

SHORT TAKES

2 IAF pilots killed as training aircraft crashes

New Delhi: Two Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots were killed when their twin-seater Mig-21 trainer aircraft met with an accident near Barmer in Rajasthan at around 9.10pm Thursday night. "Both pilots sustained fatal injuries. The IAF deeply regrets the loss of lives and stands firmly with the bereaved families," the IAF said. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to find the cause of the accident, it added.

EC changes rules to attract young voters

NEW DELHI: In an effort to ensure greater participation of youth in polls, the Election Commission (EC) has decided that those above 17 years of age can now apply in advance to register as voters once they turn 18. Till recently, people turning 18 on or before January 1 of a particular year were eligible to enrol themselves in the voters' list. Now that won't be the case anymore.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



LET THE GAMES BEGIN



People pose with a carnival float outside the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham just before the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, Thursday

2 students die by suicide

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Two deaths by suicides have shocked the entire state and in both cases it was students who ended their lives. In the first incident, Rohan Kumar Guru, a Plus-II Science student of GM College in Sambalpur was found hanging in the backyard of his house at Dhipapada village under Burla police limits late Wednesday night. Sources said that the 18-year-old son of Gyana Bahadur Guru took the extreme step as he was depressed with his low marks in the

annual examinations, the results of which were announced Wednesday. Family members said that Rohan, who had scored over 90 per cent marks in the Matric examinations had been depressed for the past few weeks. When family members found him hanging from a tree, they rushed him to VIMSAR, where doctors declared Rohan dead on arrival. Rohan's brother Johan informed that his brother had been keeping to himself as he had not been able to fulfil the expectation of his family regarding studies. **Contd...P4**

25K+ killed in road mishaps in 5 years

Despite stringent laws and fines, there are no signs of road accidents subsiding with over 53K cases reported during the same period

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Despite implementation of stringent traffic rules and imposition of hefty fines, road accidents have become a major headache for the Odisha government. In the last five years (2017-2022) more than 25,000 people, 25,257 to be precise, have been killed in 53,982 road accidents in different parts of the state. More than 52,000 persons have also suffered injuries due to road mishaps, Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu informed Thursday in the Assembly. In a written reply to a question by BJP lawmaker Mohan Majhi, the minister said 4,947 people have lost their lives in road accidents by unidentified vehicles during the period. Giving a year-wise break up, Sahu said 4,790 people died in road accidents in 2017. The fatalities stood at 5,315 (2018), 5,333 (2019), 4,738 (2020) and 5,081 (2021). As far as the number of accidents is concerned the figures were 10,855 (2017), 11,262 (2018), 11,064 (2019), 9,817 (2020) and 10,984 (2021). A total of 11,198 persons suffered injuries due to accidents in 2017, 11,794 in 2018, 11,177 in 2019, 8,818 in 2020 and 9,782 in 2021. Assistance of ₹49.50 lakh was provided to 29 people under the



YEAR	ACCIDENTS	FATALITIES
2017	10,855	4,790
2018	11,262	5,315
2019	11,064	5,333
2020	9,817	4,738
2021	10,984	5,081
2022	4,980	2,357

*Figures till May 2022

Replying to another question, Sahu said 2,357 persons died in 4,980 road accidents in 2022 (January-May). In reply to another query of BJD MLA Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, the minister said that as per World Health Organisation's report, the annual road accident fatality rate in India is around 1.5 lakh and in Odisha it is approximately 5,000. As per the report 'Road Accidents in India 2020' published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the death per 100 road accidents in Odisha stood at 48. As per data received from Odisha Crime Branch, the fatality percentage of different types of road users who died in 2021 due to accidents was: Pedestrians - 1.84%, cyclists - 3.50%, motorcyclists - 49.81%, car - 10.52%, truck - 8.48% and bus - 2.9%.

Same syringe used to jab 39 kids; FIR against vaccinator

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sagar, July 28: A vaccinator allegedly used a single syringe to administer coronavirus vaccine doses to 39 children at a private school in this city of Madhya Pradesh. The development prompted the authorities to suspend the district vaccination officer and lodge an FIR against the person involved in the act, officials said Thursday. The incident took place Wednesday at the Jain Higher Secondary School here during a mega vaccination drive. After news broke about the syringe, an FIR was registered against vaccinator, Jitendra Ahirwar, a district official said. The 39 children, aged 15 years and above, were students of Classes IX to XII, a health official informed. The parents of some of the children Wednesday observed that the same syringe was being used to inoculate the children. They raised an alarm for the gross negligence, the officials said. Top officials then reached the spot to inquire about the incident. They were informed about the development by the irate parents. Once protests erupted, Ahirwar escaped from the spot and has since been absconding. Taking serious cognisance of the incident, Sagar divisional commissioner Mukesh Shukla suspended Thursday district vaccination officer Dr Shobharam Roshan. An FIR at Gopal Ganj police station was also registered against Ahirwar under IPC section 336 (rash or negligent act endangering human life or personal safety of others).

New Benchmarks in Superspeciality and Cancer Care in Odisha

300 bedded
Superspeciality Hospital

300 bedded
Cancer Centre

INAUGURATION

By

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

29th July 2022

Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Bhubaneswar

KIMS

Now has 1600-bedded fully air-conditioned (PBMH) General Hospital for both general and BSKY patients.

leisure



STAR KIDS HAVE TO WORK TWICE AS HARD: PALTROW

Talking about nepotism, actor Gwyneth Paltrow said that star kids have to work twice as hard and that the industry can try to pull them down. Gwyneth is the daughter of film producer-director Bruce Paltrow and Emmy Award-winning actor Blythe Danner.

JOEY KING FELT LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER IN BULLET TRAIN

Actress Joey King has said she felt intimidated arriving on the set of *Bullet Train*, but lead star Brad Pitt soon put her at ease. Despite working in movies from the age of four, King felt like she was stepping onto a film set for the first time working with the Hollywood legend.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You have to take care of your health, and at last you realise the importance of diet and exercise. However, today you may wish to eat something new, or try some different cuisine. Ganesh says go out with some old friends whom you have been neglecting of late.

TAURUS

You will find comfort, perched on a branch in the family tree, today. Your maturity will help you deal with emotional issues with ease. Energy and exuberance will be an investment you make today, the results of which you will reap in the days to come, hopes Ganesh.

GEMINI

You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesh.

CANCER

When the going gets tough, it's better to go with the flow. But you belong to a school of thought that believes that in such troubled times, it's better to stay out of water altogether. Since it is not your day today, you are likely to postpone all important decisions and work. Ganesh approves.

LEO

The trader in you comes to the fore today. With an impeccable eye for recognising profitable avenues, you will quickly spot opportunities that arise from buying goods at cheaper prices, and selling them off at a rate that leaves you with a lump sum profit. Start with small transactions, and treat each transaction with care before you plunge into bigger ventures, like the Bull-in-Bear tussle of the stock markets.

VIRGO

Ganesh foretells that your writing abilities will help you give vent to your emotions without hurting others. You will finish all your incomplete tasks successfully. Ganesh says that you will experience success in everything that you choose to do today.

LIBRA

Your family is the cornerstone of your success. And today is no different. Your auspicious day starts from your home, and you manage to carry this luck everywhere you go with the same tempo and gusto, predicts Ganesh. Your smile enables you to keep winning people to your side.

SCORPIO

You will spend most of the day in self-introspection and in testing your capabilities. You will take all the needed steps to improve your professional proficiency. Your rare insight and gifted understanding of human nature will prepare you for leadership in the near future, hopes Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

For you, appreciation and recognition for the efforts you put in may be delayed, but it's not denied. There's no point losing heart and getting disappointed. This may only affect your work, instead, wait for a better tomorrow, Ganesh says giving you hope.

CAPRICORN

The achievements of the day may make you feel like you were born to succeed in life. Yes, you will be successful in whatever you do today, even if you don't try too hard for it, says Ganesh. But it's important that you at least take an initiative and not expect rewards to come for no reason. Make the most of the day for fortune may not be as favourable tomorrow. Your friends and those you socialise with will praise you for your sterling quality and powerful personality.

AQUARIUS

You plot and plan well today! A lot of your time, energy and money may go into less productive activities. But the quality of your work will near perfection. Keep it up, says Ganesh, it is this creativity which gives you an edge over others.

PISCES

You can probably count your chickens before they hatch today, for it is likely that every nest-egg you expect to mint money will. A good day to trade in the stock markets as well, as long as you keep in mind that the horns of a rampaging Bull market can be every bit as deadly as the paws of a lumbering Bear market, says Ganesh.

Suhana not to appear in KJo's show

Mumbai: Actor Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan will not be making her debut on the popular show *Koffee With Karan* Season 7.

There are media reports that Suhana is all set to make her acting debut with Zoya Akhtar's Hindi adaptation of the popular comic *The Archies*.

However, the show's host Karan has debunked all rumours about Suhana making her debut on the show with *The Archies* gang. He said: "It's not true."

The Archies, produced under the banner of Tiger Baby Films, also stars megastar Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda, late actress Sridevi and Boney Kapoor's younger daughter Khushi Kapoor, Mihir Ahuja, Dot, Yuvraj Menda and Vedang Raina.

AGENCIES



Ananya reveals her latest crush

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday has revealed her crush on the seventh season of *Koffee With Karan*.

"I am the most indiscreet person on this planet," said the Gehraiyaan actress in the show. However, when quizzed about her last relationship with Ishaan Khatter and dating rumours with Kartik Aaryan, she eloquently denied dwelling in the past.

However, Ananya did let viewers know about her newest crush, when she revealed: "I find Aditya Roy Kapur hot."

Even temptations of manifestations

coming true on the *Koffee With Karan* couch could not coax Ananya Panday out of her shell to reveal her current love interest.

Karan finally hung up his boots, saying: "Trust me, this doll can have a ball."

Earlier, Karan seemed to be intrigued by Ananya's rumoured relationship with Aditya Roy Kapur and asks about it- "I saw at my party..." To which the Khaali Peeli actress tried to stop Karan from divulging any details and says, "No no you didn't see anything." However, Karan still continued, "What's brewing between you and Aditya Roy Kapur?"

AGENCIES

Dreams do come true: Sunny

Mumbai: Actress Sunny Leone calls it a dream come true as she says filmmaker Anurag Kashyap is taking a chance to work with her.

Sunny took to Instagram, where she shared a picture with Anurag and shared that her journey in the Hindi film industry by no means has been 'easy'.

"Yes my smile is 'ear to ear' because dreams do come true! I never in a million years thought someone as amazing like @anuragkashyap10 would take a chance on me. My journey has been amazing but by no means 'easy,'" the post reads.

She added: "After so many years of being in India and in Bollywood I received a call asking if I would audition for an Anurag film."

The 41-year-old actress says she will never forget that Anurag took this chance.

"There are moments in life where everything changes and this is my moment in my head and heart. No matter how things turn out you took a chance on me Anurag Sir and I will never forget that in my life. Thank you for letting me be a part of your amazing film. @dirty99 & @sunnyrajani my steady rocks guiding me. love you!"

AGENCIES



Janhvi clarifies on her nepotism comment

Mumbai: During an interaction with Karan Johar on his chat show *Koffee with Karan*, Janhvi Kapoor said that she would make a film with brother Arjun Kapoor and call it 'nepotism'. The comment didn't go down well with the netizens and hence they trolled her for promoting nepotism.

