



BIG BREAK

Actor Manushi Chhillar believes that she has been noticed because of her debut movie 'Samrat Prithviraj'

LEISURE | P2



RECORD COVID TOLL IN NZ

New Zealanders are dying from Covid-19 at record rates as the country battles a new wave of the Omicron strain

INTERNATIONAL | P10



NEERAJ IN FINAL

Neeraj Chopra qualifies for the javelin final at the Athletics Worlds requiring just a single throw

SPORTS | P12

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SHORT TAKES

Cong show-cause notice to Moquim

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Congress served a show-cause notice on Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim Friday for voting in favour of Droupadi Murmu in the presidential poll. Congress state president Sarat Patnaik issued the notice to Moquim for violating party discipline and asked him to explain within two weeks why disciplinary action should not be taken against him. Moquim had created a flutter in political circles in the state by announcing that he voted for Murmu, as she was a "daughter of Odisha".

More P3

New York reports 1st polio case in a decade

New York: An unvaccinated young adult from New York recently contracted polio, the first US case in nearly a decade, health officials said Thursday. Officials said the patient, who lives in Rockland County, had developed paralysis. The person developed symptoms a month ago and did not recently travel outside the country, county health officials said. The last such case was in 2013, when a 7-month-old who had recently moved to the US from India was diagnosed in San Antonio, Texas, according the federal health officials.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	56072.23	▲ 390.28
NIFTY	16719.50	▲ 114.20
DOLLAR	80.19	▼ ₹0.01
EURO	81.67	▲ ₹0.002
GOLD	₹50,767	▲ ₹392
SILVER	₹55,549	▲ ₹138

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	30.2°C	31.5°C
TEMP. MIN	26.1°C	26.0°C
Humidity	95%	85%
Rainfall	0.2mm	1.0mm
	Generally cloudy sky	

CBSE pass percentage dips

■ 94.4% CLEAR CLASS X & 92.71% PASS CLASS XII

■ GIRLS OUTPERFORM BOYS WITH 95.21% IN CLASS X AND 94.54% IN XII

Pass percentage of Class X students dips by 4.64, even as the number of students scoring above 90% and 95% witnesses a jump

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 22: Girls outperformed boys in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X and XII exams, the results of which were declared Friday. However, the pass percentage for both the classes has witnessed a decline.

As per CBSE sources, the pass percentage of the Class X students dipped by 4.64, even as the number of students scoring above 90 per cent and 95 per cent witnessed a jump as against last year's figure.

Likewise, girls also outshone boys in Class XII CBSE exam even as the overall pass percentage dipped from last year's 99.37 per cent to 92.71 per cent, officials said Friday.

The CBSE had recorded the highest-ever pass percentage of 99.04 in Class X exam last year. However, the results last year were announced on the basis of an alternative assessment scheme as the exams could not be conducted due to



EUPHORIC MOOD: Students of BJEM School in Bhubaneswar rejoice after the CBSE Class XII results were out, Friday

Covid-19.

The pass percentage for Class X this year stands at 94.4, which is 4.64 per cent lower than last year's 91.46. The difference between the pass percentage of girls and boys was 3.7 last year.

While the pass percentage of girls stood at 95.21, that of boys and transgender candidates was 93.8 and 90 respectively.

Over 21.09 lakh regular candidates had registered for the Class X exam this year, of whom 20.93 lakh

■ With **99.68%** success rate, Trivandrum region tops the country

■ With **99.71%** pass rate in Class X and **98.93%** in Class XII, JNVs emerge as the best performers

had appeared in it.

The number of candidates scoring above 95 per cent has increased by over 7,000, with 64,908 students

failing in the bracket. Similarly, the number of students scoring between 90 and 95 per cent has gone up by over 36,000 from last year's 2,00,962. A total of 2,36,983 candidates have scored between 90 and 95 per cent this year. The number of children with special needs scoring above 95 per cent is 63, while 290 students in the category have scored above 90 per cent. In the CBSE-affiliated schools abroad, 97.29 per cent students have passed Class X.

CONTD...P4

SHREYA SHINES WITH 100% SCORE IN CLASS X



BHUBANESWAR: Shreya Pattnaik of Mother's Public School here secured 100 per cent marks in all subjects in Class X exam as the results of CBSE Class X and XII annual examinations were declared Friday. Shreya said she was expecting good marks but she was surprised to see 100 per cent in every subject. The topper said she had focused on self study with the help of parents. "After school hours, I used to spend three-four hours on self study. More than quantity, I believe in quality study," Shreya aims at pursuing medical studies. Meanwhile, CBSE's Bhubaneswar region's pass percentage stood at 90.37 per cent for Class XII and 96.46 per cent for Class X.

Dinesh Gunawardena Sri Lanka's new PM



AGENCIES

Colombo, July 22: Dinesh Gunawardena, a hard-core leftist leader whose family has a connection with India, became Sri Lanka's Prime Minister by a quirk of fate at a time when the country is grappling with unprecedented economic and political turmoil.

A stalwart of Sri Lankan politics, Gunawardena was appointed as the Prime Minister Friday, a day after Ranil Wickremesinghe was elevated to President's post.

Gunawardena, 73, earlier served as the foreign minister and education minister. He was appointed as Home Minister in April by then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

A schoolmate of President Wickremesinghe, Gunawardena, has held various Cabinet posts in the past.

Born in 1949, Gunawardena is the leader of the Trotskyist majority nationalist Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP), a constituent party of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party.

Oppn bats for scribes' entry into Assembly

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 22: Opposition members Friday created a ruckus in the Assembly demanding entry of journalists into the press gallery of the House.

Raising the issue during question hour, the opposition MLAs demanded the lifting of the restrictions imposed on mediapersons and allowed all MLAs to sit inside the House.

The Question Hour of the Assembly was completely washed out as Congress and BJP trooped into the well of the House, shouted slogans and disrupted the proceedings of the business of the house. Unable to run the business, Speaker BK Arukha convened an all-party meeting adjourning the House till 11:30am. As mediapersons are not allowed to the press gallery, they are unable to report the proceedings correctly, said BJP chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi.

"When the Rath Yatra was conducted with the participation of lakhs of people and the Parliament started functioning normally, why the journalists will not be allowed into the press gallery?" he asked. Majhi said some of the members are being treated as second-class citizens as they were asked to sit in galleries and demean their dignity.

Congress member Tara Prasad Bahinipati demanded the Speaker to allow mediapersons to sit in the press gallery to cover the

proceedings. He also urged the Speaker to allow other members to sit in the House like during the pre-Covid period.

His party colleague, Jayanarayan Mishra said except for Odisha, the Assemblies in other states are functioning normally and wanted the Speaker to initiate steps for the normal functioning of the Assembly.

Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said the Parliament is functioning normally even though its strength is three times more than the Odisha Assembly. He urged the Speaker to give a ruling to allow the mediapersons to the press gallery.

Congress MLA Suresh Chandra Routray said it is very unfortunate that the statement of senior BJD member Prafulla Samal during the debate for demand for grants Thursday was disrupted due to a technical snag.

Laxman Munda of CPI (M) also demanded the Speaker to ensure that the MLAs sitting in the gallery come to the House and allow the mediapersons to the press gallery.

Keeping the safety of members in view of Covid-19 pandemic, the seating arrangements of MLAs and journalists were taken up at the all-party meeting, said the Speaker.

With only a few days are left for the current session to end, a decision on lifting the restriction on media would be taken in the next session, considering the situation prevailing then, he added.

NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Suriya, Devgn share Best Actor award

'Soorai Potru', which won the National Award for Best Feature, also got Aparna Balamurali the Best Actress prize

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 22: Tamil film "Soorai Potru" won the National Award for Best Feature, Best Actor and Best Actress at the 68th National Film Awards for 2020 announced Friday.

The second big winner of the day was Ajay Devgn-starrer "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior" which bagged the awards for Best Actor for Devgn and Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome



Ajay Devgn



Aparna Balamurali



Suriya

Entertainment.

Directed by Om Raut, "Tanhaji..." is based on the life of Tanaji Malusare, the military leader of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's army. Set in the 17th century, the film also won the Best Costume Designer for Nachiket Barve and Mahesh Sherla.

Devgn shared the Best Actor award with Suriya, who got it for "Soorai Potru". The film, inspired by the life of Air Deccan

founder Capt GR Gopinath, also won Aparna Balamurali the Best Actress prize.

The Bollywood star, who has previously won the National Film Award for Best Actor for his performances in "Zakhm" (1998) and "The Legend of Bhagat Singh" (2002), said he was elated to receive the honour for the third time.

"I'm elated to win the Best Actor Award for 'Tanhaji'—The Unsung Warrior" at the 68th

National Awards along with Suriya who won for 'Soorai Potru'. "I thank everyone, most of all my creative team, the audience and my fans. I also express my gratitude to my parents & the Almighty for their blessings. Congratulations to all the other winners," Devgn said in a statement.

"Soorai Potru" also won Best Screenplay for Shalini Usha Nair and director Sudha Kongara as well as Best Music Direction (Background Score) for GV Prakash Kumar.

The late Malayalam filmmaker Sachidanandan KR was posthumously named Best Director for "Ayyappanum Koshiyum", which also won Best Supporting Actor for Biju Menon, Best Action Direction (Stunt Choreography) and Best Playback Female Singer for Nanchamma.

CONTD...P4

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FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

The stars urge you to focus on your finances and savings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesh, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

TAURUS

Your unflinching punctuality, your insistence on following time schedules is due to be noticed and appreciated today. Your colleagues and superiors will be singing praises as soon as you arrive for work. If you are in an artistic or a creative profession, such as designing, journalism, multi media, you have a remarkably eventful and gratifying day ahead.

GEMINI

Today, you may resume your quest for spirituality which you had aborted some time back. However, that doesn't mean you are on your way to sainthood. You are just trying to get close to your inner self. Though you will be frugal while spending on yourself, your lavish treatment to your beloved will stump everyone, including him/her, predicts Ganesh.

CANCER

You are likely to be a little over-zealous and over-analytical today, foretells Ganesh. You should not be too forceful or severe on others. This will help you save a few friendships and will make sure that your reputation remains intact.

LEO

Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today, your home is where your troubles will be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesh. So, scooting off may not be the best solution. Some people around you may try to blow things out of proportion; the best way to keep them in check is with a smile.

VIRGO

Confidently take on the challenges that in all likelihood will test your business abilities, especially the ones that are related to your investments and monetary matters. You will most probably come up with novel ideas to solve long-pending issues, and Ganesh says that this will be very effective.

LIBRA

There is a very strong possibility of major improvements in your public standing and image today. But it all depends so much upon your personal character, and, therefore, you must guard it zealously, even with your own life. Those who seek to malign or dent your reputation will be disappointed, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

Today, there may come up situations which may test your patience, predicts Ganesh. However, it would be wise to sit and sort out all the differences with your colleagues or family members or your partner.

SAGITTARIUS

The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal.

CAPRICORN

You'll kick start the day in high spirit which will take everyone by surprise. You will shift gears at work so that you can perform more efficiently and productively. Such a change will boost your confidence as you will see the positive results for yourself.

AQUARIUS

Are you facing a roadblock in your path? Make a minor change in your route, you will find a smooth and clear road once again, advises Ganesh. The efforts you have made in the past will come to fruition, today. Don't get satisfied with your current achievements, you still have a long way to keep working hard.

PISCES

Do not commit yourself to any large investments today. It is best to avoid speculative activities. For those who have a job, the co-operation of your colleagues will help you progress, says Ganesh.

ALICIA SILVERSTONE STILL SLEEPS NEXT TO HER 11-YEAR-OLD SON

Actress Alicia Silverstone still sleeps next to her 11-year-old son Bear and says that she is simply following nature with her parenting style. She also praised motherhood as the most precious, most unbelievable experience in this world, adding that it is divine for her.

ELVIS ACTRESS AND SINGER SHONKA DUKUREH DEAD

Singer and actress Shonka Dukureh (44), who played Big Mama Thornton in Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis*, was found dead in her apartment Thursday, the police said. According to a tweet from the Metro Nashville Police Department, no foul play is evident in Dukureh's death.



Elated at bagging 3rd Nat'l Award: Ajay

Mumbai: Actor Ajay Devgn has bagged the third National Film Award as an actor for *Tanhaji-The Unsung Warrior*. Expressing his reaction the actor said, "I'm elated to share the honour with Suriya who won for Soorai Potturu. I thank everyone, most of all my creative team, the audience and my fans. I also express my gratitude to my parents & the Almighty for their blessings. Congratulations to all the other winners."

Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior, directed by Om Raut, released January 10, 2020, and also had Saif Ali Khan, Kajol and Sharad Kelkar in pivotal roles. The film happens to be Ajay's 100th film in his career spanning 30 years. Previously, Ajay has bagged the Best Actor National Film Award twice for his films *Zakhm* and *The Legend Of Bhagat Singh*. Talking about *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior*, the film managed to emerge as the biggest blockbuster of 2020. Not just this, it won the hearts of the audience as Ajay was loved as *Tanhaji Malusare*.

Sara drops major fitness goals

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan Friday shared a video from her super exhausting workout session.

Taking to Instagram, the Atrangi Re star captioned the post, "It's good to be back Hogaya Holiday come back on track You must work hard, there's no easy hack Just keep going- no time to slack You cannot crack- so just attack! Oh! And remember supplement this effort with a healthy snack".

In the video, the Kedarnath actor could be seen doing her cardio workouts under the supervision of her trainer. Sara donned a blue top with black shorts in the video.

Soon after the 26-year-old actor shared her video, fans flooded the comment section with

praises for the actor for her immense hard work.

Sara frequently treats her fans with her workout videos and pictures on her social media.

Meanwhile, on the work front, she has a couple of movies in her kitty. Sara will be seen sharing screen space with Vikrant Massey and Chitrangada Singh in *Gaslight*.

The film is being directed by Pawan Kripl who earlier helmed *Bhoot Police*. She has also recently finished shooting for an untitled project alongside Vicky Kaushal.

AGENCIES

I've been noticed for my debut movie: Manushi

Mumbai: Actress Manushi Chhillar, who will be seen starring opposite actor John Abraham in the upcoming film *Tehran*, believes that she has been noticed because of her work in her debut film *Samrat Prithviraj*. *Tehran* is a film inspired by true events and Manushi is ecstatic to have landed her third big project. She says: "I'm thrilled to have signed my third film and it's amazing that I have been noticed because of my work in debut film in which I really put in my everything."

Manushi is happy that the media and audience have also loved her new look in the film.

She adds: "I sport a new look in this film and I'm really excited about it. I want to do varied roles and be a part of the best films being made by our industry."

"*Tehran* gives me an opportunity to shine bright and I hope I can do justice to the role on screen. I will work very hard for it."

A Maddock Films production in association with Bake My Cake Films, *Tehran* has been directed by Arun Gopalan, written by Ritesh Shah and Ashish Prakash Verma, produced by Dinesh Vijan, Shobhna Yadav and Sandeep Leyzell.

IAN5



Samantha obsessed with Brahmastra track Kumkumala

Mumbai: Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's new song *Kesariya* from *Brahmastra* has struck the right chord among music lovers. The song, which was released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada as well is winning hearts and has been on the minds of everyone. South beauty Samantha is also obsessed with the song, but her favourite is the Telugu version of *Kumkumala*. The song is on repeat mode in her playlist and she just can't seem to get enough of it.

Samantha shared Alia and Ranbir's *Kumkumala* song and wrote, "Obsessed....sighhhh. This song is everything !! #Kumkumala. @aliabhatt cannot wait. #Brahmastra."

