

Admit Your Child  
in  
India's  
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**10**  
Most Respected  
Education Brand

\*By EducationWorld  
India School Rankings 2021-22

## Results: AISSEE 12th & AISSE 10th 2022

### Vikash Group of CBSE Schools

exemplified academic excellence ...soaring to superiority consistently

#### AISSEE CBSE 12<sup>th</sup> Board Result

ABOVE  
**95%**

**81**  
Students

ABOVE  
**90%**

**293**  
Students

VIKASH RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL, BARGARH

**95%**  
and above

**62**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**197**  
Students

VIKASH RESIDENTIAL  
SCHOOL, BHUBANESWAR

**95%**  
and above

**13**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**63**  
Students

VIKASH THE CONCEPT  
SCHOOL, SAMBALPUR

**95%**  
and above

**06**  
Students

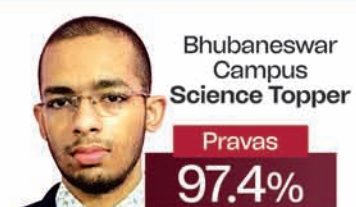
**90%**  
and above

**33**  
Students

**100% FIRST DIVISION**



Bargarh  
Campus  
Science Topper  
**Anwesha**  
**98.2%**



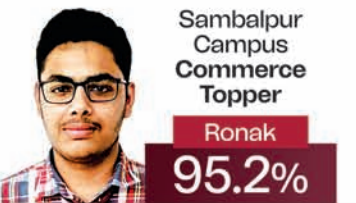
Bhubaneswar  
Campus  
Science Topper  
**Pravas**  
**97.4%**



Bargarh  
Campus  
Commerce Topper  
**Dharani**  
**97.0%**



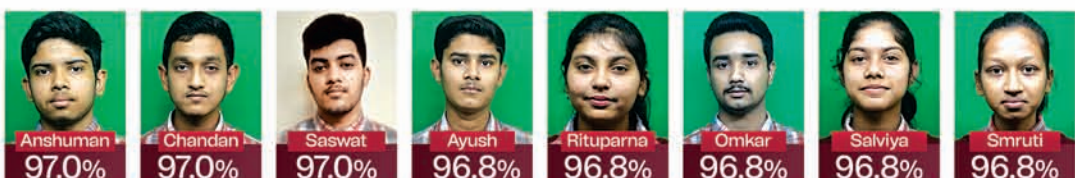
Sambalpur  
Campus  
Science Topper  
**Nirlipta**  
**96.2%**



Sambalpur  
Campus  
Commerce Topper  
**Ronak**  
**95.2%**



Bhubaneswar  
Campus  
Commerce Topper  
**Arpan**  
**95.0%**



Students Scored 100/100			
Chemistry	10	Phy.Edn.	13
Maths.	01	Yoga	43
Comp. Sc.	01	Accountancy	01
Painting	15	BST	01

#### Integrated Programme Qualifiers

KVPY  
2022

**01**

NEST  
2022

**25**

JEE  
MAINS  
2022  
Spell-1

**70**

#### AISSE CBSE 10<sup>th</sup> Board Result

ABOVE  
**95%**

**74**  
Students

ABOVE  
**90%**

**216**  
Students

Vikash Residential  
School, Bargarh

**95%**  
and above

**37**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**93**  
Students

Vikash Residential  
School, Kantabada, BBSR

**95%**  
and above

**08**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**33**  
Students

Vikash The Concept School,  
Sambalpur

**95%**  
and above

**14**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**33**  
Students

Vikash Residential  
School, Khandagiri, BBSR

**95%**  
and above

**08**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**29**  
Students

Vikash Residential School,  
Bhawanipatna

**95%**  
and above

**04**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**17**  
Students

Vikash First Step,  
Sambalpur

**95%**  
and above

**01**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**04**  
Students

Cement Nagar English  
Medium School

**95%**  
and above

**01**  
Students

**90%**  
and above

**07**  
Students

**100% SUCCESS RATE**



Bargarh  
Campus  
Topper  
**Shreya**  
**98.2%**



Bargarh  
Campus  
Topper  
**Khushi**  
**98.2%**



Bargarh  
Campus  
Topper  
**Smruti Ranjan**  
**98.2%**



Kantabada  
Bhubaneswar  
Campus  
Topper  
**Md Mansoor**  
**98.2%**



Sason,  
Sambalpur  
Campus  
Topper  
**Swapnil**  
**98.0%**



Khandagiri  
Bhubaneswar  
Campus  
Topper  
**Pratyush**  
**97.4%**



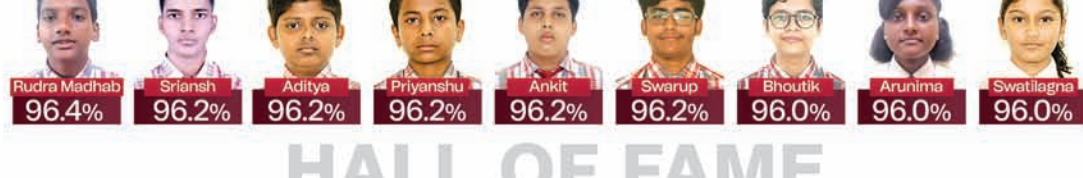
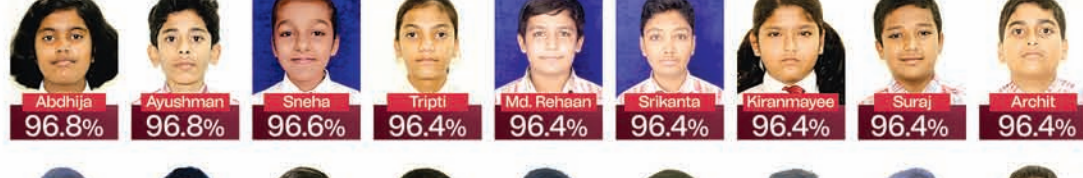
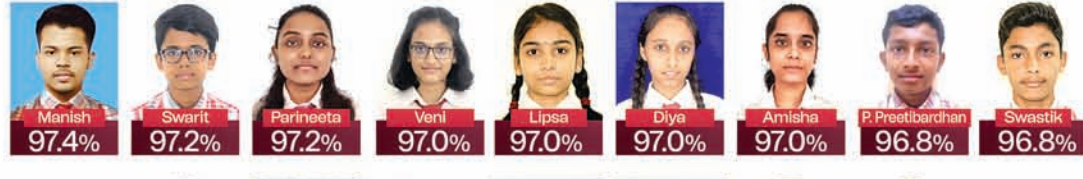
Bhawanipatna  
Campus  
Topper  
**Adyasha**  
**97.2%**



Cement Nagar  
Campus  
Topper  
**Debashrita**  
**96.0%**



First Step,  
Sambalpur  
Campus  
Topper  
**Shreya**  
**95.2%**



**HALL OF FAME**

## Admissions Open 2022-23

LKG to CBSE IX & XI (Science, Commerce & Arts)

**SUPER 40  
NEET**

1 Year Extended NEET Entrance Classroom Programme  
(For 12<sup>th</sup> CBSE/CHSE/ICSE/Other Boards Pass Out Students)  
Classes commence from 1st August 2022  
📞 86583 61100 / 99376 18855

**Vikash**  
Group of CBSE Schools  
Vikash Edu. Network

Bargarh | Bhubaneswar | Sambalpur |  
Bhawanipatna | Rourkela | Jharsuguda

BARGARH: Vikash Knowledge Hub, Barahaguda Canal Chowk. M: 93373 10441, 99376 18855. | BHUBANESWAR: Vikash High Global Campus, Deras Road, PO-Kantabada. M: 82707 72444 / 63707 00761.  
SAMBALPUR: Vikash New-Gen Park, Pabapali, Sason. M: 70644 13460, 99379 79999. | BHAWANIPATNA: Opposite Govt. Engg. College, Bandhapala, Junagarh Road. M: 93486 96536, 99377 31441.  
JHARSUGUDA: Opp. Jay Dev Vihar, Near L.N. College, Chitupada. M: 76828 53111 | ROURKELA: Vikash IND Global School, Sector 9, Rourkela. M: 70778 53111. www.odishavikash.com

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
Today, you may get to share your ideas and opinions with like-minded people. Ganesh says you may finally have a heart-to-heart chat with your beloved, and express your deep commitment. You may even talk of your long cherished dreams.

**TAURUS**  
Money matters are likely to take up most of your time, this day. Ganesh sees that you will have quite a time handling the difficulties and complexities they pose. You may not find an easy way out of your financial problems and will find it hard to take firm decisions. Your experience and expertise plus your great way of dealing with people will eventually enable you to make correct and profitable investments.

**GEMINI**  
You will witness a marked improvement in your emotional quotient, says Ganesh. This change may either come through watching a film, listening to a song or just a simple insight. At the work place, people will be lavishing praise on you for your excellent performance.

**CANCER**  
You know how to make money, and you are even better in putting it to good use. Today, you will have your one eye on the developments in the stock market, and the other on brochures of tourism companies.

**LEO**  
It may be that the best daffodils bloom early in the morning, but good ideas can come any time of the day, says Ganesh. So spruce up your management skills, as you shall need them to help organise and cash in on the multitude of ideas that will bombard you today. Remember, says Ganesh, a good idea can change your life, just the way a good poem can help you win a wife! So, if it is some love that you are fishing for, then express yourself without inhibitions today.

**VIRGO**  
Motivation will remain high today, says Ganesh. Your talents and skills make you stand out as a superb artist. Words will glow if you let your creativity flow, and should you decide to dance or sing, you'll set the stage on fire today. Cultivate hobbies in performing arts and literature, advises Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that any pending legal issues will be sorted out today either in court or through an out of court settlement. Your workload will get eased today and you will be able to find your way out from certain problematic situations.

**SCORPIO**  
There is a big black hole in your pocket, and it's high time you looked for remedies there. Loved ones will make use of your money as sultan cream - liberally and carelessly. You are most likely to burn the holes larger by spending lavishly, especially to impress a member of the opposite sex.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Take it as a piece of advice: tough times don't last; tough people do. The day has a lot of ups and downs in store for you. However, you are the sailor of stormy seas and would sail through all the troubles easily. Take the advice given by your near and dear ones, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Work will suck you dry of your energy today, says Ganesh. Business rivals will go out of their way to mar your reputation and project you as incompetent. But to their dismay, you will prove to be way too smart to let them succeed in their sinister motives. In fact, you will hit where it hurts most and show your foes that you have all it takes to be a winner.

**AQUARIUS**  
You get a pat on the back due to your brilliant academic standing. People will admire your business acumen and may imitate your choices. But this doesn't mean you become haughty and unapproachable. Carry on the good work with a humble attitude, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Anticipation is all the fun. Sadly, this only alludes to your months-in-preparation travel plans that are most likely to be delayed today on one count or the other. Though, if this is any consolation, your trip, when it finally occurs, will bring you as much pleasure and satisfaction that you expected out of it, if not more, says Ganesh.



SARAH PAULSON TO STAR IN HORROR THRILLER DUST

Actress Sarah Paulson is set to star in horror thriller *Dust* to be directed by Will Joines and Karrie Crouse. The film follows a woman who is trapped by dust storms and is haunted by her past encounters with a threatening presence and takes extraordinary measures to protect her family.

BEN AFFLECK BREAKS DOWN IN TEARS ON HONEYMOON WITH JLO

Hollywood star couple Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez is currently enjoying their romantic getaway in Paris. However, the actor was spotted getting emotional during their trip as he broke down in tears as the singer-actress cradled his head.



Black Panther 2 trailer gets 172 mn views in 24 hours



Los Angeles: *The Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, also known as *Black Panther 2*, trailer has got 172 million views in its first 24 hours, turning out to be one of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's top trailer debuts for a superhero movie. A source close to Marvel confirmed the viewership number to *Variety*. The *Wakanda Forever* teaser's viewership nearly

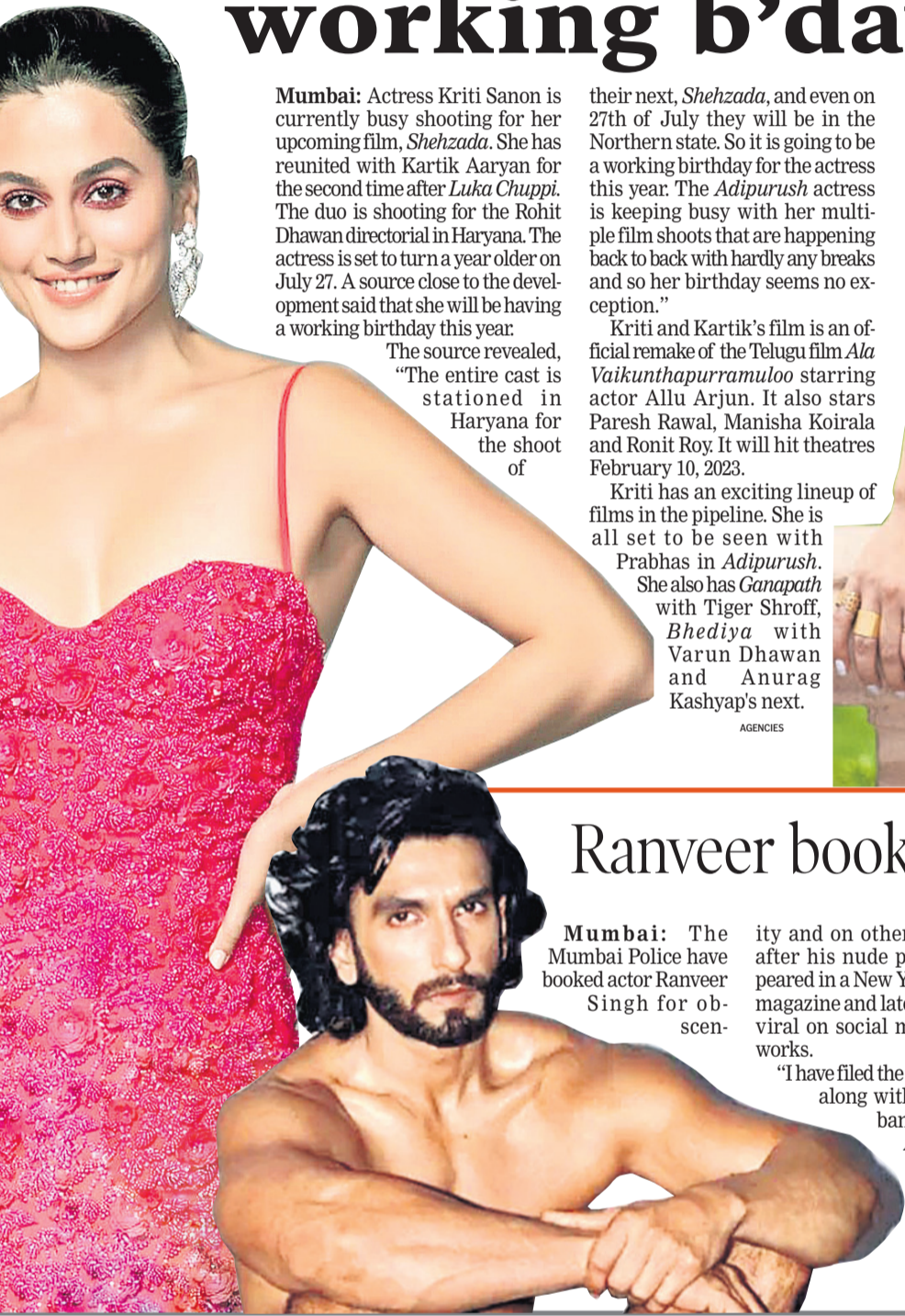
doubled the 88 million views the original *Black Panther* teaser garnered in 2017, reports *Variety*. The teaser also set social media ablaze, with topics relating to *Black Panther* garnering over 893,000 mentions. Chadwick Boseman, Namor, Shuri, T'Challa, Ryan Coogler and Angela Bassett all became national trending topics after the teaser's debut, and the hashtag

#WakandaForever held the No. 1 trending spot for over five consecutive hours. By pulling in 172 million views in its first 24 hours, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* becomes one of the top trailer launches for a standalone Marvel movie following titles like the *Spider-Man: No Way Home* teaser and the *Thor: Love and Thunder* teaser. The footage showcases the

nation of Wakanda going to war against an army of Atlanteans, led by the fearful Namor (Tenoch Huerta). Lupita Nyong'o, Letitia Wright, Danai Gurira, Florence Kasumba Winston Duke and Angela Bassett are reprising their roles from the original *Black Panther*, joined by series newcomer Michaela Coel, Dominique Thorne, Alex Niviliani and Mabel Cadena.

I work with blinkers on: Taapsee Kriti to have a working b'day

Mumbai: It's a difficult proposition to lead a life in show-business which is insulated - from hits and flops, trolls, trade commentary and so on. Taapsee Pannu, who recently shouldered *Shabaash Mithu*, is one of those artistes who seldom gets impacted by the eventual results of her films, trolling, policing and commentary of any kind. She believes in focussing on her work rather than incessant chatter. Taapsee says, "I work with blinkers on. I don't ever try to look at where I am in comparison with my contemporaries. It doesn't ever occupy my mind space. I instead use my energy and channelise my thoughts to improve my craft, and sharpen my senses. Physically and mentally, I choose to stay away from the competition or even the talk of it. The insecurity of being left out or feeling irrelevant doesn't even cross my mind. I have made peace with the fact that I am in a race where I am a solo-runner. I am competing with my own timing after every lap." Talking of order, Taapsee has a list of films that are expected to release in the subsequent months. One of the most prominent names is *Dobaarah*, which brings her back with Anurag Kashyap after *Manmarziyaan*.



Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon is currently busy shooting for her upcoming film, *Shehzada*. She has reunited with Kartik Aaryan for the second time after *Luka Chuppi*. The duo is shooting for the Rohit Dhawan directorial in Haryana. The actress is set to turn a year older on July 27. A source close to the development said that she will be having a working birthday this year. The source revealed, "The entire cast is stationed in Haryana for the shoot of

their next, *Shehzada*, and even on 27th of July they will be in the Northern state. So it is going to be a working birthday for the actress this year. The *Adipurush* actress is keeping busy with her multiple film shoots that are happening back to back with hardly any breaks and so her birthday seems no exception." Kriti and Kartik's film is an official remake of the Telugu film *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* starring actor Allu Arjun. It also stars Paresh Rawal, Manisha Koirala and Ronit Roy. It will hit theatres February 10, 2023. Kriti has an exciting lineup of films in the pipeline. She is all set to be seen with Prabhas in *Adipurush*. She also has *Ganapath* with Tiger Shroff, *Bhediya* with Varun Dhawan and Anurag Kashyap's next.

Ranveer booked over nude photoshoot

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police have booked actor Ranveer Singh for obscenity and on other charges after his nude photos appeared in a New York-based magazine and later became viral on social media networks. "I have filed the complaint along with my husband Abhishek

Chaubey's NGO on the issue with the Chembur police Monday. The police have taken cognizance and registered a first information report on the NGO's plea," lawyer Vedika Chaube said. Among other things, the couple has contended that the photos of Singh have hurt the sensitivities and modesty of many women who are the actor's followers on various social media networks. The complainants claimed that Singh has been paid

crores of rupees for his photo shoot as well as the social media at the cost of polluting the social environment and sought appropriate action against the actor. Singh's photos, which surfaced on his Instagram account on July 22, evoked massive attention from celebs like Trinamool Congress MP Mimi Chakraborty, filmmaker Ram Gopal Verma and commoners, getting likes and trolls in equal measure.

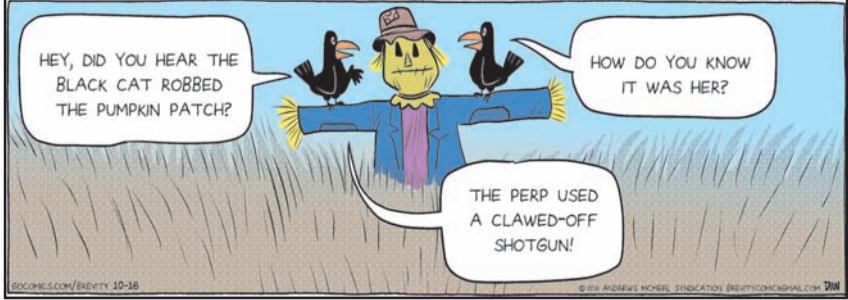
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

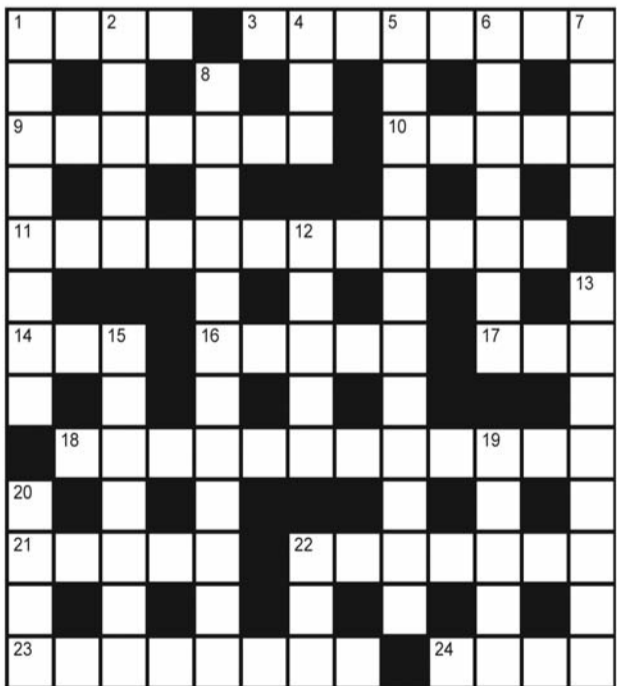


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Obi, e.g.
  - 3 Type of son, maybe
  - 9 Chinese medicinal herb
  - 10 Open land, UK style
  - 11 Fireworks
  - 14 Congeal
  - 16 Unrefined
  - 17 Thumbs-up vote
  - 18 Carabao (5,7)
  - 21 Honshu port
  - 22 One-eyed giant
  - 23 Foul weather gear
  - 24 Water source
- Down
- 1 Pointer on the road
  - 2 Whale finder
  - 4 Horse-drawn vehicle
  - 5 Chain reaction (6,6)
  - 6 Ill-tempered
  - 7 Glasgow gal
  - 8 Former cash in Hamelin (8,4)
  - 12 Leftover
  - 13 Amusement park ride
  - 15 Struggle
  - 19 Hacienda brick
  - 20 Small salmon
  - 22 Film container

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.

	9	6		2				
								1
		2	3					
		9			5			
	4	7					5	6
		8				2	3	
	6					4	7	
		3		9	4			
	2			3		9	8	

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M	A	C	A	D	A	M	A	M	A	S	S
O	A	O	E	D	I	M	A	G	E		
A	B	S	C	O	N	D	I	M	A	G	E
T	T	R	U	E	I	N					
S	T	E	A	M	S	T	U	N	N	E	D
			A				S				
H	E	A	R	T	H		T	A	R	T	A
A	I			D	L						
G	A	R	B	A	G	E		A	I	S	L
G	P	N	S		D	O	P				
A	C	O	R	N		P	A	D	D	L	E
R	I	O			I	A	O				
D	I	T	T			T	A	N	T	R	I

SUDOKU

5	3	1	2	6	8	7	4	9
9	7	4	1	5	3	8	6	2
6	2	8	4	9	7	3	5	1
3	6	7	9	4	2	1	8	5
4	8	9	3	1	5	2	7	6
1	5	2	7	6	8	4	9	3
7	4	6	5	3	1	9	2	8
8	9	3	6	2	4	5	1	7
2	1	5	8	7	9	6	3	4

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## BOOST TO ARMY

Defence Ministry approves procurement of military equipment and weapons worth ₹28,000 crore

NATIONAL | P5



## SCALING UP TIES

Leaders of China and Indonesia pledge to expand cooperation in areas like agriculture and food security

INTERNATIONAL | P8



## INDIA EYE CLEAN SWEEP

Shikhar Dhawan-led Team India look for a clean sweep when they face West Indies in the third and final ODI today

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 | 2022

P1



## INJURED NEERAJ PULLS OUT OF CWG

**BIRMINGHAM:** In a huge setback for India, strong medal contender Neeraj Chopra Tuesday pulled out of the upcoming Commonwealth Games due to a groin strain he developed during his historic silver medal-winning campaign at the recent World Championships. The 24-year-old Olympic champion was to defend his men's javelin throw title in Birmingham, where the Games are set to begin Thursday. The development means that Chopra's much-anticipated clash with Grenada's World Champion Anderson Peters will not happen now. IOA Secretary General Rajiv Mehta said Chopra underwent an MRI scan Monday in the USA and has been advised one-month rest.

MORE: BACK PAGE



## 5G AUCTION: ₹1.45L CR BIDS ON DAY 1

**New Delhi:** India's largest ever auction of spectrum used to carry mobile signals saw bids of ₹1.45 lakh crore for 5G airwaves from groups run by tycoons Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal and Gautam Adani on the first day Tuesday. All four applicants -- Ambani's Reliance Jio, Mittal's Bharti Airtel, Vodafone-Idea and an Adani group firm "actively" participated in the auction of 5G spectrum, that offers ultra-high speeds (about 10 times faster than 4G), lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time. Bids were also received for 700 MHz band, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters. The government received bids worth over ₹1.45 lakh crore on the first day of bidding, exceeding all expectations and surpassing 2015 records, he said.

MORE P9

## Plus II Science, Commerce results today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 26:** The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will declare the results of Plus II Science and Commerce streams at 4:00pm Wednesday. School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Tuesday.

Speaking to the media, Dash said, "In the first phase, the results of the Plus II Science and Commerce streams will be declared at 4:00pm Wednesday at the office of the CHSE in Bhubaneswar. We'll try to publish the result of the Arts stream within a week."

Students can download their results by visiting [www.orissaresults.nic.in](http://www.orissaresults.nic.in) and [www.chseodisha.nic.in](http://www.chseodisha.nic.in).

The CHSE had reduced the Plus II syllabus owing to Covid-19 situation and made necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the examination, it was learnt.

A total of 3,21,508 students have appeared for the Plus II examination in offline mode this year which was held from April 28 to May 31, 2022. As many as 2,13,432 students from Arts, 78,077 in Science and 24,136 in Commerce streams have registered themselves for the examination.

As many as 1,133 examination centres were set up and three-tier security arrangements were put in place to ensure smooth conduct of the examination. While all the examination centres had CCTV surveillance, mobile phones were also banned.

- The results of the Arts stream are expected to be announced within a week
- Students can download their results by visiting [www.orissaresults.nic.in](http://www.orissaresults.nic.in) and [www.chseodisha.nic.in](http://www.chseodisha.nic.in)
- A total of 3,21,508 students have appeared for the Plus II examination

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



His vitals indicate you have seized only a portion of his ill-gotten wealth. His vitals are absolutely normal!

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	55268.49	↓	497.73
SENSEX			
NIFTY	16483.85	↓	147.15
DOLLAR	79.78	↑	₹0.05
EURO	80.79	↓	₹0.64
GOLD	₹50,601	↑	₹65
SILVER	₹54,745	↑	₹338

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.0°C	31.5°C
MIN	25.0°C	25.0°C
Humidity	98%	98%
Rainfall	0.2mm	7.2mm
Forecast	Light rain likely	

## VENTING ANGER



Police personnel remove an NSUI member from Vani Vihar area of Bhubaneswar as he was protesting against the detention of Rahul Gandhi and ED's interrogation of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

# 'Freebies' a serious issue: SC

The CJI asks the Centre to take a stand on the issue before the SC decides whether these freebies are to be continued or not. The apex court also seeks a detailed counter affidavit from the govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** Terming as 'serious' the promise of 'irrational freebies' made by political parties during elections, the Supreme Court Tuesday wondered why the Centre was hesitant about taking a stand on the issue.

The court also asked the Centre whether the view of the Finance Commission can be sought to deal with the issue after the Election Commission (EC) said it cannot regulate political parties on it.

"Why don't you say that you have nothing to do with it and the EC has to take a call. I am asking whether the Government of India is considering it a serious issue or not?"

Why are you hesitating to take a stand? You take a stand and then we will decide whether these freebies are to be continued or not. You file a detailed counter (affidavit)," Chief Justice of India NV Ramana told Additional Solicitor General K M Natraj.

The bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, was hearing a PIL against the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections.

ties promising freebies during elections. The petitioner wanted the EC to invoke its powers to freeze their election symbols and cancel their registration.

The bench, during the brief hearing, sought the views of senior advocate and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal, who was in

the courtroom in connection with another matter, on the issue of freebies made during and after polls.

"This is a serious matter. Truly serious! The solutions are very difficult but the issue is extremely serious. It is the Finance Commission which gives out allo-

mission to look into this aspect. We cannot expect the government of India to issue directions to states. This is not possible and this will create a political issue," Sibal said.

Sibal said the Finance Commission can take an informed view with regard to freebies, their quantum and the financial condition of the state where the promises are sought to be implemented.

"Please find out from the Finance Commission as to whether this takes place. You find out who is the authority where we can initiate a debate or something. I will list it next week. We direct the Government of India to get instructions in this matter..." the CJI told the ASG.

Contd...P2

**The SC bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, was hearing a PIL against the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections**



cation to the states... They can take into account the debt of a state and the quantum of freebies. Finance commission is the appropriate authority to deal with it. Maybe we can invite the com-

## Oppn for House panel on Rayagada cholera

**The government is misleading the people on the casualty figure. While 14 people have died due to diarrhoea and cholera in Kashiapur, the government has put the death toll at nine**

MOHAN MAJHI | BJP LEADER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 26:** Targeting the state government in the Assembly over the spread of cholera and diarrhoea in tribal hinterland of Rayagada and nearby districts, Opposition BJP and Congress Tuesday demanded formation of a House Committee in order to assess the infected areas in the southern region of the state.

The issue was raised by Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi of BJP during Zero Hour claiming that at least 14 people have died of cholera in Kashiapur block of Rayagada district even as the state government's death figure stood at nine.

Majhi, who lead a fact finding team of BJP, said, "The government is misleading the people on the casualty figure. While 14 people have died due to diarrhoea and cholera in Kashiapur, the government has put the death toll at nine." He demanded the post-mortem report of remaining five people who too have succumbed to the infection.

The BJP leader said that the water-borne disease has been spreading in the area as people consume contaminated water and unhygienic food in Kashiapur block of Rayagada district. The people are deprived of minimum needs because of lack of facilities, he alleged. He asked the government to pre-

**The disease is well under the control after medical teams reached the spot. The people are being supplied with safe drinking water after detection of cholera in the area**

NABA KISHORE DAS | HEALTH MINISTER

pare a long term plan on how to contain outbreaks of diarrhoea and cholera which have been a regular phenomenon in Kashiapur block.

Congress whip Tara Prasad Bahinipati also claimed that the diarrhoea has also spread to his native Koraput district and some people of Dasmantpur block have also died due to the water-borne disease.

Bahinipati demanded formation of a House Committee to visit the diarrhoea and cholera infected areas in the southern region of the state.

Another Congress member Santosh Singh Saluja said the state government has totally failed to provide drinking water to the people even 22 years after its rule.

Meanwhile, Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das outside the Assembly claimed that the disease is well under the control after medical teams reached the spot. The people are being supplied with safe drinking water after detection of cholera in the area.

A report from Nuapada district said that diarrhoea has spread to Komma block, where one person has died and 20 others are infected with the disease.

Sources said diarrhoea cases were reported from Jatagada village of Komma block. The infected persons have been admitted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH). A medical team has also rushed to take stock of the situation, an official said.

## Now, 19 Oppn MPs suspended from RS

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 26:** Nineteen opposition MPs, including seven from the TMC and six from the DMK, were suspended Tuesday from attending the sitting of the Rajya Sabha till Friday for disrupting the proceedings of the House.

The opposition MPs, who stalled the proceedings since the start of the monsoon session of Parliament July 18 over price rise and the levy of the GST on daily essentials, entered the Well of the House shouting slogans.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh repeatedly asked them to return to their seats but when they refused, he asked the treasury benches to

move a motion for their suspension. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan moved a motion to suspend 10 MPs from the sitting of the House for the remainder of the week for their 'misconduct' by showing 'utter disregard to the House and authority of the chair'.

But when Harivansh put the motion to vote, he read out the names of 19 members.

The motion was carried by a voice vote. When some opposition MPs demanded a division of votes, the chair said he would do so if the members returned to their seats and the House was brought to order.

Contd...P2

## State has 8.80L unemployed youth

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 26:** Odisha has a total of 8,80,175 unemployed youth who have registered themselves with different employment exchange offices in the state until April 30 this year; Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjan Gharai said, Tuesday.

In a written reply to Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja in the Assembly, Gharai said out of the 8,80,175 registered unemployed youth, 5,81,676 are male and 2,98,499 are female.

The highest 73,126 unemployed youth have registered themselves in the state employment exchange in Bhubaneswar while 53,939 of Puri district have got themselves registered with the district employment exchange.



Similarly, 50,778 unemployed youth have registered themselves with district employment exchange in Sundargarh's Rourkela, 39,003 with the employment exchange in Bargarh and 36,711 in Cuttack.

According to Gharai, 34,052 unemployed youth have registered with the district employment exchange in Berhampur, and 6,642 in Berhampur University employment information and guidance bureau. Moreover, 1,534 youth have registered with the special

employment exchange for differently-abled and 58,701 with the special employment exchange for SC/ST in Bhubaneswar.

In another written reply, the Minister said 12,948 engineering graduates and 34,379 diploma pass out students have registered themselves with different employment exchanges of the state during the last five years.

Only 26 engineering graduates and 257 diploma holders have got jobs through the employment exchanges. Besides, 5,126 diploma holders and 10,612 ITI pass out students have been recruited through the central placement cell, he said.

Gharai said different skill development training like soft skill training, employability skill test and industrial training is being provided to engineering graduates.

BJD MPs meet NDA Vice Prez nominee

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 26: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Tuesday met National Democratic Alliance's Vice Presidential candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar here.

The MPs met Dhankhar at the residence of Union Coal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. BJD MP Sasmit Patra said that Jagdeep Dhankhar thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for extending support to him in Vice-Presidential election. It was said that the BJD decided to support Dhankhar after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the CM seeking support for the NDA nominee.

CLASSIFIED  
AFFIDAVIT

I, Ganeswar Mohapatra, aged about 49 years, S/o-Late Dibakar Mohapatra, resident of At: Chakabrahmansahi, P.O.: Sainkula, P.S.: Khunta, Dist.- Mayurbhanj, Odisha, Pin- 757102, do hereby declare that I'm the father of my son Ayush Mohapatra, My son's Ayush Mohapatra name spelling has been recorded as Ayush Mohapatra in all records. Now I want to change my son's name spelling from Ayush Mohapatra to Ayeush Mohapatra in all records. Hence for now my son's name spelling will known as Ayeush Mohapatra instead of Ayush Mohapatra.

By the virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Soro, I Niroj Kumar Panigrahi, S/o Chintamani Panigrahi state that earlier my name was Niroj Panigrahi which was mentioned in my correct name has prepared in my Voter ID bearing No.- TODOXXX668, Aadhar Card No.- XXXX XXXX 0118, Pan Card No.- XXXXXX784F in above manner as NIROJ KUMAR PANIGRAHI. That I have issued the H S C Certificate bearing Certificate No. A199.111938, Serial No. M 0588183 where My name has prepared as NIROJ PANIGRAHI. Niroj Panigrahi is affidavitved now as NIROJ KUMAR PANIGRAHI. That I do hereby declare that NIROJ KUMAR PANIGRAHI (as per Voter ID/ Aadhar card/ Pan card) and NIROJ PANIGRAHI (as per H S C Certificate) is one same person there is no other such person in same name except my name.

