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer,**  
**Rural Works Division-II, Dhenkanal,**  
**Kamakhyanagar**  
No.O-858: E-Mail: rw.kamakhyanagar@yahoo.co.in  
**e-procurement Notice No 03/ Building Works / 2022-23.**

- Total No. of Works : Building Works : 05 Nos.
- Tender Cost : Rs. 35.97 to 36.03 Lakhs (approx.)
- Class of Contractor : "C" & "B" Class
- Period of Completion : 06 Calendar Months
- Availability of Tender online : 24.08.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 03.09.2022 upto 5.00 P.M. for bidding
- Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : 02.09.2022 upto 4.00 P.M.
- Date & Time of Opening of Bid: 05.09.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

Other Details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Dhenkanal, Kamakhyanagar OIPR-25094/11/0006/2223

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**R&B DIVISION-V, BHUBANESWAR**  
E-mail ID- eernb5bbsr@gmail.com, Tel - (0674)-2392424 No.3750, Dtd 19-08-2022

**No.B-494: Notice for Building work**  
**E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.10 of 2022-23**

Number of the Work : 01 (One) Electrical  
Period of : As mentioned in DTCN  
Date & Time of sale & receipt of bid document : From 23.08.2022 at 11.00 AM To 01.09.2022 at 5.30 PM in the office of Inviting Authority

Date & time of opening of bids : 02.09.2022 at 11.30 AM  
Address of Inviting Officer : Executive Engineer, R&B Division-V, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the state Govt. portal <https://odisha.gov.in>.  
Any amendment/cancellation/ retenders will be available in the website.

Sd./-Executive Engineer, R&B Division-V, Bhubaneswar OIPR-34135/11/0012/2223

भारत का राजपत्र  
The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY  
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)  
प्रधिकार से प्रकाशित  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
NOTIFICATION  
New Delhi, the 22nd July, 2022

S.O. 3345(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 on the stretch of land from Km 180 to Km 199.141 (At/Post- Srikrushnapur, PS- Remuna, Dist- Balasore) in the district of BALASORE in the state of ODISHA

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Samaj" and "The Orissa" Post" both dated 30.01.2022, under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas no objections have been received from any corner by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose.

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances

**SCHEDULE**  
Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH16 in the stretch of land from NH16 (At/Post-Srikrushnapur, PS- Remuna, Dist- Balasore) in the district of BALASORE in the state of ODISHA

Sl. No.	Survey/Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Nature of the land Owner/Interested person part survey no.
1	1350	Private	Sarad II	0.0048563	Girish Chandra Panda, S/o Charan Panda of Hiratikiri
Village : Madagodasahi-249					
2	199	Private	Sarad III	0.0040469	Swarnalata Mohanty, W/o Bhagabat Prasad Mohanty of Serghar
3	200/385	Private	Gharabani	0.0048563	Biswanath Nayak, Baidyanath Nayak, S/o Raghunath Nayak of Serghar
4	200/387	Private	Gharabani	0.0020235	Basant Manjari Das, W/o Sanjay Kumar Barik of Baunsamuhan
5	200/419	Private	Gharabani	0.0024282	Udaya Narayan Mohanty, S/o Baidhar Mohanty of Serghar
6	306	Private	Patita	0.0028329	Purastam Ratha, S/o Trilochan Ratha of Serghar
7	308	Private	Adi	0.0242817	Purastam Ratha, S/o Trilochan Ratha of Serghar
8	308/375	Private	Adi	0.0101174	Debdendra Nath Ratha, S/o Nakul Charan Ratha of Serghar
Village : Seragada-248					
9	2863	Private	Gharabani	0.0072845	Amulya Charan Panda, S/o Charan Panda of Serghar
10	970	Private	Sarad I	0.0137596	Sn Maa Basanti Devi, C/o Sisir Kumar Senapati and others of Serghar
11	970/3403	Private	Sarad I	0.0101174	Bansidhar Das, S/o Kanganli Das of Serghar
12	973	Private	Sarad I	0.0024282	Harish Chandra Panda, S/o Charan Panda of Serghar
					TOTAL 0.0890329

[F. No. NHA/BOT/11012/58/2005/PL/LA/NH-16/3D4]  
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

FOCUS FOOD SECURITY

# WHEAT IMPORT IMPERATIVE



**Sooner or later India has to plan for food security which has a significant linkage with imports, or encouraging Indian companies to own food production in other land abundant countries like Australia or Ethiopia**

September 2022. The in-kind transfer of free food grain has not only ensured some amount of food security but also protected the recipients from food inflation. That's because the benefit was given in kind rather than in cash. The total incremental outlay for the sixth phase is around ₹80,000 crore. The government can consider tapering down the benefits of PMGKAY which had begun during first wave of COVID. But the termination of PMGKAY should not be abrupt. In this context it is worth emphasising that the import of wheat is not a national embarrassment nor should it be politicised. India has been proudly self-sufficient in food grains for several decades, after the initial success of the green revolution, and of policies of public procurement which gives production incentives to farmers. But over the years many distinct changes in consumption patterns of Indians are discernible. Firstly, there is the transition from coarse cereals like jowar and bajra to fine cereals like wheat and rice. Secondly, the increase in consumption of meat, dairy and poultry. These require higher production of food grains including corn and soya, as animal feed. In fact, the demand for animal feed has gone up sharply and so has the cost, causing high in-

flation in milk. The third trend in changing consumption patterns is more food being served as ready-made food in restaurants and community kitchens. That too is likely on a net basis to lead to increase in the demand for food. Thus, if we extrapolate the demand for food grains, taking into account changing consumption patterns, and rising incomes and prosperity, it is clear that domestic availability will not be enough at the current rate of growth of productivity and yields and acreage. Hence sooner or later India has to plan for food security which has a significant linkage with imports, or encouraging Indian companies to own food production in other land abundant countries like Australia or Ethiopia. Even as India has to plan for food imports due to looming domestic inadequacy (due to changing consumption patterns), the current situation of food insecurity is grim. The recently published State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report states that 40.6% of India's population suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity during 2019-21. The proportion of those who are severely food insecure has risen from 20.3% in 2018-20 to 22.3%. The world average is much lower at 10.7%. Thus,

more than one third of the world's hungry and undernourished people are in India, which is alarming and embarrassing, if not shameful. India's rank in the global hunger index (GHI) also has dropped to 101 out of 116 countries. The GHI score has been improving in the last few years but the latest score of 27.5 is still considered serious. Even sub-component scores for stunting, wasting and child malnutrition are worrisome. The GHI is computed using three dimensions of child mortality, children malnutrition and food supply adequacy.

In another aspect of its food economy, India has very high dependency on imported edible oils. Even in pulses, a crucial source of proteins, the production has not kept pace and imports of pulses make up 10 to 15% of total consumption. That could go up in the future. Milk production is the highest in the world but per capita consumption needs to go up substantially to come up to the world average. For that to happen, milk production requires much higher production of animal feedstock like corn. This too implies pressure on increasing agricultural production at a faster pace. It is thus clear that in the near future India's dependence on food imports will rise. This by itself is neither a matter of national prestige nor embarrassment. We are after all big importers of energy, which we hope to reduce with greater use of renewable energy. In a similar way we have to approach the challenge of meeting food security needs, by increasing imports in the coming years, and combining it with strategic planning and coordination. Technology will also play a role in increasing productivity and ensuring crop diversification.

But till we meet the challenge of food security needs; till we have higher technology to increase yields and diversify crops; till we combine strategic planning and coordination in imports, the large scale import of wheat will be necessary to ensure food security and domestic price stability in India.

*The writer is a noted economist.*  
©THE BILLION PRESS

There was an extraordinary heatwave in March in northern India which caused wheat yields to go down. The heatwave in northern Europe was much worse, and has also affected wheat output. As a result of the heatwave, and collapse of exports from Ukraine, the world may be short by around 14 million tonnes. This has caused wheat prices to spiral. There are frantic efforts by major importers, both diplomatic and commercial, to ensure adequate supplies, including those from last year's crop stored in silos. India's Prime Minister had made an assurance that the country could "feed the world" since we had a bumper crop. But a reassessment after the March heatwave led to a hastily imposed export ban on wheat, something that dismayed the farmers eyeing windfall gains due to high international prices.

But by now the situation may be grimmer. This year's output could be 10% lower than last year. Thanks to lower procurement combined with higher allocation both to the public distribution system (PDS) and to the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) the current stocks are less than adequate. Between PDS and PMGKAY (free food grain scheme) the total annual requirement is around 32 million tonnes. Add to it a minimum buffer stock of 8 MT that must be maintained for contingencies, emergencies and price stabilisation.

Unfortunately, the current stock which includes carry over stock from last year, and a fresh procurement of 20 MT falls short. This possible shortfall has been denied by the Department of Food and Public Distribution. However, the best indicator of any impending shortage is conveyed by prices. Wheat inflation is running at 12%. Traders anticipate an annual production of only 95 MT sharply down from 111 MT last year. Even an independent assessment by the United States agriculture department pegs India's production this year at 98 MT. The PMGKAY commitment was recently extended for a sixth time, to the end of



Ajit Ranade

**THE BEST INDICATOR OF ANY IMPENDING SHORTAGE IS CONVEYED BY PRICES. WHEAT INFLATION IS RUNNING AT 12%**

## End of Justice?

The release of 11 convicts serving life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano gangrape and murder case from the 2002 Gujarat riots is a sad commentary on the criminal justice system that seems to have bent over backwards to please the ruling dispensation. The way the convicts were set free by the BJP government in Gujarat, given sweets and hero's welcome, prompted the victim of the unspeakable barbarity to lament: "Is this how justice ends?" The National Human Rights Commission is likely to take up the issue for discussion, according to a report. But that hardly inspires confidence that justice will be done or seen to be done. The 11 men had been convicted of raping Bilkis, murdering her three-year-old child and participating in the killing of 13 others of the family. Their release is not only a miscarriage of justice, but government endorsement of heinous crimes seemingly taking advantage of technical niceties. This is a new ominous trend of the country's system of justice.

The Bilkis Bano case is an illustration of the abysmal depths to which criminality and communal frenzy in the country have fallen and one which the Establishment gleefully endorses. Even after knowing the victim was pregnant, the criminals raped her, smashed her child to death and massacred the whole family. It speaks volumes for the courage of Bilkis that she did not succumb to threats, fear of social stigma and persecution and left no stone unturned to get justice. The NHRC, under former Chief Justice of India JS Verma, had met her when he visited a relief camp in Godhra in March 2002 and appointed senior advocate and former Solicitor General Harish Salve to represent her before the Supreme Court. The apex court ordered a fresh probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation and subsequently the trial was transferred from Gujarat to Bombay. Bano's case was the only Gujarat riots-related case that was investigated afresh by the CBI. On January 21, 2008, CBI special court judge UD Salvi convicted 13 accused, sentencing 11 to life imprisonment on the charge of gangrape and murder. In May 2017, the conviction was upheld by the Bombay High Court. In 2019, the Supreme Court had awarded compensation of ₹50 lakh to Bano — the first such order in a case related to the 2002 riots. While awarding the compensation, the Bench of the then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Sanjay Khanna observed, "What should not have happened has happened and the state has to give compensation."

What is of grave concern is the way the Gujarat government handled the case while granting remission to the convicts. This is not just any sexual offence case. The criminality has so many layers including communal strife and politics. Bilkis Bano has vented her frustration and fear after the release of the convicts and said she has trusted the highest courts in land and the system. But, she regrets she is slowly learning to live with her trauma as the release of the convicts has snatched peace from her and shaken her faith in the justice system.

That her fears are not baseless is clear from the fact that for the past few years several prosecution witnesses had, time and again, complained to the state administration and senior police officers that some of the convicts had obtained parole several times on flimsy grounds, including house warming parties, only to live in comfort outside the jail and continue to threaten them with dire consequences if they did not withdraw their statements in the court. But the complaints had gone unattended.