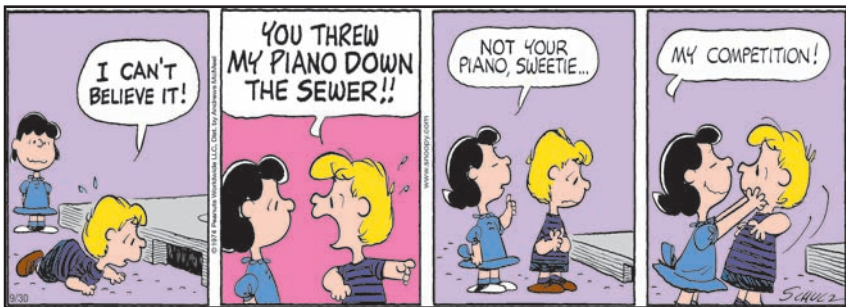
The love anthem of the year is composed by Pritam and written by Chandrabose while the soulful song has been sung by Sid Sriram in Telugu. Along with the Hindi version, the Kannada version is also receiving super responses from audiences. The romantic track was shot in the ghats of Varanasi and Alia and Ranbir's chemistry kept audiences hooked to the screens.

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's *Brahmastra* is one of the most anticipated films. It also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Mouni Roy, and Nagarjuna Akkineni.

AGENCIES

FUN post

PEANUTS



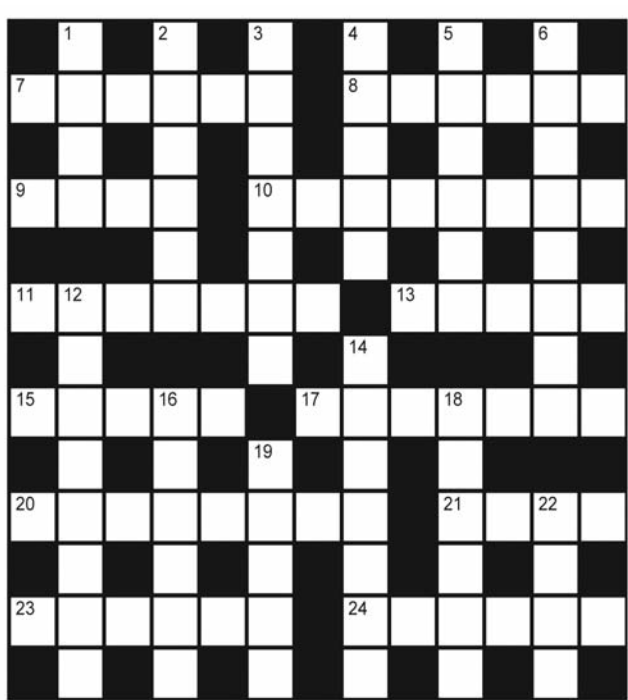
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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Across

- 7 Caldera
- 8 Strait of Dover port
- 9 Coin toss
- 10 Part of Tanzania
- 11 Chuckle
- 13 Breakwater
- 15 Wise guy
- 17 Literary genre
- 20 Netherlands sight

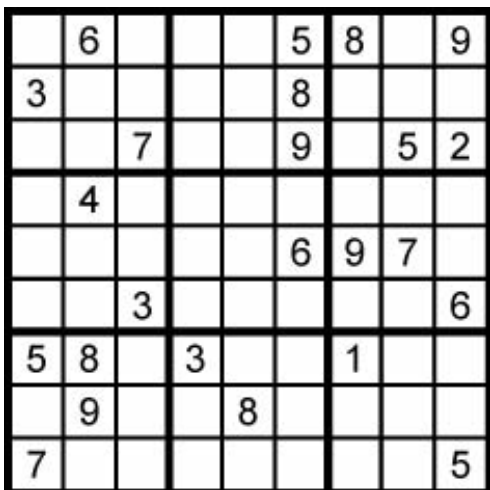
Down

- 21 Vortex
- 23 Yukon Territory town
- 24 Fletcher Christian's crime
- 1 Like some surgery
- 2 Daze
- 3 Light rain

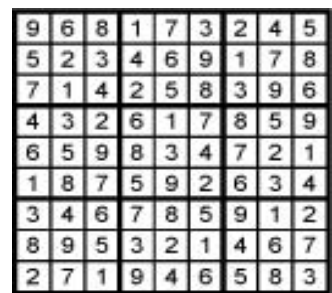
- 4 British biscuit
- 5 Miner's box
- 6 AKA Dhania or coriander
- 12 Hilo native
- 14 Sheepskin
- 16 One of the Gorgons
- 18 Pact
- 19 Pottery ovens
- 22 Fender blemish

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

CBSE RESULTS **Euphoria as City students come out with flying colours**

Several schools in the Capital city registered 100 per cent results in the Class X and XII examinations

Bhubaneswar, July 22: Students of many schools in the capital city here came out with flying colours in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X and XII examinations, whose results were declared Friday.

Mother's Public School's Shreya Pattnaik topped the CBSE Class X examination in Odisha by securing full 500 marks. On the other hand, Karan Pattanaik and Amlaan Akshay Anshu Sahoo topped the Class XII Science stream with 98.80 per cent while Prateek Pratyush Dash topped the Commerce stream with 97.40 per cent in the school. The school registered 100 per cent pass in the examinations.

At SAI International School, Suhana Jena is the Class X school topper with 99.8 per cent, followed by Adyasha Syam with 99.4 per cent and Janisha Karan with 99.2 per cent.

In Class XII, Subhrasikha Pradhan, Kashish Agrawalla and Khushi Agrawalla are the school toppers with 98.8 per cent in Commerce stream, followed by Abhipsha Padhi and Sandhya Priyadarsini Pattanaik with 98.6 per cent in Science stream.

The school also registered 100 per cent pass percentage.



Celebration at DAV Public School, Unit-VIII

At ODM Public School, Aditya Kar is the school topper as he secured 99.8 per cent in Class X exam.

In Class XII, Shristi Agarwal topped the Commerce stream with 99.2 per cent while Manisha Sahoo topped the science stream with 99 per cent. ODM Public School too registered a full pass percentage.

With 499 marks (99.8 per cent) in Class X exam, Amrit Kumar Ghoshal is the topper in Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School.

In Class XII, Rajesh Kumar Jena topped the Science stream with 97.8 per cent, while Rakshita Patnaik topped the Commerce stream after securing 95 per cent.

At DAV Public School, Unit-VIII, Bhoomika Das, Sai Shreyansh Panda and Swayam Prakash Pani were the school toppers by securing 499 marks (99.8 per cent) in Class X exam. In Class XII, Soumya Subhrakanti Swain topped the Science stream with 98.40 per cent, while K Rohit 97.80 per cent in Commerce stream.

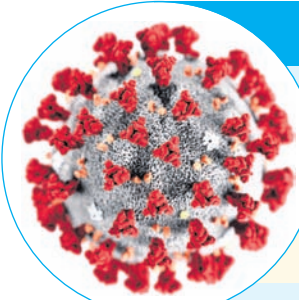
The students of ST. Xavier's High School did well in the CBSE Class X examination with Tuhin Samantaray scoring 98.8 per cent.

The school also performed well in the Class XII examination. Barenayaa Mohapatra secured 97.8 per cent in the exam, school sources said.



PAYING HOMAGE

Dignitaries during a seminar held at Bakharabad Gandhi Bhawan in Cuttack, Friday, to mark the death anniversary of Rama Devi



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	57,30,26,064	54,30,07,796	63,98,987
India	4,38,47,065	4,31,71,653	5,25,930
Odisha	13,04,369	12,88,970	9,130



Students of SAI International School celebrate their success in the CBSE Class XII exam while students of ODM Public School in a jubilant mood after their good performance in the Class X test

'GAP BETWEEN TERM I AND II HELPED US A LOT'

I had started my preparation for the examination from the very beginning and given importance to all subjects. The Term I and II exams had their unique challenges and opportunities. We got some time to prepare for the subjective papers after appearing the objective papers. This helped us a lot. We mostly studied online and our teachers made a lot of efforts to clear our doubts. My aim is to become an engineer as I am interested in studying Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics



AMRIT KUMAR GHOSHAL | BJEM SCHOOL (99.8 PER CENT IN CLASS X)

I was expecting above 90 per cent but I had never thought that I would score above 97 per cent. Anyway, I had prepared very well for Term I and II. The gap between the two tests really helped us as we got time for better preparation. I have a dream to become a software engineer.



RAJESH KUMAR JENA | BJEM SCHOOL (97.8 PER CENT IN CLASS XII SCIENCE)

I had prepared for the examination by going through the sample papers and materials from NCERT. Term I papers were easy in comparison to Term II papers. The format for term I was similar to our Class XI tests. Now, I will start preparation for JEE



KARAN PATTANAIK | MOTHER'S PUBLIC SCHOOL (98.8 PER CENT IN CLASS XII SCIENCE)

I was expecting to be the state topper but narrowly missed it. I used to start my day with playing chess which helps me in focusing on my studies. We were depending upon online classes for education. I had studied for around eight hours daily for the examination. I have an ambition to become a civil servant



SUHANA JENA | SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (99.8 PER CENT IN CLASS X)

I am happy with my result. Both Term I and Term II exams were altogether a new system for us but hard labour and proper preparation helped us to secure good marks. My aim is to become a doctor. I have already started preparation for the NEET



ADITYA KAR | ODM PUBLIC SCHOOL (99.8 PER CENT IN CLASS X)

Cong notice to Moquim for voting in favour of Murmu

Bhubaneswar, July 22: Odisha Congress Friday served a show cause notice on MLA Mohammed Moquim for voting in favour of NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu in the presidential polls.

Congress state president Sarat Patttnayak issued the notice to Moquim for violating the party discipline and asked the Barabati-Cuttack legislator to explain within two weeks why disciplinary action should not be taken against him.

Moquim had created a flutter in political circles in the state by announcing that he voted for Murmu as she was a 'daughter of Odisha'.

A party spokesperson told newspersons here that the notice held the MLA guilty of 'deliberately acting and carrying on propaganda against the programmes and decisions of the Congress party'.

"You are frequently addressing the electronic media and deliberately acting in a way calculated to lower the prestige of Congress and



Moquim said he has not received the notice yet and that he would respond through the party forum. The Congress MLA reiterated that being an Odia he went by his conscience and voted for Murmu

Congress state president Sarat Patttnayak issued the notice to Moquim for violating the party discipline and asked the Barabati-Cuttack legislator to explain within two weeks why disciplinary action should not be taken against him

carrying on propaganda against the party and its office-bearers thereof," said the notice.

The notice gave him two weeks-time to reply why disciplinary action should not be taken against him according to the Congress constitution and its rules.

Moquim said he has not received the notice yet and that he would respond through the party forum. "I am proud and delighted that a tribal and someone from Odisha's

soil has been elected as President of the country for the first time," he told reporters.

Moquim reiterated that being an Odia he went by his conscience and voted for Murmu, who scripted history Thursday by being elected the country's first tribal president. Murmu will be the first president to be born after independence. She is also the youngest to occupy the top post and the second woman to become the president.

Reforms led to fall in power sector losses: Deb

The aggregate technical and commercial losses in power sector have come down to 26 per cent in 2022 from 57 per cent in 2000, claimed Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 22: The aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses in power sector have come down to 26 per cent in 2022 from 57 per cent in 2000 in Odisha due to the introduction of reform measures, said Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb in the Assembly Friday.

In a written reply to a query of Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahy, Deb said Odisha is the first state in the country to implement power sector reforms with the enactment of the Orissa Electricity Reform Act, 1995.

Odisha is now a power surplus state due to the reform measures introduced by the state government. Around 2,000 MW power generation capacity has been added in the last two decades in the form of 1,320 MW thermal capacity by OPGC, 560 MW of renewable energy capacity and 109 MW of small hydropower capacity, he said.

The number of 33/11 KV sub-sta-



AROUND 97 PER CENT HOUSEHOLDS IN THE STATE HAVE BEEN ELECTRIFIED UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES LAUNCHED BY THE CENTRE AND STATE GOVERNMENT

tions in the state has gone up from 448 to 1,135 while the number of distribution transformers has also risen from 40,170 in 2000 to 2,70,583 in 2021.

Similarly, the number of EHT (extra high tension) Grid sub-sta-

tions in Odisha has gone up from 58 to 178 during the period. Besides, the EHT capacity has increased from 4,235 MVA to 24,420 MVA.

As a result, the Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (OPTCL) has achieved 99.9 per cent

transmission system availability which is one of the best in the country, said the Energy Minister.

He further informed that around 97 per cent households in the state have been electrified under various schemes launched by the Centre and state government.

Odisha has one of the lowest power purchase cost with no retail tariff hike from the financial year 2002 to 2010. The retail tariff has been increased by Rs 2 in last 20 years and by only 80 paise in last 8 years. Industrial tariff in the state is also amongst the lowest in the country, Deb claimed.

Stating that the state government is prioritising the use of renewable energy, the Energy Minister claimed that Odisha has been able to meet 98 per cent of the RPO target in FY 2021-22.

"Odisha has set examples in the restoration of power supply in quickest possible time following cyclonic storms like Phailin, Hudhud, Fani, Amphan and Yaas," he said.



Donning the attire of tribal women, a group of students of Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar, Friday, celebrates the victory of Droupadi Murmu in the presidential election

Export turnover more than doubled in last 5 yrs: Govt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, July 22: State's export turnover has more than doubled during the last five financial years, MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb told the state Assembly, Friday.

Replying to an unstarred question of BJD legislator Dhruba Charan Sahoo, the Minister said the total export turnover from Odisha was Rs 52,677.09 crore in the financial year 2017-18, which was increased to Rs 1,27,197.66 crore during 2021-22.

Barring the financial year 2018-19, the export from the state recorded a positive growth on each passing year, he said.

The total export from the state stood at Rs 48,119.60 crore in 2018-19, which was increased by 7.53 per cent to Rs 51,742.32 crore in 2019-20 and again by 55.42 per cent in

2020-21 to Rs 80,419.33 crore.

Further, the export turnover from Odisha witnessed a growth of 58.17 per cent during the last financial year.

As per the reply, metallurgical, minerals, engineering/chemical allied, marine and software products are the major contributors to the state's export turnover.

Odisha has exported metallurgical products worth Rs 86,726.64 crore, minerals of Rs 19,374.27 crore, engineering/chemical allied products of Rs 15,496.37 crore and Rs 4,462.08 crore marine products during the last year.

To enhance exportation from Odisha, the state government has been implementing the Odisha Export Policy-2014 and also drafted required amendments to the policy, which is under examination now, said the minister.

58-year-old man found dead in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 22: A 58-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his residence in Shastri Nagar area under Kharavela Nagar police limits here, a police official said Friday.

The deceased Banamasi Behera, who worked as a mason, hailed from Nayagarh, added the official.

"Behera and his family—wife and son—were staying at separate places following a dispute between the couple some days back. Behera was suffering from some ailments for which his son had bought him some medicines a couple of days back," said a police official quoting his son. The incident came to the fore Friday afternoon.

"Behera's neighbours called us alleging some foul smell emanating out of his room in the afternoon. We reached the spot and broke open the door to find Behera's decomposed body lying on the bed," said an official.

CBSE pass percentage dips

Continued from P1
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) have achieved a pass percentage of 99.71, followed by private schools (96.86), Kendriya Vidyalayas (96.61) and schools under the Central Tibetan Schools Administration (91.27). Government and government-aided schools have achieved a pass percentage of 80.68 and 76.73 respectively.

A total of 1,07,689 candidates have been placed under compartment as against 17,636 students last year.

Trivandrum region has achieved the highest pass percentage of 99.68, followed by Bengaluru (99.22), Chennai (98.97), Ajmer (98.14), Patna (97.65), Pune (97.41), Bhubaneswar (96.46), Panchkula (96.33), Noida (96.08), Chandigarh (95.38), Prayagraj (94.74), Dehradun (93.43), Bhopal (93.33), Delhi East (86.96), Delhi West (85.94) and Guwahati (82.23).

The pass percentage for Class XII in 2020 was 88.78 per cent while in 2019 it was 83.40 per cent.

