

## Nitish Kumar resigns as Bihar Chief Minister, to stake claim with Tejashwi

Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar on Tuesday resigned as Bihar Chief Minister. Kumar handed over the resignation to Governor Phagu Chauhan.

The move came after a meeting of the JD(U) at the official residence of Nitish Kumar in

Earlier in the day, there were speculations about ending the party's alliance with the BJP and it will embrace the support from the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan to continue in office. This is the second time has split from his ally BJP in eight years.



Patna. In the JD(U) meeting which was held on Tuesday, all MLAs and MPs of the party supported Nitish Kumar's decision and said that they were with him. They also asserted that they will continue to support Kumar in his decision.

After his resignation, Nitish Kumar reached former Chief Minister Rabri Devi's house to confabulate with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. Addressing the reporters, Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha said they extend unconditional support to Nitish Kumar and Mahagathbandhan.

"Let us forget what happened in 2017 and begin a new chapter," Nitish Kumar told Tejashwi Yadav, claimed ANI sources as saying.

## Monsoon session extremely disappointing, govt was in rush to curtail session: Cong

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Congress on Tuesday said the Monsoon session of Parliament was "highly disappointing" and the government did not have the appetite to run proceedings till the scheduled date of August 12 even though opposition parties were willing to sit till the very end

remark and the Enforcement Directorate's action. The Congress said the government did not have a legislative agenda and though it listed 32 bills at the start of the session, it managed to pass only seven in Lok Sabha and five in Rajya Sabha.

"It was also extraordinary that one-and-

verbally as well as in writing." AICC general secretary, communication, and party's chief whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh said. He said the coming together of opposition parties to demand a review of the Supreme Court's order on PMLA is a "huge step towards strengthening de-

Terming the Monsoon session as "extremely disappointing", he said, "There was no enthusiasm or appetite on part of the government to get bills passed. Normally the opposition says the House should be adjourned but this time the government had no appetite to run the house". He said the opposition was ready to sit on August 10 and 12 to discuss and pass bills but the government was in a rush to curtail the session.

"The reason cited was that BJP MPs don't want to return after Raksha Bandhan on August 11," said Jairam adding the houses could have sat on August 10. He said the government had listed 32 bills at the start of the session but managed to pass only seven in the Lok Sabha and five in the Rajya Sabha. "The government had no business in its agenda. The floor management was not



to debate and pass bills. The Monsoon session ended on Monday, four days ahead of schedule, after continued disruptions during the last three weeks over issues like price rise, suspension of 27 MPs, the controversial "Rashtrapatni"

a-half-day of proceedings were disrupted by treasury benches which kept insisting on an apology from Congress president Sonia Gandhi for remarks made by Leader of the Party in Lok Sabha who had already apologised for his statement both

mocracy", and noted that "cadre mobilisation of the Congress on people's issues and ED high-handedness" was a "great benefit of the Monsoon session for the party and the August 5 anti-ED protest even put Home Minister Amit Shah on the 'back foot'."

## BJP to form govt in Odisha in 2024: Amit Shah

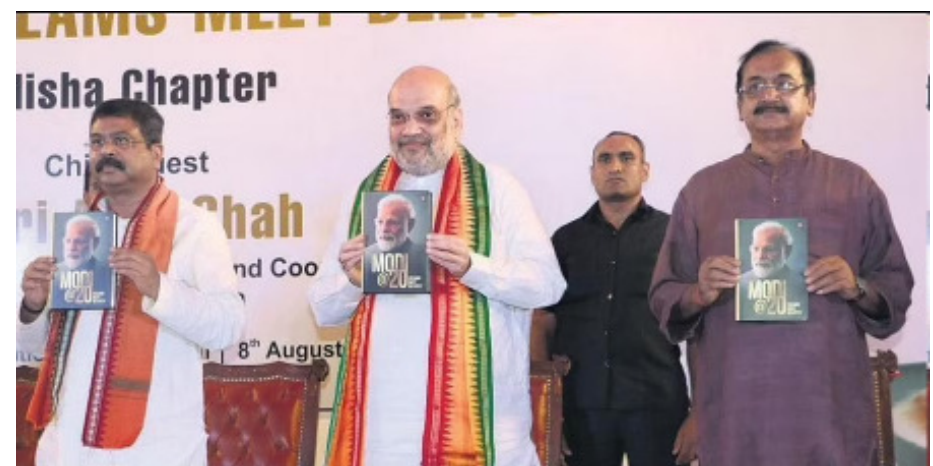
BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Days after announcing that the BJP

for launching the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery' here,

of the country has changed after Modi became Prime Minister

majority and no one can stop it.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and BJP state president Samir Mohanty launching the book "Modi@20" in Bhubaneswar | Irfana We are going to form the next government in Odisha also," he asserted. Reminiscing Modi's 30 years journey as an RSS pracharak and 20 years as Chief Minister and Prime Minister, Shah said his greatest contribution to Indian democracy is to have vanquished the three evils - dynastic politics, politics of appeasement and corruption. Citing the example of Uttar Pradesh where "Parivarwad" was



will fight the 2024 general elections under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday claimed that his party will form the next government in Odisha. Speaking at an event organised by the party

Shah said the BJP which won only two seats in the 1984 Lok Sabha election and subsequently emerged as the single largest party in the Lower House was tagged by its opponents as a 'Hindi heartland' party. The political landscape

winning majority seats. While the entire North-east is under BJP rule, the saffron party is in government in 19 states including Karnataka and Maharashtra. "I am confident that the BJP under the leadership of Modi will win the 2024 election with two-thirds

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## 82 per cent students clear Plus II Arts examination in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha recorded a pass rate of 82.10 per cent (pc) in Arts and 70.35 pc in Vocational Education in the annual Plus II exams, results of which were declared by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) on Monday. Last year, the pass percentage of students was 89.49 in Arts and 86.02 in Vocational Education. Announcing the results, CHSE chairman Ashwini Mishra said there has been a delay in publication of the results owing to Covid-related challenges. However, the performance of the students in this year's exams has been encouraging and better than the exams in pre-pandemic years. In 2020 when the exams had been conducted in offline mode, the pass percentage was

67.56 in Arts and 57.53 in Vocational Education, he said. Mishra said 1,71,288 out of a total 2,08,631 students passed the exams in Arts stream this year. As many as 62,734 students passed in first division, while 41,193 secured second division and 67,341 students were placed in third division.

Besides, 177 students scored above 90 pc marks, while 28 higher secondary schools recorded 100 per cent results. No school recorded zero results this year. Khurda district recorded the highest pass percentage of 87.80, while Nabarangpur district scored the lowest pass percentage of 64.16. Similarly, of the 5,673 candidates who appeared in the examination in



CONTINUED ON: P-7

## PM Modi's total assets rise by Rs 26 lakh to Rs 2.23 crore; land holding donated

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi owns assets worth over Rs 2.23 crore, mostly as bank deposits, but has

till March 31. Modi's movable assets rose by Rs 26.13 lakh from a year ago, but he no longer owns the immovable assets which

an equal share, was purchased by him in October 2002 when he was the chief minister of Gujarat. The latest update said,

Savings Certificates with post office were worth Rs 9,05,105 and had life insurance policies valued Rs 1,89,305.

Among the prime minister's Cabinet colleagues who have declared their assets, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has movables worth Rs 2.54 crore and immovable assets worth 2.97 crore as on March 31, 2022.

Of all the 29 Cabinet ministers, the ones who have declared their own and their dependents' assets for the last fiscal also include Dharmendra Pradhan, Jyotiraditya Scindia, R K Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri, Parshottam Rupala and G Kishan Reddy. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, who was a Cabinet minister in the last fiscal and demitted office in July, has also declared his assets.



no immovable properties as he has donated his share in a piece of land in Gandhinagar, according to his latest disclosure about assets. He has no investment in any bond, share or mutual funds, does not own any vehicle, but has four gold rings valued at Rs 1.73 lakh, according to his declaration updated

were worth Rs 1.1 crore as on March 31, 2021. His assets total Rs 2,23,82,504 as on March 31, 2022, according to details uploaded on the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) website. The residential plot he jointly held with three other owners, each hav-

"Immovable property Survey No. 401/A was jointly held with three other joint owners and each having an equal share of 25 per cent is no more owned by the self as the same has been donated." The cash in hand with the prime minister as on March 31, 2022 was Rs 35,250 and his National



## Sarthak Chavan & Raheesh Khatri continue to reign the 2022 IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup

Chennai(KCN): As the day 2 of 2022 MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship Round 3 came to a close today, 20 next-gen millennial riders shined through on track with their power packed performances.

Today's race of the IDEMITSU Honda Talent Cup NSF250R witnessed Pune's Sarthak Chavan once again rising to victory with a massive lead of 22 seconds. Displaying his magic on the track, it was 14-year-old Mumbai teenager Raheesh Khatri who maintained his dominance and won the IDEMITSU Honda Talent Cup CBR150R race.

After the end of Round 3, both Sarthak & Raheesh continue to reign as the championship leaders in NSF250R & CBR150 categories.

