



CANDID OPINION

Actor Anupria Goenka says the southern film industry is far more accommodating than the one in Mumbai

LEISURE P2



QUAKE HITS PHILIPPINES

A strong earthquake sets off landslides and damages buildings in the Philippines, killing at least five

INTERNATIONAL P10



INAUSPICIOUS START

Hosts India suffer a 1-2 loss in their SAFF U-20 Championship tournament opener against Bangladesh

SPORTS P12

Rly concessions for Sr citizens may return with tweak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: In the face of criticism from several quarters, the Railways is mulling the restoration of senior citizen concessions but for general and sleeper classes only, sources said here Wednesday. Also on the cards is tweaking the age criteria by extending the concessional fare to those above 70 years, as against the earlier 58 for women and 60 for men, they said.

The idea, the sources indicated, is to offset the cost of granting these concessions for the Railways while retaining the subsidy for the elderly citizens.

"We understand that these concessions help the elderly and we never said we were going to scrap it completely. We are reviewing it and will take a decision on it," one of the sources said.

Before being withdrawn during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, women were eligible for 50 per cent concession while men and trans-genders could avail 40 per cent discount in all classes.

Another provision the Railways is considering is to limit the concessions to non-AC travel only. "The logic is that if we limit it to sleeper and general classes, we cover 70 per cent of travellers. These are just some of the options we are considering though nothing has been finalised yet," the source said.

PLETHORA OF COLOURS



Artists from Bangladesh pose while rehearsing for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games scheduled to start Thursday in Birmingham

Cholera claims one more life in Kashipur block

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tikiri/Rayagada, July 27: There is no let-up in the spread of cholera and the subsequent deaths arising out of the disease. This has led to an alarming situation in Kashipur block of Rayagada district as another person died of diarrhoea and vomiting at Jamuguda village under Tikiri panchayat of the block, Wednesday.

Officials informed that two persons breathed their last Wednesday, but only one of them was suffering from cholera. Sources and locals informed that despite efforts of the administration there is no sign of the disease subsiding and the toll is also rising. The spread of the disease and subsequent deaths has sparked panic among the residents.

Among the two who died Wednesday, one was identified as Suni Majhi. Collector Swadha Dev Singh said that Suni showed no signs of illness till Tuesday night but started suffering from acute diarrhoea and vomiting Wednesday morning. She was rushed in an ambulance to the hospital, but succumbed on way. Singh informed that with the death of Suni, the cholera toll had gone up to nine.

The other deceased was identified as Bita Majhi, 27, of Panabandh village. Government officials claimed that he died of stomach pain. However, his family members claimed that Bita was also suffering from acute diarrhoea and was vomiting continuously since Tuesday night. He was rushed to the hospital Wednesday morning but passed away while undergoing treatment.

Sources said another person Jhanu Majhi, 55 of Shankarada village also died due to cholera, Tuesday. He however, did not visit the hospital and died while undergoing treatment at home. While government reports pegged the toll at nine, sources said the correct figure was 11.

It should be stated here that Tuesday, the BJP had accused the government of fudging figures related to cholera deaths. They had said 14 people have so far died.

SC upholds ED's power to arrest under PMLA

Apex court quashes pleas filed by over 200 petitioners challenging powers of the PMLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court upheld Wednesday the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) powers relating to arrest, attachment of property involved in money laundering, search and seizure under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that were challenged by multiple petitioners including politician Karti Chidambaram.

The apex court also said the supply of a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in every case to the person concerned is 'not mandatory' and it is enough if the ED discloses the grounds of arrest while nabbing an accused. The petitioners in the case had raised the issue of the contents of ECIR not being disclosed to the accused.

Observing that it is a common experience world over that money laundering can be a 'threat' to the

good functioning of a financial system, the apex court upheld the validity of certain provisions of the PMLA, underlining it is not an 'ordinary offence'.

The Centre has been insisting money laundering is an offence that is committed not only by unscrupulous businessmen but also terror organisations, posing a grave threat to national security.

A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said authorities under the 2002 Act are 'not police officers as such' and the ECIR cannot be equated with an FIR under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

The court said Section 45 of the PMLA, a law which the Opposition has often claimed is being used as a weapon by the government to harass its political adversaries.

Contd...P4

CHSE results: Girls outshine boys

1,124 students get more than 90% in Science stream, while 273 achieve the same distinction in Commerce stream

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 27: The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) announced Wednesday the results of Plus-II Science and Commerce examinations. School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash declared the results Wednesday evening.

The percentage of successful Plus-II Science students was 94.12% while the figure for Commerce students stood at 89.20 per cent. Compared to last year the pass percentage has decreased slightly. It was 95.15% in Science and 94.96 in Commerce streams respectively.

In the Science stream, 72,106 student were successful out of the 76,604 who had appeared in the tests. A total of 50,157 students got first division, 14,932 were in second division and 6,910 students got third division. While 1,124 Science students got more than 90 per cent marks, 393 schools achieved 100% success rate.

Girl students have once more done better than the boys in the Science stream. The total pass percentage of girls stood at 95.52%



Successful students of the Royal College of Science and Technology in Bhubaneswar flash the 'V' sign after the CHSE results were announced Wednesday

while for boys it was 93.80%. Naygarah district topped the list of successful candidates with 99.11% passing the exams.

Meanwhile, in the Commerce stream 21,165 students were successful, out of the 23,726 students who appeared in the exams. A total of 10,863 students got first division, 5,053 second while 5,242 got third division. A total of 273 commerce students got over 90% marks while 134 schools had 100% success rate.

In the Commerce stream also, girls (90.71 per cent) proved to be better than

the boys (88.32%). Boudh district registered a 100% pass out rate. The results of Plus-II Arts and Vocational subjects will be declared August 8.

The Plus-II examinations were held this year on offline mode after a gap of two years. Last year it was held on online mode due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The examination was held April 28 and May 31. A total of 3,21,508 students in Arts, Science, Commerce and Vocational streams had appeared in the examinations.

KEY FIGURES FOR THE TWO STREAMS	
SCIENCE	
No of candidates appeared	76,604
No of candidates passed	72106
Pass percentage	94.12
No of boys passed	39,587 (93.80%)
No of girls passed	32,519 (94.52%)
COMMERCE	
No of candidates appeared	23,726
No of candidates passed	21,165
Pass percentage	89.20
No of boys passed	13,211 (88.32%)
No of girls passed	7,954 (90.71%)

OVER 47K GETS RANKS IN JEE EXAMINATIONS

Bhubaneswar: A total of 47, 729 candidates have been allotted ranks in the JEE-2022 exams, the results of which were declared Wednesday by Pritiranjjan Gharel, Minister Skill Development and Technical Education department. The results were released in a booklet and candidates can also download their rank cards from the JEE website (www.jee.nic.in).

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My husband keeps arguing with me all the time. Please arrest him, not under domestic abuse Act, but PMLA

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	55816.32 ↑ 547.83
NIFTY	16641.80 ↑ 158.00
DOLLAR	80.59 ↑ ₹0.16
EURO	80.97 ↑ ₹0.05
GOLD	₹50,677 ↑ ₹93
SILVER	₹54,720 ↑ ₹5

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.2°C	34.2°C
TEMP MIN	25.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	80%	85%
Rainfall	0.2mm	7.2mm
Forecast	Partly	cloudy sky

Teacher prevents menstruating students from planting saplings

AGENCIES

Nashik, July 27: A tribal girl student at a state-run boarding facility in this district of Maharashtra has lodged a complaint with higher authorities alleging that a male teacher had stopped her and other girls having menstruation from planting saplings during a plantation drive. This development has prompted the Tribal Development Department (TDD) to order an inquiry into the incident.

The complainant is a Class XII student of science faculty of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Ashram School for Girls at Devgaon in Trimbakeshwar taluka. In her



complaint she has said that the teacher allegedly told her and other students having periods that trees will not grow and wither away if they plant saplings.

Senior TDD official Sandeep

Golait confirmed Wednesday the receipt of the complaint. "Statements of all, including the students from the girl's class, teachers, the superintendent and the principal will be taken and an inquiry will

be conducted," additional commissioner Golait said.

Nashik district Additional Collector and TDD project officer Varsha Meena met the girl at school and asked about her problems. The student informed that the teacher had asked girls having menstruation to avoid planting trees during the plantation drive held last week on the premises of the school. The school has 500 girl students.

She alleged that the teacher told the girls not to go near trees as the saplings planted last year did not bloom as they were planted by students going through menstruation. So she was prevented from planting a sapling. Contd...P4

SHORT TAKES

Dreaded criminal shot dead

BAHANGA: Dreaded criminal Shoutoo Mallik was shot dead Wednesday during a shootout with police at Kankada Chhak under Bahanaga police limits in Balasore district. In the skirmish, one policeman was also injured. Rundu was wanted in several criminal cases. Sources said Rundu and five of his associates were fleeing after committing acts of snatching at four places. However, a police team from Gopalpur outpost managed to nab Rundu. When he was being handcuffed, Rundu attacked OIC Krishna Pingua with a sharp weapon and tried to flee the spot. His aides also opened fire on the police. In retaliation, police fired two rounds, killing Rundu on the spot.

Babushaan seeks anticipatory bail

BHUBANESWAR: Popular Odia actor Babushaan Mohanty moved Wednesday the Orissa High Court seeking anticipatory bail in connection with a complaint filed by his wife Trupti Satpathy a few days back. On the basis of the complaint, police had registered a case under Sections 506 and 498(A) of the IPC. Senior lawyer Dharanidhar Nayak has moved the bail petition of Babushaan. Earlier in the day, the actor returned here from a promotional event in Chennai. He was received at the airport by a few of his relatives. "I will answer each and every question in detail," Babushaan told mediapersons at the airport. "But let me meet my parents first," he added.



leisure



ZACHARY LEVI WAS SAVED BY THERAPY

Actor Zachary Levi suffered a full-on mental breakdown in 2017 after years of battling with depression and anxiety but he credits his sessions with a therapist for helping him turn a corner by learning to understand why he ended up being who (he) was.

BULLET TRAIN TO RELEASE IN INDIA A DAY BEFORE ITS US ROLLOUT

Hollywood star Brad Pitt's upcoming film *Bullet Train* is all set to release in India August 4, one day prior to the US. The movie, helmed by *Deadpool 2* director David Leitch, will comprise a stellar ensemble cast with some of the most popular names from Hollywood.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today you will have to give in to your spouse's demands for improving the environment at home. In your own interest it will be advisable, says Ganesh, to hasten the measures needed to be taken and stay focused on them as you are the one who is guilty of neglect.

TAURUS
You will be fondly thinking about your close friends, particularly about the ones of the opposite sex. It may suddenly dawn upon you that you are in love, says Ganesh. If per chance, there is a romantic encounter, go ahead and dive fearlessly in the pool of love.

GEMINI
Your family members and your friends will have much higher expectations from you today, and trying to fulfill the same will make you irritable. However, you will figure out creative ways to juggle the many demands made upon you and come out on top at the end of it all, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will tackle with ease, even the most confounding challenges today. You may be the scapegoat, though, fears Ganesh. Beware, or this may shake you and lower your self-confidence. Try to shake off your weaknesses, and you should see yourself obtaining energy and positivity.

LEO
People involved in Sales and Marketing related jobs will attend productive meetings and will make effective presentations. However, delays in journeying are a possibility. It is a good time to recognise your inherent capabilities. You will be able to prove your worth in the next 2-3 days, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
In all likelihood you will indulge in some writing or artistic work, which will bring about wonderful results. As you are passionate about these things, you may convert them into your hobbies, if you are not involved in them as a professional.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will spend time with your family members by putting them above other commitments. There may be plans made to go out for dinner or for a short excursion with them. Ganesh says that the health of a close relative may be a cause of concern for you today.

SCORPIO
The one thing that we neglect the most about ourselves is health. But today you are unable to do that. Your health needs to be paid enough attention as you may be suffering from ailment/s. Try to regularise your routine along with healthy food and regular exercise, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You are all set to groom your skills as a professional. Talking about work, determination and dedication are likely to rule you today. Putting your heart and soul, your work speaks volumes about your efforts. Appreciation, though slow in pace, is on its way to encourage you.

CAPRICORN
You will have heard of many emotional fools who let sentiments rule their lives. Try not to be one of them, and if it's too difficult a task, at least pretend not to be one of them, for Ganesh says going by your feelings can leave you at a low ebb. In other words, your feelings can come in the way of your success.

AQUARIUS
You will go through some heavy mood swings today. And the people who know you well will get shocked and find it difficult to deal with you. Keep your guards on, and don't take uncalled-for decisions, advises Ganesh, rather get your current assignments cross the finishing line.

PISCES
Today will be a hectic day for you. Most of your time will be spent in making your relationships on the business as well as the personal front more meaningful. You will likely find yourself attending social events. There is also the possibility that you will attend some religious ritual today.

Sonakshi to star in brother's directorial debut

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha is all set to star in her brother Kush S Sinha's directorial debut titled *Nikita Roy and The Book of Darkness*.

Produced by NVB Films headed by Nicky Bhagnani, Vicky Bhagnani and Ankur Takrani, Kush S Sinha's Kratos Entertainment and Kinjal Ghone of Nikita Pai Films the film also stars Paresh Rawal and Suhail Nayyar in pivotal roles.

Talking about the film, Sonakshi says, "Kush and I wanted to collaborate for the right kind of project. Finally, we found something that we both liked and were excited about."

Kush calls his sister Sonakshi a talented actor.

"I have always admired her for doing films which she entirely believed in. I have seen her grow as an actor and her journey in cinema. Now, I am going to be a part of it, too. When I found this script, I asked Sonakshi to take a look at it. We both felt drawn to the subject and that's when we decided to take the plunge and work together," adds Kush.



Shraddha turns muse for Falguni

Mumbai: Fashion and outfits are always a hot topic when it comes to Shraddha Kapoor. Her immaculate ethnic selections have never failed to wow. She looks stunning in lehengas and enhances them with her charisma. The actor has lately become a model for fashion designer Falguni.

The actress keeps her fans engaged by posting photographs and videos on a regular basis. Recently, the actress added sparkle to the evening with her peach ensemble. Shraddha Kapoor posted a few photos on her Instagram account. Shraddha rocked a two-piece ensemble from Falguni. She sported a stunning peach sequined costume in the photos.

The garment consists of a blouse and a skirt. The blouse has beautiful stone embroidery and feathery sleeves. The blouse also has a fashionable backless cut-out design. The skirt, on the other hand, is richly sequined with beautiful embroidery. The total ensemble is stunning.

While she wore her hair in a smooth low bun with a mid-part, complementing peach lipstick, and stone earrings, her eyes drew attention with a dramatic shining expression.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shraddha Kapoor will be next seen in Luv Ranjan's next with Ranbir Kapoor, which is to be released on March 8th 2023.



'South industry is far more accommodating'

Mumbai: She might be known for her work in Hindi film and her web shows, but Anupria Goenka had made an entry into showbiz with a Telugu film, *Potugadu*, in 2013.

Anupria loved the kind of experience she had working down south. She elaborates saying, "They are extremely nice people. They had a script in place. The story read very progressive. I spent good 10 months in south working on project there."

The actress feels that it is easier to get opportunities in south than

Hindi film industry. She shares, "Today the south industry is doing such great work. I must say that they are far more accommodating. In the initial stages of your career, getting a lead role in a Hindi film is way more difficult. To get in south is not that difficult. They accept you. The directors are ready to meet you at least. It is easy to meet them and talk to them. They are far more receptive. I would like to be a part of south films. I haven't tried so much there and it hasn't come to me by itself."

My journey began with Dharitri's Chhutidina: Surya Deo

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

'Kali Pain Kalira Cinema' is the first ever book written on Odia cinema in Odia language that has recently bagged the Best Book on Cinema honour at the National Film Awards -2020. Its author film historian Surya Deo, who needs no introduction to the lovers of Odia cinema, took time off to speak to Orissa POST on this unique feat and other issues

Excerpts:

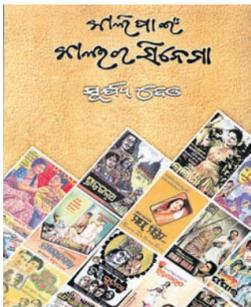
When and how the effort began for archiving Odia cinema?

If I remember correctly, working for *Chhutidina*, the Sunday sup-

plement of the Odia daily Dharitri, laid the foundation for archiving and documenting Odia films. About 25 years ago our Editor asked us (me, Gopal Mohapatra and Bibhuti Mishra) to work on a Sunday magazine in tabloid format. Then, we tried to include a regular column on the history of Odia cinema in *Chhutidina*. But I couldn't get authentic information on Odia cinema and its history. It was then that legendary singer Akhaya Mohanty advised me to scan all old newspapers to get details. The journey began and there was no looking back.

Tell us about those who have helped you during your journey. Don't you ever feel financial difficulties?

I can't pick any particular name as so many people have joined in. All journalists of Odisha, the members of film journalists' forum in



Cover of nat'l award winning book *Kali Pain Kalira Cinema*

particular, have chipped in and gone out of their ways to extend co-operation. People connected with the Odia film industry have also come forward and shared what-

ever information they had. But Akhaya Mohanty was the driving force behind this initiative. On the issue of financial constraints, the age-old saying 'where there's a will, there's way' came to my rescue. There is madness behind it and I keep aside a certain amount of my earnings to work on my passion. I would also like to mention Srikant Mohanty of Puri who used to publish a magazine titled *Manoranjan*. He handed me over his entire collection including magazines, song books and photographs for which I had to hire a mini truck to bring it to Bhubaneswar.

Tell us something about your award winning book.

Kali Pain Kalira Cinema contains the complete history of 21 movies made between 1948 and 1987 (From *Lalita* to *Bhakta*

Salabega). It is divided into four parts - cinemas on mythology, literature, entertainment and parallel or content-driven.

Will your selection in Best Cinema category open new possibilities for Odia cinema?

In fact the trend has already started. Students in various universities have started doing their research on film studies and approaching me for information. I am sure my selection will inspire more and more film enthusiasts to carry on their research work.

What are your future plans?

