

PM Modi declares open 44th Chess Olympiad, says in sports there are no losers

CHENNAI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared open the FIDE 44th Chess



Olympiad here on Thursday, and encouraging the players, said that in sports there are no losers but winners and future winners. The Chess Olympiad is hosted by India at a special time in its history, which marks 75 years of freedom from colonial rule, he said. In his address during the inaugural at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Modi said it is an honour to have international chess players at a such a special time. "In sports there are no losers, there are winners and there are future winners," he said. Nehru indoor stadium in Chennai dazzles as 44th Chess Olympiad gets underway. The Prime Minister, as in the events held in Tamil Nadu in the past began his speech by

uttering the Tamil word for greetings, 'Vanakkam.' He said that in a short period of time, the organisers have made outstanding arrangements. The Tamil Nadu government along with the Centre's full support is hosting the event.

Assuring the best hospitality to players from far and wide, Modi quoted the 'Athithi Devo Bhava' slogan which means

'our guests are like God.' Also, the Prime Minister cited Tamil saint poet Tiruvalluvar's couplet on the significance of hospitality.

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Chief Minister M K Stalin, Union Ministers Anurag Thakur and L Murugan among others were present during the glittering opening ceremony.

The sporting event will be held in the nearby Mamallapuram, about 50 km from here.

The Olympiad is being held in India for the first time ever, after being moved out of Russia following its invasion of Ukraine and has attracted a record number of entries in the Open (188) and women's (162) sections.

Have faith in justice delivery system: Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday called upon the newly recruited Assistant Public Prosecutors (APPs) to devote wholeheartedly to serve people and help realise the vision of a just and equitable society. Addressing an orientation programme of 41 newly recruited APPs, organised at the convention centre of the Lok Seva Bhawan, the Chief Minister

said, "Everyone is equal before law. This should not just remain a maxim. The poorest of the poor should experience it and should have absolute faith in our justice delivery system."

Congratulating the APPs, the Chief Minister said most of the new recruits are highly qualified having varied experience in different courts of the state. This augurs well for the

Ready to lift suspensions if MPs apologise and go by rules: Centre

New Delhi(KCN): As the government on Wednesday said that it will recommend that the suspension of Opposition MPs be revoked by the Chair if they apologise and as-

House. With this, 24 Opposition MPs — 20 from the Rajya Sabha and four from the Lok Sabha — have been suspended from the ongoing session of Parliament for their

Rajya Sabha. Soon after the House met for the Question Hour at noon, the deputy chairman Harivansh invoked Rule 256 and named Singh for tearing papers and throwing it

Muralidharan moved a motion to suspend Singh from the House for the remainder of the week. The motion was adopted by voice vote, even as Opposition members continued to raise uproar in the well of the House.

However, the government took a reconciliatory stand in the afternoon when the Opposition members in the Lok Sabha raised the issue and sought revocation of the MPs' suspension. Reacting to the Opposition's appeal, the parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi said, "With the Speaker's permission, we are ready to withdraw, but are you ready to take guarantee that they will not come inside with placards and will not come into the



sures that henceforth no placards will be shown in the House, Rajya Sabha adopted a motion to suspend Aam Aadmi Party member Sanjay Singh for the remaining part of the week for his "unruly behaviour" in the

alleged unruly behaviour and creating a ruckus in Parliament.

The suspension of AAP MP Singh comes a day after 19 MPs from Opposition were suspended for their unruly behaviour in the

at the Chair on Tuesday. The deputy chairman said Singh's action was in utter disregard of the rules and the authority of the Chair. Soon thereafter, minister of state for parliamentary affairs

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Amid war, Russia, Ukraine seal landmark grain deal to relieve global food crisis

ISTANBUL(KCN): Ukraine and Russia on Friday signed a landmark deal aimed at relieving a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain deliveries, ending months of negotiations and sending wheat prices tumbling to levels last seen before Moscow's invasion. The first major deal between the warring parties since the February invasion of Ukraine should help ease the "acute hunger" that the United Nations says faces an additional 47 million people because of the war.

Odisha Finance Minister rebuts Oppositions rising corruption charge

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State government on Wednesday dismissed Opposition's allegations of rise in corruption cases and claimed that it has taken tough measures to stop the PC (percentage commission) culture. Responding to the adjournment motion on rising PC culture in the State moved by Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari said in the

The hostility between Moscow and Kyiv spilled over into the

same document as the Russians. The two sides even-

Tayyip Erdogan at Istanbul's lavish Dolmabahce Palace.



signing ceremony -- delayed briefly by disputes about the display of flags around the table and Ukraine's refusal to put its name on the

actually inked separate but identical agreements in the presence of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep

"Today, there is a beacon on the Black Sea -- a beacon of hope, a beacon of possibility, a beacon of relief," Guterres said

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Kim threatens to use nukes amid tensions with US, S. Korea

SEOUL(KCN): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned he's ready to use his nuclear weapons in potential military conflicts with the United States and South Korea, state media said Thursday, as he unleashed fiery rhetoric against rivals he says are pushing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

Kim's speech to war veterans on the 69th anniversary of the end of the 1950-53 Korean War was apparently meant to boost internal unity in the impoverished country amid pandemic-related economic difficulties. While Kim has increasingly threatened his rivals with nuclear weapons, it's unlikely that he would use them first against the superior militaries of the U.S. and its allies, observers say.

"Our armed forces are completely prepared to respond to any crisis, and our country's nuclear war deterrent is also ready to mobilize its absolute power dutifully, exactly and swiftly in accordance with its mission," Kim said in Wednesday's speech, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. He accused the United States of "demonizing" North Korea to justify its hostile policies. He said U.S.-South Korea military drills targeting North Korea show the U.S.'s "double standards" and "gangster-like" aspects because it brands North Korea's routine military activities — an apparent reference to its missile tests — as provocations or threats.

Kim also alleged the new South Korean gov-

ernment of President Yoon Suk Yeol is led by "confrontation maniacs" and "gangsters" who have gone further than previous South Korean conservative governments. Since taking office in May, the Yoon government has moved to strengthen Seoul's military alliance with the United States and bolster its capacity to neutralize North Korean nuclear threats including a preemptive strike capability.

"Talking about military action against our na-



tion, which possesses absolute weapons that they fear the most, is preposterous and is very dangerous suicidal action," Kim said. "Such a dangerous attempt will be immediately punished by our powerful strength and the Yoon Suk Yeol government and his military will be annihilated."

Moon Hong-sik, a deputy spokesperson at the South Korean Defense Ministry, reiterated Thursday an earlier position that South Korea has been boosting its military capacity and joint defense posture with the United States to cope with escalating North Korean nuclear threats. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the military maintains a firm readiness. In April, Kim said North Korea could preemptively use nuclear

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The Heritage School Kolkata's annual fest Youthopia 2022 ignites young minds

Kolkata (KCN): The Heritage School, Kolkata hosted its annual fest, 'Youthopia 2022' today i.e. 28th July 2022 and it will continue till 30th July. The inaugural ceremony of the Fest organized today was graced by Ms. Sudipta Chakarborty & Ms. Priyanka Sarkar, Indian Film Actresses as the Chief Guests fol-

lowed by Mr. Shaurya Bhattacharya, an alumnus of The Heritage School and also a Tollywood Actor as the Guest of Honour. The programme started with a lamp lighting ceremony graced by the dignitaries. Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School addressed the students making them aware of the essence of Youthopia and how it

had gained a momentum in the recent years. The Invocation of the Fest depicted a combination of physical, mental and spiritual practices which helps in the attainment of peace for everyone, everywhere. This was followed by a vibrant musical presentation with a combination of gusto and precision. During the inaugural

ceremony was also graced by Shri Probir Roy, Director, Kalyan Bharti Trust, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. "Youthopia is a euphoric and more extensive event that has gained tremendous popularity in Bengal.