In another interview she said, she would 'screw trolls' who mess with her sister Khushi

Kapoor. This comment was also not taken kindly.

Addressing the same, Janhvi said that she tends to speak rubbish after a point in her interviews.

In an interview with a news portal, the Dhadak actress said, "I say so much bu****t. See that's the thing, what I am trying to speak right now. If I am at the 20th interview of the day, I tend to talk rubbish. So I think I was trying to make a joke, didn't land very well."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Janhvi will next be seen in *Good Luck Jerry*. The film is slated to have an OTT release July 29. Helmed by Siddharth Sen, the film is a remake of the 2018 Tamil film *Kolamaavu Kokila*, starring Nayanthara.

AGENCIES



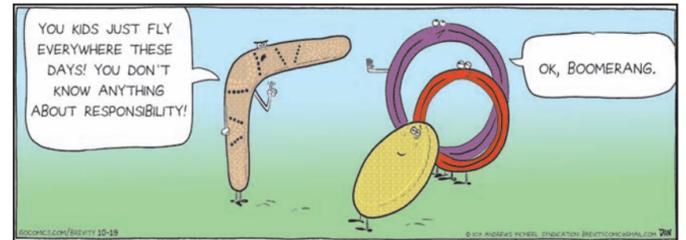
PEANUTS



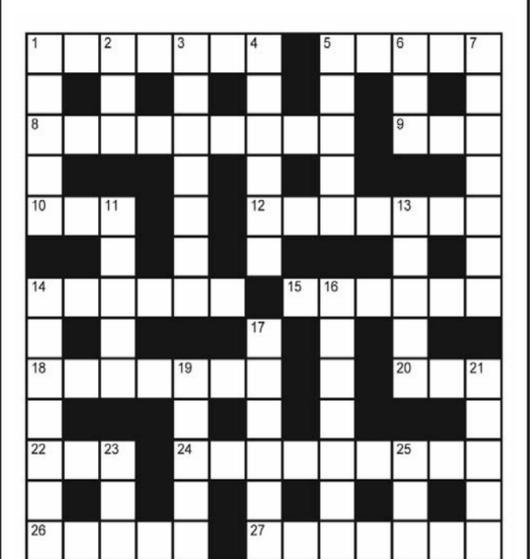
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



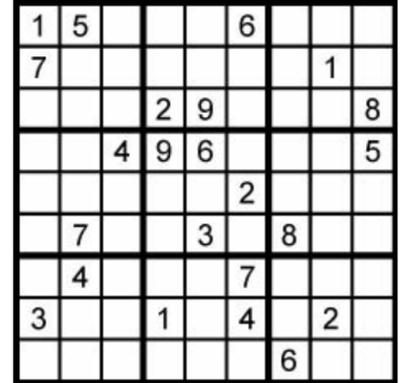
FUN post CROSSWORD



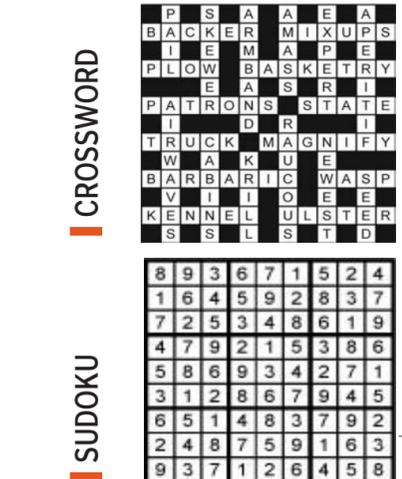
- Across**
- 1 Navigational instrument
 - 5 Spectrum maker
 - 8 Frog, for one
 - 9 Lenient
 - 10 Pelvis
 - 12 Overshadow
 - 14 Warbler
 - 15 Auto mover
 - 18 Race track workers
 - 20 Embrace
 - 22 Increases
 - 24 Tropical orange fruit
 - 26 Dapper
 - 27 Asian river
 - 6 Hurting
 - 7 Antique car
 - 11 Go to pieces
 - 13 Bony food fish
 - 14 Temporary stay
 - 16 Anger, for one
 - 17 Fish hawk
 - 19 Drain
 - 21 Magical wish granter
 - 23 Congeal
 - 25 Yoga class need
- Down**
- 1 Conflict
 - 2 World view
 - 3 Rabble-rouse
 - 4 Black eye
 - 5 Discussion group

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.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FIELD VISIT
Cuttack Municipal Corporation Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan and other senior officials take stock of various issues of Municipal City Government High School at Rajabagicha, Thursday

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	57,89,56,373	54,89,40,191	64,12,880
India	4,39,59,321	4,32,86,787	5,26,211
Odisha	13,10,115	12,95,157	9,137

CM reiterates plea for spl category status

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday put forth a four-point charter of demands before NITI Aayog, stressing that fulfilment of these were vital for the growth of Odisha, officials said.
Apart from a special category status for Odisha, Patnaik sought expansion of railway infrastructure, banking facilities in rural pockets and telecommunication services in remote areas in the charter, they said.
The CM placed the demands before NITI Aayog vice-chairperson Suman Bery and member Vinod K Paul during their visit to the state.
Maintaining that the state would submit detailed notes on the de-



CM Naveen Patnaik holds discussion with NITI Aayog vice-chairperson Suman Bery, Thursday

mands, Patnaik said that Odisha had been grossly neglected in areas of railways, banking and telecommunications.
Justifying his demand for special status, he pointed out that Odisha gets affected by natural calamities like floods and cyclones almost

every year. Calamities cause financial strain on the state exchequer, and, therefore, proper infrastructure in vulnerable areas may reduce economic loss, he told the visiting NITI Aayog delegation.
Bery on his part assured the state government that the think-tank would take necessary measures. The team also invited Patnaik to the upcoming seventh governing council meeting of NITI Aayog in New Delhi August 7, the officials stated.
Earlier, while attending other functions and meetings, the NITI Aayog team assured the Odisha government that the state would be engaged in various developmental initiatives to take it forward on the path of growth, they added.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Odisha BJP MPs protest in Parl

New Delhi, July 28: The BJP MPs from Odisha Thursday held protest against the Congress party and sought apologies from its Lok Sabha MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for his 'Rashtrapati' remark against President Droupadi Murmu.
The BJP MPs attacked Congress party in the both Houses of Parliament and sought an apology from AICC interim president Sonia Gandhi.
However, the Congress party criticised the BJP for making a mountain out of a molehill and diverting attention from major issues like price rise and unemployment.
The Congress MPs also alleged that a group of BJP MPs led by Union Minister Smriti Irani heckled Gandhi in the Lok Sabha chamber after the House was adjourned over the issue.
BJP MP Jual Oram said Congress party has always offended Scheduled Tribe people by calling them fool and illiterate but Chowdhury has crossed all limits by addressing the President as Rashtrapati.
"The Congress MP has also offended Odisha. The Congress party should sack him and Sonia Gandhi should apologise on the issue," Oram said.
Congress MP Saptagiri Ulaka said that it was a slip of tongue and Chowdhury has already apologized in connection with the incident.
"Chowdhury also wanted to apologise in the House but BJP MPs kept disrupting the proceedings and didn't let him speak," Ulaka claimed.

Uproar in House over Cong MP's remark on Prez

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Chaos reigned supreme in the state Assembly Thursday as opposition BJP MLAs protested over Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remarks on President Droupadi Murmu.
As soon as the House assembled, BJP members trooped into the Well and shouted slogans against the Congress after Chowdhury called Murmu 'Rashtrapati'.
Though Speaker BK Arukha urged the agitating MLAs to allow the House to proceed with the Question Hour, they did not pay any heed.
His assurance to the BJP MLAs that they would be allowed to raise the issue during the Zero Hour also did not yield any result.
Unable to run the House, the



BJP MLAs stage a demonstration on Assembly premises

speaker adjourned the proceedings till 4 pm.
After the adjournment of the House, the BJP members staged a protest on the Assembly premises and demanded an unconditional apology from Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi for Chowdhury's 'unacceptable' remark against the President of India.
BJP's deputy leader in the Assembly BC Sethi said, "The Congress does not know how to respect others and this is evident from Adhir Ranjan's statement."
Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi of BJP said, "The Congress has not only insulted the president

As soon as the House assembled, BJP members trooped into the Well and shouted slogans against the Congress after MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury called President Droupadi Murmu 'Rashtrapati'.
The BJP MLAs staged a protest and sought an unconditional apology from Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi for Chowdhury's 'unacceptable' remark against the President of India.
of India, but also Odisha's daughter. Sonia Gandhi must take action against Adhir Ranjan immediately."
BJD MLA Raj Kishore Das from Murmu's Mayurbhanj district also condemned the Congress leader's remark.
Both BJD and Congress members were silent in the House when the BJP MLAs were protesting.

IN LOVING MEMORY

LATE GEETA DEVI BAJORIA
DOB : 14.01.1944, DOD : 22.07.2022
(W/o. Sri Bhagwan Dasji Bajoria)
You will be sadly missed along life's way will be lovingly remembered everyday no longer in our lives to share but in our hearts you'll always be there
a divine and pious soul who donated her eyes to enlighten two lives
Son & Daughter-in-law : Gopal-Pooja,
Daughters & Son-in-law : Kusum-Kishan, Pushpa-Ravikant, Kanta-Anil, Priya-Gopal, Poonam-Vikash
Grand Children : Ankit-Pooja, Keshav-Raashi, Pulkit-Teenu, Tejal-Ankit, Kaushal-Preksha, Anshuman, Ruchit, Nandini, Vikram, Krishay, Meghna, Vidhi
Great - Grandsons : Advay, Lakshya, Rivan

IPICOL, FICCI ink pact for Make in Odisha Conclave '22



Dignitaries including, Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, departmental secretary Hemant Sharma and FICCI DG Arun Chawla, during the MoU signing ceremony in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL) Thursday signed an MoU with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) making the latter as the national industry partner for the Make in Odisha Conclave-2022, scheduled to be held from November 30 to December 4.
Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, departmental secretary Hemant Sharma, FICCI Director General Arun Chawla and other senior officials of IPICOL and FICCI were present on the occasion.
Sharma gave the introductory remarks and underlined the fact that the Make in Odisha conclave is the most enterprising event in Odisha, attracting investors, entrepreneurs and industrialists alike.
The preceding two conclaves have already had a tremendous impact by

making Odisha the preferred investment destination. The trend will continue this year and the conclave will reach new heights, bringing more investments and job opportunities to the state, Sharma said.
"It would be the third edition of the Make in Odisha conclave. The first conclave in 2016 witnessed an overwhelming response and received over Rs 2 lakh crore investment proposals. Over 5,000 delegates participated in it and the conclave had over 50 speakers from across the globe. In the second edition, the state had received investment proposals worth over Rs 4 lakh crore. The aim of this year's conclave is to surpass all the expectations and firmly put Odisha on the global map," Deb said.
The minister also stated that the economy of Odisha has grown at a rate of 10.1 per cent, making the state as one of the fastest growing economies in India.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	56857.79	↑ 1041.47
NIFTY	16929.60	↑ 287.80
DOLLAR	80.37	↓ ₹0.22
EURO	96.4359	↓ ₹0.675
GOLD	₹51,299	↑ ₹579
SILVER	₹57,308	↑ ₹2,464

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.1°C	35.2°C
TEMP MIN	25.6°C	25.5°C
Humidity	74%	66%
Rainfall	nil	nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

Gang of burglars busted; 6 held

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The Commissionerate Police Thursday claimed to have busted a gang of burglars involved in a series of burglaries in different parts of the state.
The police arrested six persons, including three receivers of stolen items. They also seized Rs 5,85,000, 140 grams of gold ornaments, 100 grams of silver ornaments and an auto-rickshaw from the accused. The arrested members of the gang of burglars have been identified as Sudarsan Naik, 47, of Ranganatia in Mancheswar area, Santosh Behera alias Chunia, 36, of

Haldipadia in Laxmi Sagar and Santosh Behera, 39, alias Bapi of Basudebpur in Baliaanta area.
The arrested receivers of stolen items are A Ramamurty Achari, 68, his son A Aditya Achari, 27, of Beguniapada in Kodala of Ganjam district and Subrat Karak, 38, of Sahebajada Bazar in Lalbaag area of Cuttack, police said.
The burglars used to break into the houses and decamp with valuables in the absence of the occupants. A joint team of Chandaka police and special squad of Commissionerate Police carried out several raids and arrested three members of the gang of burglars.