I, Sophia Shaik, aged about 51 years, D/o Shaikh Abdus Salam, W/o Mohammed Rafique Shaikh, At-Chandbali bypass road, In front of Unani Research Center, PS- Purunabazar, Dist- Bhadrak, Odisha, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my right English spelling name is SOPHIA SHAIK as per my PAN and Aadhaar Card. But wrongly mentioned in my Matric Board Certificate is SUFIYA SHEIKH. I swear this affidavit to produce the concern authority for prove my right English spelling name SOPHIA SHAIK.

Cops quiz actor Prakruti Mishra

Police questioned Mishra at her residence for nearly an hour in the presence of her parents

POST NEWS NETWORK, AGENCY

Bhubaneswar, July 26: Police Tuesday questioned Odia actor Prakruti Mishra after a dramatic brawl with Bollywood star Babushaan Mohanty's wife Trupti Satapathy last week over an alleged extramarital affair.

Mishra was questioned over two cases filed by the two sides but details of the investigation cannot be divulged. She cooperated with the probe

ARUN SWAIN | KHARVELNAGAR INSPECTOR

Police questioned Mishra at her residence here for nearly an hour in the presence of her parents.

High drama unfolded in Satya Nagar area of Bhubaneswar as Satapathy 'intercepted' Mohanty's SUV and also found Mishra in it

'Freebies' a serious issue, says SC

Continued from P1

At the outset, the counsel for the EC referred to the reply filed in the matter and said that offering freebies before polls and their execution after the results are the policy decisions of political parties, and the Central government and not the poll panel, will be the best suited for dealing with this issue.

The poll panel cannot regulate state policies and decisions which may be taken by the winning party when they form the government, the counsel for the EC said.

On the other hand, the ASG insisted the issue needed to be dealt with by the EC. Calling the matter "serious", the bench asked the government not to hesitate from taking a stand.

Lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, who has filed the PIL, said the poll panel has the power to de-recognise and seize the symbol of political parties and they can be used to stop doling out of irrational freebies.

He referred to the recent Punjab assembly election and said the state, which is precariously placed financially, has to bear the burden of the promises. "We are on our way to becoming Sri Lanka," he warned.

The top court had on January 25 sought replies from the Centre and the Election Commission on the PIL seeking direction to seize the symbol or deregister a political party that promises or distributes "irrational freebies" before polls, saying it is a "serious issue" as sometimes "freebie budget is going beyond regular budget".

The plea, which was filed ahead of the assembly polls in five states including Punjab, said there should be a total ban on such populist measures to gain undue political favour from voters as they violate the Constitution, and the EC should take suitable deterrent measures.

While issuing the notice, the bench had taken note of the submissions of senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Upadhyay, that a law was required to be framed and steps taken for seizure of party symbols or cancellation of registration of parties or both as ultimately it is the citizens who have to pay up. The plea urged the court to declare that the promise of irrational freebies from public funds before elections unduly influences the voters, disturbs the level playing field and vitiates the purity of the poll process. "Petitioner submits that the recent trend of political parties to influence voters by offering freebies with an eye on elections is not only the greatest threat to the survival of democratic values but also injures the spirit of the Constitution," said the plea.

"This unethical practice is just like giving bribes to the electorate at the cost of the exchequer to stay in power and must be avoided to preserve democratic principles and practices," it said.

The petition has also sought a direction to the EC to insert an additional condition in the relevant paragraphs of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, which deals with conditions for recognition as a state party, that a "political party shall not promise/distribute irrational freebies from the public fund before the election".

July 23.

Several videos went viral on social media showing Satapathy purportedly trying to drag Mohanty out of the car and also assaulting Mishra. The authenticity of these videos is yet to be verified.

Satapathy alleged that Mohanty and Mishra were in an extramarital affair for two years and she had caught them red-handed several times but gave her 32-year-old husband several chances, adding, however, that the same mistake cannot be repeated again and again.

"Mishra was questioned over two cases filed by the two sides but details of the investigation cannot be divulged. She cooperated with the probe," Kharvelnagar Inspector Arun Swain told reporters while leaving the house.

An FIR was lodged based on a police complaint filed by Mishra's mother under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing



hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and two others.

Satapathy's case was lodged under Sections 498A (husband or his relative subjecting her to cruelty) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Asked about Mohanty's whereabouts, the police officer said he did not have any idea.

Mishra's father said police recorded the statements regarding the allegations in the FIR. "I met

Babushaan in Chennai and want him to return to his family and live a happy life," he said.

Mohanty—who has acted in several movies such as 'Golmaal Love'-married his childhood friend Trupti Satapathy in 2014 and they have a son.

Mohanty did a live stream a day ago on Facebook, describing Mishra as a 'very good friend'.

"Neither has she (Mishra) blackmailed me, nor taken any money or harassed me," said the actor, who is the son of star couple Uttam and Aparajita Mohanty.

In an Instagram video, Mishra said she was assaulted by Satapathy and some goons. "They harassed me in the worst way possible," she added.

"Nobody can break anybody's house. It was already broken. If you don't want your man to go to work, put a chain around his neck and keep him home," the 'Hello Arsi' actor said.

BENCH IN WESTERN ODISHA

Haven't received confirmation on Orissa HC nod, says Rijiju

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 26: Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju Tuesday said he hasn't received any formal confirmation from Odisha government regarding Orissa High Court Chief Justice's nod for setting up of a bench of the court in western Odisha.

Responding to the apprehensions raised by MPs during the discussion on the Family Court (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in the Lok Sabha, Rijiju informed that there is an established system in practice and he cannot make any statement without the consent of the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.

"There is a proposal from the state government. The proposal has to be sent to Chief Justice of the High Court for consent. The Odisha government or the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court has to inform me that the Chief Justice has agreed for setting up a bench in western



Odisha," the Union Law Minister said.

Earlier, BJP MP Suresh Pujari has asked the Union Law Minister about the present status of the proposal for setting up of a HC bench in western Odisha. Pujari said Rijiju is the fourth Law Minister who has written to the state government and Chief Justice of Orissa HC on the issue.

"But, none of them received any response in this regard from the state government and the Odisha HC," Pujari claimed. He also urged the Union Minister to take up the matter once again with the state government.

It is worth mentioning here that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supported the the Family Court (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

Fraudsters create fake WhatsApp account of Chief Secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 26: The cyber fraudsters continue to target gullible people through fake social media accounts of influential bureaucrats and politicians in the state. In the latest incident, some miscreants have created a fake Whatsapp account of state Chief Secretary, Suresh Chandra Mohapatra to dupe innocent victims of their hard-earned money.

"It has come to the notice of the office of Chief Secretary that a fake account with mobile number 9315641784 is using the photo of Mohapatra, and is asking people to pay some bills or remit

some money. One such message, as mentioned below, has come to our notice," I&PR department Tuesday revealed in a press note.

The I&PR department has also warned people not to deposit money in anyone's account by falling prey to such tactics of the cyber fraudsters. It also clarified that the phone number used in the Whatsapp account does not belong to Mohapatra.

The persons who received messages seeking money from the fake account have been asked to inform the cyber police station or nearest police station.

"We want to inform the people that there is no such number of the

Oppn demands white paper on state economy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 26: Slamming the BJD government for putting the state under debt trap, Opposition BJP and Congress MLAs Tuesday demanded for publication of a white paper on the economic condition of the state.

Participating in a debate in the House, the Opposition members claimed that the loan burden of the state as well as the per capita loan burden has increased significantly.

The state loan burden has increased to ₹1.12 lakh crore now from ₹18,900 crore in 1999- 2,000. Similarly, the per capita loan burden also rose from ₹6,902 in 2000 to ₹22,042, said BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi.

The government has no plan to increase its own revenue and depends upon loans. There is no road to villages, no drinking water, industrial units were closed and the youths are migrating to other states in search of jobs due to fiscal mismanagement, he said.

Participating in the debate, Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said the people in the state are getting poorer as the government could not earmark the required money for development. The government has also miserably failed to spend 70 per cent of the allocated money, he alleged.

Similarly, Congress MLA Tara



Prasad Bahinipati said the loan burden of the state has increased by 375 per cent during the last ten years. He said over two lakh posts are lying vacant and the government has not given appointments during the last 20 years.

All factories and industrial units are either sold or closed and the youths of the state are migrating to other states in search of jobs. Describing the government as totally inefficient, Bahinipati demanded for publication of a white paper on the economy of the state.

Replying to the debate, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari refuted the opposition allegation and said Odisha is a leading state in the country in fiscal management and is in a much better position in comparison to all other states of the country.

He said except Bihar the loan burden of the state is the second lowest in the country. Dissatisfied with the Minister's reply the BJP and the Congress members staged a noisy walkout from the Assembly.

Cancer hosp to come up at NISER: Pradhan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 26: Union Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan said that a cancer hospital will be set up at the National Institute of Science, Education and Research (NISER) campus by Department of Atomic Energy and Tata Trust. The hospital will be constructed at the cost of ₹650 crore.

Union minister informed that department of Atomic energy will pay ₹450 Crore and Tata trust will contribute ₹200 crore for the hospi-

tal construction which will be completed in three years. For the hospital construction, 17 acre of land has been provided by NISER and other 10 acres of land will be provided by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

Union minister informed this after a discussion with Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and other officials. In view of the rising cancer cases in the eastern states of the country, particularly in Odisha, Sarangi had urged the Centre to set up a hub of Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) for cancer treatment and research in the State.

Now, 19 oppn MPs suspended from RS

Continued from P1

With the MPs refusing to budge, he said it seems they are not interested in the division and declared that the motion has been adopted.

The suspended MPs refused to leave, squatting on the floor of the House, leading to three adjournments -- first for 15 minutes by Harivansh, then for an hour and finally, for the day by Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the chair.

While seven of the suspended MPs belonged to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), six were for the DMK, three from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), two from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one from the Communist Party of India (CPI).

Sushmita Dev, Mausam Noor, Shanta Chhetri, Dola Sen, Santanu Sen, Abir Ranjan Biswas and Nadimul Haque of the TMC were suspended.

DMK's M Mohamed Abdulla, Kanimozhi NVN Somu, M Shanmugam, S Kalyanasundaram, R Girirajan and N R Elango were also suspended.

B Lingaiah Yadav, Ravichandra Vaddiraju and Damodar Rao Divakonda (TRS), V Sivadasan and A A Rahim (CPI-M) and Santosh Kumar (CPI) were the other MPs who were suspended.

Harivansh said the MPs were suspended for showing "utter disregard" to the House and the authority of the chair. Earlier in the day, while the proceedings were adjourned during the Zero Hour without a single issue being taken up, Harivansh conducted the Question Hour in the midst of slogan-shouting by the opposition MPs from the Well.

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SHORT TAKES

2 killed, 3 hurt as tractor overturns

**Rairangpur:** Two women farmhands were killed while three others were critically injured after a tractor they were travelling in overturned at Purunia village under Badampahad police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Mandodari Patra, 50, and Mita Hansdah, 22, of Keshargadia Dalki village. The critically-injured women, identified as Sombari Majhi, 45, Buduj Majhi, 50, and Puni Marandi, 47, of the same village, have been admitted to Rairangpur hospital. Police have launched a probe.

Teacher thrashed for ‘molesting’ girl

**Chandbali:** A teacher of a nodal school was tied to a utility pole and beaten up by a woman after he allegedly molested the latter's granddaughter in Dhamara area under this block in Bhadrak district, Tuesday. The matter came to the fore after a video of the woman assaulting the teacher went viral on social media. The woman's granddaughter, a Class V student, was allegedly molested by the teacher. The woman caught the teacher, who was on his way to the school, and tied him to the pole with the help of some villagers and beat him up on the spot. Villagers have urged the DEO to intervene in the matter and order an impartial probe into the incident.

Gurupriya a game-changer for Swabhiman Anchal



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chittrakonda, July 26:** Gurupriya bridge has proved to be a game changer for the Swabhiman Anchal under this block of Malkangiri district as it completed four years Tuesday.

The bridge has become a ray of hope for the residents of Swabhiman Anchal as it has been facilitating implementation of various developmental projects in the area. The bridge has also helped various welfare schemes of Centre and state governments reach the residents.

The bridge has also acted as a catalyst in curbing Maoist menace to a great extent. Left-wing extremism (LWE) activities have reduced by almost 80 per cent due to the joint efforts of Odisha Police, Border

The Swabhiman Anchal has started taking a new shape. Development that has taken place in the fields of education, healthcare, transportation, drinking water and street lighting has given a new identity to the area

The bridge has also acted as a catalyst in curbing Maoist menace. LWE activities have reduced by almost 80% due to joint efforts of Odisha Police, BSF, DVF and SOG jawans

Security Force (BSF), District Voluntary Force (DVF) and Special Operations Group jawans.

The peaceful conduct of panchayat elections in the area this year is indicative of the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the area which was unthinkable few years back.

The bridge has also facilitated construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities, health-care services, allowances, pensions, housing projects and agri-cultural benefits for the residents and in undertaking plantation works in the area.

Swabhiman Anchal comprises of 151 villages in nine panchayats of Chittrakonda block. These villages surrounded by hills and Balimela reservoir were once cut off from the rest of world and were devoid of de-

velopmental initiatives.

The villagers were living a life of seclusion and drudgery from the rest of the world due to the Balimela reservoir. However, things started changing for the better after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Gurupriya bridge July 26, 2018. He also renamed the cut-off area as ‘Swabhiman Anchal’. Meanwhile, a lot of changes have taken place in the Swabhiman Anchal during these four years.

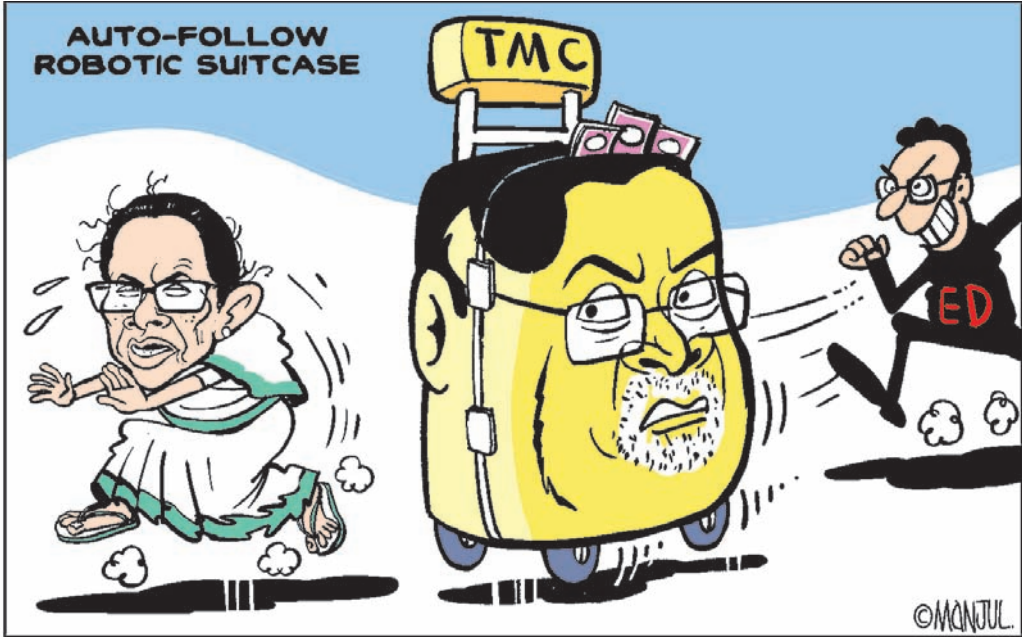
The Swabhiman Anchal has started taking a new shape. Development that has taken place in the fields of education, health-care services, transportation, drinking water facilities and street lightings has given a new identity to the area.

Development has been made possible in the fields of livelihood, women empowerment, mobile connectivity and fish farming.

New roads have come up in the area under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). People have been able to earn their livelihood through millet, suan, turmeric, kangu, Bajra, kherjana, kandul and fish farming. Landless people in the area have been provided with land pattas by the Chittrakonda tehsil.

Agriculture department, Horticulture department, Odisha Livelihood Mission, ICDS and the local tehsil office are working in the area to help people reap the fruits of development.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Stone mafia raided over attack on RI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nilagiri, July 26:** A day after stone mafia attacked Sajanagad revenue inspector (RI) here in Balasore district, the administration and police raided the area and the houses of stone mafia Tuesday.

Nilagiri sub-collector, tehsildar and local IIC along with a police team carried out the raids. They seized a compressor machine, a tractor, a jeep and several machinery used for stone mining and explosion. The raids have struck terror among the stone mafia in the area.

The stone mafia have been ruling the roost in Ramitrapur near Swarnachud hill, Chainapal, Begunia,



Mahisapatta and Baghamara areas under Nilagiri tehsil.

Reports said illegal blasting was being carried out in a hill under Nilagiri tehsil. Tehsildar Ashesh Kumar Nayak got information

RI recorded stone mining on his cell phone for which he was attacked with an iron rod by mafia

about the illegality and sent Sajanagad RI Santosh Kumar Behera to look into the matter. A person and his son were transporting illegally extracted stone from a quarry. He had recorded illegal activities on his cell phone and was heading back to the office when the duo attacked the latter with an iron rod. They also took away his cell phone and wallet containing ₹4,000.

Uncertain future staring at Mayurbhanj bamboo artisans



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Morada, July 26:** With scarce job opportunities and livelihood sources, bamboo artisans of several villages under Morada block in Mayurbhanj district are travelling to neighbouring states to work as migrant labourers.

While thousands of migrant workers had returned to their villages after Covid-19-induced lockdown, lack of buyers for their products has forced the bamboo weavers to leave their homes again in search of work.

Bamboo items, which were once high in demand, are now losing their place in the market, thanks to lack of assistance from the administration and the government.

Moreover, easy availability of Chinese products has dampened the demand.

Colourful bamboo-made hand fans, ladders, baskets and mats now look forlorn. Villagers from Nuajhalia, Durgapur, Haladipal, Chitrada, Gadagaon and other panchayats under Morada block had been reviving the craft. However, with no help from the administration, it has become difficult for the bamboo weavers to help the craft sustain. Rabindra Mahant, a bamboo weaver, who has been in the business for nearly three decades, is unable to sell even a single bamboo hand fan in the last one month. “I had woven more than a hundred bamboo hand fans

keeping in mind the summer season but all are left unsold. Now, the rainy season has already set in. So, there are no takers of these hand fans,” he lamented.