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address, Ms Sudipta spoke about the School which focuses on overall development of the students. Ms. Priyanka congratulated the students for organizing such a great event in a big way. Our alumnus Mr. Shaurya Bhattacharya also ignited the young minds and recalled some of the nostalgic moments of his school days. He presented a dance from

Besides, many other indoor and outdoor events will also take place in different venues in the school premises. There will be two guest performances which are the star attractions. Lost Stories and Benny Dayal will make their performances on 29th and 30th July respectively. 19 schools across Kolkata confirmed their participation in the Fest. The inaugu-

ral ceremony was also graced by Shri Probir Roy, Director, Kalyan Bharti Trust, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. "Youthopia is a euphoric and more extensive event that has gained tremendous popularity in Bengal.

59 IPS posts Vacant

New Delhi(KCN): As many as 59 IPS posts of promotion quota are vacant in Odisha due to non-availability of eligible officers at Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) level. This was stated by Union Minister of State (MOS) Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai in Rajya Sabha while replying to a question of MP Amar Patnaik. In order to allocate an adequate number of IPS officers, the batch size of IPS (direct recruitment)

curity, training, forensics, cybercrime, traffic policing, etc., he said. These modern equipments also update digital and investigative expertise of police personnel. Further, construction and purchase of operational vehicles are also permitted in Jammu & Kashmir, the insurgency affected North-Eastern States and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts. Moreover, construction of police station buildings is allowed to all States and UTs from the current financial year, he informed the House. Under the scheme, the Inter-State Distribution Ratio decided in the year 2005 was based on the parameters like population (35 % weightage), sanctioned strength of police force (25%), number of police stations (15 %), and incidence of crime per lakh population (25%). The scheme has been extended to the Union Territories (UTs) from the financial year 2022-23. Therefore, the Inter-State/UT distribution ratio has been revised based on the latest available data in respect of these parameters. While deciding allocations, an amount of Rs. 2 crore is allocated to each State and an amount of Rs.50 lakh is allocated to each UT and thereafter the rest of the funds are allocated as per the approved ratio, added the MOS Home. Since State/UT-wise allocation is made on the basis of a neutral formula, there is no proposal to make any special allocation to Odisha, Minister Mr.Rai told BJD MP Mr.Patnaik in the written reply. However, any State/UT, including Odisha has an opportunity to claim more funds as incentives under the component of 'incentives for police reforms' for which 20% of the total annual budget allocations are separately provisioned, he clarified.



has been increased from 150 to 200 from Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2020. This increase has resulted in higher allocation of IPS officers to Odisha Cadre also, he said. However, 59 IPS posts of promotion quota are lying vacant in the State due to non-availability of eligible officers at DSP rank, said the Minister. Replying to another query on modernization of police force, Mr.Rai said although police is a State subject, under the scheme of Assistance to States for Modernization of Police (ASMP), the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments towards equipping and modernizing their police forces. Under this scheme, the States are provided central assistance for acquisition of advanced weaponry and equipment for intelligence, communication, se-

Barbil police nabbed culprits planning for robbery



Barbil(KCN): Barbil Police arrested three youths from a closed iron ore Crusher plant area (Sheetal Crusher) near Raika village under Barbil police station of Keonjhar district. According to reports, five youths were planning a

robbery with deadly weapons in the Barbil area. The Barbil police raided the crusher area after getting information from a source. Two of them fled away taking the advantage of the darkness. Police able to arrest three youths. They are Jaga Munda and

Suresh Munda from Raika village while Bijay Munda from Karakhendra village under Barbil police station. A country-made gun, one fake guns, masks, two mobile phones, beer bottles, a sword, a knife and one stolen Honda levo bikes

OD09G-1003 and a scooty vide no.JH06M - 1008 have been recovered from them. Sushant Dash IIC, Barbil police station said that while efforts are on to arrest the other two, the three arrested have been charged in the court.

Kashipur's cholera death toll rises to 13

BERHAMPUR(KCN): Amid the administration's claims of improving cholera situation, the unofficial death toll rose to 13 in Rayagada's Kashipur block after two more persons allegedly succumbed to the water-borne disease on Tuesday. The latest victims are Suni Majhi (56) of Tikiri village and Jhanu Majhi (55) of Sankarada. Both Suni and Jhanu had similar symptoms and died during treatment at home. However, district administration only confirmed the death of Suni due to cholera. Rayagada Collector Swadha Dev Singh said a medical team stationed at Tikiri village was treating Suni. After her condition deteriorated in the morning, she was rushed to the nearby hospital where she succumbed.

teams have been deployed in the affected villages. On the other hand, the health teams are facing an uphill task to reach affected villages sans motorable roads. A health worker on condition of anonymity said, "We have to cross nullahs which are now filled with rainwater. This is why we are not able to reach the affected areas in time." Similarly, despite directive from the Collector, it is



The Collector claimed that the cholera situation was improving. The daily caseload has come down. Earlier 70-80 cases were reported on a daily basis but now, the numbers have dropped to 60 per day. The current strain of cholera is highly virulent and a patient needs immediate treatment, she said. Sources said even after 21 days, cholera continues to spread in Kashipur. The total number of cholera infected persons in the block reached 315 which includes 13 deaths. Over 20 villages in the grip of the water-borne disease are under surveillance of mobile health teams. Chief district medical officer (CDMO) LM Routray put the cholera death toll at nine. He said health teams are distributing halazone tablets and advising villagers to consume boiled water. All possible measures are being taken to contain the spread of the disease. Over 300 health staff have been pressed into service in the affected areas and at least 297 villages in the block are under surveillance. Nine mobile health

difficult to supply safe drinking water in the affected villages due to lack of roads. Health officials claimed to have disinfected tube-wells and other sources of water in villages. But the heavy rain last week has again contaminated the sources of water resulting in unabated spread of the disease, said a member of the health team. Dysentery claims girl's life, 5 affected Berhampur: Dysentery claimed the life of a minor girl and affected five persons in Gobindpur village under Mohana block in Gajapati district on Wednesday. The affected persons including the nine-year-old girl were admitted to Mohana community health centre (CHC) after they suffered from loose motion and vomiting since Tuesday night. The girl succumbed during treatment while others are recovering, said Dr Namita Panda of the CHC. A team of health officials also rushed to the village with ORS packets and medicines. Consumption of contaminated water might be the reason of the disease, Dr Panda added.

8.80 lac unemployed

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State has a total of 8,80,175 unemployed youths, who have registered themselves with different employment exchange offices in the state, until April 30 this year. Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjana Gharai said this in a written reply to Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja in the State Assembly here on Tuesday. Out of the total registered unemployed youths, 5,81,676 are male and 2,98,499 are female. Highest 73,126 unemployed students have registered themselves in the state employment exchange, Bhubaneswar while 53,939 students of Puri district have registered in the district employment exchange. Similarly, 50,778 unemployed youths have registered in the district employment exchange, Rourkela in Sundergarh district, 39,003 youths in the employment exchange of Bargarh district and 36,711 in Cuttack district. As per the reply of the Minister, 34,052 unemployed youths have registered in the district employment exchange, Berhampur and 6642 in Berhampur University Employment Information and Guidance Bureau.