This is a sorry state of affairs. The state appears to be siding with hardened criminals infected with communal hatred. The Supreme Court, by allowing the state government to set up a panel that was empowered to decide on the permanent release of the convicted men, has also seemingly erred in a grave manner. All these events cast a dark shadow of suspicion on both the judiciary and the government.

The voting citizen seems to be have become helpless with no one to turn to for justice.

### WISDOM CORNER

- A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others. **AVN RAND**
- Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened. **BILLY GRAHAM**
- If you love life, don't waste time, for time is what life is made up of. **BRUCE LEE**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Banausic

It's not a word that you're likely to overhear in your local pub or read in your daily newspaper. The source is classical Greek banausikos, relating to artisans (from baunos, a forge), though in English its meaning has been influenced by classical Greek attitudes as much as its etymology. Something banausic is mundane or functional. It might seem to be a relative of banal, but that's from an Old French word of Germanic origin relating to compulsory feudal service. Greeks of the ancient world lived in a stratified society, with a relatively small population of male citizens being supported by the labour of women, slaves and foreigners. For citizens, intellectual pursuits — including logic, rhetoric and philosophy — were key to an active part in public life as well as being satisfying in their own right. Activities that involved physical labour, such as making things to earn a living, were looked on as degrading banausic necessities. Even learning to play a musical instrument was thought by Aristotle to be a banausic occupation. The English word was coined by George Smythe in an article about the second Earl Grey, who had just died: After 1812, and when the worse portion of the Tories got enthroned in the supremacy, when the Banausic principle (we must coin a word from the most expressive of languages to express all its intense vulgarity) began to obtain (Oxford and Cambridge Review, Aug. 1845). Mr Smythe's snobbish comment on the banausic principle (basically non-intellectual pursuits such as manufacturing and earning money) would have delighted the citizenry of ancient Greece. His view was shared by others: in 1901, John Churton Collins described teaching as a banausic occupation, "the one instinct in [teachers] which is not quite banausic being the conscientious thoroughness with which they impart what they have been taught." It has never quite lost its snobbish undertones, but it has shifted sense slightly to refer to the utilitarian or materialistic aspects of everyday life. Aristocratic disdain for "trade" is a commonplace of literature, the latter regarded as tainted by the low and banausic nature of what it involves (Ideas That Matter, by A C Grayling, 2009).

#### Bankrupt

There's little difficulty in defining this common word — a person declared in law to be unable to pay his or her debts. What's odd about it is its etymology. You might connect the first part with a financial institution, and the second part with rupture. So could it refer to a person forcibly torn from the embrace of his bank? It has a weird kind of sense about it, and actually it's not so far from the truth. The word actually comes from Italian banca rotta, a broken bench (not a rotten one, as the false friend of Italian rotta might suggest — it's from Latin rumpere, to break). The bench was a literal one, however: it was the usual Italian word for a money dealer's table (and indeed is the origin of our bank for a financial institution and also for the sense of break in phrases like "He's gone broke"). In his dictionary, the great Dr Johnson retold the legend that when an Italian money trader became insolvent, his table was broken. But the Italian word was being used figuratively — it could also mean "shipwrecked" or "defeated", for example. Bankrupt arrived in English around the middle of the sixteenth century via the equivalent French form of banqueroute. It was changed into our modern form because people linked the second half with medieval Latin ruptus, broken, from the verb rumpere. That root also turns up in abrupt, corrupt, interrupt ... and rupture.

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Can gender equality be saved?



Khadyja Sy & Lindsay Glassco

**COUNTLESS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT WHEN GIRLS AND WOMEN ARE EMPOWERED, ENTIRE COMMUNITIES BENEFIT**

Sudanese protester Alaa Salah became a symbol of her country's revolution after standing atop a car, dressed in white, and singing to her fellow demonstrators. Ugandan climate-justice activist Vanessa Nakate went from protesting alone at the gates of her country's parliament to demanding action from world leaders at the United Nations. Senegalese activist Oumou has harnessed digital tools to start taboo-breaking conversations about intimate health, sexuality, contraception, and period poverty.

These young women are fighting for better lives for themselves, their communities, and the world — and they are not alone. Thousands of girls and young women in Africa and around the world are fighting to change the power dynamics that perpetuate inequality and prevent marginalised groups from exercising their fundamental rights. They are making speeches, creating nonprofits and community programmes, and participating in marches to catalyse transformative change. This is good news for everyone: countless studies have shown that when girls and women are empowered, entire communities benefit.

But hard-won gains on gender equality are now in jeopardy. The

COVID-19 pandemic has undone years of progress on poverty reduction and fueled a sharp rise in inequality, with disproportionate consequences for girls and women.

Studies show that amid economic hardship, families are more likely to marry off their young daughters, thereby denying girls the right to choose whom they spend their lives with and when and how many children they have. UNICEF estimates that ten million girls worldwide are at risk of child marriage over the next decade because of COVID-19. Moreover, girls and women are more likely to face sexual and gender-based violence during times of crisis — a trend that has been borne out during the pandemic.

Making matters worse, as UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health Tlaleng Mofokeng has pointed out, lockdowns, movement restrictions, and the diversion of funds to pandemic-related programmes jeopardised access to sexual- and reproductive-health services, from information about menstruation and fertility to contraception. Specialised services for victims of gender-based violence also became inaccessible to many.

All of this has contributed to a sharp rise in unwanted and early pregnancies, and drastically re-

duced girls' chances of returning to their studies once schools reopened. According to UNICEF, more than 11 million girls may never return to school after COVID-19.

Simply put, the pandemic has wiped out decades of progress toward gender equality with the most vulnerable groups — such as displaced women and girls — being hit the hardest. To be sure, even in the face of such massive setbacks, young women and girls are not giving up. But they cannot overcome the powerful forces working against them alone. Meaningful engagement from men is crucial here. Initiatives like the clubs des pères (father's clubs) or the écoles de maris (husband schools) in Senegal can make a significant difference. The goal is to foster positive (rather than toxic) masculinity encourage men to share more of the burden of unpaid care work, and bring about improvements in child and maternal health.

Engagement with community and religious leaders, as well as with health-care workers and women's rights organisations, also is essential.

Likewise, amplifying the voices of young leaders can inspire and invigorate their peers. Ubah Ali, a Somaliland activist, was persuaded that she too could lead, that she

could "raise her voice" and "be an agent of change," when she saw other girls in positions of leadership. Today she is working to eradicate all forms of female genital mutilation across Somaliland, and to support survivors of the practice.

But perhaps nothing will do more to ensure that young women and girls can fulfill their potential as forces of change than protecting and respecting their rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights. This is a job for governments, first and foremost, though everyone has a role to play.

The pandemic is just the beginning. With climate change and rising food insecurity also set to hurt women and girls disproportionately, the barriers to progress on gender equality are as high as the stakes. The first step toward overcoming them is to acknowledge the challenges girls and women face, and to amplify the difficult and important work they are doing.

A world where all girls and young women hold equal power would be better for everyone. That is why it is in everyone's interest to help them achieve it.

*Khadyja Sy is a women's rights advocate. Lindsay Glassco is President and CEO of Plan International Canada.*  
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### Facing an aggressive China

Sir, This refers to "US drones to help India fortify China border;" **Orissa POST**, August 22. It is a timely act by the Centre to procure 30 MQ-9B Predator armed drones from the US in the wake of growing security threat from China in Ladakh region and in the Indian Ocean as well. The Yuan Wang 5, unlike other Chinese warships that have docked at Colombo port, berthed at Hambantota, which has been under Chinese control for almost five years, and this could be a precursor to a more established presence for the Chinese navy in regional waters. The regular presence of vessels in the waters off Sri Lanka that can track satellites and other aerial assets and scoop up technical intelligence does not bode well for India's coastal defences or naval operations in a swathe of the southern part of the country. It is no secret that China plans to establish a larger naval presence in the Indian Ocean, alongside plans to have a fleet of more than 400 vessels by 2025, as it ramps up the construction of infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control. These moves are part of efforts to encircle India, which must move swiftly to catch up. In the initial stages, India should consider greater naval operations along with partners such as Australia, Japan, and the United States while it focuses on the task of expanding its naval fleet. In this alarming situation, India needs to step up the efforts to acquire advanced surveillance equipment and weaponry to counter an aggressive China.

**N Sadasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

### Is AIFF losing credibility?

Sir, In a massive embarrassment to India and football in the nation — FIFA has banned India from any sort of participation in international events. What went wrong? This means that the upcoming U-17 Women's World cup scheduled from October 11 to 30 in India may not happen. As of today the situation is that AIFF has lost membership and cannot participate in international football events. The suspension will remain until AIFF regains control of its daily affairs. Praful Patel did not want to lose his position as president of AIFF and there was no election for two years. Even after the Supreme Court's intervention, there was no course correction and that is why FIFA took the harsh action. Very clearly, youngsters are doing their best to perform at global level but at political level the situation does not look good.

**Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# national

## of the day quote

It (CBI) has not performed its duty properly. What steps has it taken in the post-poll violence case they are investigating? Around 60 BJP workers were killed in post-poll violence in Bengal. But nothing has moved so far, the investigation is going on for months

In view of rising online frauds, the Maharashtra government will establish a cyber intelligence unit

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has uprooted "terror activities" of the banned outfit Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) that were centred in the Malwa region of the state

## SHORT TAKES

### Two electrocuted

**Badaun (Uttar Pradesh):** Two bikers were electrocuted to death after a high-tension power line fell on them near Kakrala power house in Alapur area. The incident took place on Sunday evening when Shakir Ali, 58, and his cousin Qaiser Ali, 55, along with a grandchild Ahil, were heading towards Kakrala town for some work. They came in contact with the power line which was hung on a wooden pole and had got uprooted due to wind.

### Minor gangraped

**Patna:** A 13-year-old minor girl was gang-raped by six persons for four days in Patna, an official said Monday. The accused kidnapped the victim from Buxar and took her to Patna where they kept her in a room and gang-raped her for four days. The accused finally abandoned her at the Dumraon railway station in Buxar district before fleeing. The Buxar police managed to arrest two persons and a hunt was on for the remaining four. The incident occurred on August 16 when the victim stepped out of her home in a village under Murar police station in Buxar district to buy copies.

### Girl molested

**Amethi:** A principal in a private school has been arrested for allegedly molesting a Class 11 student. According to police reports, the principal had summoned the girl on Sunday to fill a form. Despite it being a holiday, the 17-year-old went to the school with her Aadhaar card to fill the form. The girl later complained to her parents that the principal had molested her in the school.

### 6 held in Gujarat

**Palanpur (Gujarat):** Police in Gujarat's Banaskantha have arrested six people, including four women, for trafficking a minor girl in the guise of marriage. The police said that they will also arrest the minor's parents as they received a payment against handing over their daughter to the gang.

### Three arrested

**Lucknow:** The husband and in-laws of a woman, who had been found dead on a railway track two days ago, have been arrested on charges of demanding dowry. The arrests came after police took statements from a train driver who had spotted the body of a woman thrown in front of a moving train. The police had registered a case under dowry death and arrested the victim's husband Vivek Yadav and his parents Sitaram Yadav and Badala. The victim was identified as 25-year-old Sarita.



**Ease of doing drug business' in Gujarat? Mr Prime Minister, answer these questions. Drugs worth thousands of crores are reaching Gujarat. Who is spreading this poison in the holy land of Gandhi-Patel?**  
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## PM TO VISIT HARYANA, PUNJAB

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana and Punjab August 24 to inaugurate and dedicate two important healthcare initiatives



# Farmers gather in Delhi for 'mahapanchayat'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 22:** More than eight months since their year-long protest at Delhi's borders ended, farmers from various states gathered in the national capital in large numbers Monday to take part in a 'mahapanchayat', causing massive traffic snarls, especially at the city's entry points, including Singhu and Ghazipur.