Similarly, Santosh Kumar Behera, a bamboo weaver, sits all the day on his house verandah and weaves bamboo trays, mats and other products, with the hope that people will buy at least one product. However, there are few takers for his product. So, he and his fellow villagers have decided to go to other states to work as migrant labourers. Earlier, during wedding season, there was a huge demand for ‘mora’ (a bamboo tray) which is commonly filled with pulses and rice to offer ‘Baagina’ during the wedding. But the products are now gathering dust.

“It has become really difficult for us to even meet our basic needs,” said another weaver adding that there are nearly hundreds of bamboo weavers in Mayurbhanj district who need help.

“We all are staring at a grim future,” he said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khaira, July 26:** Abandoned murram and laterite mine pits on government land in Kupari and Bartana revenue circles under Khaira tehsil of Balasore district have turned into deathtraps as 30 people have lost their lives falling into those quarries in last 10 years.

These perilous quarries have become a cause of concern for the local people.

Reports said huge craters and pits are dug during illegal extraction of minor minerals like laterite stones and murram at several places in these two revenue circles, but are left uncovered.

During monsoon, these pits get filled with rainwater. People, passersby and children commuting near these areas accidentally fall into them and die, locals said.

Most of these quarries are as deep as 15 ft. “Once your feet slip, death is certain,” they pointed out.

It was leant that in the last few years many people have died falling into such quarries. Those who lost their lives include Babaji Patra of



A quarry pit under Khaira tehsil

OP PHOTO

Bhudeishola, Nrushingha Charan Sahu of Guapal, Biswadev Dalei of Gadapokhari, Debendra Mallick of Barajodi, Jhunu Bindhani (a student) of Gagua, another student Krishan Das of Gadapokhari, and two children – Ratna Singh of Kupari Adivasi Sahi and Biswajit Naik of Gagua. Biswajit died a week ago.

Recently, one Pradip Jena had drowned in a laterite quarry at Barpada under Bartana revenue circle.

Many abandoned quarries are close to Gagua Sevashram School, Barajodi Primary School, Anganwadi centre, Gadapokhari UP School and a Saraswati Sishu Mandir and some other private ed-

Sarpach Tikirani Sethi said quarries are the most perilous spots during monsoon. Locals are really worried about the safety of their kids

educational institutions, putting the children's lives at risk.

“After mining of minerals, quarries are supposed to be filled up or barricaded. But the administration is apathetic towards the issue,” said Bijay Kumar Barik of Gaupal.

Former zilla parishad member Kalpana Naik blamed active quarry mafia gangs for the mishaps.

Sarpach Tikirani Sethi said quarries are the most perilous spots during monsoon when locals are really worried about the safety of their children.

Tehsildar Mahendra Kumar Behera said such a situation has been created by leaving open the mine pits without barricading them.

Joda-Bamebari state highway in dire straits

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, July 26:** Joda-Bamebari state highway, billed as one of the lifelines of Keonjhar district in terms of mineral transportation, is in bad shape due to lack of maintenance by the public works department, locals alleged. Commuters, ore-laden trucks, buses and local people are having a bumpy journey on the road, as per reports.

It is the main thoroughfare leading to Joda mining area. Thousands of people from panchayats like Jurudi, Jajanga, Jalahari, Balda, Badakalimati and Palasa commute on the road, apart from thousands of trucks and dumpers carrying the minerals.

The road is replete with pot-holes and craters, which often

cause vehicular breakdown. Mishaps are routinely occurring on the route, locals lamented.

Though they have drawn the attention of the administration and the legislators towards the bad shape of the road, no step has been taken yet.

It may be noted here that ₹50 crore has been allocated from District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund for expansion and restoration of the 13-km long Joda-Bamebari state highway. However, the same has been left halfway even after six years of commencement of the work.

The construction agency concerned has failed to ensure quality work while locals have demanded that the department should pay heed to the road condition.





## BUXI JAGABANDHU ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL-II

### SATYABHAMAPUR

36 Students of Class -X have made BJEM School-II proud by securing 90% and above marks in aggregate in AISSE-2022

**SCHOOL TOPPER**

**98.4%**



**KHUSHI MANDAL**

**Congratulations!**

5 Students of Class -XII (Science & Commerce) have made BJEM School-II proud by securing 90% or above marks in aggregate in AISCE - 2022

**SCIENCE TOPPER**

**94.8%**



**ALOK KUMAR PANDA**



**94%**

**AMLAN KUMAR BEHERA**



**90.4%**

**MAYANK MAHAPATRA**



**90.4%**

**RITUPARNA RATH**

**COMMERCE TOPPER**

**90.2%**



**KRISHNAKANT GARABADU**

The spiritual path is one of falling on your face, getting up, brushing yourself off, turning and looking sheepishly at God and then taking the next step.

SRI AUROBINDO

## Rohingyas' Hope

The rejection by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of the Myanmar military junta's objections to a case of alleged state-sponsored killing, rape and forcible eviction of the country's Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state is one step forward to make the junta accountable for brutal repression on the ethnic population. The case concerns Myanmar's alleged genocide against the Rohingyas in military operations launched in October 2016 and August 2017. Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine state in 2017 in the aftermath of an attack by a Rohingya armed group. More than 700,000 Rohingyas Muslims fled to neighbouring Bangladesh. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and torching thousands of Rohingyas homes. About 600,000 Rohingyas remained in Rakhine despite the crackdown. More than 100,000 live in "displacement" camps that Human Rights Watch has described as "squalid and abusive" with "severe limitations" on their movement, education and healthcare. Amnesty has said the sordid treatment being meted out to the ethnic group living in Rakhine is comparable to the notorious apartheid in South Africa. Since the February 2021 coup, the military junta has placed even greater movement restrictions and harsher punishments on the Rohingyas for attempting to leave the country.

Strangely, no other country seriously defended the Rohingyas except Gambia which filed the case before the ICJ in November 2019 alleging that the Myanmar military had committed the genocidal acts of killing, causing serious bodily and mental harm, inflicting conditions that are calculated to bring about physical destruction, imposing measures to prevent births and forcible transfers intended to destroy the Rohingya group in whole or in part. Myanmar questioned Gambia's "interference" in its internal matter, but the ICJ ruled the latter, as a party to the Genocide Convention, has every right to take up the cause of the Rohingyas. Canada and Netherlands have rallied behind Gambia in the ICJ case.

The rejection of the preliminary objections by the ICJ means the case can now proceed on merit to examine Gambia's genocide allegations against Myanmar. The latter will now have to submit its response in writing and cannot delay the case on any pretext. The ICJ case is not a criminal one against individual suspects, but a legal action that alleges Myanmar bears responsibility for the genocide as a state.

In December 2019, the court heard the case on Gambia's request for provisional measures to protect the Rohingyas remaining in Myanmar from genocide, prevent all attacks on them and take steps to preserve evidence related to the case. The court also ordered Myanmar to report on its compliance with the provisional measures every six months. But, reports suggest there has been no let-up in the persecution of the hapless people.

Hope of justice for the Rohingyas stems from the fact that the decks are now cleared for making the junta legally accountable. At the same time prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) will investigate the alleged crimes following a case in the ICC filed by the British Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK). The ICC can prosecute alleged breaches of international law committed anywhere in the world.

While the court's decisions are binding and countries generally follow them, it has no way of enforcing them. The UN Security Council can, on the basis of the investigation, bring more pressure on the junta by cutting off its supply of arms and revenue, even if a resolution to this effect is vetoed by Russia or China, who are friendly towards the regime for their strategic and commercial interests.

This is all the more necessary since the junta has no compunction even now as is evident from the execution of four people, including top pro-democracy activists over the weekend. The military regime denied bodies to their families on the inhuman plea that prison rules do not require handing them over. The four had been arrested last year with trumped-up charges of "brutal murders of innocent people" in March 2021. It is for the first time since the 1980s that Myanmar has carried out executions.

Gambia's spirited defence of the Rohingyas is a lesson for the whole civilized world on how to respond to genocidal governments, no matter where they exist.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Cherish that which is within you, and shut off that which is without; for much knowledge is a curse. ZHUANGZI
- The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large. CONFUCIUS
- Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. LAO TZU

### WORDSWORTH

#### ■ Valetudinarian

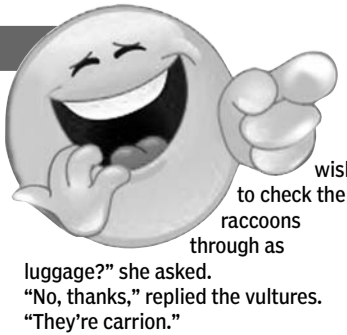
A valetudinarian is unduly anxious about his health. The everyday word for this condition might be thought to be hypochondriac, but there's a subtle difference: the hypochondriac thinks he's always ill, but the valetudinarian takes great care to ensure he never is. This polysyllabic and literary term is a good choice at times when it is desirable not to seem too unkind. In November 2004, the word appeared in an obituary of the football writer Arthur Hopcraft in the Independent: "Fastidious, set in his ways and prematurely balding, Hopcraft had an air of the valetudinarian bachelor about him from a relatively early age." The word appears in the language in 1703, in the third volume of William Dampier's A New Voyage Round the World. He wrote: "Many of our English Valetudinarians have gone from Jamaica ... to the I. Caimanes ... to live wholly upon Turtle that abound there". A writer in the Gentleman's Magazine in 1787 remarked that: "Every one knows how hard a task it is to cure a valetudinarian." The word is from Latin valetudinarius, in ill health.

#### ■ Vection

An everyday example of vection is sitting in a stationary train at a platform and seeing another alongside start to move; this may give the impression that you're moving in the opposite direction: a visual stimulus has fooled you. Vection can have unfortunate side-effects, because a conflict between what your eyes are seeing and what the motion sensors in your ears are telling your brain is a classic cause of motion sickness. Designers of video games want to enhance players' feeling of being part of the action by making it seem that they are moving within the scene. But the small size of most displays and the risk of motion sickness have constrained them. A combination of new types of wrap-around visual displays and motion sensors such as treadmills is now changing that because they can couple the movements of players with what they are seeing. As a result, vection has become common as a term of art within the field.

### LOL FLYING VULTURES

As migration approached, two elderly vultures doubted they could make the trip south, so they decided to go by airplane. When they checked their baggage, the attendant noticed that they were carrying two dead raccoons. "Do you



wish to check the raccoons through as luggage?" she asked. "No, thanks," replied the vultures. "They're carrion."



Shivaji Sarkar

A NEUTRAL INDIA HAS TO TRUDGE THROUGH A DIFFICULT PHASE TO MAINTAIN SUPPLIES FROM RUSSIA AND THE WEST AS WELL AS TO KEEP THE DOMESTIC PRICES LOW

### IN JEST THIS



Melvin Durai

THE COVID VIRUS, LIKE THE IPHONE, COMES IN DIFFERENT MODELS WITH DIFFERENT FEATURES

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### FOCUS SUPPLY CRUNCH

# INDIA'S ENERGY WOES

The unstable global energy market, volatile prices, uneven supplies may have repercussions on India's energy security. The first hit is India's natural gas company GAIL's liquefied natural gas (LNG) deal, followed by the Russian demand for payment in UAE dirhams converted in dollar terms.

The GAIL's troubles are traced to the German energy regulator taking over Gazprom Germania, which operates gas to storage and supplies to industries. The move followed Gazprom moving out of the subsidiary so that it could continue business without attracting sanctions. It has led to the default in delivery of five cargoes as per a 20-year deal agreed in 2012 for 2.5 million tonne LNG a year.

This has become a problem for GAIL, which meets 50 per cent of the nation's LNG needs. It is scouting for alternative fuel. But it faces the problem of Russia stopping supplies to Gazprom Marketing & Trading that owned the future gas contracts for supplying to Gazprom Germania and other subsidiaries. It used to supply from Yamal LNG facility. After Russia's stoppage of supplies, Gazprom initially managed supplies from its floating international portfolio. As prices rose to \$40 a unit and supplies to Europe became lucrative, it diverted supplies leaving GAIL in the lurch.

In fact, the prices are so high that Gazprom Germania is said to have margins after paying damages under the take-or-pay clause. The GAIL has the option to take legal recourse but it is cumbersome, may take years and would not address the problems of the Indian consumers.

The GAIL has long-term LNG supply contracts from the US to Australia, supplementing domestic gas supplies, though it may cost a bit more in the prevailing circumstances. Prior to the Russian war against Ukraine, the US LNG used to cost one-third of the price of gas available on the spot or current market.

The GAIL has a 5.8 million tonne per annum LNG contract with the US suppliers. These are all linked to the US gas market, where the current rate is \$10 per million British



The Asian LNG prices are rising with intense demand from Japan, Korea and India. Trading activity in the Asia LNG market rose as traders and end-users dipped back into the spot market to secure cargoes amid increasing global supply uncertainty as the Gazprom reduction of gas flow into Europe spooked an already fractured market

thermal unit. In comparison, the spot price of LNG in Asia is between \$37 and \$40 per million British thermal unit. The GAIL and the Union Petroleum Ministry are scouting the markets for ensuring supplies. The Asian LNG prices are rising with intense demand from Japan, Korea and India. Trading activity in the Asia LNG market rose as traders and end-users dipped back into the spot market to secure cargoes amid increasing global supply uncertainty as the Gazprom reduction of gas flow into Europe spooked an already fractured market.

The world energy markets are seeing too many oddities. India's domestic exports though have seen curtailment, of late, with Russian crude being supplied to private refiners it is being exported again. The cap through an export tax clamped July 1 for ensuring at least 50 per cent of the private refiners' production has been removed. The duty, imposed following fuel shortage in a number of states, has been waived on petrol, and cut by a third on diesel and brought down the windfall tax by 27 per cent.

The tax has been reduced from

₹6 to ₹4 on diesel and done away on petrol. The duty has been waived on refined products and those shipped from SEZs. This will give a big boost to mainly two private refiners Nyara and Reliance. A major benefit will be to the latter as its refining is based in an SEZ in Jamnagar. The duty reduction is also said to benefit ONGC, Oil India and Vedanta.

Of late, according to tenders by Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum, diesel imports are expected to rise to its highest since February 2022 at over 48,000 barrels per day. India's increased imports are telling on Asian fuel supply as planned petroleum supplies from China have been decreasing.

India is the world's third-largest oil consumer at about 5 million barrels a day. It is growing at 3-4 per cent a year and the demand is likely to go up to 7 million barrels a day in a decade. The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), India's oil import dependence was 85 per cent in 2019-20, marginally declined to 84.4 per cent in 2020-21 and again has risen to 85.6 per cent in 2021-22 and in April 2022 it rose to 86.6 per cent. This year's imports are to surge be-

yond the 212.2 million tonnes of crude last year.

The new exploration licence announcement is a good move but it may take a decade to start new production. The aim is to reduce imports to 50 per cent, too ambitious, by 2030. Apart from long gestation the capital requirement is extremely high. India despite odds remains dependent on Russian oil. India's crude oil imports from Russia have jumped over 50 times since April and now make up for 10 per cent of all crude bought from overseas. Russian oil made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India prior to the Ukraine war.

The country is facing some petrol and diesel shortage as fuel pumps have reportedly gone dry in several states including Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and some parts of eastern and north-eastern regions.

There have been long queues around fuel pumps in several parts of the country in the past few days as people rush to fill the fuel tanks of their vehicles. Several petrol pumps in and around Srinagar and Rajasthan have also faced shortages. The US-led sanctions on the energy tie-up with Russia have been contested by a number of gas-starved NATO members, including Germany, Europe's largest economy. Even Japan, the world's third largest economy after the US and China, says it will maintain oil and gas projects in Russia citing the country's energy security concerns as the reason.

Germany and Japan are the most important US strategic partners in Europe and Asia, respectively. Only a week ago, Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Koichi Gagiuda made an emphatic statement that his country "does not intend to withdraw" from oil and LNG development projects in Russia as they make a choice between energy security and tightening sanctions on Russia for the war in Ukraine. A neutral India has to trudge through a difficult phase to maintain supplies from Russia and the West as well as to keep the domestic prices low.

INFA

# COVID hits harder than Mike Tyson

About a week ago, I tested positive for COVID, but don't worry: Dr NK Arora, chief of India's COVID Working Group, says it's perfectly safe to read my column. Just wash your hands afterward.

If you've never been infected with COVID and don't know what it's like, I'm not going to sugarcoat things for you: COVID is a B-word. Actually, COVID is two B-words, one of them in English and the other in Hindi.

Some people will tell you that they had a mild form of COVID and recovered very quickly, but it all depends on how many times they were vaccinated, which exact type they were infected with, and which exact God they were praying to.

I am not an expert on COVID, but now that I've had first-hand experience with it, I feel obligated to share my knowledge by answering COVID-related questions from some of my readers.

Question: "My mother keeps

telling me to wear a mask when I go to music concerts and other crowded venues, but it seems unnecessary to me. I know many people have died from COVID, but I'm young and fully vaccinated, so even if I get it, how bad would it be?"

Answer: "Did you happen to see the widely shared video of the drunk man on a commercial flight who kept pestering Mike Tyson? Well, the drunk man is like a vaccinated person appearing in crowded places without wearing a mask. And the punches that landed on the man's forehead from the former boxing champ are like COVID when it's being easy on you."

Question: "I am a single man in my early 30s. I had COVID a few weeks ago and am now fully healthy, ready to get back into the game. Do you think I'd be able to pick up more women at the bar if I wore a T-shirt that says 'COVID survivor'?"

Answer: "No, but you might be able to pick up COVID again."

Question: "I've been sweating a

lot at night lately. Do you think I might have COVID or a bad case of climate change?"

Answer: "Many people have been suffering from climate change lately. But night sweats are also connected to COVID. If you have no other symptoms, you are probably just feeling the heat. COVID doesn't believe in just banging on your door in the middle of the night. It also throws rocks at your windows, paints graffiti on your walls, curses you in three languages, and then drops Vladimir Putin down your chimney to curse you in another."

Question: "Why have some people gotten Alpha, others Delta and others Omicron?"