I will continue to work on the history of Odia films. My next goal is to complete the documentation and analysis of

movies made in the first 50 years i.e. till 1986. Besides, I wish Odisha had a proper film archive, a museum and a library



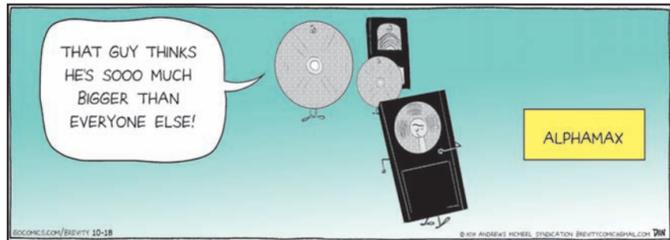
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9			10		
11	12			13	
			14		
15		16		17	18
			19		
20				21	22
23			24		

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Across
7 Sponsor
8 Mistakes (3-3)
9 Farm equipment
10 Wicker craft
11 Pub regulars
13 Utter
15 Lorry
17 Increase
20 Uncivilised
21 Bee's cousin

Down
1 Water carrier
2 Spit
3 Mourning item, usually
4 Accumulate in large quantities
5 Skilled hand

6 Pre-dinner drink
12 Broadcasting medium
14 Strident dwellings
18 State-of-the-art
19 Baleen whale food
22 Lawn starter

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

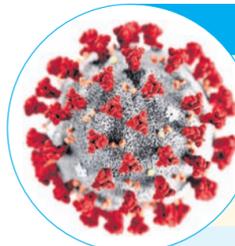
1	9	6	5	2	8	3	4	7
3	8	5	4	7	9	6	2	1
4	7	2	3	6	1	5	9	8
6	3	9	2	8	5	7	1	4
2	4	7	9	1	3	8	5	6
5	1	8	6	4	7	2	3	9
9	6	1	8	5	2	4	7	3
8	5	3	7	9	4	1	6	2
7	2	4	1	3	6	9	8	5

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SCIENCE EXPO

People visit a science exhibition at Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	57,75,25,175	54,72,91,460	64,08,164
India	4,39,38,764	4,32,67,571	5,26,167
Odisha	13,09,085	12,93,951	9,136

Naveen asks new APPs to improve conviction rate



Bhubaneswar, July 27: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday asked 41 newly-appointed Assistant Public Prosecutors (APPs) to work towards improving the conviction rate.

While congratulating the new recruits on a virtual platform during an orientation programme for them at Lok Seva Bhawan convention centre here, the Chief Minister called upon the APPs to serve people wholeheartedly and help realise the government's vision of a just and equitable society.

highly qualified having experience in different courts of the state. This augurs well for the delivery of justice." 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 Chandra Mahapatra asked the APPs to work earnestly to win the trust and confidence of the people, who mostly belong to the disadvantaged section of society. Sharing their experience, newly-appointed APPs Gitanjali Nayak, Sarbajit Srichandan and Lalita Patra said they are happy with the technology-based recruitment and choice locking system for posting. They appreciated the transparency in the system. Secretary to CM (ST) VK Pandian moderated the programme. In his welcome address, Additional Chief Secretary to Home department Sanjeev Chopra said the recruitment will help strengthen the criminal justice system. The Director of Public Prosecution offered the vote of thanks.

MOMENT OF GLORY



Students and teachers of Unit II Girls' High School in Bhubaneswar celebrate as Droupadi Murmu, an alumnus of the institution, has assumed office as the 15th President of India

OJEE-2022 results out; counselling from Aug 10

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Shradharabinda Samantray and Ishant Kumar Nayak secured the top position in MBA and MCA respectively in the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE), 2022, the results of which were declared Wednesday.



THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 57,898 CANDIDATES REGISTERED FOR THE EXAMINATION OF WHICH 47,761 CANDIDATES (82.5 PER CENT) APPEARED IN THE TEST

THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION WAS CONDUCTED IN COMPUTER BASED TEST (CBT) MODE FOR ALL THE COURSES

Kolkata, Ranchi and Patna. This year, a total of 57,898 candidates registered for the examination of which 47,761 candidates (82.5 per cent) appeared in the test. A total of 47,729 candidates have been allotted ranks in their corresponding courses as per their performance in the examination, the minister said, adding that the candidates can download their rank cards from the OJEE website (www.ojee.nic.in). All the candidates, who have been awarded ranks, can take part in OJEE counselling for admission to different technical/professional courses in government and private colleges/institutes of Odisha corresponding to their rank and other qualifying criteria, he said. Official sources said that the OJEE counselling registration and choice filling 2022 at the official website will commence from August 10.

Oppn slams govt over 'PC culture'

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER NIRANJAN PUJARI DESCRIBED THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS' ALLEGATIONS AS BASELESS

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Opposition BJP and Congress Wednesday slammed the state government for its alleged failure to curb the rising incidents of corruption and PC (percentage commission) culture in the state.

Participating in a debate in the Assembly on the admissibility of an Adjournment motion on PC culture, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said PC culture has gripped the entire state and corruption has reached its peak. Though the government claimed to have adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, but in reality, corruption has doubled after the Chief Minister asked the collectors to stop PC culture, he said. Majhi claimed that corruption has helped the ruling BJD to come to power five times a row. He said the Vigilance and police officers, who are entrusted with the responsibilities of preventing corruption, are being caught while taking bribes. The PC culture has stalled the development process of the state, he added. BJP legislator Sanatan Bijuli said the BJD government should be renamed as 'PC Sarkar' for rampant corruption from top to bottom. "Those who are being caught by the Vigilance sleuths are just small fishes. The Vigilance has failed to catch big fishes," said BJP legislator Bishnu Sethi. Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said a person is compelled to pay PC to get his work done in



According to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, the Vigilance department has registered 404 criminal cases against 758 people in the last 1.5 years

the prevailing system in Odisha. He pleaded for the appointment of special law officers to punish the officials who are caught red-handed by the Vigilance sleuths. Congress member Taraprasad Bahinipati said corruption is rampant in Odisha and work orders for various projects are being given without tenders. He asked the state government to dismiss corrupt officials from service.

The treasury bench members, however, refuted the allegations and said the state government is committed to check corruption and has introduced a slew of measures in this regard. Replying to the debate on behalf of the Chief Minister, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjana Pujari described the opposition members' allegations as baseless. He claimed that the state government has introduced a number of measures to eliminate corruption from the state. "The government is committed to maintain transparency and prevent corruption in the state," he said. Pujari said the tendering process is being executed online. Licence is being given to contractors through the Contractor Database

BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said PC culture has gripped the entire state and corruption has reached its peak. BJP legislator Sanatan Bijuli said the BJD government should be renamed as 'PC Sarkar' for rampant corruption from top to bottom. Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said a person is compelled to pay PC to get his work done in the prevailing system in Odisha. Congress member Tara Prasad Bahinipati said corruption is rampant in Odisha and work orders for various projects are being given without tenders.

House condoles ex-MLA's death

Bhubaneswar, July 27: The state Assembly Wednesday condoled the death of former MLA Jajendra Prasad Singh. Seventy-six-year-old Singh, a former legislator of Cuttack Sadar constituency, died during treatment at a private hospital here Tuesday. As soon as the House assembled for the day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved the condolence motion, which was supported by Opposition deputy leader Bishnu Charan Sethi and Congress whip Tara Prasad Bahinipati. The House observed one-minute silence after Speaker BK Arukha expressed his grief. The House resumed the business listed for the day after the condolence.

Centre urged for NH 353 widening

New Delhi, July 27: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Kalahandi Basanta Kumar Panda has urged Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari to take steps for widening, construction of divider and surface road drainage system on National Highway (NH) 353 in Khariar Town of Nuapada. "The town is located on the border of Chhattisgarh and NH 353 passes through it. Due to encroachment, the portion of NH passing through the town is getting narrower and in turn has been witnessing frequent road mishaps. It has been inconveniencing the people there," the MP said.

PLUS II SCIENCE RESULTS

Students aspire to be doctors, engineers

Umashankar Sahu (95.5 per cent), Royal Higher Secondary School of Science and Technology

I was expecting good marks. Our teachers helped us a lot during our preparation for the examinations. I was studying around eight hours a day and gave special attention on Chemistry and English. I have an ambition to study medicine. I have already enrolled myself into a coaching institute and started preparation for the entrance tests.

Girish Nayak (93.83 per cent), Royal Higher Secondary School of Science and Technology

I am happy with the marks as I was expecting something around 92 per cent. My aim is to become a doctor and I have already started preparation for NEET. I was studying around six hours a day for the Plus II exams. I gave importance on Physics, Chemistry and Biology during my preparation.

Shuvam Nayak (91.16 per cent), Naidu Higher Secondary School

Engineering and I have started preparation for JEE. I was studying around 12 hours a day for the exams and focusing on Mathematics and Physics.

Atal Amitabh Mishra (91 per cent), Naidu Higher Secondary School

marks in Chemistry. Anyway, I am happy with my performance. I have an ambition to become a doctor.

BJD lacks floor leader in RS

The post is lying vacant after completion of the tenure of Prasanna Acharya July 1. Acharya had succeeded Dilip Tirkey

New Delhi, July 27: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is yet to fill the vacant post of a floor leader in Rajya Sabha even though the Monsoon Session of Parliament has entered its second week. The post is lying vacant after completion of the tenure of Prasanna Acharya July 1. Acharya was the floor leader of the BJD in Rajya Sabha from May 2018 to July 1 this year. Acharya had succeeded Dilip Tirkey. Though BJD chief whip in Rajya Sabha, Sasmit Patra, has been allotted the seat of the floor leader in the Upper House, he cannot perform



the responsibilities entrusted upon the crucial post. Patra cannot attend the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting. The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha usually convenes the meeting of the BAC to regulate daily proceedings of the House. The floor leaders of all parties attend the meeting. The BAC meeting usually takes decision on allotment of time for discussion on a particular Bill in the House. The panel also recommends allocation of time for discussion on Private members' Bills and Resolutions. The floor leaders in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha also attend the all-party meetings on various issues. Since the BJD does not have a floor leader in Rajya Sabha, no BJD MP from the Upper House did participate in the all-party meeting convened by the Centre ahead of the Monsoon Session, sources said. Notably, the BJD with nine MPs is the 6th largest party in the Upper House. The party has also supported the NDA government in the passage of several crucial legislations in the Rajya Sabha.

ORISSA HIGH COURT FOUNDATION DAY

22 young trial court lawyers awarded

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 27: The Orissa High Court celebrated its Foundation Day Tuesday, while also marking the commencement of the 75th year of the court. The occasion was chosen to present the "Lawyer of the Year, 2021" awards to 22 young trial court lawyers of Odisha in accordance with a scheme formulated by the court.

The High Court was established July 26, 1948 and has entered the 75th year of its inception. To mark the occasion a function was organized in the evening July 26 at the Odisha Judicial Academy, where one lawyer each from 22 districts was felicitated in the presence of S Muralidhar, Chief Justice, High Court of Odisha and other distinguished guests.

The lawyers who were felicitated were selected on the basis of their work for the entire calendar year of 2021 evaluated by the jury consisting of the District Judge, the Chief Judicial

Magistrate and three Senior Members of the Bars from the respective districts having experience of 20 years or more. The criteria for selection were the number of cases handled by the lawyer independently during a year and the number of judgments/final orders in contested cases, during the year, handled independently by the lawyer.

It was also stipulated that the lawyer should have conducted at least one trial in civil or criminal case entirely by himself or herself, during the year by appearing for any of the parties. This is perhaps the first ever Award of its kind in India for district court lawyers.

Speaking on the occasion, Muralidhar said, the award has been instituted to encourage young lawyers to progress in the profession while adhering to the ethical principles and resisting the temptation of shortcuts. The idea was to identify lawyers who showed a commitment towards their case, by sticking with it for the entire

course, till its disposal, while participating fully at every stage of the trial. The Chief Justice expressed happiness that in some of the districts young women lawyers were selected as the promising lawyers, and he hoped that such events would reaffirm the faith of the common man in the rule of law and the judicial process.

The "Scheme for Promising Lawyer of the year Award" was formulated after obtaining views and comments of the Bar Associations of the districts, with a proposal to present it every year adopting the same procedure.

Earlier in the day, floral tributes were offered near the statue of Justice Bira Kishore Ray, the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Odisha whose death anniversary coincides with the Foundation Day.

It is believed that the initiative of presenting awards to lawyers will go a long way in encouraging the young lawyers to believe in the ethical principles in legal practice.

STRONG AT 75



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar speaks at an event organised by the HC Bar Association at its convention hall in Cuttack, Wednesday, to mark the 75th foundation day of the state's top court

OP PHOTO

SC upholds ED's power to arrest under PMLA

Continued from P1

"The challenge to the constitutional validity of Section 19 (power to arrest) of the 2002 Act is also rejected. There are stringent safeguards provided in section 19. The provision does not suffer from the vice of arbitrariness," the bench said in its 545-page judgement.

A host of top Opposition politicians including Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram, his son and MP Karti, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, TMC MP and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee and Delhi minister Satyendar Jain are among those under the ED's lens for alleged money laundering.

Teacher harassing menstruating girls

Continued from P1

The girl then approached Bhagwan Madhe, Nashik district secretary, Shramjeevi Sanghatna.

Madhe said the girl couldn't oppose the male teacher as he is her class teacher and had threatened her that 80 per cent of assessment marks are in the hands of school authorities. Madhe also claimed the school has also made the urine pregnancy test (UGP) compulsory for admission though there is no such rule and made students bear the cost. He said that he had passed on the information to Golait over the phone Tuesday.

"The teacher used to taunt the complainant and other girls. Students at the school have other complaints as well such as the unavailability of warm water to bathe and mattresses to sleep on. School authorities has also made the UPT compulsory for admission though there is no such rule and made students bear the cost," informed Madhe.

Odisha logs 1,174 new Cov cases, 1 death

Bhubaneswar: Odisha recorded 1,174 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday, while there was another fatality, the health department said. There are 7,011 active COVID-19 cases, of which 1,642 are in Khurda district and 1,290 in Sundargarh, according to a bulletin. The test positivity rate was 5.46 per cent as the cases were detected out of 21,488 samples tested. As many as 155 children were among the new patients. Khurda district, where the capital Bhubaneswar is located, reported the highest number of 316 infections, followed by 261 in Sundargarh. The toll rose to 9,136 as a 63-year-old man succumbed to COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar. Fifty-three other Covid patients have died due to comorbidities so far. The state had logged 662 cases and two fatalities Tuesday. The infection tally rose to 13,09,085, including 12,92,885 recoveries as 1,216 more people recuperated in the past 24 hours, it added.

CM congratulates CRUT for Inclusive Cities Awards 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday congratulated Capital Regional Urban Transport (CRUT) Bhubaneswar on receiving the Smart Solutions Challenge and Inclusive Cities Awards 2022 in the category Implemented Solutions.

From his Twitter account, the CM said, "Congratulations CRUT BBSR on receiving the Smart Solutions Challenge & Inclusive Cities Awards 2022 in the category Implemented Solutions. With implementation of innovative solutions for safe and convenient transportation, CRUT is setting a precedent for others."

CRUT has been honoured with the award for its innovative, inclusive and safe public transport in the State. Reducing personal vehicle usage and using government provided public transport services of Mo Bus has resulted in reduction of the traffic congestion in the capital region. With the introduction of E-rickshaws in the city, that are spearheaded by women, transgender and socially disadvantaged people, CRUT has taken a step forward in enhancing the gender and social inclusivity in the mobility sector of the Capital Region.



Reducing personal vehicle usage and using government provided public transport services of Mo Bus has resulted in reduction of the traffic congestion in the capital region

CRUT is the only public sector transit agency to provide 50 per cent concession on Mo Bus fare to senior citizens. There are also several slabs in which concessions are provided to differently-abled people and their companions.

"Commuters, who have chosen Mo Bus, have helped CRUT in bagging this recognition. CRUT through its various ini-

tiatives has ensured that its services are highly inclusive and user-friendly across all gender age and ability groups. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the state government for its unwavering support which has led to the services of CRUT becoming the mobility lifeline of the Capital Region of Odisha," said Vijay Amruta Kulange, MD, CRUT.

MLAs watch India vs B'desh soccer match

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, July 27: The members of Odisha Legislative Assembly led by Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha Wednesday visited the existing and upcoming sports infrastructure and high performance centres within the Kalinga Sports Complex.

The legislators later enjoyed the much-awaited tackle between India against Bangladesh at the SAFF-U20 championship ongoing in the stadium. Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera and secretary R Vineel Krishna welcomed the members to the sports complex.

The sports secretary presented the journey of sports in Odisha over the last decade that has established Kalinga Stadium and Odisha as a significant sports hub for marquee events.

"It gives us immense pleasure to have the Speaker and members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly amongst us here at the Kalinga Stadium. Under the leadership of CM Naveen Patnaik and his vision, sports for youth, youth for future, sports has been accorded priority status and this has propelled Odisha to be a front runner for the top sporting destination in India," said Behera.

The sports and youth services department has been investing in upgrading and developing sports infrastructure, training and coaching and creating opportunities from block to state level so sports flourishes in the state.

Babushaan returns to City, moves court for anticipatory bail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Odia actor Babushaan Mohanty, who had gone untraceable from Chennai after the promotion of his film 'Daman', returned to the Capital City Wednesday.

The entire production team of the movie had reached Bhubaneswar Monday night but Babushaan was not accompanying them. As per the team, he had left the hotel room in Chennai on July 24. The team also informed that they have no idea about Babushaan's whereabouts.

Babushaan had landed into controversy after his wife Trupti Satpathy July 23 had intercepted the car in which the former was travelling with co-actor Prakruti Mishra. She was alleged to have attacked Prakruti. She accused Prakruti of ruining their family. Two separate FIRs had been lodged in this regard at Kharabela Nagar Police Station.

Soon after returning, Babushaan moved the Orissa High Court seeking anticipatory bail in connection with a complaint filed by his wife.

Senior advocate Dharanidhar Nayak moved bail petition. Police had earlier registered a case under IPC sections 506 and 498(A) on the

basis of his wife's complaint.

Meanwhile, the actor's mother Aparajita Mohanty expressed gratitude to people for their cooperation in Babushaan's return to family. She said, "I had no idea if he would have returned without your assistance and blessings. He is very tired now & taking rest. He has assured he will speak before public in a day or two."

Earlier, police Tuesday questioned Odia actor Mishra after a dramatic brawl with Babushaan's wife last week over an alleged extramarital affair.

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

High drama unfolded in Satya Nagar area of Bhubaneswar as Satpathy 'intercepted' Mohanty's SUV and also found Mishra in it July 23.

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

Satpathy alleged that Mohanty and Mishra were in an extramarital affair for two years and she had caught them red-handed several times but gave her 32-year-old husband several chances.