During the daylong "mahapanchayat" organised by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) at Jantar Mantar, the farmers carrying the flags of their unions raised slogans against the BJP-led Centre for "not fulfilling" its promises. They also demanded the arrest of Union minister Ajay Mishra, who they said was responsible for the "massacre of farmers" in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh.

In view of the "mahapanchayat", police put up layers of barricades at Delhi's borders to check the vehicles entering the capital, causing long queues of vehicles at the Ghazipur and Singhu borders. This was part of the security arrangements put in place in view of the "mahapanchayat", a senior police officer said. Massive traffic snarls were witnessed on the roads leading to the borders, including the Karnal road and roads in Libas Pur, Samaypur Badli and Narela. Later in the day, the farmers sub-



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam near the Chilla border amid tight security arrangements at Delhi borders in view of farmers call to stage a protest at the Jantar Mantar, in Noida

Many of them came with their bags packed and with intent to stay put. Holding flags and wearing caps given by farmer leaders, they were seen sitting in and around Jantar

Other than Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, farmers from states such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Kerala arrived in Delhi

mitted a memorandum containing their six-point demands to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## China to resume student visas for Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Beijing, August 22:** China Monday announced plans to issue visas to hundreds of Indian students stranded at home for over two years due to Beijing's strict COVID restrictions, besides various categories of travel permits for Indians including business visas.

"Warmest congrats to #Indian #students! Your patience proves worthwhile. I can really share your excitement & happiness. Welcome back to #China!" Ji Rong, Counsellor, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China tweeted.

Her tweet cited a detailed announcement by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi announcing the opening of visas for students, businessmen and families of those working in China.

As per the announcement, X1-Visa, will be issued to students who intend to go to China to pursue long-term study for higher academic education, including newly-enrolled students and students who return to China to resume their studies.

Over 23,000 Indian students, mostly studying medicine, are reportedly stuck back home due to COVID visa restrictions. India had submitted a list of several hundred students after China sought the names of those wanting to return immediately to pursue their studies.

Some students from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Russia and several other countries have already arrived on chartered flights in recent weeks.

# Universities to recruit experts as 10% faculty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 22:** Universities and higher education institutions will soon be able to hire distinguished experts as faculty members under a new category for which formal academic qualification and publication requirements will not be mandatory.

The decision was taken by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in its 560th meeting last week and the scheme - "Professors of Practice" - is likely to be notified next month. According to the approved draft guidelines of Professors of Practice, experts from fields such as engineering, science, media, literature, entrepreneurship, social sciences, fine arts, civil services, and armed forces among others will be eligible to be hired.

"Those who have proven expertise in their specific profession or role with at least 15 years of service or experience, preferably at a senior level, will be eligible for Professors of Practice. A formal academic qualification is not considered essential for this position if they have exemplary professional practice in lieu," read the guidelines, which are likely to come into effect from the upcoming academic session.

"These experts will also be exempted from the requirement of publications and other eligibility criteria stipulated for the recruit-

ment of faculty members at the Professor level." However, they should possess the skills to carry out the duties and responsibilities," according to the guidelines. The commission has decided that the number of Professors of Practice in a higher education institution (HEL), at any point in time, should not exceed 10 per cent of the sanctioned posts. The faculty members under the scheme will be engaged in three categories - Professors of Practice funded by industries, Professors of Practice engaged by HELs from their own resources and Professors of Practice on honorary basis. "The engagement of Professors of Practice will be for a fixed term. Their hiring will be exclusive of the sanctioned posts of a university or college. It will not affect the number of sanctioned posts and the recruitment of regular faculty members," it said.

According to the approved draft guidelines of Professors of Practice, experts from fields such as engineering, science, media, literature, social sciences, fine arts, civil services, and armed forces among others will be eligible to be hired



Security personnel baton charge to disperse Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) and Bihar Teacher Eligibility Test (BTET) qualified candidates, during their protest to demand permanent jobs in Patna

# U'khand to have India's first observatory to monitor space activity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 22:** India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory, to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth, will be set up in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand by Digantara, a space sector start-up.

The space situational awareness (SSA) observatory will help India track any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites hovering over the region. Currently, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.

"The observatory in Uttarakhand will fill the crucial gap in SSA observations in the re-

gion as there is a lack of such facilities between Australia and southern Africa," Anirudh Sharma, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Digantara said.

The high-quality observations, along with those of its partner ground-based sensor network, would help improve its ability to monitor events occurring in deep space, especially in the geostationary, medium-Earth, and high-Earth orbits. "With this data, it would be able to reduce the potential for collisions between satellites and other spacecraft by making more accurate predictions of their location, speed, and trajectory," Sharma said.

The observatory will also give India indigenous capabilities to monitor space activity over the subcontinent, he said, adding that ahead of the war in Ukraine, several Russian satellites were



seen hovering over the region. "If, for example, Chinese satellites are seen over one particular region of India for a long time, having indigenous capability to monitor such activities and not being dependent on countries like the US is a plus for India," Sharma said.

**The observatory in Uttarakhand will fill the crucial gap in SSA observations in the region as there is a lack of such facilities between Australia and southern Africa**  
ANIRUDH SHARMA | CEO OF DIGANTARA

plement its space-based sensors in their mission to monitor satellites and debris in orbits ranging from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO). This will also bring indigenous capabilities to the nation for both military and civilian applications," a company statement said. There is an increasing need for efficient collision avoidance systems in highly congested orbital regions like low earth orbit and geosynchro-

nous earth orbit. The addition of the new observatory will be a part of Digantara's network of observational facilities and was expected to work in tandem with the currently planned constellation of space-based sensors. "This will improve the effectiveness of tracking and identifying pre-existing resident space objects (RSO), and will result in the creation of a hybrid data pool that will serve both the commercial and the defence sectors of the space industry," Sharma said. "We are proud to support Digantara's vision and plans in establishing India's first dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) observatories in Uttarakhand," Sudhir Nautiyal, Director Industries in the Government of Uttarakhand was quoted as saying in the statement.

# 'Will resist voting rights to non-locals in J&K'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, August 22:** Any decision to include "non-locals" in electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir is unacceptable and will be contested by all means including in court, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said Monday after a meeting of nine parties here over the issue.

Abdullah said they were united against the move to extend the voting right to "outsiders" as it would rob Jammu and Kashmir of its identity.

"The state's identity is about to end. The Dogra, Kashmiri, Pahari or Gujjar or Sikh, who reside here, will lose their identity. The assembly will be in the hands of the outsiders... We all oppose it and are not ready to accept it," he told reporters.

The meeting, called by Abdullah, was attended by leaders of the Congress, PDP, Awami National Conference (ANC), Shiv Sena, CPI, CPI(M), JDU and the Akali Dal Mann. However, Sajjad Lone-led Bukhar's Conference and Altaf Bukhar's Apni Party stayed away.

The BJP, meanwhile, accused the NC, PDP and other parties of spreading "misleading propaganda" to poison the minds of the people over the issue of "inclusion of non-local voters" in the revised electoral rolls in the Union Territory.



National Conference president Farooq Abdullah (C) raises hands with other leaders after an all-party meeting, in Srinagar, Monday. PTI PHOTO

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, the party's J-K unit chief Ravinder Raina said there is no issue of "locals or non-locals" as the Constitution gives all citizens the right to vote in the country after attaining the age of 18.

"The Representative of the People Act was implemented across the country in 1950 and was extended to J-K after the abrogation of Article 370 (in August 2019). The revision of electoral rolls is taking place in accordance with the Act," the BJP leader said.

He was speaking after chairing a meeting of senior party leaders at party headquarters here to chalk out a "counter-strategy" against the meeting called by Abdullah in Srinagar.

Abdullah had convened the meeting after the NC and other parties objected to the remarks of the Union Territory's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Hirdesh Kumar that there will be around 25 lakh additional voters and anyone who is living ordinarily can avail the opportunity to get enlisted as a voter in J&K under the provisions of

The Representation of the People Act.

The government Saturday issued a clarification, saying the reports of a likely addition of over 25 lakh voters after the summary revision of electoral rolls is a "misrepresentation of facts by vested interests" and the increase in numbers will be of voters who have attained the age of 18 years as of October 1, 2022, or earlier.

Dissatisfied with the clarification, the NC and other parties claimed the administration has not addressed their main con-

**The state's identity is about to end. The Dogra, Kashmiri, Pahari or Gujjar or Sikh, who reside here, will lose their identity. The assembly will be in the hands of the outsiders... We all oppose it and are not ready to accept it**

FAROOQ ABDULLAH  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

cern on whether "outsiders" ordinarily residing in J-K will be allowed to enroll as voters.

Asked about their strategy, Abdullah said there were a lot of things that could be done including approaching the court.

"One is to make people aware, that is our job first. Secondly, there are avenues like we can go to court also. We are thinking on that aspect also," he said.

CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami said the parties were clear that what the CEO said in the press conference and the clarification of the Information Department is "unacceptable to all of us."

"We will explore the possibilities of seeking justice from the highest court of the country," he said.

Abdullah said the meeting was necessitated because of the situation arising after the Election Commission opened the voting rights to all and they will hold a similar meeting in Jammu.

# Kerala govt to table new Bill clipping Guv's powers



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 22:** Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will Wednesday table a new Bill in the Kerala Assembly aimed at curtailing the powers of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as Chancellor of universities.

The 10-day special session of the Assembly that got underway here Monday morning, has been specifically called to float 12 Bills, after 11 Ordinances lapsed following Khan's refusal to re-promulgate them earlier this month.

Consequent to Khan refusing to ink the re-promulgation, the CPI-M and Khan have been having a free-for-all. Slamming the Kannur University Vice-Chancellor Gopinath Ravindran, the Governor had called him a "criminal" acting as a CPI-M cadre.

Khan has been up in arms against the Kannur University Vice Chancellor, after he cleared the appointment of the private

secretary of Vijayan, KK Ragesh's wife Priya Varghese to the post of Associate Professor in Malayalam. Last week, the appointment was stayed after allegations of large-scale nepotism surfaced.

He also announced to constitute a special commission to probe all the appointments made in the various universities in the past few years in the wake of allegations that a good number of kith and kin of the CPI-M led Left have secured back door appointments.

Against the backdrop of all the developments, Vijayan Monday decided to come out with a new Bill which will curtail the powers of the Governor, as he is also the Chancellor of all Universities in the state.

Responding to it, Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan said while his party will oppose the new Bill, it will maintain a distance from the tiff between the CPI-M and Governor.

# PROBE ALL VARSITY APPOINTMENTS BY VIJAYAN GOVT SINCE 2016: CONG

**THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION'S LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR COMES HOURS AFTER THE KERALA HIGH COURT STAYED THE APPOINTMENT OF PRIYA VARGHESE, WIFE OF THE CM'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, TILL AUGUST 31**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 22:** The Congress Monday urged Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan to order a comprehensive probe into all the appointments made to the various universities in the state after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assumed office in 2016.

In his letter, Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan said that there have been widespread allegations that ever since the Vijayan government assumed office in 2016, there have been numerous appointments made to various varsity posts wherein kith and kin of CPI-M led Left Democratic Front leaders have



been given jobs bypassing merit.

"There has been a huge loss of face to the higher education sector in the state on account of merit being given the go by and relatives of Left leaders securing jobs. Consequent to this, the once high quality of education for which Kerala universities were known have been badly affected as there are reports of huge number of Kerala students leaving the state to colleges abroad," he said, citing the most recent case when Priya Varghese, wife of Vijayan's private secretary KK Ragesh, was

given first rank for a teaching job in Malayalam at the Kannur University.

The letter to Khan comes hours after the Kerala High Court stayed the appointment of Varghese till August 31. Khan last week had also stayed her appointment.

According to sources close to the Governor, who is right now outside the state, Khan, after he returns Wednesday, is expected to constitute a special team comprising top experts to conduct a detailed probe into all appointments done to the universities.