The board did not announce a merit list this year as well. It discontinued the merit lists from 2020 when the schools were closed due to pandemic. Some students and schools claimed they had received the results much earlier than the official announcement.

This year, the pass percentage of girls in Class XII stood at 94.54 per cent while that of boys was 91.25 per cent. The transgender candidates' pass percentage was 100 per cent. A total of 33,432 students have scored above 95 per cent marks while 1,34,797 have scored 90 pc marks. Over 67,000 Class XII students have been placed in compartment.

Suriya, Devgn share Best Actor award

Continued from P1
The Best Playback Singer Male was given to Rahul Deshpande for Marathi film "Mi Vasantrao".

Tamil artiste Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli was named the Best Supporting Actress for her performance in Tamil movie "Sivaranjanikum Innum Sila Pengallum", which also received the Best Editing award for Sreekar Prasad. The Best Hindi Film prize went to "Toolsidas Junior", directed by Mridul Toolsidas. The Ashutosh Gowariker production, which was the last film appearance of late actor Rajiv Kapoor, also received a Special Jury Mention for child actor Varun Buddhadev.

In the music category, Thaman S won the Best Music Direction (Songs) for Allu Arjun's Telugu hit "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo", while Best Lyrics was given to Manoj Muntashir for Hindi film "Saina".

Telugu movie "Natyam" won awards for Best Make-up Artist (TV Rambabu) and Best Choreography (Sandhya Raju). Filmmaker Madonna Ashwin won the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut film of a Director for his Tamil venture "Mandela". He was also given the Best Dialogue writer prize for the film. Best Cinematography award went to Supratim Bhola for the Bengali movie "Avijatrik". "Kali Paine Kalira Cinema" was awarded the best book on cinema (special mention) in Odia language. The book was written by acclaimed Odia film critic Surya Deo and published by Pakshighar Prakashanee.

CLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT

I Debahati Satapathy, aged about 43 years, W/o.- Late Bikash Tripathy, Resident of At-Kujang, PO-Badanga, Dist-Jagatsinghpur, Pin-754141, Odisha hereby declare that I have changed my name from Debahati Satapathy to Debahuti Tripathy by an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar on Dt.22.07.2022.

Hence I shall be known as Debahuti Tripathy for all purposes

State logs 1,178 new Cov cases



Khurda district, which comprises the state capital Bhubaneswar, registered the highest number of new infections at 252, followed by Sundargarh (194), Sambalpur (111) and Cuttack (104)

The death toll remained at 9,130, as no new fatality due to the infection was reported in the last 24 hours

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 22: Odisha recorded 1,178 new Covid-19 cases Friday, 18 less than the previous day, with the tally rising to 13,04,369, a Health department bulletin said.

At least 146 children were among the fresh patients, it said.

The death toll remained at 9,130, as no new fatality due to the infection was reported in the last 24 hours, the bulletin said.

Khurda district, which comprises the state capital Bhubaneswar, registered the highest number of new infections at 252, followed by Sundargarh (194), Sambalpur (111) and Cuttack (104).

Odisha now has 7,245 active cases, while 12,87,941 people have recovered from the disease, including 1,026 in the last 24 hours, the bulletin said.

Fifty-three other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

The test positivity rate was 5.15 per cent as the new cases were

detected from 22,873 sample tests, the bulletin added.

Notably, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) and a few other civic bodies have made wearing of masks mandatory for residents and visitors under their jurisdictions in the wake of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in the state. The civic bodies also asked the people to maintain social distance at public places.

This apart, authorities of shopping malls and shopkeepers have been asked to ensure strict adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour on their premises. Government as well as private offices have also been asked to follow all precautionary measures to check the spread of Covid-19.

The civic authorities in Bhubaneswar have recently opened vaccination centres at three shopping malls to administer free precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccines to the eligible people.

AWARD CEREMONY



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar speaks during an award ceremony by Haricharan Mukherji Memorial Trust at HC Bar Association convention hall in Cuttack, Friday

Celebration of Parents' Day at Indus Towers Limited

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 22: Indus Towers Ltd, one of the largest telecom infrastructure companies, celebrated Parents' Day with their employees Friday at circle office.

The company has transformed lives through sustainable digital infrastructure and services, including with more than 1,85,000 towers across India. Parenthood is one of the most difficult yet most rewarding responsibilities in life.



Balancing countless demands, parents must be firm yet loving, protective yet liberating. Indus Odisha, acknowledging this noble responsibility, celebrated Parents' Day by

organising a meet-up to strengthen the existing bond between the children and their parents.

The event started with an address and presentation by the CCEO,

with the following employees in attendance: Chandini Patra, Jayashree Priyadarshini, Suraj Sahu, Jyoti Patri, Dharanidhar Giri, Debashrita Sarangi, Suraj Tripathy, Ranjan Sahu, Bikash Samantroy. The employees had prepared a video in which they had shared their thoughts lovingly about their parents. The parents were surprised and amused after seeing the video. The event ended with respectful felicitation of all the parents present.

WB arm to aid Odisha in asset monetisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 22: The state government and an organisation of World Bank (WB) have joined hands for implementation of asset monetisation and recycling programme, an official release said Friday.

It is part of a wider World Bank technical assistance to support Odisha in monetising existing public sector assets and enhance the state's economic growth, it said.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the state Industries department and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an organisation of World Bank, in Bhubaneswar Friday.

The programme will facilitate the monetisation process in the

state by unlocking the value from large-scale public investment in the brownfield infrastructure assets and bringing in sector efficiencies, Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) said.

The IFC will support the state in screening and developing a prioritised list of monetisable brownfield state-owned assets for select sectors. The list will be screened further to identify bankable pilot projects that may be taken to market for attracting private sector investments, the state agency said.

Power transmission, energy generation, including renewable and large hydroelectric ones, highways and transport-related land infrastructure assets, warehousing are among the pilot projects.

State's health budget doubled in 3 years: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Friday that the state health budget doubled in the past three years as his government was committed to provide universal access to quality medical services.

The budget provision during the 2019-20 financial year was more than Rs 6,800 crore and it rose to over Rs 12,000 crore this fiscal, Patnaik said.

"This is more than six per cent of the state plan," Patnaik said during a virtual interaction with new medical officers in the Lok Seva Bhavan here. He underlined that the objective was to provide quality, universal access and affordable healthcare by bringing down expenses. At least 358 allopathic and 116 homeopathic medical officers as well as 36 homeopathic lecturers joined the Health department.

India's preventive healthcare sector to reach \$197bn by 2025: Report

India's preventive healthcare sector, which includes fitness and wellness, foods and supplements, early diagnostics and health tracking among others, is projected to reach \$197 billion by 2025, accounting for approximately 36 per cent of the overall healthcare industry, said a report Thursday.

According to the report by strategy consulting firm Redseer Strategy Consultants in collaboration with Chiratae Ventures and Amazon Web Services (AWS), India has traditionally focused on curative care as opposed to preventive care. However, since the Covid-19 pandemic, preventive care has increased in importance across India, growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 22 per cent during 2022-25, as compared to 15 per cent for the curative sector.

A survey conducted with over more than 1,000 individuals reveals that at least 40 per cent of the respondents were highly inclined towards preventive health. Another survey conducted with a group of over 300 health-conscious individuals (HCIs) showed that they actively track different aspects of their health such as lifestyle,



physical wellness, and more, to maintain and prolong wellness.

Further, the report revealed that these HCIs spend on an average between Rs 4,000 and Rs 10,000 on various preventive healthcare practices annually and are also willing to pay up to 50 per cent more in the future.

"India is looking to effectively deliver quality healthcare to a billion people through rapidly evolving technology that can provide affordable, accessible and personalised healthcare," said Sudhir Sethi, founder and chairman Chiratae Ventures.

More than 40 preventive healthcare technology (HealthTech) startups have raised approximately \$1 billion in funding over the last three years to tap the preventive

health opportunity across segments such as nutrition management, condition management, lifestyle monitoring, health checkups, and mental and physical wellness.

They are leveraging cloud computing to build and scale their applications, which generate, digitise and analyse vast amounts of health data using advanced technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), data

INDIA HAS TRADITIONALLY FOCUSED ON CURATIVE CARE AS OPPOSED TO PREVENTIVE CARE. HOWEVER, SINCE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PREVENTIVE CARE HAS INCREASED IN IMPORTANCE ACROSS INDIA

MORE THAN 40 PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY STARTUPS HAVE RAISED APPROXIMATELY \$1 BILLION IN FUNDING OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS TO TAP THE PREVENTIVE HEALTH OPPORTUNITY ACROSS SEGMENTS

tial to open new channels to help monitor health and wellness, decrease the cost of care, improve collaboration, make data-driven clinical and operational decisions, and enable faster development of new therapeutics and treatment paths," said Kumara Raghavan, head - AWS Startups India, Amazon Internet Services Private Limited.

Further, the report also said that not only startups, but diversified corporates and healthcare businesses, are entering the preventive health space by partnering with startups or building their own programs and digital platforms.

The Indian consumer is expected to benefit from the shift from curative to preventive, with the delivery of better health outcomes and lower healthcare costs

"Startups can unlock the potential of preventive healthcare in India by focusing on the 3A's - awareness, accessibility and affordability for consumers. Creating more HCIs, tapping into existing ones and leveraging partnerships with corporates, providers, and insurers ways that can help move in this direction," said Amitabh Kumar, senior manager, Redseer Strategy consultants.


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The only work that spiritually purifies us is that which is done without personal motives.

SRI AUROBINDO



Unexpected Moves

Himachal Pradesh, which is going to the polls shortly, has got a new chief secretary. Ram Dass Dhiman, a 1988-batch IAS officer, got the coveted post after the incumbent Ram Subhag Singh surprised many by quitting and applying for another sought-after post of state Chief Information Commissioner. But apparently, for insiders and those in the know, Singh had started showing interest in vying for the new post almost a year ago giving ample time to Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur to find his replacement. Since Subhag had become the chief secretary in August last year, it is apparent that he began planning his move almost immediately after taking over as chief secretary!

Meanwhile, the search for his successor has been a convoluted one. Dhiman has been chosen over three IAS officers including, interestingly, Subhag's wife Nisha Singh! The other superseded officers are Ali Raza Rizvi and Sanjay Gupta. The supercession is awkward especially given the superb track record of those overlooked.

In the wake of Dhiman's appointment, Nisha Singh has now been named as the principal advisor (training) while Sanjay Gupta has been appointed as the principal advisor (redressal of public grievances). Subhag has still a year of service remaining and will bide his time as the principal advisor (administrative reforms) while he waits for his wish to become the state's new chief information commissioner to fructify.

Promotions spark off IPS row in Haryana

The promotion of several IPS officers in Haryana has triggered a row over the “legal aspects” of the order.

DKB has learnt that a DIG-level IPS officer Hamid Akhtar, who is among those who have been promoted, has asked the state government to modify his promotion order and give it effect nearly six months prior to the order's issuance date. He reportedly sent a representation to the ADGP Crime Branch OP Singh two weeks ago requesting him to raise the issue with the state Director General of Police (DGP) PK Agrawal, who is the final authority on the matter.

Those in the know say that Akhtar's request is not without precedent. Apparently, it is similar to the request of a few other IPS officers who were promoted in 2015, 2017 and 2018 with “immediate effect” while other IPS officers were promoted with “retrospective effect.” Akhtar was promoted to DIG with effect from May 26 this year, but according to him, he should have been promoted with effect from January 1 this year. Watch this space for updates.

Quiet change of guard at Niti Aayog

It's more than a Second Coming for Parmeshwar Iyer, the former IAS officer who has quietly taken charge as the new CEO of Niti Aayog, the government's premier public policy think tank. He has replaced Amitabh Kant who completed his extended tenure last month and has now moved on to steer the G20 deliberations as India's sherpa.

Iyer, many will recall, is a former IAS officer who has over 25 years of experience in the water and sanitation sector in both the public and private sectors. The 1981-batch officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre served as Secretary in the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and also worked as a water and sanitation specialist for the World Bank after retiring from the IAS in 2009. In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi summoned him out of retirement to spearhead the flagship Swachh Bharat Mission, which successfully delivered access to safe sanitation to 550 million people.

As CEO of Niti Aayog, Iyer who has rich experience in policymaking will now lead the Aayog's efforts to catalyze economic development and foster cooperative federalism through the involvement of state governments of India in the economic policymaking process using a bottom-up approach.

Will Iyer's low-key approach be as effective as his predecessor's, who had built a larger-than-life image of the bureaucrat as a celeb thinker? We'll wait and see.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](#). Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

“

The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

“

Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROST

“

The older you get, the lesser you are bothered by what others think.

RUSKIN BOND

WORDSWORTH

Unitasker

A unitasker is a tool or device that does only one thing. Before it meant that, it was a dismissive term for a person who does one job at a time before moving to the next, the opposite of a multitasker. It's one of those slow-burn words that seems to be creeping up on us in a variety of fields, becoming accepted because it's a useful term of abuse to describe those gadgets we buy because they seem like a good idea at the time. This is despite experience teaching us that their advantages don't justify their cost or the space they take up or that a general-purpose item could do the job as well. It's used in particular for specialist kitchen gadgets (electric gravy boat warmers, strawberry slicers, watermelon knives) and odd computing contraptions (USB foot warmers). Unitasker has been popularised by the American TV chef Alton Brown and the website unclutterer.com. Not all unitaskers are bad, of course; some of them are invaluable and their limitations are a strength, not a weakness. What's wrong with a fire extinguisher? It does one job well. (OK, you can use it to prop the door open or brain a burglar, but we're talking about intended uses here.) And one person's useless unitasker is another's onion-ring holder or USB fragrance oil burner. *While I'm skeptical of tools intended for only one purpose, I like the Kindle because it's a unitasker. You can't really use it for the Web or Twitter or e-mail: It's for reading and that's it* (Macworld; Dec. 2010).

Unobtainium

The name, often also spelled as unobtanium, combines unobtainable with the -ium suffix that marks the names of chemical elements. It goes back several decades. This is how it was defined in one of its earliest appearances: *A substance having the exact high test properties required for a piece of hardware or other item of use, but not obtainable whether because it theoretically cannot exist or because technology is insufficiently advanced to produce it.* -- *Interim Glossary, Aero-Space Terms, by Woodford Hefflin, Feb. 1958.* The word had obviously been around for a while in aeronautics circles. The first known reference is in a newspaper in Michigan in February 1956, but it came to wider notice as the result of this syndicated news article 18 months later: *A officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has disclosed specifications of the ultimate material sought by the Air Force. He is Maj. Gen. William O. Senter, chief of procurement and production, who describes it this way: It must be practically weightless, infinitely strong, resist any degree of heat, mill, machine, cast, and stand forging with great ease and be available at negligible cost. “We haven't found this material yet,” Gen. Senter says, “but we do have a name for it. We call it ‘unobtainium.’”* -- *The Zanesville Signal (Ohio), 9 Nov. 1957.*

FOCUS AMERICA

A DANGEROUS DESCENT



Richard K. Sherwin

A LOSS OF FAITH IN STATE POLICE POWER IS DANGEROUS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE IT INVITES SELF-RELiance IN RESPONSE TO PERCEIVED INSECURITY OR INJUSTICE

The mass shootings that regularly disrupt American life should not be viewed simply as random acts. They reflect a steady unraveling of the sovereign authority of the state. Sovereignty, as the ultimate claim to authority, insists on at least two precepts: indivisibility and a monopoly on the legitimate exercise of force. Only the state, through its police power, is permitted to use violence in the state's defense (whether from foreign attack or from domestic terror and criminality).

A loss of faith in state police power is dangerous, not least because it invites self-reliance in response to perceived insecurity or injustice. When the state is no longer trusted to provide security and justice – to preserve the fabric of society – self-reliance represents a potential rival to the state's sovereignty.