Indians consume more than the country can sustain, say researchers

As the world uses natural resources faster than they can be replenished, India looks to a future of renewable energy. Whether we're running a country or a household, we always need to spend within our budget. The Earth also has a budget - the ecological budget, where income and expenditure take the form of natural resources. Like every budget, the Earth's is limited. Today, humans are using the resources replenished by one year of the Earth's natural processes in only seven to eight months.

Earth Overshoot Day is the date by which all of the Earth's ecological resources and services for the year are consumed. This year, it falls on July 28. According to a report from advocacy group Global Footprint Network, Earth Overshoot Day was on December 25 in 1971 and has been creeping earlier each year. Currently, humans are consuming 1.7 times the resources the Earth can replace in one year. By 2030, humans will require the resources produced on two Earths. In the Indian context, the country will require 2.5 times more natural resources to meet its demand by 2030.

Overexploitation of resources by a growing population has reversed the demand-and-supply re-

lationship. Even if its birth rate continues to decline, India is projected to be home to around 1.51 billion people by 2030.

India has lower per-capita consumption of natural resources than many countries, but overshoot occurs due to its high population and limited resources. India has about 18 per cent of the world's population, while its land, forest and clean water make up a meager 2.4, 2 and 4 per cent of the world's respective totals. Represented as land area, the natural resources available to sustain people in India take up 0.5 hectares per person, while consumption is around 1.1 hectares per person.

According to the Global Footprint Network report, overfishing, indiscriminate deforestation and excessive carbon-dioxide emissions are the main reasons for the Earth's overshoot. The Earth cleans the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide. The report finds the natural resources needed to scrub carbon dioxide from the atmosphere make up about 60 per cent of the total ecological footprint. One hundred and fifty years ago, the human carbon footprint was negligible.

The world relies heavily on carbon dioxide-releasing fossil fuels to meet its energy demand. According to the BP Statistical Review of



World Energy, about 61.74 per cent of electricity demand in 2021 was from fossil sources. About 78.5 per cent of electricity in India comes from fossil fuels, followed by renewable sources (19 per cent) and nuclear sources (2.5 per cent). Coal has the largest share (44 per cent) of India's electricity supply.

India ranks third in global electricity generation and consumption. The energy sector in India is the largest greenhouse-gas emitter. According to the GE Gas Power report, although greenhouse-gas emissions from the energy sector in India are more than the global average, they have declined - mainly due to the shift in government policy towards renewable energy since the 2015 Paris Agreement.

With a total installed capacity of more than 160 gigawatts in March 2022, renewable-energy-generation capacity has increased about 400 per cent in the past nine years. Electricity demand is expected to grow at 5 per cent each year over 2018-40, and India has rich potential for renewable-energy sources such as solar, hydro, wind and biomass. As a tropical country, India receives plentiful sunlight. According to the National Institute of Solar Energy, if the country installs solar on just 3 per cent of its degraded land areas, its solar-energy potential would increase to 750 gigawatts.

The National Institute of Wind Energy has estimated that the country has about 700 gigawatts

EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY IS THE DATE BY WHICH ALL OF THE EARTH'S ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ARE CONSUMED. THIS YEAR, IT FALLS ON JULY 28. ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM ADVOCACY GROUP GLOBAL FOOTPRINT NETWORK, EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY WAS ON DECEMBER 25 IN 1971 AND HAS BEEN CREEPING EARLIER EACH YEAR.

CURRENTLY, HUMANS ARE CONSUMING 1.7 TIMES THE RESOURCES THE EARTH CAN REPLACE IN ONE YEAR. BY 2030, HUMANS WILL REQUIRE THE RESOURCES PRODUCED ON TWO EARTHS. IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT, THE COUNTRY WILL REQUIRE 2.5 TIMES MORE NATURAL RESOURCES TO MEET ITS DEMAND BY 2030.

of wind-energy potential at 120 metres above the ground. About 230 million tonnes of surplus agricultural residues are produced every year in India, representing 28 gigawatts of electricity-generation potential. The country also possesses more than 7,500 kilometres of coastline for tapping tidal, wave or offshore wind energy. In short, India has the renewable resources to meet its current and future energy demands.

By 2050, India can achieve a net-zero carbon footprint by reducing emissions from the energy sector and deploying renewable energy quickly and strategically. India is very much on track to achieve 175 gigawatts of installed solar-power capacity by 2022 and 500 gigawatts of non-fossil electricity by 2030.

The Government of India also has various initiatives such as the National Clean Air Programme, Bharat Stage-VI vehicle-emissions regulation, the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the UJALA scheme to promote energy-efficient light globes.

Over-consumption of the Earth's resources means anything consumed after July 28 is debt borrowed from the Earth's future. If it is not slowly repaid, exhaustion of the existing resources on Earth will put human existence in danger.

The Global Footprint Network report suggests that if we make Overshoot Day later by five days every year from now until 2050, the resources produced by the Earth will be enough for human consumption.

This means natural-resource efficiency and energy conservation are essential. Only then can this Earth continue to support life for all. PTI

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Worry as 4 elephants died in Kuldiha this yr



A tusker's carcass was recovered from Baragadia village, July 18 this year. The calf died hardly 10 days after the death of the tusker. Frequent death of elephants at the sanctuary this year has shocked the residents.

Injured tusker roaming in Narsinghpur forest

Narsinghpur: An injured tusker was spotted roaming in Debabhumi forest under Narsinghpur northern range in Cuttack. However, the cause of its injury is not yet clear. Following media reports, the Forest department has initiated efforts to locate the tusker for its treatment.

The animal, aged around 20-25 years, was last spotted at Nuagada forest with a bleeding wound on its left ear. A team of forest officials and veterinary doctors from Satkosila wildlife division had spotted the elephant in a forest, but it disappeared into the jungle, on seeing the officials.

However, ranger Prafulla Kumar Dehuri ruled out the possibility of a gunshot injury. "The wound might be the result of an intraherd fight or a sharp piece of tree branch might have poked it," he added.

Meanwhile, efforts are on to locate the tusker for tranquillisation. It is said that the elephant was seen heading towards Angul.

Frequent death of elephants at the sanctuary this year has shocked the residents.

They alleged that the pachyderms are dying one after another due to inefficiency of the Forest department. The death of the calf has left the forest officials worried as they ponder over means to contain the rising jumbo deaths.

ducted a post-mortem. Preliminary inquiries indicated that the death of the calf might have taken place four to five days ago following an attack by a tusker. However, the actual reason could be ascertained only after the availability of the post-mortem report, the DFO said.

With this, at least four elephants have died during the last seven months. It is apprehended that the recurring jumbo deaths might soon lead to extinction of the huge mammal from Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary - a famous elephant reserve.

A large number of animal lovers visit the sanctuary to have a look from a watch tower at the elephants bathing and/or drinking water from a small stream that runs right through the reserve.

Notably, a tusker's carcass was recovered from Baragadia village, July 18. The calf died hardly 10 days after the death of the tusker.



A mobile health check-up camp launched by Sambalpur Municipal Corporation for slum dwellers in progress at the western Odisha town, Wednesday. PHOTO

Exemplary rescue act: RPF cop to be feted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khandapara, July 27: A constable of Railway Protection Force (RPF) will be conferred with 'Jeevan Raksha Padak' for displaying exemplary bravery in saving a college teacher from being crushed under the wheels of an express train.

The braveheart, constable Subrat Kumar Moharana alias Silu, is the son of Sarat Moharana, a native of Kantilo Hatamundapatna village under this block in Nayagarh district.

The Union Railway Ministry will confer him with the medal for his timely act that saved a woman's life at Bhubaneswar railway station February 15, 2020.

The passenger was identified as Nibedita Sahoo, a lecturer at Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar. She fell into the gap between the running train and the platform while trying to board Puri-Sambalpur Express train (18304) for Meramundali station in Dhenkanal. Nibedita, accom-



panied by her younger brother, was in a hurry to board the train to reach home and attend her engagement ceremony which was scheduled for that day. The RPF constable rushed to her rescue and lifted her from falling on

the track. Some other passengers present there also helped. The ministry has decided to confer 'Jeevan Raksha Padak' and 'Mahila Awam Bal Suraksha Padak' to Moharana and another woman constable Jeena H Pintu of Meramundali area in Dhenkanal for the year 2020-21. They will be felicitated along with cash awards of Rs 1 lakh each by the Union Railway minister at a special function, Indian Railways sources said. Kendrapara MP Anubhav Mohanty also felicitated him.

DOCTORS' CRUNCH

Baliguda sub-divisional hospital 'on stretcher'

Only three doctors have been managing healthcare services at this facility

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, July 27: Healthcare services at Baliguda sub-divisional hospital in Kandhamal district has been badly hit because of acute doctors' crunch.

Sources said only three doctors have been managing healthcare services at this facility.

Locals alleged that even critical patients have to wait in queue for hours while many others have to return frustrated without getting appointment with the doctors. This is a routine problem at the sub-divisional hospital, but no step has been taken to resolve it.

Some people also alleged that the three doctors are looking after the patients on turns every alternative day, leading to crisis in the healthcare service.

Notably, this hospital assumes importance in the healthcare sector as thousands of people nine blocks of Kandhamal, various areas of neighbouring Boudh, Kalahandi and Rayagada districts depend on it.

The hospital requires at least 24 doctors while only three are handling all the departments. And, during monsoon the situation turns worse when more patients reach the hospital due to outbreak of diarrhoea.

Recently, one doctor was found serving people while two others were

absent. Given doctors' crunch, many patients do not turn up here. A pregnant woman could not get treatment here and she was referred to Phulbani district headquarters hospital, it was alleged.

Locals said the government has been claiming to have improved the healthcare service at all hospitals under ST initiative, but the situation at the hospital tells a different story.

In the past, various organisations had staged demonstrations, demanding improvement in the healthcare delivery at the sub-divisional hospital, but doctors' crunch has not yet been sorted out, it was alleged.

This has caused resentment among locals.

Diarrhoea spreads to Koraput, Gajapati

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mohana/Dasmantpur, July 27: Following the outbreak of cholera in Kashipur block of Rayagada, the disease has now spread its tentacles in Dasmantpur block in Koraput district and Mohana block in Gajapati district.

Reports said, five people were affected by diarrhoea at P Gobindapur under Mohana block. They were admitted to Mohana community health centre. However, a 9-year-old girl Lipi Nayak has died while others are undergoing treatment.

A team of health officials visited the village and sensitised people



FIVE PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED BY DIARRHOEA AT P GOBINDAPUR UNDER MOHANA BLOCK. THEY WERE ADMITTED TO MOHANA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE. HOWEVER, A 9-YEAR-OLD GIRL LIPI NAYAK HAS DIED WHILE OTHERS ARE UNDERGOING TREATMENT, LOCALS ALLEGED

THE WATER-BORNE DISEASE HAS SPREAD TO SIX PANCHAYATS UNDER DASMANTPUR BLOCK IN KORAPUT, AFFECTING AS MANY AS 54 PEOPLE. OUT OF THEM, 42 WERE CURED WHILE 12 ARE STILL IN HOSPITALS

about need for sanitation and safe drinking water.

The medical officer of Mohana CHC said that contaminated water is the main reason behind the outbreak of diarrhoea in the village.

As per latest reports, the water-borne disease has spread to six panchayats under Dasmantpur block in Koraput, affecting as many as 54 people. Out of them, 42 were cured while 12 are still in hospitals.

Diarrhoea is spreading at Girligumma, Dumbaguda,

Chikamba, Dasmantpur, Lula and Murkar panchayats.

Besides, sporadic cases are pouring in from several nearby villages. Health officials are visiting the affected villages. Local water bodies are being disinfected on war-footing.

Anganwadi and ASHA workers are screening villagers at their doorsteps. Necessary preventive measures are being taken to check the spread of diarrhoea in these panchayats.

Admin builds temporary bridge across Gajel creek

POST NEWS NETWORK

R Udaygiri, July 27: Following media reports about poor communication facilities in Chudangpur panchayat under Mohana block of Gajapati district, the administration has finally built a temporary bridge across Gajel nullah near Jharanpur.

Owing to absence of a bridge across the creek, people and children were often seen wading through the creek and negotiating the big boulders on the creek bed to reach their destinations.

Thousands of people from 20 villages under the panchayat commute



Traders of Rayagada while visiting Chudangpur, Antaraba, Jharanpur and Siallali villages in Gajapati every day have to wade through the creek water

on this route in a precarious manner. Report said, Raipanka market is 8km from the creek and Padmapur in Rayagada district is situated at a distance of 14km.

Traders of Rayagada have to visit Chudangpur, Antaraba, Jharanpur, Siallali and other villages in Gajapati every day, but they have to cross the creek which remains in spate during rains.

Schoolchildren also face a tough

time during the monsoon as they have to cross a swelling creek to reach their schools.

Guardians of the schoolchildren sometimes have to carry their wards on their shoulders while wading through the flooded creek to drop them at Anganwadi centres and primary schools which are on the other side of the creek. The sorry state of communication drew the media attention a few days ago. Often their studies are affected when they are unable to go across the creek.

The locals had apprised the administration about the problem. When our correspondent apprised ADM Sangram Sekhar Panda about the situation, the latter assured that immediate step would be taken to sort out the issue.

Following a directive from Collector Lingaraj Panda, the block administration got a temporary bridge built by a contractor. Hume pipes have been laid and their tops have been levelled with earth. However, the muddy approach road has not been repaired. Locals were all praise for the Collector for this initiative.

FORM No. 13
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ORISSA
C-71, SECTOR - 7, CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA
O. A. No. 48/2022

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ... Applicant
Versus
Parvej Ahmed & Another ... Defendant(s)

1) Parvej Ahmed
S/o Ali Ahmed, At Medical Road, Tata Huttling Barbil, Keonjhar - 758035
Defendant No. 1

2) Nikhat Parween
W/o Parvej Ahmed,
Dam Road, Barbil, Keonjhar,
Dist - Keonjhar - 758035
Defendant No. 2

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION
FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED

Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 48/2022 in the Court of the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 25,35,385.73 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 09.09.2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.

Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 22nd day of July, 2022

Sd/-
M. K. Patnaik
Registrar

CENTRAL SILK BOARD
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)
CSB Complex, BTM Layout, Madivala
Bangalore - 560 068, Karnataka, INDIA
Phone : +91 80 26282699 Fax: +91 80 26681511 E-Mail: jobs.csb@nic.in

Advt. No. CSB/05/2022 **RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION** Date: 27.07.2022

Central Silk Board INTENDS to recruit Scientist-B (Level 10) (66 posts) by DIRECT RECRUITMENT for its Headquarters and Offices located across the country by short listing applicants in the following subject/specialization based on the overall score secured in the ICAR AICE-JRF/SRF (Ph.D.)-2022 Exams to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) in 2022:

Sl. No.	Core Group	Sl. No.	Subject/Specialization
1	Crop Sciences-I	1	Genetics & Plant Breeding
		2	Plant Pathology
2	Crop Sciences-II	3	Entomology
		4	Sericulture
		5	Microbiology
3	Crop Sciences-III	6	Plant Physiology
		7	Animal Genetics & Breeding
4	Veterinary and Animal Science-I	8	Animal Nutrition
		9	Soil Sciences
5	Natural Resources Management-II	10	Farm Machinery and Power Engineering
6	Agricultural engineering and Technology	11	Agricultural Economics
7	Agricultural Economics & Agri Business Management	12	Agricultural statistics
8	Agricultural statistics		

Applicants are advised to apply for ICAR AICE-JRF/SRF (Ph.D.) 2022 examination online through the website <https://icar.nic.in/>. The last date for receipt of online applications is 19.08.2022.

Applicants are advised to read the Brief Advertisement and the INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS appended to the Advertisement under "Job Opportunities" in the Central Silk Board website www.csb.gov.in before applying for the ICAR AICE-JRF/SRF (Ph.D.) - 2022 examination.

CBC: 41109/12/0008/2223 **Member Secretary**

ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷଙ୍କ ଯତ୍ନକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ No.B-409
(ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରା ଓ ବୃହତ୍) ବିଭାଜନ ନଂ.୧, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BHUBANESWAR (R&B) DIVISION NO.1, BHUBANESWAR
Email:- eebbsr1@yahoo.co.in Phone/Fax: 06742597097
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Estg No. - 6118 Date- 22/07/2022
Government of Odisha e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. - C.C. (R&B) - 01
e-Procurement Notice No. (43) of 2022-23

1	Name of the Work	1. Up-gradation and Modernization of 10 Passenger Thyssenkrupp Elevator at middle Shaft of E-procurement Building, BBSR
2	Total no. of works	1 no. work
3	Estimated cost	1. Rs.10,77,520.00
4	Class of Contractor	1. Manufacturer/authorised dealer
5	Period of Completion	03 (Three) Calendar Months
6	Type of Tender	Single Cover
7	Date & Time of availability of Bid Document in the portal	From 11.00 Hours of 28.07.2022 To 17.00 Hours of 10.08.2022
8	Last Date & Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	17.00 PM on 10.08.2022
9	Name & Address of the officer inviting Bid	Er. Trinatha Behera , Superintendent Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division -1, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. N.: Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.

Sd/- Superintendent Engineer,
Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No. 1, BBSR
OIPR-34076/11/0011/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-719
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, NAYAGARH
E-mail: nayagarhrw2@yahoo.in
"e" Procurement Notice for Road and Building Works
Identification No. Online Tender/02/RWD-II/2022-23

1.	Name of the Work	Construction of Road & Building Works	
2.	Total Number of Works	5 Nos.	
3.	Approx. Estimated Cost	Rs.10.62 to 36.68 lakh	
4.	Class of Contractor	D, C & B Class of Contractor	
5.	Period of Completion	Sl. No. 1, 2 & 3 = 9 Months, Sl. No. 4 = 3 Months, Sl. No. 5 = 2 Months	
6.	Other details		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date and Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nayagarh	Online Tender/02/RWD-II/2022-23	Dt.30.07.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.08.08.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.08.08.2022 upto 1.00 P.M.	Dt.10.08.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
OIPR-25144/11/0002/2223 Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Nayagarh

“ We are always surrounded by the things of which we think.

THE MOTHER



Game Changer Tariffs

Environmental tariffs may be humanity's last hope for mitigating climate change, which is on course to become increasingly devastating if we do not curb our greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions.

The most straightforward way to confront this unprecedented global threat is through a multilateral agreement that locks in a "green transition" in all (or most) countries. The key is to boost renewable-energy production while significantly reducing fossil-fuel consumption, a process that calls for coordinated policies on three fronts: regulation, subsidies for cleaner technologies (including renewables), and carbon taxes.