Moreover, 1534 students have registered with the special employment exchange for physical handicaps and 58,701 with the special employment exchange for SC/ST in Bhubaneswar. Mr.Gharai said that the government has no proposal to provide Rs 10,000 stipend to the unemployed youths till they get jobs. In another written reply, the Minister said 12,948 engineering graduates and 34,379 diploma pass out students have registered themselves with different employment exchanges of the state during the last five years. Only 26 engineering graduates and 257 diploma holders have got jobs through the employment exchanges. Besides, 5126 diploma holders and 10612 ITI pass-out students have been recruited through the central placement cell, he said. Informing about the steps taken by the Government for employment of educated youths, Mr.Gharai said different skill development training like soft skill training, employability skill test and industrial training is being provided to engineering graduates.

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Shanthnu Bhagyaraj joins Vijay's 'Thalapathy 64'



After back-to-back Thalopathy 64 updates over the past two days, it is clear that the makers of the film are keen to capitalise on the trend. Today, they have announced yet another detail about the Lokesh Kanagaraj directorial. As we had earlier speculated, actor Shanthnu Bhagyaraj has indeed been roped in for Vijay's upcoming film, which already boasts of a stellar cast that includes names such as Vijay Sethupathi and Angamaly Diaries-fame Antony Varghese. This project will have Anirudh Ravichander composing for a Vijay film for the second time after Kaththi. Sathyan Sooryan, who is the cinematographer for Lokesh's upcoming film, Kaithi, will handle camera duties in Thalopathy 64 as well. Bankrolled by Xavier Britto of XB Film Creators, Thalopathy 64 is also speculated to feature Malavika Mohanan, and this might be the update that the makers are expected to announce later today.

Weird that women still need to protest for rights, says Shruti Haasan



MUMBAI(KCN): Actress Shruti Haasan has raised question over why women still feel the need to protest for their rights, not only in India but all around the world. "People organise marches and protests for women's rights and I find it weird that we still feel the need to do these protests for women's safety and equality rights. It has been happening for years. I do believe there is a change in the scenario but I feel sad that the problem still exists," said Shruti, while interacting with the media at an RPG Foundation-

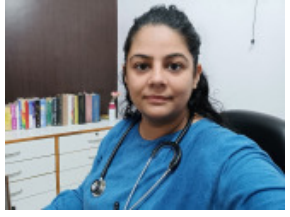
organised get-together for women who work under their CSR initiative on Tuesday in Mumbai. ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan's latest to cross over to Hollywood She added: "I don't feel it is happening only in our country. It is happening all around the world. When you look at international news, you realise this topic comes up many times." Asked what she felt about the fact that there were lesser female-centric films made in India, she said: "I think slowly things are changing. Films are

being made that are rooted around women characters, so change is taking place. But it should have happened bit earlier." ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan to have break-up song in her debut EP Talking about Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, Shruti said: "It's such an important day and important part of our history. My father (Kamal Haasan) really believes in his philosophies." Shruti Haasan will next be seen in an untitled film directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, along with Vidyut Jammwal.

'Joker' review: Solid filmmaking, messy politics In many of its seedy street side shots, Todd Phillips's Joker focuses on a theatre and clearly shows the titles playing. There is Zorro the Gay Blade, which came out in 1981, a time that seems closer to the mood this film is going for – the late 70s and impending Reagan era vibe of New York that it lends Gotham City. But the more interesting title it shows is probably Ace in the Hole. Is it the Billy Wilder film? It's a film that hints at media manipulation and Joker insists on a kind of manipulation by everything from TV, press to upbringing and economic condition that drives Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) to become the murderous eponymous character. Ace in the Hole was also one of Wilder's famous critical and commercial failures. Failure and rejection are important driving forces in this film that's more honest and focused on its visual splendour than it is on the condition and circumstances that create the space for a turn like that of Arthur Fleck's to Joker. Also, who refers to Harvey Dent as "ace in the hole"? Heath Ledger's Joker in The Dark Knight. ALSO READ: There are many ways to see 'Joker', says director Todd Phillips The Gotham City and its socio-economic atrophy that writers Phillips and Scott Silver envision can come across as unconvincing and out of context. It talks of class issues but without clear markers for the oppression it wants us to zero in on.

Monsoon diseases and Homeopathic treatment

Monsoon brings with it relief from heat waves as well as illnesses. The high moisture content in the air enables harmful microorganisms to thrive, resulting in the transmission of a number of diseases.



Your risk of being exposed to multiple viruses, bacteria, and other infections is two times higher during the monsoon than in any other season.

The most common diseases during monsoons are transmitted through 4 major mediums: mosquitoes, water, air, and contaminated food.

There is doctor in our body to heal by fighting viruses and bacteria known as IgG, IgM, Helper T cells, Macrophages, if there is alteration in these immunity fighters may be because of stress, change in weather or any external or internal cause then immunity falls short later bacterias and viruses overpower to cause diseases.

Some recovers its own after period of 3-5 days, those who don't get the symptoms of High grade fever, Headaches, Bodyache, Rashes, weakness, dullness accompanied with vomiting, nausea, diarrhoea, Joint pains, etc.

Anyone can be at risk of all these illnesses but children are more prone due to developing immunity.

The life style of bhatra 's (one of tribal community)

Bhatra is one of the tribals of odisha, mostly inhabiting in southern part of odisha namely un divided koraput ie in nabarangapur district. They depend almost on agriculture and collecting their needs from the forests. Documentary evidences are there to prove that they are migrated from bastar (c.g.). They are the part of great gond community. Their language is basturi. Family is the grass root unit of society. Joint families are very few. Either after marriage or death of parents the joint families break into small units. They have no laziness in their mind & body, but always remain vigilant and active. Most of the time they like jatra groups. The structure of their village is heterogeneous as different sub-castes like amanatya, combo, and rana do live there. Every village has a prominent head known as naik, a religious head known as pujari, a medicinist known as dishari and an attendant known as gonda. Gonda, generally belongs to dombo, whereas all the others are in same caste. They have a traditional panchayat, where naik, pujari, dishari and gonda are the important persons members to play vital roles in solving any problem within the village. If any inter village disputes arises then bhatnaik and panigrahi are to solve the problem. To assist them a desia gondo would be appointed. Any offence that is not solved within the village, is transferred to deshi panchayat and the decision of deshi panchayat will be final and all have to obey and carry out the decision.

Letter to Editor

Right to Repair is a good move

Finally, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs announced that it will soon establish a framework for the country's right to repair and has already been formed a committee of experts on the right to repair. This appears to be a positive step. Agricultural equipment, cell phones (including keypad and touchscreen smartphones), laptops, vehicles, and all other electronic commodities may fall under the proposed framework. Since decades, manufacturers have been pressuring customers to buy new equipment even when repairs are both affordable and practical. In order to encourage consumers to not continue using the original manufacturer for after-sales, service, or repair, the Right to Repair concept asks manufacturers to publish complete picture and all details of their products while they are being sold. The proposed structure will also guarantee that spare parts for repairs are easily accessible, which has been one of consumers' top concerns (for decades in India) when approaching manufacturers for services and repairs mainly in automobile sectors. Manufacturers have so far refused to release repair manuals and have instead claimed ownership of the spare components. It is hoped that the law will also give customers the option to visit the company's service facilities that are more accessible and possibly more affordable. Now that they will be forced to do so by the proposed new law, they will have to provide complete information and access to manuals, diagrams, software updates and among other things.

Yours,
Vijaykumar H.K., Raichur

nesses but children are more prone due to developing immunity.

The Most common Monsoon related diseases are:

- A) Mosquito borne diseases like Malaria, Dengue, chikungunia
- B) Water borne diseases like Typhoid, Cholera, Leptospirosis, Jaundice, Gastrointestinal Infections, Hepatitis A.
- C) Air-borne diseases like Cold & Flu, Influenza.
- D) Contaminated food by not keeping cleanliness.

What precautions to be taken for prevention of the diseases ?

