

## Ex-Japanese PM Shinzo Abe shot dead

Tokyo, July 8 (UNI) Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the country's long-serving leader, was shot and killed on Friday while delivering a campaign speech in the western city of Nara two days ahead of a national election, media reports said. A 41-year-old man shot at him from behind at around 11:30 a.m. when he was speaking in front of the Yamato-Saidaiji railway station, police said. Abe, 67, collapsed to the ground after two shots were heard. He was rushed to a hospital with blood seen on his shirt, Kyodo news agency reported.

Tetsuya Yamagami, a resident of Nara, was arrested at the scene on suspicion for attempted murder, the police said. The suspect was formerly a member of the Maritime Self-Defense Force. "It's not a grudge against the political beliefs of former Prime Minister Abe," the police quoted Yamagami as saying. According to



the disaster management agency, Abe, who was Prime Minister until 2020, was also wounded and bleeding on the right side of his neck with internal bleeding confirmed in the left side of his chest. After returning to his office in Tokyo by helicopter from Yamagata Prefecture where he was campaigning, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida condemned the shooting "in the strongest possible terms," saying such a barbaric act should never be tolerated, Kyodo said.

The assailant's motive is not fully known, he said.

Abe, who was also the longtime leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was in the city to support a candidate running in Sunday's House of Councillors election and there was a crowd of people listening to his speech near the railway station when the attack occurred. A Kyodo News reporter at the scene saw the attacker silently approach Abe, who had been speaking for several minutes, before shooting him.

Loud screams were heard from the crowd and Abe fell to the ground seconds later. Yamagami was immedi-

ately apprehended by police officers.

A campaign staff member was seen desperately trying to revive Abe by pushing on his chest with both hands as he lay on the ground with his eyes closed. People nearby called for medical assistance. It is a rare case of a shooting in Japan, a country that has strict gun regulations. The weapon used by Abe's assailant made a noise that could be compared to an explosion and white smoke rose into the air after it was discharged, Kyodo reported. A gunpowder-like smell could be detected afterward.

The weapon appeared to have its barrel wrapped with duct tape, the reporter said. Born into a prominent political family, Abe served as a secretary for his father, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1993. He had a short stint as Prime Minister between 2006 and 2007 before assuming the post again in 2012. He stepped down due to health problems after nearly eight years. During his second term as leader, he pursued economic policies dubbed "Abenomics" which were marked by massive monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and structural reforms aimed at beating deflation and turning the nation's stagnant economy around. Abe made efforts to bolster Japan's security alliance with the United States and raise Japan's profile overseas, while seeking to promote reform of Japan's U.S.-drafted pacifist Constitution.

## Draupadi Murmu accorded rousing welcome in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, July 8 (UNI) NDA's presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu was accorded a rousing welcome at the Biju Patnaik International airport on Friday on her visit to the state capital here for campaigning ahead of the Presidential poll, scheduled to be held on July 18. From the airport, she drove straight to the state Guest House and after a brief rest at the guest house, Murmu went to the state Assembly to meet the ruling BJD MLAs and MPs. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik received her at the Assembly from where she was escorted to the conference hall to meet the party MLAs and MPs.

BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had already announced his party's support for the candidature of Murmu. The BJD has a strength of 114 members in the 147 members State Assembly. Two BJD



ministers had proposed her candidature during the filing of nomination for the presidential election.

Patnaik has also called upon the Opposition Congress MLAs and Independent MLA to support the candidature of Murmu describing her as the daughter of Odisha. The lone Independent MLA had already announced his support for Murmu's candidature. After meeting the BJD ministers, MPs and MLAs at the state assembly

Murmu returned to the state guest house where she was received by BJP state president Sameer Mohanty, senior party leaders, party MPs and MLAs. Murmu had a meeting with BJP parliament members and MLAs at the state guest house. She will have lunch with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Nivas in the afternoon on Friday where the two leaders are likely to discuss on various issues including the Presidential election.

### IAS officer suspended after custodial remand for sexual harassment

Ranchi, July 8 (UNI) The Jharkhand Government on Friday suspended jailed IAS officer Sayed Riyaz Ahmed who is currently lodged in Khunti jail on judicial custody for allegedly sexually harassing a student belonging to IIT Mandi. Chief Minister Hemant Soren ordered the IAS officer's suspension when the matter was brought to his notice. After being arrested in the case, the officer was produced before a court which sent him to judicial custody. As per the FIR registered by the victim, a group of 16 students from IIT Mandi had come for internship at an NGO based in Khunti.

### 8 yatries dead as cloud burst hit Amarnath route

Srinagar, July 8 (UNI) At least eight pilgrims have died and many are missing as a huge cloud burst hit the Amarnath Yatra route near the lower cave in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday evening, officials said. They said the cloud burst hit at a place where the tented accommodation was provided to the pilgrims besides langar. Several tents have been washed away with the flash floods in which eight yatries have died, they said and added many are still missing. The death toll is likely to mount as many people are still missing, they said.

Many injured in the incident were airlifted for treatment. Earlier Inspector General of Police Kash-



mir in a tweet said that two people died in cloudburst and flash floods near the holy cave. Rescue teams from police, security forces and NDRF have rushed to the spot and launched a massive operation.

"The situation is under control", IGP said in a tweet "Some langars and tents have come under cloud burst/flash floods at HolyCave. 02 deaths reported. Rescue operation by Police, NDRF & SFs in progress. Injured being airlifted for treatment. #Situation under control". IGP Kashmir said in a tweet Further details are emerging, they added.

## Indian leaders condole Abe's death

New Delhi, July 8 (UNI) President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and a host of leaders condoled the death of former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe and remembered him as a leader who played a crucial role in strengthening India-Japan ties. India declared a one-day national mourning on July 9 for Abe. President of India Ram Nath Kovind called it a "tragedy for the whole humanity". "I find it difficult to believe that Shinzo Abe is no more. He was a great statesman, and his infectious affability endeared him the world over," said Kovind. "That he fell prey to an

assassin's bullet is a tragedy for the whole humanity. My heartfelt condolences to his family and people of Japan," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "shocked and saddened beyond words" over the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who he described as "one of my dearest friends... a towering global statesman, an outstanding leader and a remarkable administrator". "He dedicated his life to make Japan and the world a better place," Modi said in a string of tweets after Abe was shot and killed while addressing a campaign rally in the Japanese town of Nara. Home Minister Amit Shah said he was "pained to learn



about the assassination of the former PM of Japan and India's valued friend, Shinzo Abe".

"His efforts in strengthening the India-Japan relationship will always be held fondly in our memories. My deepest condolences to his family, followers & the people of Japan," Shah said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called it a sad day for Japan and India.



"A sad day for Japan, for India, the world and for me personally. A quarter century of memories of Shinzo Abe. No words to express them," he said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India has lost a close friend who assiduously worked towards strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Japan during his tenure as Prime Minister. "I met with Mr Abe during my visit to

Japan in 2019. I found him to be an inspiring leader who had the vision to create a safe and better world. He will always be remembered for his statesmanship. Our prayers and thoughts are with the bereaved family," said Singh. Congress President Sonia Gandhi said she was "shocked at the assassination".

"For many years, Mr. Abe was a great friend and well-wisher of India. He did much to expand and deepen the bilateral relationship between our two countries. I recall my meeting with him very fondly and vividly. It is a huge misfortune that has befallen upon Japan and indeed, the entire international community. He will be sorely missed,"

she said. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also remembered his role in strengthening bilateral ties. "His role in strengthening the strategic relationship between India and Japan was commendable. He leaves behind a lasting legacy in the Indo-Pacific," he said. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi meanwhile said "Violence is the language of cowards, it can never overpower the good." "Abe was an exceptional human being, his way was that of peace and kindness," she said. Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe was shot this morning while campaigning for a parliamentary election in the Nara region of Japan.

## Lalu Yadav's condition improving, Rahul Gandhi visits

New Delhi, July 8 (UNI) Former Bihar chief minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Lalu Prasad Yadav's health condition has improved, daughter Misa Bharti said on Friday. Former



Congress president Rahul Gandhi also met the ailing RJD leader at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Misa, in a tweet said the former Bihar CM's health has improved, and he is able to sit up from the bed, and stand with

support. She also dismissed "rumors" related to his health.

"Lalu ji's condition is much better now because of your prayers. Please don't pay attention to rumours," she said. Rahul

Gandhi meanwhile visited the RJD chief earlier Friday afternoon. An RJD leader said Rahul met him, and enquired about his health from doctors. The former Union railway minister had suffered a fracture on his right shoulder on July 2 after falling from the stairs at his residence in Patna. He was undergoing treatment in Patna's Paras HMRI hospital, and was airlifted to AIIMS, Delhi, on Wednesday night.

BJP gave big message by declaring Murmu as presidential candidate: Yogi Lucknow, July 8 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that by declaring Draupadi Murmu as the presidential candidate Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has given a big message to the society that here politics of dynasty and nepotism is not done but emphasis is laid on nationalism. During a meeting of the party office-bearers at the party office, Yogi said that economic progress would be measured from the person sitting at the last rung of the society.

## Odisha reports over 400 covid cases for third consecutive day

Bhubaneswar, July 8 (UNI) For the third consecutive day the covid positive cases in Odisha surpassed the 400 mark as 470 new cases were detected in the state in the past 24 hours taking the tally to 12,92,416. Health department sources said out of 470 positive cases reported from eleven of the 30 districts, 276 cases were recorded from the quarantine centres and 194 as local contact cases. During the last three days, the covid positive cases have jumped from 401 to 428 and finally 470 in the



past 24 hours. Khordha district continued to record the highest number of positive cases for the last several days. The positive cases in the district surpassed 200 mark to report 221

cases followed by Cuttack (94), Sundargarh (24) and Puri (17). The daily state test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 2.7 per cent with Khordha district registering the highest TPR of 10.6 per

cent followed by Puri (8.1) and Cuttack (7.7 per cent).

Official sources said the active cases also surged to 2487 of which Khordha district alone accounted for the highest number of 1207 cases followed by Cuttack (440) and Balasore (81). Three districts such as Dhenkanal, Angul and Koraput have no active cases at all while eleven districts have zero test positivity rate. About 218 patients recovered from the virus in the past 24 hours taking the total recoveries in the state to 12,80,750.

# Biden to sign executive order to safeguard abortion rights

Washington, July 8 (UNI) President Joe Biden will be signing an executive order Friday with the aim of protecting abortion rights in response to the landmark decision by the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, CNN reported. President Biden can do precious little to restore the nationwide right to abortion in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling and has called on the American people to elect more members of Congress in November's mid-term elections who will support federal legislation protecting abortion access. However, Democrats and pro-choice advocates have been pres-

suring the White House take a stronger stance to codify abortion access. Last month, Biden hinted he was considering taking executive action, telling Jimmy Kimmel that while he believed Congress should codify Roe, "There's some executive orders I could employ, we believe -- we're looking at that right now."

Friday's executive order will prompt Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to take steps to ensure access to abortion, including FDA-approved medication abortion and expanded access "to the full range of reproductive health services". Those services in-



clude "emergency contraception and long-acting reversible contraception like intrauterine devices (IUDs)," the fact sheet says, citing coverage of birth control under the Affordable Care Act. HHS is tasked with submitting a report within the next 30 days to the President regarding the implementation of the order's provi-

sions, which also include steps to increase outreach and protect the medical and digital privacy of patients seeking abortions.

In addition, the order establishes an interagency task force between the HHS and the White House Gender Policy Council, which includes Attorney General Merrick Garland, who the White House says will pro-

vide "technical assistance to states affording legal protection to out-of-state patients as well as providers who offer legal reproductive health care." The White House has dismissed several progressive ideas to protect abortion access, including allowing abortion providers to work from federal property in states where the procedure is banned. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said using federal lands for abortion services would have "dangerous ramifications." The White House has also reiterated the President does not support expanding the Supreme Court, as many progressives have pushed for.