Speaking on round 3, Mr. Prabhu Nagaraj - Operating Officer, Brand & Communication, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India. said, "We are extremely happy to see our young guns fight with such grit and glory. It is commendable that Sarthak and Raheesh continue to dominate the IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R and CBR150R categories. Both the riders have showcased their true potential and I can see them soaring higher from here on. While it may not have been a favourable day for the team in the Pro-Stock 165cc category as our riders crashed out, we aren't by any means deflated about the outcome. I am certain that our riders will take this as another learning and certainly rise to the occasion next time."

Leading the charge of Honda in PS165cc class of national championship was ASK Honda racing's Abhishek Vasudev who sprang from the bottom to battle among the top contenders. Intelligently cruising through the

IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF 250R and CBR150R

The 37 kms long race of IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R the international rider Sarthak Chavan smoothly sailed through twists and turns of the track clocking his personal fastest lap time of 1:48:258. He further engraved his name on top as he jetted off to the first position with a 20 second lead over Kavin Quintal. Kavin crossed the line at second place with total time of 18:41.408. Joining them on the podium is Chennai's Shyam Sundar who kept hold of the third place, finishing the race in 18:45.910.



The thrilling race of IDEMITSU Honda Indian Talent Cup CBR150R saw Jangaon's Rajender Beedani constantly giving a tough fight to championship leader Raheesh Khatri for top spot on the podium. After a quick start, Raheesh immediately built his lead but Rajender's unexpected move in lap 4 reduced their gap. However, Raheesh's calm and composed riding on track got him his sixth win of the season with total time of 12:49.567. Displaying finesse in his riding, Rajender Beedani closed in after 0.282 seconds Raheesh and recorded the best lap of 2:06.304. Whereas, Bengaluru's Harshith V Bogar secured third position (total time: 13:01.044) Honda Hornet 2.0 One Make Support Race In today's Honda Hornet 2.0



turns, Abhishek fought his hardest to close the race on the 4th place, earning valuable points for the team.

It was a hard day for the IDEMITSU Honda SK69 racing team. Veteran rider Rajiv Sethu had a good start but crashed out after lap 2 leading to his untimely dismissal from the race. Rajiv's teammate Senthil Kumar had difficulties with the bike and retired early from the race.

One Make Support race, all riders attempted to catch up the front lot to fight for the top. The race saw multiple movements but Allwin Xavier's mammoth effort in defending his top spot led him to win another race of the weekend. He finished the race with total time of 13:23.706 and best lap of 2:12.206. The battle for second place on podium between Delhi's Sudheer Sudhakar & Chennai's G Balaji stretched till the finish line. Submitting constant smart moves, Sudheer made excellent use of the turns to overtake other riders and quickly moved to second after his fifth place start in lap 1 itself. Thereafter, he was held in a neck-to-neck battle with G Balaji. In a photo finish race, it was Sudheer who grabbed second place, leaving behind G Balaji on third with a mere difference 0.028 seconds.

## About Vodafone Idea Limited

Bhubaneswar (KC-N): Vodafone Idea Limited is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is India's leading telecom service provider. The Company provides pan India Voice and Data services across 2G, 3G, 4G and has a 5G ready platform. With the large spectrum portfolio to

support the growing demand for data and voice, the company is committed to deliver delightful customer experiences and contribute towards creating a truly 'Digital India' by enabling millions of citizens to connect and build a better tomorrow. The Company is developing

infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings, conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence. The Company is listed

on National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in India. The company offers products and services to its customers in India under the TM Brand name "Vi". For more information, please visit: [www.MyVi.in](http://www.MyVi.in)

## Asian Paints brings two champions together to launch another champion 'SmartCare Hydroloc'

Kolkata(KCN): Champions aren't born, they are made and that is true for the three superstars who have come together for a new TVC by India's largest paint and décor company, Asian Paints.

India's celebrated stars and brand ambassadors, Ranbir Kapoor and PV Sindhu have teamed up to launch Asian Paints 'SmartCare Hydroloc' the company's interior waterproofing champion. Hydroloc is a ready-to-use interior waterproofing solution that can be applied effortlessly sans hassle. Asian Paints has always brought TVC's that are etched in the minds of consumers for a long time. The new TVC for SmartCare featuring superstars Ranbir Kapoor and brand new ambassador PV Sindhu, opens to Ranbir in a badminton training session with PV Sindhu for his next film. Distracted by her home interior walls which has severe damp patches and paint peel off caused

by water seepage, spotless, clean and



Ranbir suggests she try Asian Paints SmartCare Hydroloc – an interior waterproofing specialist product that can be easily applied on the walls like paint; with just a single coat, the problem is solved. Hydroloc performs like a champion and this impresses PV Sindhu leaving her delighted to see her walls looking

fresh. SmartCare Hydroloc is an easy, convenient and effortless, solution for interior waterproofing problems. Unlike conventional solutions that involve the hassle of breakage of plaster and doing civil work, SmartCare Hydroloc can be applied directly at plaster level, thus fixing the problem with

minimum effort. Speaking about the new launch and the TVC, Amit Syngle, MD & CEO, Asian Paints Limited said, "Through intense research and interactions with our customers, we found that waterproofing one's walls is a big hassle involving breakage as well, one that not everyone may be willing to undertake to fix the problem entirely. To bridge that gap, we created an interior waterproofing specialist product that is user-friendly and supremely effective. Given the revolutionary nature of this champion product, we are extremely happy to announce the association of Ranbir Kapoor & PV Sindhu for this product. We are elated they teamed up to launch our champion interior waterproofing offering – SmartCare Hydroloc." While assisting as an easy and effective solution to interior waterproofing issues, SmartCare Hydroloc also comes with a 3 year warranty against dampness and efflorescence.

## Inter GC/BN (ADM/OPS) Basketball tournament-2022 of Manipur & Nagland sector starts today at G.C. CRPF Imphal

Imphal (KCN): The opening ceremony

Manipur & Nagaland, Sector. Total 07 team

All senior officers, SOs and jawans were also present on the

Shri Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, DIG, Manipur & Nagaland



of Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Badminton Tournament-2022 of Manipur & Nagaland, Sector was held at GC CRPF, Langjing, Imphal today i.e on 08/08/2022. Group Centre CRPF, Langjing, Imphal hosting Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Basketball Tournament-2022 of

of Sector i.e GC, Imphal, 32 BN, 69 BN, 86 BN, 87 BN, 109 BN and 143 BN participating in this tournament. Shri Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, DIG, Manipur & Nagaland Sector was the Chief Guest and Shri Madan Kumar, DIGP, GC CRPF Imphal was the Co-Guest of the Opening Ceremony.



occasion. The Chief Guest declared Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Basketball Tournament-2022 opened. This tournament started from today i.e. 08/08/2022 on knock out basis and will be concluded on 10/08/2022. The Chief Guest

Sector and Co-Guest Shri Madan Kumar, DIGP, GC, Imphal encouraged all teams to play the games with full devotion and dedication and also given best wishes to all teams for winning. Miss Somorani, DC welcomed the Chief Guest and also presented vote of thanks.

## Confederation Odisha State CoC extends solidarity to Postal Strike on 10.08.2022

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The 4th Triennial Conference the Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, Odisha State Coordination Committee was conducted in the premises of Bhubaneswar GPO on 07.08.2022 under the presidentship of Com. Debabrata Mohanty, Working President of the State CoC. The Conference started with hoisting of Confederation flag by Com. Niranjan Rout, the founder President of the State Committee followed by floral tributes in the martyrs' column. The Open Session was inaugurated by Com. Janardan Pati, State President, CITU, Odisha who briefed the national and international situation through which the entire working class is going through and stressed upon the roles and responsibilities of the serving employees to save the democracy, constitution and their respective establishments that are being privatized one by one including Railway, Defence, Telecom, Postal and other PSUs. Com. R N Dhal, General Secretary read out the Triennial Report and Income-Expenditure Statement which were approved unanimously. Apart from NFPE, representatives and leaders from Institute of Physics, RMRC, CPWD, CWC, CGWB, GSI, SI, CIFA etc had also attended

the Conference. The Conference expressed concern over issue of merger of Post Office Small Savings Scheme with the loss making India Post Payments Bank Limited which is nothing but privatization through phase-wise corporatization of the largest postal network in the word that has legitimately conquered so important place in Indian social, political, religious, cultural and economic atmosphere transmitting the words and thoughts of the nation for last 168 years. It was unanimously resolved, inter alia to extend solidarity to the one nationwide postal strike on 10.08.2022. The Conference unanimously elected Com. Rabindranath Dhal, Com. Bruhaspati Samal and Com. Dipti Ranjan Mohanty as the State President, General Secretary and Financial Secretary respectively for the ensuing session. Finally, Com. Niranjan Rout, Ex-Circle Secretary, NFPE (P-III), Odisha, Ex-Org. General Secretary, P-III, CHQ and the founder President of the State Committee was felicitated with vote of thanks by Com. Dipti Ranjan Mohanty, Divisional Secretary, NFPE (P-III), Bhubaneswar.