2,792 VILLAGES SET TO GET 4G COVERAGE

New Delhi, July 28: 4G mobile services will be provided in as many as 2,792 uncovered villages in all the 30 districts of Odisha, an official in know of the development said Thursday.
The official said the Union Cabinet has approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services, in uncovered villages across the country, at a total cost of Rs 26,316 crore. Under the project, 4G mobile services will be provided in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas.
The project will be executed by BSNL using Atmanirbhar Bharat's 4G technology stack, and will be funded through Universal Service Obligation Fund.

A rare classy evening is in the making

ZAIN FOUNDATION TRUST PRESENTS

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ONE EVENING SEVEN PLAYS
6.30pm, 5th OF AUGUST, 2022, RABINDRA MANDAP, BHUBANESWAR.

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1,030 NEW COV CASES, 1 DEATH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The state recorded 1,030 fresh Covid-19 cases and one new fatality Thursday, the Health department said.

There are now 6,974 active cases, of which 1,510 are in Khurda district and 1,343 in Sundargarh, according to a bulletin.

The test positivity rate was 4.95 per cent as the cases were detected out of 20,813 samples. As many as 179 children were among the new patients. Sundargarh district reported the highest number of 227 infections, followed by 164 in Khurda and 110 in Mayurbhanj.

The toll rose to 9,137 as a 67-year-old man succumbed to the disease in Cuttack. Fifty-three other Covid patients have died due to comorbidities so far. The state had logged 1,174 cases and one fatality Wednesday. The infection tally rose to 13,10,115, including 12,93,951 recoveries as 1,066 more people recuperated in the past 24 hours, it added.

OPSC announces exam dates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) released the examination schedule for the Odisha Civil Service (OCS) Prelims Examination 2021 Thursday. The examination has been scheduled to be conducted October 16.

In its official notification, the OPSC said, "The Commission has decided to conduct the OCS Preliminary Examination, 2021, pursuant tentatively on 16.10.2022 (Sunday)."

"The details of the programme of the said examination shall be notified later. The candidates are advised to visit the website of the Commission at <http://opsc.gov.in> for further information," the notification added.

OPSC is conducting this examination for recruitment to the posts and services coming under the Odisha Civil Services (Group A and Group B). After qualifying for the OCS examination with good ranks, the candidates will be appointed to 405 vacant Group-A and Group-B posts. A total of 50 posts of Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) group-A (junior branch) services will be filled up through this examination

2 students die by suicide

Continuation P1

"Despite getting 90% in Matric, his subsequent scores had gone down drastically. So may be that was the reason he took the extreme step," Johan stated. "Rohan was trying very hard, but results were not as he was expecting," he added.

In the second case of death by suicide, Akhela Behera, a first Year BSc student of Gajapati School and College of Nursing at Ranipenta in Paralakhemundi district was found hanging in her classroom Thursday morning. She was a resident of Gopalpur village in Ganjam district and was staying in the hostel of the college.

However, the exact reason behind the girl taking the extreme step is yet to be ascertained.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

Original R.O.R. (Patta) Khata No.30, Plot No.164, belonging to Mr.Nursingh Charan Mohapatra, Village- Malisahi, PO- Tangisahi, PS- Bolagarh, Dist- Khordha has been lost. FIR has lodged in Police Station, Bolagarh, Khordha, vide S.D.E. No-20, dated 27.07.2022, Founder inform at 6371324477.

STF seizes drug peddlers' properties worth over ₹3 cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The Competent Authority in Kolkata, a quasi-judicial authority under the NDPS Act, has recently approved the forfeiture of properties worth over ₹3 crores belonging to two dreaded drug peddler siblings of Odisha. Earlier, the Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch had requested the authority to confirm the seizure of the properties of the drug peddlers, Banmali Pradhan and his brother Arun Kumar Pradhan of Raghunathsaahi under Buguda police limits of Ganjam.

"On 26.07.2022 Honorable Competent Authority, Kolkata under NDPS Act has been pleased to pass order to confirm the freezing/seizing order, in which huge amount of property worth ₹03 crores seized in STF P.S. Case No

10/2022 U.S. 18(c)/20(b)(ii)(C)/29 NDPS Act 1985. Competent Authority is a quasi-judicial authority under NDPS Act to pass order for forfeiture of such illegally acquired property," the STF said in a press note Thursday.

The properties seized by the STF include five commercial buildings situated at Buguda, eight landed plots, deposits stashed in 19 accounts in different banks, two vehicles and gold ornaments weighing 566 grams.

Notably, the accused persons were found in possession of contraband ganja 106 kg and opium 517 grams during a raid by STF April 29, 2022. The sleuths during the course of investigation unearthed properties worth crores acquired by the accused siblings out of the ill-gotten money from drug trafficking within last six years. Subsequently, the properties were seized by STF.



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO



RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

An awareness marathon organised in collaboration with Commissionerate Police on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day in the 7th battalion area in Bhubaneswar Thursday

OP PHOTO

Some children genetically predisposed to hepatitis: Scientists

Between April and July of this year, 1,010 cases of severe hepatitis without any explainable cause were reported in children in more than 35 countries. Nearly half of these cases were in Europe, including over a quarter in the UK.

Usually, childhood hepatitis is caused by an infection from one of the hepatitis viruses (such as hepatitis A or hepatitis C). But although children were presenting with elevated levels of hepatitis markers in their blood, no traces of hepatitis viruses were detected in these children, or in any of the related cases since.

Initial investigations found a potential link between adenovirus infection and these cases of hepatitis. Adenoviruses are very common viral infections, especially in children. They typically cause infections such as mild colds, pink eye (conjunctivitis) or stomach problems. However, if they get to the liver they can on rare occasion cause hepatitis.

However, given how common adenoviruses are in children – and

because they rarely cause hepatitis in healthy people – it was difficult to say this was the probable cause. A new study suggests that the spate of severe hepatitis cases seen in children may be the result of three factors working together: adenovirus, adeno-associated virus 2 (AAV2) and an underlying genetic predisposition to the disease.

In a pre-print study (which means it has not yet been reviewed by other scientists), a team of researchers looked at nine of the original hepatitis cases in April and conducted a large range of tests, seeking to find new or previously undetected viruses or genetic factors that may have caused hepatitis in the children.

The team found that all nine children had been infected with adeno-associated virus 2. They then compared their findings with 13 healthy children and 12 children who'd had adenovirus infections but no hepatitis. Adeno-associated virus 2 was not detected in any of these children. This was a strong indicator that AAV2 was a cause of these



A new study suggests that the spate of severe hepatitis cases seen in children may be the result of three factors working together: adenovirus, adeno-associated virus 2 (AAV2) and an underlying genetic predisposition to the disease

mystery hepatitis cases. Adeno-associated virus 2 belongs to a group of viruses called Dependoparvovirus which infects both humans and some primates.

The researchers found that eight out of the nine children had a higher genetic prevalence of a certain type of human leucocyte antigen, which may have increased their likelihood of getting hepatitis symptoms from these viral infections

But what's particularly interesting about AAV2 is that in order to infect the host, it requires another virus to also be infecting the host at the same time. It uses this helper

virus in order to replicate inside human cells. The most common helper viruses of AAV2 are adenovirus and herpesvirus.

The researchers found that six out of the nine patients they looked at had an adenovirus, while three had signs of a herpes virus. This makes it likely these hepatitis infections were caused by a combination of AAV2 and one of these helper viruses.

But both AAV2 and infections such as adenovirus and herpes virus are quite common in children, and most children infected with these don't go on to develop hepatitis. This means there must be an additional factor at play here, perhaps even at the genetic level.

The team of researchers then analysed the children's genomes to look for specific immune system markers, called human leucocyte antigens. Immune system cells use human leucocyte antigens to detect other viruses and pathogens, and engulf them.

This then sends a signal to other immune cells which come along and

destroy the pathogen. There are many different types of human leucocyte antigens, and depending on why type a person has can determine which infections they may be more susceptible to.

The researchers found that eight out of the nine children had a higher genetic prevalence of a certain type of human leucocyte antigen, which may have increased their likelihood of getting hepatitis symptoms from these viral infections. This type is also more common in people of European descent, which may further explain why these hepatitis cases were mainly seen in Europe.

Although it appears from this study that a combination of factors may explain the sudden, severe hepatitis cases spotted in children, the study itself was small and only conducted on participants in Scotland. A much larger, peer-reviewed study will need to be done in order to fully figure out the exact link and how best to protect children going forward.

PTI



COTTON CRAZE

Women browsing through dress materials at the 13th Cottonfab at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar Thursday

OP PHOTO

Learn to live in harmony with nature: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: On the occasion of World Nature Conservation Day, Thursday Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked people to celebrate the wonders of nature and learn to live in harmony with it for a sustainable future.

Taking to Twitter, the CM said, "Preservation of nature and sustainable management of natural resources are deeply linked with the health & wellbeing of mankind. On #WorldNatureConservationDay, let's celebrate the wonders of nature and learn to live in harmony with it for a sustainable future," he said.

Observed every year on July 28, the World Conservation Day is celebrated internationally to increase

WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY



awareness about the best practices to protect the natural resources like water, air, soil and trees.

Due to the increase in the human population, natural resources have been compromised to critically dangerous levels. Many challenges are posed to the environment by humans, some of which are – global warming, environmental pollution, destruction of flora & fauna, and deforestation. Therefore, we have to stop the misuse of natural resources; otherwise, a day will come when our future generations will be deprived of essential natural resources because nothing is everlasting.

In major achievement recently, the forest cover in Odisha recorded an increase by 537 square kilometre

as per the India State Forest Report brought out by Forest Survey of India during 2021, Odisha has 52,156 square kilometer of forest coverage which is 33.50 per cent of its geographical area as compared to 21.71 per cent of forest cover at the national level.