## UN chief warns G20 about famine risks

United Nations, July 8 (UNI/Sputnik) UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned G20 nations on Friday about the risk of multiple famines this year.

"There is a real risk of multiple famines this year. Next year could be even worse," Guterres said in a video message to the G20 foreign ministers' meeting.

Guterres said that the Ukraine conflict is contributing to other crises and may cause social and economic devastation. The UN chief believes that the Ukraine crisis is behind the current spike in food prices and increase in the



number of undernourished people.

Guterres told the ministers that without fertilizers, shortages could spread from corn and wheat to all staple crops, including rice, significantly impacting billions of people. To alleviate the crisis, the

UN is working to find a plan to enable the exports of grain out of Ukraine and grain and fertilizers out of Russia, the secretary-general added.

The meeting of G20 foreign ministers is being held in Bali, Indonesia, on July 7-8.

## Thailand extends emergency due to Covid

Bangkok, July 8 (UNI/Sputnik) The authorities of Thailand are extending for another two months the state of emergency, introduced in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Center for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) said

on Friday. "The state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic has been extended for the period from August 1 to September 30, 2022. The extension is caused by the need to continue the control of the coronavirus spread and

because of the concern for the health of citizens," head of CCSA Taweelin Visanuyothin was quoted as saying by Krungthep Turakij online newspaper. According to Visanuyothin, Thailand should get ready to acknowledge the

coronavirus as an endemic disease, which would entail an implementation of programs related to the development of mechanisms for assessing and predicting the rate of transmission of Covid-19 and other potentially dangerous

diseases. Currently 25,082 patients with Covid-19 are hospitalized in Thailand, the daily increase is about 2,000 cases and the number of deaths due to the coronavirus is about 20 per day, according to the CCSA statistics.

## Russian FM calls attack on ex-Japanese PM 'act of terrorism'

Moscow, July 8 (UNI/Sputnik) The recent attack on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is "act of terrorism," which cannot be justified, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Friday.

a speedy stabilization of his condition and recovery, and to his wife Akie Abe, relatives and friends to maintain the strength of spirit and not lose hope," the statement read.

Zakharova also described Abe as an outstanding politician who had greatly contributed to the development of the Russian-Japanese relations.

"We know Abe as an outstanding politician who made an invaluable contribution to the development of the Russian-Japanese relations in all areas on the path of building mutual trust and good neighborliness," she noted.

Abe was attacked around 11:30 local time (02:30 GMT) in the Japanese city of Nara during his street speech. The attacker, 41-year-old Tetsuya Yamagami, approached

the politician from behind and fired two shots from a distance of about 10 meters. After the second shot, Abe fell. During the attack, he received a gunshot wound to the right side of the neck. Police said Abe was conscious immediately after being wounded, but then, during transportation, his condition became critical "with cardiac and pulmonary arrest." Abe died at the Nara Medical University hospital.

Yamagami, 41, was detained at the scene. According to Nippon Television, Yamagami served in the country's maritime self-defense forces for three years until 2005. His current occupation is yet to be established. According to media reports, Yamagami said during his testimony that he was "dissatisfied" with Abe and "wanted to kill him."

## Russia to discuss economic aid to Sri Lanka

Moscow, July 8 (UNI) A Sri Lankan delegation will arrive here on Sunday to discuss economic assistance Russia can provide to Colombo in a bid to beat its worst economic crisis, the Russian government said on Friday. Zamir Kabulov, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Second Asian Department, stated this to Sputnik. Sri Lanka is battling its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948. Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has spoke on the telephonic twice recently with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin seeking help on gas and energy in particular.

Colombo, July 8 (UNI) The Sri Lankan Medical Association has accused the government of "completely (failing) in its sacred duty to safeguard our people" and urged it to quit without any further delay and hand over the reins to an all-party consensual administration. "We have seen the tremendous and unbearable suffering of the masses with distressing problems that have become an unfortunate part of their lives.

These are obvious and well known but yet, the authorities seem to be completely deaf and blind to them," the Association said in a hard-hitting statement. "The governing regime has completely failed in its sacred duty to safeguard our people. In such a scenario, we are forced to declare, without any hesitation whatsoever, that what is needed as a likely solution to all these ills that we are forced to suffer, is a complete change of di-

## UK Education Secretary says will not run for PM's position

London, July 8 (UNI/Sputnik) UK Secretary of State for Education James Cleverly said he would not put forward his candidacy for the position of the UK prime minister after Boris Johnson's resignation.

Johnson on Thursday announced his resignation, stressing that he would continue to fulfill the role of party leader and prime minister until his successors are appointed.

"No, I will not be ... As you know, my wife has been going through cancer treatment. It is not the right time for me, and I feel comfortable that actually we have a range of candidates within the party that would make excellent prime ministers," Cleverly told the Sky News broadcaster.



The previous education secretary, Michelle Donelan, tendered his resignation on Thursday after being in office for 24 hours. On the same day, Johnson appointed Cleverly, who previously served as UK Minister of State for Europe and North America, as the new UK education secretary.

Johnson has been grappling with calls to resign

after a series of scandals connected with violations of COVID-19 regulations throughout 2020 and 2021 and the appointment of Christopher Pincher, who was accused of sexual misconduct, as deputy chief whip of the UK's Conservative Party. The Pincher scandal led a string of resignations, with dozens of officials stepping down from Johnson's government this week.

## Abe collapsed after second shot: Witness

Nara (Japan), July 8 (UNI) A woman who was at the scene where former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot here on Friday during an election campaign rally, said Abe collapsed right after a second gunshot.

anyone fall down after the first shot, which she said was very loud, but Abe collapsed as soon as the second shot came.

She said many people gathered around Abe to give him emergency treatment such as cardiac massage.

The witness said the suspect remained on the spot without trying to flee, with his gun laid down, and he was caught by people who appeared to be security personnel.

The 67-year-old former prime minister remain critical without any vital signs as per last reports on Japanese media.

Police have arrested a 41-year-old man for attempted murder. He was identified as Yamagami Tetsuya, a former member of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, the police was quoted as saying by Japanese media NHK.

The gunman admitted he tried to kill Abe because he

was 'dissatisfied' with him, said the police. "Suspect 'intended to kill' former PM Abe," said the police.

There were two shots heard around 11.30 a.m., shortly after Abe began to speaking at the campaign rally. Police say that the former prime minister appears to have been shot around his chest and neck.

Investigative sources told NHK a gun seized at the scene appeared to be handmade.

## Man admits to Abe shooting: Police

Nara (Japan), July 8 (UNI) Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is in critical condition after a shooting on Friday at a campaign rally in western Japanese city here.

Police have arrested a 41-year-old man for attempted murder. He was identified as Yamagami Tetsuya, a former member of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, the police was quoted as saying by Japanese media NHK.

The gunman admitted he tried to kill Abe because he was 'dissatisfied' with him, said the police. "Suspect 'intended to kill' former PM Abe," said the police.

There were two shots heard around 11.30 a.m., shortly after Abe began to speaking at the campaign rally. Police say that the former prime minister appears to have been shot around his chest and neck.

Abe reportedly remains in hospital without vital signs after being shot on the

street here. Investigative sources told NHK a gun seized at the scene appeared to be handmade.

The 41-year-old suspect lives in Nara city where the shooting took place. Defense sources said the suspect worked for the Maritime Self Defense Force for three years until around 2005.

Police say the suspect told investigators that he was dissatisfied with the

former prime minister and intended to kill him.

Video taken by an NHK reporter appears to show security for the event apprehending someone.

There's no further update on Abe's condition. Emergency officials say he does not appear to have any life signs, the NHK report said.

Abe was in the city to support a candidate for Sunday's Upper House election.

## Confident of breaking relay record in CWG: Dutee

New Delhi, July 8 (UNI) India's ace sprinter and reigning 100m national record holder, Dutee Chand, is hopeful of setting a new India record in the 4x100m relay event at the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the UK.

Dutee, Dhanalakshmi Sekar, Hima Das, Srabani Nanda, MV Jilna and NS Simi will be representing India at the Birmingham Games later this month.

"The record for 4x100m is 43.37 (India record). I am confident that we will break the record this time as the four of us have performed really well lately and our training is also going on in full swing.

"If we clock 42.90 then we will be in contention for a medal and we are hopeful that the team will perform better in Birmingham," Dutee told UNI at the ceremonial send-off for Birmingham-bound athletes.

At the Indian Grand Prix IV last year, the women's team of Archana S,

Dhanalakshmi, Hima and Dutee scripted the Indian record with a timing of 43.37. At the same meet, Dutee made a new national record in 100m clocking 11.17 seconds.

The 26-year-old athlete, however, expressed her disappointment over postponement of Asian Games as she is doubtful whether her body will be ready to take the longer route next year.

She said sports is something that gives you time but sometime your body doesn't support you to fight longer.

"I am 26 now and will be 27 next year at the time of Asiad. I am not sure my body will take that long route but I will try my best to perform well at the next year Asian Games and World University Games.

"If the Games happened this year I would have performed better as I did really well this year. Next year I will try all my best to do well and bring laurel for the country," Dutee said.



The Odisha sprinter is the first Indian to win a gold medal in 100m dash in a global competition.

In 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Dutee clinched silver in women's 100m which was India's first medal in this event since 1998. She also bagged silver medal in 200m race.

In 2019, she became the first Indian sprinter to win gold at the Universiade, clocking 11.32 seconds in the 100m race with a timing of 11.32. She also added another Asian championships bronze medal by finishing third in 200m

event. Speaking about the young generation of athletes she said: "A lot of young athletes are inspired from my performance at the global stage and also have delivered well at different athletics meets.

"When I started I was told that there nothing in 100m go for 400m you will get a chance to go to Olympics in relay. But I stood strong and continued with 100m discipline and I had promised myself that I will bring medal at international competitions.

"Since 2012, I have fo-

cused on 100m event, starting from 12.5 seconds I have reached to 11.17 seconds. I have competed at various international events like Asian Games, Olympics, Asian championships etc.

"I am sure that the coming generation will focus more on 100 and 200m discipline," she said.

The ace sprinter believes that current women athletics team is doing great and they will become even stronger in coming time. She said: "After a month you will see a massive improvement in their performance."

## Man dies in landslide, 2 washed away in flash floods across Jammu region

Jammu, July 8 (UNI) An elderly man died while two persons were washed away in two separate incidents of landslide and flash floods triggered by heavy rains across Jammu region on Friday morning.

Police said a 60-yr-old man died when he was buried under landslide in Mandi area of Poonch.

Police teams and locals rushed to the spot and launched a rescue

operation. Meanwhile in another incident, a JCB and a tipper was washed away in flash flood in Darhali Nallah near Rajouri town.

The tipper driver and his helper, residents of village Sokar, Kotranka are missing.

Police along with Army launched a search operation to trace the missing persons, they said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu-

Srinagar national highway that was closed due to landslide after incessant rains at several locations in Ramban district resumed for one-way traffic.

The Deputy Commissioner Ramban in a message also issued an advisory that in view of rise in water level due to opening of Baghliar Dam gates, people are advised to stay away from Chenab river banks.

## Department officials' impartial behaviour might help farmers for rice procurement by FCI in Tripura

Udaipur(Tripura), July 07: The government has taken remarkable decision to procure rice from farmers by Food Corporation of India (FCI) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) in Tripura after demanding for long times in favour of farmers benefit to increase their income double as well as creation of market price for paddy in local market by dint of creating demand for rice that might help farmers to get price at amount of Rs: 19.40 per kg.