Unfortunately, this type of global agreement seems out of reach, both because the fossil-fuel industry remains politically powerful, and because some of the world's biggest emitters – including the United States, China, and India – are not adopting the necessary policies.

Although regulation and subsidies are essential to achieve an effective energy transition, the carbon tax is the bedrock, because that is what will increase the costs of emitting carbon dioxide, methane, and other GHGs. Several countries have already adopted such taxes, including Sweden, which has the world's highest carbon tax (approximately \$117 per tonne). But many others, including the US and China, have not followed suit.

This lack of consistency gives rise to "carbon leakage." High-emissions activities tend to move away from countries with carbon taxes to those without. While a country that unilaterally adopts a higher carbon tax benefits everyone (by reducing its own GHG emissions), it also unwittingly encourages others to do less. Or, as an economist would put it, one should expect that unilateral climate-mitigation policies function as "strategic substitutes" across countries: The higher one country's carbon tax, the less other countries will do for mitigation.

A high carbon tax creates an opportunity for "carbon arbitrage." Since the steel industry emits 1.85 tonnes of carbon for every tonne of steel produced, Sweden's carbon tax increases the cost of its steel production by about \$210 per tonne, which in turn makes Chinese steel imports much more attractive for steel-users and their customers.

Worse, Chinese authorities have an incentive to maintain this arrangement. Without a Chinese carbon tax, Chinese steel exports will thrive, and that will help Chinese industry, workers, and politicians (who can claim credit for generating an economic boom). Even if they recognise the need to combat climate change, Chinese authorities may end up doing less than they might have done without Sweden's carbon tax.

Hence the need for environmental tariffs, which would reverse this logic by imposing a carbon tax on imports. Sweden would apply a border tax adjustment equivalent to the difference between its carbon tax and the carbon tax of the exporting country, multiplied by the tonnage of the CO2 emissions generated in the production of the imported products.

An environmental tariff's most obvious benefit is that it reduces carbon leakage. By nullifying the artificial cost advantage of imports from low-carbon-tax countries, it encourages steel consumption to shift toward cleaner domestic sources or less-polluting exporters.

But an environmental tariff's indirect effects may be even more important. Most importantly, a tariff makes climate-change mitigation policies "strategic complements" rather than strategic substitutes; this means that Swedish carbon taxes will encourage, rather than discourage, other countries to adopt similar policies of their own.

The logic is simple. Without environmental tariffs, Sweden's carbon tax gives Chinese steel producers an arbitrage opportunity. But once more countries have begun to apply border adjustments on imports, the Chinese authorities will want to help China's steel exporters clean up their operations. Regardless of whether they do this through carbon taxes, regulations, or subsidies for clean energy, Chinese CO2 emissions will decline. And once Chinese producers start meaningfully reducing their emissions, China's authorities will have an incentive to introduce environmental tariffs of their own.

For the most part, what's standing in the way of aggressive environmental tariffs are excuses and misleading arguments. The fossil-fuel industry and major polluters, including China, are dead set against environmental tariffs and have been campaigning aggressively to block them. But this position is wholly selfish and thus should be disregarded.

A second argument is that environmental tariffs are protectionist measures, and that we should not "risk giving protectionists another opening," as The Economist puts it. This claim does not hold water. Because carbon tariffs level the playing field, they do not function like traditional protectionist measures. Moreover, the classic theory of trade does not imply that arbitraging domestic policies produces welfare gains – especially considering that such policies are essential for combating climate change.

A third objection is that environmental tariffs may not be legal under World Trade Organisation rules. In fact, a straightforward reading of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) suggests that they are indeed legal. Article III allows for environmental taxes, stating that "[i]mported products shall not be subject, directly or indirectly, to internal taxes or other internal charges of any kind in excess of those applied, directly or indirectly, to like domestic products." It follows that if a country has a domestic carbon tax on "like domestic products," it is permitted to apply the same tax to imports through border adjustments.

This rule has long provided the basis for border adjustments on value-added taxes, and it was also the reasoning behind a GATT panel's 1987 ruling (in United States – Taxes on Petroleum and Certain Important Substances) that border tax adjustments could be applied to chemicals. Furthermore, Article XX of the GATT provides additional exemptions for trade restrictions "necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health," and there is now a strong scientific case that carbon taxes meet that criteria.

Finally, some commentators worry that in a "liberal international order," important global policy decisions should be pursued primarily through multilateral cooperation. That may well be true. But the fact is that multilateral agreements are not going to work fast enough to keep the world anywhere close to the Paris climate agreement's 1.5° Celsius warming pathway. We cannot allow faith in multilateralism to become an alibi for inaction. Environmental tariffs could create a positive cascade of climate-mitigation policies around the world. There should be no delay in implementing them.

The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.

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WISDOM CORNER

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.

HELEN KELLER

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

DESMOND TUTU



Priyadarshi Nanu Pany

IN INDIA, THE IT SECTOR ALONE ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY 54 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL EMPLOYEE COST. IT COMPANIES ARE FACING A STERN CHALLENGE - HOW TO MANAGE TALENT AMID SHRINKING MARGINS



Daron Acemoglu

Although regulation and subsidies are essential to achieve an effective energy transition, the carbon tax is the bedrock, because that is what will increase the costs of emitting carbon dioxide, methane, and other GHGs

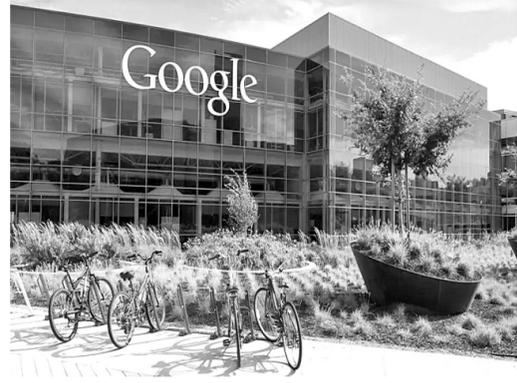
FOCUS IT SECTOR

THE HIRING FREEZE

Nearly a year back, I ruminated in a blog post on the hiring fever for tech talent. The trend of techies getting a swarm of job offers at stratospheric salaries stunned me. I wondered when this hiring frenzy would moderate. Over the next few months, the hiring momentum got red hot, snowballing into a never-seen-before talent war. People started quitting jobs in droves, leading to a phenomenon called 'The Great Resignation'. The focus for most tech entities then, big or small, was on talent retention.

Cut to the end of June 2022, and the tables had turned. The scene in tech hiring now is the antithesis of what we experienced a year back. Global big tech companies are either laying off workers or going slow on the hiring pedal. Who could have anticipated a year back that Microsoft would shed one per cent of its total workforce pool of 180,000? Or Netflix laying off 300 employees - 4 per cent of its workforce strength. Meta has announced scaling back hiring of engineers by 30 per cent this year. Its CEO Mark Zuckerberg feels the world may be heading towards one of the worst downturns in recent history.

The concerns are not cooked up. Raging inflationary pressures, global headwinds and geopolitical stability stemming from Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine have sent shivers down the spine of tech giants. Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) in the US reached 9.1 per cent in June; it's the highest in 40 years. The inflation crisis in the Euro Zone is no less unerving. Big Tech companies are wary of an impending recession and have fastened their frugal belts. There's talk that tech companies might need to borrow to sustain their high growth trajectory. But that option isn't feasible as interest rates



The concerns are not cooked up. Raging inflationary pressures, global headwinds and geopolitical stability stemming from Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine have sent shivers down the spine of tech giants

are moving north. The piecemeal remedy is to contain costs. Tech companies are doing it with layoffs. Structural adjustments and resource alignments are euphemisms for cost-cutting.

For Google, "scarcity breeds clarity" as the search engine behemoth plans to slow the pace of hiring for the rest of the year. Indian IT companies have seen the domino effect. Employee wage bills soared as firms paid through the nose to onboard the best talent. In India, the IT sector alone accounts for nearly 54 per cent of the total employee cost. IT companies are facing a stern challenge - how to manage talent amid shrinking margins. The strain on their finances shows up in their subdued hiring in the June quarter. 2021 was an astounding year for new hires. 2022 is muted to start with. Top IT service providers like Accenture, TCS,

and HCL Technologies sharply reduced hiring in the June quarter. During April-June, Accenture hired 12,000 - only 30 per cent of the 40,000 recruited in the year-ago period. TCS hired 14,136 people, down from the average quarterly hiring of 26,000 in the last fiscal. It's unclear if the IT companies will accelerate hiring in the subsequent quarters. But the pressure is palpable. The US and the EU, the two biggest markets for IT vendors, are in the grip of runaway inflation. Clients in these geographies are already dreading a recession. IT companies are in a wait-and-see mode on new recruits. For start-ups, the party is losing its lustre. Their funding winter has begun sooner than anticipated. The heady days of dangling ESOPs and 50-60 per cent pay hikes to recruits are passé. Start-ups realise they need to carry on with leaner budgets.

And they are now diving into the pool of retrenched employees to get new hires.

The signs are evident. The job market for techies has mellowed. The Great Resignation is petering out gradually. IT ecosystem now needs to revert to the basics with a dash of out-of-the-box thinking. The best bet is on upskilling and reskilling your workforce to meet on-demand skills - this will help prune 20-30 per cent costs compared to hiring from the open market. It also makes your STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) talent more productive. Companies like TCS and HCL have introduced a skill-based curriculum for engineering students to burnish their skills. Adopting a 'glocal' strategy helps too. Thinking global while hiring local can scale down costs without a dent in productivity. Borderless hiring with co-working spaces is the latest toolkit to combat the talent war without burning much on cash. Local talent also reinforces a company's footprint and establishes a direct interface with the clients in the enterprise or government domains.

The gulf between demand and supply of digital talent still exists. The positive takeaway is that the wave of The Great Resignation is subsiding. It will help the tech companies to have business continuity without fretting about costs. The bigger worry now is to sail through the wave of another dreaded recession. Indian tech firms, though, are in a better position to weather the recession storm as they have made massive investments in digital transformation in a post-pandemic world. Everyone may face the same storm, but not everyone is in the same boat.

The writer is Founder & CEO, CSM Technologies. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM CULTURE

The dreamland of Elias

The best of literature is often hidden away in regional languages. It is by sheer luck that sometimes we get a glimpse into a hitherto unexplored territory, thanks to the hard work of translators in making it accessible. Widely considered to be the best novel to have come out of Bangladesh, Akhtaruzzaman Elias' epic "Khwabnama" is a radical feat. Though Elias is relatively unheard of outside Bengal, his talents were rightly appreciated by the legendary writer Mahasweta Devi, who once remarked that she'd consider herself blessed if she achieves a fraction of Elias' quality in her writings.

"Khwabnama" is an intensely political novel yet it concerns itself less with a cry for revolution or great men and more with the lives of the subaltern. In most critical assessments of Elias' work, there is a tendency by critics to analyse it through a Marxist lens owing to his explicit progressive inclinations. While this is helpful, it is insufficient. "Khwabnama" chronicles the lives of peasants during a time of turbulent political atmosphere but the central political movement in the book is the agitation for Pakistan. The Tebhaga movement, on the other hand, is always lurking in background. The absence of its presence i.e. its trace (only partly in the Derridean sense) is strongly felt consciously. A better way to read this text politically,

then, is as an examination of what went wrong.

For Elias, the human element takes precedence. He does not merely detail the hardships that the peasants go through. On the other hand, we are given a complete and exquisitely detailed portrait of life in rural pre-partition Bengal. Elias was certainly acquainted with cosmopolitanism and his stream-of-consciousness writing style along with the somewhat non-linear narrative shows the influence of writers like Borges and Gunter Grass. Yet, his magical realism is distinctively original. We come across wandering fakirs singing songs (puthishlokas), interpreting dreams and ghosts of ancestors interacting with their relatives. Urban legends of the real-life anti-colonial figure Bhabani Pathak and his general Munshi remain alive and occupy a crucial role throughout the book and the lives of the characters. Unlike many classic works of magical realism, there is no division between the real world and the world of dreams. Neither is there any element of revelation or surprise. This is an ingenious way of transporting the reader into the lives of villagers in pre-partition Bengal as the element of "magical realism" is merely the normality of the natives. In crafting this tale, Elias has created a form of indigenous magical realism that cosmopolitan greats like Rushdie could

never write.

It is easy to dismiss and critique partition and the demand for Pakistan. Elias, who was staunchly critical of both, seeks to understand its appeal. The protagonist of the novel, Tamiz, is initially uninterested and indifferent towards the demand of Pakistan. As the story progresses, we come across the complex intersection of caste and class among both Hindus and Muslims. The compounder Prashanto refuses to consume anything at the house of the Muslim League member Abdul Kader for fear of losing caste. Similarly, the marriage between the oil presser Goffur and a woman belonging to the fisherman's caste creates outrage and ostracism. Even Boikonthu, a poor servant working for the affluent Mukunda Saha, insists on consuming mango to quench his thirst instead of water at Fakir Cherag Ali's house. In a society rife with such division, the appeal of a casteless Muslim nation appears obvious. The Muslim League politicians seek to utilise religious unity and promise the dream of abolishing the Zamindari system to the poor peasants. It is this dream which leads Tamiz to become an advocate for Pakistan.

The appropriation of the Tebhaga movement by the Muslim League can be accurately described as an instance of "false consciousness." That communal unity is steeped in

tradition is made clear by the songs of Keramat Ali and the devotion of Boikonthu towards the legend of the Hindu Bhabani Pathak fighting alongside his Pathan general Munshi against the British. The advent of Pakistan sharpens communal divide to an ugly extent. The affluent Hindus like Mukunda Saha leave for India and are merely replaced by affluent Muslim oppressors. All talk of implementing Tebhaga vanishes. The marginalised and poor Boikonthu, adored and loved by his Muslim counterparts, is brutally murdered shortly after his religious practices are publicly mocked with communal bile in a humiliating manner by the well-off Kalam Majhi. What starts of as a book of dreams becomes a story of broken dreams and cruel tragedy.

Given the complexity and length of the novel, the master translator Prof. Arunava Sinha deserves the highest praise for this impeccable translation. Sinha manages to retain the smells, sights, beauty, ugliness and idiosyncrasies of Bengal for the English reader. Hopefully, Elias will now be given his rightful place among the greatest contemporary writers of not just the subcontinent but of the world at large.

The writer is an author, blogger and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs.



Anwesh Satpathy

KHWABNAMA CHRONICLES THE LIVES OF PEASANTS DURING A TIME OF TURBULENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE BUT THE CENTRAL POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN THE BOOK IS THE AGITATION FOR PAKISTAN

Limelight on chess

Sir, Chennai would be hosting the 44th Chess Olympiad from July 28, and the city is decked up with a lot of excitement and anticipation to welcome 343 teams in the open and women's category from 187 countries. As a whole, this is great news for the connoisseurs of the game in India. Chess has made rapid strides over the years in the country. It is heartening to see many young talents taking to the game in a big way. Manuel Aaron had initially popularised chess in India by becoming India's first international master, and when Dibyendu Barua defeated Viktor Korchnoi at London at the age of 16 in 1982, chess really took off in India that was later raised to a new high by Viswanathan Anand and consolidated by a horde of youngsters like Sasikiran, Harikrishna and Koneru Humpy. Of course, an entirely new generation of young players like Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, D Harika and Padmini Rout, to name only a few, have inspired youngsters like never before. Till a few years ago, no other Indian player had achieved significant international fame as Anand did because of several factors like lack of sponsorship and support because there was no doubt about the level of talent and motivation among Indian players. However, extensive electronic media coverage of the game has revolutionised chess in India. The Chennai Olympiad should provide further boost to the game of chess in India. The eagerly awaited tournament will also provide an opportunity to Indians to see their chess masters in action. For nearly a fortnight, the limelight will totally be on chess. Many past masters would guide their respective national teams.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Affront to democracy

Sir, Dialogue, debate, discussion and deliberation are the cornerstones of parliamentary democracy. These are the essential tools for maintaining democratic values and upholding Constitutional propriety. Protest is a democratic right. Dissenting voice is a hallmark trait of an ideal democracy. But, sloganeering, picketing, shouting and holding placards inside the Parliament don't augur well for a vibrant democracy. By walking out, the Opposition parties are in fact making things easier for the government. Bills passed without discussion in the Parliament are an affront to democracy. Poor taxpayers' money should not be wasted by ruckus and cacophony inside the Parliament.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

of the day quote

Altogether 6,514 Kashmiri Pandits are still residing in Kashmir valley -- highest 2,639 in Kulgam district

NITYANAND RAI | MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

Why is Congress running away from the probe? What do they have to hide? The big question is whether the Gandhi family is above the law. There should be a separate law for Gandhi family

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

Some people come forward (to vaccinate), some have doubts. I would like to request that you don't have any doubts in your mind, vaccination is completely safe

VISHWAJIT RANE | GOA HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Another Class 12 student ends life

Chennai: A 17-year-old boy has died by suicide in Tamil Nadu, the fourth such instance in the state over the last two weeks, the police said Wednesday. The deceased, a Class 12 student of a private higher secondary school, allegedly committed suicide Tuesday night in his home, near Karaikudi in Sivaganga district. According to police, the boy's parents had gone out of town Tuesday morning while he went to school.

Guj hooch death toll rises to 40

Ahmedabad: The death toll due to the consumption of spurious liquor in Gujarat's Botad district has reached 40 with seven more people succumbing in the last 12 hours, a police official said Wednesday. Out of the deceased, 31 belonged to different villages in Botad and nine were natives of neighbouring Dhandhuka taluka in Ahmedabad district, the official of Botad police control room said.

Atulananda Goswami dies

Guwahati: Sahitya Akademi Award-winning litterateur Atulananda Goswami, known for his novels and short stories, died at a hospital in Guwahati Wednesday, family sources said. He was 87. Goswami was in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) for about 10 days, where he breathed his last Wednesday morning.

Plastic-coated products banned

Mumbai: Plastic-coated and laminated products such as disposable dishes and cups will be banned in Maharashtra from Wednesday, an official release said. The decision was taken at a meeting convened by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Tuesday, it said. Maharashtra has already banned single-use plastic items, but it was noticed that disposable dishes, plates, cups, containers and other products with plastic coating or lamination were being sold, adding to plastic garbage, it said.