Forest, Environment and Climate Change department Minister, Pradip Kumar Amat said that Rs 1,040.50 crore has been utilized under various schemes of programme expenditure including CAMPA during FY 2021-22. Apart from afforestation, the department has taken many other initiatives such as the Mahanadi Rath Yatra, Pada Yatra and massive campaign among the people for conservation of forest and water.

CSD seeks withdrawal of Forest (Conservation) Rules

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Campaign for Survival and Dignity (CSD) Odisha, a coalition of Adivasis and forest dwellers' organisations, staged a protest in front of State Assembly Thursday and submitted a memorandum to the Governor and Chief Minister's office, demanding withdrawal of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022.

The CSD had earlier sent a memorandum to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) raising serious concerns over the conservation rules notified by the Centre June 29. Gopinath Majhi, state convener of CSD said that the recent amendments and a host of executive orders/guidelines issued by the Ministry undermine and dilute the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and threaten the rights of Adivasis and forest dwellers. CSD demanded that the FC

Rules be rescinded forthwith.

Majhi added that the notification of the FC Rules is a major assault on the rights of Adivasis and other traditional forest dwellers and on the forests. It violates the FRA by taking away the statutory requirement of seeking consent from the Gram Sabhas before approval of the forest diversions by the MoEF&CC.

The Central government has abdicated its responsibility to ensure the conservation of forests and check deforestation as well as to ensure the protection of rights of Adivasis and forest dwellers as mandated by the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Forest Rights Act, he said.

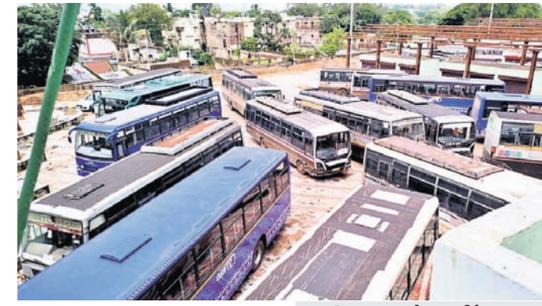
Prafulla Samantara, eminent environmentalist said that the notification of FC Rules is clearly targeted to ease business in favour of the project developers and private companies making it easy to take away forest land in violation of the rights of Adivasis and forest dwellers.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-976056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Kruparaj Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemana-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

MARTYRS' WEEK

OSRTC suspends bus services on 4 routes



Suspension of bus services has severely hit communication to several parts of south Odisha and some parts of western Odisha

communication to various parts of south Odisha and parts of western Odisha.

The routes on which bus services will remain suspended are: Berhampur-Balimela, Berhampur-Umerkote, Berhampur-Rayagada and Berhampur- Bhawanipatna. Moreover, OSRTC has also suspended two passenger bus serv-

ices from Bhanjanagar to Malkangiri, one from Bhanjanagar to Sunabeda and one from Bhanjanagar to Indravati. Similarly, buses from Bhubaneswar to Motu, Bhubaneswar to Malkangiri and Cuttack to Chittrakonda have been suspended for a week.

"Private buses have also suspended their services as passengers have stopped boarding their vehicles," said Tutu Patnaik, secretary of private bus owners' association.

However, police have urged the bus owners to continue bus services on the designated routes during the Martyrs' Week, citing adequate security arrangement and regular patrolling on the routes.

Meanwhile, reports from Jeypore said, high alert has been sounded across Koraput in view of the observance of Martyrs' Week. Operation of over 43 OSRTC buses between Koraput and Malkangiri has been suspended. Lack of communication has badly affected people in Koraput with people stranded at various locations amid tight security arrangements at Jaynarayanpatna, Bandhugaon, Boiparguda and Pottangi.

Police patrolling has been intensified in these areas.

Berhampur/Jeypore, July 28: The Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) suspended its bus services on four routes from Berhampur with Maoists observing Martyrs' Week from Thursday till August 3.

The OSRTC authorities suspended the bus services on four routes from Thursday apprehending violence by the ultras during the period.

There have been instances in the past where the ultras have unleashed mayhem by torching the government vehicles. Suspension of bus services has severely hit

Youth killed in lightning strike in Bolangir

Titlagarh: A youth was killed after lightning struck him at Gulami village under Titlagarh police limits in Bolangir district Thursday. The deceased was identified as Dillip Chandan, 22. Dillip along with his parents was working in farmland when lightning struck him, killing him on the spot. Police registered a case of unnatural death and the local tehsildar has been intimated about the death. Post-mortem of the body will be conducted Friday.

Woman's body found sans clothes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saraskana, July 28: A woman was found dead near Joka Chhak under Jharpokharia police limits in Mayurbhanj district Thursday. The nude body raised suspicion of foul play.

Babul Mahakud, son of the deceased Nini Mahakud, 55, has filed a complaint in this regard.

The complainant said his mother, who was working in a country liquor factory at Digarishola, did not return home Tuesday. After a

frantic search in the area for two days, her body was finally found in a field Thursday. Local residents alleged that the woman might have been murdered and her body was dumped in the field.

On being informed, DSP Mukti Kumar Kullu, Jharpokharia IIC and the sub-inspector rushed to the spot and started an investigation into the matter. During preliminary investigation, police learnt from some of the villagers that some people had dumped the woman in the field Tuesday.

Talcher-Bimlagarh line work to resume soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 28: Work for Talcher-Bimlagarh railway line which has long been stuck due to land hurdles from Bimlagarh side is expected to resume soon as the Union Railway Ministry has agreed to provide necessary compensation to the land losers.

Reports said ₹37 crore is required to pay as compensation to the land owners who would spare their land for the railway project.

Spokesperson of 'Koshal Janata Dal' Surma Mishra, through a letter, had drawn the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the stalemate of the ambitious railway project.

Following the letter, it was learnt that the railway ministry has intimated the Sundargarh Collector that required fund will be paid to the beneficiaries.

The chief administrator (Construction) of the East Coast Railway (ECoR) in a letter to the district administration has stated that funds would not be a constraint for the railway project. "Funds for the project will be provided to the Sundargarh Collector," the letter said.

The ECoR has given its consent to pay the hiked amount of land compensation for Bimlagarh.

The Collector is expected to hasten the land acquisition process by paying the increased compensation



ECoR ASSURANCE

■ ₹37 crore is required to pay as compensation to people who would spare their land for the project

■ Chief administrator of the ECoR (Construction) said funds for the project will be provided to the Sundargarh Collector

amount to the land owners. Talcher-Bimlagarh railway line, a key infrastructure project, has been hanging fire despite regular monitoring by the Prime Minister's Office and being included under Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) platform.

It may be noted here that Talcher-Bimlagarh railway line project has

failed to gain pace as ECoR could not get physical possession of the remaining land from the Bimlagarh side. The Sundargarh district administration was supposed to ensure land by March 2022 to start work from the Bimlagarh side. Some locals had earlier written to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik requesting his direct intervention to remove land-related hurdles.

Balimela water level dips despite heavy rain



Regular discharge of 3,000 cusec of water to Andhra Pradesh is another cause of the drop in the water level

reached the satisfactory level. As July is coming to an end, it was found that the water level was actually falling.

Last year, over 1,470 cubic feet of water was present in the dam while the current water level is 1454.90 cubic feet (by Tuesday). The dam's water level has dropped by almost 20 per cent.

Regular discharge of 3,000 cusec of water to Andhra Pradesh through the dam's sluice gates is another cause of the drop in water level.

Reports said that the dam's water level rose last year despite a delayed rainfall. However, with monsoon arriving in time and incessant rainfall lashing the area since July 2 the water level is yet to increase in the dam. It is believed that the water level will increase in the dam if the area witnesses good rainfall towards September last or October or heavy rainfall again on the upstream of the dam.

Chittrakonda, July 28: Kharif cultivation and power production might get seriously affected as water level in Balimela reservoir under this block in Malkangiri district is yet to increase despite heavy rainfall on the upstream, according to reports.

Despite incessant rain for the last one week this month, reports stated that the water level in the dam close to Chittrakonda spillway of Balimela reservoir has not

SCRAMBLING FOR JOBS



Scores of unemployed youths thronged a block-level job fair organised by ORMAS on the Khaira block office premises in Balasore, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Diarrhoea claims 2 in Nuapada, Gajapati



Mohana BDO Kishore Das talking to people at P. Gobindapur village

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, July 28: After wreaking havoc in Kashipur and Mohana blocks in Rayagada district, diarrhoea has now spread its tentacles to parts of Nuapada and Gajapati districts.

The water-borne disease has claimed one person each in Nuapada and Gajapati districts. A total of 38 people in Komna block of Nuapada district are also suffering from acute diarrhoea, out of which 11 are undergoing treatment at hospitals.

Laldei Hans of Jatagad village under Komna block breathed her last Thursday at the district headquarters hospital (DHH). She had been suffering from acute diarrhoea since Wednesday.

In the second case of fatality, a 9-year-old girl Lipi of P Gobindpur village under Mohana block in Gajapati district died in the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. She had also been vomiting continuously all through Wednesday, villagers said. They also informed that a number of others have been showing the same symptoms.

A medical team has reached Komna block and have set up a temporary camp at Jatagad village. The team is attending to people suffering from diarrhoea. Residents of the entire Komna block have also been asked to drink boiled water. They have also been asked not to use contaminated water from open sources.

Now, cholera grips Tarabha

Six more affected by the water-borne disease

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tarabha, July 28: While cholera has claimed several lives in Kashipur block of Rayagada, and diarrhoea is spreading in Dasmantpur block of Koraput district and Mohana block of Gajapati district, the water-borne disease has now broken out in Tarabha block of Subarnapur district.

Reports said six people more were affected by diarrhoea at Suryamunda under this block. Earlier, 31 people were affected

since Sunday. Though the administration is claiming that situation is under control, the spread of the disease has become a cause of concern for locals and health officials. Contaminated water is the main reason behind diarrhoea outbreak in the area, said some health officials.

Administration and health officials visited the village and sensitised people about the preventive measures. Roads are sanitised while drinking water sources are being disinfected along with distribution of bleaching powder.

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, MALKANGIRI e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. ITDAMKG-01/2022-23
 The Project Administrator, ITDA, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids through online mode in Double Cover System for the type of works given in the table. from the eligible contractors of Class (D Class / C Class) or of equivalent range registered with the state Governments and Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Building work. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. The successful bidder who has not registered under state Government has to register under the state PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing of the agreement. The bid should be submitted only online on the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Name/ Type of works	Const. of Addl. Classroom, Dining-cum-Kitchenshed, Repair Maintenance of Hostels, White washing, Colouring, Roof Treatment, Washing Platform, Cloth Drying yard etc. in different Hostels running under SSD Department
No. of works	21 Nos. (Twenty One)
Amount put to Tender	As laid down in the DTCN
Tender paper cost	As laid down in the DTCN
E.M.D Amount Required	Bid securing declaration in the prescribed format
Period of completion	As laid down in the DTCN for each work.
Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 3.00 P.M of 28.07.2022 to 20.08.2022 upto 5.30 P.M.
Last Date/ time for receipt of bid in the portal	From 3.00 P.M of 28.07.2022 to 20.08.2022 upto 5.30 P.M.
Last Date/ time for submission of paper lost & documents	From 10.00 A.M of 22.08.2022 to 24.08.2022 upto 5.30 P.M (During office hours in working days in the tender box kept at ITDA / Through Registered Post)
Date of opening of Tender	25.08.2022 (At 11.00 A.M)

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Project Administrator, ITDA, Malkangiri

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) 4, Vishnu Digambar Marg, New Delhi-110002
(An autonomous Institute under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India)
Affiliated to University of Delhi

ADMISSION NOTICE

The Institute invites online applications for admission to the following course for the session 2022-23

Master in Prosthetics & Orthotics (MPO) 2 years duration under Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics

The candidates seeking admission to MPO course 2022-23, must register themselves online in the prescribed application form available on the PDUINPPD www.iphnewdelhi.in, www.pduinppd.in along with the registration fee. The fee for the registration to the course will be 1200/- for General, EWS and OBC candidates and 600/- for SC, ST & PWD candidates.