The government officials in director level under Agriculture Department are doing good job but the illegal activities still here during procurement in different areas of Tripura districts that a good numbers of middle men giving supply rice at huge quantity to FCI but the

rules said to procure rice from farmers for the benefit of farmers. As there is illegal procurement system here in different procurement centers by FCI, the farmers are not getting actual benefit of MSP.

In Bagma area under Tepaniya R.D Block of Gomati District of Tripura, it has reported that a section of middle men doing supply of rice to FCI and the concern officials not able to maintain equal treatment for all those who are coming with their paddy to supply at MSP to FCI in the nick of procurement.

In accordance with the report of State-Wise Procurement of Rice for KMS 2021-22, a total of 0.26 LMTS rice to be procured from farmers in Tripura this time the pro-

urement process going on in different areas in compliance with the decision of FCI by dint of high officials under Food and Agriculture Department, Government of Tripura.

The farmers' source in all around of the state said that the procurement of rice has to be started by FCI as early as possible owing lack of ware house to store rice after harvesting by farmers. The government initiatives and equal treatment for all by high officials under Food and Agriculture Department, Government of Tripura might help to achieve the goal that increasing farmers' income as double with the help of MSP in case of rice because of minimum price under MSP offered by FCI in compliance with the order of FCI.

## Anurag Thakur launches revised schemes for sportsperson

New Delhi, July 8 (UNI) Union Minister for Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur launched revised schemes of cash awards, National Welfare and Pension to sportsperson, web portal for Schemes of Department of Sports and National Sports Development Fund website here on Friday.

Thakur said that Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has brought out several important amendments to scheme of cash award to medal winners in international sports events and their coaches, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) and Pension to Meritorious Sportsperson Scheme of Department of Sports

with a vision to make these schemes more user-friendly, easy to access and transparent.

These revised schemes will provide more transparency and accountability to give benefit to sports persons in record time, the Minister explained.

"Earlier the proposals were received through Sports Federations/SAI, which used to take considerable time for submission of the proposals. Sometimes it used to take more than 1-2 years to approve the proposal. To ensure timely submission and subsequent approval of cash award, applicant now needs to apply online for cash award scheme within six months from the last date of closing of the particular event,"

Thakur said. He further informed that verification process in all three schemes has been eased to a great extent to reduce the processing time. To ensure that the coach(es) get their cash award in a timely manner, required changes have been made in the scheme. Pension benefits have been extended to the athletes of Deaflympics also.

"To implement the above features in these schemes, the Department of Sports has developed web portal dbtyasports.gov.in to facilitate sportsperson in applying to seek benefits under the above schemes of Department of Sports," he added.

The online portal will facilitate real time tracking

of applications by the sportsperson and authentication through One Time Password (OTP) sent on their registered mobile number. Physical submission of applications by the applicants to the Ministry would no longer required. The portal has also been integrated with DBT-MIS which will enable transfer of funds to the sportsperson directly into their bank accounts to fulfill the objectives of DBT Mission of the Government of India.

Thakur highlighted that the department has also developed a dedicated interactive website nsdf.yas.gov.in for 'National Sports Development Fund' (NSDF). This Fund is based on CSR contributions from Cen-

tral and State Governments, PSUs, private companies, and individuals etc. for promotion and development of sports in the country.

Individual, institution and corporate organizations can now directly contribute for players, sports facilities, and sports events through the portal. The NSDF corpus is used for Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme, Infrastructure development by eminent sportsperson and sports organizations etc. "This dedicated website will provide easy and transparent access not only to the sportsperson but also to the CSR contributors. This website will help us in making NSDF a great success for the development of sports in the country," Thakur said.

## 27 take oath as Rajya Sabha members

New Delhi, July 8 (UNI) Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal, Congress' Jairam Ramesh and Mukul Wasnik, Rashtriya Lok Dal's Jayant Choudhary and Bharatiya Janata Party's Surendra Nagar were among 27 newly elected members who took oath as Rajya Sabha members on Friday.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu administered the oath of membership to them.

Sitharaman, Goyal and Nagar were re-elected to the Upper House.

The new members who took oath came from 10

states. Of these, 12 took oath in Hindi, four in English, two MPs each in Sanskrit, Kannada, Marathi and Odia and one member each in Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu.

After the ceremony, Naidu clarified that even those newly elected members who have not yet taken oath can vote in the presidential election.

Naidu said the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament will be conducted under the Covid-19 protocol.

Other members who took oath today include Dr. K. Laxman, Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai, Kalpana Saini, Sultana Dev and R. Dharmar.

## Alia Bhatt bowled over by Kriti Sanon's 'Mimi'

New Delhi, July 8 (UNI) It's hard to deny that Kriti Sanon truly stunned the masses with her brilliant performance in 'Mimi'.

Even after almost a year since its release, Kriti is still getting lauded and praised for her self shouldered film. The newest addition to the list is, Alia Bhatt, who was seen praising Kriti on 'Koffee with Karan'.

During the chat show, Karan Johar asked Alia about the last film or performance that bowled her over? Without giving it a second



thought, Alia said, "Kriti Sanon in Mimi", to which Karan also agreed.

Kriti played the character of Mimi Rathore, a young woman who opts to be a surrogate mother for a foreign couple in MiMi which was immensely loved by

the masses while the actress also won the award for Best Actress at IIFA for her role.

While on the film front, the leading actress is super busy with massive films like Adipurush, Shehzada, Bhediya and Ganapath.

## I-T Dept raids pharma manufacturers in Haryana, Delhi-NCR, seizes Rs 4.2 Cr cash

New Delhi, July 8 (UNI) Income Tax Department has conducted searches on pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors in Haryana and Delhi-NCR and claimed to have seized cash of Rs 4.2 crore and jewellery or bullion worth Rs 4 crore, an official statement said on Friday.

The search and seizure operations, conducted on June 29, 2022, on a group engaged in the business of manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceutical medicines and real estate development, covered 25 premises in Delhi-NCR and Haryana.

"A large number of incriminating documents in the form of loose sheets and digital data have been found and seized. These documents reveal that the group was involved in huge unaccounted sales of pharmaceutical medicines in cash. Large amount of purchases, payments of wages and other expenses were also found to have been made in cash," the statement said. "The modus-operandi of unaccounted cash sales of pharmaceutical medicines, including cash receipts through hawala for sale of medicines to Afghanistan,



has been admitted by a key person involved in such transactions. The preliminary analysis of the seized data indicates that such hawala cash receipts amount to Rs. 25 crore approximately. In the case of one pharmaceutical concern dealing in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), surplus stock valued at Rs 94 crore has been found," it said.

It was also found that the cash generated through unaccounted cash sales was allegedly invested in purchase of immovable properties, and in expansion of manufacturing facilities of pharmaceutical medicines. The real estate entities of the group were found to be allegedly engaged in out-of-books sale and purchase of

properties in cash. "The group has also been booking bogus long term or short term capital losses in the securities market to offset the capital gains earned on such property transactions. The amount of such bogus losses is estimated to be around Rs. 20 crore. The search action has revealed that the group has also floated benami entities to purchase immovable properties in the State of Himachal Pradesh," the statement said.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**CORRIGENDUM TO**  
Gem Bid No. GEM/2022/B/2204663  
Dt. 24.05.2022  
The following modification has been made in the GeM-Bid Notice no. which may please be noted.  
**Particulars:** Bid Closing date has been changed from 14.06.2022, 1600 hrs. to 11.07.2022, 1000 hrs. For other details visit website <http://www.gem.gov.in>  
Dy. Chief Materials Manager/CRW/PR-270/N/22-23  
Mancheswar

## Contrasting laws on abortion in India, US

WHILE the Indian Government amended the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act of 1971 in 2021 to increase the gestational age of abortion from 20 to 24 weeks (in special circumstances), the US Supreme Court recently overturned the Roe vs Wade decision of 1973 that had provided a constitutional right to abortion. While abortion is considered to be a right in our 'regressive' country, it is being banned in one of the most progressive countries in the world. The paradox cannot but amaze. The MTP Act was passed in India when I had just become a doctor and was doing my house job in the obstetrics & gynaecology department. On the one hand, taking life was considered a universal sin, but on the other, it had just obtained legal sanction. A doctor taught to save lives was now being asked to take lives as part of her duty. I was troubled by questions like: Who was the sinner in such a situation — the woman/couple who wanted to get rid of the pregnancy, the doctor or both? Was this how a soldier felt on the battlefield? If you killed the 'enemy', an unknown person, who did you no harm, you were a hero, though killing another under normal circumstances was murder. Was this the only method the government had at its disposal to control our exploding population? Going by the number of women lined up for this procedure, it seemed that the only mode of birth control they practised was MTP! While performing an early abortion, I could pretend that it was not a human being that I had sucked out of the mother's womb for the material collected in the bottle of the suction apparatus was just a blob of blood mixed with some mince. With the advent of MTP pills, it has become that much

easier and patient-oriented. The woman takes the pill after requisite signatures and precautions, while the doctor takes action only if the abortion is incomplete. Abortions conducted at about 12 weeks of pregnancy trouble me the most. An ultrasound during this procedure depicted a horror tale. No hired assassin would murder his victim in such a gruesome manner as we do. After opening the mouth of the uterus, an instrument is inserted in its cavity to grasp whichever part of the foetus it can catch. As the poor thing backs away in terror, its mouth opens in a silent scream, a leg or an arm is torn asunder and pulled out! At times, the abdominal wall bursts open to spill out tiny worm-like guts. Finally, the head is crushed and the brain floats, soft and pale, butter-like, on a stream of blood while the eyes pop out like papaya seeds. One can imagine the effect this had on a newly minted doctor. I could not sleep for nights on end.

As MTP was legal till the 20th week (now 24 weeks under special circumstances), a baby at this stage is 'delivered' by inducing labour pains. What troubled me was the fact that the foetus came out 'alive' at times, gasping and twitching! It was left in the kidney tray to breathe its last, before being handed over to the relatives. My perspective changed entirely when I saw a half-dead young girl wheeled into the emergency for a 'snake' that had come out of her private parts! It turned out to be a loop of intestines that an untrained dai had pulled out after perforating the uterus while trying to remove an illegitimate pregnancy! Needless to say, we could not save the teenager. Another woman came on a bullock cart with a stick stuck inside her; yet another had cotton and grass inserted deep within that led to septicemia and a lingering, painful death. Centres for illegal abortions had sprung up in slums, even in so-called respectable city clinics, for it was a great money-spinning enterprise. Here, untrained personnel performed surreptitious abortions under unhygienic conditions, leading to the loss of young lives; of mothers, who left orphaned offspring behind. An entire family could be destroyed by the death of one woman. Those who survived did not come out of these dingy premises unscathed. They suffered from long-term gynaecological issues ranging from PID (pelvic inflammatory disease) characterised by chronic lower abdomen pain, painful intercourse, painful periods, heavy bleeding and infertility which wrecked their marital lives. It was to save the lives of women, to decrease the ensuing morbidity, that the Act was passed. This assuaged my conscience somewhat. MTP is legal in India if done by a registered medical practitioner, in a place registered by the government, for certain conditions.

## Absence of civil liberties leads to violence

Today, we again need to retell, elaborate, justify and launch a struggle for the reclamation of these rights. The rights to freedom have not been suspended, as during the Emergency. Yet, citizens are arbitrarily thrown into prison for social media posts, for mild criticism of politicians, for a piece published in the newspaper and for lampooning power games. There, they languish without any possibility of redress.