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AUTOMOBILE



REAL ESTATE

**SALE**  
Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale  
Contact: 2555328

**SALE**  
Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale.  
Contact: 988-1078308

**PURCHASE**  
Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleto in good condition. Contact 2555763

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale.  
Contact : 0674-2556733  
Residential plots at

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF**

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/- For Box No. Rs. 100/-

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For hiring of Car / Jeep / Bus on monthly basis.  
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**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

Required Single / Double / Triple Stored North/East facing building at Puri . Contact 9437143483



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We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9881079437  
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MATRIMONIAL

**BRIDE WANTED**  
Wanted bride for Khandayat Boy, 37plus, Caste no bar, 0674-2555763

**GROOM WANTED**  
Wanted Groom any service / business family for a Bramhin Girl. Contact 2555226

**WANTED**

**Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya**

Please Contact-8984600400

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent bulding At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

**'Empty Hand Combat' in association with Chitah Jeet Kune Do Global Sports Federation presents "Life of a Dojo Master" by Sifu Cosmo Zimik**

Bombay (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Kung Fu master Cosmo Zimik came to Mumbai from USA and organized a grand press conference with Chitah Yajnesh Shetty at 'Karamveer Sports Club, Andheri West, Mumbai' on 8th August, 2022 where the documentary film 'Life of a Dojo Master' was released on the



life of Cosmo Zimik. It was presented in association with Chitah Jeet Kune Do Global Sports Federation and Empty Hand Combat. A Much-Needed Documentary for These Uncertain Times. Cosmo Zimik, Sarah Lang Zimik, Sagoon Wagh, Sridevi Shetty Wagh, Amarjit Shetty and Chitah Yajnesh



Shetty graced the occasion. "Life of a Kung Fu Master" documentary is a week in the life of Master Cosmo Zimik, a

**'Kanyadaan' an outdated ritual or important custom? Alia Bhatt's ad sparks debate**

The bride, pretty, radiant and in red, sits in front of the sacred fire, her family, the groom and his parents around her, the love flowing like a balmy breeze.

And in that arguably most precious moment, she looks into the camera and asks, "why must a woman be commodified through the custom of 'kanyadaan' literally 'donating a daughter'."

The ad for a lehenga brand featuring Bollywood star Alia Bhatt as the much-indulged daughter and granddaughter has fired debate on social media platforms and elsewhere on the age-old tradition of giving away the daughter.

Many term it Hindu phobic for casting aspersions on a ritual that is part of the warp and weft of society, others appreciate it for calling out the patriarchy that underscores the custom and there are those that feel it should have gone even further in its rejection.

"There is a growing number of young women who are beginning to think about the issue, especially as increasing number joins the workforce, has access to ideas (via social media etc) that are critical of 'women as property' concept. This ad reflects that," sociologist Sanjay Srivastava told PTI.

In the 1.41 minute ad, Bhatt, the self-assured woman of today who also does a selfie pout with her father while at the 'mandap', recalls her lifetime of 'othering' in a monologue - her fond grandmother saying she would one day go to her own home, her father not reacting when people called her "paraya dhan" (alien property) and her mother calling her a 'chidiya' which would fly away one day.

The Manyawar ad ends with the grooms' parent also joining in the ritual (though it is unclear whether they too are giving away their son) and Bhatt's bride saying it should be 'kanyamaan' (respect for the girl child) and not 'kanyadaan', and asking, "Am I a thing to be given away?" Her angst finds a wide echo. Actor Dia Mirza, who decided to do away with the rituals of both "bidaai" and "kanyadaan" when she got married to businessman Vaibhav Rekhi, said they wanted the wedding to reflect their "beliefs and not outmoded ideas." "Neither of us believes that women are commodities to be given away or 'donated.'

man born in remote region of Manipur, India, who settled and made his way to the USA. In the "Life of a Dojo Master" Master



Cosmo has found a way to be refreshing and inspiring to this generation. The saying is true that the truth will set you free and that message is important to people today. Living without fear and on borrowed time, Master Cosmo does not hold back to spare feelings now and he reaches out to young men and women in all levels of society through his



martial arts Dojo. Whether it is meeting with community leaders, a homeless person or an 'At Risk Youth', he is always encouraging and speaking the truth with positive but tough

Women have agency, selfhood and can make decisions about their lives on their own so my wedding reflected exactly that by not including a ritual like 'kanyadaan'," the actor told PTI.

She even engaged a female priest for her wedding to emphasise gender equality.

"It is time for young couples to define how they want to get married and if their ceremony is truly representative of their personalities and love for each other," said the actor, who is also the United Nation's National Goodwill Ambassador from India.

The ritual of giving away the bride is, of course, not just about Hindu weddings. It is also a vital part of a Christian wedding

words. He has helped thousands of at-risk kids to better their situation in life.

Grandmaster Chitah Yajnesh Shetty, Founder of Chitah Jeet Kune Do Global Sports Federation, who conferred an 8th degree black belt to Master Cosmo says, "In this documentary, you will see the power of living intentionally and with purpose, no matter how small the action is. This documentary is for everyone. From those struggling to pay the bills, for those who may be homeless or even a successful businessman. You will be inspired to take action." Both Grandmaster Chitah and Master Cosmo use martial arts to



reach out to the less fortunate Cosmo Zimik's leadership and fearless attitude have impacted many kids, youth, and young adults. Master Cosmo has students who have become good working citizens, Law Enforcement agents, Swat Team members, military personal, Instructors, personal trainers, and community leaders. Master Cosmo says, "Talk is cheap, Let's do something to help others in this world community. This documentary will inspire and encourage you to take action, and impact lives to change the world, like Master Cosmo and Grandmaster Chitah."

away and you have nothing to do with me anymore. You're severing ties like I'm some object basically that you're giving away. My parents did understand it but the issue was 'this is how it is, has been and will be'."

Actor Kangana Ranaut was among those who disagreed. Criticising the ad in an Instagram post, she said, "Humble request to all brands. Don't use religion, minority, majority politics to sell things. Stop manipulating naive consumers with shrewd divisive concepts and advertising. Please stop mocking Hindus and their rituals."

One of the Twitter users echoed similar sentiments.

"Our traditions are not regressive, your mindsets surely are!"

Kanyadaan is a sacred tradition, where a father/parent parts with their most precious and cherished daughter, a bitter-sweet emotional moment filled with hopes, promises and dreams," the user wrote.

Women's rights activist Shabnam Hashmi said the attacks on the ad "reflects the highly patriarchal mindsets of our society".

"It is a very progressive advertisement and raises important questions of women's dignity and equality,"

Hashmi told PTI. Sociologist Shrivastava added that people reacted negatively because there is an increasing intolerance against anything that is seen to question 'Indian traditions'.

The reaction, he said, also reflects a "male anxiety" about the changes that are happening in addition to the current climate where it has become difficult to question anything Indian/Hindu.

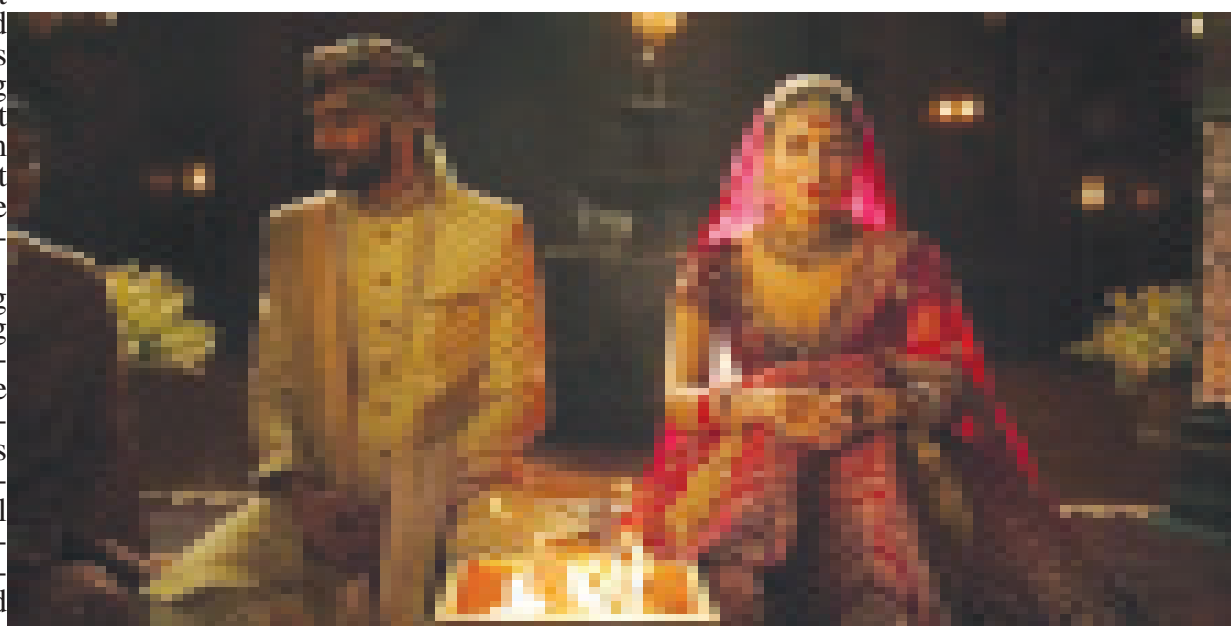
There were also those who felt the ad didn't go far enough.

"The idea should not be to perpetuate the custom but to break away from it," said a young woman, who welcomed the ad and the questioning of traditions but would have preferred that it didn't end with the parents of both sides taking part in it.

A radical break would have been more effective in sending out the message, she said.

However, a debate reflects a churn.

And in that sense, any discussion is welcome, even if it has unlikely beginnings in an ad for a bridal lehenga.