The registration fee for the application to be submitted through NEFT/RTGS to the account as mentioned in the prospectus. Candidates while applying online are advised to follow the guidelines as given in the prospectus.

Important Dates:

- Starting Date of submission of Online Application Forms : 25.07.2022 (Monday)
- Closing Date of submission of Online Application Forms : 16.08.2022 (Tuesday)
- Date of Entrance Test : 04.09.2022 (Sunday)

Director
 E-mail-diriph@nic.in
CBC 38103/12/0001/2223

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that M/s Trident Properties Pvt. Ltd., having its Regd. Office at Regd. Office at 8-2-408, Flat No.D/1, Ground Floor Sri Krishna Apartments, Road No.6, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad- 500034 having its Local Office at Plot No.149, Symphony Mall, 3rd Floor, Rudrapur, Hanspal, Khurda, Odisha- 752101 represented by Authorised representative Sri Narendra Kumar Daga, S/o Sri Ghanashyam Das Daga has applied for a project loan offering Plot No.1814/2475, 1809/2481, 1815/2805, 1809/2480, 1815/2806, 1814/2477/3418, 1813/3414, 1820/2467, 1820/2468, 1819/2463, 1815/2807, 1820/2466, 1820/2466, 1819/2464, 1817/2465, 1820/2469 and other plots in Mauza Paikarapur, P.S.- Chandaka, Bhubaneswar, Khordha, M/s. Trident Properties Pvt. Ltd., has lost original Khata No. 456/204, 456/204, 456/560, 456/209, 456/561, 456/1288, 456/1282, 456/196, 456/197, 456/193, 456/562, 456/195, 456/194 and 456/198 and original RSD 3828 dated 31.05.1991, RSD 3771 dated 29.05.1991, RSD 2950 dated 03.09.1993, RSD 3770 dated 29.05.1991, RSD 2265 dated 06.07.1993, Gift Deed No. 5935 dated 29.07.2006, RSD 5181 dated 06.07.1992, RSD 5183 dated 06.07.1992, RSD 5199 dated 06.07.1992, RSD 2263 dated 06.07.1993, RSD 5185 dated 06.07.1992, RSD, 5201 dated 06.07.1992 and RSD 5184 dated 06.07.1992.

All concerned therefore having any claim over the property relating to the aforesaid documents are required to file their claim with the undersigned within 07 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said document are free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as a mortgager and the Company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 (Fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

Sd./- (U.K. MISHRA)
 Advocate
 LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Cuttack
 Dt.27.07.2022

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/
 E-Tender/51 Dt.: 25.07.2022

(1) Tender No. e-tender-BRIDGE-KUR-122-2022 Dt.: 20.07.2022

Description: PROPOSED PAINTING OF GIRDER BRIDGES UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE) (BHADRAK AND KENDUJHARGARH) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 2022-23.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 154.98 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,27,500/-

(2) Tender No. e-tender-BRIDGE-KUR-123-2022 Dt.: 20.07.2022

Description: PROPOSED PAINTING OF GIRDER BRIDGES UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE) (NORTH AND SOUTH) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 2022-23.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 282.98 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,91,500/-

(3) Tender No. e-tender-BRIDGE-KUR-124-2022 Dt.: 20.07.2022

Description: PROPOSED PAINTING OF GIRDER BRIDGES UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE) (CUTTACK-I AND CUTTACK-II) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 2022-23.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 314.63 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 3,07,300/-

Completion period: 09 months (for all tenders).
 Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 12.08.2022 (for all tenders).
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.
 Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.irps.gov.in>
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg),
 PR-331/N/22-23
 Khurda Road

Piramal Capital & Housing Finance
 Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kaman Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Website: www.piramalfinance.com
 Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Nuapada, Thane (West) - 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) [formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL)] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 00002013 of Bhubaneswar Branch) Prasanna Kumar Swain (Borrower) Pradeep Kumar Swain (Co Borrower)	21-06-2022 ₹ 478285 /- (₹ Four lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five Only) NPA (12-05-2022)	Plot No 428, Khata No 46, Mouza Hakapada, Ps-Delanga, Jenapur Near Hanuman Temple, Delanga Pipili Puri Orissa - 752016

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 29-07-2022
 Place: Orissa

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
 Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

FOCUS FOREIGN TRADE

AFRICAN OPPORTUNITIES



It is perhaps in order that India should look towards Africa for trade and investment as this continent will prove to be the future of the world economy

China in foreign trade. At the moment, China is a much bigger economy than India, which has social and political capital, which China does not. So the choice for the partners is between democracy, pluralism and development (India) and autocracy, totalitarianism and exclusion.

The response to the above remark was, "we have deliberately decided to go with India. We understand democracy could be slow and cumbersome but it is a sustainable political system reconciling multiple interests and providing space for every citizen of the country. India is an example as well as inspiration for many of us in Africa." That was an encouraging note to build relations with.

Gabon is a country of two million people, with 85% of forest coverage and 850 km of coastline. It is the second world producer of high grade manganese, second global producer of veneer seeds, one of the top two in Africa in GDP per capita, seventh Sub-Saharan African oil producer. In order to relaunch the national economy, hit hard by the pandemic, Gabon has committed itself to a Transformation Acceleration Plan. It is aimed at diversification and structural transformation of the economy over the period 2021-2023. The plan is also based on acknowledging the gradual decline of oil and the rise of new sectors owing to exploitation of natural resources - mining, agriculture, wood, fishing.

To sum up, not only India, many other countries are far more interested than before in this continent. India has the advantage of language and cultural affinity. As expressed by the minister from Gabon, the appreciation of India's support for democratic practices, processes and institutions is growing in Africa. So India must look at the continent, but engage with countries individually like the promising land of Gabon.

The writer is Prof. International Relations, JIMMC. @INFA

Yet, India has a long way to traverse, as Africa is a huge continent. It can be covered as Indian economy picks up at home. Another issue to factor in any international trade talk is China as the elephant in the room. Boillot takes this into account in his book and suggests that, eventually, India will overtake China in Africa. Let us, however, be clear that it is not automatic.

As a sample of the opportunities to explore, let us look at a Central-African country, Gabon. A delegation of a dozen people comprising ministers and diplomats interacted with the Indian business community in Delhi at the behest of a voluntary trade promotion agency called 'Indian Economic Trade Organisation' based in Bangalore. Also, Gabon hosted only couple of months ago, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu whose visit was first Vice-Presidential visit to the country. Naidu reiterated the 'commitment of Government of India to be Gabon's reliable partner in its development journey'. As per the Gol's perception, Gabon is a significant partner of India. Both countries are currently serving as non-permanent members of the UNSC. The trade between the two countries has reached 1.12 bil-

lion USD in 2021-22. About 1000 Indians live in Gabon. A number of Gabonese nationals pursue scholarship/training programmes provided by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). In business sector, over 50 Indian companies are engaged in Gabon Special Economic Zone. Talks are on about advancing cooperation across the sectors including trade, investment, energy, IT, capacity building, health, pharmaceuticals and more.

In the interaction in New Delhi, the Gabon delegation acknowledged the cultural similarity - pluralism and diversity - between the two countries. They expressed their keen desire to do business with India. In my short presentation, I pointed out the similarity of history and prospects of a shared future. Both India and Africa were colonised and have inherited political systems which are not co-terminus with their societies. They have the challenge of reconciling their multiple identities of language and ethnicity.

A sharp and pointed observation drew very positive response from their Foreign Minister Moussa-Adamo. The remark was that India happens perform to compete with

Last week a bevy of diplomats and high-level ministers from several African countries descended on the national capital for a two-day business summit. This was the 17th edition of the conclave launched by CII-Exim Bank on India-Africa Growth Partnership, seventeen years ago in 2005. This conclave has the support of India's Ministries of External Affairs and Commerce and Industry. It is reported that, over the years, this format of exchange, "has emerged as one of the largest congregations of senior ministers, policymakers and business leaders from Africa and India. Cutting across sectors, and has played a vital role in encouraging Indian companies to make and grow their footprint in Africa."

It is perhaps in order that India should look towards Africa for trade and investment as this continent will prove to be the future of the world economy. An expert on Indian economy, a French national, Jean-Joseph Boillot has made the prediction, in his book 'Chinafrica, avez-vous dit?' (Chinafrica, did you say?) that China-India-Africa will shape tomorrow's world. He says that China's economy will peak whereas those of India and Africa will grow. India should consciously heed such predictions by experts, positioning herself in order to grab the opportunities beckoning in Africa.

India is the eighth largest investor in Africa, combining both public and private sector enterprises. Lines of Credit (LOCs) worth 12.26 billion USD have so far been extended to African countries making them the second largest recipient of India's concessional loans. Thirty eight African countries have benefited from India's Duty Free Tariff Preference scheme (DFTP), which provides duty free access to 98.2% of India's total tariff lines. In the pandemic, under the Vaccine Maitri Initiative, India supplied 24.7 million doses of made-in-India COVID vaccines to 42 countries in Africa. So far so good.



DK Giri

INDIA IS THE EIGHTH LARGEST INVESTOR IN AFRICA, COMBINING BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENTERPRISES



Emmanuel Achiri

Desperate people must not suffer more than they already have for the prospect of a better future

Helping Asylum Seekers

On May 24, 2021, three Cameroonian asylum seekers left the north of Cyprus in an attempt to reach the south. They were denied protection, triggering widespread international condemnation, and were stranded in no man's land for nearly seven months after the Cypriot authorities refused to recognise their asylum request.

Their predicament stemmed partly from the island's de facto division since 1974. Crossing the UN-controlled Green Line separating the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus (RoC) and the Turkish-controlled Northern Cyprus (recognised only by Turkey) is considered illegal if not authorised, even for those seeking asylum.

The RoC authorities argued that granting the three Cameroonians asylum would encourage others to cross the Green Line, and have accused Turkey of encouraging an influx of refugees from Syria and Sub-Saharan Africa. But the reality is more complex.

Since 2018, Cyprus has become a major destination for refugees. As routes into the European Union via Greece close and refugees' living conditions in countries like Turkey and Lebanon worsen, traffickers are instead offering Syrian refugees a risky crossing to Cyprus. Many arriving on the island live in dire conditions in overcrowded reception centers, while government ministers stoke anti-refugee sentiment. Some land in Northern Cyprus and mistake it for the RoC.