# IS claims first Indian suicide bomber was Keralite Christian converted to Islam

*Sources in security agencies say they have details of 100 youths from Kerala who had left the shores of the state to reach IS*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 22:** The Central intelligence agencies have commenced a probe after an article in the IS mouthpiece 'Voice of Koharasan' mentioned that the first Indian suicide bomber for them was a Keralite who had converted from Christianity to Islam.

In the latest issue of the magazine, the article about the suicide bomber is in the chapter 'Memories of Shuhada', a portion dedicated to the memories of those who died fighting for IS.

The article did not, however, mention the exact identity of the youth. It dwells that he was an engineering graduate from Kerala who had worked in Bangalore as an engineer and later migrated to Dubai.

The article further states that the youth had assumed the name,



'Aboobacker Al-Hindi' and that he got attracted to Islam while in UAE. He later did more research on the religion through available online portals and later converted to Islam.

After conversion, he, according to the magazine, got attracted to the ideology of Jihad and contacted the IS sleeper cells in Dubai. He was planning to go to Yemen for further training, but was not able to and hence returned to his home state, Kerala. After spending some time in Kerala, he got a message from his IS contacts that there was an opportunity in Libya and accordingly he reached there under the guise of searching for a new job.

According to the article, he fought against the Libyan Army at Sirsit,

the IS stronghold, and later became a suicide bomber and blasted himself to death.

Central Intelligence agencies had earlier itself got some wind of such a person and had commenced a probe into the same.

Sources in the agency told IANS that he would have committed the act in 2015-16 and that there was some information about him with the Central agencies.

Sources in the agencies also told that they have details of 100 youths from Kerala who had left the shores of the state to reach IS and officials said that there could be more people who have joined the IS in Syria and Yemen.

It is to be noted that 'Aboobacker

Al-Hindi' is the third person from Kerala, who had died for the cause propagated by the organisation, according to its mouthpiece, 'Voice of Khorasan'.

The first one who, according to IS, had become a suicide bomber was identified as Mohsin from Trikkaripur in Kasargod district. He was the suicide bomber who attacked the Sikh Gurudwara in Kabul and blasted himself March 25, 2020. He was named in an earlier edition of 'Voice of Khorasan' as 'Abukhalid Al-Hindi'. In the suicide bombing, he had accompanied two others and caused the death of 25 people.

The second person mentioned in the IS magazine is Dr Ejas, who had joined the IS from Kasargod district of Kerala. His full name was Ejas Kallukettuapurayil and he was a doctor. The IS publication division eulogises him for the 'brave act' of killing 39 people by attacking a jail in Kabul.

The National Investigation Agency had in its report said that Dr Ejas had left India in 2016 along with his pregnant wife Refala.

The central agencies are probing the latest revelations in the IS publication and are trying to ascertain whether anyone else had left to join the IS along with 'Aboobacker Al-Hindi'.

# KILLING OF IAF MEN

# Yasin Malik rejects court's legal aid offer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, August 22:** A special court here Monday offered legal aid to JKLF chief Yasin Malik, but he turned it down and again insisted on his physical appearance in the hearing on the killing of four Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in 1990.

Malik appeared in the hearing via video conference from Delhi's Tihar Jail where he is currently lodged, standing counsel for the CBI Monika Kohli said. Malik, 56, is serving a life sentence in a terror-funding case.

After the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief declined the offer of legal aid, the court asked him to submit his stand in writing on the next date of hearing in the third week of September, Kohli said.

Turning down his plea for physical appearance, the court said there were clear directions from the high court for producing the accused in all cases through video conferencing. However, the court offered him legal aid but he declined, the CBI counsel said.

Malik observed a 10-day hunger



strike from July 22 after the Centre did not respond to his plea for allowing him to physically appear in a Jammu court hearing the Rubaiya Sayeed abduction case in which he is accused.

Kohli is the chief prosecutor in the two key cases against Malik — the 1989 abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, and the killing of four IAF personnel — which had taken place when militancy broke out in Kashmir Valley.

She has been representing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as a retainer counsel in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court since 2015.

In the case of killing of the IAF personnel, charges were framed against Malik, Ali Mohammed Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi alias Mustafa, Javed Ahmed Mir alias 'Nalka', Showkat Ahmed Bakshi, Javed Ahmed Zargar and Nanaji in March 2020.

They all have been charge-sheeted for murder, attempt to

murder and under sections of the from now-defunct Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act.

The framing of charges was in connection with the case related to the killing of Indian Air Force officers January 25, 1990 on the outskirts of Srinagar city. The chargesheet was filed by the CBI the same year in August.

According to the CBI, the IAF personnel were fired upon by terrorists in which 40 of them, including a woman, received serious injuries and four IAF personnel were killed on the spot.

Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) got summons issued to prime witness Rubaiya Sayeed, who had been kidnapped in December 1989, for recording her statement. This was for the first time in 33 years that she was appearing before the court.

During the trial, Rubaiya Sayeed identified Malik as one of the kidnappers. Malik had recently demanded that he be allowed to appear physically before the Jammu court for cross-questioning the prosecution witnesses in the case.

# Handicraft products from Rajouri find their way to e-commerce sites

*'Chikri woodcraft' is being practised for over a century with Thana Mandi area of Rajouri being its major centre*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, August 22:** In a bid to provide market linkage to local artisans, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri have taken an initiative of listing handicraft products on e-commerce platforms, an official said Monday.

The products listed on online marketplaces like Amazon and GeM included 'chikri woodcraft', which has been practised for over a century with Thana Mandi area of Rajouri being its major centre, the official said.

He said wood from chikri tree is used in the making of a number of articles. This particular wood is light honey in colour and contains no grains.

"One of the famous objects made with the chikri wood is the double-sided comb having extremely fine



teeth. This variety of comb exhibits a delicate 'jali' (mesh) work," the official said.

He said the products were launched on Amazon by the District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, in presence of a group of artisans who welcomed the initiative aimed at improving their living.

"The administration is committed to providing the best platform to the artisans of the district where they can sell their products in an easy manner and this is the first move in this direction. Such steps will continue

in future as well," Kundal said. He said his administration is committed to provide best market linkages to the local artisans.

The district administration has already taken a number of steps to facilitate the artisans, including opening of rural haat at Muradpur. Cooperative department Rajouri and Handicrafts played a major role in imparting necessary training to the artisans and market exposures, the official said.

He said the cooperative societies are being revived while an official was entrusted with the responsibility to promote the handicraft products online.

of the day quote

The central government is making efforts to increase the number of women personnel in police forces across the country

NITYANAND RAI | UNION MINISTER

We have set two milestones by replacing the traditional food grains cultivation with new technology as per the needs of the new era. I am sure that these two regional centres will make their mark on the strength of research in our agriculture and allied sectors

MANOHAAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

How does this work? When CBI/ED/NIA etc go after Congress leaders then these organisations are the discredited agents of the BJP yet when AAP leaders are targeted then suddenly the credibility is restored. How can the agencies be both credible & discredited at the same time?

OMAR ABDULLAH | NC VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Soldier succumbs

Jammu: A soldier, injured in the August 11 terrorist suicide attack in J&K's Rajouri district, succumbed in the hospital Monday, taking the toll of killed army personnel to five, officials said.

Hearing adjourned

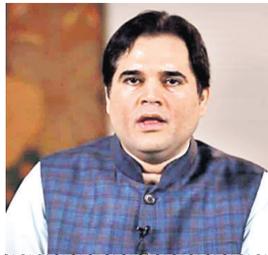
Chennai: The Madras High Court on Monday adjourned the hearing of a petition filed by former Chief Minister and AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami challenging the order of a single bench judge of the Madras HC in favour of his opponent in the party O. Panneerselvam.

4 children killed

Ujjain: Four school children were killed and 11 others injured after the jeep in which they were travelling collided head-on with a truck in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district on Monday, a police official said.

6 dead in collision

Saharanpur: Six members of a family were killed in a collision between a truck and a van on the Delhi-Yamunotri highway here Monday. While four of them died on the spot, two others succumbed to injuries in a hospital.



Until employment ceases to exist in this country and your children don't get jobs, my 'sangarsh' (fight) will continue. We will also continue our fight against corruption

VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

PIL WITHDRAWN

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the permission granted to Sikhs through a DGCA notification to carry kirpans on domestic flights was withdrawn from the Delhi High Court Monday



SC Constitution bench to hear Centre-Delhi govt row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: Chief Justice N V Ramana Monday said he has set up a five-judge Constitution bench to hear the legal issue concerning the scope of legislative and executive powers of the Centre and National Capital Territory government over control of services in Delhi.

The CJI said a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud will hear the dispute between the Centre and the Delhi government. The matter was mentioned by an advocate before the bench also comprising Justices Hima Kohli and C T Ravikumar.

May 6, the top court had referred to a five-judge Constitution bench the issue of control of services in Delhi. The apex court had said the limited issue of control over services was not dealt with by the Constitution bench which elaborately dealt with all legal questions.

"The limited issue that has been referred to this Bench relates to the scope of legislative and executive powers of the Centre and NCT Delhi with respect to the term services". The Constitution bench of this court, while interpreting Article 239AA(3)(a) of the Constitution, did not find any occasion to specifically interpret the impact of the wordings of the same with respect



to Entry 41 in the State List. "We, therefore, deem it appropriate to refer to the above-limited question, for an authoritative pronouncement by a Constitution Bench...", it had said. Sub Article 3 (a) of 239AA (which deals with the status and power of Delhi in the Constitution, deals with the law-making power of the Delhi Legislative Assembly on the matters enumerated in the State List or the Concurrent List.

The central government had also sought a joint hearing of two separate petitions of the Delhi government on control over services and challenging the constitutional validity of the amended GNCTD Act, 2021 and the Transaction of Business Rules, which allegedly give more powers to the Lieutenant Governor respectively, saying they are prima facie correlated.

The plea by the Delhi government arises out of a split verdict of

The CJI said a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud will hear the dispute between the Centre and the Delhi government

May 6, the top court had referred to a five-judge Constitution bench the issue of control of services in Delhi

February 14, 2019, in which, a two judge-bench of Justices A K Sikri and Bhushan, both retired since had recommended to the Chief Justice of India that a three-judge bench be set up to finally decide the issue of control of services in the national capital in view of its split verdict.

Justice Bhushan had ruled the Delhi government had no power at all over administrative services. Justice Sikri, however, made a distinction. He said the transfer or posting of officers in top echelons of the bureaucracy (joint director and above) can only be done by the Central government and the view of the lieutenant governor would prevail in case of a difference of opinion on matters relating to other bureaucrats.

In the 2018 judgement, a five-judge Constitution bench had unanimously held that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is bound by the aid and advice of the elected government, and both needed to work harmoniously with each other.

Raut's judicial custody extended

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 22: A Special PMLA Court has extended the judicial custody of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut till September 5 in the alleged money-laundering case arising out of the Patra Chawl land scam, here Monday.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had raided Raut's home on July 31 and then arrested him early on August 1, preceded by attachment of properties belonging to him and his business associates.

After his ED custody twice for four days each, the agency said they no longer needed him for custodial probe, and accordingly Raut was shunted to judicial custody on August 8, and a few days later his wife Varsha was also interrogated in the same case.

Raut was nabbed after his name cropped up in the ED probe accusing him of receiving proceeds of the crime from the Patra Chawl redevelopment project in Goregaon from another co-accused and associate Pravin Raut.



BJP leader trolled for 'carrying' Shah's shoes



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 22: A video of Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay rushing to fetch footwear of union Home Minister Amit Shah went viral on social media Monday.

Sanjay, who is also a Member of Parliament, is seen carrying the footwear and keeping it in front of Amit Shah when the latter came out of Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad Sunday.

Leaders of ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and Congress party branded Sanjay a 'slave' of Delhi and Gujarat leaders and called for safeguarding the self-respect of Telangana.