- A) Use mosquito nets in your house.
- B) Don't allow water to stagnate or collect anywhere in and around the house.
- C) Maintain hygiene and wash your bathrooms regularly.
- D) Use mosquito repellants/creams before stepping out of the house.
- E) Always boil water and wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before consumption.
- F) Keep your foods covered at all times and avoid consumption of outside food.
- G) Ensure personal and environmental

Dr Deepti Gambhir

hygiene is maintained at all times.

- H) Cover your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing.
- I) Drink warm water every few hours and carry your own boiled drinking water.
- J) Keep your children away from people who are already infected and ensure they wash their hands and feet thoroughly once home from outdoors.
- K) Ensure your homes are well-ventilated at all times.

Not every person or child suffers from illness due to change in weather but it affect those with low immunity esp in children and old individuals.

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Pratap Chandra Sahu

by service. Arranged marriage is the time consuming

and expensive as it has different steps like mangani, sugajanki, chidni, gajjicne joli and then marriage. It takes place at the groom's house and it continues for 8 to 10 days. During these days feasts are arranged by both the parties regularly and the dishari plays a vital role during this period. Heavy expenditures are to be incurred by the parties.

The name giving ceremony to newly born child is in normally celebrated on the 9th day. The dishari selects the name for the child. All the villagers spend the night in dance, song, and feast mainly on wine and meat arranged by the child's father. The first hair cutting ceremony is also observed after completion of one year of the child. The thread ceremony is also celebrated before marriage.

Bhatra bury their dead body in sleeping position, pilakhai, asha, and purigication are observed on 3rd, 10th & 11th day of the death of a deceased. They have strong faith & belief on spirit, god, & goddess like budhi thakurani, bhairabi, barumas, banadurga, sun god & others. They observe different festivals at different times like chaiti parab in chaitra masa linked with fertility and production, akhitrutia in baisakh connected to sowing seeds and worshipping to basumata, in shraban uans, in bhadrab nuankhai, in aaswina dasahara, in kartik diwalli, in pausa puspuni and in magha surya jatra.

They also perform dances like cherchera and dauni damal. In cherchera both male & female participate seperately. But dauni damat only females dance. Bhatras consult their dishari before constructing

patient, so each child or person has different medicine based on symptom similarity. For example Arsenic album is thought to be given for cold and cough, but it will act on those individuals who has symptoms of it, else it won't act. So, we at Holistic Cure Homoeopathic Clinic choose medicine wisely and prescribe it.

Here are some common remedies one can give if symptoms of person matches with remedy:-

- A) Arsenic album - Great Prostration, mental restlessness, anxious and fearful with burning pains, great thirst for cold water, aggravation midnight, better by heat in general.
- B) Belladonna - Redness of face and eyes, sensitive to draft of air, tonsils become inflamed after riding in cold air, congestive headaches.
- C) Calcarea Carb - timid, tired easily, flabby muscles, sweat easily, and takes cold readily, coldness of single parts, sensitive to cold damp air, delayed dentition.
- D) Dulcamara - Catarrhal Rheumatism or skin affections, brought on or aggravated by exposure to cold, damp, rainy weather, or sudden changes in hot weather, perspiration suppressed from cold.

their houses and dishari's decision is final. Everyone has to accept his decision. Their houses are of straw roofed having two to three rooms and wide covered verandah. Cooking is done inside the room, the walls are made of wood, pasted with mud. They use earthen pots made by potter for carrying and storing water, all the other household materials and useful for cooking purposes. They know wet cultivation. They work hard as possible as they can in field and outside the field. They produce varieties of vegetarian products.

They believe in simple living and high thinking. They are simple, obedient and faithful. They put on shirts, banians. They also wear khadi along with balaon their ears. The females wear saree, glass, or rubber bangles, khadus of alloy, silver ear rings, glass beard neckless, metal neckless. Rings silver alloy are found on their fingers & toes and phud on their legs.

But their life style has been improved gradually. They depend on hospitals for treatment. They use vehicles for their convenience. The life style of bhatras are guided and moulded by different factors from time to time. They are given scopes to enter govt. services in many sectors. They have restricted to sacrifice of fowled, cocks extent but however the sacrifice of goat or sheeps are still there. They go hotels, cinema halls, enjoy themselves. They attend public meeting, however they enter into politics, so there is a numerous change in case of bhatras' life style. They consume t.v., washing machine and freeze like others. They wear gold ornaments. Now they cultivate with modern cultivation system.

Nabarangapur

India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 'Vikrant' handed over to Indian Navy

NEW DELHI: Indian Navy took the delivery of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 'Vikrant' from Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi on Thursday.

"Indian Navy has created maritime history today by taking delivery of the prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (AC) 'Vikrant' from her builder Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi. Designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by CSL, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping (MoS), the carrier is christened after her illustrious predecessor, India's first Aircraft Carrier which played a vital role in the 1971 war. Coinciding with the celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the reincarnation of Vikrant is a true testimony to the country's zeal and

fervour in pursuing capability build up towards enhanced maritime security," said the Indian Navy.

The 262-meter-long carrier has a full displacement of close to 45,000 tonnes which is much larger and more advanced than her predecessor. The ship is powered by four Gas Turbines totalling 88 MW power and has a maximum speed of 28 Knots. Built at an overall cost of close to Rs 20,000 crores, the project has been progressed in three Phases of contract between MoD and CSL, concluded in May 2007, Dec 2014 and Oct 2019 respectively. The ship's keel was laid in Feb 2009, followed by launching in Aug 2013.

With an overall indigenous content of 76 per cent, IAC is a perfect example of the nation's quest for "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" and provides a thrust to Government's 'Make in India' initiative. With the de-

livery of Vikrant, India has joined a select group of nations having the niche capability to indigenously design and build an Aircraft Carrier. Vikrant has been built with a high degree of automation

in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy). Using a novel aircraft-operation mode known as STOBAR (Short Take-Off but

Wartsila India etc. as well as over 100 MSMEs. The indigenisation efforts have also led to the development of ancillary industries, besides the generation of employment opportunities and bolster-

to become self-sufficient with respect to warship steel. Today all the warships being built in the country are being manufactured using indigenous steel, added the Navy. Several design it-

Delivery of Vikrant was marked by the signing of acceptance documents on behalf of the Indian Navy by the Commanding Officer Designate of Vikrant, representatives of Naval Headquarters and Warship Overseeing Team (Kochi) and by the Chairman and Managing Director on behalf of Cochin Shipyard Ltd., in the presence of Senior officers of Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard.

Vikrant has been delivered to the Indian Navy by CSL following extensive user acceptance trials conducted between Aug 2021 and Jul 2022, during which ship's performance, including hull, main propulsion, PGD, auxiliary equipment, aviation facilities, weapon & sensors as well as sea keeping & manoeuvring capabilities were proved satisfactory in accordance with trial protocols and system parameters. The delivery of Vikrant today is the

culmination of a long design, build and trials phase, during which both the Indian Navy and CSL had to overcome a multitude of unprecedented technical and logistic challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and changed geo-political scenario.

The successful delivery of the indigenous carrier, a major milestone activity and historical event, is testimony to the dedicated efforts of large number of stakeholders within Indian Navy, shipyard, industry, OEMs & MSMEs for over two decades, claimed the Navy. The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier would soon be commissioned into the Indian Navy as Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant which would bolster India's position in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its quest for a blue water Navy.



for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability, and has been designed to accommodate an assortment of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. The ship would be capable of operating an air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising of MIG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-

role helicopters, in Arrested Landing), the IAC is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of 'arrestor wires' for their recovery onboard.

The ship has a large number of indigenous equipment and machinery, involving major industrial houses in the country viz. BEL, BHEL, GRSE, Keltron, Kirloskar, Larsen & Toubro,

ing plough back effect on the economy, both locally as well as pan-India.