Chinese Manjha claims man's life

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man died after his throat was slit by a Chinese Manjha (kite string) in the national capital, an official said Wednesday. Chinese Manjha is a thread used in kite flying, however, its manufacturers use glass coating over it which at times causes injury to humans and birds. Delhi government had banned the usage of glass-coated kite strings in 2017.



The BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government is showering flower petals on Kanwariyas using public money. We want them to treat everyone equally. They do not shower flowers on us (Muslims). Instead, they bulldoze our houses

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM LEADER

YASIN MALIK HOSPITALISED

Convicted Kashmiri Separatist leader Yasin Malik was hospitalised by the Tihar prison authorities after his health deteriorated following his ongoing hunger strike



PURE DEVOTION



Kanwariyas take a holy dip in the Ganga during their annual pilgrimage in the month of 'Shravan' in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh PTI PHOTO

Centre's guidelines for monkeypox patients

Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis – that gets transmitted to humans from animals – with symptoms similar to those seen in smallpox patients, albeit clinically less severe

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 27: A 21-day isolation, wearing masks, following hand hygiene, keeping lesions fully covered and waiting for those to fully heal are among the guidelines by the Central government for monkeypox patients and their contacts.

Officials, however, said there is no need to panic. One has to stay in isolation for 21 days from the last contact with a monkeypox patient or their contaminated materials, they said.

Because of the recent developments, the Centre issued guidelines for monkeypox management. The Delhi government has directed its hospitals and 11 revenue districts to follow the guidelines.

The Centre's guidelines state that health workers who have unprotected exposure to monkeypox patients or possibly contaminated materials need not be excluded from duty if asymptomatic but should undergo surveillance for symptoms for 21 days.

The infected person should wear a triple-ply mask while the skin lesions should be covered to the best extent possible to minimise the risk of contact with others, ac-



ording to the guidelines. It stated that patients should remain in isolation until all lesions have healed and the scabs completely fallen off.

Explaining the process of identifying a contact, an official said a person who comes in contact with an infected person through face-to-face exposure, direct physical contact, or comes in contact with contaminated materials such as clothing or bedding is identified as a primary contact.

Monkeypox typically manifests itself with fever, headache, rashes for up to three weeks, sore throat, cough and swollen lymph nodes.

The symptoms include lesions, which usually begin within one to three days of the onset of fever, last for around two to four weeks and are often described as painful until the healing phase when they turn itchy.

In May this year, multiple cases of monkeypox were identified in several non-endemic countries. Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have now been reported from 75 countries and there have been five deaths so far due to the outbreak. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern.

ED questions Sonia, no fresh summons issued

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 27: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi for over three hours on the third day of her deposition in the National Herald newspaper linked money laundering case.

She was given no fresh summons amid indications that her questioning has concluded. With Wednesday's questioning, Gandhi has been questioned for more than 11 hours over three days and faced around 100 questions, officials said.

Her first round of questioning took place on July 21. Gandhi reached the federal agency's office in central Delhi at 11 am accompanied by her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and son Rahul Gandhi.

The session began around 11.15 am. The team of investigators included the main probe officer and a person who took down statements dictated by the Congress chief. Sonia Gandhi left the ED office around 2 pm along with Vadra, who stayed with her at the 'Pravartan Bhawan' (ED headquarters) in order to provide any assistance or medical care to her mother. The questioning pertains



Cong MPs detained near Vijay Chowk

Several Congress parliamentarians were detained near Parliament Wednesday as they tried to carry out a protest march from Parliament house to Rashtrapati Bhawan against the questioning of their president Sonia Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate. The parliamentarians had planned to give a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu over the central government's alleged vendetta politics and no discussion of important issues like price rise in Parliament.

to the charge of alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

The Congress chief is understood to have stuck to the party's position that no personal assets were made in the Associate Journals Limited (AJL)-Young Indian deal and that the routine affairs were handled by other office bearers, including late Moti Lal Vora.

Congress leaders Pawan Bansal and Mallikarjun Kharge have been questioned by the ED in the past. The sessions took place with Covid-appropriate protocols in place and

are being recorded in an audio-video mode, the officials said.

The Congress has slammed the agency's action against its top leadership and termed it as "political vendetta" and "harassment".

The Delhi Police, like the last two times, deployed a huge force, including CRPF and RAF personnel, and barricaded the over one kilometre stretch between Gandhi's residence on Janpath and the ED office. Traffic restrictions were also imposed in the area. Rahul Gandhi was also questioned by the ED in this case last month in sessions that clocked over 50 hours over five days.

Rabri Devi, daughter gifted land: CBI probe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 27: A CBI probe has revealed that former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav's wife Rabri Devi and daughter Hema Yadav were gifted land in the Land for Job scam by job seekers who were later appointed in the Railways.

Hridayanand Choudhary, a railway employee and Bhola Yadav, the then OSD to Lalu Prasad were arrested by the CBI Wednesday.

Bhola was Lalu's OSD between 2004 to 2009. A CBI source said that Choudhary allegedly gifted land worth Rs 61 lakh to Hema Yadav, the daughter of Lalu Prasad. He was evasive during questioning and was arrested.

"That Brij Nandan Rai a resident of Mahuabagh in Patna vide sale deed no. 6006 of 2008 trans-

ferred a parcel of land situated at Patna measuring 3375 square feet to the accused Hridayanand Choudhary on sale consideration of Rs 4,21,000. Choudhary was appointed as substitute in the year 2005 on East Central Railway, Hazipur. Enquiry has revealed that subsequently Choudhary vide gift deed transferred said parcel of land to Lalu Yadav's daughter Hema Yadav. Enquiry has revealed that Choudhary is not a relative of Lalu Prasad Yadav. The value of above said land as per prevailing circle



rate at the time of gift was Rs 62,10,000," read the CBI's documents.

The CBI has also learnt that another parcel of land was gifted to Rabri Devi.

That Sanjay Rai, Dharmendra Rai and Ravindra Rai all residents of Mahuabagh Patna vide a sale deed transferred a parcel of land situated at Patna to Rabri Devi on sale consideration of Rs 3,75,000.

RS likely to discuss price rise early next week

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 27: The Rajya Sabha is likely to discuss price rise early next week after it failed to function properly amid protests from the opposition parties. Sources said that an understanding has been reached in a meeting Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu had with leaders of the Opposition and the government. On the opposition demand to re-

voke the suspension of members, it is learnt that the Rajya Sabha Chairman said it could be considered only if the MPs realise their misconduct and regret it.

Sources informed that Naidu said that naming and suspension of members are done as a last resort to uphold the dignity of the House and urged the opposition leaders to understand the agony that the presiding officer goes through before naming the erring members.

ISRO earns \$279mn in forex through satellite launches



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), through its commercial arms, has earned 279 million dollars in foreign exchange by launching satellites for global clients, Union Minister Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question, Singh said ISRO in association with its commercial arms has successfully launched 345 foreign satellites from 34 countries on-board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

"Total foreign exchange revenue earned through launching of foreign satellites amounts to USD 56 million (one million=10 lakhs) and 220 million Euros approximately," Singh said, without mentioning any time-frame for such launches.

As per current exchange rates, 220 million euros are equivalent to 223 million dollars. The latest PSLV mission was on June 30 when ISRO's warhorse launch vehicle placed three Singaporean satellites into orbit.

PSLV-C53 mission by ISRO, successfully launched three Singapore customer satellites namely DS-EO, NeuSAR and SCOOP-1.

Google Maps launches street view in India

The Indian government had suspended the 'Street View' service more than a decade ago for allegedly failing to secure required security clearances

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 27: Google Maps has launched its street view service across 10 cities in India in partnership with two local companies, the firm said Wednesday.

The government had previously not allowed showing of panoramic images of roads and other sites for security reasons.

In a statement, Google said Street View is being launched in partnership with Genesys International and Tech Mahindra.

"Starting today, Street View will be available on Google Maps with fresh imagery licensed from local partners covering over 1,50,000 km across ten cities in India, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik,



Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar," it said.

Google, Genesys International, and Tech Mahindra plan to expand this to more than 50 cities by the end of 2022. This India launch marks the first time in the world that

Street View is being brought to life completely by local partners.

Also, Google Maps will now show speed limits data shared by the traffic authorities, starting with Bengaluru. Google also announced its partnership with Bengaluru

traffic police as part of its efforts towards delivering models that better optimise traffic light timings.

"This is helping the local traffic authority manage road congestion at key intersections, and will eventually scale across the city," the statement said, adding, "Google will further expand this to Kolkata and Hyderabad in partnership with local traffic authorities." Speaking of the announcements, Miriam Karthika Daniel, VP- Google Maps Experiences, said the launch of Street View in India will be instrumental in delivering a more helpful user experience, from virtually visiting locations to getting a better sense of local businesses and establishments. Sajid Malik, Managing Director

of Genesys International Corporation Ltd, said, "We were the first Indian firm to perform street imaging of all major cities in India. Our fleet is still swiftly photographing Indian cities, bringing to life our city's amazing tapestry of streets and landmarks and allowing us to comfortably visit our old neighbourhoods or plan our trips."

Street View APIs will also be available to local developers enabling them to deliver richer mapping experiences in their services.

Additionally, Google announced its collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to provide air quality information.

This information can be accessed by tapping the 'Layers' button at the top right in their Maps app and selecting the 'Air Quality' option.

MP's 'Pancham' will now roar in India's biggest zoo

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, July 27: A five-year-old tiger named 'Pancham' that was living at rehabilitation centre of Van Vihar National Park located in the Madhya Pradesh's Capital city here was transported to Gujarat Tuesday.

Now, 'Pancham' will be living in Green Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GZRC) at Jamnagar in Gujarat, which is owned by Reliance Group. Newly-

Tiger 'Pancham' will be living in Green Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Jamnagar in Gujarat, which is owned by Reliance Group

established on more than 280 acres of land, GZRC is considered the world's biggest zoo, in terms of number and species of wild animals at one place.

As per the officials in Wild Life department in Bhopal, a team of GZRC had visited here to complete legal procedures of transformation of big cat and had taken 'Pancham' to Jamnagar Tuesday. Officials said that tiger was sent to the Jamnagar-based facility in a healthy condition.

The tiger was transferred to Gujarat following the direction and approval from the Central Zoo



Authority (CZA), New Delhi. "The Central Zoo Authority has permitted to transfer tiger to Jamnagar zoo in January this year. Some leopards from Van Vihar Bhopal will also be sent to Jamnagar," a senior official from Madhya Pradesh's Wildlife Department told IANS

Van Vihar National Park is left with 13 tigers after Pancham's relocation.

As per the officials, Pancham was rescued and shifted to Bhopal's Van Vihar National Park in December 2020. Pancham was three-and-a-half-year-old when his ca-

Karmajhiri declared new sanctuary

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh government has notified Karmajhiri, a popular safari zone adjacent to the Panch Tiger Reserve in Seoni district, as a new sanctuary, a senior Forest department official said Wednesday. He said this move will strengthen the management of tiger reserves and will also expand the forest space for animals. "Seoni district's 1410.420-hectare forest area is included in the new Karmajhiri sanctuary. This will strengthen the management of tiger reserves as both carnivorous and herbivorous animals will get additional space to live," said JS Chauhan, principal chief conservator of forest (Wildlife). He said the wildlife conservation area in the state will also increase due to the new sanctuary.

MP sees max tiger deaths since 2012

New Delhi: India has lost 1,059 tigers since 2012 with Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the 'tiger state' of the country, recording the highest number of deaths of striped felines. According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), 75 tigers have died this year so far, while 127 had died last year, the highest in the 2012-2022 period. As many as 106 tiger deaths occurred in 2020; 96 in 2019; 101 in 2018; 117 in 2017; 121

in 2016; 82 in 2015; 78 in 2014; 68 in 2013 and 88 in 2012. Madhya Pradesh, which has six tiger reserves, logged the maximum number (270) of deaths during this period, followed by Maharashtra (183), Karnataka (150), Uttarakhand (96), Assam (72), Tamil Nadu (66), Uttar Pradesh (56) and Kerala (55). Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh saw 25, 17, 13, 11 and 11 tiger deaths, respectively.

Madhya Pradesh has lost 68 tigers in the last one-and-a-half years, while Maharashtra has seen 42 tiger deaths in this period. In the 2018 Tiger Census, Madhya Pradesh had emerged as the 'tiger state' of India with 526 tigers, followed by Karnataka which had 524 tigers. According to data, 193 tigers died due to poaching in the 2012-2020 period. Data of deaths due to poaching since January 2021 is not yet available.

Wednesday.

Before living in Bhopal's Van Vihar National Park, 'Pancham' lived in Panch Tiger Reserve, which is located in Seoni and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh. Now,

nine teeth got damaged due to an unidentified reason.

Apart from Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand Central Zoo Authority has also allowed the transfer of two tigers named - "Betal and

Shikha" from Nainital's Govind Ballabh Pant Zoological Park and Ranibagh Rescue Centre to Reliance group owned Green Zoological Reserve and Rehabilitation Centre in Jamnagar in Gujarat.

Vigil along Indo-Nepal border tightened after uranium seizure

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, July 27: Security along Indo-Nepal border has been tightened after 11 Afghanistan and two Nepalese nationals were arrested last week while attempting to smuggle in 2kg uranium.

The Nepalese authorities arrested the accused from Viratnagar July 23. Six of the arrested Afghan nationals were found in possession of fake Aadhaar cards. During interrogation, the accused confessed that they were trying to smuggle in the uranium consignment in India through Bihar.

Soon after, the Nepal home ministry released a statement saying that the citizens of third countries are taking advantage of the open border of Bihar and Nepal to smuggle highly sensitive Uranium. It is a threat to both nations.

According to sources, the accused were trying to enter through Jobbani border in Araria district of Bihar.

The arrest of Afghan nationals is a sensitive matter as it comes days after the security agencies busted a suspected Phulwari Sharif terror module in Patna. The security agencies of India are suspecting that a large number of sleeper cells are active in Seemanchal districts like Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Katihar districts.

BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal also claimed that sleeper cells are active in Bihar in large numbers.

"Following the development in Nepal, we have been intensifying



Uranium is a highly sensitive radioactive element used in atomic reactors and preparation of atom bomb after its enrichment

check on every border check post connecting Bihar and Nepal. The citizens of both the countries have been asked to produce valid identity proofs before travelling into

these two borders," said an official of Seema Suraksha Bal (SSB) at Jobbani border in Araria district.

Sources said that the first target of accused was to enter into the territory of Bihar through Jobbani town and take shelter in Muslim dominated area. The officials are claiming that it was a big conspiracy against India.

Uranium is highly sensitive radioactive element used in atomic reactors and preparation of atom bomb after its enrichment.

Dalit girl asked not to attend school; 7 held

AGENCIES

Shajapur, July 27: A group of locals allegedly told a 16-year-old Dalit girl not to attend school on the ground that other girls were also not studying in a village here in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said.

Police have arrested seven persons in connection with the incident which took place Saturday after a clash broke out between families of the girl and the accused in Bawaliyakhedi village, leaving some people injured, he said.

The girl issued a video in which she alleged the accused snatched her school bag and objected to her attending classes.

She alleged the accused assaulted her brother when he objected to their comments and also beat up other family members.

The incident took place when the minor girl of a Scheduled Caste community was going home after attending a local school Saturday afternoon, Kotwali police station in-charge Avdesh Kumar Shesha said Tuesday quoting a complaint.

Some persons allegedly accosted and snatched the girl's school bag and told her not to attend school as other girls of the village were not

doing so, he said.

Later, a clash erupted between the girl's family and relatives of the accused, he said.

Following the complaint, the police arrested seven people Monday under relevant sections of the

The girl issued a video in which she alleged the accused snatched her school bag and objected to her attending classes

Indian Penal Code and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the official said.

A cross-complaint by the other side, alleging assault, was also registered against the girl's brother and three others, he said.

Those injured in the clash were being treated in the district hospital, the official said but did not give their exact number.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Shajapur, Jagdeesh Dabar said, "Both sides (Rajput and Dalit) had indulged in a scuffle over the land. Later, some other people also got involved in the matter and they made it a Dalit Vs upper caste issue."

MONSOON MAYHEM



Damaged Kaliasot bridge on Bhopal-Raisen road following heavy monsoon rains in Mandideep

PTI PHOTO

Picture of kids studying with umbrellas in class goes viral

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Seoni/Bhopal, July 27: A picture of a primary school in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh is going viral on social media, in which children are sitting in the classroom with umbrellas.

While sharing the picture, the Congress has raised questions about the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. Congress' state president Kamal Nath's media coordinator Narendra Saluja has tweeted a picture in which the children are seen sitting in the classroom with the umbrellas while teachers are teaching. The picture is revealing the condition of the school buildings.

Saluja wrote in a tweet, "Big claims about state-of-the-art CM Rise School in Shivraj government in Madhya Pradesh on one hand and students forced to study with umbrellas inside the school to avoid water dripping from the roof in the primary school of Khairikala village of Seoni district of the state on the other. This is the reality of



CONGRESS' STATE PRESIDENT KAMAL NATH'S MEDIA COORDINATOR NARENDRA SALUJA HAS TWEETED A PICTURE IN WHICH THE CHILDREN ARE SEEN SITTING IN THE CLASSROOM WITH THE UMBRELLAS WHILE TEACHERS ARE TEACHING

PEOPLE FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS HAVE TAKEN A JIBE AT THE PICTURE GOING VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Shivraj govt."

People from several quarters have taken a jibe at the picture going viral on social media.

"This is the condition of the school buildings of the state that

children are sitting with umbrellas during the rain even in the classroom," they said. Earlier, an incident of students using ropes to cross a river to go to school had come to the fore.

Truck rams into group of kanwariyas; 5 hurt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, July 27: Five kanwariyas were critically injured after a truck rams into a group of pilgrims in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, following which angry people set the vehicle on fire, police said Wednesday.

The incident occurred near Rithorakala village around 11pm Tuesday when a group of kanwariya pilgrims was returning from Haridwar (on foot), said ASP Ray Singh.

Soon after the incident, local people gathered at the spot, thrashed the truck driver, and set the vehicle ablaze, he said.

People also blocked the Morena-Bhind road for two hours after the incident. Two of the critically injured kanwariyas were referred to Gwalior for further treatment, the ASP said. A case has been registered against the truck driver and his vehicle was impounded.

Kanwariyas are devotees of Lord Shiva who travel to pilgrimages places like Haridwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri in Uttarakhand to fetch the holy water of the Ganga river to pour it on various Shivlingas during the annual Kanwar Yatra pilgrimage.