Answer: "The COVID virus, like the iPhone, comes in different models with different features. A new model is introduced every few months, so consumers don't get bored with the old model. The original model, SARS-CoV-2, came out in early 2020. The current model, Omicron, has several sub-models, including the BA.5, whose features

include runny nose, sore throat, headache, cough and fatigue. Scientists prefer the word variant to model, and this is understandable. But you might get slapped if you tell Nidhi Sunil that she's a super variant."

Question: "What is long-haul COVID? Is it a special type of COVID that affects truck drivers?"

Answer: "Long-haul COVID is the same as long COVID or chronic COVID. It means that COVID is not just an annoying relative who stays in your home for a few days, but an obnoxious tenant who is claiming rights to the property. This is why you should always minimise your risk of getting COVID, even if you are young, fully vaccinated and healthy. Evicting COVID isn't always easy."

Question: "I had COVID a few months ago. All my symptoms have disappeared, except one. I do not have a sense of taste. What can I do about my loss of taste?"

Answer: "You can manage the social media accounts of Elon Musk."

### Leader in digital payments

Sir, It is highly commendable that India has cemented its place as a leader and a dominant force in the worldwide market for digital payments. Over the past few years, digital payments have rapidly increased in India. According to a study by ACI Worldwide, the nation accounted for 48.6 billion transactions, the most real-time payments in 2021, nearly three times the amount of the next largest market, China. Online transactions are estimated to surpass \$500 billion between 2019 and 2023, with roughly 90% of consumers predicted to use digital payments in the near future. The digital payments system in India is powered by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The UPI, which was introduced in 2016, enables users to send immediate payments using their mobile phones and a number that is directly connected to their bank account. Debit card linking was formerly permitted on UPI platforms. The most recent RBI recommendation, however, is to make digital payments more user-friendly by connecting credit cards to UPI (starting with RuPay). Thus, UPI has played a significant role in the explosive growth of digital payments over the past five years. According to the RBI study, India has made significant strides and assumed a leadership position in big value payment systems and quick payment systems, which have facilitated the rapid rise of digital payments.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

### Flag Code amendment

Sir, It is sad that the Centre has made an amendment to the National Flag Code, allowing the Tricolour to be made of polyester as against the conventional handloom khadi flag manufactured and supplied by the Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangha at Bengeri in Hubballi for years. Rule 1.2 (Part I) of the 'Flag Code of India' rule book clearly stipulates that "The National Flag of India shall be made of hand spun and hand woven wool/cotton/silk khadi bunting." If this being so, it is incomprehensible why the Centre has opted for a change in material of the Tricolour, as this will spell doom for the entire unit of the Sangha ahead of the platinum jubilee celebrations of our Independence, especially when it has a stock of raw materials to supply flags worth ₹5 crore in anticipation of the 'Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. The switch-over to polyester flags will also financially affect a huge chunk of women workers employed at the Sangha, who are already dissatisfied with their wages, yet relentlessly work throughout the year out of sheer pride for the Tricolour.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

of the day quote

You know what our government's thinking is. Whatever is our ideology, consider it as the country's ideology. Whatever we think... is for the country... I'm proud of it

I paid homage to all those martyrs who made the Supreme Sacrifice to defend Maa Bharti at the BJP HQ in New Delhi. Their valour, courage & bravery will always inspire us. We remain forever indebted to our men & women in uniform. Jai Jawan

Pleased to meet @USAID Administrator @SamanthaPower today. Discussed global development prospects in the context of food, energy and debt challenges. Also exchanged views on further expanding the India-US partnership

SHORT TAKES

Punjab AG quits

**Chandigarh:** Barely four months after being appointed to the post of Punjab's advocate general (AG), senior advocate Anmol Rattan Sidhu has resigned citing personal reasons, while criminal lawyer Vinod Ghai will succeed him. Ghai, 56, will be the fifth AG of the state in 10 months. Opposition Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) slammed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) regime over the development, alleging that this government seems to be more in an "unsettling mode than getting settled".

Man gets 20 years RI for raping minor

**Jalna:** A court in Maharashtra's Jalna Tuesday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a four-year-old girl. Principal district and sessions court judge M G Gimekar on Tuesday convicted Vinod Vikram Paithankar (26) of charges under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Paithankar was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh was imposed on him.

12 kg heroin seized

**Jammu:** In a major success, Jammu police arrested three drug peddlers and seized 12 kg of heroin, valued at around Rs 24 crore in the international market, and approximately Rs 11 lakh cash, from them, officials said Tuesday. Giving details, Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh said that police, working on a tip-off, laid a special naka in the jurisdiction of police station Bahu Fort.

India designates 5 new Ramsar wetland sites

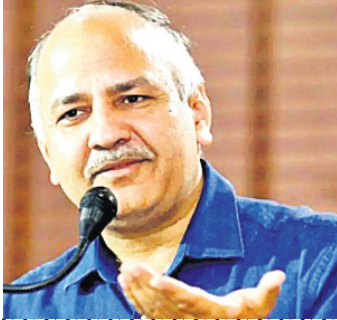
India is aiming at getting a Ramsar tag for 75 of its wetlands on the 75th year of Independence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** Five more Indian sites – three from Tamil Nadu and one each from Mizoram and Madhya Pradesh – have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the number of such sites in the country to 54, the Union environment ministry said on Tuesday. The aim of the Ramsar list is “to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands, which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life, through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits”.



India is aiming at getting a Ramsar tag for 75 of its wetlands on the 75th year of independence, according to officials. "The emphasis PM Shri Narendra Modi has put on environmental protection and conservation has led to a marked improvement in how India treats its wetlands. Delighted to inform that 5 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance," Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav tweeted. Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikarai



Kejriwal government strives to make world-class health facilities more accessible for Delhi residents  
MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

Lack of judicial infra: SC seeks details from states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** Concerned over lack of adequate judicial infrastructure in the country, the Supreme Court Tuesday sought details from states about the funds made available to them under centrally sponsored schemes and the amount they have disbursed for the judiciary in the last five years.

The apex court asked state law secretaries to file affidavits giving details, including about the amount of money which remains to be provided to the state and district judiciary or was diverted for other projects.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant asked the law secretaries to complete the exercise within four weeks and place the affidavit on record.

"The Law Secretaries to the state governments shall also submit their responses on affidavit specifically clarifying for the financial years 2017-18 to 2021-22: the extent of funds which have been made available to the state under centrally sponsored schemes; the amount which has been disbursed by the State government for the state and district judiciary; the amount which remains to be provided to the state and district judiciary or was diverted for other projects; and details of the utilization certificates," the bench said in its order. Earlier, a copy of the report of the National Court Management System Committee (NCMSC) was placed before the apex court. While hearing the matter in December last year, the top court had asked the Centre



The top court is dealing with a matter pertaining to the judiciary where various aspects including judicial infrastructure and vacancies are being deliberated upon

not to leave the high courts at the mercy of state governments for funding judicial infrastructure and to develop a centralised mechanism where the money goes directly to them as per their needs. During the hearing Tuesday, the apex court observed, "At present, what we will do is, let the high courts as well as the states respond to this....And we will also ask the states to make a disclosure of how much money, which they have received from the centrally sponsored schemes, they have actually spent in the last five years."

The bench noted that Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj, representing the Centre, has submitted a note on various relevant aspects. It directed that



Students wade through a waterlogged street after heavy monsoon rains at Hatigaon in Guwahati

PTI PHOTO

FIGHT FOR SENA SYMBOL

SC to hear team Thackeray's plea Aug 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** The Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to hear August 1 a fresh plea by the Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction against Election Commission proceedings on a petition by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led group for recognition as the real Shiv Sena.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli was urged by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Thackeray faction, that the ongoing proceedings before the poll panel needed to be stayed as it would impact the hearing here in the case.

Sibal said the matters pending in the top court here should not be

rendered infructuous.

"These are completely different issues. One concerns the Speaker and the Lordships are dealing with all the issues of disqualification, floor test etc. The Election Commission is dealing with the intra-party thing as to who represents the party, the symbol and it has nothing to do with the disqualification," senior advocate NK Kaul, appearing for the Shinde faction, told the bench. What is the stage of the proceedings before the poll panel, the bench asked. "The EC has only issued notices for August 8," Kaul said.

The top court then said it would tag the fresh plea with pending ones and hear it together with them August 1. Recently, the poll panel asked the rival factions of the Shiv

Sena led by Thackeray and Shinde to submit documents by August 8 in support of their claims on the election symbol – bow and arrow – of the political outfit.

The poll panel sources had said the two sides have been asked to submit documents, including letters of support from the legislative and organisational wings of the party and the written statements of rival factions.

After the notices were issued by the poll panel, the fresh plea was filed in a pending petition by Subhash Desai, the general secretary of the Shiv Sena in the top court. The Uddhav faction sought the nod of the top court to make the EC also a party besides staying the proceedings related to party and its symbol.

AMARNATH YATRA SUSPENDED

The annual Amarnath Yatra was suspended Tuesday between Panchtarni and the holy cave after heavy rains and flash floods, officials said, as the authorities asked the pilgrims to vacate the site. The mountains around the holy cave was pounded by heavy rains this afternoon, triggering flash floods in the area



Govt approves arms procurement proposals worth over ₹28,732Cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** The defence ministry Tuesday approved the procurement of military equipment and weapons worth Rs 28,000 crore, including swarm drones and close-quarter battle carbines, to bolster the overall combat prowess of the armed forces along the northern and western borders.

The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals of the armed forces amounting to Rs 28,732 crore were accorded by the DAC," the defence ministry said in a statement. The approval to the new procurement proposals came amid India's lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

The ministry said the approval to procure four lakh close-quarter battle carbines was granted to combat the "current complex paradigm of conventional and hybrid warfare" and terrorism at the borders.

"To combat the current complex paradigm of conventional and hybrid warfare and counter-terrorism at the borders, AoN for induction of approx. 4 lakh of close quarter battle carbines for the services have also been accorded by the DAC," it said.

The ministry said the decision is set to provide a major impetus to the small arms manufacturing industry in the country and enhance "Atmanirbharta" (self-reliance) in small arms.

"Considering the demand for enhanced protection against the threat of enemy snipers to our



troops deployed along the Line of Control, and in close combat operations in counter-terrorism scenario, the DAC accorded AoN for bulletproof jackets with Indian Standard BIS VI level of protection," it said.

On the procurement of the armed swarm drones, the ministry said these are being acquired as drone technology has proved to be a force multiplier in military operations.

"In the recent conflicts across the world, drone technology proved to be a force multiplier in military operations. Accordingly, to augment the Indian Army's capability in modern warfare, AoN for procurement of autonomous surveillance and armed drone swarms has been accorded by the DAC under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category," it said.

The DAC has also approved the Navy's proposal to procure an upgraded 1,250-KW capacity marine gas turbine generator for power generation application onboard the Kolkata class of ships through the Indian industry. "This will give a major boost to the indigenous manufacturing of gas turbine generators," the ministry said.

Meghalaya BJP leader 'involved in sex racket' held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shillong, July 26:** Meghalaya BJP vice-president Bernard N Marak who is accused of operating a sex racket at his farmhouse in the state was arrested in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, a senior Police officer said.

Marak, a former militant leader, is absconding following a police raid at the farmhouse at Tura in the state's West Garo Hills district, from where six minors were rescued and 73 people were arrested Saturday. "Bernard N Marak alias Rimpu has been arrested in Uttar Pradesh. A team is being sent there to bring him to Tura," district Superintendent of Police Vivekanand Singh told PTI.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIBBS  
2022072 Dtd.: 19.07.2022  
Name of work: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORITY ENGINEER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR INTEGRATED RE-DEVELOPMENT OF BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.  
Approx cost of the work: ₹ 393.95 Lakhs.  
EMD: ₹ 3,47,000/-, Completion period of the work: 24 Months.  
Tender closing date & time: at 1200 hrs. of 19.08.2022.  
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.  
The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions.  
Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/  
PR-63/CF/22-23 Bhubaneswar

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Mohapatra issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID Card No. 2209791 has been found missing and / or lost on 15.07.2022. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager, Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, OCCF Building, Shriya Square Branch, Unit-3, Bhubaneswar-751001. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID Card No. 2209791. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his / her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and / or responsible for any payment. Date: 26.07.2022  
Place: Bhubaneswar  
Sd/-  
For ICICI Bank Limited

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
Panposh Branch, S2M-111, Chhend Colony, Rourkela, Sundargarh, Odisha - 769015

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Appendix-IV) [Rule-8(1)]  
(For Immovable Property)

(Under Section13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 with Rule 8 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor in the loan account mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower / Mortgager / Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Overseas Bank** for an amount with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of as mentioned below and interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed charges its till date of payment. The borrower has paid Rs.36,361.89 after issuance of demand notice. Present dues as on the date of taking Possession is Rs.10,91,049.52.

**The borrower'S attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets .**

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgager	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Immoveable Property
<b>Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: (1)Mr Hrushikesh Nayak, S/o: Mr Jagannath Nayak, (2) Mrs Pramila Nayak, W/o: Mr Jagannath Nayak, (3) Mr Jagannath Nayak, All are resident at Plot No.488, Khata No.120/702, Pradhanpalli, Near Jagannath Temple, PS.: Raghunathpalli, PO.: Chhend, Rourkela, Dist: Sundargarh-769015</b>	<b>Rs.11,05,292.41</b> as on 20.04.2022 + further Interest, at contractual rates & rests, charges etc, till date of payment.	<b>20.04.2022</b> / <b>22.07.2022</b>	All that part and parcel of land and building situated over Plot No 488, under Khata No. 120/702, Rourkela Town, Mouza: Rourkela Town Unit no-1, Pradhanpalli, Ward no.33 Rourkela Town, Dist: Sundargarh an extent of area measuring in Ac0.060 decimal recorded in the name of <b>Mrs Pramila Nayak</b> , Bounded by: North - Plot No 1167, South- Plot No 1347 & 509, East - Plot No 488/P, West - Plot No 488/P.

**Place : Panposh, Date : 26.07.2022**  
**Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank**



THIRD IN LAST TWO WEEKS

# Another TN student ends life

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 26:** A Class 12 student committed suicide at her home in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore Tuesday, the third such death in the state in the last two weeks.

The Cuddalore district superintendent of Police said that the student had a rift with her mother and in a fit of fury she entered her room and committed suicide. This is the third incident of a Plus Two student committing suicide in Tamil Nadu in a span of two weeks.

On July 13 a Class 12 student in Kallakurichi jumped to death from the third floor of the hostel of a private school. The suicide of the girl sparked violence in Kallakurichi with hundreds of protesters vandalizing the school building, torching school buses, burning a police vehicle, and destroying and burning down several two-wheelers on July 17.

Intense stone and bottle pelt-ing also took place at the spot against the police, injuring senior IPS officers, including Inspector General of Police, B.



Pandyan, and Superintendent of Police, R. Selvakumar. The Chief Minister sent a fact-finding team comprising state police chief and home secretary to ascertain the facts and to re-

port to the home department.

In a similar incident, a Class 12 student of Tiruvallur district hanged herself to death in her hostel room on Monday (July 25). The family and relatives of the

JULY 13 A CLASS 12 STUDENT IN KALLAKURICHI JUMPED TO DEATH FROM THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE HOSTEL OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL

THE CUDDALORE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SAID THAT THE STUDENT HAD A RIFT WITH HER MOTHER AND IN A FIT OF FURY SHE ENTERED HER ROOM AND COMMITTED SUICIDE

THIS IS THE THIRD INCIDENT OF A PLUS TWO STUDENT COMMITTING SUICIDE IN TAMIL NADU IN A SPAN OF TWO WEEKS

girl protested in front of the school and were not ready to take the body. They finally relented after police and district administration put pressure.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin has ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the factors leading to the suicides of these three girls.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, July 26:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Tuesday said the state government is moving ahead with steps to achieve complete digital literacy with an objective to make people especially children aware about traps and threats in cyberspace.

Since smartphones have become part of everyone's daily life and it has become a significant tool for online education in the post-COVID-19 period, children cannot be kept away from digital space forever but their safety and security should be ensured through awareness, he said.

Saying that it was not appropriate for a social media user to retain a post even if the content was found faulty, Vijayan also urged those who control the social media domain to keep a vigil on such trends.

The Chief Minister was speaking after inaugurating an initiative under the Kid-Glove Cyber Security for Children, an awareness campaign being implemented by the



Kerala police. Kid Glove focuses on creating awareness and capacity to counter and tackle the threats of cyberspace.

"The government feels that it is time to launch steps to achieve complete digital literacy just like our literacy movement. We are planning to go ahead with such steps. At present, children are the most vulnerable group in cyberspace and the ones most victimised to the online traps," he said.

The government feels that it is time to launch steps to achieve complete digital literacy just like our literacy movement. We are planning to go ahead with such steps. At present, children are the most vulnerable group in cyberspace and the ones most victimised to the online traps

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

Children are victimised to such traps because of their lack of knowledge and misunderstanding and there were instances of children losing even their lives due to this, the Marxist veteran added.

He said the police launched the campaign as part of efforts to make children aware about the threats and perils of cyberspace. As digital technology and online system are now an integral part of day-to-day life, it is very important to have clear knowledge about all aspects of the digital world, the Chief Minister added.

# Kerala in dire financial straits, says Balagopal



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, July 26:** Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal has written a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, seeking urgent intervention by her in the backdrop of the grave financial crisis that the state government is facing currently.

"The financial health of the state has been seriously affected by a reduction in the revenue deficit grant to the tune of around Rs. 7,000 crore this year and loss due to stoppage of GST compensation of around Rs. 12,000 crore. In addition, the Ministry of Finance has arbitrarily, in the name of off-budget borrowing, made a reduction of approximately Rs. 4,000 crore in the net borrowing limits of the state," says Balagopal.

He points out that, in all, the state government will have to contend with a reduction of Rs 23,000 crore in the financial resources available to it for financing the budget in the current financial year.

"This poses a serious threat to the government in sustaining spending on welfare schemes for the poor, including housing, education and health among others. Unless the realities faced by the state, particularly given the fact that the state is struggling to emerge

from the economic debilitation wrought by the Covid pandemic, are recognised by the Union Government, the safety of the socio-economic security system that the state has worked so hard to build over the last several decades will be in jeopardy," says Balagopal.