The increase in the number of asylum seekers in Northern Cyprus reflects both new arrivals by boat and the "university island" model. A recent study by the student group VOIS Cyprus shows a correlation between the growing number of university students in the north and the increase in asylum seekers, with 4.5% of the 763 respondents (mostly third-country nationals) citing war or conflict in their home country as their reason for studying there.

Unfortunately for most of the refugees from the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, the government in Northern Cyprus has not assumed responsibility for providing asylum to persons in need of protection. This is despite the fact that international human-rights instruments such as the UN's 1951 Refugee Convention, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention Against Torture are part of the north's domestic legal framework.

In fact, there is no specific domestic legislation regarding refugee protection, and no differentiation between persons in need of protection and other migrant groups. Refugees arriving in Northern Cyprus by boat are often detained and deported. It is a similar story for students who are unable to regularise their stay due to financial difficulties and then, fearing persecution and/or war in their home countries, seek asylum.

Responsibility for offering protection should lie with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). But the UNHCR's mandate in Northern Cyprus has diminished since 2014, because the lack of established rules with the local authorities has left the agency unable to offer refugees meaningful protection.

The UNHCR's mandate previously allowed for determination of refugee status in the north to be part of the procedure for deciding whether a person needed protection. Its current mandate, however, enables it to provide asylum seekers only with protection letters recognising them as "persons of concern" (PoCs). In theory, this document prevents PoCs from being deported, and gives them access to the labour market, health care, and (in the case of children) education. But the absence of a comprehensive mechanism to offer even basic protection to refugees in Northern Cyprus is a concern.

In fact, there is no official agreement between the Refugee Rights Association and the Turkish Cypriot authorities, and hence no legal basis for the UNHCR protection letters. It is simply an informal arrangement that the authorities can rescind at any time, which explains why they have made no concerted efforts to offer PoCs meaningful protection.

Some therefore regard crossing the Green Line to the RoC as their only option, despite the RoC's poor track record with refugees. Being recognised internationally as refugees would at least be preferable to the limbo they experience in the north.

It is difficult to know who exactly is to blame for asylum seekers' plight in Northern Cyprus. But desperate people will continue making their way to Northern Cyprus, regardless of whether they are aware of its unrecognised status. International actors, particularly the UNHCR and the EU, must therefore take concrete steps to offer them meaningful protection.

Far too often, the UNHCR has claimed that it is unable to establish relations with Northern Cyprus because it is a territory under occupation. But for many asylum seekers languishing in undignified conditions, the question of effective control does not matter. To offer them meaningful protection, the UNHCR must seek innovative ways of communicating with the authorities in the north. Giving the RRA more money and manpower to do this would be a good start.

The EU, meanwhile, should push the RoC government to re-establish and recognise claims of protection for those who cross the Green Line and to collaborate with the authorities in the north. In addition, it should investigate the RoC's increased and reportedly inhumane border policing, increase its support to the RRA, and encourage the Turkish authorities to pressure their Turkish Cypriot counterparts to uphold their human-rights commitments.

More importantly, other EU member states must acknowledge their role in this debacle. The fact that asylum seekers are now opting for Cypriot shores is a direct result of violent pushbacks against refugees at these countries' borders. The EU can - and should - provide asylum seekers safer humanitarian corridors, visas, and resettlement packages. Desperate people must not suffer more than they already have for the prospect of a better future.

The writer is Co-Founder of Stop the War in Cameroon Coalition. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning. JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him. GALILEO GALILEI

WORDSWORTH

Velocipedist

It appeared on English roads about 1818: a strange vehicle with two wheels, one behind the other, joined by a horizontal beam on which the rider sat, pushing the contraption along with his feet, a method which one US newspaper described as skating on land. This was an early precursor of modern bicycle, the invention of a German named Karl Drais. The name for the contraption was varied: Drais called it Laufmaschine, a running machine; the French at first named it draine, from its inventor. The English had various names early on, including both of these, but also dandy-horse and hobby-horse, after the ancient child's toy of a stick with a horse's head. The term survives in the modern French vélo, roughly equivalent to our "bike". Its riders became known, of course, as velocipedists.

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Looking forward to our extinction

The extreme temperatures witnessed in Europe during the last fortnight, are the results of our own making, and maybe this is a wake-up call for humans to stop playing with nature. When we think of Europe, we mostly think of cold and enjoyable weather, as compared to our scorching heat and humid weather. But in 2022, the European continent is facing one of the worst summers.

Usually, by Indian standards even the European summers were considered much better than our winters, but record-breaking heat affecting parts of Western Europe during the fortnight, with UK temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius for the first time since record-keeping began in 1772, has proved us wrong. Temperatures dived in many other countries in Europe, with 64 different areas in France experiencing record highs and temperatures in Portugal reaching 47 degrees Celsius. The dangerously high temperatures have had other additional consequences, too, with Portugal reporting more than 1,000 heatwave-related deaths in the last fortnight. At least 13 people have died in open water-related incidents in the UK. Extreme heatwave warnings were issued in France and record July temperatures were reported in the Netherlands.

In addition, wildfires continue to sweep across parts of Southwest

Europe. This is also accompanied with the fact that Europe is witnessing more and more floods in regions where they were unheard of like in Germany and the UK. Experts blame climate change for the soaring temperatures across the world, especially Europe, and have warned that worst is yet to come.

The Guardian reported Prof. Richard Allan of the University of Reading as saying that climate change is intensifying these heatwaves as greenhouse gas increases raise temperatures and a warmer, more thirsty atmosphere dries out the soil, so that more of the sun's energy is available to heat the ground rather than evaporating water.

The Politico quoted Mariam Zachariah, climate scientist at Imperial College London, as saying that build-up of CO2 from burning fossil fuels has made heatwaves more intense and more frequent across the globe, including in Europe.

The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) scientists are predicting very high levels of surface ozone pollution across a large region of Europe as temperatures soar. Mark Parrington, Senior Scientist from the CAMS, says the potential impacts of very high ozone pollution on human health can be considerable both in terms of respiratory and cardiovascular illness. Higher values can lead to symptoms such as sore

throat, coughing, headache and an increased risk of asthma attacks. The Climate and Clean Air Coalition estimates that ozone pollution causes approximately one million additional deaths per year. This is why it is crucial that we monitor surface ozone levels.

Recently BBC has published a revealing report, which highlights how the major culprits responsible for environmental degradation had planned and executed a bold campaign 30 years ago, to spread doubt and persuade the public that climate change was not a problem. The tie-up between some of America's biggest industrial players and a PR genius - forged a devastatingly successful strategy that endured for years, and the consequences of which are all around us.

The Global Climate Coalition (GCC), which represented the oil, coal, auto, utilities, steel, and rail industries, hired a communications partner to change the narrative on climate change. The strategy was implemented through an extensive media campaign, including placing quotes and pitching opinion pieces. The groundwork was laid meticulously for the industry's biggest campaign to date - opposing international efforts to negotiate emissions reductions in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997.

This makes us wonder where we have gone wrong. It is indeed true

to say that during the last 100 years humans have wrecked the earth so much that nature is turning back on them. We hear constant talk of environmental planning and tackling climate change effects, but find most governments wanting in fulfilling their pledges committed at different environment forums, such as COP26 and other international bodies.

The basic requirement is that we'll have to change our lifestyles too, to cope with the climate challenges. We'll have to change the way we are constructing our commercial and residential buildings, all clad in either glass or aluminium cladding requiring more heat-tensile mechanisms to maintain cooler temperature. In hotels worldwide it is a normal practice to maintain the building temperature at 17 degrees Celsius, why can't we make it a more reasonable 21 degrees Celsius? In addition we also need to change our style of construction using a judicious mix of stone, cement and wood, not just relying on one particular product, besides ensuring less usage of wood.

If we humans don't act now instead of just preaching and making hollow promises then we could just look forward to our own extinction much earlier than envisaged by nature.

The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi. @IANIS



Asad Mirza

IT IS INDEED TRUE TO SAY THAT DURING THE LAST 100 YEARS HUMANS HAVE WRECKED THE EARTH SO MUCH THAT NATURE IS TURNING BACK ON THEM

Prioritise health infra

Sir, The monkeypox outbreak has triggered the attention of the whole world. For the second time in two years, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a viral outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). The international forums and all the countries should now need to start research on the monkeypox disease before it becomes too late. If this disease becomes a pandemic, it will be difficult for the countries, which are still reeling under the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, to handle the situation. Two diseases in two years that have the potential to become pandemics is the scariest news for humanity. This signals that healthcare needs to be prioritised over all other things in a nation. The political class in all the countries should now try to develop healthcare infrastructure and necessary expansion of public health facilities in their respective countries. All the countries should also need to be pre-prepared for future pandemics.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Rewriting history

Sir, In a recent webinar organised by the All India Save Education Committee, noted historians like Prof Irfan Habib and Prof A Karunanandan criticised the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for its attempts to rewrite the Indian history poorly. On the subject matter of the webinar "Distorting Indian History in the Name of Rewriting," Prof A Karunanandan said that while history is not an unalterable scripture and can be perfected through academic deliberations and exercise, current attempts to rewrite history are being done through the abuse of power by the diktats of officialdom. The current government at the Centre is abusing the University Grants Commission (UGC) to impose a unitary syllabus throughout higher education institutions, for political agenda and not for academic purposes. New discoveries in history must be checked by historians, not by the government and politicians, said Prof A Karunanandan. Prof Irfan Habib said that historians have worked hard to create an accurate account of history, and while there may be inaccuracies, these are based on facts that have been researched. However, the present government's interpretations on the practices like Sati or differences between the Aryan and Dravidian races are based on religion, Prof Habib said. Indian history must not just be the history of rulers and priests, but the history of all the people.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

My goal is to make Rajasthan the best in education and health. I am happy that I am getting full cooperation from the public in this work



ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

Indians are the most intelligent all over the world. If left for the politicians and political parties, the nation will remain backward. Let's take a pledge that we the 130 crore of people will make India the best nation of the world. People ask, 'Can India lead the world?' Why cannot India become the world no 1? Businessmen, lawyers, working professionals will have to come together



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

On World Hepatitis Day, we reiterate our commitment to eliminate Hepatitis by 2030. Vaccine of Hepatitis B is provided to all newborns to give lifelong immunity. We shall be taking treatment services to sub district level and population based screening. Let's all take up the challenge on this day to eliminate Hepatitis in West Bengal



MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Man booked for raping daughter

Kota (Raj): A case was registered against a man Thursday for allegedly raping his 15-year-old daughter in Rajasthan's Bundi district over the course of nearly two years, police said. The minor, a class 8 student, narrated her ordeal to an Anganwadi worker in her neighbourhood in the morning who then informed the matter to the circle officer (CO). A case under sections of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered at the Kapren police station against the 45-year-old father, CO Shankar Lal said.

Chenab crosses danger mark

Jammu: Due to incessant rains in the last 12 hours, river Chenab Thursday crossed the danger mark and authorities sounded an alert throughout the areas close to the river. Officials of the flood control and irrigation department said that the water level of Chenab River at Akhnour in Jammu district touched 35 ft today.