Historically, the emergence of fascist political movements has been associated with a parallel rise of private militias: Mussolini's Blackshirts, Hitler's Brownshirts, the Brazilian Greenshirts, and Irish fascist leader Eoin O'Duffy's Blueshirts.

In the United States today, isolated acts of domestic terror coexist alongside more organised forms of violence. Between the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol, the surge of gun sales to an already weapons-saturated public, and the growth and normalisation of extreme right-wing political organisations and militias, there is ample evidence of an accelerating breakdown of shared belief in state sovereignty.

Right-wing “deep state” conspiracy theories and the Republican Party's lies about election rigging reflect a common purpose: to challenge the legitimacy of the state. As that challenge spreads through traditional and social media, non-state sources of violence become increasingly acceptable. Violence is simultaneously condemned and romanticised. Again, this is a familiar pattern in the rise of fascism.

Pervasive violence is self-reinforcing. It demonstrates that the old sovereignty is dead or dying,



The increasingly frequent and alarming incidence of violence in America is no accident. As the history of fascist movements shows, the rise of private militias and self-reinforcing cycles of bloodshed are instrumental in efforts to undermine the sovereign authority of the prevailing state

and thus no longer capable of preserving the indivisibility of sovereign power or maintaining its monopoly on the legitimate use of force. From that premise, it follows that a viable counterforce must enter the fray. As Donald Trump put it January 6, “If you don't fight like hell, you won't have a country anymore.”

Flooding the market with guns – like flooding the marketplace of ideas with “shit” (as former Trump adviser Steve Bannon has advocated) – amplifies social instability. As confusion and fear grow, the forces of reaction gain strength. Those in fear might not be willing to exercise violence themselves, but they will increasingly embrace those who are willing to do so on their behalf.

The best way to shield liberal democracy against this growing threat is to mobilise the institutions that still function: the press, peaceful assembly, and the electoral process. But this must happen quickly, because all three are increasingly at risk. Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok are now our dominant sources of news; but, owing to their “attention economy” business models, profit has priority over truth. Because lies

spread faster and hold attention longer than facts, they ultimately are worth more to companies that depend on users' attention time for advertising.

Meanwhile, the right of public assembly is being threatened by new state laws that open the door to committing violence against peaceful protesters. In Oklahoma, for example, drivers who strike – or even kill – someone with their car will no longer be held liable if they are “fleeing from a riot ... under a reasonable belief that fleeing was necessary to protect the motor vehicle operator from serious injury or death.” The same measure also creates new penalties for protesters who obstruct streets or vehicle traffic, including fines of up to \$5,000 and as much as a year in jail.

Similarly, in Florida and Iowa, people who drive into crowds of protesters may claim civil immunity if they say they were acting in self-defence. The danger posed by such laws should be obvious. An analysis by Ari Weil of the Chicago Project on Security and Threats shows that in 2020, following the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, there were 72 incidents of cars

being driven into protesters across 52 cities in the space of just one month.

Lastly, the electoral process is being threatened by state laws that could empower (Republican-led) state legislatures to ignore presidential election outcomes by substituting their own Electoral College electors in place of the ones chosen by the state's voters. Ominously, the US Supreme Court recently gestured toward endorsing a fringe legal doctrine that would immunise state legislatures from state or federal judicial review – meaning that there would be no lawful means of blocking legislatively substituted Electoral College votes.

Given these mounting threats, the defence of core democratic institutions – a free press, the right to peaceful assembly, and free and fair elections – will require not only increased collective engagement but also real courage.

It will take the kind of courage shown by former slaves in the face of Jim Crow and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan after the Civil War. It will take the kind of courage shown by 1960s activists who battled entrenched segregationists for civil rights. And it will take the kind of courage shown by women who fought to win the vote, and who now must fight anew for the right to make their own reproductive choices.

The stakes this time may be as high as they have ever been, but the essential lesson remains the same. In a free republic, fundamental rights must be earned anew whenever the sovereign authority of the state – embodying the core values that bind Americans together – is threatened. The violence erupting across America today presses against the guardrails of civil discourse and the rule of law, testing whether the struggle for shared identity – the country's founding ideal of E Pluribus Unum (“Out of Many, One”) – can peacefully continue.

The writer is Professor of Law and Director of the Visual Persuasion Project at New York Law School.

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SPECTRUM JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

Extending our understanding of universe



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

THE JWST IS DESIGNED TO PEEK INTO THE INFRARED REGION OF THE SPECTRUM UNLIKE ITS PREDECESSOR, THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

With the release of the first images of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) 12 July by NASA, we are now moving closer to our understanding of how our universe formed and took shape. The stunning images will take us back in time to several billion years and show the most distant galaxies which were formed at the early stage of the universe just after the Big Bang and try to answer some of the fundamental questions that have baffled mankind like who we are and how we got here!

It is believed that our universe formed from the explosion of a hot super dense body that existed as a ‘singularity’ some 13.8 billion years ago. Space and time had no meaning then. After its initial expansion, the universe cooled sufficiently to allow the formation of subatomic particles, and later atoms. Giant clouds of these primordial elements, mostly hydrogen, later coalesced due to gravity, forming early stars and galaxies, the descendants of which are visible today. Now, these galaxies have moved very far and have cooled substantially so that they hardly emit any radiation to be detected by our instruments. However, they do emit very

weak infrared radiations characteristic of their extremely low temperatures. The JWST hopes to capture some of these radiations to show these distant and coldest galaxies with unprecedented detail.

The JWST is designed to peek into the universe in the infrared region of the spectrum unlike its predecessor, the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) launched by NASA in 1990 that sees the universe mostly with ultraviolet and visible wavelengths. By studying infrared light, JWST can penetrate the clouds of dust that obscure newborn stars and can peer farther into the cosmos than ever before. Galaxies that lie very far from Earth can be seen only at the infrared wavelengths, because the expansion of the universe has shifted their light beyond the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum into the infrared region due to an effect called the cosmological Red Shift.

JWST's primary mirror consists of 18 hexagonal segments made of gold-plated beryllium, which create a 21-ft diameter mirror, compared with Hubble's 7-ft mirror. This gives JWST a light-collecting area of about 25 square meters, about six

times that of the Hubble and that's why it could see objects 100 times fainter than Hubble. This makes JWST the most powerful telescope ever built by humanity. The telescope is placed at the second Lagrange point in space some 1.5 million km away from the Earth covered with sun shield sails in order to protect itself from the interference of the infrared radiations emitted by its own instruments.

JWST is the culmination of 20 years of international collaborative effort of NASA with European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and built at a cost of \$1000 crore. It was launched to space 25 December, 2021 from an ESA launch site in Kouru, French Guiana aboard an Ariane 5 rocket. According to NASA, the JWST project involved over 300 universities, organisations and companies across 29 US states and 14 countries. Although its initial life span is about 5.5 years, it is expected to operate for at least 20 years in space.

JWST has delivered the deepest and sharpest infrared images of the distant universe to date. Webb's first deep field image was a galaxy cluster formed 4.6 billion years ago, named SMACS 0723, taken in a

grain size expanse of the sky looked from our arm's length. It is found to be teeming with young and old galaxies. The second image was a hot puffy planet, named WASP-96b, outside our Solar System that reveals the clear signature of water, along with evidence of haze and clouds that previous studies could not detect. The third image was a planetary nebula, called the Southern Ring nebula that surrounds a dying star some 2000 light years away from us. The fourth image shows some interacting galaxies, called the Stephan's Quintet that would allow scientists to know how stars were formed from vast clouds of dust and gas. The final image was the Carina nebula that unveils the earliest, rapid phases of star formation that were previously hidden from us.

The journey has just begun. As more images pour in, we hope to understand our universe deeper and better than ever before. And then, we will be, probably, able to read the mind of God: the nature of His mysterious and elusive creation.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

A journey of struggle

Sir, This refers to “Cakewalk for Murmu” (**Orissa POST**, July 22). Odisha and her people have reasons to be proud of as Droupadi Murmu has won the Presidential election by a comfortable majority. India will now have the youngest Head of State, born after Independence and most importantly a member from the Adivasi community, who not only has enough political experience and insight but also humility and grace to give meaning to the office and chair. From Rairangpur to Raisina Hills, Murmu's journey had been one of struggle and consistency. This would not have been possible without the facilitation of PM Narendra Modi. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has wished her all success, while her rival Yashwant Sinha has congratulated her and desires that she protects the law and the Constitution of the country. Murmu has faced unbearable pain in her personal life but has shown no callousness in pursuit of her political struggle, an eye opener for all that success is guaranteed to hard-working people, not to the lazy and the casual. The BJP leadership may have political reasons in selection of the candidate for Presidency, in hindsight the country has got the President-elect from the most marginalised community of 10 crore crying for social and economic justice. I have every optimism that Murmu will play fair from Rashtrapati Bhawan abiding to the Constitution with utmost humility and refinement and listen to all voices of society, and won't be a mere rubber stamp. The Opposition parties had also presented an elder statesman in the race but could not be a success for reasons which can be another story in your paper. History has been scripted, says our PM rightly. The country needs peace and progress and specially a working connect between the ruling party and the Opposition, the road to conflict will take us nowhere.

Parthasarathy Sen, DELHI

Opposition disunity

Sir, The Trinamool Congress' (TMC)'s move to abstain from voting in the Vice-Presidential election slated to be held August 6 has laid bare the disunity in the Opposition ranks. The Mamata Banerjee-led party's grouse was that the Opposition finalised the name of Margaret Alva as their choice of Vice-President without proper consultation and deliberation with the TMC. But one wonders why the TMC adopted this ploy considering that the NDA candidate and West Bengal Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, had frequent run-ins with the Trinamool leadership. Politics indeed makes strange bedfellows!

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

of the day quote

We welcome Droupadi Murmu's victory and are happy that a tribal woman has assumed the top post. We supported her candidature. We expect her to uphold and protect the constitutional values

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

Paddy procurement in Tamil Nadu has been advanced by one month to September of the 2022-23 kharif marketing season following a request from the state

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Out of the 34 @AITCofficial MPs (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha combined) who cast their votes at the WB Assembly, at least 4 cross voted in favour of Smt. Draupadi Murmu ji. 2 got counted in her favour and other 2 were regarded invalid. Saffron greetings to those 4 TMC MPs

SEVENDU ADHIKARI | LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN WB ASSEMBLY

SHORT TAKES

8 held for offering 'namaz' in public

Haridwar: Eight people were arrested for offering 'namaz' at a weekly market in Uttarakhand's Haridwar, police said Friday. The accused were later granted bail by the sub-divisional magistrate's (SDM) court, they said. Following a tip-off, Nizam, 22, Nasim, 52, Sajjad Ahmad, 50, Mursalin, 38, Ashraf, 45, Asgar, 37, Mustafa, 35, and Ikram, 47, were arrested in Shivalik Nagar colony late Thursday evening for offering 'namaz' at a weekly market, Superintendent of Police (City) Swatantra Kumar said. They were arrested under Section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code (design to commit any cognisable offence) and produced before the SDM's court. The court gave them a warning and granted them bail, he said.

Tailor killing: NIA arrests 8th accused

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested the eighth accused in the case of the horrific killing of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiyya Lal Teli, allegedly over his support to a now suspended BJP spokesperson's remarks on the Prophet, an official said. The accused, identified as Mohammed Javed, 19, was arrested Thursday. He had allegedly played a key role in the conspiracy of killing Kanhaiyya Lal June 28 by conducting recce and passing on the information about presence of the victim at his shop to the main killer accused Riyaz, officials said.

Flying articles banned in Delhi

New Delhi: In a bid to avoid terror strikes and aby untoward incidents, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Friday prohibited flying of various sub-conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, UAVs, hot air balloons, or para-jumping over the jurisdiction of the national capital's territory.

ED defers Sonia's summons to July 26

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has deferred by a day to July 26 the summons issued to Congress President Sonia Gandhi for her questioning in the National Herald newspaper-linked money laundering case, officials said Friday.



As Big Tech companies continue to urge the government to remove certain provisions in the new IT Rules, 2021
RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR IT & ELECTRONICS

BOOSTING ECONOMY

Tamil Nadu Food Department has commenced moves to increase the production of turmeric in the state and to export it globally, an official said. Principal Secretary, Food, Consumer Protection, and Cooperation, J. Radhakrishnan told media persons that farmers would get additional profit if they convert the produce into value-added products and sell it in a global market



ED attaches Nirav's property worth ₹253 crore

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 22: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday said it has attached proceeds of crime in the form of movable properties i.e. gems and jewellery and bank accounts amounting to \$30.98 million and HKD 5.75 million, equivalent to Rs 253.62 crore in the case of the Nirav Modi group of companies in Hong Kong, SAR, China.

"On the basis of FIR under Section 420, 467, 471 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Section 13 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 registered by CBI, BS & FC Branch, Mumbai, ED had initiated investigation by recording ECIR under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002A in the case of PNB Bank Fraud of Rs 6498.20 crore,"the official said.

During the course of the PMLA investigation, some assets of the Modi group of companies in Hong Kong were identified in the form of gems and jewellery lying in private vaults and bank balances in accounts maintained in Hong Kong, which is provisionally attached vide instant attachment order of Rs 253.62 Crore under Section 5 of PMLA, 2002.

Previously the ED had attached movable and immovable assets of Nirav Modi and associates to the tune of Rs 2386.45 crore in India and abroad. With the present attach-

Nirav Modi, 51, is presently lodged in a UK jail and has lost his extradition plea to India in connection with the \$2-billion PNB fraud case that is also being investigated by the CBI

ment, the total attachment of assets of Rs 2650.07 crore has been effected in the case against Nirav Modi by the ED.

Furthermore, movable and immovable assets of Modi and his associates amounting to Rs 1389 crore, have been confiscated under provisions of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 by the Special Court (FEOA), Mumbai.

The official said that the process of physical handing over of the confiscated assets is in progress and part of the confiscated assets has already been physically handed over to the victim banks.

"Earlier in this case, 2 Prosecution Complaints under PMLA, 2002 have already been filed by the Directorate against Nirav Modi and associated entities before Special Court (PMLA). Simultaneously, the extradition proceedings against fugitive, Nirav Modi is at final stage in London, UK," said the official.



Azam Khan case: SC criticises HCs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 22: The Supreme Court Friday criticised the new trend where high courts have made irrelevant observations, not connected with a case before them, and going overboard by imposing pointless conditions in bail matters.

A bench, headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar, said it is disturbed by such orders passed by high courts and cited directions passed by a separate bench setting aside an order, similar in nature.

The bench, also comprising Justice JB Pardiwala, set aside the Allahabad High Court's bail condition to seal the premises of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University at Rampur while granting bail to

Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan. He is one of the members of the board of trustees of the university. Expressing disappointment with the new trend, the top court said the high courts are exceeding their authority to delve into issues which are not relevant to the determination of the bail pleas.

The top court noted that if sealing proceedings were to take place, then it should have been independent of the observations made by the high court.

Only July 18, the Supreme Court stayed all proceedings and adverse remarks, calling for B summary reports and service records, against the Karnataka ACB by a Karnataka High Court judge. A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said



A child offers prayer at a temple on the first Friday of Tamil month of Aadi in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

ED seizes huge cash during raids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 22: Officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing the recruitment irregularities in the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) and West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE) have recovered huge amount of cash and several mobile phones from the house of a close aide of former state Education Minister and Trinamool Congress Secretary General Partha Chatterjee, who is currently the Commerce and Industries Minister in West Bengal.

The cash seized from the residence of Arpita Mukherjee, known to be a close aide of Chatterjee, amounts to around Rs 20 crore.

The ED sleuths have also recovered 20 mobile phones from the posh residence of Mukherjee at the Diamond City complex in Tollygunge.