He goes on to point out that the composition of the financial liabilities of State Governments has changed significantly in the last 25 years. "The share of loans and advances from the Centre has declined from over 15.8 per cent of all state liabilities in 2005 to 3 per cent in 2020. Kerala is no exception to this trend. The outstanding loans and advances from the Centre to Kerala as a percentage of state's total liabilities have reduced from 12.4 per cent in 2005 to 3.3 per cent in 2020," says Balagopal.

He further points out that over the last five years, some of the actions of the Union Ministry of Finance while fixing the state's net borrowing ceilings has raised some grave concerns for the state governments and seeks the immediate attention of the Centre.

According to those in the know of things, if there is not going to be a considerate approach to the felt demands and needs of the state with regards to the fears and concerns of Balagopal, the coming months could see the state reeling for want of funds.

# School forces parents to sign indemnity bond

THE BOND MENTIONS THAT THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT OR TEACHERS WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS OF PROPERTY OF THE STUDENTS WHILE IN SCHOOL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 26:** Parents protested against a posh private school in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore Tuesday for forcing them to sign an indemnity bond that the school would not be responsible for any injury to their child inside the campus.

The bond mentions that the school management or teachers would not be responsible for any loss of property of the students while in school. And, that neither the institution nor any person or any staff will pay compensation for



any damage that has occurred in the school to the student.

S. Arumainathan, President of Tamil Nadu Students, Parents welfare Association has called upon the state government to intervene and take action against the school.

While speaking to the mediapersons, he said, "Several norms are to be followed before any such bonds are issued. But we came to know that no such norms were followed and it is a known fact that private schools charge huge fees under

various categories, like education, uniform, books, supplies, and everything else. The parents can file a complaint against the school with the police or the collector stating unsatisfactory services under the Consumer Act."

# 800 doctors to be appointed for counselling

Poyyamozhi said that the project would help students to improve mental health amid the tensions related to adolescence issues, pressure of studies, peer pressure and other issues related to behavioural changes in the children

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 26:** The Tamil Nadu government will appoint 800 doctors to provide psychological counselling to school students under the 'Manavar Manasu' scheme.



State School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi said in a statement on Tuesday that the project will be launched officially by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin Wednesday.

Poyyamozhi said that the project would help students to improve mental health amid the tensions related to adolescence issues, pressure of studies, peer

pressure and other issues related to behavioural changes in the children.

The school education department has taken such an initiative after two students, unable to bear the pressure associated with their studies, ended their life recently.

The suicide of a Plus two student at a private residential school at Kallakurichi had sparked off massive protests leading to the vandalisation of the school and torching of school buses as well as police vehicles leading to major unrest in Kallakurichi and adjacent Villupuram districts.

Meanwhile, the suicide of another student at Tiruvallur on Monday at a private residential school has also sparked outrage in

the area with the parents and relatives of the child refusing to accept the body unless proper investigation is conducted.

The school education minister also said that the Kallakurichi school that was vandalised would commence online classes from Wednesday onwards. He also said that discussions are on with the adjacent schools for accommodating the students of the Kallakurichi Shakthi residential school that was vandalised.

Poyyamozhi also said that during the arson and rioting at the school, several certificates of both the students and teachers were lost and that the state government has taken steps to provide duplicate certificates to all those who have lost their certificates.

# TN youth in Ukraine not keen to return



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 26:** The Coimbatore youth, Sainikesh who joined the paramilitary force in war-torn Ukraine is not keen to return home and his father is not insisting on his return.

Ravichandran, father of Sainikesh said, "After the Russian attack on July 25, I had contacted him. He is not that keen to return home and I also did not pester him."

The father said that Sainikesh had completed his Aerospace Engineering course in Ukraine and that he had asked him to return home but the boy was not keen and hence he decided not to pester him for the return.

It may be noted that Sainikesh had joined the Georgian National Legion, which is a paramilitary unit for volunteers under the Ukrainian forces. The Coimbatore youth had joined the unit in February 2022 and continued with it even as the Government of India airlifted more than 15,000 students from Ukraine after the war commenced. The Indian government stopped evacuation from Ukraine since mid-March and flight services were cancelled from Ukraine.

Sainikesh had tried to join the Indian Army after his Plus two and later had approached the US Consulate in Chennai for joining the United States Armed forces. As he could not make it to either of the two, he joined an aerospace engineering course in Ukraine.

# TN cyber security on high alert as phishing attacks rise

IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, TWO PEOPLE HAVE LOST MONEY TO PHISHING IN THE NAME OF ELECTRICITY BILLS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 26:** Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (Tangedco) has recently cautioned public against fraudulent messages stating that their connection would be disconnected and to contact certain numbers.

In the past two months, two people have lost money to phishing in the name of electricity bills. On June 7, one V. Natarajan (83) of Chennai lost Rs 8.7 lakh rupees

after he got an SMS stating that his electricity bill was due and to clear it prevent disconnection.

Natarajan told police that a person contacted him and informed him that a link is sent to his phone number and he should send an amount of Rs 10 as trial payment. Within a matter of minutes, he was poorer by Rs 8.7 lakh. He lodged a complaint with the EB and the Tamil Nadu cyber security wing. The cyber police were able to trace and retrieve the money within 20 days but the scammers could not be arrested.

Even as the Tangedco and the Cyber wing of the Tamil Nadu police were creating awareness among the public not to fall prey to such fraudulent messages. However, on Friday, a woman consumer of Tangedco, Krishnaveni (52), of Avinashi Road, Coimbatore, lost



4.2 lakh rupees after she received a similar call. She received a link and the scam-

ster asked her to pay Rs 10 as a trial and within minutes she lost Rs 4.2 lakh to the scam.

Cyber cell police have commenced the search for retrieving the money. A senior officer with the Chennai

cyber police wing said that if the victims lodge a complaint immediately with the cyber wing, the money can be traced and retrieved. He asked the people to contact the cybercrime helpline number 1930 if they fall victim to such a crime.

He said that the action has to be immediate as it would be difficult to recover the money once it is withdrawn. Cyber wing police officers said that the fraudsters are targeting old people and middle-aged people who are not internet friendly and cheat using latest phishing techniques.

Tangedco, meanwhile, issued a rejoinder that the power utility does not send such SMS alerts or links and called upon the public to immediately contact the consumer service department or the cyber cell of the police if such incidents are coming to notice.

At the time of inauguration of the Bundelkhand Expressway, prominent leaders had made tall claims. But after just five days of the inauguration, it developed big potholes. The expressway could not even handle a little rainfall

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

I came to know about the letter from the Samajwadi Party only through the media. It is indicative of his political immaturity and nothing else. It would have been better had I been expelled from the party and the legislature party

SHIVPAL SINGH YADAV | PRAGATISHEEL SAMAJWADI PARTY (LOHIA) PRESIDENT

GST is so complicated that a large number of small traders whom I know had to shut down their businesses as they were not able to fulfill the GST requirements

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Delhi: Six MCD officials suspended

**New Delhi:** Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena Tuesday ordered the suspension of six Municipal Corporation (MCD) officials on graft charges and for abusing official positions. "The MCD commissioner, on directions of the LG, has suspended six officials for gross negligence, abusing official position and receiving illegal gratification," source said.

Student beaten to death by teachers

**Kannauj (UP):** A 15-year-old boy in Madaiya village here was allegedly locked in a room and beaten to death by three teachers who accused him of stealing a watch, police said Tuesday. Dilshan alias Raja, a Class IX student, succumbed to injuries in a Kanpur hospital, they said. His relatives alleged he was beaten to death. The body of the student was sent for post mortem. Police are investigating and if the matter of assault with the student comes to the fore, then strict action will be taken against the accused as per the rules, Superintendent of Police Kunwar Anupam Singh said.

Bihar: 20 killed in lightning strikes

**Patna:** At least 20 people were killed in separate incidents of lightning strikes in eight districts of Bihar in the past 24 hours, an official said Tuesday. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over the deaths and announced ex gratia of Rs four lakh for the next of kin of each deceased. Kaimur district reported the highest number of seven deaths in lightning strikes, followed by four each in Bhojpur and Patna and one each in Jahanabad, Arwal, Rohtash, Siwan and Aurangabad. "My deepest condolences to the affected families. An ex-gratia of Rs four lakh will be given immediately to the next of kin of all the deceased," the CM said in a statement issued Tuesday.

Yasin Malik put on IV fluids

**New Delhi:** Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is on a hunger strike in Tihar Jail here for five days, is being given intravenous fluids and his health is being regularly monitored by doctors, officials said Tuesday. "On Friday morning, Malik refused to eat anything. He is still on a hunger strike and his health is being regularly monitored by doctors. He is being given IV (intravenous) fluids since Sunday," an official said.



Infectious diseases increase in monsoon. After about 6 months, the daily infection rate (positivity rate) of corona has crossed 7 per cent. In such a situation, all of us should be careful again

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

BOOST TO ARMY

Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd Tuesday said it has commenced conducting trials for the Army with drones for defence purposes. The main objective is to demonstrate drones and anti-drone technology to diversify applications to support security mandates and serve the nation, it added



NATIONAL HERALD CASE

ED questions Sonia 2nd time in 6 days

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 26:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday questioned Congress President Sonia Gandhi for the second time in six days in the National Herald newspaper linked money laundering case, officials said.

As ED officials quizzed Gandhi, 75, for six hours and asked her to appear before the agency for the third round of questioning Wednesday, Congress workers staged 'satyagraha' in several parts of the country to protest against the alleged misuse of central agencies. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and several party MPs were detained by police at Vijay Chowk in the national capital.

"India is a police state, Modi is a king," said Rahul, who sat on the road before being put in a police bus. The Congress leaders were later released after being in detention for several hours.

During today's questioning when her statement was recorded, Sonia Gandhi's response was sought to a set of around 30 questions pertaining to her involvement with the National Herald newspaper and Young Indian Pvt Ltd, the company under scanner in the case, officials said. She was questioned for nearly 2.5 hours at the ED office in central Delhi from 11 AM which continued after a 90-minute lunch break before ending at around 7 PM.



ED OFFICIALS QUIZZED SONIA GANDHI, 75, FOR SIX HOURS AND ASKED HER TO APPEAR BEFORE THE AGENCY FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF QUESTIONING WEDNESDAY

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI AND SEVERAL PARTY MPS WERE DETAINED BY POLICE AT VIJAY CHOWK IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

The Congress chief had reached the ED office in the morning with her Z+ armed security cover, and was accompanied by Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. While Priyanka stayed back at the ED office, Rahul left soon after to join the Congress protests.

Priyanka was in another room at the ED office so she could meet her mother to provide her medicines or medical assistance if necessary, officials said.

Sonia Gandhi was questioned for over two hours on July 21 during which she replied to 28 questions put forth by the agency. She

had reiterated the Congress party stand that the Young Indian was a "not for profit" company and no personal benefits were gained by them.

The Lok Sabha MP from Rae Bareilly was quizzed Tuesday on the functioning and running of the newspaper, the role of its various office bearers, and her and Rahul Gandhi's participation in the affairs of the National Herald and Young Indian.

The agency will also corroborate her statement with that of Rahul Gandhi as both put together are majority stakeholders in Young

Gujarat hooch tragedy: Death toll mounts to 33



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, July 26:** The death toll due to the consumption of spurious liquor made from highly poisonous methyl alcohol in Gujarat has gone up to 33, a senior police official said Tuesday.

Primary investigations have revealed some small-time bootleggers of different villages of Botad district had made spurious liquor or hooch by mixing water with methyl alcohol or methanol and sold it to villagers for Rs 20 per pouch, police said.

"So far, 33 persons - 24 in Botad district and 9 in its neighbouring Ahmedabad - have died after consuming spurious liquor," said the police official attached with the State Monitoring Cell in Gandhinagar.

Addressing a press conference in the afternoon, Gujarat Director General of Police Ashish Bhatia had said 28 persons have lost their lives after consuming spurious liquor.

He added that nearly 45 persons are admitted to hospitals in Bhavnagar, Botad and Ahmedabad. Later, five more deaths occurred in Botad and Ahmedabad districts. The liquor tragedy came to light on early Monday morning when some people living in Rojid village in Botad and other surrounding villages were referred to government hospitals in Barvala area and Botad towns after their health condition started deteriorating.

Three FIRs have been registered against 14 main culprits under sections 302 (murder), 328 (causing hurt by poison) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC, said Bhatia, adding six persons have been arrested by police so far. "Forensic analysis has established that the victims had consumed methyl alcohol."

"We have booked 14 persons on the charges of murder and other offences and already detained majority of the accused for further investigation," Bhatia told reporters in Gandhinagar. Meanwhile, the Gujarat Home Department has formed a three-member committee, headed by senior IPS officer Subhash Trivedi, to conduct a detailed inquiry into the incident and submit a report within three days, said a state government release.

CELEBRATION OF BRAVERY



Kargil Vijay Diwas victory flame being carried in a motor-boat to commemorate the victory over Pakistan in Kargil war 1999, at River Jhelum in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

India commemorates Kargil Vijay Diwas

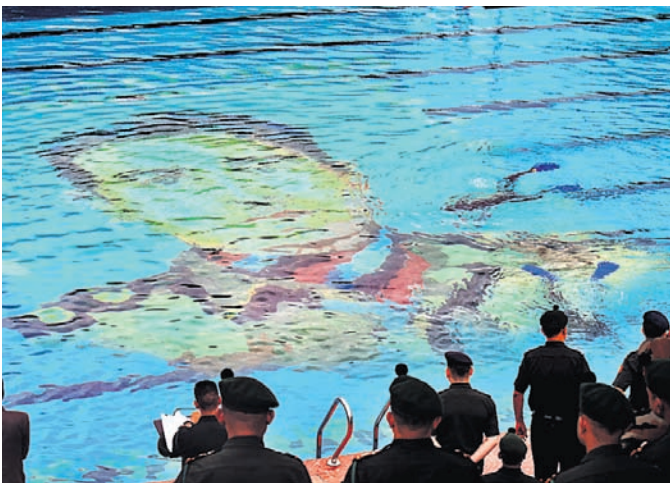
The Indian Army announced the successful culmination of "Operation Vijay" July 26, 1999, declaring victory after a nearly three-month-long battle on the icy heights of Kargil in Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday led the nation in paying tributes to the armed forces personnel who fought valiantly in extremely harsh conditions to defend the country's territory during the Kargil conflict.

The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the war.

"Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of extraordinary bravery, val-



Artist 'Da Vinci' Suresh creates an underwater portrait of Param Vir Chakra awardee Capt. Vikram Batra to pay tribute to him as part of Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations in Thiruvananthapuram

PTI PHOTO

our and determination of our armed forces. I bow to all the brave soldiers who laid down their lives to protect Mother India. The country will always be indebted to them and their family members. Jai

Hind," Murmu said in a tweet in Hindi. The President is the supreme commander of the armed forces.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Modi said Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of pride and glory for the coun-

try. "Kargil Vijay Diwas is a symbol of pride and glory of 'Maa Bharati'. On this occasion, I salute all the brave sons of the country who achieved the height of valour in the defence of the motherland. Jai Hind," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid tributes to the fallen heroes and said their acts of valour and indomitable spirit will forever remain etched as a defining moment in India's history. "On Kargil Vijay Diwas, India salutes the bravery, courage and sacrifice of our armed forces."

They fought valiantly in extremely harsh conditions to defend our motherland. Their act of valour & indomitable spirit will remain etched forever as a defining moment in India's history," he tweeted. Pakistan tried to redraw the boundary with India in 1999 through the Kargil misadventure but the Indian security forces foiled the evil design. To mark the day, Singh, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Chief of

the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in the memory of the fallen heroes.

Various events were organised across the country, including at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, to mark the occasion.

"During the Kargil conflict, the gallant soldiers of the Indian Army, with the help of the Indian Air Force, overcame insurmountable odds, hostile terrain and inclement weather to win against the enemy that had occupied dominating heights," the defence ministry said. The Army said Kargil Vijay Diwas is a reminiscence of the "undaunted bravery and courage" of the "bravehearts" who inscribed a golden chapter in history with their blood and sacrifice.

"They gave a befitting reply to enemy's misadventure and a resounding victory to India," it said. Over 500 soldiers laid down their lives in the conflict.

ED grills Partha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, July 26:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday grilled arrested West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee and his alleged associate Arpita Mukherjee who were arrested in connection with the school jobs scam, sources said.

The agency also issued summons to Manik Bhattacharya, TMC MLA and former president of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE), for questioning in connection with the alleged irregularities.

Chatterjee, who was brought back to Kolkata at 6.30 AM after a thorough check-up at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, was straightaway taken to the ED office at the CGO complex here, where he was questioned.

Amid growing opposition demands for the industry minister's removal from the state cabinet, Chatterjee's official car, used by him for over 15 years, was on Tuesday deposited in the West Bengal Assembly.

of the day quote

The country is moving toward a new republic based on freedom, justice and national dignity

**KAIS SAIED** | TUNISIAN PRESIDENT

Sri Lanka will restrict fuel imports for the next 12 months as it is facing a severe shortage of foreign exchange

**KANCHANA WIJESEKERA** | MINISTER OF POWER AND ENERGY OF SRI LANKA

Donald Trump lacked the courage to stop the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol

**JOE BIDEN** | US PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

2 BSF personnel killed in Congo

**New Delhi:** Two Border Security Force personnel, who were part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo, were killed Tuesday during violent protests, a spokesperson for the force said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said he was deeply grieved at the loss of the two valiant Indian peacekeepers and demanded that the perpetrators of the "outrageous attacks" must be held accountable and brought to justice. The minister extended his condolences to the bereaved families.

Japan reports 1st monkeypox case

**Tokyo:** Japan has issued a level-one alert against monkeypox as the first case was detected in the country, according to local media. The alert level, the lowest on the country's four-tier scale, was issued earlier on Monday, ahead of the announcement late evening that the Health Ministry here had detected the first case of the disease in the Tokyo area, Xinhua news agency reported. Amid a global outbreak of the virus, declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organisation on Saturday, the Japanese government has asked its citizens overseas to take extra precautions against contracting the disease.