## Pt Prodyut Mukherjee now a voting member at the Recording Academy that hosts Grammy Award

In a rare accomplishment, Kolkata-born famed percussionist, composer GIMA Award winning music director Pandit Prodyut Mukherjee has now found a berth in the prestigious Recording Academy, best known for hosting the annual Grammy Awards, as a voting member. The Recording Academy, formally the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) is an American learned academy of musicians, producers, recording engineers, and other musical professionals. It is famous for its Grammy Awards, which recognize achievements in the music industry of songs and music which are popular worldwide. The Recording Academy is also a founding partner of the Grammy Museum, a non-profit organization whose stated mission is preserving and educating about music history and significance.



As part of its initiative to maintain a diversity in its membership, Pt Mukherjee has been invited to become voting member at the Grammys and contribute to the Recording

says Pt Mukherjee. Pt Mukherjee, a recipient of Pandit

**Ritwik Mukherjee**



Academy's various activities throughout the year. "I feel extremely honoured and I am humbled being selected as a voting member at the prestigious Recording Academy. I would do my best to do justice to this honour,"

Manmohan Bhatt Memorial Award, loves and relishes performing

mouth percussion or mouth drumming, and performing his art for a different reason altogether- more than entertaining the audience, putting across a message. One of the most prominent and well-known names in the field of Indian Classical as well as popular music scene for his various musical initiatives, Pt Mukherjee, launched a crusade against war and violence, musically, teaming up with famed singer Anup Jalota, acclaimed musician Kishore Sodha and others and to came up with a music album: "Roshni Ho Sarhadon Mein" seeking a permanent end to war and violence. While the melody and music have been composed by Pt. Prodyut Mukherjee himself, the song has been rendered by Padmasree Anup Jalota, noted singer Supratik Das, trumpet has been played by ace musician Kishore Sodha, piano played by Abhik Ganguly, lyrics has been written by Neetu Saini and the concept has been by Sudipta Chanda.

That's not all. He has always been socially conscious, responsible and sensitive and has

also introduced the concept of "Green Tabla", advocating reuse of damaged Tabla for tree plantations.

He is also actively involved with The Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music & Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY), a voluntary youth movement, promoting intangible aspects of Indian cultural heritage through promotion of Indian classical music, classical dance, folk music, yoga, meditation, crafts and so on. Founder of RHYTHMEXPRESS, Pt Mukherjee, from a young age, has been accompanying all the leading performers of Hindustan Classical Music including Mohon Veena Maestro Padmabhusan Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt, Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, Ustad Nishat Khan and many more and collaborated with Odissi Exponent Dona Ganguly, Ghazal and Bhajan exponent Anup Jalota, Suresh Wadker, Shaan, Kishore Sodha and many others on many projects. With over 50 albums in his kitty, his style of percussion performance presents an eclectic mix of Indo-Occidental musical notes with Afro and Latin elements in them.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

## Primacy of primary education

Universalisation of education must be taken into account not merely the issues of maximising enrollment and setting up new schools but also going into quality content at the primary and upper primary level. The content and imparting of education at primary and upper primary level becomes of the highest quality, then the excellence of our educated man power would be the general rule rather than an exception. If at all quality needs to be ensured hundred percent at any level in our educational hierarchy, it is at the primary level, where the impressionistic mind of the child is moulded for future development. Due to lack of our lethargy, inertia, initiative on the part of bureaucracy and paucity of imagination some drastic changes (steps) would not functioned although it was passed. Prior to that case a survey was being conducted in nine educationally backward states to determine the factors responsible for poor students enrollment at the elementary level and to come up would alternative to improve the situation. In those states, the survey would examine to the extent up to which poverty has inhabited universalisation of primary education. To improve the quality education the govt. of India implemented in a very broad way throughout the country the system of non-formal education to combat the high rate of drop-out in primary and middle schools. It is believed to achieve universalisation of elementary education, which had been eluding the country inspire of concerted efforts during that four to five decades. In the non-formal education system although some problems solved, but it was post-poned the programme as it was expensive and not

Letter to Editor

### Promote Breastfeeding

No other milk in the world can match mother's milk to a child. Mother's milk promotes the child's nutritional and immunological development as well as the mother's physical and mental wellbeing. Breastfeeding should be promoted in all hospitals (both private and public) across the nation with posters and also with statues mandatorily. Even in backside of Indian currency notes and postal stamps etc., since modern lifestyles making mothers go milk less finally leading to breast cancer or some other diseases especially in cities. So dissemination of the same is substantial at present.

Yours,

Vijaykumar H.K., Raichur, Karnataka

**Pratap Chandra Sahu**

fruitful. Major thrust of non-formal education was being given in the backward states i e andhra, jammu & kashmir, odisha, Rajasthan, u.p, westbengal, Bihar and madhya pradesh, which account for 80% of students enrolled. The central govt. had given special interest to innovate experiments & projects in non-formal education. The govt. had to set up educational centres for the age 3 to 6 years old especially in the rural areas as adjuncts to primary and middle schools. These centres would not only develop school going habits among pre-school age group children, but would also enable the care takers of such children mostly girls to attend school leaving their charges in the care of the centre and thus remove a major drop-outs. It is estimated that at present near about four crores of people in India do not have primary schooling facilities within in one km of their homes. The objective of providing free and compulsory education to all children up to age 16 years for under the constitute of India would be fulfilled envisages to achieve the target of hundred percent enrollment in primary level. It is rather unfortunate that present educational system has somehow elicited in nature with 60% of high schools & college students coming from top 20% from our society. Its heavy pushout & drop out rate is 40% of the pupils, who enter class one and they are pushed & dropped out before class fifth which happened to be the time when the minimum literacy skills can be acquired. 80% of our schools are in single roomed. Where one class is held each day. A dispassionate assessment expansion of education in India reveals the defects contradictions which have plunged the entire educational device. One major contradiction was between the proclaimed goal of orienting education to prepare citizens for active democratic participations and the refusal to treat education as a fundamental right of citizens. Consequently the policy has resulted in including the overwhelming mass of citizens from having access to even elementary education. Today education is free and compulsory for all up to class +2 in almost all states and union territories. Unless we give the right to education to every citizen we cannot ac-

celerate the rate of literacy in this country. While in countries like ours the problem of providing primary education on a national scale appears to be so difficult to solve in Japan the objective was fulfilled easily making education rural based up to highest level. The educational structure of Japan is as pyramid rather than as a pillar on the other hand the number of students at a higher educational institutions in India is 4% of the age group but it is only 1% in Japan. This is evident of the emphasis given by an industrially advanced country like Japan, elementary educational system given much importance. On the other significant contradiction in our educational policy is that when education is proclaimed to be an instrument for bringing about equality in practice it has systematically sharpened and deepened in qualities. Education even at the lower level has been left by the govt. as a commodity to be purchased. Entry into the institutions availability of books, dress, food, any other financial benefits, who want to secure education. Ever since of independence of the country there has been a craze for all kinds of higher education as it became a passport for higher jobs. The total concentration of the bureaucracy has been strengthening higher education. Gradually costly fees overcrowding donation and other unhealthy practices have transferred to educational institutions into massive factories producing men and women with dubious degrees and without much merit by. It has not been appreciated that for bringing about social change & justice the major thrust should be on primary education, because it is content and formalism to scare away the children of poor and backward pupils. The constraints of the huge number of children and large amount of money involved should not come in the way of launching up on the nation wide campaign for removing illiteracy. Since 1970 the enrollment in degree level has grown up to 16 times, in p.g. level 7 times, in higher technical institutions 10 times but in primary only 3 times. Thus the enormous expansion of subsidised higher education has benefited mostly the upper incoming groups. Now-a-days the transformations are going on in high schools. So as to give much importance to primary level is essential.

Nabarangapur

## Challenges before RBI

**Pradeep Kumar Panda**

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has begun its three-day meeting on 3rd August. The six-member panel is holding deliberations to decide on the interest rates in the country, keeping in mind the inflation and other global factors. The meeting comes at a time when global central banks are tightening the monetary policy and raising interest rates. The MPC will announce its decision on the last day of its meeting (5th August). Here are the challenges the MPC faces currently:

High Inflation Countries across the globe, including India, have been facing high inflation for a few months on supply chain disruptions due to the Russia-Ukraine war. In India, the inflation in June stood at 7.01 per cent, which was slightly lower than the 7.04 per cent recorded in May but was above the RBI's tolerance limit of 2-6 per cent. According to a CRISIL report, the overall CPI inflation is expected to be at 6.8 per cent and food inflation at 7 per cent for the current fiscal. "High cost of inputs in agriculture production (fertilisers, pesticides, animal feed and diesel) is expected to maintain pressure on food inflation through this fiscal.

Despite recent softening in international prices of several food items, they remain higher than last year so far and the rupee has weakened offsetting some of the impact of falling international prices for imported food items. Food inflation started picking up from sub-1 per cent in September 2021, all the way up to 7.7 per cent in June 2022. CPI inflation also rose from 4.3 per cent to 7 per cent. This fiscal so far (April-June 2022), food inflation has averaged 8 per cent, compared with 3.8 per cent in fiscal 2022 and 3.6 per cent in the five years preceding the pandemic (i.e., fiscals 2016-2020). Thus, food has become the top contributor to CPI inflation this fiscal, unlike the previous year and between fiscals 2016 and 2020, when core inflation was predominant. Global Rate Hikes

In the US, as inflation is prevailing at a four-decade-high level of 9.1 per cent, the Federal Reserve recently announced the most aggressive interest rate increase in nearly 30 years and hiked the benchmark borrowing rate by 75 basis points. The US central bank said it reaffirms that it remains "strongly committed to returning inflation to its 2 per cent objective" and expects to continue to raise the key rate.