The officials believe that these mobile phones will provide crucial links to the teachers' recruitment scam in WBSSC and WBBPE. The ED has also released a statement to a section of the media



Rs 20 crore cash seized by ED from the premises of an aide of West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee after the agency conducted raids

PTI PHOTO

claiming that it was conducting search operations at various places in connection with the teachers' recruitment scam during which huge amount of cash was seized. The ED sleuths called some bank officials for counting purposes who arrived at Mukherjee's residence with currency counting machines. ED sources said that the residence of Mukherjee was not there in the initial list of 13 places, where the agency had been conducting raids

since Friday morning.

However, Mukherjee's name surfaced during the course of the raids following which the ED sleuths, escorted by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, reached her residence and launched a search and seizure operation.

The ED sleuths are currently grilling Mukherjee to unearth the source of the cash as well the purpose for which so many mobile phones were used.

TOP COURT JUNKS PLEA TO INCREASE SMOKING AGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 22: The Supreme Court Friday junked a plea seeking a direction to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21, and ban the sale of loose cigarettes.

A bench comprising Justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia rejected the plea filed by two advocates. "If you want publicity, argue a good case...Don't file publicity interest litigation," the bench said while dismissing the plea.

The apex court was hearing a public interest litigation filed by advocates Shubham Awasthi and Sapta Rishi Mishra seeking guide-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

lines to control smoking.

The plea also sought directions to remove smoking zones from commercial places besides banning sale of loose cigarettes near educational and healthcare institutions and also places of worship.

Over 16cr women globally have unmet contraceptive needs: Study

THE RESEARCHERS USED MODELLING TO PRODUCE NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF VARIOUS FAMILY PLANNING INDICATORS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 22: Over 16 crore women and adolescents with need to prevent pregnancy remained without contraception in 2019, despite major increases in use at a global level since 1970, according to a study published in *The Lancet Journal*.

Expanding access to contraception is linked to women's social and economic empowerment and better health outcomes and is a key goal of international initia-

tives, and a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator, the researchers said. Contraception use is also associated with reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality by preventing unintended pregnancies, they said.

Based on data from 1,162 self-reported representative surveys on women's contraceptive use, the researchers used modelling to produce national estimates of various family planning indicators.

Women were defined as needing contraception when they were married or if unmarried, sexually active, able to get pregnant and not wanting a child within two years, or if they were pregnant or had just given birth but would have preferred to delay or prevent their pregnancy.

The researchers noted that worldwide, the share of women of reproductive age using modern contraception increased from 28 per cent in 1970 to 48 per cent in 2019.



Representational image

Demand met rose from 55 per cent in 1970 to 79 per cent in 2019.

Despite the major increases, 163 million (over 16 crore) women who were not currently using contraception were considered to have need in 2019, out of 1.2 billion (over 100 crore) women who needed contraception in total, they said.

"Although we have observed excellent strides in contraceptive

availability since the 1970s at a global level, there is still a long way to go to ensure that every woman and adolescent girl can benefit from the economic and social empowerment contraceptives can offer," said Annie Haakenstad, from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, US.

"Our results indicate that where

a woman lives in the world and their age still significantly impacts their use of contraception," Haakenstad said. In 2019, the availability of contraceptives still differed significantly between regions and across different countries.

Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania had the highest use of modern contraceptives (65 per cent) and demand satisfied (90 per cent), whereas sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest use of modern contraceptives (24 per cent) and demand satisfied (52 per cent). Between countries, levels of modern contraceptive use ranged from 2 per cent in South Sudan to 88 per cent in Norway. Unmet need was highest in South Sudan (35 per cent), Central African Republic (29 per cent) and Vanuatu (28 per cent) in 2019. "The higher unmet need among partnered adolescent women represents a risk for unintended pregnancies, affecting the subsequent socioeconomic empowerment of these groups," said

Manas Ranjan Pradhan, from International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.

"The sociodemographic index influences the mCPR (modern contraceptive prevalence rate) and demand satisfaction among adolescents, probably due to vast inequalities on the basis of socioeconomic status and access to health-care services," said Ranjan, who was not involved in the study.

The Family Planning 2020 Initiative (FP2020) set a goal of increasing the number of women using modern contraception by 120 million between 2012 and 2020 in 69 priority countries, the researchers said.

The study estimated that the number of women using contraception increased by 69 million (6.9 crore) between 2012 and 2019 in these countries, leaving the initiative 51 million (5.1 crore) short of reaching its goal if these levels remained unchanged in 2020, they said.



TWO STATES



LG recommends CBI probe into Delhi's excise policy

CM Arvind Kejriwal claims his deputy Manish Sisodia to be arrested in 'fake' case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 22: Manish Sisodia is a "hardcore honest" man, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Friday, fearing that his deputy will be framed in a "completely fake case" by the CBI and arrested in a few days.

His remarks came after Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the Delhi Excise Policy, 2021-22 over alleged violations of rules and procedural lapses.

Sisodia heads the excise department of the Delhi government.

At an online press briefing, Kejriwal said he has known Sisodia for 22 years. "I came to know that a case has been sent to the CBI against Manish Sisodia and the agency is going to arrest him in a few days. It is a completely fake case. There is not even an iota of truth in this case," the national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said.

"This case will not hold in a court.



"I came to know that a case has been sent to the CBI against Manish Sisodia and the agency is going to arrest him in a few days. It is a completely fake case. There is not even an iota of truth in this case"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

Manish is a hardcore honest man and he will walk free," he said.

Kejriwal also said AAP leaders are not afraid of going to jail as they have done no wrong.

At a press briefing, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj alleged that the CBI probe was recommended by the LG at the behest of the BJP-led Centre to implicate Sisodia in a fake case and keep the Kejriwal-led party at bay in the upcoming Assembly polls. He also alleged that the Centre

has been making efforts to "somehow" implicate all the ministers in the Delhi government in fake cases as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scared of the growing popularity of the AAP and Kejriwal.

"The Centre will try to implicate more of our ministers. It has asked officials to find out anything, true or false, and launch a probe so that the AAP can be kept confined to Delhi and Punjab," Bhardwaj said replying to a question.

Referring to the arrest of

Sateyendar Jain by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case, Bhardwaj alleged that the Centre has been making efforts to "somehow" implicate the ministers in the Delhi government in fake cases since the AAP's stupendous victory in the Punjab Assembly polls earlier this year.

"We have been anticipating that after Jain, the Centre will try to implicate Sisodia also," he said.

"This is happening because the growing popularity of Arvind Kejriwal across the country has scared the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Bhardwaj said.

The CBI inquiry was recommended on the basis of a report filed by the Delhi chief secretary earlier this month, showing prima facie violations of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, the Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR), 1993, the Delhi Excise Act, 2009 and the Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, officials said.

According to sources, the LG has found "substantive indications" of "financial quid pro quo" at the "top political level," wherein the excise minister "took and got executed major decisions in violation of statutory provisions" and notified the excise policy that had "huge financial implications."

Yediyurappa signals end of his electoral politics



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 22: Former Karnataka Chief Minister and veteran BJP leader BS Yediyurappa Friday announced his retirement from electoral politics, saying he is "back-tracking" to make way for his son BY Vijayendra.

He made the announcement in Anjanapura of Shikaripura in Shivamogga district in Karnataka, saying he would not contest for next assembly elections from Shikaripura constituency from where he began his political career.

Vijayendra is currently holding the post of Vice President in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"I won't contest in the next elections from Shikaripura. Vijayendra will contest in my place. I appeal to the people to ensure his resounding victory," he stated.

There was a demand from

Mysuru region for Vijayendra to contest elections.

"However, as I am vacating the constituency, he will represent it in the upcoming assembly elections," he said.

Vijayendra, reacting to his father Yediyurappa's announcement, said he will follow the guidance of his father and the party's decision. "...I will see what party decides in this regard and take a call later," he said.

"There is no question of pressurising my father (Yediyurappa). He was involved in the organisation of the BJP earlier, and in future also, he will continue the work," he stated.

Yediyurappa, while announcing his resignation, also said that he would once again bring the party to power with a clear majority.

"He will tour the state and fight to bring the BJP to power," Vijayendra stated.

Lekhi slams Delhi CM for creating 'rift' between India & Singapore

Delhi LG VK Saxena has rejected files on Kejriwal's proposed visit for the World Cities Summit in the first week of August, saying attending the conference of mayors would not befit his stature as Chief Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 22: Amid the controversy over Arvind Kejriwal's proposed Singapore visit, Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi Friday referred to a May 2021 tweet by the Delhi Chief Minister about a "Singapore strain" of coronavirus to claim he had tried to create a "rift" between the two friendly nations.

Delhi LG VK Saxena has rejected files on Kejriwal's proposed visit for the World Cities Summit in the first week of August, saying attending the conference of mayors would not befit his stature as chief minister.

Kejriwal had Wednesday asserted he will go ahead with the visit by seeking "political clearance" from the Ministry of External Affairs.

Asked about the controversy, Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi told a press conference here Friday Kejriwal had tweeted about a COVID-19 variant from the Singapore saying it was dangerous for children.

The Singapore government had slammed Kejriwal saying politi-



"The AAP government violated rules and procedures to promote cartelisation to benefit liquor companies in Delhi"

MEENAKSHI LEKHI | UNION MINISTER

cians should stick to the facts and that their is no Singapore variant, she said, reading out of a note.

"This is the history of the man. This is how he tweeted (about) Singapore in the past. This is how he tried to create a rift between India and Singapore which is a friendly nation," she said.

May 18 last year, Kejriwal had in a tweet in Hindi called for cancelling all air services with Singapore with immediate effect saying a new strain of coronavirus found in that country could cause a third wave in India.

"The new form of coronavirus

in Singapore is said to be very dangerous for children. It could reach Delhi in the form of a third wave. My appeal to the Central government: 1. Cancel all air services with Singapore with immediate effect 2. Work on vaccine alternatives for children on a priority basis," Kejriwal had said in a tweet in Hindi.

Following the Singapore foreign ministry's reaction regretting the "unfounded assertions" by Kejriwal, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said the Delhi chief minister does not speak for India.

Lip-lock challenge: 8 students booked under POCSO act

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dakshina Kannada, July 22: Karnataka police have booked eight students under Pocso Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) in connection with hosting a kissing challenge at a private residence in Mangaluru city, police said Friday.

A video of minor students of a reputed college smooching in the presence of others at a private residence has gone viral on social media stirring a controversy.

Police probe showed that the students had got the flat on rent for two months and took their girlfriends to play truth and dare game, in which they engaged in a lip-lock. The video which came in public domain shocked and created concerns among parents across the state.

The Pocso case had been registered against the students in Pandeshwara Women police station of Mangaluru. One of the students, who captured the video and made it viral, was detained initially and later the police detained three others in connection with questioning, explain police sources.

One of the accused students has gone abroad and the police will question all the accused in the case. The police department had requested college and school authorities to keep vigil on the activities of students.

It has also directed the authorities of education institutions to allow police to investigate the se-



rious matters instead of sorting it out through internal committees.

N. Shashikumar, Commissioner of Police for Mangaluru city, stated that the incident had taken place six months ago in a flat in Mangaluru. The students were playing a truth and dare game during the lip-lock competition.

One of the boys who was present had put the video on Whatsapp a week ago. It has come to the notice of the school administration and authorities have warned students and suspended them, he stated.

The video shows a college boy and girl coming together and smooching passionately as others in the room cheer for them. Sources explain that the group of students held a lip-lock competition among themselves.

Sources say that students belonged to a reputed college and the video has shocked the traditional coastal district and raised concern across the state worrying parents.

The Mangaluru police are acting swiftly on the issue as it is likely to turn into a crisis. The police are also verifying whether the students had consumed drugs.

500 trees planted by 3 PWD officials held guilty in contempt case, HC told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 22: The Delhi High Court was informed Thursday that over 500 trees have been planted in the city by three PWD officials, who were held guilty of contempt of court earlier this year for violating judicial orders on the protection of trees.

The high court, which noted that several encouraging photographs of tree planting have been placed on record, said the officials shall also plant the remaining 300 trees and file a report before it.

The court had July 13 granted an opportunity to three PWD officials to plant 830 trees in the city to mitigate their "wrongdoing" concerning the contempt case against them and kept in abeyance its order send-



ing them to jail for committing contempt of court.

Justice Najmi Waziri was informed by the counsel for the PWD officials that they have planted 547 trees of various varieties at the identified spots at Mathura Road and the remaining shall be planted by July 31. The court was informed that 60 trees have been planted on the land opposite the Supreme Court. The court, on a contempt petition by Neeraj Sharma, had held that the conduct of the officials was in breach of the judicial orders concerning

the preservation and protection of trees. The petitioner was represented by lawyer Aditya N Prasad.

During the hearing, Prasad pointed out that the trees planted near Supreme Court may not survive as the land has several layers of concrete and water would not percolate as these are impervious materials. To this, the court said, "let this aspect be examined by the Deputy Conservator of Forest along with the assistance of Director (Horticulture) New Delhi Municipal Council S. Chellaiah, whom the respondents will request to assist".

The court said if more concrete is required to be removed from the area where the trees have been planted, it shall be done, and thereafter, the trees shall be planted again.

Villagers build bus shelter; chief guest is buffalo

IN A MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT TO THE RULING BJP, THE VIDEOS OF THE EVENT HAVE GONE VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gadag (Karnataka), July 22: Enraged by the apathy of authorities and legislators for not caring to build a bus shelter for 40 years, villagers in Karnataka built one themselves and made a buffalo the chief guest. In a major embarrassment to the ruling BJP, the videos of the event have gone viral on social media.

The incident took place in the



Balehosur village of Laxmeshwar taluk in Gadag district of the state, where the bus shelter was built 40 years ago, and its roof collapsed a decade ago.

The bus shelter was turned into

a dumping yard and commuters had to wait for buses close to this spot in the scorching sun and heavy rain.

Lokesh Jalawadagi, the farmer leader, explained that a memo-

randum had been submitted and pleas were made innumerable times to sitting BJP MLA Ramappa Lamani and MP Shivakumar Udasi.

"The village has a population of 5,000 and everyday, hundreds of students travel from the village to surrounding towns," says Virupaksha Itagi.

The villagers decided to protest against the government's indifference in a novel way.

They built the roof of the shelter with coconut branches and made a buffalo the chief guest. They also held a ribbon cutting ceremony and decked up the buffalo to register the protest more impactfully.

After the videos and photos went viral on social media, the authorities and legislators gave assurance that they will make a bus shelter soon.

The state, which is still reeling under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, is now staring at a drought-like situation. Farmers are not able plant seeds due to scanty rainfall. I am worried. The prediction of meteorological department is also not encouraging

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

Rebellion by Shiv Sena legislators is not betrayal of Sena and Uddhav Thackeray, but betrayal of humanity

AADITYA THACKERAY | SHIV SENA LEADER

It is ironical that the state which has most successfully implemented MSP since the initiation of this scheme has been kept out the committee

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Chitra sent to 14 days judicial custody

New Delhi: Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court Friday sent former National Stock Exchanges (NSE) CEO and MD, Chitra Ramkrishna to fourteen days judicial custody in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to phone tapping of NSE employees between 2009 and 2017. She was produced in the court after the expiry of her custodial remand. Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey was also placed under arrest in this matter. He is currently under nine days custodial remand of ED.

Hooch tragedy: Toll rises to 13

Kolkata: Spurious liquor at Ghusuri in Howrah district of West Bengal has claimed three more lives taking the death toll in the tragedy to 13, police said Friday. Local police sources said three more persons namely Kameshwar Rao, Nitish Singh and Balaram Manna, who were admitted to the hospital Wednesday, died late Thursday evening. All of them were workers of the local factories in the Ghusuri area.

Heavy rains lash parts of Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Heavy rains lashed Hyderabad and several other parts of Telangana Friday, inundating low-lying areas and disrupting normal life. Vehicular traffic was thrown out of gear in Hyderabad and outskirts due to heavy rains since morning. Roads were flooded at several places, causing severe hardships to the motorists.