HISTORIC moments arrive in the life of a political society when its members begin to think, reflect on, debate and reiterate the foundational principles of their democratic polity. The first such moment came in the aftermath of the internal Emergency proclaimed by Indira Gandhi (1975-77). Till then, we were fairly confident that our civil and political liberties were safe because they had been fought for by the freedom struggle and enshrined in the Constitution. No doubt, millions of Indians were steeped in poverty, ill-health, disease and malnourishment. But we believed in the basic tenets of liberalism: that social and economic rights follow the right to freedom of expression, the right to association, the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, the right to the sanctity of life, the right to not be arrested without due cause, the right to privacy, and above all, the right to vote for a democratic government. Comprehensive restrictions imposed on basic freedoms during the Emergency jolted India. We realised that it is not enough to grant rights. Rights have to be constantly reiterated, asserted and fought for. Otherwise, a state hungry for unlimited power will hijack them. It is significant that the ending of the Emergency catapulted a number of associations in India's civil society. One of the most important movements that spread rapidly across the country concentrated on the indispensability of civil liberties. The movement proliferated, often through divisions in the parent body. All organisations devoted to the cause focused on the constitutional right to life and liberty, the right to not be arrested without due cause, the right to not be tortured, the right to bodily integrity and freedom from external impediment. Today, we once again need to retell, re-emphasise, elaborate, justify and launch a struggle for the reclamation of these rights. The cluster of the rights to freedom has not been formally suspended, as during the Emergency. Yet, citizens are arbitrarily thrown into prison for a tweet, for social media posts, for mild criticism of politicians, for a piece published in the newspaper and for lampooning petty power games. There, they languish without any possibility of redress, without hope that the judiciary will, for a change, prove unpredictable and take on the executive, and without any expectation that the powerful media will take up their cause, and fight for fellow citizens who have been banished to the damp, dark dungeons of India's infamous prison system for reasons that a mature democracy would consider puerile and not worthy of being taking note of. Cynics will, of course, ask why corporate houses which own the media should bother about people condemned to jail even if they have not committed a crime. That is not the point. The task of the capitalist state, famously theorised by political philosopher Nicos Poulantzas, is to save capitalism from the capitalists. Left to themselves, capitalists bleed their



own societies dry. It is the state that staves off revolutions by the grant of political and civil rights. Wielders of state power should take note of another famous political philosopher, Antonio Gramsci, who had been thrown into jail by Mussolini. Revolutions do not happen when a society possesses civil society, he wrote. They happen in states that exercise brute power, a la Tsarist Russia. Therefore, the need for rights. There was a time when we were caught in the trap of Cold War rhetoric, which divided political and civil rights on the one hand and social rights on the other. The first fell within the provenance of liberal capitalist democracies and the second within actually existing socialist societies. The end of the cold war, thankfully, terminated this artificial distinction. A human being is not free if she is hungry. True. But a well-fed individual who is denied the liberty to follow her muse is also not free. Freedom lies at the heart of a coherent theory of rights. Equality is a much more difficult concept; it is too intellectual. Liberty forms part of a natural human impulse to break free. The emergence of freedom in political vocabularies proclaimed a rupture in the biography of the political. It signified, according to JS

Mill, the struggle between liberty and authority. The ideology of freedom rescued people from slavery and serfdom, from subordination to social hierarchies, from colonialism and from arbitrary post-colonial states. Freedom is a romantic term; it creates the conditions within which human beings make and remake their world along with others. In Sleep and Poetry, Keats put the idea thus: 'Though no great minist'ry reason sorts/Out the dark mysteries of human souls/To clear conceiving: yet there ever rolls/A vast idea before me/and I glean/Therefrom my liberty.' This imaginative, creative, poetic human being needs to be free of censorship, have the freedom to do what she wants within the bounds of reasonableness, wear what she wants, marry whom she wants, trace the wisps of her dreams, speak back to a history not of her making and, in short, be an individual who can realise her potential. The precondition of agency is freedom. Take away people's freedom, and a society will have nothing but diminished human beings on its hand. Their only recourse will be violence; they can deploy only violence to be free. Freedom does not create violence, it is the absence of freedom that creates violence.

## Sena's new avatar

Dynastic politics in decline, parties need to look beyond families

EVER since the Shiv Sena's inception in 1966, its name has been synonymous with the Thackerays. However, a decade after the death of its founder and tallest leader Bal Thackeray, winds of change have swept the once-powerful family to the sidelines. The Thackerays had managed to retain their hold despite the 2005 exit of former Maharashtra CM Narayan Rane and Balasaheb's nephew Raj Thackeray, but the recent revolt by Eknath Shinde — which led to his elevation as CM — seems to have caused irreparable damage to the dynasty. Shinde has claimed that the rebellion was a fallout of the 'unfair treatment' meted out to him, a poor reflection on the leadership of ousted CM Uddhav Thackeray. The latter, Bal Thackeray's youngest son, has accused the BJP of plotting to finish off his party, but he needs to delve into his own lapses that Shinde capitalised on to win over most of the Sena MLAs. Dynastic politics, termed by PM Modi as a threat to



democracy, is in decline across the country. Two grand old parties, the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal, both ruled by families, find themselves at the crossroads after a series of electoral losses. A rare exception is the

Biju Janata Dal, whose current chief, five-time Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, has proved to be a brilliant administrator and a worthy legatee of his father, Biju Patnaik. Back in the late 1980s, it was MGR's political heir J Jayalitha who had eclipsed his widow Janaki in the fiercely fought battle for succession in Tamil Nadu. Even as Uddhav struggles to keep the Thackerays politically relevant, the message to all dynasty-centric parties is loud and clear: reinvent yourselves to regain the trust of the masses. Their family fixation has given the BJP enough ammunition to accuse them of depriving commoners of opportunities to occupy top posts. The nomination of tribal leader Droupadi Murmu as the presidential candidate is in sync with the BJP's policy of rewarding those who have risen through the ranks. At the end of the day, it's the track record that should invariably count, not the DNA or a sense of entitlement.

## GST has to resolve anomalies in tax structure

Bacteria become resistant to antimicrobial agents when changes in them cause the drugs to be ineffective in killing them. The two reports in The Lancet bring to the fore an impending disaster (resistance to antimicrobials) which seems to have been ignored due to the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

THERE are few or no critics of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, which had been in the formulation stage before Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014; he rolled it out with fanfare in July 2017, after his disastrous demonetisation measure of November 2016. There was a midnight Parliament session to mark the passing of the GST legislation. Five years later, in the middle of economic uncertainty, and eight years of the Modi government, the GST seems to be a formidable landmark, much less in dispute than all the acts of omission and commission of this government.

But even the government is not claiming it as an achievement because it is recognised as work in progress and that there is much more to be done to call it an accomplished task. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her officials in the ministry are only pointing to the little successes like improving tax collection. From the Rs 1 lakh crore target, it has climbed to Rs 1.4 lakh crore and more, and this increase in number is cited as evidence that the GST is a success. Strangely enough, the government sounds like a corporation, where the corporation aims at profit maximisation as a sign of success, and now the government takes pride in the fact that revenue maximisation is the pinnacle of success. Of course, ministers explain now and then that the tax revenue is being spent for the welfare of the people. There is also the other explanation that tax evasion has been plugged through demonetisation and the GST, an unverified claim.

An interesting aspect of the government's thinking on GST is that the country is moving towards tax maximisation, and from the existing 11 per cent tax-to-GDP ratio, it could go up to 20 per cent in a few years' time. And on the way, the states would be realising revenue they seemed

to have lost through the new system. And through the GST Council, comprising the Union Finance Minister and the State Finance Ministers, a bureaucratic mechanism has been established that seems to work out the inescapable nitty-gritty involved in tweaking tax rates. They call it rationalisation of the system. The latest example is the decision at the 47th GST Council meeting, held in Chandigarh recently, of correcting the anomaly of inverted duty structure where the component elements are liable to greater rates than the final product. So, there is an increase in the rates for dairy and milking machines; milk, buttermilk and curd have now been subjected to GST, as well as forks and spoons. The tax calculus remains all Greek to the ordinary people, but it is a delight for the tax experts. They remain beyond the pale of public scrutiny, as well as that of the Parliament and Assemblies which finally have to pass the necessary legislation.

At the 47th GST Council meeting, the rate for pencil sharpeners, paper knives, printing, writing and drawing ink, power-driven water pumps and LED lamps have been increased from 12 per cent GST to 18 per cent. No questions are asked and no explanations given for the reason behind this decision or many others like this one. Of course, tax administration requires constant revision and there are perhaps good and bad reasons for doing so. But the matter is now decided by the GST Council and the committee of finance ministers that the Council sets up to resolve some of the issues. While there may be transparency about the rates and collections, there is not



much of it shifting taxable items from one slab to another. A statistical profile of the goods falling under each slab of the GST shows that now 46 per cent of the goods taxed fall in the 18 per cent slab, which is not exactly in the middle of rate spectrum ranging from 5 per cent to 28 per cent. Apparently, in 2017, the 18 per cent slab accounted for 33 per cent. So, people are paying more for more goods. Ideally, most goods should be in the lower slab of 5 per cent and 12 per cent. There are now 37 items in the 28 per cent slab, 636 in the 18 per cent, 249 in the 12 per cent, 288 in the 5 per cent, and 166 exempted goods. And there is the fact that GST is not coterminous with all the taxes and cesses levied in the country. Optimists point out that it will be some years

before one can reach the ideal of two rate slabs instead of the present five, and the GST utopians who argue for a single rate have been silenced by the argument of sin goods versus merit goods, and how the two cannot be put under the same rate. As most people interested in tax issues seem to be enamoured of GST, no one has critically examined the rationale of the idea itself and its implementation.

It's Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan who has expressed his reservations about the GST as a system; he talked of the states being deprived of the right to tax and how GST erodes the federal system. Most politicians are afraid to express their opinion on taxation because they are intimidated by the subject, and of course most politicians also do not understand that in a democracy, people must approve the taxes that any government imposes, and that the people have a right through the elected representatives to decide on taxation. The GST, conceptualised by bureaucrats who have little or no democratic qualms, and who are more interested in improving the efficiency of a tax system, has created a maze which is as misleading as the pre-GST tax structures. But there is a flaw in the GST slab rates as they exist now — the difference between one rate and another. There is a difference of 7 percentage points between the 5 per cent and 12 per cent rates; 6 percentage points between the 12 per cent and 18 per cent rates; and 10 percentage points between 18 per cent and 28 per cent rates. The rate differences are a little too glaring to be described as rational.

NEWS BOX

**Delhi weather update: City to receive light showers today, yellow alert issued for next 6 days**



**New Delhi.** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that Delhi may receive light to moderate rain from July 7 to 9. The weather department has also issued a yellow alert for the national capital, predicting rain or thundershowers for the next six days. On Wednesday, dry conditions prevailed over most parts of the capital while a few areas witnessed rain. The maximum temperature rose to 38.6 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature was recorded at 29.4 degrees Celsius.

**RAIN LIKELY**

The IMD wrote, "Isolated heavy rainfall is likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh-Delhi during July 7 and 09" (sic) The mercury is likely to hover around 37 degrees Celsius on Thursday. Check Delhi's latest weather forecast.

**Delhi man arrested for killing his customer under the influence of alcohol**

**New Delhi.** Delhi Police arrested a man for killing a 40-year-old man, who also used to eat at his barrow, over a trivial issue, under the influence of alcohol.

A PCR call was received at the Ranjeet Nagar police station on May 3 where a person with a head injury was found lying in West Patel Nagar.

He was rushed to Dr RML Hospital with several head injuries. He succumbed to his injuries on May 9.

While police and the family members of the deceased suspected that the victim, identified as Prithvi Pal Verma, had died in a road accident, the postmortem report revealed that he had nearly nine antemortem injuries to his head. The police started the verification and examined a lot of CCTV footage to identify the accused. One of the footage revealed that the accused was wearing a green t-shirt, black pants, a belt and slippers.