Suspected monkeypox case in Nalanda

AGENCIES

Patna, July 27: A man with symptoms of monkeypox was admitted to a hospital in Bihar's Nalanda district Wednesday.

The patient, a resident of Rajgir in Nalanda district, has been put on home isolation with a team of health department monitoring him.

"The patient is suffering from fever and itching in the several parts of the body followed by developed poxes. We have sent his samples to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for testing. The report is expected within four to five days," said an official of Nalanda health department.

Earlier, the health department of Bihar detected a suspected case of monkeypox in Patna City's Gurnhatta locality as well.

The patient is a woman and a team of the health department has taken a sample for the testing.

According to an official, the woman has all symptoms of monkeypox and she is currently isolated in her house.

In the absence of testing facility for the virus in Bihar, the sam-

The WHO has declared monkeypox as a global health emergency after more than 16,000 cases appeared in 65 countries

ples are being sent to Pune.

Meanwhile, Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey convened a high-level meeting of senior officials and gave necessary direction to look after the matter.

"The Health department is on high alert and the officials have been given necessary directions and to instruct every medical and nursing staff, ANM, and Asha workers regarding it. The ANM

and Asha workers were specially asked to keep a tab on high density areas and inform the department as soon as symptoms appear in any patients," Pandey said.

So far, one case of monkeypox has surfaced in Delhi and three in Kerala.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared monkeypox as a global health emergency after more than 16,000 cases appeared in 65 countries.

The virus of monkeypox is generally transmitted from animals to humans and then humans to humans. Its virus generally enters into the human bodies through mouth, nose, eyes and skin.



of the day quote

The Congress party which is holding protests over the investigation into corruption cases against their top leadership, it is not 'satyagraha' but it is 'duraagraha' in support of lies and corruption

Greetings to former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on his birthday. I pray for his health and long life

Congress is Gangotri of corruption, their current and former national presidents are daily attending inquiries in cases relating to corruption, their state president too has faced such inquiries. We need not learn lessons from them, people are aware of things

SHORT TAKES

3 sisters found hanging from tree

Khandwa (MP): The bodies of three tribal sisters were found hanging from a tree at a hamlet in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh, a police official said Wednesday. They were found hanging at Kota Falya near Bhamgarh village around 11 pm Tuesday, he said.

Two Nigerian fraudsters held

Srinagar: Cyber Police Kashmir Zone in its recent action against fraudsters have arrested two Nigerian fraudsters from Delhi involved in duping a man from Baramulla for Rs 36.35 lakh in an online scam, officials said Wednesday. Police said it received a written application from a resident of Baramulla alleging therein that while surfing Facebook, he came in contact with some unknown fake Facebook user T. Jessica, who impersonated as a purchase manager of a renowned pharmaceutical company Abbott.

LF brings out protest rallies

Kolkata: The Left Front Wednesday brought out several rallies in Kolkata demanding the arrest and stringent punishment for those involved in the school jobs scam. Left Front chairman Biman Bose and other senior leaders met protesting teaching job candidates, demanding appointments, in front of Gandhi statue near Esplanade, as the agitators claimed their stir entered the 500th day Wednesday.

Hyd: Musi river swells

Hyderabad: Musi river which flows in Hyderabad was in spate Wednesday, inundating some residential localities along its course and throwing normal life out of gear. The localities, including Purnanapal and Chaderghat, faced water-logging following heavy flow of water in the river consequent to heavy rains in its catchment areas during the last few days. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi said 1,500 residents living near the Musi downstream areas have been evacuated and shifted to shelter homes due to increased flow of floodwater.

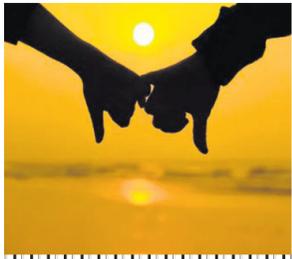


Some mistakes are bound to happen while running a big organisation. If anyone makes a mistake and it is legally proved, the errant will be punished

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR

A 31-year-old woman, a mother of four, eloped with a 14-year-old boy with whom she had extramarital relations. The woman from Gudivada town of Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district eloped with the boy to Hyderabad. She had taken a house on rent in Balanagar area and was living with him



20 suspended MPs begin protest in Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: Twenty suspended Rajya Sabha members Wednesday started a 50-hour relay protest inside the Parliament complex, with sources saying the Opposition declined the Chairman's offer that they express regret over their members' behaviour in the House to get the suspension revoked.

The Nationalist Congress Party and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha who have no members suspended will also join the protests, sources said. "Question: What were Opposition MPs demanding Answer: A discussion on #PriceRise #GST hurting millions of people Action: Dictatorial @narendramodi govt suspends 24 MPs from #Parliament Next few days 24x 7 dharna at Gandhi statue. Peaceful satyagraha will always WIN," tweeted TMC's Rajya Sabha member Derek O'Brien.

While the Congress and other Opposition parties were protesting at different venues in the morning, by the evening, it seemed they had come together on the issue of price rise. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh visited the site of the protests and said his party will be part of the day-night dharna organised by the other Opposition parties. The CPI, whose one member has been suspended, said in a statement the suspension is an assault on the basic rights of freedom of expression of members of Parliament. "The suspension of 4 opposition MPs of the Lok Sabha



AAP MP Sanjay Singh with TMC MPs Dola Sen and Mausam Noor, and other MPs during their protest at Parliament House complex during ongoing Monsoon Session in New Delhi

THE MPS ARE HOLDING THE PROTEST NEAR THE GANDHI STATUE AND WILL STAY AT THE SITE THROUGH NIGHT

THE 20 MPS, SUSPENDED OVER MONDAY AND TUESDAY, INCLUDE SEVEN FROM THE TMC, SIX FROM THE DMK, THREE FROM THE TELANGANA RASHTRA SAMITHI (TRS), TWO FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST) AND ONE EACH FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI) AND THE AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP)

SOURCES IN THE OPPOSITION ALSO SAID A DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION HAS BEEN DRAWN OUT FOR THE DHARNA AND A ROSTER OF DUTIES CREATED WHICH IS BEING CIRCULATED ON A DEDICATED WHATSAPP GROUP

and 20 MPs of the the opposition in the Rajya Sabha including two MPs of the CPI(M) on successive days is a serious blow to the democratic functioning of Parliament. "It is the Modi government that has been stubbornly refusing to

accept any motion moved by the opposition under the Rules for a structured discussion on the burning problems being faced by the people, destroying their lives, like price rise, unemployment etc." Opposition sources also said

38 TMC MLAs in touch with BJP, claims Mithun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 27: Actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty, who had joined the BJP ahead of the West Bengal Assembly polls last year, Wednesday claimed that 38 TMC MLAs are in touch with the saffron camp.

Of the 38 legislators, 21 are directly in touch with him, he said. "At least 38 TMC MLAs are in touch with the BJP. Out of them, 21 are personally in touch with me. When I was in Mumbai, I read in newspapers one fine morning that the Shiv Sena and the BJP have formed the government in Maharashtra," he said while addressing a press conference here. The TMC, while reacting to his allegations, said the famed actor is "trying to fool the people by making false claims". Chakraborty said the BJP is in power in 18 states, and the party's flag will "fly high in a few other states very soon".

"The BJP will not stop its fight in West Bengal. If free and fair polls are held in the state today, the party will form the next government," he said. "Such statements are an at-

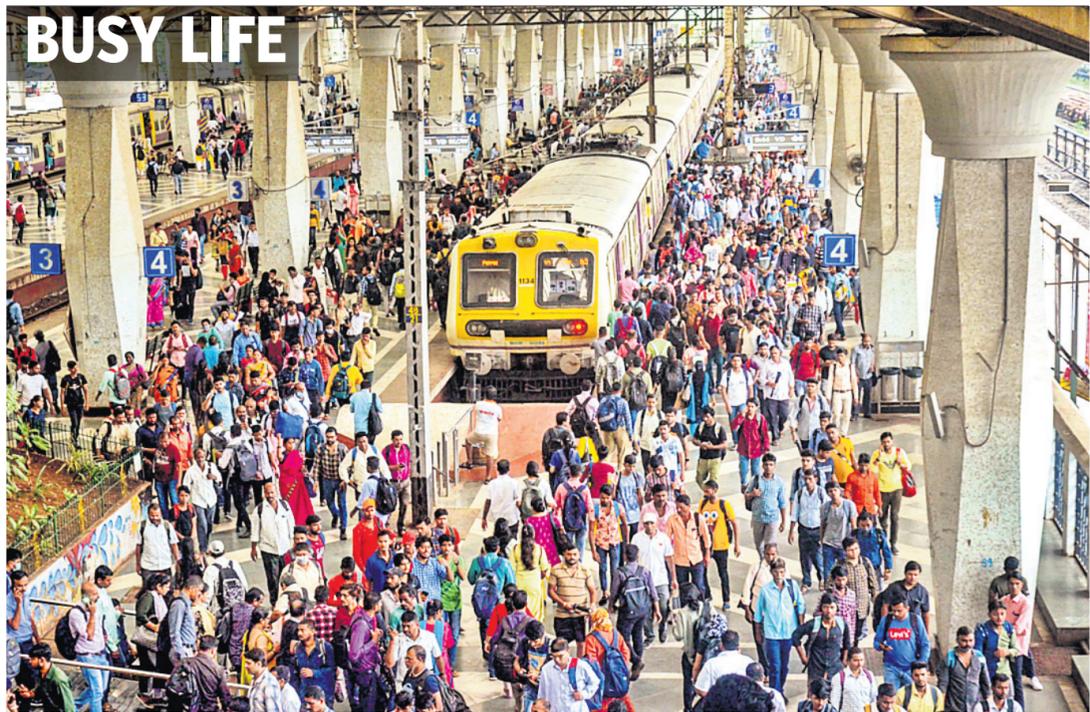
At least 38 TMC MLAs are in touch with the BJP. Out of them, 21 are personally in touch with me. When I was in Mumbai, I read in newspapers one fine morning that the Shiv Sena and the BJP have formed the government in Maharashtra

MITHUN CHAKRABORTY | ACTOR-TURNED-POLITICIAN

tempt to fool the masses. It has no relation with reality," TMC MP Santanu Sen said. The TMC has 216 MLAs in the 294-member West Bengal Assembly. The opposition BJP has 75 legislators.

However, five saffron party MLAs have joined the ruling party without resigning as legislators. In Maharashtra, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress collapsed last month after Eknath Shinde raised a banner of revolt against the Sena leadership with a majority of party MLAs.

Shinde was sworn in as the new chief minister of Maharashtra and BJP leader Devendra Fadnis as deputy CM in Mumbai.



Commuters at crowded Panvel Railway Station after trains on harbour railway line were running behind schedule due to a technical glitch in Navi Mumbai

HC junks plea to suspend Satyendar Jain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The Delhi High Court Wednesday dismissed a plea to suspend Delhi minister Satyendar Jain from the Cabinet following his arrest in a money laundering case, saying it is for the chief minister to consider whether a person with a criminal background should be allowed to continue as a minister or not.

The high court held it is not for the court to direct the governor or chief minister for the removal of a person who has committed a breach of oath. It is the duty of the court to remind these key duty holders about their role to preserve, protect and promote the ethos and uphold the tenets of the Constitution, the high court said. "The Council of Ministers has a collective responsibility to sustain and uphold

the integrity of the Constitution of India, and it is for the Chief Minister to act in the best interest of the State and consider as to whether a person who has a criminal background and/or has been charged with offences involving moral turpitude should be appointed and should be allowed to continue as a Minister or not," said a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad.

Murder of BJP youth leader sparks tension



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mangalore/Bangalore, July 27: A BJP youth murcha leader's killing by unidentified assailants led to tension at several places in Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka Wednesday with instances of stone-pelting and police lathicharge being reported, while the party-led government assured strict punishment against individuals or organisations behind the killing.

While the police registered a case of murder, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the government would not hesitate to hand over the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), if required. The Sangh Parivar had called for a bandh in Puttur, Kadaba and Sullia taluks in Mangaluru Wednesday in protest against the murder and shops downed shutters. Praveen Netta, a Zilla BJP Yuva Morcha committee member was hacked to death in front of his broiler shop in Bellare by three bike-borne miscreants Tuesday night.

Smoking, vaping spiked severe Covid complications

People who reported smoking were 45 per cent more likely to die and 39 per cent more likely to receive mechanical ventilation when compared with those who did not smoke

AGENCIES

New York, July 27: People who reported smoking or vaping prior to their hospitalisation for Covid-19 were more likely than their counterparts, who did not smoke or vape, to experience severe complications, including death, from

the SARS-CoV-2 infection, finds a study led by an Indian-origin researcher.

The findings, published in the journal PLOS ONE, indicate smoking or vaping are associated with more severe Covid-19 independent of age, sex, race or medical history.

People who reported smoking were 45 per cent more likely to die and 39 per cent more likely to receive mechanical ventilation when compared with those who did not smoke.

"In general, people who smoke or vape tend to have a higher prevalence of other health conditions and risk factors that could play a role in how they are impacted by Covid-19," said Aruni Bhatnagar, Professor of medicine, biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of



Representational image

Louisville in the US. "However, the robust and significant increase in the risk of severe Covid-19 seen in our study, independent of medical history and

medication use and particularly among young individuals, underscores the urgent need for extensive public health interventions such as anti-smoking campaigns and in-

creased access to cessation therapy, especially in the age of Covid," she added. Researchers examined data on 4,086 people over 18 years of age who were hospitalised with Covid between January 2020 to March 2021.

Smoking status was self-reported and people were classified as smoking if they reported currently using either traditional, combustible cigarettes or e-cigarette products, with no distinction between the two and no information on duration of smoking or former smoking status.

"The findings provide the clearest evidence to date that people who smoke or vape have a higher risk of developing severe Covid-19 and dying as a result of SARS-CoV-2 infection."

international



The situation in Ukraine did additionally negatively affect food markets, but not due to the Russian special operation, rather due to the absolutely inadequate reaction of the West, which announced sanctions
SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

ZELENSKY, WIFE ON VOGUE COVER

Zelensky and his wife Olena Zelenska have posed for the cover story of Vogue magazine, in which the couple discussed their nearly two decade of marriage and spending time without their children who have to be separated due to Russia's ongoing invasion of the country



of the day quote

There is no time for complacency and we need to continue working together to control the monkeypox outbreak
STELLA KYRAKIDES | HEALTH COMMISSIONER, EU

Terrorism was the greatest threat to democracy, and the Parliament which upholds democracy would not support such acts of terrorism. There could be different political ideologies but the Parliament should work in unison to address the issues faced by the people
DINESH GUNAWARDENA | PM, SRI LANKA

We are confident that with I2U2, we will make significant contributions to energy security, food security and economic growth in the Middle East and South Asia
R RAVINDRA | CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, INDIA'S PERMANENT MISSION TO UN

SHORT TAKES

Suicide bombing in Somalia kills 11

Mogadishu: Witnesses say at least 11 people are dead after a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance to a government building in southern Somalia. District Commissioner Abdillahi Ali Waafow was among those killed in Wednesday's attack, the secretary-general of the Marka town administration in the Lower Shabelle region, Mohamed Osmaan Yariisoo, told The Associated Press by phone. The Somalia-based extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack.

40K rail workers go on strike in UK

London: Britain's railway network ground to a crawl Wednesday after 40,000 staff walked off the job in a dispute over jobs, pay and working conditions. Train companies said only about a fifth of services across the country were due to run. The 24-hour strike by cleaners, signallers, maintenance workers and station staff comes a month after the country's most disruptive rail walkout in three decades brought trains to a halt across the UK at the start of the summer holiday season.

Philippines scraps Russian Mi-17 deal

Manila: The Philippine government has scrapped a deal to purchase 16 Russian military transport helicopters due to fears of possible US sanctions, Philippine officials said. Former Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Tuesday night he cancelled the 12.7-billion-peso (\$227 million) deal to acquire the Mi-17 helicopters in a decision last month that was approved by then-President Rodrigo Duterte before their terms in office ended June 30.

Japan, Indonesia to boost naval ties

Tokyo: The leaders of Japan and Indonesia agreed Wednesday to bolster their ties in maritime security and their cooperation on climate change, energy and investment between the Asian archipelago nations. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at a joint news conference after holding talks with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Tokyo, said Japan will provide support to "further reinforce Indonesian maritime security capability to ensure peace and safety at sea in the Indo-Pacific region."

Russia cuts gas flow through Nord Stream 1

GAZPROM CUTS GAS FLOW TO 20% OF CAPACITY



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, July 27: Russia's Gazprom Wednesday halved the amount of natural gas flowing through a major pipeline from Russia to Europe to 20% of capacity.

It's the latest Nord Stream 1 reduction that Russia has blamed on technical problems but Germany calls a political move to sow uncertainty and push up prices amid the war in Ukraine.

The Russian state-controlled energy giant announced Monday that it would slash flows on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline that runs to Germany because of equipment repairs.

It's raised new fears that Russia could completely cut off gas that is used to power industry, generate electricity and heat homes to try to gain political leverage over Europe as it tries to bolster its storage levels for winter.

Nord Stream's network data and the head of Germany's network regulator, Klaus Mueller, confirmed the reduction. "Gas is now a part of Russian foreign policy and possibly Russian war strategy," Mueller told Deutschlandfunk radio.

Natural gas prices have surged on Europe's TTF benchmark to levels not seen since early March and are nearly six times higher than they were a year ago.

Soaring energy prices are fu-

Nord Stream 1 accounts for around a third of all Russian gas exports to Europe

elling record inflation, squeezing people's spending power and heightening concerns that Europe could plunge into recession if it does not save enough gas to get through the cold months.

That fear led EU governments Tuesday to agree to reduce natural gas use to protect against further Russian supply cuts.

The draft law aims to lower demand for gas by 15% from August through March with voluntary steps. If there aren't enough savings, mandatory cuts would be triggered in the 27-nation bloc.

Russia, which has reduced or cut off natural gas to 12 EU countries since the war, insists that the new drop-off through Nord Stream 1 is because maintenance is needed on a turbine for a compressor station and another turbine sent for repairs in Canada isn't yet back in place.

It has said the paperwork for the return of the latter turbine has raised questions about Western sanctions. European leaders and analysts say the reductions are a pretext to try to divide EU countries and elevate prices.

1,000 Lufthansa flights cancelled as staff strikes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, July 27: More than 1,000 Lufthansa flights were cancelled Wednesday because of a one-day strike by the airline's German ground staff, affecting tens of thousands of passengers in the latest travel turmoil to hit Europe.