Two Maoist held

Patna: Jamui police arrested two hardcore Maoist commanders from the jungles of Gidheshwar block, an official said Friday. Jamui police received a tip-off that some Maoist operatives have taken shelter in the jungles of Gidheshwar and Sikandra blocks. Accordingly, the message was passed to CRPF cobra battalion and STF. They cordoned off the area under the supervision of SP (Operation) Shaurya Suman and started combing operations in the jungles Wednesday evening.

Constable shoots self

New Delhi: A Delhi Police head constable allegedly shot himself dead Friday with his service revolver in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area, officials said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Priyanka Kashyap said around 12:45 pm, the city police's crime branch staff inside the Laxmi Nagar police station premises noticed that head constable Narender had shot himself in his car parked in the parking area of the Laxmi Nagar police colony.



Congratulations to all my young friends who passed the CBSE Class XII exams. The grit and dedication of these youngsters is commendable

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

DOCTORS' STRIKE IN GUJARAT

Approximately 40,000 doctors of private hospitals in Gujarat struck work Friday putting off 30,000 surgeries in protest against a new directive to shift all ICUs on the ground floor



EC issues certificate of election to Murmu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 22: The Poll panel Friday issued the certificate of election to NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu who secured victory in the presidential poll. The certificate is issued after the returning officer hands over the result to the poll panel. The process, which was initiated June 15 with the publication of programme notification in the Gazette, culminated Friday with the signing of the Certification of the Election of Droupadi Murmu as the 15th President of the Republic of India by Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner of India and Anup Chandra Pandey, Election Commissioner. Thereafter, a signed copy of the same was handed over to the Union Home Secretary by Dharmendra Sharma, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner and Narendra N. Butolia, Senior Principal Secretary which will be read out at the time of oath taking ceremony July 25. The Commission puts on record its sincere appreciation to the entire team of the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officers, CEOs, ECI Observers, Delhi Police, CISE, DGCA and BCAS for their excellent cooperation in the conduct of the aforesaid election, said the statement issued by EC Friday.



ON CLOUD NINE



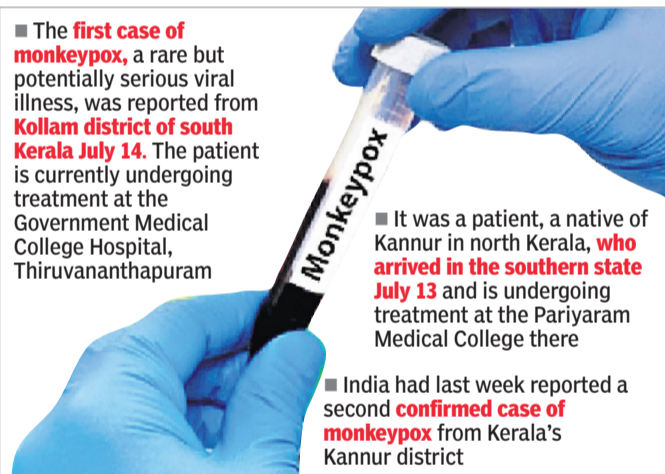
Students celebrate after CBSE declared Class 12th results, at Blue Bells School in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

Kerala reports 3rd case of monkeypox

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, July 22: A 35-year old man, who came to Kerala from the UAE earlier this month, has tested positive for monkeypox, making him the third case of the virus from the country as well as the state. Health Minister Veena George said the Malappuram native arrived in the southern state July 6 and had fever since July 13. He was undergoing treatment at the Manjeri Medical College there and his health condition is stable, she said. The minister also said all those who were in close contact with the patient are being closely monitored and their health condition is also stable. However, George made it clear that there was no need to panic over the disease as testing and surveillance have been intensified across the state. "Everybody should be aware about the disease...Isolation



facilities have been arranged in all districts. Surveillance has been intensified after setting up help desks in airports," she said after a high level meeting of health department officials here. The minister also directed to ensure that all health workers in the state are trained to deal with the disease.

'95% cases transmitted through sexual activity'

SYDNEY: Sexual closeness is the most likely route of transmission in 95 per cent of monkeypox cases, according to a global case study series from across 16 countries. However, the virus can be transmitted by any close physical contact through large respiratory droplets and potentially through clothing and other surfaces, said researchers at Queen Mary University of London. In the study, the team reported 528 infections diagnosed between April 27 and June 24, 2022, at 43 sites in 16 countries. The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), showed 95 per cent of the persons presented with a rash (with 64 per cent having less than 10 lesions), 73 per cent had anogenital lesions, and 41 per cent had mucosal lesions (with 54 having a single genital lesion).



India had last week reported a second confirmed case of monkeypox from Kerala's Kannur district. It was a patient, a native of Kannur in north Kerala, who arrived in the southern state July 13 and is undergoing treatment at the Pariyaram Medical College there. The first case of monkeypox, a rare but potentially serious viral illness, was reported from Kollam district of south Kerala on July 14. The patient is currently undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. According to the World Health Organisation, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals), with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe.

SC CLOSES PLEAS ON VIKAS DUBEY ENCOUNTER CASE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 22: The Supreme Court Friday closed hearing on pleas seeking relief including re-constitution of a commission to inquire into the encounter of gangster Vikas Dubey and others, and directed the Uttar Pradesh government to act upon the recommendations of the panel. A bench comprising Chief justice N V Ramana and Justices Krishan Murari and Hima Kohli also directed that the report of the three-member inquiry panel headed by Justice (ret'd) B S Chauhan of the apex court be put in public domain and uploaded on its website. The Justice Chauhan panel, in its report, had said there is no suspicion or doubt about the police version of the killing of gangster Dubey and other members of his



Dubey was killed in an encounter in the morning of July 10, 2020 when a police vehicle carrying him from Ujjain to Kanpur met with an accident and he tried to escape from the spot in Bhauti area

gang in encounters after the Bikrumb ambush in Kanpur in July, 2020 as nobody from the public or the media came to contradict the police claim and no evidence was filed in rebuttal. One of the petitioners, lawyer Ghanshyam Upadhyay, had sought re-constitution of the inquiry commission to inquire into the encounter of the gangster and others. On August 19, 2020, the top court had dismissed a plea seeking scrapping of the judicial commission.

1,134 Indians in Nepal jails

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 22: There are a total of 1,134 Indian prisoners, including undertrials, in Nepal jails, the Parliament was told Friday. Minister of State of External Affairs V. Muraleedharan told the Lok Sabha in a written reply that the government attaches the highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indians in foreign countries, including those in the foreign jails. "As soon as the information about the detention/arrest of an Indian national is received by Embassy of India in Nepal, it immediately gets in touch with the concerned local authorities to get con-

sular access to the detained/arrested Indian national to ascertain the facts of the case, confirm his Indian nationality, and ensure his welfare. Apart from extending them all possible consular assistance, legal assistance to imprisoned Indians is being provided by the Embassy in deserving cases on a means tested basis." "Cases are also raised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal for taking up the matter with concerned authorities of Government of Nepal. The issue of repatriation of Indian nationals in Nepalese prisons is regularly pursued by Embassy with the local authorities concerned," he said.

28,663 INDIAN APPLICANTS WAITING TO ADOPT A CHILD



AGENCIES

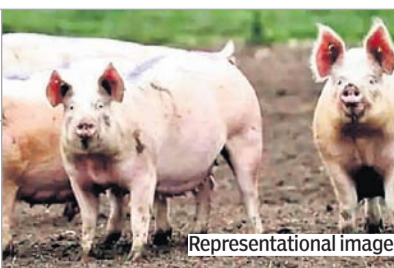
New Delhi, July 22: As many as 28,663 Indian applicants are waiting to adopt a child in the country, the Women and Child Development ministry said Friday; and noted that number of adoptions are not declining. Responding to a question in Lok Sabha, Women and Child Development minister Smriti Irani said 1,030 foreign applicants (including Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Citizen of India) are registered with the Central Adoption Resource Authority for adoption. Asked if the adoptions under CARA are declining, she responded saying "no". In 2021-22, as many as 2,991 in-country adoptions were recorded while 414 inter-country adoptions took place, the minister said. As many as 28,663 Indian applicants are waiting to adopt a child in the country, according to data shared by Ms Irani in response to a question.

African swine fever: Kerala to cull 300 pigs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 22: Hours after African swine fever was reported from two farms in Wayanad in Kerala, the district authorities Friday initiated steps to cull at least 300 pigs. Kerala Minister for Animal Husbandry J Chinchu Rani confirmed the infection in the state and directed the pig farms to strictly implement the biosecurity and waste disposal mechanism as part of the swine fever action plan. African swine fever has been reported from two farms in Mananthavady region of Kerala's Wayanad district. The disease was confirmed among pigs of the two

- African swine fever has been reported from two farms in Mananthavady region of Kerala's Wayanad district
- The disease was confirmed among pigs of the two farms after the samples were tested at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal



Representational image

farms after the samples were tested at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal. The state government today extended the ban on the inter-state sale and transportation of pigs and pork-related products. "The biosecurity and waste disposal mechanism in all pig farms should strictly

implement the swine fever action plan as directed by the Union Government. Strict care should be maintained at all farms and concerned veterinary doctors of the region should be informed in case of any symptoms of unnatural deaths," Rani said in a Facebook post. The minister said a control room has

been opened in Thiruvananthapuram. Meanwhile, a senior Animal Husbandry official from the district told PTI that the infection was confirmed in two farms of Wayanad district. "As of now, there are no intimations regarding the infection anywhere else. At the first farm, 23 pigs are dead due to this disease. Soon, 300 pigs of the second farm will be culled," the official said. The culled pigs will be buried deep in the ground as per health protocol, the official said. When the issue was reported in the north-eastern states, we had maintained strict vigil and the government had issued a ban on inter-state transport and sale of pigs and pork-related products, the official said.

Assam: 38 died of Japanese Encephalitis

GUWAHATI: At least 38 people died of Japanese Encephalitis in Assam in the last three weeks while 238 were infected, prompting the Health Department to undertake various measures to deal with the disease, officials said Friday. According to the National Health Mission (NHM), since July 1, at least 38 people have died and 238 people have fallen ill after being infected by the vector-borne disease in more than 20 of the 35 districts.





Iran's nuclear programme is galloping ahead and the International Atomic Energy Agency has very limited visibility on what is happening
RAFAEL GROSSI | CHIEF, IAEA

QUEEN ELIZABETH TO MISS CWG

Britain's Queen Elizabeth is not scheduled to attend the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Birmingham this summer, with her son and heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles set to deliver a speech on her behalf, Buckingham Palace said Friday



of the day quote

This is a landmark, historic agreement which has been many years in the making. Qualifications students receive will be recognised on both sides, making it easier for students to progress in education and move into jobs

VIVIANNE STERN | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, UNIVERSITIES UK INTERNATIONAL

If the state machinery is used to steal public mandate the reaction of the masses will lead Pakistan to a Sri Lanka-like situation. I will not be able to control people in such a scenario

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

The German government will take a roughly 30% stake in energy supplier Uniper as part of a rescue package prompted by surging prices for natural gas and reduced Russian deliveries

OLAF SCHOLZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

SHORT TAKES

Rains break 20-yr record in Lahore

Islamabad: Heavy rain lashed Lahore for almost seven hours, wreaking havoc and disrupting civil services in Pakistan's second largest city. It is said to have broken the record of the last 20 years with maximum rain of 238 mm, Dawn reported. The city witnessed a spell of heavy downpour Thursday along with thunderstorms. The weather turned pleasant but the area remained humid. Several areas did not have power supply owing to faults in transformers.

EU sues Britain over N Ireland bill

Brussels: The European Commission launched four new legal procedures against Britain Friday after the British parliament's lower house cleared a bill to scrap some of the rules governing post-Brexit trading arrangements for Northern Ireland. The Commission, which oversees EU-UK relations, said Britain's unwillingness to engage in meaningful discussions on the protocol governing those trading arrangements and the House of Commons' passage of the Northern Ireland Protocol bill undermined a spirit of cooperation.

SKorea to lift ban on NKorea TV

Seoul: South Korea plans to lift its decades-long ban on public access to North Korean television, newspapers and other media as part of its efforts to promote mutual understanding between the rivals, officials said Friday, despite animosities over the North's recent missile tests. Divided along the world's most heavily fortified border since 1948, the two Koreas prohibit their citizens from visiting each other's territory and exchanging phone calls, emails and letters, and they block access to each other's websites and TV stations.

Deadly police raid claims 18 in Brazil

Rio De Janeiro: At least 18 people died Thursday during a major police raid in a dense warren of Rio de Janeiro slums, state military police said, in the latest bloody confrontation in Brazil's second-largest city. Tactical teams from Rio de Janeiro's civil and military police raided the Alemao complex to take down an alleged criminal organization. The group was suspected of involvement in cargo theft and bank robberies and was planning incursions into rival slums.

Gunawardena new SL PM

Dinesh Gunawardena, a hard-core leftist leader whose family has a connection with India, became Sri Lanka's Prime minister by a quirk of fate at a time when the country is grappling with unprecedented economic and political turmoil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 22: Sri Lanka's newly-elected President Ranil Wickremesinghe Friday appointed Dinesh Gunawardena, a loyalist of the Rajapaksa family, as the Prime Minister in a bid to restore political stability and mitigate the worst economic crisis that has virtually bankrupted the country.

The formation of the new government by Wickremesinghe took place hours after Sri Lankan troops and police armed with assault rifles and batons forcibly removed anti-government protesters camped outside the presidential office here in a pre-dawn raid.

Social media posts showed officers dressed in riot gear pulling down protest tents and arresting several demonstrators. Banners that were hung from top of the secretariat have also been removed.

Sri Lanka has seen months of mass unrest over an economic crisis and many blame the former government led by ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa for mishandling the island nation's finances.

The forcible removal of protesters, criticised by the Opposition as well as by several Western envoys here, is seen as a signal that President Wickremesinghe, 73, will crack down on anti-government demonstrators who forced the ouster of his predecessor Rajapaksa.

Wickremesinghe, who was appointed acting President by Rajapaksa was officially sworn in



Apart from Prime Minister Gunawardena, there are 17 other ministers in the Cabinet

Wickremesinghe taking steps to form an all-party government

Lankan forces raid anti-government protest camp at President's Secretariat; nine held

as the country's President Wednesday after he was elected by Parliament July 20. The 18-member Cabinet was sworn in on President Wickremesinghe's first day in office.

Ali Sabry, who earlier headed the finance ministry, was appointed as the foreign minister. He has been chosen to be the foreign minister for his articulate skills and his ability to deal with the international partners, including the International Monetary Fund, analysts said.

Prime Minister Gunawardena, 73, has been given an additional portfolio of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government. The rest of the ministers were retained with their same portfolios while

President Wickremesinghe continues to hold the crucial ministries of finance and defence.

Wickremesinghe said he was taking steps to form an all-party government to handle the island's worst-ever economic crisis.

Meanwhile, police have described the the pre-dawn raid on the main camp of the anti-government protesters as a "special operation to take [back] control of the presidential secretariat".

Sri Lankan security forces raided the main anti-government protest camp at the President's Secretariat early Friday, arresting nine people and injuring several others, as the protesters continued to occupy the sensitive area despite the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as president.

NZ Covid deaths at record levels

The Omicron BA.5 sub-variant is driving the current wave in New Zealand, which has 5.1 million people

REUTERS

Wellington, July 22: New Zealanders are dying from Covid-19 at record rates as the country battles a new wave of the Omicron strain that is particularly affecting the older population.

Deaths from the virus reached 151 in the seven days to July 16, compared with 115 in the worst week of the previous wave, in



March, according to Health Ministry data. In the latest 24 hours, 26 people died from Covid, all aged over 60, the ministry said in a statement Friday.

The Omicron BA.5 sub-variant is driving the current wave in New Zealand, which has 5.1 million people. There have been 64,780 active cases in the past seven days, although authorities say many infections are unreported.