Petrol pump manager shot dead

Bareilly: A petrol pump manager was shot dead Thursday when he tried to stop miscreants from stealing diesel from trucks parked on the Rampur-Delhi highway. The manager, Sushil Kumar, according to reports, was at his petrol pump when he saw some men taking out diesel from trucks. When he objected, the miscreants shot him dead and fled in their car.

4 dead after SUV falls into river

Panaji: Three members of a family were among four people killed after a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) fell into the Zuari river in South Goa district in the wee hours of Thursday, an official said. The accident took place around 1.10 am. Navy divers pulled the vehicle out of the waters on Thursday afternoon and rescuers had to cut its doors to retrieve the four bodies, he said. The SUV had tried to overtake a car over the Zuari river bridge on a national highway at Cortalim village, about 15 km from the state capital Panaji. It rammed into the bridge railings and plunged into the river, police said.

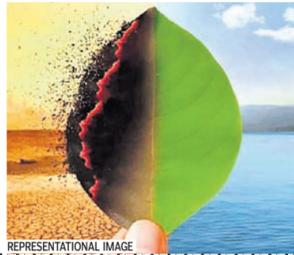


Raja (the king) gets angry when asked questions on unemployment. The truth is this - he is not capable of providing employment. The youth are an 'asset' of the country, BJP is showing them as 'liability'

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

GREAT INITIATIVE

In an initiative to check global warming, the Punjab government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for becoming the member of the global network called Under2 Coalition to address climate change, it was announced Thursday



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Partha removed from all party posts

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 28: Hours after Mamata Banerjee government stripped him of all his ministerial portfolios, the ruling Trinamool Congress Thursday announced that Partha Chatterjee, who had been arrested in the multi-core West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC), stands suspended from the party, till the time the investigations in the matter are over and the final results of the probe comes forth.

Earlier, the cabinet took a decision to remove Chatterjee, who held the portfolios of Commerce and Industries, Parliamentary Affairs Department, and Information Technology and Electronics, as Minister.

A meeting of the party's disciplinary committee, chaired by national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee at the party's head office of Trinamool Congress Bhavan, took the decisions to suspend Chatterjee from the party as well as to remove him from all party post.

"He will remain suspended from the party till the time the investigation is completed and the entire picture is clear. At the same time, he stands removed from the party posts like Secretary General, national Working Committee member, Disciplinary Committee member and the editor of the party's organ in Bengali, Jago Bangla. The decision has been taken following certain circumstantial evidences that came forth since the last one week. We are committed to the people and hence we decided to



It has been decided that Partha Chatterjee will be removed from all party posts. He will remain suspended from the party till the time the investigation is underway. We demand that the investigation be completed within a limited time frame. The TMC will not support anyone found to be involved in corruption

ABHISHEK BANERJEE
TMC'S NATIONAL GENERAL SECY

The ED arrested Partha Chatterjee July 23 in connection with its investigation into alleged irregularities in the recruitment drive by School Service Commission (SSC)

The central agency has also arrested Chatterjee's close associate Arpita Mukherjee, and seized crores of rupees in cash from her residences in different parts of the city

Arpita Mukherjee, from whose residences ED sleuths have recovered huge treasure in two phases from the last one week. "One can say that Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee was spotted at the dais of a Durga Puja inauguration. But that proves nothing. Even the Prime Minister was spotted at the same dais with tainted industrialist, Nirav Modi. BJP has absolutely no right to raise such questions," he said. He also said that although initially

it was decided that action against Partha Chatterjee will be taken after the court verdict makes the picture clear, following circumstantial evidence, the party decided to take this disciplinary decision at this moment. "Yes, we have taken seven days to make this decision. But

WBSSC SCAM

show me any other national party which acted so fast on the issue of corruption," he said. He also said that if by any chance Partha Chatterjee in future comes to an understanding with BJP he will surely come clean of all allegations. "I am not trying



ing to defend anyone. But there had been such instances in the past like the present Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly," he said, in a jibe at Suvendu Adhikari, who was earlier in the Trinamool before switching over to the BJP.

give the benefit of doubt to the people rather than our own party Secretary General," Abhishek Banerjee told media persons after

the meeting. He, at the same time, maintained that the party has no connection with Partha Chatterjee's aide,

Oppn protests continue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The Opposition has chosen the entrance to the Parliament as its new protest site as it wants to remind Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the promise he made when he entered the House for the first time in 2014, its leaders said Thursday.

The protests against the suspension of Opposition MPs started Wednesday under the sky near the Gandhi statue.

"We want to remind Modi of the promise he made when he arrived on the first day. That is the place where he touched his forehead on the stairs. "Also, since there was no tent, because of the rain, we had to move the agitation somewhere. This place was symbolic," said a leader.

The entrance to the Parliament has now been chosen as the site of the Opposition protest as it is both strategic as well as practical. Braving mosquitoes and the heat, five suspended MPs, including CPI's Santosh Kumar and AAP's Sanjay Singh, spent the night near the Gandhi statue in Parliament complex.

TMC's Dola Sen and Santanu Sen were present at the site till post midnight. With authorities

not granting permission for a tent, the five MPs slept under the sky as a protest against the suspension of 24 of their fellow parliamentarians, 20 from Rajya Sabha and four Congress members from Lok Sabha.

"Due to heavy rain, 50hr dharna has moved from Gandhi statue to #Parliament main entrance. 29hrs down. 21hrs to go. Oppn MPs still at Dharna demanding Govt to revoke suspension of (now) 27 MPs & discuss #PriceRise #GST," tweeted TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien.

On Thursday morning, TMC MP Mausam Noor who brought tea for the MPs said that the Opposition MPs will not apologise and the protests will continue.

The MPs were provided lunch of idli by the DMK while the TMC served them fish fry, dinner will be served by TRS, sources said. AAP has been asked to supply liquids to the MPs through the protest - juice, lassi and water have been made available in abundance to ensure that they don't suffer from dehydration. The TMC which served tandoori chicken for dinner Tuesday generated a controversy with BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala objecting to non-vegetarian food being served in front of the Gandhi statue.



FUN IN AIR



People ride on ferris wheels and visit the 'Hariyali Amavasya' fair on the outskirts of Ajmer

PTI PHOTO

Both houses of Parl adjourned

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 28: Both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha were Thursday adjourned for the day after the members continued to stage protest and shout slogans on various issues, including price rise, GST, suspension of MPs, and illegal liquor racket in BJP-ruled Gujarat.

Earlier in the day, proceedings in both houses remained stalled amid continued protests from the



Congress-led opposition.

Three more MPs - AAP's Sushil Kumar Gupta and Sanjeev Kumar Pathak, and independent Ajit Kumar Bhuyan - on Thursday were suspended from the Rajya Sabha for carrying placards in the House

and demanding a discussion on Gujarat hooch tragedy.

The total number of suspended MPs from the Rajya Sabha has now reached 23. Four Congress MPs from the Lok Sabha were also suspended earlier.

Meanwhile, the ruling BJP MPs also demanded apology from Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for allegedly insulting President Droupadi Murmu by calling her "rashtrapatini".

All airlines' stations now manned by qualified staff: DGCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Aviation regulator DGCA Thursday said airlines have now posted qualified engineering personnel at all their stations after it asked the carriers to do so.

With Indian airlines reporting multiple technical malfunction incidents during the last 45 days, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had on July 18 said it conducted spot checks and found that insufficient and unqualified engineering personnel are certifying planes of various carriers before their departure. Before each departure, an aircraft is checked and certified by an aircraft maintenance engineer (AME).

The DGCA July 18 asked the airlines to deploy sufficient and qualified AME personnel by July 28.

In a statement Thursday, the regulator said: "Based on reports of increased engineering related occurrences in scheduled airlines in recent times, DGCA conducted several audit/ spot checks which indicated improper identification of cause of a reported defect, increasing trend of MEL (minimum equipment list) releases and insufficient certifying staff."

Mother can decide child's surname: Apex court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Mother being the natural guardian of the child after the demise of the father has the right to decide the surname, said the Supreme Court Thursday while setting aside an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court which directed a woman to include the name of her second husband in records as a stepfather.

A bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Krishna Murari said the direction of the High Court to include the name of the woman's second husband as a "stepfather" in documents is "almost cruel and mindless of how it would impact the men-

The top court was dealing with a case between the mother, who remarried after the death of her first husband, and the parents of the deceased biological father of the child about the surname that should be given to the child

The bench said after the demise of her first husband, being the only natural guardian of the child, how can the mother be lawfully restrained from including the child in her new family and deciding the surname

tal health and self-esteem of the child." "To obviate any uncertainty it is reiterated that the mother being the only natural guardian of the child has the right to decide the surname of the child. She also has the right to give the child up for adoption." "The Court may have the power to intervene but only



when a prayer specific to that effect is made and such prayer must be centered on the premise that child's

interest is the primary consideration and it outweighs all other considerations," the bench said.

The top court was dealing with a case between the mother, who remarried after the death of her first husband, and the parents of the deceased biological father of the child about the surname that should be given to the child. The bench said after the demise of her first husband, being the only natural guardian of the child, how can the mother be lawfully restrained from including the child in her new family and deciding the surname. The top court said that a name is important as a child derives his identity from it and a difference in name

from his family would act as a constant reminder of the factum of adoption and expose the child to unnecessary questions hindering a smooth, natural relationship between him and his parents.

It said there was nothing unusual in a mother, upon remarriage, having given the child the surname of her second husband or even giving the child in adoption to her husband. On the issue of adoption, the court said according to the Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics: "Adoption indicates the transfer of a child from old kinsmen to the new. The child ceases to be a member of the family to which he belongs by birth.

K'TAKA CM COMPLETES A YEAR

Bommaï fails to emerge as alternative to Yediyurappa

THE ONE YEAR TERM OF BOMMAI HAS BEEN MARKED BY TUMULTUOUS COMMUNAL DEVELOPMENTS AND SOCIAL UNREST

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 28: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai completed one year in office July 28. Though, Bommai started his inings successfully generating high expectations in the party leadership that it would find a mass leader in him after old war horse BS Yediyurappa, but according to party leaders, after completion of one year much needs to be accomplished in this regard.

Bommaï successfully managed the show until now by balancing between former CM Yediyurappa as well as the party and RSS leadership. Though he managed to convince the leaders to fight the upcoming assembly elections under his leadership, he will face the litmus test of bringing back the ruling BJP to power in the state.

The Congress has already proclaimed that it will capture power in the state and its leaders are vying with each other in announcing their candidature for the CM's post. The Opposition is confident of coming to power as no ruling party has managed to retain power since 1985 in Karnataka. Bommai is confident of creating history by emerging victorious this time riding high on the communal and development agenda.

The one year term of Bommai has been marked by tumultuous developments and social unrest. The hijab row started after students were denied entry into classes wearing a hijab. The crisis and related developments made international news.

The hijab crisis was followed by calls from Hindu organisations to boycott Muslim traders, artisans, businessmen in the state. Though the development helped the



BJP to polarize Hindu voters, concerns were raised by industrial honchos. Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw warned the BJP government that a divisive communal agenda in the state would affect the global leadership of India in the IT and BT sectors.

Bommaï's ambitious announcement of clearance of files within a time frame which raised expectations still remains a dream. Party insiders complain that most of the files are awaiting clearance at the CM's office. However, Bommai successfully implemented a scholarship programme to benefit children from agricultural families.