**DOOR-TO-DOOR SEARCH**

Police started a door-to-door search and finally arrested an accused named Surendra from the Shadipur flyover. During the interrogation, he revealed he used to run a small eatery on a barrow and the victim often used to come to eat there.

On May 2, he went to the liquor shop in Satyam Complex where he saw the victim purchasing alcohol. They both purchased four-quarters of whisky and consumed almost three bottles.

The deceased took his phone and started talking to someone. When he asked for it back, the deceased reportedly refused and started abusing and slapping him. In an inebriated condition, both of them started arguing over trivial issues. Agitated by the incident, Surendra killed him by hitting his head with stones and fled the spot. A case has been registered under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

**Delhi govt schools to have CCTV cameras soon, live feed to be shared with parents**



**New Delhi.** Delhi government schools will soon have CCTV cameras installed and the live feed will be shared with parents, according to sources. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) dispensation had in 2019 announced to install CCTV cameras in all government schools and provide live feed of the classrooms to the parents.

"The PWD is executing the project of construction of classrooms and schools and there is a plan of installing CCTVs in classrooms. There is also a plan to share the feed with the parents. This is all education department's brainchild we are merely executing it," a source told.

"The move is aimed at ensuring safety of students and also ensure transparency in teaching system. The education department's plan says that sharing feed with parents will ensure transparency and let them know what their kid is studying," the source added.

According to officials, to make live CCTV video footage available, the parents will be given individual secured login credentials with individual IDs and passwords. The PWD will update students' details and parents' mobile numbers, which will be collected and provided by all government schools, in its software. However, only those parents will be provided login credentials who have signed consent forms.

"After getting consents from the parents and guardians, the principals will compile the student details in an excel format and submit it to the PWD which will upload the details in the software," a source said.

# AAP MLA Akhilesh Tripathi booked for allegedly assaulting two men over sewage complaint

**An FIR was registered against AAP MLA Akhilesh Tripathi on Wednesday for allegedly assaulting two men in Ashok Vihar after one of them complained about a sewage problem.**

**New Delhi.** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Akhilesh Tripathi was booked on Wednesday for allegedly assaulting two men in the Ashok Vihar area of northwest Delhi after one of them complained about a sewage problem.

The victims were identified as Guddu Halwai and Mukesh Babu. The incident came to light when a PCR call was received at Ashok Vihar Police Station regarding a physical assault near Lal Bagh on July 6.

Police immediately reached the spot. During the inquiry, it was found that Akhilesh Tripathi had assaulted the victims. The injured people were shifted to BJRM hospital, Jahangirpuri, for treatment.

In his complaint, Guddu Halwai stated that on Wednesday, he was present at a function being organised alongside a railway line near Jailor Wala Bagh, Ashok Vihar, where he was providing catering services.

During the function, he met Tripathi and complained about sewage problems in the area. The MLA got angry and hit him on the head with a brick. Mahesh Babu, a relative of Guddu, tried to settle the matter but he, too, was assaulted by him.

Guddu Halwai sustained an injury on the left side of his head, while Mukesh had no external injury. A case was registered against the MLA and he was booked under sections of voluntarily causing hurt and wrongful restraint.



# 2 held for shooting murder convict a day before parole ended

**A murder convict was shot at by associates of a man he killed in 2017 just before his parole ended. Two men have been arrested.**



**New Delhi.** A day before his parole was to get over, a murder convict was shot at by associates of a man he had killed in 2017. Two men have been arrested and six illegal firearms and 18 live cartridges were seized from them.

The accused have been identified as Gaurav aka Rahul (25), who was the alleged mastermind behind the plan, and Manprit aka Ricky.

On the intervening night of July 1-2, the

police received a call regarding bullets being fired in Vishwas Park late at night. It was discovered that the injured man named Kapil had already been shifted to the DDU Hospital by the time the team reached the scene.

On the basis of the statement of one of the eyewitnesses, a case was subsequently registered at Bindapur police station.

On analyzing the CCTV footage, the

police found that the two motorcyclists had opened fire on Kapil with the intention of killing him and then fled from the spot.

Later, it was revealed that Kapil had been on parole in a murder case till July 2. He had murdered a man named Mustafa in 2017, police said.

Further investigation revealed that Mustafa's brother, Mukhtiyar aka Hanni, wanted revenge for his brother's death.

Mukhtiyar was in touch with Rahul just before the incident, police said.

Rahul, a multi-tasking staff (MTS) in the Ministry of Finance, confessed his involvement in the incident and further disclosed that they had hatched a conspiracy to kill Kapil in order to take revenge for the murder of Mustafa. Rahul had provided Mukhtiyar and one more accused Aman with information regarding the movement of Kapil. Aman and Mukhtiyar had shot Kapil, police said.

After the attempted murder, the duo had handed over the weapon to Manprit aka Ricky, a resident of Vishwas Park. Ricky was previously involved in two cases of attempt to murder and hurt at Dabri police station.

# 14 accident prone intersections to be redesigned in Delhi

**New Delhi.** The CM Arvind Kejriwal-led government has decided to redesign accident-prone intersections to reduce crashes in the city. The Delhi government held a meeting of the State Road Safety Council and identified 14 intersections across the city and decided to revamp them.

The meeting was also attended by officials of the PWD department, the higher education department, traffic police, and district magistrates of Delhi, among others. Addressing the meeting, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot asked all stakeholders to ensure closer coordination for the effective



implementation of road safety initiatives.

As per the report by PTI, the transport minister said the role of district magistrates is crucial in running the road safety initiatives and ongoing bus lane discipline drive.

During the meeting, the stakeholders discussed about the bus lane discipline drive and its importance to reduce congestion and ensure road safety for citizens. According to the reports, the bus lane discipline drive is currently being implemented in its first phase along Inner Ring Road and Outer Ring Road.

The department would also run mass media campaigns to sensitize citizens, organize community engagements and undertake the training of police personnel/DTC drivers and conduct data-driven research on road safety scenarios in Delhi.

# Man arrested for sexually harassing woman at Delhi Metro station

**A 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a woman at Jor Bagh metro station.**

**New Delhi.** Delhi Metro Police has arrested a 40-year-old man in connection with the alleged sexual harassment of a woman at Jor Bagh metro station, police said on Wednesday.

The accused has been identified as Manav Aggarwal, a resident of Kotla Mubarakpur. The accused had fled to Nepal after the incident and had recently applied for anticipatory bail.

According to police, the incident was noticed through Twitter where the woman had narrated her ordeal. The woman, a resident of Gurgaon, was contacted and she stated that while she was travelling from Huda City Centre to Jor Bagh Metro Station on June 2, she faced an incident of sexual harassment.

The woman alleged that when she was travelling in the metro on the Yellow Line, a man approached her and sought her help for locating an address. After helping him, she got off the train and sat on a platform to book a cab. The accused again approached her and asked about the address further, she claimed. When she was trying to see the file, he thrust his



private part into her face, the officer said. Thereafter, a case was registered at INA Metro police station.

During the investigation, police analysed the CCTV footage in and around entry and exit points at all metro stations of the

Yellow Line. Police located the accused while he entered the Sikanderpur metro station via an escalator at gate number 1 in the morning.

Further analysis found that the accused bought some fruits from near Sikanderpur

metro station. He also entered a saloon in the nearby area where he stayed for 20 minutes. Police enquired from the barber and analysed the mode of the payment, which was made through e-wallet, police said.

Thereafter, the consumer application form (CAF), call detail records of the accused and location was taken and the photo affix on the CAF form was found to match with the accused. The location also matched the time of the CCTV footage, police said.

The accused was identified and his house was raided, which was found to be locked. Later, it was found that the accused had left the country on June 4.

He had gone to Kathmandu in Nepal by flight, police said. Meanwhile, he applied for anticipatory bail in a lower court and the high court but it was denied after police opposed it, they said. Due to continuous efforts, the accused was apprehended near Saket Court.

The man is unmarried and currently unemployed. He was presently residing in Gurgaon, Haryana, and earning money from rented accommodation.

## Sensex rises over 200 points, Nifty over 16,000 | Check top gaining shares

**New Delhi:** The Sensex and Nifty rose on Thursday, as softening crude prices helped ease inflation worries, while Titan Co jumped more than 7 per cent after reporting strong quarterly sales numbers. The NSE Nifty 50 index rose 0.50 per cent to 16,069.60, while the S&P BSE Sensex was up 0.49 per cent or 262.26 points at 54,013.23.

Brent crude futures extended declines for a third session on Thursday, slipping under \$100 a barrel, as fears of a potential global recession spurred concerns about oil demand. India, the world's third-largest importer, could benefit from the drop in prices. Jewellery and watch maker Titan led gains in Nifty 50 index, surging 7.2 per cent, after its first-quarter sales rose by 205 per cent. India's central bank took a slew of measures on Wednesday to boost foreign exchange inflows, including allowing overseas investors to buy short-term corporate debt and opening of more government securities under the fully accessible route. Global stocks were mixed, after Federal Reserve's minutes released late Wednesday showed officials rallied around a large rate hike at its June meeting.

## Twitter user asks Anand Mahindra 'Are you an NRI?' His response wins Internet's heart

**New Delhi:** Mahindra and Mahindra Chairman Anand Mahindra is quite a popular industrialist on Twitter. His quirky, witty and sarcastic messages have always won the heart of netizens. In one such twitter question, the M&M Chairman was asked by a user if he was an NRI. Anand Mahindra had an epic comeback to it. He responded by saying that he was an HRI, meaning Heart (always) resident in India.

Anand Mahindra was actually visiting his family in New York, and during his stay there, he shared some very serene pictures of Manhattan. It was on his tweet thread that a user asked him this question if he was an NRI. Anand Mahindra's answer has definitely won the heart of netizens on twitter. His tweet has been liked by 3.6K people and got 248 replies, at the time of writing this article. A couple of days ago, the Mahindra chairperson was asked about his qualification by a twitter user. "Sir, may I know your qualification?" To which he replied, "Frankly, at my age, the only qualification of any merit is experience."

## Alt News co-founder Zubair moves SC for bail, plea to be heard on Friday

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has agreed to hear on Friday the bail plea of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in connection with a case registered against him in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly outraging religious feelings.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari said on Thursday that the matter be listed on Friday subject to clearance from the Chief Justice of India.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Zubair, said his anticipatory bail was rejected by the Allahabad High Court and subsequently he was arrested. There is a threat to his life as people out there are threatening him, he said while urging the court to list the matter urgently. An FIR was lodged against Zubair in Uttar Pradesh under IPC section 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings) and section 67 of the IT Act here on a complaint by Hindu Sher Sena Sitapur district president Bhagwan Sharan on June 1.27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets.

The Delhi Police has invoked new provisions -- sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act -- against Zubair.

## How and how often you drive to determine your car insurance premium soon

**New Delhi:** To facilitate technology (tech)-enabled insurance covers, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has permitted general insurance companies to introduce concepts like 'pay as you drive', 'pay how you drive', and floater policies for vehicles belonging to the same individual owner of two-wheelers and private cars as add-ons in motor own damage (OD) policies.

With these add-ons, the motor OD policy can be tailored, based on customer driving patterns, vehicle usage, and other parameters to offer the best features. These are expected to provide insurers with better rating parameters, helping them differentiate the good drivers from the not-so-good ones, impacting premiums accordingly. Earlier there was no mechanism to distinguish between different categories of drivers, but now they can be singled out and customers that truly deserve a higher discount will be rewarded suitably. This is also expected to make OD covers more affordable, given most people opt for third-party (TP) liability covers as it is mandatory. Anjay Datta, chief underwriting and claims, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, said, "This will help insurers by providing them with better rating parameters which will be driver-based."