Heatwave bakes US: Over 100mn under alerts

WASHINGTON AND PHILADELPHIA HAVE BOTH DECLARED HEAT EMERGENCIES, AND WARNED THEIR RESIDENTS TO REMAIN VIGILANT

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Washington, July 22: A relentless US heatwave that has triggered health alerts for more than 100 million people is set to intensify this weekend, with temperatures and

humidity forecast to surge to suffocating highs in many parts of the country.

The devastating heat - which has also hit Europe, causing hundreds of deaths there - highlights the direct threat climate change poses to even the wealthiest countries on the planet.

"So far this week, 60 daily high temperature records have been tied/broken as dangerous heat enveloped much of the Nation," the National Weather Service (NWS) said in a tweet Thursday morning "More records are likely to be set over the next week," it added.

Temperatures in large parts of the southwest United States have



soared to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius), topping 110 degrees in some areas. Similar levels were recorded across the US south, where humidity com-

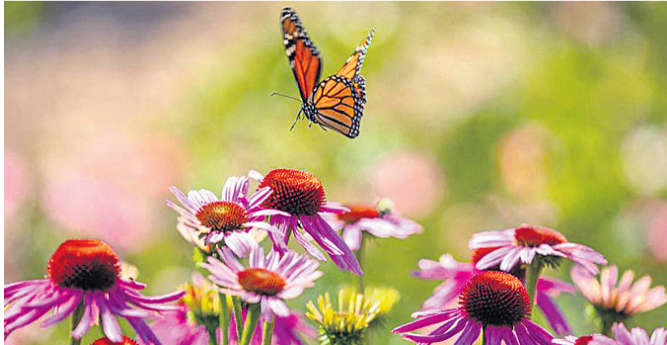
pounded the discomfort. "Stay hydrated, limit sun exposure, and check on seniors, neighbors & pets," Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said on Twitter.

terflies migrate to the north, breeding multiple generations along the way for thousands of miles. The offspring that reach southern Canada then begin the trip back to Mexico at the end of summer.

"It's a true spectacle and incites such awe," said Anna Walker, a conservation biologist at New Mexico BioPark Society, who was involved in determining the new listing.

A smaller group spends winters in coastal California, then disperses in spring and summer across several states west of the Rocky Mountains. This population has seen an even more precipitous decline than the eastern monarchs, although there was a small bounce back last winter.

Emma Pelton of the nonprofit Xerces Society, which monitors



at Michigan State University. "It's very easy to imagine how very quickly this butterfly could become even more imperiled."

Haddad, who was not directly involved in the listing, estimates that the population of monarch butterflies he studies in the eastern

United States has declined between 85% and 95% since the 1990s.

In North America, millions of monarch butterflies undertake the longest migration of any insect species known to science.

After wintering in the mountains of central Mexico, the but-

PRIVILEGED UPBRINGING

Sunak faces UK media scrutiny



Records unearthed also show that, from about 2009, Sunak and wife Murty had been living in a luxury beach-front property in Santa Monica, California, which was listed for rent at \$19,500 a month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 22: Rishi Sunak's personal wealth as a perceived barrier in his path to connecting with the wider British electorate suffering from post-pandemic economic turmoil is in focus among sections of the UK media Friday.

The 42-year-old former Chancellor, who is now facing off Foreign Secretary Liz Truss in the last stretch of the campaign to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister, has faced down similar jibes related to a so-called "privileged" upbringing and wife Akshata Murty's family wealth associated with her Infosys shares.

On Thursday, 'Channel 4 News' aired an investigation entitled 'Rishi Sunak: Inside the Tory Leadership candidate's fortune', which questioned the Sunak camp's references to his "humble" and "modest" background and has been picked up by other publications Friday.

"I think financially it was quite a huge commitment for us because the fees at Winchester [College] are double what you would pay if you went to the local school in Southampton. So, it was quite a large financial commitment," the report quoted Sunak's father, Yashvir, from a BBC interview from 2000.

However, while the channel highlights the Sunak's camp's claims of him being a scholarship student to the prestigious private school, the former finance minister himself has declared that his time at Winchester was the outcome of his family's hard work and sacrifice.

The Channel 4 investigation also dug out land registry information to reveal that the prime ministerial hopeful started his property portfolio at the age of 21 with an interest-free loan from his parents to buy a GBP 210,000 one-bedroom flat in central London, which is today worth around GBP 750,000. It goes on to detail his American life, starting with a job at Goldman Sachs and then as a partner at

an investment bank that was ultimately owned by a firm in the Cayman Islands, an offshore tax haven.

Channel 4 said that Sunak did not deny that he received assets in tax havens and any assets he had were subject to US tax, which was paid in full. "There's no suggestion Mr Sunak did anything illegal," the Channel 4 report goes on to say.

Even if he wins over the Conservative membership to clinch the leadership and become Prime Minister, winning over the British public amid unprecedented economic turmoil may be a far tougher challenge
CHANNEL 4 NEWS | UK

Beloved monarch butterflies now listed as endangered

In the past decade, tiger populations have increased in Nepal, northern China and perhaps in India, while tigers have disappeared entirely from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. They remain designated as endangered

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 22: The monarch butterfly fluttered a step closer to extinction Thursday, as scientists put the iconic orange-and-black insect on the endangered list because of its fast dwindling numbers.

"It's just a devastating decline," said Stuart Pimm, an ecologist at Duke University who was not involved in the new listing. "This is one of the most recognizable butterflies in the world."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature added the migrating monarch butterfly for the first time to its "red list" of threatened species and categorized it as "endangered" - two steps from extinct.

The group estimates that the population of monarch butterflies in North America has declined between 22% and 72% over 10 years, depending on the measurement method.

"What we're worried about is the rate of decline," said Nick Haddad, a conservation biologist

The international union also announced new estimates for the global population of tigers, which are 40% higher than the most recent estimates from 2015

the western butterflies, said the butterflies are imperiled by loss of habitat and increased use of herbicides and pesticides for agriculture, as well as climate change. "There are things people can do to help," she said, including planting milkweed, a plant that the caterpillars depend upon.

of the day **QUOTE**

The government is committed to reduce emissions from the shipping sector and all the major ports will be made fully self-sustainable on electricity by 2030

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER FOR PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

The government does not have plans to privatise state-owned Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd

DEVUSINH CHAUHAN | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

For FY23, Exim Bank has a budgeted allocation of ₹1,500 crore by the government. Typically that would be required by the bank for its growth as well as to maintain the required capital adequacy ratio

HARSHA BANGARI | MD, EXIM BANK

SHORT TAKES

Twitter posts loss of \$270 million

London: Twitter reported a quarterly loss Friday as revenue slipped even as its number of users climbed. The social media company's latest quarterly earnings figures offered a glimpse into how the social media business has performed during a months-long negotiation with billionaire and Tesla CEO Elon Musk over whether he will take over the company. The company lost \$270 million in the April-June period after revenue slipped 1 per cent to \$1.18 billion, reflecting advertising industry headwinds, as well as "uncertainty" over Musk's acquisition bid.

Reliance Jio Q1 profit rises 24%

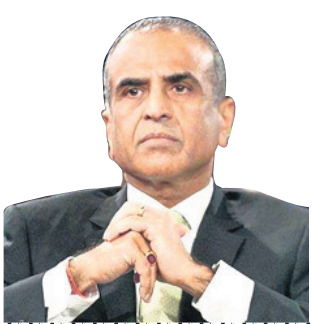
New Delhi: India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio Infocomm Friday reported a nearly 24 per cent year-on-year rise in its standalone net profit to ₹4,335 crore for the June 2022 quarter. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio clocked revenue from operations of ₹21,873 crore in the just-ended quarter, which was 21.5 per cent higher than the year-ago period, according to a filing. Jio's Q1 scorecard comes at a time when the telecom market is poised for the advent of 5G services, which will usher in ultra-high speeds (about 10 times faster than 4G) and bring new-age services and business models.

Tata bags order for 1,500 e-buses

New Delhi: Tata Motors Friday said it has bagged an order for 1,500 electric buses from Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) as part of a tender by Convergence Energy Services Ltd. The auto major will supply, operate and maintain air-conditioned, low-floor, 12-metre fully-built electric buses for 12 years, as per the contract, it said in a statement. The Mumbai-based company has already supplied more than 650 electric buses across multiple cities in India, which have cumulatively clocked more than 39 million kilometres.

Russia's central bank slashes rate

Moscow: The Russian central bank slashed its key interest rate Friday just a month after dropping it to where it was before sending troops into Ukraine, saying inflation is still easing partly as consumer demand falls. The bank lowered its key rate by 1.5 percentage points, to 8 per cent. It said inflation expectations have "significantly decreased," reaching spring 2021 levels, while a decline in business activity was slower in June.



We can proudly say that Airtel will be at the forefront of bringing 5G connectivity to India with a powerful network that will support India's digital-first economy

SUNIL MITTAL | CHAIRMAN, BHARTI AIRTEL

AKASA AIR TO TAKE OFF FROM AUGUST 7

India's newest budget carrier Akasa Air, which is backed by billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, has opened ticket sales for its first commercial flights starting August 7, the airline said in a statement Friday



Sensex rises for 6th day to reclaim 56,000 mark

Markets ended on a bullish note for the sixth day in a row, as jubilant investors took heart from this week's signs that foreign funds have trickled back into Indian stock markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 22: Equity benchmark Sensex stretched its winning run to the sixth straight session Friday to reclaim the 56,000-level due to robust gains in banking and financial stocks amid a largely positive trend in overseas markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark rose 390.28 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 56,072.23. During the day, it advanced 504.1 points or 0.90 per cent to 56,186.05.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 114.20 points or 0.69 per cent to 16,719.45.

Among the Sensex constituents, UltraTech Cement, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Titan Company, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Hindustan Unilever were the lead gainers.

Infosys, NTPC, Power Grid, Wipro and IndusInd Bank were the major laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge went higher by 0.21 per cent, while the midcap index dipped by 0.17 per cent.

A total of 1,781 stocks advanced, while 1,541 declined and 147 remained unchanged.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, bank jumped 1.49 per cent, followed by finance (1.36 per cent), basic materials (1.26 per cent) and realty (0.37 per cent).

Power, tech, telecom and IT were among the laggards.

"Equities witnessed strong rally this week with benchmark indices like BSE-30 and Nifty-50 index posting returns of 4 per cent. The mar-



Increased foreign investment and solid quarterly results are increasing domestic demand. Among broad-based buying, banking stocks outshined due to healthy quarterly earnings

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 18 of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the green

The rupee slipped, 5 paise to 79.90 against the US dollar

International oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.51 per cent to \$103.33 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers Friday, offloading shares worth ₹75.45 crore

ket rally was broad-based with positive returns seen in BSE Midcap, BSE Smallcap and the majority of sectoral indices. BSE Metal, BSE IT and BSE Capital Goods indices

moved higher by more than 5 per cent this week. Equity markets seem to have received support from the hope of peaking inflation amid a decline in commodity prices and the slowdown in FII selling. In fact, FIIs have been buyers for some days so far in July 2022...," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities, said.

In the near term, markets will be tracking the upcoming Fed Reserve meeting, currency movement and quarterly results, he added.

In Asia, markets in Tokyo and Hong Kong settled higher, while Seoul and Shanghai ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading in the green during mid-session deals. The US equity markets had ended higher Thursday.

Forex reserves drop \$7.541bn to \$572.712 bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 22: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$7.541 billion to \$572.712 billion in the week ended July 15 as the Reserve Bank continued to intervene in the market to curb the fall of the rupee.

In the previous week ended July 8, the reserves shrunk by \$8.062 billion to \$580.252 billion, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed Friday.

On Friday, the rupee fell by 5 paise to close at 79.90 against the US dollar. It had touched an all-time intra-day low of 80.06 against the US dollar Thursday.

During the reporting week ended July 15, the fall in the reserves was on account of a decline in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, and also in the gold reserves, the central bank said. FCAs fell by \$6.527 billion to \$511.562 billion in the reporting week, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by RBI.

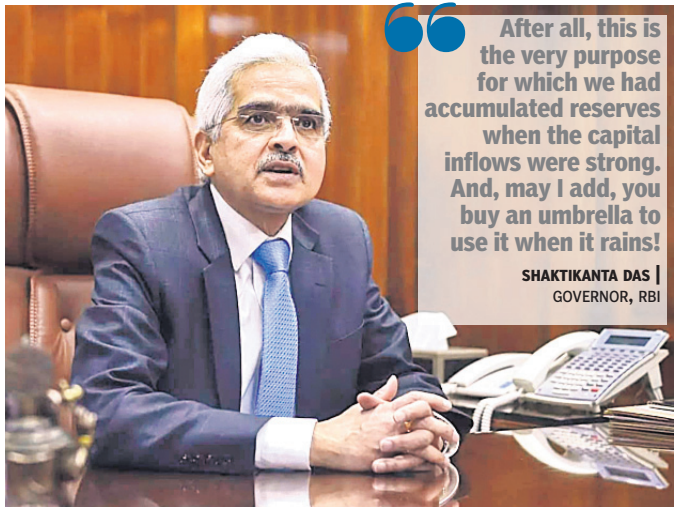
Expressed in dollar terms, FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves decreased by \$830 million to \$38.356 billion in the reporting week. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined by \$155 million to \$17.857 billion, RBI said. The country's reserve position with the IMF decreased by \$29 million to \$4.937 billion in the reporting week.



'No tolerance for wild swings in forex market'

RBI Governor said the central bank's goal is and will continue to be to ensure a soft landing for the economy



REUTERS

Mumbai, July 22: India's central bank has zero tolerance for volatile and bumpy movements in the rupee and will continue to engage with the foreign exchange market to ensure the rupee finds its appropriate level, its chief Shaktikanta Das said Friday.

The rupee has been hitting a series of record lows in recent weeks and broke past the psychological 80 per dollar mark earlier this week, prompting heavy dollar selling intervention from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

"We have no particular level of rupee in mind but we would like to ensure orderly evolution," Das said at a banking conference in Mumbai organised by the Bank of Baroda. "We have zero tolerance for high volatility and bumpy movements."

Das said the rupee's movements have been relatively smooth and orderly due to the RBI's actions in the foreign exchange market. By ensuring there are no sudden and

After all, this is the very purpose for which we had accumulated reserves when the capital inflows were strong. And, may I add, you buy an umbrella to use it when it rains!

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

volatile shifts, the RBI was keeping expectations anchored and the foreign exchange market functioning in a stable and liquid manner, he added.

"We will continue to engage with the forex market and ensure that rupee finds its level in line with its fundamentals". He said the central bank has been supplying dollars since there is a genuine shortage of dollars in the market.

Das also said the central bank has built its foreign exchange reserves for situations like these, noting that India has a substantial amount of foreign exchange reserves to handle the current crisis and there is no need to panic.

More broadly, the governor said India's economy remains well placed and all high-frequency indicators have been pointing towards a steady revival. However, on inflation he said that while it appears to have peaked, the situation remains volatile and the RBI was constantly reviewing it.

No plan to move deadline for ITR filing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 22: The government is not considering extending the last date for filing income tax returns as it expects most returns to come in by the due date of July 31, a top official said Friday.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said over 2.3 crore income returns were filed by July 20 for fiscal 2021-22 and the numbers are picking up. Last fiscal (2020-21), about 5.89 crore ITRs (Income Tax Returns)

were filed by the extended due date of December 31, 2021.

"people thought the routine now is that dates will be extended. So they were a little slow in filling the returns initially but now on a daily basis, we are getting between 15 lakhs to 18 lakh returns. This will slightly go up to 25 lakh to 30 lakh returns," he told PTI. Typically, return filers wait till the last day to file returns.

"Last time 9-10 per cent filed on last day. Last time, we had over 50



lakh (filing returns on the last date). This time, I have told my people to be ready for 1 crore (returns being filed on the last day)," he said.