TRS leaders brutally trolled Sanjay, who often accuses TRS leaders of being slave to Chief Minister and TRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao. TRS working president K. T. Rama Rao tweeted that people of Telangana are watching 'Gujarati slaves who carry Delhi shoes and also the leader who is fighting against the

TRS LEADERS BRUTALLY TROLLED SANJAY, WHO OFTEN ACCUSES TRS LEADERS OF BEING SLAVE TO CHIEF MINISTER AND TRS PRESIDENT K. CHANDRASHEKAR RAO

Delhi leaders.' Rama Rao, who is a state minister and son of Chief Minister KCR, stated that all sections of society are ready to reject those who insulted Telangana's self-respect and to protect Telangana's self-esteem. "The speed and focus in bringing slippers shows tomorrow BJP will keep our state at the feet of Amit Shah... Beware Telangana," tweeted another TRS leader M. Krishank.

Leaders of Congress also lashed out at Bandi Sanjay for 'slavery'. AICC in charge for Telangana Manickam Tagore posted the video with the comment 'Telugu self-respect'. "What's the position of the Backward class leader in BJP see the truth," he wrote. "Bandi kept the Telugu self-respect at the feet of a former tadi paar," reads a tweet from TPCC's official handle. Congress leader Addanki Dayakar also slammed Bandi Sanjay saying that the state BJP chief has denigrated Telangana society. Amit Shah Sunday visited Telangana.

Breather for Shahnawaz



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 22: The Supreme Court Monday stayed the Delhi High Court order directing registration of FIR against BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain in an alleged 2018 rape case.

A bench headed by Justice U.U. Lalit said Hussain prima facie makes out a case against high court order. "In further consideration there shall be a stay on further proceedings in connection with the criminal complaint dated 2018 before Saket courts, New Delhi...stay of further proceedings and also the effect and operation of the high court order under challenge," said the top court.

The bench noted that it has been stated that after the high court order the original complainant was assaulted and allowed the complainant to approach the nearest police station if she seeks protection. The top court issued notice returnable in the third week of September. Senior advocates Siddharth Luthra

In his plea in the apex court, Hussain contended that the high court failed to appreciate that he was illegally implicated in the case, as the woman, who was having a matrimonial dispute with his brother, had an ulterior motive

and Mukul Rohatgi appeared for Hussain in the apex court.

In his plea in the apex court, Hussain contended that the high court failed to appreciate that he was illegally implicated in the case, as the woman, who was having a matrimonial dispute with his brother, had an ulterior motive. "The petitioner is a Z plus security protectee and the allegations by the complainant were found to be totally baseless and untrue as she kept changing her statements and the location of the petitioner and that of her never matched as per CDRs and CCTV footages," said the plea.

Hussain claimed that he filed a complaint with Delhi Police in 2017, stating that he was residing separately from his brother Shahbaz Khan, who was resident of Noida and a woman through her Facebook account was continuously defaming him.

Last week, a single bench of Justice Asha Menon directed registration of an FIR, completion of the investigation within three months, and filing of a detailed report under Section 173 Code of Criminal Procedure.



Children play in the flood waters at Nag Bashuki area after a rise in the water level of the Yamuna river following monsoon rains in Prayagraj

KCR's daughter to file defamation suit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 22: Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's daughter and state legislator K. Kavitha Monday announced that she will file defamation suit against two BJP leaders for their allegation that she was involved in the multi-crore liquor policy scam in Delhi.

Kavitha, a member of

Telangana Legislative Council, said the defamation suit will be filed against BJP MP Parvesh Varma and former MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

The former MP will also move court seeking an injunction order against those making the allegations.

This came a day after the two BJP leaders alleged that she played a crucial role in a liquor policy

scam involving Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has already filed a case against Sisodia and others including Hyderabad-based Arun Ramachandran Pillai, accusing them of indulging in financial irregularities in executing the new liquor policy for the national capital.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa alleged

on Sunday that Kavitha facilitated the meetings at the Oberoi Hotel and brought liquor barons from the south.

Kavitha termed the allegations "completely baseless".

"Today, I want to make it clear that allegations made against me by the BJP and their leaders are completely baseless. Allegations will certainly remain allegations," she said.

AAP'S MISSION GUJARAT

Using the ensuing Gujarat-Himachal Pradesh elections as a convenient electoral peg, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is seeking to position himself as the national answer to Narendra Modi.

While this may have been playing in the minds of AAP strategists, the process has been speeded up by political developments in Bihar.

Almost similar to the way Narendra Modi-led BJP pulled the rug from under the feet of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's reverse summer-sault to re-align with Tejaswini Yadav's RJD, the Congress and form a 'Mahagathbandhan' government, has sent the BJP cartwheeling out of power. The power shift marks a shrewd move by

Nitish Kumar to position himself in the Opposition camp for a key role in the all important battle of the ballot of 2024 where Modi will lead the BJP challenge to retain power for a third term at the country's helm. Nitish Kumar's clarion call to the Opposition to come together for the all important 2024 battle gave a clear indication of his intent.

Kejriwal, on the other hand, is upbeat and his AAP in buoyant spirits. A veteran of two steamroller victories-67 out of 70 seats in 2015 and 62 out of 70 in 2020- in Delhi in the face of a Modi-led BJP and a sweep in Punjab with 92 out of the total 117 seats in its bag with the Congress reduced to an outwitted Opposition, he is ready to play for higher stakes.

Perked up after its Punjab ac-

complishments, AAP's heart was set on Himachal Pradesh with an organizational building presence



marked out for Gujarat. However the raid and arrest of health minister Satyendar Jain and the 'attack' on Kejriwal's residence by activists of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) led to a change in AAP strategy. Jain was heading the AAP election offensive in Himachal and his arrest was timed to throw a spanner in its works.

AAP now realises that it can no longer avoid a straight fight with the BJP. Prime Minister Modi's 'revadi' remarks provided just the opening Kejriwal needed to take the battle to the highest level in the BJP. "Those who were terming his welfare schemes as freebies, were traitors to the country", the Delhi Chief Minister was quoted as saying on August 8, adding that an atmosphere is being created in the country against provisions of free education at government schools and free treatment at government hospitals.

Kejriwal was well aware that Modi after a frontal attack leaves it to his sub-ordinates to deal with the contradictions that follow. True to form, it was Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman who reacted terming it a "perverse twist" to the debate on freebies with the

Delhi Chief Minister attempting to create fear in the minds of the poor. But Kejriwal had secured a tactical advantage. He had escalated the fight to the highest level and turned the action-reaction narrative on its head where he sets the agenda, answers it himself and leaves the opponent to react to it, in true Modi style.

The AAP strategy is now to go all out in Gujarat, taking the poll fight to the Modi-Shah citadel with Kejriwal leading the charge. The Modi government may have staved off an immediate BJP-AAP electoral confrontation this May through the move to unify the three municipal corporations in Delhi, but there are no such compulsions for AAP in Gujarat.

Kejriwal seems to have lifted a page straight out of Modi's style-book but presents it in a very con-

trasting style. Similarity is that he sets the narrative, forcing his opponent to react. In essence, Kejriwal is doing to the BJP in Gujarat exactly what Modi as Chief Minister was doing to the Congress-ruled Centre during UPA rule.

In 2014, Kejriwal's decision to take on Modi in Varanasi and his defeat may have seemed an ill-advised move then but is beginning to make sense as he matches paces with him in his home state with an eye on 2024. His strategy is already beginning to yield results.

Whatever the poll outcome, with his Delhi model which touches the core of the problems haunting the common citizenry and is inviting grudging comparisons, Kejriwal has already set the cat amongst the pigeons. He has little to lose and lots to gain from his intended Gujarat clash with Modi.

# international



**Negotiations between Ukraine and Russia will be cut off if Moscow holds a show trial of captured Ukrainian prisoners**  
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

## PORTUGAL BECOMES FASTEST AGING COUNTRY

Portugal currently registers 182 elderly (aged 65 years and above) for every 100 young people (aged up to 14 years), becoming the fastest aging country in the European Union (EU), according to a study published by the Contemporary Portugal Database Pordata



### of the day quote

The Americans are procrastinating and there is inaction from the European sides. America and Europe need an agreement more than Iran

NASSER KANAANI | IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

Visited the historic Casa de la Independencia, from where Paraguay's Independence movement started more than two centuries ago. A fitting testament to our common struggle and our growing relationship

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

One cannot remain silent in the face of this atrocious episode of sexual violence against a Ukrainian woman carried out in daytime in Piacenza by an asylum seeker

GIORGIA MELONI | MEMBER OF ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES



The US Navy Blue Angels perform during the Chicago Air and Water show over Lake Michigan in Chicago

PTI PHOTO

## US, SK open biggest drills in years amid North's N-threats

**THE DRILLS CAME AFTER N KOREA LAST WEEK DISMISSED S KOREAN PRESIDENT YOON SUK YEOL'S OFFER TO EXCHANGE DENUCLEARISATION STEPS AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS, ACCUSING SEOUL OF RECYCLING PROPOSALS PYONGYANG HAS LONG REJECTED**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 22: The United States and South Korea began their biggest combined military training in years Monday as they heighten their defense posture against the growing North Korean nuclear threat.

The drills could draw an angry response from North Korea, which has pushed its weapons testing activity to a record pace this year while repeatedly threatening conflicts with Seoul and Washington amid a prolonged stalemate in diplomacy. The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises will continue through September 1 in South Korea and include field exercises involving aircraft, warships, tanks and potentially tens of thousands of troops. While Washington and Seoul describe their exercises as defensive, North Korea portrays them as invasion rehearsals that justify its nuclear weapons and missiles development. Cho Joong-hoon, a spokesperson of South Korea's

Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the South hasn't immediately detected any unusual activities or signs from the North.

The United States and South Korea had cancelled some of their regular drills and reduced others to computer simulations in recent years to create space for diplomacy with North Korea and because of Covid-19 concerns.

Ulchi Freedom Shield, which started along with a four-day South Korean civil defense training program led by government employees, will reportedly include simulated joint attacks, front-line reinforcements of arms and fuel, and removals of weapons of mass destruction. Kim Yo Jong, the increasingly powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, described Yoon's proposal as foolish and stressed that the North has no intentions to barter away an arsenal her brother apparently sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.



South Korean army K-9 self-propelled howitzers take positions in Paju, near the border with North Korea, South Korea

AP PHOTO

## Area near Ukraine N-plant hit again

AGENCIES

Nikopol, August 22: Russian shelling across the river from Ukraine's main atomic plant wounded four people Monday, an official said, only hours after the latest international pleas to spare the area from attacks to prevent a nuclear disaster.

Mayor Oleksandr Saiuk said four people were wounded, including two who were hospitalised. Reports of sustained shelling around Europe's largest nuclear power plant further highlighted the dangers of a war that will hit the half-year mark Wednesday.

After UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres again urged caution during a visit to Ukraine last week, US President Joe Biden further discussed the issue with the leaders of France, Germany and Britain Sunday. The four leaders stressed the need to avoid military

operations in the region to prevent the possibility of a potentially devastating nuclear incident and called for the UN's atomic energy agency to be allowed to visit the facilities

**Nikopol, on the opposite bank of the Dnieper River and about 10 kms downstream from the Zaporizhzhya nuclear plant, came under fire three times overnight from rockets and mortar shells, hitting houses, a kindergarten, the bus station and stores**

as soon as possible. But nothing seemed certain in a war that has spread fear and unease far beyond the front lines in eastern and southern Ukraine and also into the



Russia-annexed Crimea Peninsula and as far as Moscow, where Saturday night a car blast killed the daughter of an influential Russian political theorist often referred to as "Putin's brain."