A major spin-off of this is the development and production of indigenous warship-grade steel for the ship through a partnership between the Navy, DRDO and Steel Authority of India (SAIL), which has enabled the country

erations, including the use of 3D Virtual Reality models and advanced engineering software, were used by the Directorate of Naval Design in shaping the design of the carrier. CSL had also upgraded their shipbuilding infrastructure as well as enhanced productivity skills during the building of the ship.

Biden, Xi talk more than 2 hours at time of US-China tension

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping held the fifth conversation of their presidencies on Thursday, speaking for more than two hours as they chart the future of their complicated relationship at a time of simmering economic and geopolitical tensions. The call began at 8:33

has been House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan, the island that governs itself democratically and receives informal defensive support from the US, but which China considers part of its territory. Beijing has said it would view such a trip as a provocation, a threat

"not a good idea" for the speaker to visit the island at the moment. John Kirby, a US national security spokesman, said Wednesday that it was important for Biden and Xi to regularly touch base. "The president wants to make sure that the lines of communication with President Xi remain

open because they need to," Kirby told reporters at a White House briefing. "There are issues where we can cooperate with China on, and there are issues where obviously there are friction and tension." Biden and Xi last spoke in March, shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "This is one of the most consequential bilateral relationships in the world today, with ramifications well beyond both individual countries," Kirby said. The conversation comes as Biden has moved to shift US reliance off Chinese manufacturing, including Senate passage Wednesday of legislation to encourage semiconductor compa-

IAF fighter aircraft crashes in Barmer

BARMER: An Indian Air Force's fighter aircraft Thursday crashed in Rajasthan's Barmer district, the collector said.



"It was an IAF plane that crashed near Bhimda village in Baytoo," Barmer District Collector Lok Bandu.

Indian Navy gets two MH-60R helicopters from the US



KOCHI: The Indian Navy on Thursday received two MH-60R multi-role helicopters manufactured by USA's Lockheed Martin Corporation at Kochi International Airport. The new helicopters will be initially based at Naval Air Station INS Garuda in Kochi and will be put through intensive flying trials for integration into the Indian Navy fleet. A C-17 special air assign-

ment mission flight of the US Air Force touched down at Kochi airport on Thursday carrying two MH-60R helicopters. The third helicopter will be delivered in August. The three helicopters will be inducted into the Indian Navy in August. As per the deal, the US will complete the delivery of 24 helicopters in 2025. The MH-60R is one of the most advanced

maritime helicopters in the world and is designed to operate from frigates destroyers and aircraft carriers. It has advanced features for anti-submarine warfare and will replace the ageing fleet of British Westland Seaking anti-submarine helicopters used by the Navy for surveillance and search and rescue operations. The Indian government had signed a let-

ter of acceptance with the US government in February 2020 for the procurement of 24 MH-60R helicopters. The first three helicopters were delivered in the US in 2021. The three helicopters are being utilised to train Indian pilots and crew members. The first batch of pilots has returned after training and the second batch is currently undergoing training in the US.



am EDT and ended at 10:50 am EDT, according to the White House. It took place as Biden aims to find new ways to work with the rising global power as well as strategies to contain China's influence around the world. Differing perspectives on global health, economic policy and human rights have long tested the relationship, with China's refusal to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine adding further strain. "The two heads of state had in-depth communication and exchanges on China-US relations and issues of mutual concern," China Central Television reported on its website. The latest pressure point

US officials are taking with heightened seriousness in light of Russia's incursion into Ukraine. "If the US insists on going its own way and challenging China's bottom line, it will surely be met with forceful responses," Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry, told reporters earlier this week. "All ensuing consequences shall be borne by the US." Pelosi would be the highest-ranking US elected official to travel to Taiwan since Republican Newt Gingrich visited the island in 1997 when he was House speaker. Biden last week told reporters that US military officials believed it was

open because they need to," Kirby told reporters at a White House briefing. "There are issues where we can cooperate with China on, and there are issues where obviously there are friction and tension." Biden and Xi last spoke in March, shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "This is one of the most consequential bilateral relationships in the world today, with ramifications well beyond both individual countries," Kirby said. The conversation comes as Biden has moved to shift US reliance off Chinese manufacturing, including Senate passage Wednesday of legislation to encourage semiconductor compa-

nies to build more high-tech plants in the US. Biden wants to marshal global democracies to support infrastructure investments in low- and middle-income nations as an alternative to China's "Belt and Road Initiative," which aims to boost China trade with other global markets. Kirby listed a number of areas of US-China friction that he said would be part of the conversation, including "tensions over Taiwan, tensions over". China's aggressive course of behavior in the Indo-Pacific outside of Taiwan, tensions in the economic relationship, and over China's reaction to Russia's war in Ukraine. Biden, who has kept in place Trump-era tariffs on many Chinese-manufactured goods in order to maintain leverage over Beijing, is weighing whether to ease at least some of them in a move to lessen the impact of soaring inflation on American households. US officials have also criticized China's "zero-COVID" policy of mass testing and lockdowns in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 in its territory, labeling it misguided and fretting that it will further slow global economic growth. Other points of strain include China's treatment of Uyghur Muslims, which the US has declared a genocide, its militarization in the South China Sea, and global campaign of economic and political espionage.

Biden emerges from covid isolation, asks public to take booster shots

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden ended his covid-19 isolation on Wednesday, telling Americans they can "live without fear" of the pandemic if they take advantage of booster shots and treatments, the protections he cred-

his approach has evolved. "Grandparents are hugging their kids and grandkids again. Weddings, birthdays, celebrations are happening in person again," Biden said. "Let's keep emerging from one



ited with his swift recovery.

"You don't need to be president to get these tools to be used for your defence," he said in the Rose Garden. "In fact, the same booster shots, the same at-home test, the same treatment that I got is available to you."

The pandemic has killed more than 1 million people in the U.S. and it continues to disrupt daily life more than two years after it began. But Biden emphasized that people are far less likely to die from the disease despite a wave of new infections caused by a contagious variant known as BA.5, which is believed to have sickened the president as well.

"You can live without fear by doing what I did," he said. "Get boosted, get tested and get treatment." He talked more about treatment than prevention, a sign of how the pandemic and

Singapore has shared changes in its invitation with Delhi govt: MEA on Kejriwal visit issue

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs Thursday said it had received a request last week for political clearance for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's visit to Singapore but it is given to understand that the host government has shared certain updates and changes in its invitation with the Delhi government. Asked about Delhi Chief Minister's political clearance request, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "As we conveyed last week, we received an entry on our political clearance portal on July 21." "Given to understand that the host government

of the darkest moments in our history." Biden drew a contrast to when President Donald Trump contracted covid-19 and was treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. "He was severely ill. Thankfully, he recovered," Biden said. "When I got covid, I worked from upstairs

in the White House." The difference, Biden said, is the availability of vaccines, treatments and home tests for catching infections early. It was Biden's first public appearance in person since he tested positive for covid-19 on July 21. He walked out of the White House on Wednesday wearing his trademark aviator glasses and a dark face mask, which his doctor said he'll continue wearing when in proximity to others for five more days.

White House staff assembled in the Rose Garden applauded Biden, who thanked them for their support as he finished his remarks. "God bless you all, and now I get to go back to the Oval Office," he said.

Biden tested negative for the virus on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, allowing him to end his isolation.

Singapore has shared certain updates and changes to its invitation with the Delhi government. I would request you to check with the Delhi government on what is the status of that," he said.