Pakistan SC names Elahi as Punjab CM

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's Supreme Court Tuesday struck down Punjab Assembly deputy speaker's controversial decision to reject 10 votes during the Chief Minister's election as unconstitutional and named PML-Q leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi as the new executive head of the politically crucial province, in a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the ruling coalition. Elahi, who lost the election held Friday despite getting a majority vote, challenged the ruling of deputy speaker Sardar Dost Muhammad Mazari who handed victory to Hamza, son of Prime Minister Sharif. Elahi was supported by ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. A three-member bench comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justices Ijazul Ahsan and Munib Akhtar, which heard the case, ruled that Elahi is the Chief Minister of Punjab province.

Tourist dies

**Athens:** A British tourist died after he was struck by the tail rotor of a helicopter near Athens. The incident took place on Monday evening, Xinhua news agency reported. According to Greek national broadcaster ERT, the 22-year-old man was in the helicopter along with three other passengers. They were returning from the island of Mykonos to Athens.



India and Singapore share a deep friendship. This friendship will continue to be anchored by the shared commitment of our two countries to grow, prosper and navigate future challenges together

**HALIMAH YACOB** | SINGAPORE PRESIDENT

BLACKOUTS IN CHINA

A long-running heatwave in China has pushed electricity usage to record levels in some areas and led to blackouts, with warnings that the high temperatures are expected to continue for at least another week, a media report said



Over 14,000 kids drown in Bangladesh every year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Dhaka, July 26:** Drowning has become the second leading cause of death among children under the age of five in Bangladesh and the country reports over 14,000 such fatalities every year, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef said in a joint statement.

In the statement, the two UN agencies called on the government, development partners, communities and individuals to do their part to raise awareness and work to prevent the untimely deaths of thousands of children across Bangladesh, reports Xinhua news agency.

"It is heart-breaking that so many lives are lost each year in

this country. We know that these deaths are preventable," said Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh. "We urge individuals, communities and the government to join us in raising awareness and doing all we can to ensure every child's right to survive and thrive."

Globally, drowning claims the lives of over 230,000 people every year. Nine in 10 drowning cases occur in low- and middle-income countries, with children under the age of five being at the highest risk.

In Bangladesh, where large areas of land remain submerged due to yearly floods, the absence of awareness and swimming skills can prove



UNTIMELY DEATHS

to be life-threatening. Children in rural areas who grow up near bodies of water are also exposed to the risk of drowning daily.

"Drowning is a significant pub-

lic health concern and the third leading cause of unintentional death worldwide. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death among children in Bangladesh,"

EU reaches deal to ration gas



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brussels, July 26:** European Union governments agreed Tuesday to ration natural gas this winter to protect themselves against any further supply cuts by Russia as Moscow pursues its invasion of Ukraine.

EU energy ministers approved a draft European law meant to lower demand for gas by 15 per cent from August through March. The new legislation entails voluntary national steps to reduce gas consumption and, if they yield insufficient savings, a trigger for mandatory moves in the 27-member bloc.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the move, saying in a statement

that "the EU has taken a decisive step to face down the threat of a full gas disruption by (Russian President Vladimir) Putin."

Monday, Russian energy giant Gazprom said it would limit supplies to the EU through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to 20 per cent of capacity, heightening concerns that Putin will use gas trade to challenge the bloc's opposition to the war in Ukraine.

"The winter is coming and we don't know how cold it will be," said Czech Industry Minister Jozef Sikela, whose policy portfolio includes energy. "But what we know for sure is that Putin will continue to play his dirty games in misusing and blackmailing by gas supplies."

The ministerial agreement was sealed in less than a week. It's based

EU ministers agree to emergency gas use cuts

Voluntary cuts would become binding in supply emergency

Final deal exempts numerous countries, industries

EU racing to save gas as Russia slashes supply

on a proposal last Wednesday from the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. Keen to maintain a common EU front over a conflict that shows no sign of ending, the commission said coordinated rationing would enable the bloc as a whole to get through the winter should Russia stop all gas deliveries.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February and the West protested with economic sanctions, 12 EU countries have faced halts to, or reductions in, Russian gas deliveries. Although it has agreed to embargo oil and coal from Russia starting later this year, the EU has refrained from sanctioning Russian natural gas because Germany, Italy and some other member states rely heavily on these imports.

"Germany made a strategic error in the past with its great dependency on Russian gas and faith that it would always flow constantly and cheaply," said German Economy Minister Robert Habeck.

EXPANDING COOPERATION

China, Indonesia pledge deeper ties



REUTERS

China and Indonesia believe their relations have great strategic significance and far-reaching global influence, the Chinese foreign ministry said after a meeting of the countries' leaders

REUTERS

**Beijing, July 26:** The leaders of China and Indonesia pledged Tuesday to scale up bilateral trade and expand cooperation in areas such as agriculture and food security, following a rare visit to Covid-wary China by a foreign head of state.

China and Indonesia believe their relations have great strategic significance and far-reaching global influence, the Chinese foreign ministry said after a meeting of the countries' leaders.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing Tuesday. The last time China hosted foreign leaders was during the Winter Olympics in February, with Russian President Vladimir Putin among those who visited Beijing in a highly guarded bubble.

Travel by foreign dignitaries to China has been exceedingly rare since the new coronavirus pandemic broke out over two years ago, with Chinese borders largely shut due to domestic Covid concerns.

Indonesia, one of China's biggest

trading partners, is an important source of ferronickel, coal, copper and natural gas for the world's second-largest economy. In the first half of 2022, Chinese imports from Indonesia, mostly commodities, surged 34.2% on year, the most after Russia.

China has expressed commitment to import an additional one million tonnes of crude palm oil from Indonesia, said the Indonesian state palace after a meeting between Jokowi and Li. Jokowi met Li and Xi at the historic Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, part of a sprawling complex of villas, lakes and gardens where many foreign leaders, including the late U.S. President Richard Nixon, have been received.

**'COMMUNICATION BRIDGE'**  
As president of the G20 this year Jokowi has sought to mend rifts within the group exposed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Last month he travelled to Ukraine to meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and also to Moscow to hold talks with President Putin. Jokowi said Indonesia was willing to be a "communication bridge" between the two.

China, while not condemning its strategic partner Russia for the invasion, has repeatedly called for a cessation of hostilities and has offered to help promote peace talks. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, who was part of the travelling delegation, said Xi had appreciated Jokowi's peace efforts such as his trips to Kyiv and Moscow. "The visits were deemed by President Xi as Indonesia's responsibility as a big country," the Indonesian state palace cited Retno as saying.

CHILLING OUT



REUTERS

Women rest on a pier at the Moscow Canal, with the Soviet-made ekranoplan Orlyonok, which is a naval craft and a ground-effect vehicle in the Russian Navy maritime history complex, seen in the background in Moscow

Alps' glaciers vanishing at record rate

REUTERS

**Switzerland:** From the way 45-year-old Swiss glaciologist Andreas Linsbauer bounds over icy crevasses, you would never guess he was carrying 10 kg of steel equipment needed to chart the decline of Switzerland's glaciers.

Normally, he heads down this path on the massive Morteratsch Glacier in late September, the end of the summer melt season in the Alps. But exceptionally high ice loss this year has brought him to this 15-square-kilometer (5.8-square-mile) amphitheatre of ice two months early for emergency maintenance work.

The measuring poles he uses to track changes in the depth of the pack are at risk of dislodging entirely as the ice melts away and he needs to drill new holes.



The Alps' glaciers are on track for their highest mass losses in at least 60 years of record keeping, data shared exclusively with Reuters shows. By looking at the difference in how much snow fell in winter, and how much ice melts in the summer, scientists can measure how much a glacier has shrunk in any given year.

Since last winter, which brought relatively little snowfall, the Alps have sweltered through two big early summer heatwaves - including one in July marked by temperatures near 30 Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) in the Swiss mountain village of Zermatt.

During this heatwave, the elevation at which water froze was

measured at a record high of 5,184 meters (17,000 feet) - at an altitude higher than Mont Blanc's - compared with the normal summer level of between 3,000-3,500 meters (9,800-11,500 feet).

"It's really obvious that this is an extreme season," Linsbauer said, shouting over the roar of rushing meltwater as he checked the height of a pole jutting out of the ice.

Mountain meltdown

Most of the world's mountain glaciers - remnants of the last ice age - are retreating due to climate change. But those in the European Alps are especially vulnerable because they are smaller with relatively little ice cover. Meanwhile, temperatures in the Alps are warming at around 0.3C per decade - around twice as fast as the global average.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONS

India will support Lankans: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, July 26:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Sri Lanka's newly-elected President Ranil Wickremesinghe and said that India will continue to be supportive of the quest of the people of the island nation for stability and economic recovery, through established democratic means, the Indian High Commission said Tuesday.

Wickremesinghe, 73, was Thursday sworn in as Sri Lanka's eighth President after he was elected by lawmakers to succeed Gotabaya Rajapaksa who fled the country and resigned in the face of public revolt against his government for mismanaging the economy. "PM @narendramodi sent a congratulatory letter to H.E President @RW\_UNP on his election," the High Commission of India in



Colombo said in a tweet. "PM reiterated that India will continue to be supportive of the quest of the people of Sri Lanka for stability and economic recovery, through established democratic means, institutions and constitutional framework," it said. The Prime Minister also conveyed that he looked forward to working closely with the Sri Lankan President for the mutual benefit of people and strengthening the age-old, close relations between India and Sri Lanka, it added.

of the day quote

We expect good demand in tier-2 cities and beyond, with the rise in smartphone penetration, and the growing adoption of digital payment systems. We plan to launch new stores primarily in tier-2 and tier-3 cities while sustaining our investments in store renovations, during the year

venu nair | shoppers stop md & ceo

We do see green shoots of investments by private sectors in sectors that are profitable

r shankar raman | l&t

whole-time director and cfo

We have issued notices to 4-5 companies. We asked them to provide reasons for series of fire incidents in EVs and why the regulator should not take action against them

nidhi khare | chief commissioner, central consumer protection authority

SHORT TAKES

Union Bank of India Q1 net up 32%

**Mumbai:** Union Bank of India Tuesday reported a 32 per cent rise in its standalone profit after tax (PAT) to ₹1,558 crore for the June quarter on higher net interest income and improvement in asset quality. It had reported a standalone PAT of ₹1,181 crore in the corresponding quarter of the preceding fiscal. The bank's Managing Director and CEO A Manimekhalai said the good result was on account of growth in net interest income (NII), a decline in bad loans ratio and higher credit and deposit growth. "We are hoping that even in the September quarter the bank will be able to show good results," she told reporters. NII grew 8.11 per cent to ₹7,582 crore against ₹7,013 crore in the year-ago period. The gross non-performing asset (GNPAs) ratio improved to 10.22 per cent compared to 13.60 per cent. Net NPA stood at 3.31 per cent against 4.69 per cent.

Bajaj Auto profit dips marginally

**New Delhi:** Bajaj Auto Tuesday reported a marginal decline in consolidated net profit at ₹1,163 crore for June quarter 2022-23 as chip shortage impacted sales. The Pune-based firm had posted a net profit of ₹1,170 crore in April-June period a year ago. Total revenue from operations rose to ₹8,005 crore in the quarter from ₹7,386 crore in the year-ago period, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing. Total volumes declined 7 per cent to 9,33,646 units in the quarter from 10,06,014 units in the year-ago period. Sales in the quarter were significantly constrained by the inadequate availability of semiconductors, although the situation improved in the latter part as new supply sources were developed, Bajaj Auto stated.

Tata Power Q1 net jumps 90 pc

**New Delhi:** Tata Power Tuesday posted a nearly 90 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹883.54 crore for the April-June quarter of the current fiscal driven by higher income. The company had posted a net profit of ₹465.69 crore in the same quarter of 2021-22, Tata Power said in a BSE filing. Its total income increased to ₹14,638.78 crore in April-June FY23 from ₹10,310.21 crore in the year-ago period. Expenses were also higher at ₹14,660.14 crore against ₹9,479.80 crore in the April-June period of the preceding fiscal.



We are leading the race to turn India from a country over-reliant on import of oil and gas, to a country that might one day become a net exporter of clean energy

GAUTAM ADANI | CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

VOLVO DRIVES IN XC40 RECHARGE SUV

Volvo Car India Tuesday launched its pure electric SUV XC40 Recharge in the country tagged at ₹55.9 lakh (ex-showroom). The model is the first locally assembled luxury electric vehicle in India. The model comes with a range of over 400 km on a single charge. XC40 Recharge will only be sold online directly by the Swedish carmaker



5G SPECTRUM AUCTION

₹1.45L cr bids by Jio, Airtel, others on Day 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** India's largest ever auction of spectrum used to carry mobile signals saw bids of ₹1.45 lakh crore for 5G airwaves from groups run by tycoons Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal and Gautam Adani on the first day Tuesday.

All four applicants - Ambani's Reliance Jio, Mittal's Bharti Airtel, Vodafone-Idea and an Adani group firm "actively" participated in the auction of 5G spectrum, that offers ultra-high speeds (about 10 times faster than 4G), lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time.

Bids were also received for 700 MHz band, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

The government received bids worth over ₹1.45 lakh crore on the first day of bidding, exceeding all expectations and surpassing 2015 records, he said.

As per the process, it will not be known until the close which company bagged how much of airwaves.

Four rounds of bidding were held on the opening day, with mid and high-end bands seeing keen interest. The 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands attracted strong bids.

The telecom minister described the participation of four bidders as 'strong'.

The auction saw healthy par-



ticipation, he said adding the response shows that the industry has turned from its difficult times.

The government, he said, will allocate the spectrum in record time and 5G services are expected to start rolling out by September.

The target is to allocate the spectrum by August 14, he said.

In addition to powering ultra-low latency connections, which allow downloading full-length high-quality video or movie to a mobile device in a matter of seconds (even in crowded areas), fifth generation or 5G would enable solutions such as e-health, connected vehicles, more immersive augmented reality and metaverse experiences, life-saving use cases, and advanced mobile cloud gaming among others.

The auction is being held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

The auction will continue Wednesday.

IMF cuts global growth forecasts

REUTERS

**Washington, July 26:** The International Monetary Fund cut global growth forecasts again Tuesday, warning that downside risks from high inflation and the Ukraine war were materialising and could push the world economy to the brink of recession if left unchecked.

Global real GDP growth will slow to 3.2% in 2022 from a forecast of 3.6% issued in April, the IMF said in an update of its World Economic Outlook. It added that world GDP actually contracted in the second quarter due to downturns in China and Russia.

The Fund cut its 2023 growth forecast to 2.9% from the April estimate of 3.6%, citing the impact of tighter monetary policy.

World growth had rebounded in 2021 to 6.1% after the COVID-19 pandemic crushed global output in 2020 with a 3.1% contraction.

"The outlook has darkened significantly since April. The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one," IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said in a statement.

RUSSIAN GAS EMBARGO

The Fund said its latest forecasts were "extraordinarily uncertain" and subject to downside risks from Russia's war in Ukraine spiking energy and food prices higher. This would exacerbate inflation and embed longer-term inflationary expectations that would prompt further monetary policy tightening.



Global real GDP growth will slow to 3.2% in 2022 from a forecast of 3.6% issued in April, IMF said in an update of its World Economic Outlook. It added world GDP actually contracted in the second quarter due to downturns in China and Russia

Under a "plausible" alternative scenario that includes a complete cut-off of Russian gas sup-

plies to Europe by year-end and a further 30% drop in Russian oil exports, the IMF said global growth would slow to 2.6% in 2022 and 2% in 2023, with growth virtually zero in Europe and the United States next year.

Global growth has fallen below 2% only five times since 1970, the IMF said, including the 2020 COVID-19 recession.

The IMF said it now expects the 2022 inflation rate in advanced economies to reach 6.6%, up from 5.7% in the April forecasts, adding that it would remain elevated for longer than previously anticipated. Inflation in emerging market and

developing countries is now expected to reach 9.5% in 2022, up from 8.7% in April.

"Inflation at current levels represents a clear risk for current and future macroeconomic stability and bringing it back to central bank targets should be the top priority for policymakers," Gourinchas said.

Monetary policy tightening will "bite" next year slowing growth and pressuring emerging market countries, but delaying this process "will only exacerbate the hardship," he said, adding that central banks "should stay the course until inflation is tamed."

Shares drop, tech stocks hammered as Fed awaited

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, July 26:** Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty slid by nearly 1 per cent Tuesday due to profit booking in IT, banking and FMCG shares ahead of the expected aggressive rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.

Marking its second straight day of losses, the 30-share BSE benchmark declined by 497.73 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 55,268.49, with 22 of its constituents ending in the red.

During the day, it tanked 562.79 points or 1 per cent to a low of 55,203.43.

The broader NSE Nifty declined by 147.15 points or 0.88 per cent to 16,483.85 after 38 of its stocks succumbed to profit taking. Nifty had risen by over 5 per cent in the six-day rally to Friday.

IT major Infosys fell the most by 3.4 per cent among Sensex stocks. Wipro declined by 2.28 per cent, HCL Tech by 1.74 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 1.68 per cent and TCS by 1.62 per cent.

Banking stocks also took a hit with Axis Bank falling by 3 per cent, Kotak Bank by 2.07 per cent, and SBI by 0.67 per cent. HDFC twins and ICICI Bank also declined.

HUL, Dr Reddy's, L&T, Titan, Nestle, Tata Steel, Maruti and



The Fed's meeting which is expected to maintain its aggressive rate hike of 75 bps and recession fears, especially in the West, weighed on market sentiment

Sun Pharma were also among the losers.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv bucked the trend, spurring by 5.58 per cent. Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries also advanced as the spectrum auction

started on Tuesday.

The Fed's meeting commencing Tuesday, which is expected to maintain its aggressive rate hike of 75 bps (basis points), and recession fears, especially in western markets, weighed on market sentiment, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended lower, with IT falling the most by 2.84 per cent, followed by tech (2.23 per cent), FMCG (1.32 per cent) and capital goods (1.28 per cent).

Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth ₹844.78 crore Monday, as per exchange data.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** India's crude steel production rose over 6 per cent year-on-year to 10 million tonnes in June 2022, according World Steel Association.