In Crimea, anxiety has spread further following a spate of fires and explosions at Russian facilities over the past two weeks. The governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhaev, ordered that signs showing the location of bomb shelters be placed in the city, which had long seemed untouchable. Monday's statement follows a series of drone incursions into Sevastopol, which is home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

## Russia blames Ukraine for Daria Dugina's death

Moscow: Russia's top counterintelligence agency Monday blamed Ukrainian spy services for organising the killing of the daughter of a leading Russian nationalist ideologue in a car bombing just outside Moscow. Daria Dugina, the 29-year-old daughter of Alexander Dugin, a philosopher, writer and political theorist whom some in the West described as "Putin's brain," died when an explosive planted in her SUV exploded as she was driving Saturday night. Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the main KGB successor agency, said that Dugina's killing had been "prepared and perpetrated by the Ukrainian special services." In a letter expressing condolences to Dugin and his wife that was released by the Kremlin, Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced the "cruel and treacherous" killing of Dugina, hailing her as a "bright, talented person with a real Russian heart — kind, loving, responsive and open."

## Prince William moves family closer to Queen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 22: Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate Middleton will relocate from their Kensington Palace base in London to be closer to the Queen on her Windsor estate, it was confirmed Monday.

William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, will shift into Adelaide Cottage — dubbed a "modest" home that is walking distance from William's grandmother Queen Elizabeth II's base at Windsor Castle. As second in line to the throne, Prince William is expected to take on additional responsibilities as

the 96-year-old monarch gradually cuts back on her public-facing duties in keeping with her personal comfort. William and Kate's three children — George, 9, Charlotte, 7, and Louis, 4 — have been enrolled in a new school in the area as well and will start the new term from next month. "We are delighted that Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis will be joining us this coming September and very much look forward to welcoming the family, as well as all of our new pupils, to our school community," said Jonathan Perry, headmaster at Lambrook School, close to Windsor Castle.



## Chinese satellite tracking ship leaves SL

SRI LANKA HAD ASKED CHINA TO DEFER THE VISIT AMID INDIA'S CONCERNS OVER IT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 22: A high-tech Chinese research ship docked at the strategically important Hambantota port departed from Sri Lankan waters Monday after a controversial six-day visit.

The ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang 5' was originally scheduled to arrive at the Chinese-run port August 11 but it was delayed in absence of permission by Sri Lankan authorities following security concerns raised by India.

The Chinese ship arrived in the southern Sri Lankan port of Hambantota August 16 at 8:20 am local time. It was docked there for replenishment. The ship left the port



at 4 pm local time, harbour master Nirmal Silva told reporters here. Its next port call is at China's Jiang Yin port, officials said. The Hambantota port officials said as agreed there was no rotation of personnel during the call. Sri Lanka provided the necessary assistance sought by the Chinese embassy here during the ship's visit. On August 13, Colombo granted the

visit of the vessel for replenishment purposes during the stipulated period. It said no rotation of personnel would take place during the port call and the Sri Lankan government was requested to provide the necessary assistance by the Chinese Embassy in Colombo.

The security and cooperation in the neighbourhood are of utmost priority in handling the issue of the Chinese vessel Yang 5, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said in a statement earlier this month. The local telecommunications regulatory authority had issued a No Objection Letter for the use of frequencies and communication equipment subject to non-interference and non-protection basis.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Indiana governor in Taiwan

Taipei: Indiana's Republican governor met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday, following two recent high-profile visits by US politicians that drew Beijing's ire and Chinese military drills that included firing missiles over the island. Gov. Eric Holcomb arrived Sunday evening in Taiwan for a four-day visit that will focus on economic exchanges, particularly in semiconductors, according to a statement from his office. His visit comes at a particularly tense time for Taiwan, China and the US after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited earlier this month.

#### Fauci to step down as chief medical adviser

Washington: Dr Anthony Fauci, the US epidemiologist who emerged as the face of reason amidst the tide of bigotry that swept through the world in response to Covid, is leaving government service. Fauci said he will leave by the end of the year to "pursue the next chapter of my career". Fauci had been America's top epidemiologist for decades, leading the fight against HIV/AIDS and Ebola.

#### Sri Lanka hikes kerosene prices

Colombo: Amid the continuing economic crisis, Sri Lanka's state-owned fuel distributor Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) has hiked the price of kerosene to cut losses. The hike took effect Sunday midnight, reports Xinhua news agency. Issuing a statement, the CPC said the price of a liter of kerosene increased by 253 LKR (\$0.7) to 340 LKR.

#### 25 deer die of rabies

Colombo: Around 25 deer that live in Homagama, a suburb of Sri Lanka's capital of Colombo, have died of rabies, the wildlife department announced. The department asked residents of the area not to hand feed deer as rabies can spread from saliva, reports said. The department said local residents have found dead deer in recent weeks.

#### Imran moves court

Islamabad: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and sought a pre-arrest bail in a terror case filed against him. The plea was filed through Khan's counsels, Faisal Chaudhry and Babar Awan, in the capital's top court after a late-night drama at Bani Gala, his private residence where police and PTI workers almost came face-to-face following reports that arrest warrants had been issued for the PTI chairman, The News reported.

## End of S'pore's gay sex-ban is small step in Asia-Pacific

Although many places have decriminalised sexual acts between people of the same sex, only a few allow same-sex marriage, partnerships or unions Singapore tempered its decision by saying it will amend its constitution to prevent such unions from ever taking place

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, August 22: Singapore's decision to decriminalise sex between men is being hailed as a step in the right direction for LGBTQ rights in the Asia-Pacific region, a vast area of nearly 5 billion people with different laws and attitudes.

Here are some details on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region:

**AUSTRALIA**  
All states and territories repealed gay sex bans between 1975 and 1997, while Parliament legalised same-sex marriage throughout the country in 2017. The age of consent became equal for all sexual acts as of 2016.

People convicted for consensual sexual acts that are no longer illegal can have their criminal records cleared.

**CHINA**  
Homosexuality is not criminalised by law, but same-sex marriage remains unlikely to be legalised in the near future. While the largest cities have vibrant LGBTQ scenes, the stigma remains strong in Chinese society.

**INDIA**  
The Supreme Court in 2018 struck down the section of the law that punished sexual intercourse by members of the same sex by up to 10 years in prison. Despite the landmark ruling, same-sex mar-



riage remains illegal and multiple petitions seeking legal recognition have been met with resistance by the government.

**INDONESIA**  
Sex between consenting adults of the same sex is not illegal in the world's most populous Muslim nation, except in conservative Aceh province. However, only marriages

between a man and a woman are legal. The LGBTQ community in the country of 250 million people complains of regular harassment and persecution.

**JAPAN**  
Support for sexual diversity has grown slowly, but legal protections are lacking for LGBTQ people, who often face discrimination at school,

work and at home, causing many to hide their sexual identities.

A number of same-sex couples have filed lawsuits demanding a right to legally marry, but court rulings have been divided.

**MALAYSIA**  
Malaysia has strict laws against same-sex intercourse that can result in up to 20 years' imprisonment. A former deputy premier was jailed twice for sodomy. He was sentenced in 2000 and again in 2014, in cases that critics say were politically motivated.

Malaysia has even tried to censor or ban movies which it deems to promote what it calls the LGBTQ lifestyle, including Disney's recent animated film "Lightyear."

**NEW ZEALAND**  
New Zealand decriminalised gay sex in 1986. Sex between men was first made illegal in 1961, while sex between women was never specifically made illegal although was stigmatised.

In 2005, New Zealand began recognising civil unions between

same-sex couples, which conferred many legal rights to gay couples — but didn't, for instance, allow them to jointly adopt children. In 2013, New Zealand became the first nation in the Asia-Pacific region to legalize same-sex marriage.

**TAIWAN**  
Taiwan legalised gay marriage in 2019, but LGBTQ activists want the law to be made more inclusive. It currently says both partners must be from a place where such marriages are already legal. So couples cannot register their marriage in Taiwan if one partner is from a place like Japan or another place where their marriage would not be legal.

**THAILAND**  
Thailand is also among the most liberal nations in Asia regarding LGBTQ issues.

Four bills alternatively offering to legalize either marriage equality or civil partnerships for same-sex couples passed their first readings in the House of Representatives in June.

# business

## of the day quote

Extremely pleased to meet his excellency, Vice President of Iran, Mohammad Mokher, where we discussed ways and means to further strengthen and consolidate the vibrant Indo-Iranian bilateral relations. We continue to strengthen our dynamic relationship with Iran

**SARBANANDA SONOWAL**  
PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS MINISTER

We have set for ourselves a pace for doubling every two years, that is a CAGR growth rate between 40-45 per cent

**DHEERAJ GUPTA**  
FOUNDER & MD, JUMBOKING FOODS

We are looking at flat to low single-digit growth in the US for FY23 compared to FY22

**BRENDAN O' GRADY**  
CEO (GLOBAL FORMULATIONS BUSINESS), GLENMARK PHARMACEUTICALS

## SHORT TAKES

### China reduces mortgage rate

**Beijing:** China's central bank has cut its mortgage rate as officials work to support the crisis-hit property market. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) lowered the five-year loan prime rate (LPR) by 1.5 percentage points, which matches its biggest cut on record, the BBC reported. The world's second largest economy faces a property crisis that has seen some building projects grind to a halt. Lockdowns due to the country's strict zero-Covid policies are also affecting businesses and consumers.

### Adani Power shares climb 5%

**New Delhi:** Shares of Adani Power Monday jumped 5 per cent after the firm said it will acquire DB Power at an enterprise value of Rs 7,017 crore. The stock climbed 5 per cent to settle at Rs 432.80 -- its highest permissible limit for the day -- on the BSE. At the NSE, it jumped 4.98 per cent to Rs 432.50. In traded volume terms, 50.59 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 2.45 crore shares at the NSE during the day.

### Gillette net profit surges two-fold

**New Delhi:** Shaving product maker Gillette India Ltd Monday reported over two-fold increase in its net profit at Rs 67.59 crore during the fourth quarter ended June 30, 2022, led by a strong sales growth. The company, which follows July-June financial year, had reported a profit of Rs 27.53 crore in the corresponding quarter of previous fiscal. Its revenue from operations increased 26.81 per cent to Rs 552.89 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 435.98 crore of the corresponding quarter, Gillette India said in a BSE filing.

### Dreamfolks IPO to open Aug 24

**New Delhi:** Airport Service aggregator platform Dreamfolks Services Ltd Monday said it has fixed a price band of Rs 308-Rs 326 for its initial public offering which will open for public subscription Wednesday. The initial share sale will open for public subscription August 24 and conclude August 26. The bidding for anchor investors would open August 23, the company announced. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) is entirely an Offer-For-Sale (OFS) of up to 1.72 crore equity shares by promoters -- Liberatha Peter Kallat, Dinesh Nagpal and Mukesh Yadav.



Everything we see is pointing in the right direction. Demand is good, manufacturing is looking strong. Unless something happens that we are not in control of, like a pandemic, lockouts or a global recession, it (double-digit growth) is in the right direction

**SUNJAY KAPUR** | PRESIDENT, ACMA

### McLAREN ENTERING INDIA SOON

British luxury carmaker McLaren Automotive Monday said it is set to enter Indian market this year with the opening of its first dealership in Mumbai in October. The Indian market would be the automaker's 41st global territory. The opening of the first retail outlet in October is a key part of company's global expansion plans, McLaren Automotive said



## PADEMIC PAUSE

# UK economy dip 11% in '20, worst since 1709

**THE FALL IN GDP WAS THE LARGEST FALL SINCE THE 'GREAT FROST' OF 1709, ACCORDING TO HISTORICAL DATA HOSTED BY THE BANK OF ENGLAND**

REUTERS

**London, August 22:** Britain recorded its biggest fall in output in more than 300 years in 2020 when it faced the brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as a larger decline than any other major economy, updated official figures showed Monday.

Gross domestic product fell by



11.0% in 2020, the Office for National Statistics said. British statisticians regularly update GDP estimates as more data becomes available.