Kejriwal had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking permission to attend the summit. Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena has rejected the AAP government's request for Kejriwal's travel to Singapore, saying his attendance at the mayors' conference will set a "bad precedent". Last month, High Commissioner of Singapore, Simon Wong, invited Kejriwal for the World Cities Summit.

Slip of the tongue: Adhir on calling President Murmu 'rashtrapatni'



NEW DELHI: Referring to President Droupadi Murmu as 'rashtrapatni' was a "slip of the tongue", Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said on Thursday and accused the BJP of making a "mountain out of a molehill" over the issue.

The term was used only once by mistake and he never intended any disrespect to the president, Chowdhury said as the BJP stalled both houses of Parliament and asked Congress

president Sonia Gandhi to apologise to the nation.

"I inadvertently used the word 'rashtrapatni' just once and it was a slip of the tongue. I never meant any disrespect to the president," he told reporters outside Parliament.

"What should I do? I said it and realised I uttered a wrong word. I even looked for mediapersons who I had said this to, to request them to not focus on it. However, I couldn't find them," he added, a

day after the remark. Some ruling party members, the Congress leader added, are "deliberately trying to make a mountain out of a molehill".

"There is no question of an apology," he stated.

In a video message later, he said India's president, be it Brahmin or tribal, is respected by all.

Yesterday, when we were holding a protest at Vijay Chowk, journalists asked where we wanted to go. I said

'rashtrapatni' only once by mistake. I urged the journalists not to show my video where I committed a mistake. The BJP is creating a row over it now, he said.

According to Chowdhury, the BJP does not have anything on the party and is finding "masala" against it. "The issue is being blown out of proportion... I do not have the remotest intention of humiliating the highest chair of our country," Chowdhury said.

The variant that likely infected the president, BA.5, is an offshoot of the omicron strain that was first detected last year. It's now responsible for 82% of cases in the country, with its cousin BA.4 contributing another 13%. The summer wave of infections continues to disrupt society, particularly for people at high risk for severe disease who are encouraged to avoid exposure in places where transmission is high. The majority of people in the U.S. live in counties with high levels of spread and in those places, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend masks in indoor public spaces for everyone. However, mask mandates have largely faded. In Los Angeles County, where face coverings are required on trains and buses, a slight slowing in cases may spare authorities from imposing an expanded mask order.

The latest variants are able to evade protection offered by vaccination, but the combination of vaccines and booster shots still lowers the risk of hospitalization and death. More than 43,000 people in the U.S. are currently hospitalized with covid-19 and about 430 die each day.

Paxlovid, an antiviral drug used to treat covid-19, has also helped prevent more severe illnesses. Biden completed a five-day course on the pills. Dr. Kevin O'Connor, Biden's physician, wrote in Wednesday's update that the president remains free of fever and had not used Tylenol in the past 36 hours.

Biden's symptoms were almost "completely resolved," O'Connor reported. "Given these reassuring factors, the president will discontinue his strict isolation measures," the doc-

tor wrote.

By all accounts, Biden had a mild bout with the virus. O'Connor consistently wrote in his updates that Biden's vital signs remained strong, and his temperature only became briefly elevated. He suffered from a runny nose, cough, sore throat and some body aches. However, the infection was disruptive. Biden cancelled a trip to Pennsylvania, where he was going to detail his crime prevention plans and speak at a Democratic National Committee fundraiser, and skipped a long weekend at his family home in Delaware.

First lady Jill Biden went without him, and Biden was isolated in the White House residence. With voters already concerned about Biden's age — he turns 80 in November — his aides emphasized that he was working despite his illness.

They released photos of him talking on the phone, and Biden participated in virtual meetings with advisers. His voice was hoarse and he coughed through a conversation on Friday, but he had significantly improved after the weekend.

"I'm not keeping the same hours, but I'm meeting all the requirements that have come before me," Biden said Monday.

Although presidents benefit from household attendants, Biden's infection brought a few unglamorous glimpses of life with covid-19. Shortly before 7 a.m. on Monday, he said, he felt "the nuzzle of my dog's nose against my chest." "My wife's not here, she usually takes him out," he said. Then, during another meeting on Tuesday, the dog interrupted the conversation by barking in the background.




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Zenara Pharma gets CDSCO panel nod to manufacture Covid drug



NEW DELHI: Zenara Pharma on Thursday said it has received the CDSCO approval to manufacture and sell combination packs of Nirmatrelevir and Ritonavir tablets, indicated as an option for patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.

The approval by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has been granted under the emergency authorisation route, Zenara Pharma said in a statement.

The tablets will be sold under the brand 'Paxzen' and are being manufactured at the company's USFDA-approved facility in Hyderabad, it added.

The combination pack of Nirmatrelevir and

Ritonavir tablets is the generic equivalent of Pfizer's Paxlovid, which has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for COVID-19 treatment, it added.

"We expect to launch Paxzen in the next couple of weeks and are in talks with multiple institutions and several hospitals in India to ensure that the product is readily available for patients in need," Zenara Pharma CEO Srinivas Arutla said.

The company is also likely to tie up with other partners across India to increase patient coverage and has been inviting discussions on the same, Arutla added.

Amid war, Russia, Ukraine seal landmark grain deal to relieve global food crisis

Continued from page-1
moments before the signing.

Erdogan -- a key player in the negotiations who has good relations with both Moscow and Kyiv -- said the deal would "hopefully revive the path to peace".

But Ukraine entered the ceremony by bluntly warning that it would conduct "an immediate military response" should Russia violate the agreement and attack its ships or stage an incursion around its ports.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky later said the responsibility for enforcing the deal would fall to the UN, which along with Turkey is a co-guarantor of the agreement. 20 million tonnes of wheat

The agreement includes points on running Ukrainian grain ships along safe corridors that avoid known mines in the Black Sea.

Huge quantities of wheat and other grain have been blocked in Ukrainian ports by Russian warships and landmines Kyiv has laid to avert a feared amphibious assault.

Zelensky said that around 20 million tonnes of produce from last year's harvest and the current crop would be exported under the agreement, estimating the value of Ukraine's grain stocks at around \$10 billion.

Following the deal, wheat prices tumbled to levels last seen before Russia's invasion -- even as some analysts expressed scepticism about the accord.

In Chicago, the price of wheat for delivery in September dropped 5.9 percent to \$7.59 per bushel, equivalent to about 27 kilograms. Prices in Europe fell by a similar amount.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told Kremlin state media after attending the signing ceremony that he expected the deal to start working "in the next few days".

He pointed out that Russia had managed to secure a separate pledge from Washington and Brussels to lift all restrictions on its own grain and other agricultural exports.

The United States and European countries hailed the agreement while urging Moscow to abide by its rules.

A US official said the deal was "well-structured" enough to monitor Russian compliance.

The European Union called for the deal's "swift implementation" while British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said London "will be watching to ensure Russia's actions match its words".

Guarded hope

Diplomats expect grain to only start fully flowing by mid-August.

The four sides must first set up a joint command and control centre in Istanbul that monitors the ships' passage and addresses disputes.

They have yet to finalise how the ships will be checked for weapons before returning empty to Ukrainian ports.

Ukrainian farmers who have been watching their silos fill up with grain that they cannot sell met the Istanbul deal with guarded hope. "It gives some hope but you can't believe what the Russians say," said farmer Mykola Zaverukha.

His silos were already filled with 13,000 tonnes of grain and in danger of overflowing because this year's harvest was beginning to come in.

"Russia is unreliable, they have shown themselves to be year after year," he told AFP in the southern Mykolaiv region.

Global alarm about that grain has been accompanied by European fears that Russia is starting to use its stranglehold on energy exports as a geopolitical weapon in its standoff with the West.

The grain deal was signed one day after Russia's restart of the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline eased concerns in Europe of a permanent shut off after a 10-day maintenance suspension.