In Europe also, the European Central Bank also recently raised interest rates by more than expected amid concerns over inflation. The ECB raised its benchmark deposit rate by 50 basis points to zero per cent. It was the ECB's first rate increase in 11 years.

The rate hikes by the global central banks make returns there more attractive for investors, thus raising concerns over a capital flight from India. For instance, the rate hike by the US makes interest rates there attractive. Also, global uncertainty is leading to investors moving to the US for safe-haven investments.

Economist



# 5K CR Annum for Highways

Bhubaneswar: Union Government is spending on an average nearly Rs.5000 Crore per Annum for development and maintenance of National Highways and State Highways in

spent on National Highways and Rs.430 Crore on State Highways funded by CRIF. Similarly, during 2021-22, Rs.4417 Crore expenditure was made on National

apart from looking after the works on State Highways under Central Road & Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). Development of National Highways such as capacity up-grad-

Malkangiri of 202 KM length to four lane standards, technical reasons are cited not to upgrade the connectivity. As per extant policy of the Union Government, a stretch of



Odisha. According to official sources in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways during last three years Union Government has provided Rs.14,832 Crore for development and maintenance of National Highways and State Highways supported by Central Road & Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). While Rs.4651 Crore has been spent on all on-going National Highways in 2019-20, Rs.282 Crore was spent from CRIF for care of State Highways. During 2020-21, Rs.4622 Crore was

Highways, whereas Rs.460 Crore was funded by CRIF for State Highways care. More and more funds are pumped from CRIF to take care of State Highways, officials say. As the State Government is utilizing funds in a time bound manner, funding from CRIF is on rise, officials say. While there is 5753 Kilometre long National Highways in Odisha, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is primarily responsible for development & maintenance of National Highways

tion, repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction of existing pavement, bridges, culverts & structures, construction of Road Over Bridges, Road Under Bridges, Underpasses, Flyovers, and Installation of safety measures, is a continuous process. And such works are taken up depending upon traffic demand, existing condition, safety threats to traffic, inter-se priority basis, officials say. While People's Representatives are demanding development of the stretch of National Highway-326 from Jeypore to Motu via

National Highway is eligible for up-gradation from 2-lane to 4-lane standards when the traffic level reaches 10,000 Passenger Car Units (PCU). The Jeypore - Motu section of NH-326 via Malkangiri does not require up-gradation to 4-lane standards at present traffic level varying from 1852 PCU to 5826 PCU. Looking at the growing vehicular traffic and rise in number of accidents, peoples' representatives are demanding for four lanning of the critical connectivity in the Maoist infested zone.

## Women will be inducted in Maha Cabinet in next expansion, says Fadnavis

MUMBAI/PUNE: Facing flak over non-representation of women in Maharashtra's expanded Cabinet, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said female legislators will be surely inducted in the min-

Shinde ministry has gone up to 20. Responding to the criticism, Fadnavis said in Mumbai, "There will be women in the next cabinet expansion for sure. Earlier, people were critical of us for delay in the cabinet expansion,

five ministers from supporting parties the Congress and the NCP. Women members were inducted into the Council of Ministers later. Asked about the induction of rebel Sena MLA Sanjay Rathod in the new cabinet, Fadnavis said Chief

hence his name was considered for a Cabinet position this time. In an apparent attack on the Sharad Pawar-led NCP, Fadnavis said in Pune, "The party whose two former ministers are in jail on charges of corruption has no



istry in the next round of expansion. Forty-one days after taking oath, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde earlier in the day expanded his cabinet by inducting 18 new members - nine each of the rebel Shiv Sena group and the BJP - but no woman legislator found a place in his team, inviting criticism from opposition parties and activists. With the expansion, the strength of the

but now they have come up with something new." "When Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray-led government had taken oath (in November 2019), there was not a single woman cabinet minister in it. Nobody had then criticised that government," said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader. Thackeray was sworn-in as chief minister in November 2019 along with

Minister Shinde has already clarified the stand on it and there was no need for further comment. Rathod, who was the forest minister in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, was forced to resign last year after BJP leaders blamed him for a woman's suicide in Pune. Shinde, speaking to reporters earlier, said the MVA government had given a "clean chit" to Rathod and

moral right to put out a list (of our ministers)." The NCP, the main opposition party, has put names of some ministers who took oath on Tuesday on social media and accused them of being involved in corruption. Former NCP ministers Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik are currently in jail after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in separate money laundering cases.

# Nitish Kumar claims support of 164 MLAs of 7 Mahagathbandhan parties to form govt

PATNA: Janata Dal-United leader Nitish Kumar on Tuesday staked claim to form the next government in Bihar with the support of seven parties after he broke alliance with BJP and resigned as Chief

Mahagathbandhan," Kumar told reporters. He was accompanied by RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. The JD(U) and RJD, who together constitute a majority in the 243-member state assembly. JD(U) has

Party (BJP) following a meeting of JD-U leaders and legislators. He then sought time from Governor Phagu Chauhan and tendered his resignation. According to

the former Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief during the 2020 state assembly polls while warning Kumar that if they were not alert, it would not be good for the party.



Minister. He said there are seven parties including RJD who are supporting him. "I came here to meet Governor and gave my resignation. There are 7 parties including 164 MLAs along with Independents in

45 and the RJD has 79 MLAs. They also have the support of smaller parties like Jitan Manjhi's HAM. The BJP has 77 MLAs in the state assembly. Nitish Kumar earlier in the day broke his alliance with the Bharatiya Janata

sources, many JD(U) legislators told Kumar in today's meeting that the alliance with the BJP had weakened the party since 2020. Without naming Chirag Paswan, the legislators are reported to have recalled the actions of

A meeting of the RJD-led opposition alliance was also held at former chief minister Rabri Devi's residence. The meeting authorised Tejashwi Yadav to take an appropriate decision on government formation in Bihar.

## China continues military drills around Taiwan even after end of four-day schedule

Beijing: China on Monday continued its unprecedented military drills around Taiwan, extending the schedule of war games launched in retaliation to the visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the breakaway island which Beijing claims is part of its territory.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command, which oversees Taiwan, said on Monday it would continue drills in waters near Taiwan island, focusing on anti-submarine and air-to-ship strikes, state-run Global Times reported. The PLA conducted joint drills involving all wings of its armed forces in six areas around the island from August 4 to 7.

The PLA's latest announcement notice did not specify the location of the exercises nor did it mention when they would end. The PLA on Sunday proceeded with the plan and continued realistic combat-scenario joint exercises in the sea and air space around the island of Taiwan practicing island capturing drills and bomber deterrence flights in Taiwan Strait, a rehearsal for real operation, state-run Global Times reported on Sunday.

The PLA Command in a late last night press release said its forces continued its joint combat training exercises as scheduled on Sunday in the waters and airspace around the Taiwan island.

The focus on Sunday was set on testing the capabilities of using joint fires to strike land targets and striking long-range air targets, an early Monday state-run Xinhua news agency report said.

The air force under the theatre command deployed multiple types of warplanes, including early warning aircraft, bombers, jamming aircraft, fighter-bombers and fighter jets, to conduct drills on such combat missions as joint reconnaissance, airspace control operation, strikes on ground targets, and air support and cover.

Supported by naval and air combat systems, the air strike forces, together with long-range multiple launch rocket systems and conventional missile troops, conducted drills of joint precision strikes on targets.

Multiple bomber formations flew across the Taiwan Strait from north to south and from south to north, while several fighter jets conducted joint drills with destroyers and frigates.

The operation has tested the tactics of systems warfare under information-based conditions, and honed and improved the capabilities to destroy crucial island targets with precision strikes. Zhang Zhi, an air force officer of the PLA Eastern Theatre Command, said according to the report.

During the four-day exercises, several batches of multiple types of warplanes attached to the PLA Eastern Theatre Command conducted systematic island attack drills, with the focus being honing the joint land attack and long-range air strike capabilities,

the PLA Eastern Theatre Command said. While there is no official announcement here on ending the drills, reports said the PLA is reviewing the impact of the unprecedented war games involving all wings of its military as questions remained about its next move, heightening Beijing's dilemma over the future course of action.

In the last four days, the Chinese military flew hundreds of planes, drones and fired missiles with different ranges which Taiwan termed as simulated attacks and appealed for international help. China also suspended a range of defence and military exchanges with the US besides imposing sanctions on Pelosi as part of a slew of countermeasures to protest against her trip to Taipei on Tuesday and Wednesday that infuriated Beijing, which saw it as a violation of the one-China policy. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has threatened to



annex it by force if necessary. The two sides split in 1949 after a civil war, but Beijing considers visits to Taiwan by foreign officials as recognising its sovereignty. Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence emphasised that its military was keeping a watch on the situation and dis-

patched aircraft and ships to respond accordingly. Chinese experts said tensions triggered by Pelosi's Taiwan visit will continue to mount, but military conflict over the issue is unlikely. Shi Yinhong, international relations professor at the Renmin University of China, said strain in international relations is a natural result of strategic interactions but the US and China are not close to engaging in combat. "Confrontation will (escalate) but a conflict is still unlikely, even as the suspension of military communication has surely made prevention of incidental clashes more difficult," Shi told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Sunday.