About 134,000 passengers had to change their travel plans or cancel them altogether. At least 47 connections had already been cancelled on Tuesday, German news agency dpa reported.

Lufthansa's main hubs in Frankfurt and Munich were most affected, but flights were also cancelled in Duesseldorf, Hamburg, Berlin, Bremen, Hannover, Stuttgart and Cologne. The airline advised affected passengers not to come to the airports because most of the counters there would not be staffed anyway.

The verDi service workers' union announced the strike Monday as it



seeks to raise pressure on Lufthansa in negotiations on pay for about 20,000 employees of logistical, technical and cargo subsidiaries of the airline. The walkout comes at a time when airports in Germany and across Europe already are seeing disruption and long lines for security checks because of staff shortages and soaring travel demand.

As inflation soars, strikes for higher pay by airport crews in France and Scandinavian Airlines pilots in Sweden, Norway and Denmark have deepened the chaos for travellers who have faced last-minute cancellations, lengthy delays, lost luggage or long waits for bags in airports across Europe.

Quake kills 5, injures dozens in Philippines

TREMOR FURY

In a chilling near-death experience, Filipino photo-journalist Harley Palangchao and companions were travelling downhill in two vans in Mountain Province when they suddenly heard thunder-like thuds and saw an avalanche of boulders as big as cars raining down just ahead of them from a towering mountain. Amid screams of his companions in their van to "back up, back up!" the 44-year-old father of three raised his camera in the front seat and snapped what he feared could be the final pictures of his life. "I was thinking there should be at least a record if something happened to us," Palangchao told the AP. "It was a horrific experience."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Manila, July 27: A strong earthquake set off landslides and damaged buildings in the northern Philippines Wednesday, killing at least five people and injuring dozens. In the capital, hospital patients were evacuated and terrified people rushed outdoors.

The 7-magnitude quake was

centred in a mountainous area of Abra province, said Renato Solidum, the head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, who described the midmorning shaking as a major earthquake.

At least five people died — mostly in collapsed structures. One villager died when hit by falling cement slabs in his house

in Abra, where dozens of others were injured.

Hundreds of houses and buildings had cracked walls, including some that collapsed in Abra, where President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who took office less than a month ago, planned to travel Thursday to meet victims and local officials.

Marcos Jr. told a news conference he was in his office at the

riverside Malacanang presidential palace complex when the chandeliers began swaying and making clanking sounds. "It was very strong," he said of the ground shaking.

The quake was set off by movement in a local fault at a depth of 17 kilometers, the institute said, adding it expected damage and more aftershocks.

S'pore lets Gotabaya extend stay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore/Colombo, July 27: The Singapore government has allowed former Sri Lankan president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to extend his stay in the country for another 14 days after he fled the crisis-hit island nation, according to a media report Wednesday.

The report on the extension of Rajapaksa's visit pass came a day after Sri Lanka's Cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena said the ex-president was not hiding and is expected to return to the country from Singapore.

Rajapaksa, 73, arrived in Singapore July 14 on a "private visit" from the Maldives after he fled his country to escape a popular uprising against his government's economic mismanagement. He first fled to the Maldives on July 13



and from there he proceeded to Singapore the next day.

The Straits Times newspaper reported that Rajapaksa's shorter-term visit pass, which was issued when he arrived here on a "private visit" two weeks ago, has been extended by another 14 days.

After Rajapaksa landed in Singapore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here confirmed that he had been allowed entry on a "private

visit." The ministry stressed that the ex-president had not asked for asylum.

Singapore generally does not grant requests for asylum, the spokesman had said.

The ex-president was issued a 14-day visit pass when he arrived at Changi Airport on a Saudia flight from the Maldives on July 14. He initially stayed at a hotel in the city centre, but is believed to have moved to a private residence, according to the report.

He has not been seen in public in Singapore.

When asked about Rajapaksa at a weekly Sri Lankan Cabinet media briefing, Cabinet Spokesman Gunawardena told reporters in Colombo on Tuesday that the former president was not in hiding and he is expected to return from Singapore.

Ukrainians sign petition to give citizenship, PM role to Johnson

AGENCIES

Kyiv, July 27: A tongue-in-cheek petition to give outgoing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson Ukrainian citizenship and make him the country's Prime Minister has garnered over 2,500 signatures hours after being put up on Ukraine's official petitions site Tuesday.

Despite losing domestic popularity and eventually having been forced to announce his resignation after dozens of ministerial departures in early July, Johnson remains a cult figure in Kyiv for his vocal support of Ukraine as it fights off Russia's invasion.

Paintings, murals, and even cakes in Ukraine's capital bear the likeness of the man some Ukrainians affectionately call Johnsoniuk.

The petition, addressed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, lists Johnson's strengths as worldwide support for Boris Johnson, a clear position against the military invasion of Ukraine, (and) wisdom in the political, financial and legal spheres.

The petition, however, does acknowledge one negative side of such an appointment its non-compliance with Ukraine's constitution.

In an apparent coincidence, several hours after the petition was put up Tuesday, Johnson presented Zelenskyy with the Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award for what his Downing Street office described as incredible courage, defiance, and dignity in the face of Russia's invasion.

Zelenskyy did not mention the new petition when accepting the award, but he will be obliged to officially respond if it receives 25,000 signatures. Accepting the award via video link from Kyiv, Zelenskyy quoted wartime British premier Churchill, saying that Johnson had no thought of quitting the struggle when the going got tough.

Creator of Gaia theory no more

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 27: James Lovelock, the environmental scientist whose influential Gaia theory sees the Earth as a living organism imperiled by human activity, has died on his 103rd birthday.

Lovelock's wife and children said Wednesday that he died the previous evening "in his home surrounded by his family," from complications related to a fall.

The family said until six months ago Lovelock "was still able to walk along the coast near his home in Dorset and take part in interviews, but his health deteriorated after a bad fall earlier this year."

His contribution to environmental science included developing a device to measure ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere and pollutants in air, soil and water.

Lovelock said human activity has thrown the system dangerously out of kilter.

Sunak raced to aid of fainted TV host

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 27: Rishi Sunak rushed to the side of a television host after she fainted live on air during a UK prime ministerial election debate, which was cancelled midway through.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss was in the midst of making a point about her economic plans if elected as the Conservative Party leader when she was seen on screen reacting with horror to the sound of a crash off screen.

"The Sun" newspaper, which was the co-host of the debate with TalkTV Tuesday evening, has reported on what went on behind the scenes when the channel had to switch to another studio after host Kate McCann was unwell.

The newspaper quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the former Chancellor "raced to Kate's side".



Truss also went to check on the presenter and both candidates were seen kneeling down checking if she was fine.

"Kate McCann fainted on air last night and although she is fine, the medical advice was that we shouldn't continue with the debate. We apologise to our viewers and listeners, a spokesperson for News UK," the company behind "TalkTV" said.

As the debate was halted around 30 minutes, a message on TalkTV and "The Sun" online stream read "We're sorry for the disruption to this programme."

Thai cash in on cannabis, from milk tea to toothpaste

REUTERS

Bangkok, July 27: Thai businesses are cashing in with cannabis-infused products like toothpaste, tea, soaps and snacks after the government legalised the plant and its extract this year, generating a wave of interest in the drug.

"It gives me a deep and comfortable sleep," said Pakpoom Charoenbunna, 32, who buys a cannabis-infused drink from his regular milk-tea vendor.

Thailand became the first Southeast Asian country to legalise marijuana in 2018 for medical use and research.

Last month, Thailand decrim-

inalised the entire plant. Dropping cannabis from its narcotics list has led to an explosion of recreational use.

Officially, commercial products approved by the food and drug regulator can contain cannabidiol (CBD), a chemical in cannabis that does not make users high.

But the regulator limits the content of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - the active ingredient that gets users high - in any cannabis product to just 0.2%.

Thailand has a long history of using cannabis in traditional medicine to relieve aches and pains. Innovators are now coming up with new ideas.

Surawut Samphant, owner of



the Channherb cannabis shop, has created a toothpaste.

One of its ingredients is cannabis sativa seed oil, which contains CBD, he said.

Surawut said the toothpaste helped with gum care and one

THAI CANNABIS INDUSTRY COULD SURPASS \$3BN IN FIVE YEARS

CONSUMERS USE TOOTHPASTE FOR GUMS, SNACKS TO HELP SLEEP

MINISTER HOPES FIRMS 'GET RICH' - WITH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS ONLY

satisfied customer said it worked for him.

"I have receding gums and sometimes they get infected," said Nikom Rianthong who has been using the toothpaste for two months

It solved my problems, he said, adding he won't be going back to other brands.

The owner of the Kanomsiam dessert shop, Kreephet Hanpongpiat, has long sold pandan-leaf flavoured dishes but a year ago incorporated cannabis leaf to draw in new customers.

Kreephet said his customers say the cannabis-infused desserts help them get a good sleep.

Health minister Anutin Charnvirakul, the main driver behind the legalisation of cannabis for medical purposes, estimates the industry could be worth more than \$3 billion within five years.

"I want to see people getting rich out of doing these products

in a positive way," he told Reuters.

"My policy on cannabis is only focusing on medical purposes and health care. That's all. We can't encourage the use of cannabis in other ways," he said.

Producers of THC-rich marijuana have taken advantage of the push to promote medical marijuana and stalls selling pot have sprung up around the country.

Anutin said that there were public health laws that can prevent recreational use while a cannabis bill is being deliberated in parliament.

Kreephet said there needed to be more public education on the benefits and dangers of cannabis so it can be used safely.

of the day quote

Coal India has earned revenue worth over ₹ 1.52 lakh crore from coal sales in financial year 2021-22

PRALHAD JOSHI | COAL MINISTER

With the signing of this MoU, we have paved the way for deep partnership and collaboration to solve the problems of construction and land-related difficulties that warehousing developers confront

RAJAN N BANDELKAR | PRESIDENT, NAREDCO

We registered our best ever residential pre-sales at ₹602 crore, bucking the industry trend where Q1 is generally slower than the preceding quarter

ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN | MD & CEO, MAHINDRA LIFESPACE DEVELOPERS

SHORT TAKES

Maruti net profit rises over two-fold

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Wednesday reported over two-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,036 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, mainly due to a low base in the year-ago period. The auto major had posted a net profit of ₹475 crore in the COVID-hit April-June quarter of the last fiscal. Its net sales rose to ₹26,512 crore in the June quarter compared to ₹17,776 crore in the same period of 2021-22. It sold 4,67,931 vehicles during the June quarter against 3,53,614 units in the year-ago period.

IMFA PAT grows 35% to ₹134cr

New Delhi: Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys has registered over 35 per cent jump in its consolidated profit after tax to ₹134.18 crore during the quarter ended June 30, mainly on account of higher income. The company had clocked ₹99.09-crore profit after tax (PAT) during the April-June quarter of financial year 2021-22, Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys (IMFA) said in a regulatory filing. Its total income during April-June 2022-23 rose to ₹750.27 crore, from ₹541.91 crore in the year-ago period, IMFA said.

TaMo loss widens to ₹4,951cr in Q1

New Delhi: Home-grown auto major Tata Motors Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹4,951 crore in the quarter ended June 2022. The company had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹4,450 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations during the period under review stood at ₹71,935 crore as against ₹66,406 crore in the year-ago period, the company added. On a standalone basis, Tata Motors reported a net loss of ₹181 crore, putting up a better performance from a net loss of ₹1,321 crore in the year-ago period.

China smartphone sales hit new low

New Delhi: China's smartphone sales hit a fresh low in the April-June quarter (down 14.2 per cent) to reach less than half of the sales of the historical peak in the fourth quarter of 2016, a new report has shown. The last time the sales were lower than this point was nearly a decade ago in Q4 2012, when the iPhone 5 was introduced. With a 19.8 per cent share, Vivo retained its first place in Q2, followed by Honor (18.3 per cent) and OPPO (17.9 per cent), according to Counterpoint Research.



By 2030, the total capacity for power production would be about 820GW. Out of that, more than 500GW will be non-fossil

RK SINGH | UNION POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

TCS IN EXPANSION MODE

India's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Wednesday announced a multi-year, multi-million dollar deal with Marks & Spencer, with which it has been working for over a decade, to transform the British retailer's human resource operations. The firm expects the \$1 billion retail sector business in the UK, Europe to outpace the company's overall revenue growth on the back of strong demand for IT services



AGAINST CHALLENGES

India wheat prices zoom to all-time high

US Fed hikes rates by 75-basis-point

Local wheat prices jumped to a record ₹23,547 per tonne Wednesday. That was up nearly 12% from recent lows that followed the government's surprise ban on exports May 14

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 27: Indian wheat prices jumped to a record high, despite a ban on exports, amid strong demand and dwindling supply from a crop damaged by heatwave. The price rally has reduced chances of India supplying substantial amounts of wheat under government-to-government deals with countries struggling to secure shipments amid the disruption of the war in Ukraine. Supplies in grain markets were

much lower this year than normal, showing that 2022 production had dropped far more than the government had estimated, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trading firm. The "government's estimate of 106.41 million tonne is nowhere close to the reality. Supplies are suggesting production of around 95 million tonne," he said. India, the world's second-biggest wheat producer, harvested 109.59

Most of the farmers have sold their crop. Negligible supplies are coming up for sale even though demand is robust

GOPALDAS AGARWAL | AN INDORE BASED TRADER

million tonne in 2021. The government estimated less output this year because of a heatwave in March and April.

Lower supplies are also reflected in government wheat procurement, which so far this year is down 57% on the same period of 2021, at 18.8 million tonne. The government will have lit-

tle stockpile to intervene in the market until the new-season supplies become available in March 2023, said a New Delhi based dealer with a global trading firm. "Supplies are tightening. India may allow exports of (a) small quantity to Sri Lanka or Nepal, but large shipments are unlikely under government-to-government deals," the dealer said. When New Delhi banned wheat exports, it said it would allow overseas shipments to countries that requested supplies "to meet their food security needs."

India exported 3.5 million tonne of wheat in the second quarter, mainly to Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, up from 1.1 million tonne a year earlier. "Inflation remains elevated, reflecting supply and demand imbalances related to the pandemic, higher food and energy prices, and broader price pressures," the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee said as it lifted the policy rate to a range of between 2.25% and 2.50% in a unanimous vote. Coming on top of a 75-basis-point hike last month and smaller moves in May and March, the Fed has raised its policy rate by a total of 225 basis points this year as it battles a 1980s-level breakout of inflation with 1980s-style monetary policy. The policy rate is now at the level most Fed officials feel has a neutral economic impact, in effect marking the end of pandemic-era efforts to encourage household and business spending with cheap money.

REUTERS

Washington, July 27: The Federal Reserve raised its benchmark overnight interest rate by three-quarters of a percentage point Wednesday in an effort to cool the most intense breakout of inflation since the 1980s, with "ongoing increases" in borrowing costs still ahead despite evidence of a slowing economy. "Inflation remains elevated, reflecting supply and demand imbalances related to the pandemic, higher food and energy prices, and broader price pressures," the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee said as it lifted the policy rate to a range of between 2.25% and 2.50% in a unanimous vote. Coming on top of a 75-basis-point hike last month and smaller moves in May and March, the Fed has raised its policy rate by a total of 225 basis points this year as it battles a 1980s-level breakout of inflation with 1980s-style monetary policy. The policy rate is now at the level most Fed officials feel has a neutral economic impact, in effect marking the end of pandemic-era efforts to encourage household and business spending with cheap money.

Govt nod to ₹1.64L-cr BSNL revival package

With BSNL rapidly losing market share to private rivals, the state firm would have gone into a deep sink if government support was not provided to upgrade technology and services to match the competition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: The government Wednesday approved a ₹1.64 lakh crore revival package for BSNL, comprising of converting dues into equity, financial support and allocation of spectrum in a bid to turn around the loss-making telecom PSU.

Also, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) - the firm that created a fibre network called BharatNet - will be merged with BSNL to boost its infrastructure and support telephony services, Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told a news conference here. "The first boost to it came from the 2019 revival package that made BSNL a stable entity and post that, it has made operating profits. With today's revival package of ₹1.64,156 crore, BSNL will become a viable entity," he said. The revival measures focus on



Previous package of ₹74,000 crore in 2019 gave a good lifeline to BSNL. As a direct result, that began generating operating profit. Now to make it a viable company, the financial restructuring has to be done. Today's decision will help make BSNL sustainable

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | TELECOM AND IT MINISTER

fresh capital for upgrading services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by BBNL with BSNL, he said, adding the package has a cash component of ₹43,964 crore and a non-cash component of ₹1.2 lakh crore spread over four years. The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister approved an allocation of 900/1800 MHz band spectrum worth ₹44,983 crore to support 4G services to BSNL, which has skipped participation in recent auctions of airwaves. The authorised capital of BSNL

will be increased from ₹40,000 crore to ₹1.5 lakh crore in lieu of dues, provision of capex and allotment of spectrum.

The Union Cabinet also approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of ₹26,316 crore. The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas, he said.

On the merger of MTNL and BSNL, he said the plan is still there but "it needs complex financial restructuring". "More work is left so it will take it step-by-step," he said.

5G SPECTRUM AUCTION

Bids garnered worth ₹1.49L-crore on day 2

Amid the 5G spectrum auction, India has been ranked fifth for the cheapest mobile data pricing in the world, says a new report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: India's auction of the 5G spectrum, capable of offering lag-free connectivity and ultra-high speed internet, has garnered ₹1.49 lakh crore worth of bids so far as the sale stretched to the third day.

Firms run by tycoons Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal and Gautam Adani as well as Vodafone Idea had put in bids worth ₹1.45 lakh crore on the opening day Tuesday and incremental demand for airwaves came in five rounds held Wednesday.

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the second day of the auction has ended and it will continue Thursday. "I am happy to see good competition in auction, good competition for all bands have come in," he said. "Bids worth ₹1.49,454 crore have been received so far at the end of 9th round." The minister added all bands of the spectrum are seeing demand.



Analysts said Ambani's Reliance Jio may be the most aggressive of those in the race

Though details of the bids are not announced yet, ICICI Securities said its analysis shows that Jio has likely bid for the highest spectrum worth ₹80,100 crore, and likely opted for 10MHz spectrum in the premium 700 MHz band.

Bharti Airtel may have bid for spectrum worth ₹45,000 crore, spending 20 per cent more than expected, possibly in 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz bands.