Analysts say that the partial resumption of gas supplies was insufficient to ward off energy shortages in Europe this winter.

More US military aid

The ornate halls of Istanbul's Dolmabahce Palace felt far removed from east Ukraine's Donbas war zone on another day of relentless shelling across the front.

Russia is trying to fight deeper into the war zone's Donetsk region after securing full control of neighbouring Lugansk.

On Friday, the United States signed off on another \$270 million in military aid to Ukraine, including rocket systems, artillery ammunition and armoured command posts.

The Ukrainian presidency said five people were killed and 10 wounded in Russian attacks around the Donetsk region the previous day.

In the Donetsk village of Chasiv Yar -- hit by a strike on July 10 that killed more than 45 people -- 64-year-old Lyudmila was gathering apricots near the wreckage.

"There is nothing anymore. The officials have left. We have to fend for ourselves to stay alive," she said, giving only her first name.

The military toll on both sides has remained speculative since Russia invaded on February 24. US and British spy chiefs believe Russian President Vladimir Putin was suffering greater losses than expected.

Ukraine's war effort has been particularly helped in recent weeks by the delivery of US high-precision weapons that allow Kyiv to destroy Russian weapons silos at long range.

Amid flight glitches, SpiceJet shares dive nearly 10 per cent; hit 52-week low

NEW DELHI: Shares of SpiceJet tanked nearly 10 per cent in morning trade on Thursday, after the company was asked by aviation regulator DGCA to curtail its services by half for eight weeks. The stock tanked 9.66 per cent to its 52-week low of Rs 34.60 on the BSE.

The slump in the SpiceJet counter assumes significance as the 30-share BSE benchmark was trading 733.21 points or 1.31 per cent higher at 56,549.53.

Aviation regulator DGCA on Wednesday ordered SpiceJet to operate a maximum of 50 per cent of its flights for eight weeks after several of its planes reported technical malfunction recently.

During these eight weeks, the budget carrier will be subjected to "enhanced surveillance" by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

On Thursday, SpiceJet said it is confident of scaling up its operations and addressing concerns of the DGCA.

On Wednesday, the airline had said that there will be no flight cancellations because of the regulator's order as it is already operating limited services "due to the current lean travel season".

"In view of the findings of various spot checks,

Kim threatens to use nukes amid tensions with US, S. Korea

Continued from page-1

weapons if threatened, saying they would "never be confined to the single mission of war deterrent." Kim's military has also test-launched nuclear-capable missiles that place both the U.S. mainland and South Korea within striking distance. U.S. and South Korean officials have repeatedly said in the past few months that North Korea is ready to conduct its first nuclear test in five years.

Kim is seeking greater public support as his country's economy has been battered by pandemic-related border shutdowns, U.S.-led sanctions and his own mismanagement. In May, North Korea also admitted to its first COVID-19 outbreak, though the scale of illness and death is widely disputed in a country that lacks the modern medical capacity to handle it.

"Kim's rhetoric inflates external threats to justify his militarily focused and economically struggling regime," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul. "North Korea's nuclear and missile programs are in violation of international law, but Kim tries to depict his destabilizing arms buildup as a righteous effort at self-defense."

Experts say North Korea will likely intensify its threats against the United States and South Korea as the allies prepare to expand summertime exercises. In recent years, the South Korean and U.S. militaries have cancelled or downsized some of their regular exercises due to concerns about COVID-19 and to support now-stalled U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at convincing North Korea to give up its nuclear program in return for economic and political benefits.

During Wednesday's speech, Kim said his government recently set tasks to improve its military capability more speedily to respond to military pressure campaigns by its enemies, suggesting that he intends to go ahead with an expected nuclear test.

But Cheong Seong-Chang at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea said North Korea won't likely conduct its nuclear test before China, its major ally and biggest aid benefactor, holds its Communist Party convention in the autumn. He said China worries that a North Korean nuclear test could give the United States a justification to boost its security partnerships with its allies that it could use to check Chinese influence in the region.

North Korea recently said it is moving to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak amid plummeting fever cases, but experts say it's unclear if the country can lift its strict restrictions soon because it could face a viral resurgence later this year. During Wednesday's event, Kim, veterans and others didn't wear masks, state media photos showed. On Thursday, North Korea reported 11 fever cases, a huge drop from the peak of about 400,000 a day in May.

North Korea has rejected U.S. and South Korean offers for medical relief items. It has also said it won't return to talks with the United States unless it first abandons its hostile policies on the North, in an apparent reference to U.S.-led sanctions and U.S.-South Korean military drills.

inspections and the reply to the show cause notice submitted by SpiceJet, for the continued sustenance of safe and reliable transport service, the number of departures of SpiceJet is hereby restricted to 50 per cent of the number of departures approved under summer schedule 2022 for a period of eight weeks," the aviation regulator's order on Wednesday said.

Have faith in justice delivery system: Naveen Patnaik

Continued from page-1

delivery of justice. "I am sure that the APPs will put in their best of efforts in service of the poor and the disadvantaged," he added.

Stating that the conviction rate in Odisha needs further improvement, the Chief Minister said technology is one of the most significant components of the 5T initiative and it is being applied to provide justice in a quick and transparent manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Home Tusharkanti Behera advised the new recruits to work with honesty and transparency. He outlined the efforts of the government for quick delivery of justice.

Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra asked the APPs to work earnestly to win the trust and confidence of the clients who mostly belong to the disadvantaged section of society. In his welcome address, Additional Chief Secretary Home Sanjeev Chopra said the recruitment will help strengthen the criminal justice system in the state. Sharing their experience, new APPs said they are happy with the technology based recruitment and appreciated the transparency in the system.

Ready to lift suspensions if MPs apologise and go by rules: Centre

Continued from page-1

well?"

He said that from the time of the all-party meeting till this morning, the government has categorically said that it is ready for the debates demanded by the Opposition. "I also requested that if you want the debate today, we are ready for it. Despite this, the whole of last week was wasted by them (Opposition) and it is happening again," said Joshi.

"If they want we are ready to take it (suspension) back, but will they take a guarantee that they will not come into the well with placards and will not place the placards before the face of the speaker," he said.

He asked if the Opposition members were ready to take the guarantee on behalf of their parties and the Congress.

As the House met at 2 pm after it was disrupted twice in the morning, NCP leader Supriya Sule said the Opposition is willing to cooperate with the government for the smooth functioning of the House. "Yesterday and we request today also that four of our members should be forgiven and brought back to the House. We want a debate; we want to cooperate with the government. Allow our members to come back and we will not go into the Well of the House," Sule said after the chair, Rama Devi, allowed her to speak on the impasse in the House.

"I am saying it on behalf of the Opposition that we want to run the House," Ms Sule added.

Trinamul Congress' Sudip Bandyopadhyay also said the suspension of the four members should be revoked if it is the feeling of the House. "(Pralhad) Joshi ji has announced that the government is prepared to have a discussion on price rise, we are also prepared to take part in the debate. Let this issue be sorted out and let the debate start," he said.

DMK's A. Raja said, "What happened yesterday is not healthy for democracy. I have been on both sides in the House. Coming to the Well, democratically protesting with placards is not unknown to this House.

"With folded hands, I say don't value numerical strength in this House. Healthy debate will not stand before numerical strength. Please reconsider, withdraw the decision and thereafter, we are willing to participate in the debates. On behalf of the DMK, I say that the suspension be withdrawn immediately," he said.

Meanwhile, the 20 Opposition MPs, who were suspended from the Rajya Sabha for disrupting proceedings, on Wednesday, started a 50-hour-long protest inside the Parliament complex.