As per the World Steel Association (worldsteel) data, India is the only country which has registered a positive growth in its steel output during June.

The country had produced 9.4 million tonnes (MT) crude steel during the same month last year, the global industry body said in its latest report.

India is world's second largest producer of crude steel after China which produced 90.7 MT in June 2022, down 3.3 per cent over its 93.9 MT production in June 2021.

The production in the United States fell by 4.2 per cent to 6.9 MT last month from 7.1 MT in the same month of 2021.



PPL bags Grow Care India Environment Excellence Award



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 26:** Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) received the prestigious "Grow Care India Environment Excellence Award - 2021" in Platinum category for the outstanding Achievements in Environment Protection.

Ambikesh Kumar Mishra, Jt. General Manager (Environment Management) has received this award trophy and certificate from Ghan Chand Gupta, Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Haryana, in presence Rakesh Divedi, Co-Chairman, Grow Care India, Anup Shrivastava, ADG Principal Secretary GST and Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Former Minister of State & Chairman (Ethics committee) in a glittering ceremonial event held July 23 at Chandigarh.

JSW Energy gets NCLT nod to acquire 700 MW Utkal project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** The JSW Energy Tuesday said the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved its proposal to acquire Ind-Barath Energy (Utkal) Ltd which is developing a 700 MW thermal power project in Odisha.

The Ind-Barath owns the 700 MW under-construction thermal power plant.

"Resolution Plan submitted by the company for Ind-Barath Energy (Utkal) Ltd (Ind-Barath), which was approved by the Committee of Creditors (CoC) on October 14, 2019, has received the approval of National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad on July 25, 2022," a regulatory filing said.



India's economic outlook at mercy of monsoon

Uneven nature of this year's monsoon - patchy in some areas, with torrential downpours in others - has raised concerns about crop yields and output, complicating government efforts to tame inflation

REUTERS

**Mumbai/New Delhi, July 26:** The monsoon, which accounts for about 75% of India's annual rainfall, is the lifeblood of its nearly \$3 trillion agriculture-dependent economy.

Asia's third-largest economy and the world's top producer of a host of critical crops such as rice, wheat and sugar has received 11% more than average monsoon rain since the four-month season began June 1. An average monsoon is rainfall between 96% and 104% of a 50-year average of 89cm over the season.

However, the uneven nature of this year's monsoon - patchy in some areas, with torrential downpours in others - has raised concerns about crop yields and output, complicating government efforts to tame inflation.

ERRATIC START

The spread and distribution of monsoon rainfall has been erratic across India. Overall monsoon rains were 8% below average in June, with a shortfall as high as 54% in some regions.

A sudden surge in the first half of July, however, erased the deficit and caused flooding in many states. While the southern, western, and central parts of the country have received above-average rainfall, farmers in the northern and eastern regions have suffered from a lack of summer rain. Though the sowing of cotton, soybeans and sugar cane is higher than last year, traders are worried about crop yields after planting was delayed by the suboptimal June rain.



Meanwhile, a prolonged period of above-average rain in the cotton, soybean and sugar cane belt could cripple the country's food output.

CROP VULNERABILITY

A dry spell in June and heavy rains in July have hit almost every summer-sown crop, but rice, cotton and vegetable crops are the worst hit.

India's top rice regions in the east - Bihar, Jharkhand and some parts of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh - have recorded a rainfall deficit as high as 57%. As a result,

rice planting has dropped by 19% so far this season.

Conversely, incessant rain and floods have hit the cotton, soybean and pulse crops in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states.

Rice is the most critical crop for India, the world's biggest exporter of the staple. Lower output could force New Delhi to curb rice shipments to ensure sufficient supplies for the country's 1.4 billion people. Any protectionist measure by

India, the world's second-biggest producer of the grain, will drive up prices in global markets already hit by record food price inflation.

WILL FOOD PRICES REMAIN ELEVATED?

Food prices, especially for rice, pulses and vegetables, are likely to climb as trade, industry and government officials concede that the erratic monsoon is likely to cut output from summer crops.

India has imposed export curbs and removed import restrictions to tame food price inflation that is hovering around 7%, higher than the central bank's tolerance band for a sixth month in a row.

Higher food prices, which account for nearly half of India's retail inflation, would be a major headache for a government seeking to quell growing public anger over rising prices.

The inflation outlook also raises the likelihood of more aggressive increases to interest rates, potentially slowing economic output.

INDIA LOSES A STRONG MEDAL CONTENDER AFTER THE JAVELIN THROWER PULLS OUT OF THE BIRMINGHAM EVENT DUE TO GROIN STRAIN

# Neeraj out of CWG



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, July 26:** In a huge setback for India, strong medal contender Neeraj Chopra Tuesday pulled out of the upcoming Commonwealth Games (CWG) due to a groin strain he developed during his historic silver medal-winning campaign at the recent World Championships.

The 24-year-old Olympic champion was to defend his men's javelin throw title in Birmingham, where the Games are set to begin Thursday. The development means that Chopra's much-anticipated clash with Grenada's World Champion Anderson Peters will not happen now.

IOA Secretary General Rajiv Mehta said Chopra underwent an MRI scan Monday in the USA and has been advised one-month rest.

"Team India javelin thrower Mr. Neeraj Chopra had called me earlier today from the US to convey his inability to take part in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games owing to fitness concern," Mehta said.

"Following his participation in the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Mr. Chopra had had an MRI scan done Monday and, based on it, he has been advised a month's rest by his medical team," Mehta added.

According to sources close to the athlete, it's a minor groin strain but as a precautionary measure he has been asked to take rest.

Chopra had become only the sec-

ond Indian athlete to win a medal at World Championship in Eugene Saturday evening after Anju Bobby George, who had won a bronze in long jump in 2003 in Paris.

After his silver medal-ensuring 88.13m throw in the fourth attempt, Chopra had felt some unease in his right thigh and his worst fears have come true.

"I thought even the fourth throw could have gone farther. After that, I felt something on my thigh and could not do my best in next two. I had strapping (on thigh).

"I will know the status tomorrow morning because my body is still warm after the event. I hope there should not be any issue for the upcoming events, Commonwealth Games," Chopra had said after his event.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) President Adille Sumariwalla said they are in touch with Chopra to assist his recovery.

"Neeraj has said that since he is not 100 per cent fit to compete at the Commonwealth Games, he would not be the flag bearer of the Indian contingent at the athletes' parade in the opening ceremony," Sumariwalla said.

"Neeraj appeared to be struggling Sunday during the finals at the World Championships. We are in constant touch with him to assist his recovery."

India team's chef de mission Rajesh Bhandari told this news agency, "We have a meeting later in the day to decide the new flag-bearer."



## INDIA AIM FOR CLEAN SWEEP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Port of Spain, July 26:** A ruthless Indian team is unlikely to take its foot off the pedal as it aims to top up a world-record winning feat with another clean sweep against the West Indies Wednesday.

India created a world record Sunday by sealing their 12th consecutive series win in the ODI format against the West Indies – the most against a team.

In this backdrop, head coach Rahul Dravid might be tempted to try out some of his reserve players but he will have to maintain a fine balance between keeping the momentum and testing his bench strength.

In the batting department, it is unlikely that Ruturaj Gaikwad would be preferred over Shubman Gill, who after two innings of 64 and 43 would not like to sit out.

Gaikwad had got a full South Africa series where he looked distinctly uncomfortable against quality pace. While his IPL credentials have kept him in the mix, chances of Indian cricket establishment investing in him on short term basis look dim.

Shreyas Iyer and Sanju Samson have also hit the straps with fifties in last game and Suryakumar Yadav is not expected to cool his heels at the expense of Ishan Kishan despite his twin failures in the first two games.

Kishan is seen as a timer of the ball who can use the Powerplay overs well by hitting over the infield. He isn't a power hitter who can

force the pace after 35th over and hence Samson is a better option despite him being a left hander.

Ravindra Jadeja as the designated vice captain was the first choice all-rounder in this series before he was ruled out of the first two games due to a knee niggle.

It is still not certain whether Jadeja will be available for the final game as Axar Patel after his match-winning knock of 64 in the second game could feel hard done by.

However if Dhawan wants two play two left-arm spinners, then Yuzvendra Chahal could be asked to rest but that will be at the cost of sacrificing variety in bowling attack.

Arshdeep Singh had a groin issue during the England ODIs but since he is a left arm seam bowler, he could be tried out in place of Avesh Khan, who was a tad expensive in the second ODI.

Avesh and Prasidh Krishna have a similar type of hit the deck bowling style, getting deliveries to rear up from back of length or good length. It only warrants that one among the two should start in the eleven.

As far as West Indies is concerned, they have capable players but as a unit, they have failed to fire. They depend too much on individual brilliance of Shai Hope, Nicholas Pooran, Rovman Powell or Romario Shepherd.

The hosts would aim to put an end to their losing streak in ODIs, which has now stretched to eight matches, including a 0-3 loss to Bangladesh in the preceding rubber.

## Carlsen backs India for Chess Olympiad medal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, July 26:** Reigning World Champion Magnus Carlsen Tuesday said that hosts India stand a strong chance of winning medals at the upcoming 44th Chess Olympiad.

India will be hosting the showpiece event for the first time in the prestigious tournament's history from July 28 to August 10.

With no China or Russia taking part at the Olympiad, the India 'A' team is seeded second behind the formidable and star-studded USA. On the other hand, the second Indian team (B) is seeded 11th but comprises a bunch of youngsters like R Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh, who have impressed all and sundry in recent times.

"Both Indian teams have a very strong and impressive line of players and I think both have a chance to be amongst the medals," Carlsen said.

The five-time World Champion is currently in Chennai and is part of Team Norway, which is ranked third among the 187 nations taking part in the event. In 2013, Carlsen clinched his first-ever World Championship title when he defeated his rival and Indian legend, Viswanathan Anand.

"Tamil Nadu or say Chennai is the hottest hub of chess in the world now. So just to be there and be a part of the chess celebration is a reason in itself," he added.

## Lovlina's coach receives accreditation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, July 26:** Lovlina Borgohain's personal coach Sandhya Gurung Tuesday received her accreditation to the Commonwealth Games, a day after the Olympic bronze medallist claimed her preparation for the event was getting affected due to "continuous harassment" of her coaches.

Gurung, who is also Indian team's assistant coach, was added to the Indian contingent, just days before the event. On arrival here Sunday, she was not allowed to enter the Village as she did not have an accreditation, triggering the controversy.

"Sandhya was brought to the boxing village today morning and given accreditation. She is with the team now," an Indian Olympics Association (IOA) official told this agency. Gurung has also been assigned a room at the Games village.

In a long social media post Monday, Lovlina said she was feeling mentally harassed because it was a struggle to get coach added to the squad.

"Today with a lot of grief, I want to tell everyone about the continuous harassment going on with me. The coaches who helped me win an Olympic medal are always being side-lined which has severely impacted my training schedule," Lovlina had written.

Lovlina, who won a bronze in the



Olympics last year, credits Gurung for pulling her out of a difficult mental place before the Tokyo Games. Gurung was with Lovlina during the 15-day training camp in Ireland ahead of the CWG.

The BFI had issued a statement that as per rules only 33 percent (1/3rd) of the playing contingent is allowed as support staff. The Indian boxing contingent has 12 playing members (8 men and 4

**Covid forces two eve cricketers to stay back**

**BIRMINGHAM:** Another member of the Indian women's cricket team has tested positive for COVID-19 and has stayed back in the country ahead of the side's opener against Australia in the Commonwealth Games here Friday. The India squad left Sunday morning for Birmingham without the two players. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had earlier confirmed that one member of the touring party tested positive. The squad trained at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) ahead of the Games. Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games. "A second player has tested positive for COVID-19 and it happened before departure. Both the players remain in India," an Indian Olympic Association official told PTI. A BCCI source added: "As per protocol, both players can only join the team once they test negative." Considering the situation, the two players are unlikely to feature in the opener against Australia.

women) and as per rules, the number of support staff will be four, which includes travelling coaches. The BFI further stated that "requirement of boxing with respect to coaches and support staff is a little different as there are multiple bouts, which could be one after another. "With IOA's help, the number of support staff went up from 4 to 8 for the entire contingent of 12 boxers."

## CR7 arrives at Man Utd's training base, set for talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, July 26:** Cristiano Ronaldo arrived at Manchester United's training ground with his agent on Tuesday with the Portugal great's future at the English club up in the air.

Ronaldo has yet to start pre-season training with United — he missed the team's tour of Thailand and Australia — and is set to hold talks with recently hired manager Erik ten Hag. Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, was pictured in the car driven by Ronaldo entering United's training base.

The 37-year-old Ronaldo reportedly wants to play for another team after only one year back at Old Trafford, with United not in the Champions League this season or in shape to compete with the best



teams in England. United finished in sixth place in the league last season, 35 points behind first-place Manchester City.

United has said Ronaldo has not returned to training yet because of 'personal reasons'. Ten Hag has repeatedly said he is counting on Ronaldo being part of the squad this season.

## India to host 2025 eves' ODI WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** India will host the Women's 50-over World Cup in 2025 as the BCCI has successfully bid for the mega event during the ICC Annual Conference that concluded in Birmingham Tuesday.

The ICC flagship event will return to the country after more than a decade. The last time a women's 50-over World Cup was held in India was back in 2013 when Australian emerged champions after beating the West Indies by 114 runs in the final in Mumbai.

The last big mega women's global cricket event held in India was the 2016 World T20 but that was primarily because ICC used to organise both men's and women's event simultaneously.

However, the system has changed with popularity of women's game increasing exponentially and ICC has segregated the events to procure the proper value for women's game with separate broadcast deal and exclusive coverage.

"We were keen on hosting the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 and we are glad we have won the hosting rights for this marquee clash on the women's calendar," BCCI president Sourav Ganguly was quoted as saying in an ICC re-

**OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**

**B**angladesh will host the 2024 T20 World Cup and England winning hosting rights for the 2026 edition.

**T**he inaugural T20 Champions Trophy in 2027 will be hosted by Sri Lanka.

**T**he ICC Board approved both the men's and women's Future Tours Programme (FTP) from 2023 to 2027 and these will be published in the coming days. It is learnt that India will play 38 Tests during the said period.

**I**ndia great and current head of National cricket Academy VVS Laxman has been appointed to the ICC Men's Cricket Committee as current player representative alongside former New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori.

**T**he growth of global cricket is being celebrated as the ICC welcomed its newest Members with Cambodia, Cote D'Ivoire and Uzbekistan all receiving Associate Membership status. Cambodia and Uzbekistan are the 24th and 25th Members of the Asia region, whilst Cote D'Ivoire is Africa's 21st Member, with the ICC now comprising 108 Members in total, including 96 Associates.

**R**enowned mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton, who was part of the support staff of India's 2011 World Cup winning team, is rejoining the national set-up in the lead up to the T20 World Cup in Australia. Upton has been roped in on a short term contract.



lease.

"The sport has undergone tremendous transformation since then. The popularity of women's cricket is rapidly rising, and this is a step in the right direction. The BCCI will work closely with the ICC and fulfill all the requirements."

The 50 over Women's World Cup,

however, has been a stand-alone event since its inception in 1973, two years before the men's mega event started in England in 1975.

India have hosted the event thrice – in 1978, 1997 and 2013. Those in the know of things in the ICC felt that it was prudent call by the BCCI if they are bidding for the 2025 ODI event.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 26:** PR Sreejesh feels his chequered international career resembles Malayali staple 'Avial' – a mixed curry of 13 vegetables.

At 34 and in the twilight zone, all that is left for Sreejesh is to tick a couple of boxes in a career that has been filled with numerous ups and a few downs.

A second Olympic medal wrapped around his neck with the gigantic Eiffel Tower looming over him is an ultimate dream but for now, he wants to be that safe 'check-post' in what will be his third and last Commonwealth Games.

"The life was always not the same. It was always full of ups and downs. I had some really good matches as well some real bad outings. I had a bad start to my career; then gradually, I have risen up the ranks to become India's No.1 keeper," Sreejesh told this agency in an interview.

"From witnessing the low of 2012 London Olympics to winning bronze in Tokyo, in between I captained the national team and then in 2018, my career was almost over due to an ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) injury. In Kerala, we have a famous dish called 'avial'. It's a 13-vegetable

curry. I can relate my career to avial."

At the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, Sreejesh starred in Indian's gold medal win, when he saved two attempts in a shoot-out against Pakistan in the final. At the 2014 and 2018 Champions Trophy, he was adjudged "Goalkeeper of the

Tournament".

At this stage of his career, Sreejesh prefers short targets. "As a youngster, I always used to plan for four years. Now, I always prefer short-term goals. Now my priority

is CWG, then my next step is World Cup for sure. When you are keeping short targets that always helps you to focus more on your performance, fitness and mental strength."

So he basically plans to carry on till the Paris Olympics. "Looking forward, Paris is feasible. I can see the Eiffel

Tower but that road is not going to be easy. I believe these small steps will help me reach there," the lanky goalkeeper said.

"Another Commonwealth Games is a tricky one because in another four years, I don't think I will be able to sustain (my fitness) but who knows there you can see me as a coach."

Sreejesh believes goalkeepers are like vintage wine, which gets better with age, as he reflected on his illus-

trious career, where he started by warming the bench and went on to become one of the best in the world.

He said the setbacks in the early part of his career taught him lessons to use failures as building blocks for success. "When I started my career, I used to concede a lot of goals. The best part of a goalkeeper is that when you are the second choice, you get to gain a lot of experience by sitting outside and watching. I learned the game by watching the likes of Devesh Chauhan, Adrian D'Souza, Bharat Chettri.

"Over a period, I had seniors, who corrected me and covered for me. If I would have been drafted straightaway in the main team, I would have finished by now because the pressure is too high at the international level and youngster might find it difficult to handle at the onset," Sreejesh said.

"That's why we always say goalkeepers get better as they get older. Goalkeepers are like vintage wine because with age, their maturity level goes high, their pressure-handling gets better and they take decisions wisely." Talking about the upcoming CWG, Sreejesh believes India have the potential to finish on the podium but overcoming the mighty Australians would be key in deciding the colour of the medal.