The ONS's initial estimates had already suggested that in 2020 Britain suffered its biggest fall in output since the "Great Frost" of 1709. But

The health service faced higher costs than we initially estimated, meaning its overall contribution to the economy was lower

**CRAIG MCLAREN** | STATISTICIAN, ONS

more recently the ONS had revised down the scale of the fall to 9.3%, the largest since just after World War One.

Even before the latest revisions Britain's economic slump was the largest in the Group of Seven, and the latest downward revision makes it greater than Spain's, which recorded a 10.8% fall in output.

However the ONS cautioned against direct comparisons with other countries as most - with the ex-

ception of the United States - had not yet undertaken the same type of in-depth revisions as Britain had.

The downward revision in GDP reflected lower contributions from healthcare and retailers than previously thought.

Britain's economy bounced back sharply last year and recovered its pre-pandemic size in November 2021. But fast-rising inflation means the Bank of England expects the economy will slip back into recession later this year.

## UK INFLATION TO HIT 18% IN '23: CITI

**LONDON:** British consumer price inflation is set to peak at 18% - nine times the Bank of England's target - in early 2023, an economist at US bank Citi said Monday, raising his forecast once again in the light of the latest jump in energy prices. "The question now is what policy may do to offset the impact on both inflation and the real economy," Benjamin Nabarro said in a note to clients. Consumer price inflation was last above 18% in 1976. With inflation now set to peak substantially higher than the Bank of England's 13% forecast in August, its Monetary Policy Committee was likely to conclude that the risks of more persistent inflation have intensified, the note said.

## Banks issue more CDs to firm cheap funding

India's banking system liquidity surplus has dropped drastically, and has averaged around ₹1.40 trillion in August, falling further from ₹1.90 trillion in July and ₹2.92 trillion in June

REUTERS

**New Delhi, August 22:** Indian banks have increased their fundraising activity through the issuance of certificates of deposits, as funding in the banking system continues to contract, analysts said.

"Banks are not raising deposit rates, as they are able to get funds easily from money market by issuing CDs, and that too cheaply, and they may continue to opt for this route of fundraising for next few weeks," said Raju Sharma, head of fixed income at IDBI Mutual Fund.

Indian private and state-run banks have raised around Rs 300 billion (\$3.76 billion) through two-month to one-year CDs in the two weeks to August 19, sharply higher than the roughly Rs 50 billion in the previous two weeks, data compiled by Reuters showed.

Larger lenders, such as Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda, have also jumped the bandwagon and are actively borrowing funds through three-month and one-year notes. These lenders are paying around 6.60%-6.74% for one-year



funds, and keen to tie up funds for a year in anticipation of policy tightening in the near future.

The Reserve Bank of India's repo rate stands at 5.40%.

"With liquidity getting drained out of the banking system, we expect banks to continue to raise funds through CDs as well as bonds," said Venkatakrishnan Srinivasan, founder and managing partner at debt advisory firm Rockfort Fincap.

Market participants also said that a pickup in credit growth as the economy revives will create need for a steady flow of funds at banks. At the same time, mutual funds have been happy to park funds in CDs, thus making it a win-win for issuers as well as investors.

"Debt funds that are mandated to invest in shorter duration are always on the lookout for investment opportunities, and that is the major reason, banks are able to get large quantum without any major difference on rates," IDBI Mutual Fund's Sharma said.

"We expect the liquidity tightness to lead to an effective policy rate hike of 60-75 bps," Upasna Bhardwaj, chief economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank said.

## BEARS TAKE OVER D-STREET

# Sensex below 59K

Over the last two days, domestic equity markets have sharply treaded lower as renewed fears of stringent rate hikes took over Dalal Street. After a sharp run-up of around 17% from June lows, markets have succumbed to profit booking as investors around the world become cautious

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, August 22:** The Sensex dived 872 points while the Nifty finished below the 17,500-mark Monday, in tandem with a sell-off in world stocks on renewed concerns over global growth and hawkish stance of central banks.

Declining for the second consecutive session, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 872.28 points or 1.46 per cent to close at 58,773.87. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 267.75 points or 1.51 per cent to 17,490.70.

Barring ITC and Nestle India, all Sensex components posted losses.

Tata Steel was the top laggard, skidding 4.50 per cent, followed by Asian Paints, Wipro, Sun Pharma, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finserv.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said consolidation was triggered in the market in anticipation of tighter monetary policy by the US Fed and worries over a slowdown in global economic activity. "The current risk reward is not favouring investors as the Nifty50 is now trading at a premium valuation of 21.5x P/E (1-year forward basis), above the long-term average. Rising dollar index and higher US 10-year bond yield act as the near-term head-



Sensex dived 872 points while the Nifty finished below the 17,500-mark

The rupee recovered early losses to close flat at 79.84 against the US dollar

Investors' wealth eroded by more than ₹6.57 lakh crore

winds for the market," he added.

The decline in equities for two sessions has eroded investors' wealth by more than Rs 6.57 lakh crore.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell by 1.80 per cent and the smallcap index declined 1.17 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended

lower, with metal falling 2.69 per cent, followed by realty (2.47 per cent), basic materials (2.44 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (2.01 per cent), finance (1.88 per cent) and bank (1.88 per cent).

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.95 per cent lower at \$95.80 per barrel.

The rupee recovered early losses to close flat at 79.84 (provisional) against the US dollar amid a strong greenback overseas.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net Rs 453.77 crore Monday which was Rs 1,110.90 crore Friday, according to provisional data.

## FINTECH SECTOR GETS \$29BN IN FUNDING

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, August 22:** Indian fintech market has received \$29 billion in funding across 2,084 deals to date (January 2017-July 2022), gaining 14 per cent share of the global funding and No 2 spot on the deal volume, a new report has said.

India's CAGR in the fintech sector grew by 20 per cent, which was higher than that of the US, the UK, and China which witnessed a growth of 16 per cent, 15 per cent, and 10 per cent, respectively, according to 'State of the Fintech Union 2022' report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Matrix Partners India.

The India fintech ecosystem has

### 14% OF GLOBAL PIE



23 unicorns (out of 106 in total) and has reached a scale to establish a strong position in the global financial services market and be benchmarked for its speed of innovation, customer inclusion, and growth, the report noted.

"Clocking over \$800 billion annual payments transaction value, fintechs have made a strong con-

tribution to the Indian economy, and play a powerful role in the provision of full-fledged financial services to all Indians. We see this collective segment to be mission critical for the \$5 trillion Indian economy," it mentioned.

The volume of digital investment in the country grew from 4.5 million in 2021 to 9 million in 2022, reporting a growth of 100 per cent.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Union Bank inks MoU with JCB

**Mumbai:** Union Bank of India entered into a partnership with JCB India Ltd (JCB) for extending 'Equipment Finance' to the customers of JCB. Under the partnership Union Bank of India and JCB have mutually agreed to pool their resources together and be associated with each other for mutual benefits. The wider reach of the Union Bank will help both the bank and JCB to extend the best offering to the buyer of JCB machines across the country. JCB India is the largest manufacturer of construction equipment in India and is part of the Global JCB group from UK. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed at Mumbai by CM Minocha, Chief General Manager, MSME, Union Bank of India and Anuj Tomar, Associate Vice President and Head - Retail Finance, JCB India Ltd.



**COURTESY CALL:** A Udaya Bhaskar Reddy, Zonal Manager, PNB, Bhubaneswar Zone met with Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in a courtesy visit. Pratap Kumar Bairiganjan, Zonal Marketing Head of PNB was also present on this occasion

# Toyota doubles down on its hybrid bet in India

Toyota's Indian strategy is at odds with global rivals Volkswagen, General Motors and India's Tata Motors, which are rushing to roll out pure electric vehicles (EVs), and comes in the face of criticism from investors for sticking with fossil-fuel hybrids

REUTERS

**Bidadi, August 22:** Toyota is re-booting its strategy for India, doubling down on a bet that emerging markets will learn to love its hybrids, as long as the price is right.

Renowned for its pioneering Prius, the Japanese carmaker has struggled to sell large numbers of its hybrid Camry sedan since its Indian debut in 2013, partly due to a sticker price of more than eight times the annual income of a middle-class family.

This time, Toyota is determined to do it differently with lower-cost hybrids, said four company and industry executives and sup-

pliers who provided previously unreported details about the carmaker's sourcing, production and pricing strategy.

Central to the strategy is a drive to cut the cost of full hybrid powertrains by making them in India, where the automaker's factories are running well below capacity, and to source key materials within the country.

Toyota Motor is also leveraging its cooperation with partner Suzuki Motor, majority owner of India's biggest carmaker Maruti, to benefit from its low-cost engineering know-how and mild hybrid technology.

"The hybrid bet is a turning point. It will be a litmus test for Toyota's future and success in India,"



**TOYOTA TEAMS UP WITH SUZUKI TO CRACK INDIAN HYBRID MARKET**  
FIRST NEW MODEL IS COMPACT SUV, PEOPLE-CARRIER TO FOLLOW  
TOYOTA AIMS TO LOWER COSTS BY MAKING COMPONENTS IN INDIA

one person with direct knowledge of Toyota's plans told Reuters.

A full hybrid can be driven for stretches on electric power whereas

We now have the core technology, whether it's an electric vehicle or a hybrid. India is one of the lowest cost bases for these parts. We are competitive on this. It's a huge bet but we know electrification is the future

**VIKRAM KIRLOSKAR**  
VC, TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR INDIA

mild hybrid technology only supplements the combustion engine to help cut emissions. However, mild hybrids have smaller batteries and cost far less.

Hybrids are generally cheaper than EVs as they typically have

smaller batteries and are not reliant on charging stations, important factors in markets such as India where customers are price sensitive and charging infrastructure can be patchy.

The world's biggest automaker told Reuters it wanted more first-time buyers in India to own full hybrids as a first step towards mass electrification, and that it would continue to increase local sourcing and production to be competitive.

Toyota's first new hybrid to hit India's roads will be the Urban Cruiser Hyryder, a compact sports-utility vehicle (SUV) which two people with knowledge of the plan said is likely to be priced around \$25,000 - less than half the price of the Camry.

# INDIA COMPLETE CLEAN SWEEP

Raza's gutsy ton goes in vain as India ride on Gill's maiden ton to beat Zimbabwe by 13 runs in the third and final ODI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Harare, August 22: Sikandar Raza's lion-hearted effort (115, 95b, 9x4, 3x6) took Zimbabwe on the cusp of a famous victory before India held their nerves to pull off a 13-run win in the third ODI and complete a series sweep here Monday.

The final game of the series too was heading India's way until Raza brought Zimbabwe back into the contest with the support of Brad Evans (28). The duo shared a 104-run stand off 77 balls for the eighth wicket to raise hopes of a memorable result. However, Raza fell to a brilliant catch by Shubman Gill in the penultimate over, as India scraped through.

It was Gill (130, 97b, 15x4, 1x6) who had set up the game for India as he smashed his maiden international hundred to take the visitors to 289/8. Zimbabwe's innings ended at 276 in 49.3 overs.

Gill, who reached a major career milestone more than three years after making his India debut, shared a 140-run stand with Ishan Kishan (50, 61b, 6x4) after the visitors decided to bat for the first time in the series.

Sean Williams (45, 46b, 7x4) and Raza played some bold strokes early in the Zimbabwe chase. Deepak Chahar (2/75) once again impressed with the new ball while left-arm spinner Axar Patel (2/30) got welcome wickets in the middle overs.

Chahar got his first wicket with a booming inswinger as Innocent Kaika (6) was trapped while charging down the wicket. His opening partner Takudzwanashe Kaitano (13), who walked back to the dressing room with leg pain, returned to the middle but not for long. India spinner Kuldeep Yadav (2/38) drew him



Shubman Gill & Sikandar Raza (inset) celebrate their centuries, Monday

forward with a wrong un that had the Zimbabwean stumped. Though Zimbabwe kept losing wickets regularly, the seasoned Raza stood strong before completing his third hundred in the last six innings.