The MPs are holding the relay protest near the Gandhi statue and will stay at the site through the night, TMC MP Dola Sen, who is one of the suspended parliamentarians, said.

India slams Pakistan for 'politicising' Chess Olympiad



NEW DELHI: India on Thursday criticised Pakistan for pulling out of the 44th Chess Olympiad in Tamil Nadu and said it is "highly unfortunate" that Islamabad has "politicised" the prestigious international event.

Reacting to Pakistan's decision, Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said it was surprising that Pakistan has suddenly taken the decision not to participate in the event. It is highly unfortu-

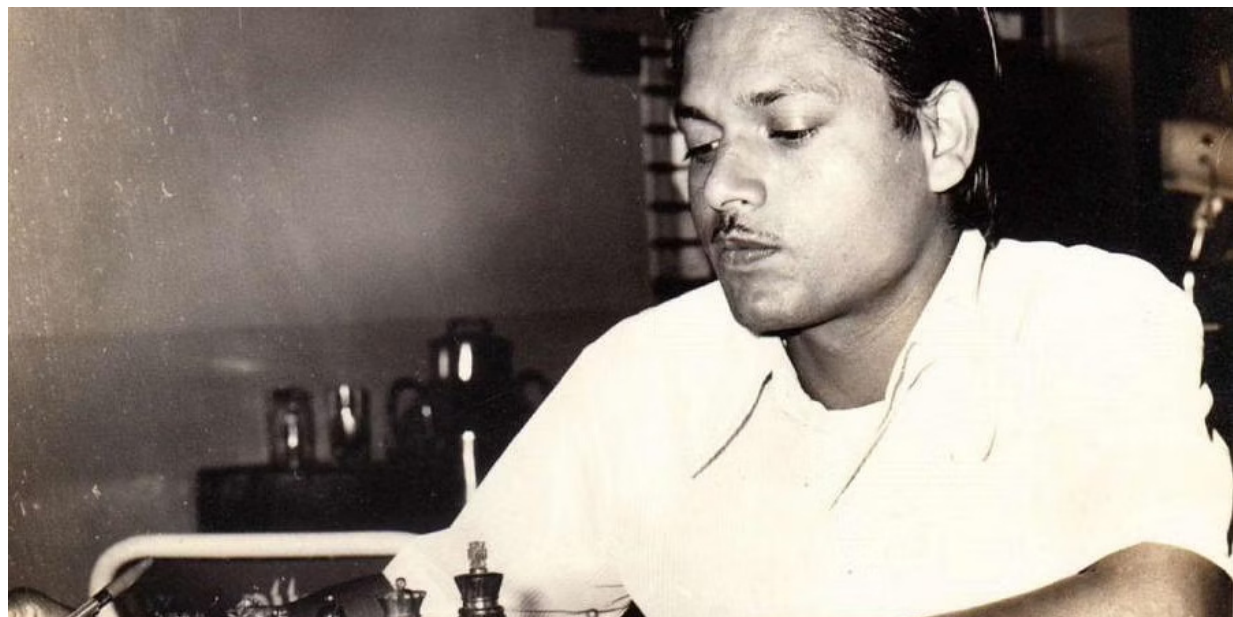
nate that Pakistan has politicised the prestigious international event by making such statements and withdrawing its participation after its team has already reached India, he said. Bagchi was responding to questions on Pakistan's decision

to pull out from the Olympiad, citing the torch relay of the event passing through Jammu and Kashmir. On this, Bagchi asserted that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will remain an integral part of India.

Remembering Rafique: India's first Chess Olympiad medallist and legacy he leaves behind

CHENNAI: Mohammad Rafique Khan is a name that has quietly faded in the annals of history. There is hardly any trace of him, not even in the book of chess legacy of the country. Rafique used to help his carpenter father in the morning before going out and watching local chess players in action at the narrow bylanes of Bhopal. It was there he learnt the sport before taking the national circuit by storm. He then created history by becoming the first Indian to win an Olympiad medal. What's worse when India is hosting the Chess Olympiad for the first time, Rafique will not be there to watch and savour. He passed away on July 19,

pion in 1978 when he won the National 'A' held in Cochin," added Bahadur. Rafique was an introvert and never spoke a lot about his achievements, said his son Rais. "He spoke to us about chess on a very few occasions. We used to hear the stories from his friends and chess lovers of the city," he added. With Rafique excelling with his show at the national level, he was employed by Bhopal Municipal Corporation. However, he had to quit the job as the employer didn't give him leave to participate in the tournaments. It was then the central government came to his rescue and offered him a job at BHEL



2019. However, his teammate Rajesh Bahadur and youngest son Mohammad Rais Khan shared his story with this newspaper highlighting how he went on to become the national chess champion and followed it up with a silver medal in the Olympiad. "He never had formal education. Instead, he used to help his carpenter father. After getting free, he used to visit a nearby tea stall where chess aficionados were involved in board games. It's there he developed an interest in chess," Bahadur, who is vice-president of the disbanded Madhya Pradesh Chess Association, said. His immense interest meant he grew by leaps and bounds in just a few years and competed in the MP chess championship for the first time in 1975. The maiden outing ended in a title triumph as he outwitted renowned chess players including Syed Nawab Ali (who represented India in the Varna Olympiad and Bahadur. Earlier in those days, two nationals — National 'A' and 'B' — used to be held wherein the latter served as the qualifier for the former. Rafique qualified for the National 'A' in 1975 itself and finished fifth in the event. "Next year in 1976, he created a record in Kolkata, which is still intact as far as I know. While competing in National 'B', he registered 11 straight wins and drew the next four games winning the championship. He eventually became the national cham-

(Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited) in 1977. "We still have a letter from then industry minister George Fernandes. A job with BHEL gave him financial security and freedom to compete in chess tournaments," said Rais. The stability paid huge dividends as Rafique participated in Malta Olympiad in 1980. "That win gave a huge fillip to the sport in the country as nobody thought earlier that a chess player from the country could win an individual medal in the Olympiad," opined Bahadur. Secretary of the now defunct MP Chess Association Kapil Saxena said Rafique was a fatherly figure to all the budding chess players from the state. "Even the night he passed away, he played chess at the club that he used to visit regularly. Despite achieving so much, he did not get what he deserved but he never complained about anything. In fact, he kept giving back to the sport in whatever way he can," said Saxena. He might not be a conventional chess player and learned the game his own way but the heights he achieved despite those shortcomings are hard to scale even these days. Undoubtedly, Rafique will be missed big-time when the mega event begins in the country with players of repute from across the globe gracing the occasion with their presence.

Women's final will cap Olympic soccer tournament in Paris

The Olympic football competition at the 2024 Paris Games will conclude with the women's final — instead of the men's — for the first time.

at the Parc des Princes in Paris. The men's gold-medal match will be played at the same stadium the day before. The combined tournament will start on July 24

of 2019 Women's World Cup final. "That this should take place in France is particularly exciting," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a pre-

2019, and where FIFA has recently re-opened an office to better serve its 211 member associations." The U.S. women secured a spot in the



FIFA announced the Olympic football competition schedule on Wednesday. The governing body also said there will be no double-headers in France, making each match a standalone event. The women's final will take place on August 10

and go to seven cities in France: Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Nice and Saint-Etienne. As host, France's men's team will play in the tournament opener in Marseille, while the women's team will play on July 25 in Lyon, site

pared statement. "A country with a distinguished history of developing and excelling in both men's and women's football, which has hosted some of the most iconic FIFA tournaments in history, including the last FIFA Women's World Cup in

Olympics by winning the CONCACAF W Championship, while Brazil and Colombia qualified at the Copa America. On the men's side, the U.S. team and the Dominican Republic earned spots at the CONCACAF U-20 Championship.

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