# After wheat, India now curbs the export of wheat flour and related products

**New Delhi:** After banning wheat exports, the Centre has now curbed exports of wheat flour and other related products. It has made it mandatory for all exporters to seek prior permission from the inter-ministerial committee on wheat export before undertaking any outbound shipment. As per a notification from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued on July 6, the arrangement will come into force from July 12. Until then, between July 6 and July 12, shipments where loading on the ship had started before July 6 or where the consignments have been handed over to the customs before the commencement of the notification will be allowed.

However, unlike wheat, there is no outright ban on the exports of wheat flour and related products. Items such as maida, semolina etc., have also been included in the export curb as per the DGFT notification. The export curb has been imposed despite some softening of wheat flour prices since wheat exports

were banned on May 13.

According to sources, these curbs have been imposed to ensure that fly-by-night operators and those in the market to make quick money cannot export unusual quantities of wheat flour to bypass the ban on wheat exports.

Some reports say that India exported almost 96,000 tonnes of wheat flour in April 2022, up from 26,000 tonnes in the same period last year. India's wheat flour exports rose sharply in FY22 in tandem with wheat exports. In FY22, India exported a record over 7 million tonnes of wheat, worth around \$2.12 billion, which in value terms was 274 per cent more than the same period last year.

If India hadn't banned wheat exports, it could have exported around 8-10 million tonnes of wheat. Exports are now likely to get restricted to approximately 4-4.5 million tonnes or even less, provided the government allows all the wheat contracted for exports to be shipped out of India.



## International oil price slips under \$100 per barrel



**New Delhi:** Brent crude futures extended declines for a third session on Thursday, slipping under \$100 a barrel, as fears of a potential global recession spurred concerns about oil demand.

Brent crude futures fell 94 cents, or 0.9 per cent, to \$99.75 a barrel after tumbling to a session low of \$98.50 earlier. WTI crude futures slid 79 cents, or 0.8 per cent, to \$97.74 a barrel.

Both benchmarks closed on Wednesday at their lowest since April 11. The declines follow a dramatic fall on Tuesday despite tight global supplies. WTI slid 8 per cent while Brent

tumbled 9 per cent - a \$10.73 drop that was the third biggest for the contract since it started trading in 1988.

"Oil is getting decimated with little new information about production or consumption," said Stephen Innes, managing partner of SPI Asset Management. "Still, with commodity traders turning very risk-averse due to growing demand and still hawkish (US) Fed policy concerns, the recessionary headline risk is like an anvil around the market's neck." Oil prices have slid alongside other commodities such as metals and palm oil as central banks across the world raised interest rates to battle inflation, fanning fears of recession that could dampen demand for commodities. "It seems as though the market is starting to price in that scenario," Warren Patterson, ING's head of commodity research said, referring to recession. However, he added that it's hard to be overly bearish on oil prices as the Brent monthly spreads remain in wide backwardation, indicating tight supplies. Prompt prices are higher than those in future months in a backwardated market.

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Traders are watching for possible oil supply disruption at the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC), which has been told by a Russian court to suspend activity for 30 days. Exports at CPC, which handles about 1 per cent of global oil supplies, were still flowing as of Wednesday morning. In addition, investors awaited US government data due on Thursday that will shed light on the state of domestic oil and fuel inventories. Industry data on Wednesday showed that US crude inventories rose by about 3.8 million barrels last week, according to market sources. Gasoline inventories fell by 1.8 million barrels, while distillate stocks fell by about 635,000 barrels.

## RBI Widens Intervention To Boost Battered Rupee And Increase Forex Inflows

**New Delhi:** The Reserve Bank of India announced a series of new measures to increase the foreign exchange inflows to mitigate the rupee's dramatic decline as the safe-haven dollar has reigned supreme against almost every currency.

Late on Wednesday, the RBI stepped in with measures to increase international currency inflows, including letting foreign investors invest in short-term corporate debt and allowing the purchase of more government securities under the fully accessible route.

A further breakdown of the measures announced by the RBI includes: Doubling the limit set for domestic companies to borrow to \$1.5 billion.

Temporarily removing the interest rate cap for banks to attract deposits from NRIs (non-resident Indians). Easing the stringent norms set for foreign investors to maintain financial stability. Those measures are primarily aimed at stemming the rupee's slide, as more foreign



investments in international currency into the country would mean more demand for the rupee in exchange for buying domestic currency denominated Indian assets

While the central bank has intervened in the foreign exchange markets, selling dollars in the spot and futures market, the rupee has repeatedly hit all-time lows since it breached

the 77 per dollar mark for the first time ever in March, days after Russia invaded Ukraine. While sharp, the rupee's decline has been limited by the RBI's efforts and plans to intervene only to stop "jerky movements."

But with the currency only a hop, skip and jump away from another key psychological level of 80 per dollar, the central bank has been forced to widen its efforts to stem the rot in the currency.

"(The) rupee has depreciated by 4.1 per cent against the US dollar during the current financial year so far (up to July 5), which is modest relative to other EMEs (emerging market economies) and even major advanced economies (AEs)," the RBI statement read. To further diversify and expand the sources of forex funding to mitigate volatility and dampen global spillovers, it has been decided to undertake measures listed in the document, added the statement, referring to the measures mentioned above.

**New Delhi:** Indian airline company SpiceJet is going through a highly turbulent phase in recent times on account of several glitches and a non-adherence to mandated guidelines in regards to the training of some pilots.

The share price of the airline slumped around 42-43 per cent so far in 2022. On Wednesday, it closed at ₹ 39, as against ₹ 68 at the start of the year 2022.

Following is a sequence of events which attracted negative press for the airline.

It all started in April 2022 when the aviation watchdog the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had restrained 90 pilots of the airline from operating Boeing 737 Max aircraft, after finding they were not properly trained. Those pilots were trained on a faulty simulator, and the aviation regulator asked the airline to retrain the pilots, besides slapping a fine of ₹ 10 lakh. In early May, 11 passengers on board its flight from Mumbai to Durgapur in West Bengal were injured in severe turbulence and were hospitalised. Two of them were put into intensive care units (ICU). The airline had then maintained that the seat belt sign was on when the aircraft encountered turbulence and several announcements for the same were also made.

Post the incident, the DGCA immediately ordered a probe and a team was formed to investigate and submit a report at the earliest. A preliminary report by the regulator DGCA



said the pilots were in "autopilot mode" when the aircraft faced turbulence.

In the later part of May, SpiceJet systems had faced an attempted ransomware attack that impacted and slowed down morning flight departures, while several passengers had complained about the poor services.

On May 28, the pilots on a SpiceJet flight from Mumbai to Gorakhpur decided to fly back to Mumbai after a windshield crack was observed mid-air. The incident which grabbed much of the eyeballs was when a

Delhi-bound SpiceJet aircraft made an emergency landing at Patna airport on June 19, after there were reports of a technical glitch which ignited fire on the plane. On the same day itself, a Jabalpur-bound SpiceJet flight landed back at the Delhi Airport after it failed to regain the cabin pressure differential even after attaining a height of 6,000 feet. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Again on July 2, a Jabalpur-bound SpiceJet flight returned to the Delhi airport after passengers detected smoke in the plane.

On Tuesday i.e. July 5, a Dubai-bound SpiceJet flight from Delhi with more than 150 passengers was diverted to Karachi in Pakistan as the fuel indicator started malfunctioning. Upon having noted so many incidents revolving the airline, DGCA has issued a show cause notice to SpiceJet over failure to establish safe, efficient and reliable air services. "The reported incidents on aircraft operated by Spicejet Ltd. from April 1, 2022, till date have been reviewed and it has been observed that on a number of occasions, the aircraft either turned back to its originating station or continued landing to the destination with degraded safety margins," DGCA's show cause notice reads. Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday showed his concerns over recent incidents related to SpiceJet and said, "Passenger safety is paramount. Even the smallest error hindering safety will be thoroughly investigated and course-corrected." Facing the showcause notice, SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said that they are running "a safe airline for the past 15 years" and that "one or two incidents being highlighted in media doesn't mean any airline is unsafe". Singh told ANI that the kind of incidents being talked about are "trivial and happen on a daily basis in airlines". On an average, he said, 30 such incidents happen in airlines every day.

## ED raids on Vivo: Frequent probes hurt business confidence, says China

**New Delhi:** China's Embassy in India, on Wednesday (July 6), said that multiple investigations by the country's enforcement agencies into Chinese companies are damaging the confidence of foreign firms investing and operating in the South Asian nation. The comments by the embassy follow Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids targeting China's BBK Electronics-owned smartphone maker Vivo in an alleged money laundering case.

In the latest incident, ED conducted Raids at 44 production and operation sites of Vivo and related entities across India, and China was closely following progress. (ALSO READ:

However, Vivo isn't the only Chinese firm that has faced scrutiny from Indian authorities, as in the aftermath of the Galwan Valley clashes, several tech companies were directed to stop offering their apps in India. (ALSO READ: Twitter user asks Anand Mahindra 'Are you an NRI?' His response wins Internet)

Citing security concerns, the government has banned more than 300 apps with Chinese lines. Moreover, the government has also tweaked rules to make it tougher for Chinese investments to make their way to India. (ALSO READ: The BEST boss ever? THIS company took all employees on 10-day exotic vacation to Bali -- Watch Instagram video) Such frequent investigation "impedes the improvement of the business environment in India and chills the confidence and willingness of market entities from other countries, including Chinese enterprises to invest and operate in India," the embassy said in a statement. Following the raids, Vivo said it was cooperating with authorities and was committed to full compliance with Indian laws. In May, Reuters reported that Xiaomi Corp, one of India's biggest smartphone sellers, had said in court that its executives faced threats of violence and.

NEWS BOX

**Sachin Tendulkar hails Sourav Ganguly's tenure as India captain: He knew how to maintain a balance**

New Delhi Sachin Tendulkar heaped praise on Sourav Ganguly's tenure as India captain ahead of the BCCI President's 50th birthday on Friday. Ganguly had a fruitful run as the skipper of India as he brought in a lot of success and played a crucial role in changing the culture around Indian cricket during his five-year tenure. He led India to the famous 2002 Natwest series triumph in England and also guided the team to the final of the 2003 World Cup. Tendulkar, who was the BCCI President's opening partner in many games, heaped praise on his tenure as captain in an interview with P.TI. The Indian cricketing legend said that Ganguly was a great skipper and knew how to maintain balance with his players. Tendulkar said that when the BCCI President took over as captain, the Indian team was in a transition phase.

"Sourav was a great captain. He knew how to maintain a balance - between giving freedom to the players and giving them certain responsibilities. When he took over, Indian cricket was in a transition phase. We needed the next bunch of players who could set a platform for propelling India forward," said Tendulkar. Tendulkar also went on to comment on Ganguly's role in bringing out the best from 'gifted players' like Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh. These were some of the stars who came into the spotlight during Ganguly's tenure. Tendulkar said that the former Indian batter provided the players with the support they needed at the beginning of their career and also gave them the freedom to express themselves.

**My darling, wishing you the best birthday: Hardik Pandya tweets special birthday wish for MS Dhoni**

New Delhi Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya tweeted a special birthday wish for MS Dhoni, who turned 41 on Thursday. Pandya started his career for Team India while playing under Dhoni back in 2016. Dhoni was Pandya's skipper for one year, after which Virat Kohli took charge of the national limited-overs teams. "My darling, Wishing you the best birthday Mahi bhai@msdhoni," Hardik Pandya tweeted. Hardik, who made his debut under Dhoni in 2016, acted quite like his first-ever captain



during the post-match presentation ceremony after winning the series in Ireland. Earlier, last month, Pandya revealed that MS Dhoni advised him to stop thinking about individual scores and start focusing on what the team requires. Earlier in the days, Mahi bhai taught me one thing. I asked him a very simple thing like 'how do you get away from pressure and everything?' And he gave me very simple advice. It was like, 'Stop thinking about what is your score, start thinking what your team requires.' That lesson has stuck in my mind and kind of helped me become the player which I have become. Whichever situation I go in, I assess and play accordingly," Pandya said.