Vodafone Idea Ltd has likely bid for ₹18,400 crore for spectrum, while Adani Data Networks should have picked 26 GHz spectrum pan-India, it said.

Zomato allots shares worth ₹200 crore to staff at ₹1 face value

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 27: Online food delivery platform Zomato, which is going through its worst phase at Dalal Street, has allotted nearly 4.66 crore shares to its employees from its employee stock option plan (ESOP) pool at the face value of ₹1.

The board of directors approved the allotment of 4,65,51,600 equity shares to employees upon exercise of vested stock options, according to its filing with the stock exchanges. The entire allotment is worth around ₹200 crore (Zomato's share price was hovering around ₹43 Wednesday).

"We wish to inform you that the nomination and remuneration committee of the board of directors of the company at its meeting held on July 25, 2022, has approved the allotment of 4,65,51,600 equity shares having a face value of INR 1 each, as fully paid-up, to identified employees of the company and its subsidiaries upon exercise of vested options," the company said in its note.

BIZ BUZZ

Vedanta breaks ice in Jamkhani coal project site



Bhubaneswar: Following mine opening and lease execution orders by the Central Government, Vedanta Limited organised a meeting with Sarpanch of Jamkhani village in Sundargarh district in a bid to understand the issues faced by villagers prior to mine's operation. The meeting was an ice breaker for Vedanta Limited. Many senior officials of Vedanta in presence of district administration had direct

discussions with more than 100 villagers from Jamkhani, Girisuan, Jharpalam and Mendra village. The villagers also complained on the stoppage of CSR activities for the last 10 years and requested Vedanta to restart the same immediately. Moreover, the discussion also focused on engagements and ex-gratia to be given by the company. The district administration also urged that villagers who are absent today

should also be called for next meeting and accordingly suggested to conduct one more meet with representation of all four villages of adjoining villages with timely notice. It can be mentioned that the Vedanta Limited had entered into a Coal Mine Development and Production Agreement (CMDPA) with the Government of India represented through the Ministry of Coal. To operationalise the mine, Vedanta has recently obtained all required clearances from the state and central government.

The Infrastructure Development Corporation of Odisha (IDCO) had also transferred land measuring 2,143 acres to Vedanta Limited which was previously acquired by Bhushan Power & Steel Limited for operations of Jamkhani Mines.

UCO Bank holds Special Financial Inclusion Camp

Angul: State-owned UCO Bank organised a Special Financial Inclusion Camp at Hotel Durga, Angul July 27, 2022. The primary objective of the meeting was to spread awareness among the people about the banking facilities implemented by Government of India, and facilitate penetration of the same to the grass root level of the society. Ishraq Ali Khan, Executive Director, UCO Bank, Head office, Kolkata graced the event. Along with Khan other dignitaries from NABARD General Manager BB Sahoo, PD, DRDA Dillip Kumar Sahoo, GM Financial Inclusion Ranjit Singh, SLBC Convener (GM) Gautam Patra and NPCI Official Debadarshi Roy were also present in the event. In this camp UCO Bank has sanctioned 161 SHG loans, opened 567 no. of PMJDY accounts, issued 215 no. of Rupay ATM cards, enrolled 484 no. of PMJDY, 736 no. of PMSBY & enrolled 483 no. of APY. This is a great achievement for a state run bank in a single day under Sambalpur Zone.



MULTIPLE SNAGS

DGCA cuts SpiceJet flights by 50%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Banagore, July 27: India's aviation regulator Wednesday ordered SpiceJet to slash its approved fleet to 50% this summer for eight weeks citing safety snags and said it will subject the domestic airline to "enhanced surveillance".

Any increase in number of departures beyond 50% would require the airline to show it has sufficient technical support and financial resources to safely upgrade its capacity, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in an interim order. "During (the) eight weeks period, the airline shall be subjected to enhanced surveillance by DGCA. Further decision in this matter shall be taken thereafter," the regulator said.

Earlier this month, DGCA had issued a warning notice to SpiceJet after a review of incidents, which included a side windshield outer pane that cracked mid-flight and a malfunctioning indicator light.



SpiceJet shares have recovered about 6% this month after dropping to March 2020 lows following DGCA's notice.

NO CANCELLATIONS

SpiceJet sought to reassure its customers and travel partners saying it will operate flights as per schedules and there will be "no flight cancellation as a consequence of this order".

"Due to the current lean travel season, SpiceJet like other airlines had already rescheduled its flight operations. Hence, there will be absolutely no impact on our flight operations," the airline said in a statement.

Roshni Nadar retains her place as India's wealthiest woman

The cumulative wealth of India's 100 richest women has increased 53% in a year to ₹4.16 lakh crore in 2021 from ₹2.72 lakh crore in 2020, and they now contribute 2 per cent of India's nominal GDP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 27: HCL Technologies' chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra has retained her

position as the richest woman in India, with a 54 per cent jump in her net worth to ₹84,330 crore in 2021.

Falguni Nayar, who quit her investment banking career to start the beauty focused brand Nykaa around a decade ago, has emerged as the richest self-made woman with a net worth of ₹57,520 crore, as per the Kotak Private Banking-Hurun list published Wednesday.

Nayar, who is 59, saw a 963 per cent increase in her wealth during the year and is also the second richest woman overall, trailing the 40-year-old Malhotra, the daughter of HCL Technologies' founder



Shiv Nadar, as per the report. Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw witnessed a 21 per cent decline in her fortune and has moved down

NYKAA'S NAYAR TOP AMONG SELF-MADE RICH WOMEN; 2ND IN LIST

BIOCON'S KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW RANKED THIRD IN THE COUNTRY

for only Indian women, defined as born or brought up in India, who are actively managing their businesses or are self-made.

The cut-off for making it into the top 100 has increased to ₹300 crore from ₹100 crore earlier, and the top 10 cut-off is at ₹6,620 crore, which is a 10 per cent jump from last year.

Highest number of entrants in the list are from Delhi-National Capital Region at 25, followed by Mumbai (21) and Hyderabad (12), it said.

When looked at from a sectoral perspective, pharmaceuticals led with 12 entrants followed by healthcare at 11 and consumer goods

with nine women in the top 100 richest women in India.

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise contributed four entrants to the list, making it the highest contribution by a single company.

Kanika Tekriwal (33y/o) of Jetsetgo is the youngest on the list with a 50 per cent increase in wealth at ₹420 crore. It also includes three professional managers, and is led by Indra Nooyi, who was associated with Pepsico with a fortune of ₹5,040 crore, followed by Renu Sud Karnad of HDFC at ₹870 crore and Shanti Ekambaram of Kotak Mahindra Bank at ₹320 crore.

SRIKANTH confident for CWG

New Delhi, July 27: In a career spanning over a decade, Kidambi Srikanth has seen it all. The highs of four Superseries titles in a calendar year, the ecstasy of a Commonwealth Games silver at Gold Coast, a brief world number one ranking stint, the lows of 23 first-round exits, and the pain of missing out of the Tokyo Olympics – all within a little over four years of his career.

Now a much “matured and experienced” Srikanth says he is just trying to create a “better version” of himself every time he takes the court. “I am more experienced and mature now. I always wanted to be the best version of myself. I was in the best possible shape in 2018 CWG and I am very confident as I play the Birmingham CWG,” Srikanth told this agency in an interview.

“I consider CWG on par with Asian Games or World Championships. This is one event that happens in four years and the medal reflects towards the nation. I have been playing well in the last year and for me, it is about constantly trying to learn from my mistakes and play better.

“I don’t compare myself to 2018. If I have to do something in Birmingham, I will have to create my best version on that day.”

The Birmingham Games begin

Thursday. Srikanth’s stocks went down after the 2018 CWG as he was left to deal with a nagging knee injury. Soon, the losses piled up and they dented his confidence, which was his hallmark in 2017, leaving him with doubts about his game.

His ranking also plummeted but things started looking up after he addressed his fitness issues during the COVID-19 break. He showed better results in the few events that he could play during the COVID-affected 2020 but with several tournament being cancelled, he failed to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

“I have lost two years because of COVID-19 as not much happened in 2020-21.

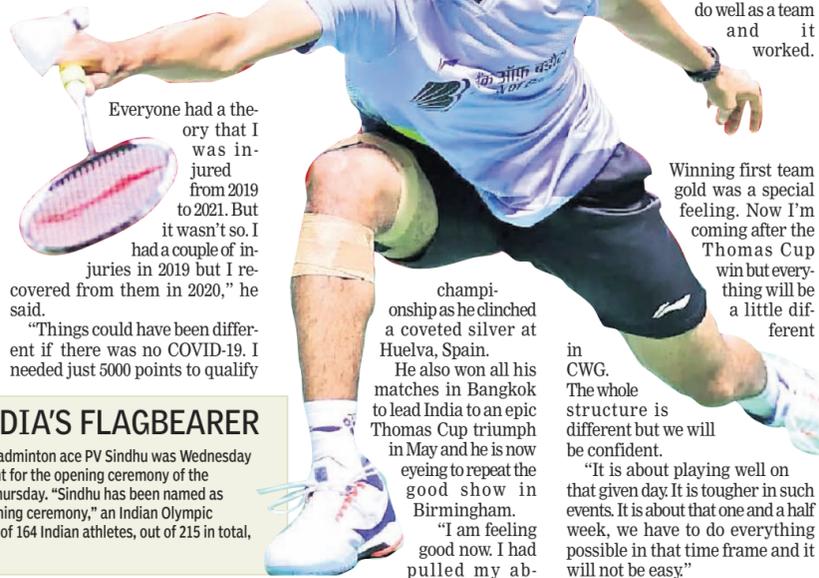
“Things could have been different if there was no COVID-19. I needed just 5000 points to qualify

for Olympics which was not a big ask but tournaments didn’t happen. If events don’t happen what do I do. I didn’t think much about it (missing the Olympics). It didn’t bother me much as I knew there are many events to play.” Once the international calendar resumed, Srikanth slowly found his bearings and by the end of last year became the first Indian to reach the finals of a world

dominal muscle in Thailand, it was a mild thing, I didn’t want to take any risk so pulled out. I was okay in Indonesia but was feeling pain in my Achilles, so I didn’t play the last few events.” In 2018 CWG, Srikanth defeated the legendary Lee Chong Wei to guide India to its maiden mixed team gold, beating Malaysia in the final.

“I like playing team events, the whole atmosphere, with the team backing you. It brings out a little more than normal, I guess. I am very happy that I could contribute to the team.

“In 2018, it was a very young team. I was 25 years old and we all just wanted to enjoy and do well as a team and it worked.



Everyone had a theory that I was injured from 2019 to 2021. But it wasn’t so. I had a couple of injuries in 2019 but I recovered from them in 2020,” he said.

“I don’t compare myself to 2018. If I have to do something in Birmingham, I will have to create my best version on that day.”

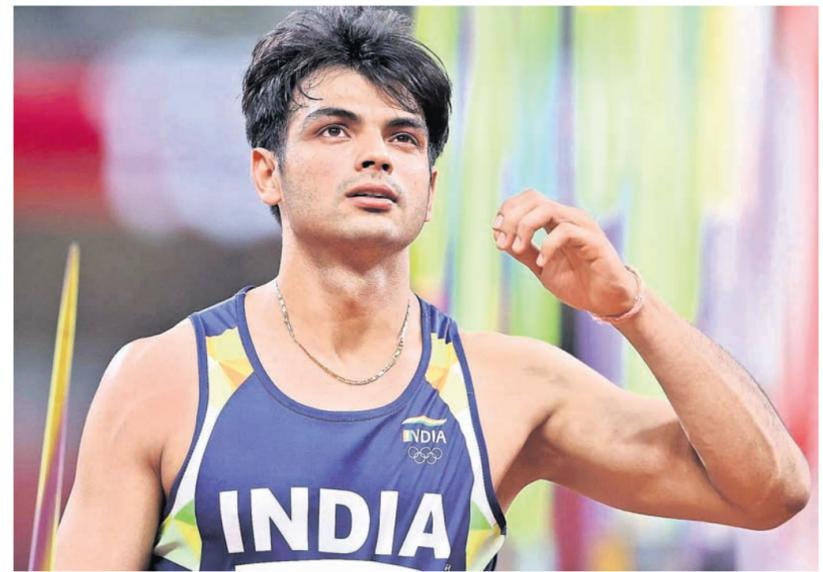
SINDHU NAMED INDIA'S FLAGBEARER

Birmingham: Double Olympic medallist badminton ace PV Sindhu was Wednesday named flagbearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games beginning here Thursday. “Sindhu has been named as the flagbearer of Indian team for the opening ceremony,” an Indian Olympic Association (IOA) official told PTI. A total of 164 Indian athletes, out of 215 in total, will take part in the opening ceremony.

championship as he clinched a coveted silver at Huelva, Spain. He also won all his matches in Bangkok to lead India to an epic Thomas Cup triumph in May and he is now eyeing to repeat the good show in Birmingham.

“It is about playing well on that given day. It is tougher in such events. It is about that one and a half week, we have to do everything possible in that time frame and it will not be easy.”

Missing out on being flag bearer at CWG disappoints Chopra



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra has expressed his disappointment at losing out on the opportunity of leading the country as flag bearer at the opening ceremony of Birmingham Commonwealth Games Thursday after he sustained a “minor” groin strain during his historic silver medal-winning campaign at the recent World Championships.

The 24-year-old superstar was all set to defend his title in Birmingham, but pulled out of the multi-sport event after his medical team advised a month’s rest after MRI scan revealed a minor injury.

“I am hurt about not being able to defend my title and missing out on another opportunity to represent the nation. I am especially disappointed about losing out on the op-

portunity to be Team India’s flag bearer at the opening ceremony, an honour I was looking forward to having in a few days’ time.” Chopra wrote on his social media handles.

“For now, I will focus on my rehabilitation and hope to be back in action very soon. I would like to thank the entire country for all the love and support I’ve received over the past few days, and urge you all to join me in cheering on my fellow Team India athletes in Birmingham over the coming weeks. Jai Hind.”

The development is a huge setback to the country’s CWG campaign was Chopra is a strong medal contender though not a sure shot favourite for gold. Grenada’s Anderson Peters, who beat Chopra for gold in the World Championships in Eugene, USA, Sunday, is also taking part in the CWG.

Peters had won a bronze in the

last Commonwealth Games in 2018 in Gold Coast where Chopra had won gold. Chopra’s injury and pulling out means that the much-anticipated clash with Peters will not happen in Birmingham.

Chopra became only the second Indian athlete to win a medal at World Championship after Anju Bobby George, who had won a bronze in long jump in 2003 in Paris.

His rehabilitation is likely to be done abroad, either in USA or Europe. A final decision on that is, however, yet to be taken. The injury and one-month rehabilitation has also rendered Chopra’s plans for the remaining part of the season uncertain. He had kept his options open about participating in the Monaco (August 10) and Lausanne (August 26) legs of the prestigious Diamond League Meetings series after the CWG.

India ‘focussing on group stage, not Oz’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 27: A maiden gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham is the ultimate goal but Indian men’s hockey team captain Manpreet Singh said the players will take one game at a time and their immediate focus will be on the group stage matches.

Six-time champions Australia are the hot favourites in Birmingham and the Indians will have to beat them at some stage if they are to clinch gold. But, Manpreet said his players are not breaking sweat as yet thinking over their possible clash with the Kookaburras.

“Right now, we are focusing on the group stage matches and not thinking about Australia at all. Every one is of the opinion that we give our best in these matches and then think about what Australia has to offer when we face them,” Manpreet said at a virtual press conference ahead of the Games.

The Indian team begins its campaign with a group match against Ghana Sunday. Australia have won every one of the six Commonwealth Games hockey tournaments to date.

“As a team, we have set a goal that we have to win a medal in Birmingham and we can feel the weight of expectations as well. However, in order to reach that stage, we have to give our absolute best in each game and not take any opposition lightly,” he added.

The 30-year-old, who will be making his 300th appearance for India when he turns out against Ghana, termed his playing career as a roller-coaster ride, full of ups and downs.

“The journey has been absolutely special. It has also been a sheer honour to play for India for so long. The game has taught me so many things about life.

“I made my debut in 2011 when India won Asian Champions Trophy. However, the very next year, London Olympics was disastrous as we could not win a single game. We improved by leaps and bounds in the next few years by winning some big events. So, it has been a roller-coaster ride for me,” Manpreet said.

Head coach Graham Reid, who has been at the helm of affairs since 2019, said he’s fully aware of what the players are capable of



achieving in Birmingham.

“We have great expectations from each other in Birmingham. Yes, there will be huge expectations from the Indian fans as well, want-

ing us to win a medal. But these are external pressure and we cannot do much about it. We can only control what is within our grasp,” Reid said.

Fun turns into woes for Jonny

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bristol, July 27: England batter Jonny Bairstow emerged as an injury doubt for the T20 series opener against South Africa, soon after completing an unusual training exercise Tuesday that saw him carrying teammate Sam Curran on his shoulders.

Bairstow left a training session at Bristol’s Seat Unique Stadium Tuesday with ice packs and strapping around his left knee.

The 32-year-old Bairstow was walking in discomfort on his way back to the locker room but no decision has been made over his participation against the Proteas in the first T20 Wednesday. With back-to-back games on successive nights, it would be no surprise to see Bairstow left out of the opener if there was any lingering discomfort.

While the cause of Bairstow’s injury is not certain, there was a potential clue in an Instagram video shared by teammate Reece Topley. The post showed Bairstow with Curran draped over his back as he completed a walking lunge in the gym. Bairstow was grimacing as he completed the workout.

Further compensation for victims

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, July 27: The German government indicated Wednesday that it was willing to pay further compensation to the families of 11 Israeli athletes who were killed at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich by members of a Palestinian group.

Relatives of the athletes have long criticized how German authorities handled the attack and its aftermath. Demands for further compensation have threatened to overshadow a planned memorial event for the 50th anniversary of the massacre.

Germany’s Interior Ministry said it was currently holding talks with the relatives and that the “serious consequences for the surviving dependents of the victims in immaterial and material terms” should be reassessed.

“An offer of further recognition payments to the surviving relatives of the victims of the attack” was planned, the ministry told German news agency dpa adding that “the memorial ceremony of the 50th anniversary should be the occasion for a clear political classification of the events of 1972.”

It was not clear how much money would be offered to the families of the victims. Members of the Palestinian group Black September broke into the Olympics Village and took athletes from Israel’s national team hostage on September 5, 1972, with the goal of forcing the release of prisoners held by Israel and two left-wing extremists in West German jails.