After the Chinese military began four days of intensive live-fire drills around Taiwan, the Pentagon said its Japan-based aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan would be extending its scheduled deployment in the Western Pacific.

"We will conduct standard air and maritime transits through the Taiwan Strait in the next few weeks, consistent, again, with our long-standing approach to defending the freedom of the seas and international law," national security spokesman John Kirby said.

And, we will take further steps to demonstrate our commitment to the security of our allies in the region, Kirby said. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned Washington on Saturday not to stir up a bigger crisis after the US announced it would take further steps by sending aircraft and warships to the waters near Taiwan in the coming weeks.

The PLA has also announced month-long drills in the Yellow Sea facing South Korea, where the US troops are stationed.



# Odisha woos investors

Ahmedabad: To attract more and more investments to Odisha, the State Government, in collaboration with the FICCI hosted an investors' meet in Ahmedabad to showcase the state's investment potential in the textile, metal, metal downstream, chemical, and various other sectors.

The event was organized on 8 August, which was attended by over 150 delegates, representing various industries from across Gujarat.

Addressing the gathering, Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb highlighted the fact that because of abundant natural resources and metal ecosystem advantage, Odisha has become a preferred location for enterprises in the metal and allied sectors.

Odisha produces 34.3 percent of the country's total mineral output and is the leading producer of chromite, nickel, bauxite, manganese, and iron ore, he said.

The State Government, he said, is promoting a

iffs which are enablers to set up industries and manufacturing units in the State.

Speaking on the Startup Ecosystem in Odisha, Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman, Start-up Odisha stated that, "The State has an attractive start-up policy that addresses all nuances of the start-up ecosystem. It elucidates the concept, the registration process, and the incentives offered to the companies. The policy is sector agnostic".

Delivering the concluding remarks, Md. Sadique Alam, Director of Industries, Odisha, said that Odisha aspires to be a hub of economic activity in East and South-East Asia.

The State is diversifying from its inherent strengths in the mining and metal industries and propelling itself towards downstream & ancillary to value add to the basic metal sector, chemicals, petrochemicals & plastics, food processing, textile & apparel, and other new-age sectors.

With big mother plants and bulk manufacturers operating and increasing their capacities throughout the State, there is a massive projected need for ancillaries, he said.

One-to-one "Business to Government (B2G) meetings" were also organized to initiate and sustain heart to heart dialogue with the industry and relevant industry associations,

to understand the underlying sentiments and address the same. In line with such noble thoughts, the Government of Odisha team met 5 (five) industry associations, including marquee names like FICCI, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, GESIA, Gujarat Dyestuff Manufacturers Associations and Indian Laminates Manufacturers Associations.

In addition to these associations, the delegation from the Government of Odisha also met 19 individual industry captains, which included many household names.

## Plus III admission process to start from August 11 in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: The process for e-admission to degree colleges in the State will publish the first merit list on August 31 and admission of students in this list



will be started by the Higher Education department from August 11. While the common application form (CAF) will be made available from Thursday on the website of Students Academic Management System (SAMS), students can apply the CAF till August 25. The department after scrutiny of the forms would be done from September 2 to 5, informed the department in a release on Monday. Similarly, the second merit list will be published on September 11 and admission to this would be done from September 12 to 14. The admission process including spot admission to vacant seats will be completed by September 29.

## Utkal Vikash Parisad Cuttack Sadar felicitated to IIC of Kishorenagar Thana

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar leading social organisation Utkal Vikash Parisad(UVP) felicitated to newly joined IIC of Kishorenagar Thana Rashmiranjan Das and two other Offices of this thana Braja Bihari Samanta and Subash Chandra Udayabhanu with good wishes. The UVP president Er.Prakash Chandra Sethi also tender his best wishes to all officers. In this feliciating program the team UVP like Assistant Secretary Bimal Panda, Jamini Mohan Sahoo, Chakrabarti Ota, Subhakanta Sethi, Sanjay Sahoo, Sandeep Sethi, Ananta Nath, Tapash Mandal, Sanjay Sethi, Balaram Sahoo, Ananda Behera, Badal Mandal, Jyoti Prakash Nanda, Jagannath Kuara, Subal Nandi, Chandan Sahoo are present.

## Emirates restarts flights to London Stansted with a daily service

Dubai, UAE: 1 August 2022 – Emirates has resumed passenger services to London Stansted (STN), serving its third London gateway with a daily flight. The airline has advanced plans to increase capacity from five-weekly services to a daily flight, starting from today. With the return of services to Stansted, Emirates has ramped up its operations to London with nine daily flights, including six daily flights to Heathrow and a double daily flight to Gatwick.\* The added services will meet market demand and offer customers more travel choices and enhanced connectivity this summer.

London Stansted will be served by Emirates' wide-body Boeing 777-300ER aircraft fitted with its re-

Emirates currently serves seven gateways in the UK. By October 2022, the airline will be serving the country with 110 weekly flights, including: six times daily to London Heathrow; daily service to London Stansted; double daily A380 service to Gatwick; three times daily to Manchester, including a double daily A380 service (starting 1st October 2022); double daily service to Birmingham; five weekly flights to Newcastle; and a daily service to Glasgow.

The airline is also currently serving London Gatwick with three daily flights until 3 August 2022. The added frequency is serving customer demand and accommodating passengers affected by capacity

adjustments on flights from London Heathrow. Fly better with Emirates to and through Dubai Emirates continues to place top priority on safe travel with the implementation of comprehensive measures in the air and on-ground. Customers travelling from Dubai can also take advantage of state of the art contactless technology to ease their journey through the airport. The airline also offers its customers an unmatched culinary experience



nowned 'Game Changer' First Class product. Emirates flight EK65 will depart Dubai at 08:50hrs and arrive in London Stansted at 13:30hrs local time. The return flight, EK68 will depart London Stansted at 21:10hrs and arrive in Dubai at 7:10hrs local time, the following day.

Tickets can be purchased on emirates.com, Emirates Sales Office, via travel agents or through online travel agents.

London Stansted remains a key hub for the airline's passenger and cargo operations. The daily service will offer customers in East and Southeast UK more travel options, flexibility, and convenience when travelling with Emirates to more than 130 destinations, via Dubai.

in the skies with regionally inspired meals and a wide selection of premium beverages. Customers can sit back and relax with more than 5,000 channels of carefully curated global entertainment content featuring movies, TV shows, music, podcasts, games, audiobooks and more with ice, Emirates' award-winning inflight entertainment system. Emirates' home and hub, Dubai, remains a very popular holiday and stopover destination. Visitors from the UK can take advantage of the recently launched Dubai Experience platform that enables customers to easily browse, create and book their own customised itineraries including flights, hotel stay, visits to key attractions, and other dining and leisure experiences in Dubai and the UAE.

Petroleum, Chemical, and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in Paradeep, with IOCL as the anchor tenant.

"Another priority area for our state is the food processing sector, which includes seafood processing as well. Odisha has a 480-kilometer coastline and three fully functional ports at Paradeep, Gopalpur, and Dhamra that connects the State to global trade channels," he said.

The Minister also highlighted that Odisha is a power surplus State with abundant water resources as well. Highlighting the various initiatives to drum up support for the industrial ecosystem, Mr. Deb informed that the Government of Odisha will host the third edition of the "Make in Odisha Conclave" from November 30 to December 4, 2022 and extended hearty invitation to all industry leaders to visit Odisha and see for themselves what Odisha has to offer.

Industries Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma presented the "Odisha Business Ecosystem and Investment Opportunities", emphasizing the State's stable Government, progressive policies, natural advantages, industry-led infrastructure development, availability of industrial land, port led development model, and highly skilled human resources, which gives the state a distinct competitive advantage over others.

Mr. Sharma also highlighted the zero-human-interface single window portal named GO-SWIFT, ready-to-move industrial land parcels across the state and the competitive power and water tar-

## The last moment –

Everyone knows that there will be a last moment! Still, we lust for absolute power.

We envy others. We boast for nothing. In that last moment, we will be so helpless. We will make an effort to live. But nobody will assist us. We will be alone. Our loved ones will of course try to drag us from the verge of death. But do they succeed in those fake endeavours? No, no and a big no! Then why are we struggling to hoard many kinds of stuff in our lives? At the last moment, we will be abandoned by everyone! Nobody will accompany us. Since we know the fact again why do we crave for luxury? Even after encountering death so many times, we are greedily acquiring everything for our betterment. We are even creating a barrier like a wall outside our personality. That ego never allows us to think beyond our family. We only think of ourselves. In the graveyard, no one will follow us. We have to complete this awful journey alone. Then why do we make ourselves so attached to everyone?