Through ITR, a person is supposed to submit to the Income Tax

Silk India exhibition begins at The New Marrion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 22: The artisans from all over the country of the Orissa Art and Craft Samiti have come to Bhubaneswar to exhibit their ethnic weaves and traditional pure silk & cotton products in order to cater the demand of the festival season, "Silk India Exhibition & Sale". The committee founded by a group of artisans, designers, social activists, academics and environmentalists, attempts to promote exquisite traditional skill and creations of the weavers and encouraging them to be contemporary and economically relevant. The exhibition was inaugurated by the ollywood divas Divyaa Mohanty & Bhoomika Dash. Weavers from the various states



are part of this year's exhibition which includes gorgeous Uppadas, Banarasi silks, Gadwals, Dharmavaram, Jamdanis, Jamawars and Sambalpuris. From saris, dress materials, items of silk & cotton saree, suit dress material, fashion jewellery, home furnishing designer clothes from the each region of the country. The ex-

hibition provided shoppers with a kaleidoscope of India's color, diversity and talent.

Artisans from 14 handloom weaving States including Assam, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and many designers from metros working in

collaboration with the weavers are displaying more than 50,000 variety of their work here. The exhibition cum sale will continue from July 22 to July 31 2022 from 10.30 am to 8.30 pm at the The New Marrion, Janpath, Opp. Ram Mandir, Bhubaneswar.

The Organiser of Silk India – Wedding Collection, Manas Acharya said that the main social objective of the handloom exhibition was to promote weavers and encourage and to provide a market to the handloom industry. Through these exhibitions, we have been able to create good market for the weavers and their handloom woven ware, even in places where exhibitions are not feasible. The exhibition motive is to get pure silk & cotton products directly from weavers to costumer without merchant, he added.

Europe's banks brace for bumpy ride after cheap money decade

The difficult economic conditions have put investors in a cautious mood, which means European banks, like their US rivals, will earn less money on deal making and selling investment products

REUTERS

Frankfurt, July 22: Europe's banks, facing a potential economic storm and a rise in borrowing costs

for the first time in more than a decade, are set to show their weak spots when they update investors on how their business has fared this year.

They have already had to cope with soaring inflation and rising interest rates, a pincer movement that squeezes borrowers, plus the Ukraine conflict which has rattled Europe's economy, including by constraining its energy supplies.

UBS, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse, BNP Paribas and UniCredit could set the tone for investors when they report second-quarter results next week.

On one hand, higher interest rates are good for banks as they can



charge more for loans. But they suffer if customers, struggling with rising prices and borrowing

costs, cannot repay.

Within Europe, Germany's banks are at the centre of the storm be-

cause the country is particularly dependent on Russian energy and its economy will be hit hard by any supply short-

German banks may still have to set aside more for resulting loan losses. For Deutsche, the biggest risk is a severe recession

MICHAEL ROHR | ANALYST, MOODY'S

ages. Giles Edwards, an analyst with the ratings agency S&P, said any fears about European banks this

year will hinge on how borrowers' keep up loan repayments.

Although he did not expect a big immediate rise in bad loans, he said he was watching for "early warning indicators, signs that there's pressure, a sort of slow squeeze essentially starting to sort of pop a few buttons here and there".

Euro zone banks tightened access to credit in the second quarter and will continue to be cautious, a survey by the European Central Bank showed.

And Germany's cooperative banks said they expect a "considerable decline" in profit this year as they brace for credit losses.

CHOPRA IN FINAL WITH 1 THROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Eugene, July 22: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra qualified for his maiden World Championships final with a stunning first attempt throw of 88.39m as India cherished a historic day at the event with two of their javelin throwers making it to the medal round, here Thursday. The final comes off Sunday.

The 24-year-old Indian superstar, hot favourite for a medal, opened the Group A qualification round by sending his spear to 88.39m for his third career-best throw. Chopra finished second best overall behind defending cham-

pion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who topped Group B with his opening round effort of 89.91m.

“It was a good start. I’ll give my 100 per cent in the final, but then every day is different. I’ll just give my best. We don’t know who can throw far on any given day,” Chopra said after his qualification. “There are so many throwers in good shape now. Five-six throwers have thrown personal bests this year. They are all in excellent shape,” added the Olympic gold medallist.

Chopra’s qualification round lasted a few minutes as he did not need to take the remaining two throws after breaching the auto-

matic qualification mark in his first attempt. A competitor gets three throws in the qualification round.

Another Indian in the fray, Rohit Yadav also made it to the finals after finishing sixth in Group B qualification round and 11th overall with his first round throw of 80.42m. His second throw was a foul and he managed a modest 77.32m in his last attempt. Yadav’s best throw of the season has been 82.54m.

Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, had competed in the 2017 London World Championships with the hope of at least making it to the finals but managed only 82.26m to fall short of the auto-

Olympic champion hardly breaks a sweat as he qualifies for the medal round at Athletics Worlds

matic qualification mark of 83m. He had also missed the 2019 World Championships in Doha as he was recovering from an elbow surgery.

Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic also qualified for the finals with a first round throw of 85.23m. He was the second automatic qualifier from Group A, along with Chopra, and fourth overall.

Chopra has beaten Peters twice this season while the 24-year-old Grenadian prevailed over the Indian once - at the Diamond League Meeting in Stockholm on June 30 - in their three meetings this season before this World Championships.

A FIRST FOR PAUL

Eugene: Eldhose Paul became the first Indian to qualify for the men’s triple jump final at the World Athletics Championships 2022 with an effort of 16.68 metres here Thursday. Paul, who has a personal best of 16.99m, finished 12th overall to squeeze through for the 12-man final. However, the other two Indians in the fray - P Chithravel and Abdulla Aboobacker - missed the cut. Tokyo 2020 champion Pedro Pichardo topped the qualifying with a 17.16-metre attempt.

After players, BCCI now grades umpires

Decision taken to improve the standard of umpiring in domestic tournaments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 22: ICC Elite Panel member Nitin Menon is among 10 officials grouped in the newly introduced ‘A+’ category of BCCI umpires. The others in the A+ category include four international umpires - Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and KN Ananthapadmabhanan. The others in the A+ segment are Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu.

Twenty umpires including C Shamshuddin form the A Group, 60 are in Group B, 46 in Group C and 11 in Group D which falls in the 60-65 age bracket.

The complete list was tabled at the Apex Council meeting Thursday following the work done by former international umpires K Hariharan, Sudhir Asnani and Amiesha Saheba, and members of BCCI umpires’ sub-committee.

Umpires in ‘A+’ and ‘A’ category are paid Rs 40,000 a day for a first-class game while Rs 30,000 a day are paid in the ‘B’ and ‘C’ category.

Though the list was presented as ‘gradation of umpires’, a BCCI official clarified to this agency that the board has created groups. “It

BOARD BOTHERED BY SPONSORSHIP WOES

New Delhi: Indian cricket team’s jersey sponsor ‘Byju’s’ allegedly owes Rs 86.21 crore as dues to the BCCI while title sponsor Paytm has requested the board to transfer its rights to a third party. It was only in April that the Edtech company and the BCCI had agreed on the extension of their partnership until the end of the 2023 ODI World Cup in India at a 10 per cent increment. However, a ‘Byju’s’ spokesperson asserted that there is no pending dues to the BCCI. “Contract signing is yet to happen, once that is done all payments will be made,” the official said.

is not grading. There are groups with ‘A+’ being the new category. ‘A+’ and ‘A’, one can say form the cream of Indian umpires. Umpires in ‘B’ and ‘C’ category are also good,” the official said.

“When it comes to assigning duties across domestic events starting at the top with Ranji Trophy, preference will be given group wise. The grouping has been done after reviewing the performances of the 2021-2022 season,” the official added.



Nitin Menon is the only Indian umpire in ICC’s Elite Panel

SHORT TAKES

Lingard quits Man U

Nottingham: Nottingham Forest pulled off their biggest signing since clinching a return to the Premier League by bringing in Jesse Lingard on a free transfer. The England midfielder was available after ending his 22-year association with Manchester United during the off season. Lingard’s move to Forest was announced late Thursday. He is the 11th signing made by the promoted club as they prepare for a first season in the Premier League since 1999. The value of Lingard’s deal was not disclosed. The 29-year-old Lingard spent the second half of the 2020-21 season on loan at West Ham, scoring nine goals in 16 starts.

Indian campaign ends

TAIPEI: The Indian campaign ended at the Taipei Open badminton tournament after Parupalli Kashyap and Tanisha Crasto lost in the quarterfinals of the singles and doubles competitions respectively, here Friday. Third seed Kashyap’s run ended with a 12-21, 21-12, 17-21 loss to Soong Joo Ven of Malaysia in a 55-minute match. Tanisha also had a disappointing day. Tanisha and Ishaan Bhatnagar, seeded sixth, lost 19-21, 12-21 to Malaysia’s Hoo Pang and Toh Ee Wei in mixed doubles. Then she and Shruti Mishra lost to Hong Kong’s Ng Tsz Yau and Tsang Hiu Yan 16-21, 22-20, 18-21 in the women’s doubles.

Nagal recalled

NEW DELHI: Sumit Nagal made a comeback to the Indian Davis Cup team for the away World Group I tie against Norway while doubles specialist Divij Sharan was dropped after falling behind in the pecking order. Expectedly, India’s No.1 singles player Ramkumar Ramanathan (ranked 196), Prajnesh Gunneswaran (295), Sasikumara Mukund (431), Yuki Bhambhani (571) and doubles exponent Rohan Bopanna (21) have been named in the team as the Nandan Bal-led selection committee picked four specialist singles players. The tie will be played September 16 and 17. Nagal, who underwent a hip surgery in November 2021, began competing on the circuit from April this year.

AGENCIES

Hold elections or face ban: IOC warns IOA

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 22: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) faces another ban over governance-related issues if it fails to hold elections in the ‘coming weeks’, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has said. The IOA elections were due last December but have been held up by a court case seeking to change its constitution in line with rules stipulated by the national sports code.

A source informed Friday that a letter has been sent to the IOA’s executive council by the IOC. In the letter it has been said that the ‘IOC and Olympic Council of Asia were following developments with great concern’.

“It is very unfortunate to note that multiple legal proceedings have been initiated, which have only caused delays and created unnecessary complications so far,” the letter said. It urged the IOA to resolve the situation and confirm the election date ‘without any further delay’.

The letter further stated that if the IOA failed to organise the elections in the coming weeks, the IOC would have no other option but to

consider protective measures, ‘including a suspension or ban’.

A suspension would cut off IOC funding, block Indian officials from attending Olympic meetings and leave the country’s athletes unable to compete under the India flag at the Olympics. More importantly, this city will not be able to host the 2023 IOC session. If the IOC session happens it will be the first time that it will be conducted in India since 1983. The IOA did not immediately respond to requests for comment with most officials refusing to make observations as the case is sub-judice.

The IOA was previously banned at the end of 2012 after elections saw a corruption-tainted official voted in as secretary-general. India returned to the Olympic fold two years later during the 2014 Sochi Winter Games after voting in a new set of officials.

It is not only the IOA which is under the scanner. India’s hosting rights of the men’s hockey World Cup in January is also under cloud with the FIH deciding to send a delegation to assess the current situation in the wake of Narinder Batra’s resignation as the body’s head.



The multiple legal proceedings against the IOA is creating unnecessary complications. These should be solved without delay

IOC

INDIA OPEN THEIR CRICKET CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEMESIS AUSTRALIA WOMEN IN BLUE EYE GOLD AT CWG

AGENCIES

Bangalore, July 22: Nemesis Australia await India in their Commonwealth Games (CWG) opener but senior batter Smriti Mandhana is in no mood to lose sleep over that and make their rivals ‘feel good about it’. Days before women’s cricket makes its debut at the multi-sport event, Mandhana refused to call the five-time T20 World Champions a ‘big’ team.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will open their campaign July 29 against Australia, and Mandhana said they have their plans in place for each opposition.

“We have played Australia in the openers in quite a lot of tournaments.

In a T20 event, any team can beat the other. I wouldn’t term Australia as a big team and make them feel good about that. Definitely in our heads, Australia, Pakistan and Barbados matches are important. We will look to win all of them,” Mandhana said.

For the record, India lost to Australia in their last T20 World Cup game earlier this year. India, though, will enter the Birmingham CWG after winning the T20I and ODI series in Sri Lanka recently. “Our preparations have been really good and I hope it will lead us to the medal. We just don’t want to stand on the podium, we want to win the gold. We have seen many times on TV when the Indian flag goes high and we hear the National Anthem, we know the kind

of feeling it evokes. Now we want to experience it personally,” asserted Mandhana. “Definitely we are aiming for the gold. I don’t think we will just look for a podium finish and feel satisfied about it, we want more than that” added the opener.



Definitely we are aiming to win gold and we won’t be satisfied with just a podium finish. We want to hear the National Anthem

SMRITI MANDHANA

India falter after good start

DHAWAN, GILL, IYER GET HALF CENTURIES, BUT REST DISAPPOINT

AGENCIES

Port of Spain, July 22: Shubman Gill made a classy 64 (53b, 6x4, 2x6) in his ODI comeback while skipper Shikhar Dhawan (97, 10x4, 3x6) missed out on a hundred by three runs before the West Indies restricted India to 308 for seven in the series opener here Friday. When these two along with Shreyas Iyer (54, 57b, 5x4, 2x6) were batting a total of 350-plus was definitely on the cards here Friday after the visitors were put in by West Indies skipper Nicholas Pooran.

However, the hosts came back strongly in the last 10 overs and India could manage only 60 runs while losing three wickets to finish well below the 350-run mark.

The opening duo of Gill and Dhawan shared a 119-run stand off 106 balls before the former was run out in the 18th over against the run of play. Gill, one of the most watchable batters when in full flow, was very comfortable against the fast bowlers.

Gill hooked Alzarri Joseph for a six before he delighted the crowd with a perfectly placed punch off the back-foot for a boundary. He was equally attractive playing the cover drives when the ball was pitched up. It took a brilliant direct hit from Pooran to dismiss Gill. It was Gill’s maiden ODI half cen-



WELL DONE MATE: Shikhar Dhawan (right) pumps fists with Shubman Gill after their century stand during the Indian innings

AP PHOTO

tury in what was his fourth game. Dhawan, who only plays one format and had a lean run in England, paced his innings well with Gill going strong at the other end. His go-to-shot was the slog sweep off left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie. The other left-arm spinner, Akeal Hosein impressed by getting the ball to turn sharply at times.

Dhawan’s dismissal for the seventh time in the 90s led to a middle-order collapse with the visitors reduced to 252 for five from 213 for

one. His dismissal also slowed the run rate.

Sanju Samson (12) squandered a good opportunity to make an impact while Suryakumar Yadav (13) fell to a loose shot. Deepak Hooda (27) and Axar Patel (21) took India past 300 with a 42-run stand for the sixth wicket.

BRIEF SCORES: India 308 for 7 (Shikhar Dhawan 97, Shubman Gill 64, Shreyas Iyer 54, Gudakesh Motie 2/54, Alzarri Joseph 2/61). Match to continue.

Hamilton wants to make 300th race memorable

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 22: Lewis Hamilton enters his 300th Formula One (F1) race at the French Grand Prix this weekend in the uncanny position of chasing a first win this season. The seven-time World Champion has a record 103 F1 wins and pole positions.

However, Hamilton is without a win 12 races into this season. And Hamilton after three successive podium finishes in the last three races is hoping to turn the tide and make his 300th on the racing track memorable.

“It’s been really positive to have some consistency come back in. We’re constantly adding perform-

Of all the rivals, I would say Fernando Alonso was the toughest. We had some good battles, I wish we could have some more

LEWIS HAMILTON

ance, we’re constantly progressing and there’s a lot to come,” Hamilton said Friday here. “In the last race (in Austria) we were only a few tenths (of a second) off the lead guys in qualifying,” he added.

Hamilton selected his first F1 win in 2007, his first title in 2008, and winning on his home track at Silverstone as standout memories.