**Wimbledon 2022| Nick Kyrgios tight-lipped over allegations of common assault: Hard to focus on tennis**

New Delhi Australian tennis star Nick Kyrgios, who reached the Wimbledon semi-final for the first time in his career, admitted that he is struggling to focus on tennis after allegations of a common assault on a former girlfriend. Kyrgios made headlines for the right reasons on Wednesday when he beat Garin in three sets, but afterwards he was asked about the allegations.

"Obviously I have a lot of thoughts, a lot of things I want to say, kind of my side about it," he said. "I've been advised by my lawyers that I'm unable to say anything at this time. "Look, I understand everyone wants to kind of ask about it and all that, but I can't give you too much on that right now."

He did say, however, that it had been hard to read the stories in the build-up to his match, but that he had not let them affect his performance on the court. "Didn't really affect me at all, to be honest with you," he said. "Obviously seeing it -- I'm only human. Obviously, everyone else was asking questions. It was hard." It was hard to kind of just focus on kind of the mission at hand. It was the quarter-finals of Wimbledon today. I know deep down that's what I was prepared for." A statement from Australian Capital Territory Policing on Tuesday did not identify Kyrgios but The Canberra Times quoted the lawyer of the former world number 13 as saying that the charge was related to a "domestic relationship". ACT Policing can confirm a 27-year-old Watson man is scheduled to face the ACT Magistrates court on the 2nd of August in relation to one charge of common assault following an incident in December 2021," the police said.

**England vs India 1st T20I, Southampton Weather Forecast: Will rain spoil series opener at Rose Bowl?**

**England vs India 1st T20I, Southampton Weather Forecast: India will take on England in the first T20I of a 3-match series in Southampton. Here are all the details regarding the Southampton weather on July 7.**



Southampton India and England are gearing up for the 3-match T20I series which will begin with the opening game at the Rose Bowl Cricket Ground in Southampton on July 7. Rohit Sharma will come back from COVID-19-induced isolation and lead India, while England will begin a new era under skipper Jos Buttler. India will be looking to bounce back after losing the rescheduled fifth Test at Edgbaston against the hosts. The Rose Bowl pitch is known for high-scoring encounters. The flat surface

will hardly provide any assistance to the bowlers.

With Kohli expected to be back at number three from game two, Deepak Hooda will be aiming for another match-winning effort to keep himself in the mix. With a century and 47 not out against Ireland, Hooda has certainly made it tougher for the team management to keep him out of the eleven. The uncapped duo of Rahul Tripathi and Arshdeep Singh have not been included

for the second and third T20 and it is unlikely they will get a look in on Thursday. Suryakumar Yadav, who made a comeback from injury against Ireland, could not get going in the games in Malahide and will be backing himself to get back to his innovative best. He and Hooda were amongst the runners in the warm-up against Derbyshire last week. In the bowling department, pacer Umran Malik will be brimming with confidence after defending 17 runs in the

last over of a high-scoring second T20 against Ireland. However, he remains a work in progress and needs to improve on his accuracy. The pacers, including the seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar and wily Harshal Patel were stunned by the Irish attack and against tougher opposition, they will have to be at their best. Yuzvendra Chahal will be expected to replace Ravi Bishnoi in the playing eleven.

**SOUTHAMPTON WEATHER FORECAST**

According to Accu Weather, the first T20I between India and England will not face any rain threat as the Southampton weather is expected to be cloudy on July 7. The temperature will hover between 12-25 degrees Celsius during the day. The wind speed can go around 11 km/h.

**PREDICTED PLAYING XI:**

India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda, Dinesh Karthik, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Avesh Khan.

England: Jos Buttler (Captain), Jason Roy, Dawid Malan, Liam Livingstone, Moeen Ali, Sam Curran, Chris Jordan, David Willey, Reece Topley, Tymal Mills, Matthew Parkinson.

**England vs India: Sunil Gavaskar on Virat Kohli's troubles - He's trying to play the ball early**

New Delhi Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar shed light on Virat Kohli's issues in England, saying the former India captain has not been playing the deliveries late, unlike what he did in 2018. Speaking to Sports Today, Sunil Gavaskar said Virat Kohli's lean patch and his eagerness to get back to form have prompted him to reach for almost every ball and play at it. Gavaskar's comments came after Virat Kohli flopped not once but twice in the rescheduled 5th Test against England in Birmingham. Kohli managed just 31 runs across two innings and got caught behind and in the slip cordon in the two innings. The star batter got out in an unplayable delivery from Ben Stokes in the second innings as India went on to lose the fifth Test by 7 wickets. Virat Kohli had struggled in 2021 as well as he finished the 5-match series with 249 runs, including 2 fifties while England star Joe Root amassed 737 runs, breaking the former's record for most runs scored in a Test series between England and India. "The trick to play in England is to play as late as possible. Then

**India tour of England: Batting great Sunil Gavaskar highlighted what could be hampering Virat Kohli's form, especially when batting in English conditions. The former captain managed just 31 runs across 2 innings in India's 7-wicket defeat in the rescheduled 5th Test in Birmingham.**

you are allowing the ball to its bit and then you are playing the ball. From what little I saw in the highlights, it seemed Kohli was looking to reach for the ball, trying to play the ball early," Gavaskar said. "Therefore, he was not looking like he was in 2018 when he was looking to play it very late around the off-stump. This could possibly be his issue because he hasn't been among the runs. When you are not in form, you look to play almost every ball, hit each one of them, in a bid to score runs. Maybe that's something that can he look at," he added. Furthermore, Gavaskar reiterated that luck has been

evading Kohli. "But the first mistake he is making is turning out to be his last mistake. Maybe he is not having the run of the luck at the moment," he added.

**'CRICKET IS ALL ABOUT INSTINCTS'**

Gavaskar, who is regarded as one of the finest batters to have played the sport, also shed light on why pre-meditation doesn't help always in Test cricket as he responded to questions about Kohli's tendency to play well outside the crease in English conditions. Notably, Kohli had top-scored with 593 runs in 5 Tests after hitting 2 hundreds and 3 fifties in 2018 in England but success has eluded the star batter so far.

"I think you obviously plan a little bit, visualise what the bowler is going to do the next day. Therefore, you can stay outside the crease but you can go with a pre-meditated plan of batting, which means the bowler has to bowl the same line you are expecting. If he doesn't bowl in those lines, you are in trouble." Cricket is always about instinctive action. And while you are giving yourself just that extra bit of preparation by trying to understand the bowler's strengths.

**MS Dhoni turns 41: Captain Cool celebrates his birthday with wife Sakshi in UK, Rishabh Pant joins the party**

New Delhi/London MS Dhoni's birthday celebrations began early on Thursday as the Indian legend celebrated the special day with his family and friends in the United Kingdom. Dhoni took time to celebrate his birthday with his wife Sakshi, daughter Ziva and a close circle of friends. Sakshi shared the midnight birthday celebrations of Dhoni's 41st birthday. MS Dhoni could be seen cutting the cake in the presence of his family and friends. Meanwhile, Indian star Rishabh Pant was also spotted at the celebrations. Pant is also in the United Kingdom currently with the Indian team as they are engaged in an all-format series against the hosts. Sakshi also shared the picture of MS Dhoni with all



his friends in which Pant can be seen. While Dhoni is celebrating his birthday away from all the spotlight, it's a showy affair on social media, which is abuzz with #HappyBirthdayMSDhoni posts. His former teammates and the current ones sent out late-night tweets, wishing him on a special day. MS Dhoni's cool demeanour and

poker face in tough, pressure situations became part of cricketing folklore. Dhoni used his cricketing wits and smarts to help India win the 2011 ODI World Cup, 2007 T20 World Cup and Champions Trophy. No other man has captained his country to victory in all 3 ICC tournaments. A small-town boy from Ranchi developed himself to become the best captain and wicketkeeper in the world. It was Dhoni's cool and composed nature that made him an icon of India's youth. A surprise choice for the captaincy in 2007, MS Dhoni-led India in 200 ODIs, of which India won 110 matches. At home, he captained the team to 43 wins out of 73 matches. Till now, MS Dhoni has represented India in 90 Tests, 348 ODIs and 98 T20Is. He has scored more than 10,000 ODI runs, and near about 5,000 runs in Test cricket.



series. Sri Lanka will be looking to turn things over in the second Test. The hosts would rely heavily on their spinners to do the job. The pitch in the first Test was very spinner friendly and the same is expected in the second Test.

Sri Lanka missed the services of their most experienced and in-form batter, Angelo Mathews, in the second innings, who tested covid positive on Day 2 and was replaced by Oshada Fernando on the morning of Day 3. Mathews, however, has recovered and is expected to feature in Sri Lanka's playing XI. Under series protocols, any player returning a positive test must be isolated for five days.

With De Silva, Fernando, and Vandersay out of the Test match, Sri Lanka is likely to hand debut caps to the spin pair of Maheesh Theekshana and Dunith Wellalage. Both young spinners had shown some excellent bowling skills during the ODI series against the Men in Yellow recently.

**ENG vs IND, 1st T20I: Rohit Sharma in focus on comeback as India face stiff test against Jos Buttler's England**

New Delhi India will look to intensify their build-up to the T20 World Cup as they face high-quality opposition in England in a 3-match T20I series, starting July 7 in Southampton. Rohit Sharma is back for the visitors after having recovered from Covid-19, which kept him out of the one-off Test against England in Birmingham. Rohit Sharma was not expected to be part of the 1st T20I as the Test regulars were rested for the series opener, but having missed the Test and recovered from the health setback, the skipper is gearing up to lead a bunch of youngsters, who have had plenty of match practice. India have not lost a T20I bilateral series to England since the one-off loss in 2014 and Rohit will have good memories of playing the shortest format of the game in Old Blighty. Rohit top-scored with 137 runs in 3 matches as India sealed the series 2-1 in 2018. However, past records will matter very little for India, who are looking to crack the T20I combination in the lead-up to the

World Cup. While the likes of Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja are not available for the first T20I, the spotlight will be on Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda and Dinesh Karthik as they look to seal their spots when the big names return. Dinesh Karthik, who was in England last year as part of the host broadcasters' commentary panel, has all but sealed his spot for the World Cup. Having returned to the side for the first time in 3 years during a home series against South Africa, Karthik has impressed with his improved finishing skills, which were evident when he turned up for Royal Challengers Bangalore in IPL 2022. Karthik continued his good run in Ireland and went on to lead the side in the practice matches earlier this month.

Suryakumar Yadav, who made his much-awaited comeback from injury against Ireland, looked scratchy but the team management will be hoping he returns to full flow. Ishan Kishan is set to pair with



Rohit at the top of the order, while Deepak Hooda, who is fresh from a T20I century against Ireland, will also look to stake a claim for a consistent place in the squad. Bhuvneshwar Kumar will lead the bowling attack in the first T20I, while India will be

keen on giving opportunities to Arshdeep Singh after Umran Malik played the Ireland T20Is. It will be a stiff test for Axar Patel because the left-hander has struggled to make a mark despite having played against South Africa and Ireland. With Jadeja returning for the 2nd T20I, Axar will be hoping to make a good impact. On the other hand, England have a point to prove in the shortest format of the game as Jos Buttler takes over as full-time captain following Eoin Morgan's retirement. Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes are the talks of the town with their 'Bazball' approach in Tests and the duo of Buttler and Matthew Motts will be keen on furthering the reputation of the England white-ball team. England will not have Stokes and Adil Rashid for the T20Is but there is enough firepower to pose a strong challenge to India. Notably, they are heading into the series after having thrashed the Netherlands in ODIs.