We know everything. Then what happens to us at the time of thinking rationally about our death? Death is certain and life is an illusion. Without knowing the fragility of life, we always try to establish a primary bond with our immediate family. Then at the last moment of our lives, we long to live with them. We never ignite the inner light of our soul. We always find joy from outside. We never get to know the Universal truth. Soul transmits from one core to another. It's the ultimate truth. Instead of averting the last moment, we need to desire for that eternal moment. So that when death comes, we should embrace it happily



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## Indian Oil Corporation to transport fuel to Tripura via Bangladesh

AGARTALA: PSU major Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will soon conduct a trial run for transporting fuel to Tripura through Bangladesh, an official said on Tuesday. During the trial run, the IOC will transport three LPG tankers and seven tankers of petrol and diesel through Bangladesh from Guwahati. Each LPG tanker can transport 17 mt of gas, while each oil tanker has the capacity of carrying 12,000 litres, he said. "IOC has already signed an agree-

ment with the Bangladeshi authorities in Dhaka on August 3. We have sought visas for the drivers and their assistants to drive the tankers through the neighbouring country," a senior IOC official.

"Once the visas are issued, the LPG and oil tankers will move for the trial run on the alternative road via Bangladesh. We are absolutely ready for this," he said. The fuel-carrying tankers from Guwahati in Assam will go to Dwaki in Meghalaya, where

they will enter Bangladesh. The tankers will re-enter India at Kailashahar in Tripura's Unakoti district to reach IOC's Dharmangar depot in North Tripura. "The process for the trial run has been initiated. If the trial run is successful, IOC will use the alternative road to supply fuel to Tripura in case of unforeseen developments in the future," the official IOC was planning to transport fuel to Tripura via Bangladesh after floods and landslides devastated

the communication links in the Northeastern region. After the only rail link connecting Assam's Dima Hasao district and Barak Valley, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura with the rest of the country was washed away, IOC started moving all its supplies by road via Meghalaya, bearing more than double the cost. "After the Dima Hasao landslides, the only way to reach Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and southern Assam was the road connectivity via Meghalaya. This route is also landslide-prone," Indian Oil Corporation Executive Director (IndianOil-AOD) G Ramesh had said then.

The situation forced the IOC, state governments and the Centre to scout for alternative ways to supply fuel to the southern region of the Northeast. Ramesh had said that the IndianOil-AOD, the

**Monsoon session extremely disappointing, govt was in rush to curtail session: Cong**

Continued from page-1

good. Earlier the prime minister used to ignore Parliament and now even the ministers are doing so," Ramesh charged.

He also referred to the absence of Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan when the Central University Bill was being piloted in Rajya Sabha on Monday.

"IT and communication minister Ashwini Vaishnav piloted the bill and replied to it," said Jairam adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen in Rajya Sabha for the first time on Monday when he spoke during the farewell of House Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said the government knew about the holidays beforehand so why did it not plan accordingly.

Ramesh said probably this Monsoon session was the last session in the current Parliament building because "we have been told that the Winter session will be held in the new building".

**82 per cent students clear Plus II Arts examination in Odisha**

Continued from page-1

vocational education stream this year, 3,991 students secured pass marks.

A total 1,548 students secured first division and 1,889 students got second, while 538 students were placed in third division. No school recorded zero per cent results. Balasore topped the districts with highest pass percentage of 93.89 and Kalahandi remained at bottom with a pass percentage of 37.29.

Girls outperformed boys in both the streams, as they recorded a pass percentage of 87.45 in Arts and 74.73 in Vocational stream, while the pass percentage of boys remained 75.08 in Arts and 66.39 in Vocational Education. The CHSE chairman said the council will soon issue notification allowing students to apply for re-addition of marks or any other correction in the mark-sheet by August 16.

**BJP to form govt in Odisha in 2024: Amit Shah**

Continued from page-1

deeply entrenched, the Union Home Minister said that the dynastic politics is withering away as people have rejected the business of family politics.

BJP to form govt in Odisha in 2024: Shah He said the credit goes to Modi who not only demolished the three evils which were devouring the core of democracy but also changed it to "politics of performance". The best example is Gujarat where the party is marching ahead election after election. "Presently, there is not a single Prime Ministerial face in Indian politics except Modi. The opponents have to change themselves, or else, they will face repeated defeat as Modi has changed the dynamics of politics," he added.

Taking a dig at the Congress-led UPA, Shah said no one in the grand old party was accepting their Prime Minister. Every minister in the UPA government considered himself or herself as a prime ministerial material. In contrast, Modi proved as the best Prime Minister whom the world leaders listen. That was evident when the US President Joe Biden waited to shake hands with Modi, Shah said.

company's North East division, had in 2016 sent a few consignments to Tripura via Bangladesh when the supply was badly hit due to pathetic road conditions in Barak Valley in Assam.

The distance for transporting different types of fuel from IOC's Betkuchi depot in Guwahati to Dharmangar depot in Tripura via Bangladesh will be 376 km, including 137 km inside the neighbouring country, against 579 km through the Meghalaya-Barak Valley route.

On September 9, 2016, IOC flagged off seven tankers carrying 84,000 litres of kerosene and diesel from its Guwahati depot to Tripura through Bangladesh for the first time, to avoid the dilapidated national highway in Assam.

**Nitish Kumar resigns as Bihar Chief Minister, to stake claim with Tejashwi**

Continued from page-1

the party MPs and MLAs during the meeting. In the meeting, Nitish accused BJP of trying to engineer a split in the party with the help of former union minister RCP Singh. He said that earlier too, BJP had damaged the prospects of the party in the last Bihar assembly election by asking LJP leader Chirag Paswan to field his party candidates against JD (U)'s. Before participating in the meeting, JD (U) MP Kaushalendra said that BJP was trying to lure JD (U) leaders by offering them hefty money.

The relationship between BJP and JD (U) was never cordial since the formation of new NDA government in November, 2020. But it soured further when BJP started trying to assert its position by playing its Hindutva agenda.

Meanwhile, Congress and Left party leaders and MLAs also converged at the residence of Rabri Devi in Patna for a meeting convened by the opposition RJD.

The BJP too held a meeting of its top leaders at Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishor Prasad's residence in Patna on Tuesday. The BJP sources said they will wait till Nitish Kumar makes the first move.

Leader of the opposition Tejashwi Yadav is likely to visit the CM's residence to hand over the letter of support at any time.

Rumours of a growing rift between the BJP-JD(U) i.e., the NDA alliance in Bihar intensified after Kumar skipped a key meeting of the NITI Aayog, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday and JD(U) leader RCP Singh tendered his resignation from the party.

Singh, once considered a close aide of Nitish Kumar had announced his exit from the party after being served a notice seeking an explanation on allegations of corruption.

The RJD-led Opposition in the state has meanwhile said that it will welcome any realignment in Bihar's ruling coalition without the BJP.

The RJD had emerged as the single-largest party in the 2020 Assembly elections in which the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 125 seats - BJP won 74, the JD(U) bagged 43, the Vikassheel Insaan Party got 4 and Hindustan Awaam Party (Secular) bagged 4 seats.

Earlier, Nitish had dumped NDA in 2013 over the projection of Narendra Modi, the then chief minister of Gujarat as the Prime Ministerial candidate for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Later, he formed a government with the Grand Alliance in 2015 but quit it in 2017.

The RJD has 79 MLAs in the assembly, which has an effective strength of 242. It is the single largest party and disqualification of its MLAs will reduce its ability to steer a political upheaval.

Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has 44 legislators, and enjoys the support of one Independent MLA Sumit Singh, who is also a minister and four members of former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha.

Amid Bihar upheaval, Speaker tests positive for Covid but recovers in a day Interestingly, a day after he tested positive for COVID-19, Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha on Tuesday said his test reports have come out negative, amid a brewing political storm in the state, where he will play a key role in determining the legitimacy of any new formulation.

Sinha, a BJP MLA, ebulliently announced on Twitter that his test reports on Monday were negative.

A day earlier, he had tested positive.

## Cabinet approves 1.64L-crore plan to revive BSNL

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a 1.64 lakh crores revival package for the merger of Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) into the state-owned

de-stress the balance sheet and expansion of fibre network of the company."

The government, Mr Vaishnav said, is also approving sovereign guarantee bond issuance



telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The move by the government aims at not only improving the quality of BSNL services and de-stressing the balance sheet, but also to expand the fibre reach of the company.

The government is also approving sovereign guarantee bond issuance for the cash-strapped BSNL to repay its bank loans as the state-run telecom service provider is saddled with a hefty bank debt worth ~33,000 crores. However, the government wants to convert such huge statutory dues into equity to help improve BSNL's financial health and to see a turnaround of the company by FY'27.

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav said, "The Union Cabinet today approved a Rs 1.64 lakh crores package for the revival of state-owned telecom firm BSNL where the package has a cash component of Rs 43,964 crores and a non-cash component of Rs 1.2 lakh crores spread over four years. The package has three elements -- to improve services,

for BSNL to repay bank loans. "The state-run telecom service provider has Rs 33,000 crores as bank debt. Post package, BSNL will be able to expand 4G services to raise ARPU to Rs 170-180. Besides, the administrative allocation of spectrum for 4G and 5G services for BSNL has also

been approved by the Cabinet," he added. The minister further said, "The combined fibre network of BSNL and BBNL will be of around 14 lakh km and the government expects high-speed optical fibre services to get a boost across India, including in remote areas, after the BSNL-BBNL merger. The rollout of BSNL 4G services is expected in about 2 years and will significantly increase the revenue."