Opting to bat for the first time in the series, India did not have the most fluent of starts as they struggled to 63/1 in 15 overs. Both the seasoned openers – skipper KL Rahul (30) and Shikhar Dhawan (40) – would be disappointed at not being able to convert their starts.

Coming back from a long injury break, Rahul had an ideal oppor-

tunity to get back into groove ahead of the Asia Cup T20. He played on to a length ball off medium pacer Brad Evans who ended up taking five wickets for the first time.

Barring the stand between Gill and Kishan, not much stood out from the Indian innings. Gill, who made his ODI comeback with the series against the West Indies, was a treat to the eye during his innings. The 22-year-old played shots all around, with his straight drives and cover drives standing out.

Gill had a few nervous moments in the 90s before he reached the mile-

stone. Evans appealed for a close leg before call but the DRS was turned down after UltraEdge showed that the ball touched Gill's bat before thudding into the pads. On the same ball however, Kishan was run out at the other end after he left his crease for a quick single, but Gill was pre-occupied with the appeal.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India 289/8 (Shubman Gill 130, Ishan Kishan 50, Shikhar Dhawan 40; Brad Evans 5/54) beat Zimbabwe 276 (Sikandar Raza 115, Sean Williams 45; Avesh Khan 3/66, Axar Patel 2/30, Kuldeep Yadav 2/38) by 13 runs.

# SC terminates CoA mandate for AIFF

APEX COURT POSTPONES INDIAN FOOTBALL BODY'S POLLS BY ONE WEEK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: The Supreme Court (SC) Monday directed the termination of the mandate of the three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by a former apex court judge, appointed by it nearly two months back for managing the affairs of the national football body AIFF.

The top court said that it is modifying its earlier orders to facilitate the revocation of the suspension which has been imposed on AIFF by FIFA and the holding of the U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.

The apex court May 18 appointed a three-member CoA headed by Justice (ret'd) Anil R Dave, former chief election commissioner SY Qureshi, former Indian football team captain Bhaskar Ganguly and ousted NCP leader Praful Patel management committee, which had exceeded its tenure by over two and half years.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna said, "In the event that the above process is not taken to its logical conclusion, the Court would consider any further order at the subsequent stage".

It also postponed the August 28 elections of the AIFF by one week to allow a changed electoral college and the start of the nomination process.

The order came on a fresh plea filed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports seeking modification of the May 18 and August 3 orders of the court after consultation with the international football federation (FIFA) to ensure revocation of the suspension of AIFF and the hosting right for holding of the U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.

It said, "The day-to-day management of AIFF shall be exclusively looked after by the AIFF Administration led by the Acting



Secretary General. The mandate of the Committee of Administrators appointed by the order of this Court stands terminated".

The bench noted that the CoA has already submitted the draft Constitution for the AIFF, together with a tabulated set of suggestions, to this Court July 15, 2022, and therefore appointed its counsel senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan to assist it as amicus curiae.

Former Indian football team captain Baichung Bhutia and CoA opposed modification of the court's orders and said the court should not terminate the reform process and not come under pressure from threats of FIFA as sacrificing the U-17 Women's World Cup now would eventually enable the youngsters of the country, in the long run, to look for the main World Cup.

The bench said that it understands the gravity of the situation but cannot sacrifice the world cup scheduled to be held later this year in the larger interest of the country.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that there are two "disastrous consequences" the country is facing, if the orders are not modified – one that India will lose hosting rights of any future football world cup, and second our teams will not be able to play even friendly international matches across the world.

He said that it is not that India

is being discriminated against but FIFA follows uniform policy across the world against third-party interference.

The bench said bearing in mind the importance of the U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 tournament being held in India, it is passing the directions on the application – the election programme, which was fixed in pursuance of the order dated August 3, 2022, is permitted to be modified by extending the date of election by one week.

It said the returning officers – Umesh Sinha and Tapas Bhattacharya shall be deemed to be the returning officers appointed by this Court to conduct the elections as there has been no objection to their continuance by any of the contesting parties before this Court, including the member associations representing the States/Union Territories.

It said the time for the completion of the elections which were scheduled to take place August 28, 2022, shall stand extended by a period of one week and appreciated the efforts of Justice (ret'd) Dave led the committee.

The bench said 17 members (inclusive of the President, a Treasurer, and one Vice President) will be elected by the Electoral College consisting of 35 Associations representing States/Union Territories and six members shall be drawn from eminent players which four men and two women.

# Praggnanandhaa beats Carlsen, finishes second

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Miami, August 22: Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa produced a superb performance, winning three straight games including two in the blitz tie-breaks to outwit World No.1 Magnus Carlsen 4-2 in the final round of the FTX Crypto Cup here Monday.

However, despite the win over Carlsen, the 17-year old could only take second place in the final standings. The Norwegian won the top prize on the basis of a higher score. He finished with 16 match points to the Indian prodigy's tally of 15.

"I've been playing badly all day, but now I'm getting the results I deserve. It's never good to lose, but this is as good a time as any!" Carlsen said after the match.

Alireza Firouzja, another highly-rated teen and a prodigy, also finished on 15 points but had to settle for third place as he had lost the clash against Praggnanandhaa earlier.

The first two games of the Carlsen-Praggnanandhaa match were drawn before the World No.1 went ahead by clinching the third. In a surprise turn of events, the Indian won the fourth game to push the match into the tie-breaks. He shocked the Norwegian by



winning both the games in the tie-break.

Praggnanandhaa has been in splendid form this year and had previously beaten the world champion twice in online events. He also played a crucial role in the India 'B' team claiming a bronze medal in the 44th chess Olympiad in Chennai recently.

"I think it could have done better the last few days but I think overall 2nd is good," Praggnanandhaa said after the game against Carlsen.

Praggnanandhaa started his campaign with victory over World No.4 Firouzja and also scored wins over World No.9 Anish Giri and World No.6 Levon Aronian.

# BWF Worlds: Sen, Srikanth, Prannoy win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, August 22: Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen continued his impressive run, trouncing Danish Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in straight games to progress to the men's singles second round at BWF World Championships here Monday.

Sen's senior teammates Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy also won their respective first round matches. India also registered twin wins in women's and mixed doubles competition on the opening day which saw B Sai Praneeeth bow out after losing in three games to World No.4 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei.

The 20-year-old Sen, who had returned with a bronze on his debut in Spain last year, prevailed 21-12, 21-11 over an erratic Vittinghus in his opening match. Sen will next face Luis Enrique Penalver of Spain.

Birmingham CWG bronze medalist Srikanth had to toil in his 22-20, 21-19 win over Nhat Nguyen of Ireland, while Prannoy secured a dominating 21-12 21-11 win over Luka Wraber of Austria. Praneeth put up a brave effort before going down 15-21, 21-15, 15-21 to Chen in little over an hour.

Srikanth will face Zhao Jun Peng of China in the second round while Prannoy will be up against sec-



ond see Kento Momota of Japan.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy progressed to the women's doubles second round with a 21-7, 21-9 win over Maldives' Aminath Nabeeha Abdul Razzaq and Fathimath Nabaa Abdul Razzaq. The pair will face an uphill task of taming top seeds Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan of China in the second round.

In mixed doubles, Tanisha Crasto and Ishaan Bhatnagar defeated German duo of Patrick Scheiel and Franziska Volkman 21-13, 21-13 in 29 minutes to also make a positive start to their campaign. The Indian duo will meet 14th seeds Supak Jomkoh and Supissara Paewsampran of Thailand next.

In another women's doubles match, India's Pooja Dandu and

Sanjana Santosh beat the Peru pair of Ines Lucia Salazar and Paula Regal 21-6, 10-21, 21-14.

Among others, B Sumeeth Reddy and Manu Attri lost 11-21 21-19 15-21 to Masayuki Onodera and Hiroki Okamura in men's doubles. In women's singles, Malvika Bansod also bowed out in the opening round after losing 14-21 12-21 to Denmark's Line Christophersen.

# Lewandowski's b'day brace lifts Barça

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, August 22: Robert Lewandowski left his mark with a pair of goals on his 34th birthday, and Barcelona saw their high-profile attack finally click in a 4-1 win at Real Sociedad for their first victory of the season.

Lewandowski also set up Ansu Fati's goal Sunday as Barcelona quickly rebounded from a scoreless opening draw at home in the Spanish league against Rayo Vallecano in which the attack was ineffective.

Ousmane Dembele also scored for the Catalan club that entered the season amid high expectations after spending big to boost its squad despite enduring financial difficulties.

Lewandowski scored his first goal of the season a minute into the match with a nice touch from inside the area after a pass by teenager Alejandro Balde.

The hosts equalised with a goal from Alexander Isak in the sixth minute after a nice through ball by veteran David Silva, but Barcelona's



forwards stood out in the second half.

Dembele scored with a low shot in the 66th after a backheel pass by Fati, who found the net himself in the 79th after Lewandowski's assist. Lewandowski's second goal came from close range in the 68th after another assist by Fati.

The result kept Barcelona unbeaten against Sociedad in 13 league matches, with two draws and 11 victories. Sociedad had opened with a win at Cadiz.

**EMERY BEATS SIMEONE**  
Unai Emery's unsuccessful run

against Diego Simeone is finally over. Emery's 12-match winless streak in the league as a coach against Simeone ended with Villarreal's 2-0 win at Atletico Madrid. Emery had seven draws and five losses against Simeone, his worst streak against any other coach in the league.

Jeremy Pino and Gerard Moreno scored second-half goals at the Metropolitan stadium as Villarreal picked up its second consecutive win to start the league. Atletico's newly signed defender Nahuel Molina was sent off in stoppage time.

# Mbappe ties French league record

LILLE: Kylian Mbappe scored after just eight seconds of play to claim the joint-fastest goal in the history of the French league. Mbappe found the net at the start of a 7-1 win for defending champions PSG over Lille Sunday. The visitors needed just four passes from kickoff to score as Lionel Messi hit a superb ball over the top for Mbappe, who cleverly lobbed Lille goalkeeper Leo Jardim. The French league tweeted that Mbappe's goal ties midfielder Michel Rio who also needed just eight seconds to score for Caen against Cannes in 1992. Mbappe had a hat-trick while Neymar scored two goals and provided three assists, and Messi had a goal and an assist to his name in the match as PSG extended their perfect start to the season with three wins from three games.



# Protesting workers detained in Qatar

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, August 22: Qatar recently arrested at least 60 foreign workers who protested going months without pay and deported some of them, an advocacy group said, just three months before Doha hosts the FIFA World Cup.

The move comes as Qatar faces intense international scrutiny over its labour practices ahead of the tournament. Like other Gulf Arab nations, Qatar heavily relies on foreign labour. The workers' protest a week ago – and Qatar's reaction to it – could further fuel the concern.

The head of a labour consultancy investigating the incident said the detentions cast new doubt on Qatar's pledges to improve the treatment of workers. "Is this really the reality coming out?" asked Mustafa Qadri, executive director of the group, Equidem Research.

In a statement to this agency Qatar's government acknowledged that "a number of protesters were detained for breaching public safety laws." It declined to offer any information about the arrests or any deportations.

# Odisha Roll Ball League all set to kick off Aug 27

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, August 22: The inaugural edition of Odisha Roll Ball League (ORBL), organised by Odisha Roll Ball Association (ORBA) with the support of Centurion University and Odisha Skating Academy, is all set to kick off August 27.

An auction for players also took place Sunday at a city hotel here for the event, which will be played at Centurion University Sports Complex in Jatani, Khurda. Over 150 Roll Ball Skaters from various districts had applied for the player auction and out of which 102 players have qualified in the bidding process.

Notably, the first ever ORBL will see eight teams – Puri Pacers, Bhubaneswar Bulls, Angul Avengers, Rourkela Rockets, Balasore Beamers, Cuttack Celtics, Brahamapur Blazers and Sambalpur Seamers – vie for the top prize.

The motive of the event is to popularise the sport in Odisha, said ORBA vice-president Satya Jaysingh.