Government is dedicated for the cause of women
NCW Chairperson, Rekha Sharma

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar on Friday organized an awareness Programme on Nutri Sensitive Agriculture for sensitizing the stakeholders on the importance of nutritional interventions in improving family food and nutritional security.

Attending the programme as the Chief Guest, Smt Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, NCW, appraised the participants that Government of India is dedicated for the cause of well being of women and taking timely measures to formulate and implement both women inclusive and women exclusive policies and programmes. She hoped that women will be aware

of the land rights and make efforts in giving this to their daughters for building a better tomorrow. She suggested that ICAR-CIWA should take initiative in packaging, shelf life improvement, marketing of locally prepared foods and battery operated women friendly tools for entrepreneurship development among women.

Dr Minati Behera, Chairperson, State Commission for Women, Odisha attended the event as Guest of Honour and emphasized on suitable interventions for rural women by different stakeholders in a coordinated manner to improve their health, nutrition and livelihood. She stressed upon mapping their risk, vulnerability and preparedness to ensure



that agriculture production could harness their nutritional outcomes. Dr Daisy Thakur, Chairperson, State Commission for Women, Himachal Pradesh also attended the event and appreciated the initiatives taken by ICAR-CIWA under Nutri Smart Village Programme in promoting

local nutritious food. She advised that women should take care of their own health and nutrition and avail the facilities of Women Commission in getting justice whenever needed.

Dr Anil Kumar, Director, ICAR-CIWA in his address highlighted the seven priority areas identified in the National Policy for Women by NCW covering the areas of Health including food security and nutrition, education, economy, decision making, environment and climate change etc, which largely affects the health, nutrition and wellbeing of farmwomen. He emphasized on the

development and refinement of more women friendly technologies to ease the drudgery of farm women in managing home and farm. He made special mention of Nutri Sensitive Agriculture to combat increasing malnutrition among women and children in rural areas. About 300 farmwomen participants from 13 villages from different districts of Odisha including staff of ICAR-CIWA attended the programme today. On this occasion, a farmer-scientist interface was also organized in which scientists from ICAR-CIWA interacted with the farm women and other participants and discussed new technologies and constraints faced by them.



ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷଯାତ୍ରା ଏବଂ ବାହୁଡ଼ା ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ଜଗତର ନାଥ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ବରଗତ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସମେତ ସାରା ଓଡ଼ିଶା ର ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏହାହିଁ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ଠାରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।



ଅର୍ପିତା ପତ୍ନୀ

ସରପଂଚ ଘୋଷଯାତ୍ରା ଗ୍ରାମ ପଂଚାୟତ, ଜିଲ୍ଲା - ବରଗତ

AMBASSADOR OF MOROCCO VISITS SOA



Bhubaneswar, July 8: Mr. Mohammed Maliki, Morocco's ambassador in India, made a courtesy call on Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, Founder President of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here on Friday. Mr. Maliki had a wide ranging discussion with Prof. (Dr.) Nayak and senior SOA officials and academics about the university's contribution in the field of higher education and healthcare. Speaking about Morocco, he said the country accounted for 72 per cent of the global fertilizer production while it was a front ranking nation in the field of pharmaceuticals and

tourism as well. Mr. Maliki said he was highly impressed by the infrastructure and faculty members of SOA. He said he would try to facilitate study of students from Morocco in the university. SOA's Pro-Vice Chancellor and Registrar Prof. B.B.Pradhan, Contoller of Examination Prof. Manjula Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Additional Dean (Research) Dr. Priyabrata Patnaik, Deans of different institutions and Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma, Director, University Outreach Program were present.

Bargarh Dist police seized counterfeit notes of worth 14.29 lakh

Asutosh Ratha Bargarh, July 07 : The Special Task Force (STF) on Thursday, with the help of Bargarh district police, uncovered an inter-state counterfeit racket deal. Police have arrested two persons in connection with the case. The accused are identified as Pattu Yadav, 53, a resident of Parawari village in Kesharh police station, Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh and now living in Sikirdi village near Katlapalli in Burla thana, Sambalpur district, and Balaram Meher, 45, of Barpali district in Bargarh district. A total of



14,29,500 counterfeit notes were seized from them, including 2 mobile phones and various items used in the manufacture of counterfeit notes. A case has been registered against the accused under sections 489 (a), 489 (b), 489 (c), 480 (d) and 120 (b) of the IPC in Barpali police station.

According to sources, the STF and Bargarh district police arrested accused Balaram from the Falsa Talian temple near Bahiapadar on the National Highway between Bargarh-Barpali for information from a source. At that time, 12.97 lakh counterfeit notes were seized.

He was interrogated and another accused Pattu was arrested from Sikirdi village and seized Counterfeit notes worth 1,32,500 from him. All counterfeit notes were 500 rupees. Similarly, the color printers used in the preparation of fake notes were seized from Balaram.

Accused Balaram has long been involved in counterfeit notes. He is a habitual offender, police said. The other accused, Pattu, is a native of Uttar Pradesh. As a result, the deal is expected to extend to Uttar Pradesh. Police are investigating.

Gaisilat police arrested A robbery gang

Asutosh Ratha Bargarh, July 07 : On 6.7.22, in the late night, while Gaisilat police was patrolling near Bhoipali Chowk suspiciously caught six persons who were preparing for robbery. Police took the six persons in his custody. During investigation seized two iron rods, two sticks, one bhujali, peaks bunch, four mobile phones, a glamour motorcycle and a pick up van from them. Police arrested five accused persons and send the minor Madan Bariha to Rourkela juvenile home. A large robbery might have been prevented by the activeness of Gaisilat police.



ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷଯାତ୍ରା ଏବଂ ବାହୁଡ଼ା ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ଜଗତର ନାଥ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ବରଗତ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସମେତ ସାରା ଓଡ଼ିଶା ର ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏହାହିଁ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ଠାରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।

ସବିତା ସାହୁ

ସରପଂଚ ଘୋଷଯାତ୍ରା ଗ୍ରାମ ପଂଚାୟତ, ବିଜେପୁର, ବରଗତ

ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷଯାତ୍ରା ଏବଂ ବାହୁଡ଼ା ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ଜଗତର ନାଥ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ବରଗତ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସମେତ ସାରା ଓଡ଼ିଶା ର ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏହାହିଁ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ଠାରେ ନିଷ୍ଠା ପରିବାର ର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।



ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷଯାତ୍ରା ଏବଂ ବାହୁଡ଼ା ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ଜଗତର ନାଥ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ବରଗତ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସମେତ ସାରା ଓଡ଼ିଶା ର ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏହାହିଁ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ଠାରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।

ନବିନ ମହାନନ୍ଦ

ସରପଂଚ ପହୁଣ୍ଡି ଗ୍ରାମ ପଂଚାୟତ, ବିଜେପୁର, ବରଗତ

Dalmia Bharat Limited Honours Odisha's leading EXPERT Craftsmen from the Reputed Artisan Community at Rath Yatra 2022

Bhubaneswar, July 08 (TNB): Dalmia Bharat Limited (DBL) is reiterating its commitment towards its region-building efforts in Odisha during the Rath Yatra's 2022 edition through its 'Saluting the Expert' initiative aimed at the artisan community involved in the Ratha construction. Building on shared synergies that Odisha's craftsmen have held as well as the domain expertise that its 'Dalmia DSP - DHALAI EXPERT' offers to the East region, the company paid tribute to four noted artisans community, involved in building the Ratha, that helped build the Ratha with DSP Expert Ratha Shilpakar Samaan. This is a unique initiative conceptualized by the organization and initiated for the very first time in Odisha.



Shri. Krishna Chandra Moharana and Shri. Purna Chandra Mohapatra were felicitated at the special event in front of the Rathas, crafted by the artists at Puri. They were presented with a plaque, a shawl and a cash award of INR 10000 as a sign of respect towards the artisans community that

design and constructed the Rathas. DBL also felicitated another 20 contractors at the event, who are experts in the field of home construction and unveiled a rath before their channel partners, influencers and customers. Through its 'Saluting the Expert' initiative, DBL commends the strength and fortitude of the people of Odisha. The company also looks forward to contributing towards the region's skill capabilities through its endeavours and community efforts and is confident that this will help ensure India's vision of becoming self-reliant and progressive.

Dalmia Bharat Limited has participated in the Rath Yatra celebrations through its designed structures that were well received by festival visitors in the past in celebration of a resurgent Odisha.

HIGHEST EVER SPECIAL TRAINS TO & FROM PURI DURING RATH YATRA PERIOD

Bhubaneswar, July 08 (TNB): Ministry of Railways had earlier announced 205 Special Trains to and from Puri during Rath Yatra (Car Festival) period for smooth travel and convenience of the pilgrims. As Gundicha Yatra has already over, Special Trains were also planned to run for Sandhya Darsha, Bahuda Yatra and Suna Vesha and was assured to run more Special Trains in view of rush and demands from devotees. Expecting the gathering of more devotees during the above days, Railways have planned to run 20 more Special Trains including the running of Special Trains on the day after Suna Besha. For the convenience of the passengers, East Coast Railway has taken necessary steps to provide reserved Class



Accommodation in some of the long distance Special Trains.

0 2 8 9 1 / 0 2 8 1 0 Bhubaneswar-Puri-Bhubaneswar daily Rath Yatra Special will leave from Bhubaneswar at 1005hrs and in return will leave Puri at 1510hrs between 1st to 11th July, 2022. On Sandhya Darshan Day, i.e. on 8th July, 2022; 7 pairs (3 pairs from Mahipur & 4 pairs from Khurda Road) of Special Trains were earlier notified to run towards Puri and vice versa. Apart from this, 08933/08934 Visakhapatnam-Puri-Visakhapatnam Special, 08937/08938 Junagarh Road-Puri-Junagarh Road

Special, 08945/08946 Sambalpur-Puri-Sambalpur Special, 08941/08942 Gunupur-Puri-Gunupur Special were notified to run towards Puri and will return to their originating points. On Bahuda Yatra, i.e. on 9th July, 2022; 10 pairs of Special Trains from Paradeep, Mahipur, Cuttack, Brahmapur, Bhadrak, Khurda Road, Keonjhar will run towards Puri and vice versa. These apart, 08971/08972 Junagarh Road-Puri-Junagarh Road Special, 08957/08958 Gunupur-Puri-Gunupur Special, 08979/08980 Sambalpur-Puri-Sambalpur Special, 08975/08976 Visakhapatnam-Puri-Visakhapatnam Special were earlier announced. Apart from the above Special Trains, 8 additional Special Trains from Cuttack, Bhadrak, Brahmapur, Paradeep, Kendujhar and Khurda Road will run to Puri and in the return direction 8 additional Special Trains will leave from Puri towards Cuttack, Bhadrak, Brahmapur and Khurda Road directions.

10th July, 2022; 11 pairs of Special Trains from Paradeep, Mahipur, Cuttack, Brahmapur, Bhadrak, Khurda Road, Keonjhar will run towards Puri and vice versa. These apart, 08971/08972 Junagarh Road-Puri-Junagarh Road Special, 08957/08958 Gunupur-Puri-Gunupur Special, 08979/08980 Sambalpur-Puri-Sambalpur Special, 08975/08976 Visakhapatnam-Puri-Visakhapatnam Special were earlier announced. Apart from the above Special Trains, 8 additional Special Trains from Cuttack, Bhadrak, Brahmapur, Paradeep, Kendujhar and Khurda Road will run to Puri and in the return direction 8 additional Special Trains will leave from Puri towards Cuttack, Bhadrak, Brahmapur and Khurda Road directions.