In a statement, the government also said that with these measures, BSNL will be able to improve the quality of existing services, roll out 4G services and become financially viable. "It is expected that with the implementation of this revival plan, BSNL will turnaround and earn a profit in FY 2026-27," it added. According to a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India statement issued on July 19, private access service providers had an 89.87 percent market share of wireless subscribers as of May 31, while BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, had a market share of only 10.13 percent.

## Airtel to launch 5G services later this month

NEW DELHI: out of 5G services in August. Our network of India." Bharti Airtel has



Bharti Airtel will start rolling out 5G services later this month as it signed requisite agreements with Ericsson, Nokia and Samsung.

At the recently held much-awaited spectrum auction for 5G services by the Department of Telecom, Airtel bid for and acquired 19867.8 MHz spectrum in 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 3300 MHz, and 26 GHz frequencies.

"We are delighted to announce that Airtel will commence roll

agreements are finalized and Airtel will work with the best technology partners from across the world to deliver the full benefits of 5G connectivity to our consumers," said Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO, of Airtel. "India's transition into a digital economy will be led by telecom and 5G presents a game-changing opportunity to drive the digital transformation of industries, enterprises and the socio-economic development

made bids worth Rs 43,084 crore in the 5G spectrum auction that concluded on Monday. Bharti Airtel is the second biggest bidder amongst the four participants. Reliance Jio was the biggest bidder accounting for 58.65 per cent of the total valued at Rs 150,173 crore. Reliance Jio, Adani group, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea are the four major participants in the spectrum auction. 5G is the fifth-gen-

eration mobile network capable of transmitting a large set of data at a very rapid speed. In comparison to 3G and 4G, 5G has a very low latency which will enhance user experiences in various sectors. Low latency describes the efficiency to process a very high volume of data messages with a minimal delay. 5G services are expected to be about 10 times faster than 4G. The 5G rollout in India is also expected to bring more development in remote data monitoring in sectors such as mining, warehousing, telemedicine, and manufacturing, among others. Allocation of spectrums to the telecom operators is expected before August 15, and the initial 5G services in the country will start subsequently in several Indian cities.



## Serena Williams drops hint at retirement from Tennis



Serena Williams has dropped a hint that she's planning to retire after winning her singles match on the WTA Tour. Williams defeated Spain's Nuria Parrizas-Diaz in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 at the National Bank Open in Canada. This is her first victory in 430 days.

"I guess there's just

a light at the end of the tunnel. I don't know, I'm getting closer to the light, so... lately that's been it for me. I can't wait to get to that light," she said post-match.

According to reports, she added: "I love playing, though... but, you know, I can't do this forever. Sometimes

you just want to try your best to enjoy the moments, and do the best that you can."

Toronto Open 2022: Serena Williams earns first win of season

Serena's older sister Venus was also in action in Canada but fell to a 6-2, 6-3 defeat to Jil Teichmann of Switzerland.

A further hint that both Williams sisters were set to retire was dropped by the tournament's chief Karl Hale, after the director revealed this year's outing was set to be their final Canadian Open. He said: "The two of them have a really special place with me and I have a very close relationship with them.

## Real Madrid looks to keep momentum at UEFA Super Cup

MADRID: Real Madrid wants to start the new season the same way it ended the last one — winning a trophy. Madrid won the Champions League in its final match last season, and on Wednesday it begins

a European trophy. Madrid ended last season on a high after comfortably winning the Spanish league and overcoming poor performances to advance in the knockout stages of the Champions League.

34-year-old Benzema. The France striker was the top scorer in the Spanish league and the Champions League. He scored 44 goals in 45 matches with Madrid, and equaled Raúl González as the club's

get a slap in the face so not everyone thinks things will continue like last season."

Frankfurt had not clinched a European title until winning the UEFA Cup in 1980. It won its lone German league title



the new season by taking on Europa League winner Eintracht Frankfurt in the UEFA Super Cup in Helsinki, Finland. It will be the teams' first competitive meeting since the 1960 European Cup final, when Madrid won its fifth straight European title at the time with a thrilling 7-3 win at Glasgow's Hampden Park. Ferenc Puskás scored four goals for Madrid and Alfredo Di Stéfano got a hat trick. Around 127,000 fans watched the match in what is still the highest attendance for a European Cup final.

Madrid is chasing its fifth Super Cup title, and first since 2017, while Frankfurt will be making its first Super Cup appearance following its shootout victory over Rangers in the Europa League final. That win ended the German club's 42-year wait for

It eventually clinched a record 14th European title in the final against Liverpool.

The Spanish powerhouse will be mostly unchanged going into 2022-23, led by Karim Benzema following his best season ever. Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo are also back in an attack that was dominant last season, and the midfield remains anchored by Casemiro, Luka Modric and Toni Kroos. The team's additions come with central defender Antonio Rüdiger and midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni. Isco Alarcón and Gareth Bale left after their contracts expired, but the club did not replace them despite the disappointment of failing to sign Kylian Mbappé from Paris Saint-Germain. Instead Madrid is hoping for another impressive season up front from the

second-highest scorer with 323 goals, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (451).

Benzema scored twice in his two preseason games — a 2-2 draw with Mexican club América and a 2-0 win over Juventus — and did not play in Madrid's 1-0 loss to Barcelona. Madrid will play its Spanish league opener on Sunday at promoted Almería.

Frankfurt's season has already started. It routed second-division club Magdeburg 4-0 in the first round of the German Cup, then lost 6-1 at home to Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga opener on Friday, when the visitors led 5-0 at halftime. "On Wednesday we have the opportunity to do better against an opponent that's just as strong," Frankfurt coach Oliver Glasner said. "Sometimes it's good to

in 1959, and since then it has won five German Cups, the last in 2018. The match at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium will be the first UEFA club competition final to be held in Finland, though the venue previously also staged the final of the women's European Championship in 2009.

Semi-automated offside technology will be used for the first time in a European club competition. The new system operates with cameras that can track 29 different body points per player and will allow video review teams to determine offside situations more quickly and accurately, according to UEFA.

The system was tested at the women's Euro 2022 in England and in the Champions League last season. It was also approved by FIFA for the World Cup in Qatar,

## Chess Olympiad: Gukesh rues moment of madness

MAHABALIPURAM: "If I'm going to kill myself, I am going to do it after the last round." That was what D Gukesh was thinking to himself after his loss to Nodirbek Abdusattorov in the 10th round of the chess Olympiad on Monday.

The loss cost India B dearly. If Gukesh had won or drawn the game -- he was in control of proceedings till the end game -- the tie would have gone in their favour. It would have also put them in the perfect spot to seal gold ahead of the final round.

After Gukesh & Co expectedly beat Germany on

the final day to win bronze ahead of the senior Indian team, the 16-year-old, who had cried while leaving the venue on Monday, called it 'as a moment of madness' and 'stupid'. But he was also mindful of his performance in a campaign that has shown that he can mix and match with the best. He beat the likes of Fabiano Caruana, Alexei Shirov and Gabriel Sargissian while drawing the likes of Shakhriyar Mamedyarov. All of the above-mentioned names are at least 14 years his senior and are more experienced in dealing with pressure situations.

This wasn't lost on the teenager who finished with nine points from a possible 11, the best performance by an Indian in this Olympiad. "Overall, it's been a very enjoyable event," he said. "The performance has been special. I did not expect to play so well, but it could easily have been better. Yesterday (Monday), I played an extremely good game. I completely outplayed my opponent, and then a moment of madness. We could have had a great chance of gold medal if I had won or drawn it. But these things happen. It is a great learning experience for me."

The biggest learning he picked up from the Olympiad is falling short on time. "Against Abdusattorov, I had a completely winning position. But I was spending a lot of time trying to find the best move. I got into time trouble eventually. That is something that has already happened to me. I repeated the

same mistake, which was quite stupid." He felt slightly better about himself after Viswanathan Anand, team mentor, paid them a visit.

"Anand tried to cheer me up," he said. "He said these things have happened a lot of times in his career. He was showing examples of the times he lost from winning positions. I felt better after that. That such a great player has also gone through the things that I am going through."

Gukesh also quashed suggestions that he had lost a bit of his sharpness after playing in 100 rounds. If anything, he claimed that it helped him.

Chess Olympiad: Tradition's turn on the board

"I don't think playing all 11 games affected me. It only helped me because I got into the flow from the start of the event. I scored 8/8, and to rest me would have been quite a bad decision. If someone is in such great form, it is usually better to keep going. One minute of complete madness and the team's whole chances are gone. But a lot of things went my way. I won against Caruana

and overall, I should not be complaining."

Gukesh also lavished praise on his coach, Vishnu Prasanna, who has worked with him for the last five years. One of the unorthodox things they do is focus on the mental aspect. Gukesh recognised this as an important facet of their training sessions. "My coach has been a tremendous support for the last five years. He has really improved my game and the psychological aspect of the game as well. We talk a lot about how to handle myself during tournaments. That has really improved my mental stability." Apart from that 'one moment of madness', Gukesh, making his over-the-board Olympiad debut, demonstrated that throughout the tournament, including in big clashes against some of the best players. The end result? His live ratings stand at 2725.2, an increase of 26.2 points across the 11 rounds. It's the best jump by an elite player featuring at the Olympiad.



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