The central government's indecisiveness regarding the Mekedatu project to provide drinking water for Bangalore and its surrounding areas and uncertainty over utilization of the state's share of the Mahadayi river waters have proved to be hurdles in boosting the leadership of Bommai in the state.

Slew of schemes sans celebration

Seventy-five units of free power for SC/STs, self-employment scheme for youth, scholarship for children of weavers and taxi drivers, and construction of 8,000 new classrooms were among the slew of developmental and welfare programmes announced by Karnataka CM Bommai Thursday as he completed one year in office. In the wake of the murder of a BJP activist in Dakshina Kannada district, Bommai had cancelled events to mark his government's one year in office today, and BJP's three years in office. Poor SC, ST families would get 75 units of free power and the direct transfer of the benefit through the DBT system is being launched today, Bommai said.

The BJP government is facing allegations of involvement in the Bitcoin and PSI recruitment scandals. The flak from the judiciary over corruption has dented the image of the BJP in the state. The textbook revision exercise antagonized various sections of the society and the government had to roll back its decision.

Bommaï still has to make peace with former chief minister Jagadish Shettar who declined a cabinet portfolio saying he can't work under a junior. Hindu organisations are challenging the ruling BJP that it has failed to protect the interests of Hindu activists.

Yediyurappa, who is focused on getting his son a good position in the party, though saying that the BJP would come back to power, is not saying a word on Bommai becoming the CM again. Party insiders say that Bommai will have to fight the insiders as well as face stiff competition from the Congress.

OBC QUOTA

SC pulls up Maha SEC, warns contempt if orders breached



Poll for 367 local bodies in Maharashtra sans OBC quota: SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 28: The Supreme Court Thursday pulled up the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) for re-scheduling the poll for 367 local bodies to grant OBC reservation, and also cautioned its chief and other officials of contempt of court, if its orders are breached.

A bench, headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar, said the poll schedule was already notified when it allowed OBC reservation and the polls for those bodies must be held without the OBC reservation.

It said the SEC cannot interfere with the election, which has already been notified and only the dates can be re-aligned.

The bench, also comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and JB Pardiwala, did not appreciate that despite clarifying the issue several times, the SEC had taken a decision to re-schedule the poll. The bench made it clear that the SEC and the officials concerned would be liable for contempt of court for breaching its order.

"This is not acceptable. You (SEC) are trying to misread our order for your convenience and maybe under dictation of someone... Do you want us to issue contempt notice?..."

The bench said the election for 367 local bodies were to be notified according to the May order, and this position had been re-stated in multiple orders. The top court was informed that as per SEC affidavit, the election was deferred for two municipalities.

It said the SEC cannot interfere with the election that has already been notified, and directed that SEC cannot re-notify the election programme to these 367 local bodies.

On July 20, the Supreme Court accepted the recommendations of the Banthia commission to apply 27 per cent OBC reservations in local body elections in Maharashtra, and directed that election for local bodies in the state be notified in the next two weeks.

In December last year, the top court had directed that reservation for OBCs in local bodies will not be permitted unless they fulfil the triple test, and until the triple test is fulfilled, the OBC seats would be re-notified as general category seats.

The Supreme Court, in its order in March last year, while reading down the OBC reservation in local bodies, asked the Maharashtra government to comply with three conditions - to set up a dedicated commission for collecting empirical data on the OBC population, specify the proportion of reservation, and ensuring cumulative share of reserved seats doesn't breach 50 per cent of total seats.

Plan afoot to develop Lonar lake in Maha

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 28: In a significant decision, the Maharashtra government has approved a Rs 370-crore development and conservation project for the world-famous Lonar lake in Buldhana, officials said here Wednesday.

The money will be spent on the preservation, conservation of the crater lake, the forests and wildlife there, augmenting tourism facilities, refurbishing an old temple and other schemes to protect its unique biodiversity.

The project will see a footpath coming up around Lonar Lake for tourists and trekkers, and rehabilitation of some encroachers in the area, said the officials.

The projects were approved by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis at their Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had visited the Lonar



The oval-shaped Lonar lake was formed when a meteorite hit earth over 50,000 years ago

It was declared as a recognised site by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in November 2020

Lake in February 2021 and approved a development plan of Rs 200 crore, which has now been hiked to Rs 370 crore.

In June 2020, the oval-shaped Lonar lake - formed when a meteorite hit earth over 50,000 years

ago - attracted global attention after it suddenly turned a shocking pink colour owing to certain biological reasons, prompting scientific investigations.

Lonar lake capped another feather in November 2020 when it

In June 2020, the lake caught global attention after it suddenly turned a shocking pink colour owing to certain biological reasons, prompting scientific investigations



was declared as a recognised site by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

POLICING FOR PEACE



Police personnel conduct a march past in Puttur, Mangalore, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

ATTACKS ON HINDU ACTIVISTS

Ruling BJP in K'taka to take decisive action

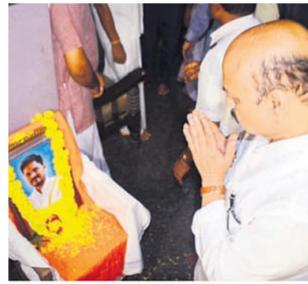
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 28: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Thursday said that his government will initiate a decisive action with regards to attacks on Hindu activists and BJP workers in the state.

"We are resolved to deal with the situation. Apart from regular investigations, special law will be formulated. Kerala High Court has made comments on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and other organisations as terror outfits. The acts of these organisations validate this observation."

"We will completely destroy the organisations which are involved in killing innocent people. Apart from the available system, a full-fledged commando force, with capacity of intelligence and ammunition will be formed," he announced.

Bommaï stated that his gov-



We will completely destroy the organisations which are involved in killing innocent people. Apart from the available system, a full-fledged commando force, with capacity of intelligence and ammunition will be formed

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

ernment has taken the killing of BJP activist Praveen Kumar Nettaru very seriously. "Every party worker and civilian's life is important. The nefarious organisations have committed enough sins and their time has come. In the coming days, it will not be our words, harsh action which is going to be initiated. I understand the feelings of youth. I can also relate to their outrage. The action will be

taken as per their expectations," he announced.

There is a big network in the country behind all these events. The forces want to disturb peace and want communal violence and clashes. They have done it in Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, he said.

During the tenure of Congress government in Karnataka, 22 BJP

workers were killed across the state in Bangalore, Mangalore, Uttara Kannada and Mysore districts. It is unfortunate that the Congress government withdrew more than 200 cases on the organisation against which the complaints were lodged. These organisations got emboldened and involved in such acts. CM Bommai stated without taking the name of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI).

Asked as to why he is not urging for banning SDPI and PFI, CM Bommai stated that the procedure of getting opinion from all states of the country is on regarding the matter. The Chhattisgarh government imposed the ban only to be vacated in one month by the Supreme Court.

According to the sources, the party is under fire from all corners, including its own members and Hindu activists who form core strength of the party, following the murder of Nettaru.

SC TO HEAR PLEA CHALLENGING TREE FELLING IN AAREY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 28: The Supreme Court Thursday agreed to examine a plea against the cutting of trees in Mumbai's Aarey colony for a Metro car shed.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayan mentioned the matter before a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant, submitting that cutting of trees is going on overnight despite the stay order, which was issued earlier. The bench agreed to take up the matter.

Sankaranarayan submitted that they have photographs and Chief Justice NV Ramana said the matter will be heard by this bench. Seeking urgent listing of the matter Friday, counsel added that there is a probability that JCBs could be operated over the weekend and emphasised that the case should be heard urgently. After hearing brief submissions in the matter, the bench agreed to list the matter for hearing Friday.

Earlier this month, the Eknath Shinde-led state government removed the stay on construction of a Metro 3 car shed at Aarey Colony. The decision paved the way for construction of the Metro car shed at the green lung, which was stopped November 29, 2019.

The stay was given by then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, barely 24 hours after he assumed office on November 28, 2019, and he later declared around 800 acres of land in Aarey Colony as 'forest' and planned shifting the car-shed to a new site in Kanjurmarg. Tree felling in the colony has been opposed by green activists and local residents.

In 2019, the apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of a letter petition addressed to the Chief Justice of India by a law student urging the court to stay on felling of trees in the colony.

The top court restrained the authorities from felling trees in Aarey colony after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for Maharashtra government, submitted that no further trees will be cut.

This tech startup is fighting human trafficking

ONE GAME AT A TIME

In a classic role reversal, the Missing game on MPL makes gamers assume the role of a trafficked girl in India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 28: The fight against human trafficking, regarded as the second largest organised crime in the world, is getting a new weapon - mobile games. Mobile Premier League (MPL), the Bangalore based tech start-up, has teamed up with the NGO Missing Links Trust, to launch a Role Play Game (RPG) called Missing to spread awareness about human trafficking among potential victims and general public.

The genre of Role Play Games (RPG) is one of the most popular



genres in gaming and it usually involves gamers assuming the role of assassins, sorcerers, zombies or elf in American or Japanese games with names like Dungeons & Dragons. In a classic role reversal, the Missing game on MPL makes gamers assume the role of a trafficked girl in India.

On the eve of the International day against human trafficking, 30th July, Namratha Swamy, Country Manager (India) of MPL

said, "We launched this game in April this year and the response from our 90 million users have been overwhelmingly positive. This was among the top ten games in the first month of the launch. Since then, it has been among the top half of all the games that we host on our platform."

The multi lingual game, available in Hindi, English, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Telugu, Gujarati, Maithili

In India, on an average 1827 women are trafficked every hour and 16 million women are victims of sex trafficking every year, according to a Dasra report. About 40% of them are adolescents and children, some as young as 9 years old

and Tamil, is designed to allow players to experience what a missing person goes through when she is trafficked into the inhumane and cruel world of prostitution, a world into which millions of girls are lost every year. The players are introduced to multiple choices that they have to make at every step of the game with the objective of getting out of the trap set by traffickers.

Leena Kejriwal, founder, Missing Trust said, "The Missing game comes under the genre of 'Games for Change' by tackling the first 'P for Prevention' of the United Nation's four Ps against trafficking. It is pertinent that the theme for this year's International Day against Human Trafficking is 'Use

and Misuse of Technology'. Gaming is one of the most popular pastimes among youth in India and what better medium than gaming to make people aware of issue of human trafficking."

In India, on an average 1827 women trafficked every hour and 16 million women are victims of sex trafficking every year, according to a Dasra report. About 40% of them are adolescents and children, some as young as 9 years old.

According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Maharashtra and Telangana recorded the highest number of such cases of human trafficking in 2020 followed by Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Jharkhand.

of the day quote

The society is fed nude photos of women on a daily basis and no one objects. One actor, for reasons best known to himself, decides to pose nude and becomes the topic of prime time debates. Are there no real issues in the country

SWATI MALIWA | DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN CHIEF

Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sthal was made by the BSP in the honour of great saints and gurus born in Dalit and other backward classes. Theft of an elephant statue from the park, which is an important tourism spot, is shameful & worrying

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

The Samajwadi Party or its alliance had never faced allegations that tickets were given for money. But such a charge was levelled when the SP formed an alliance with SBSP leader Om Prakash Rajbhar

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Solih to visit India from August 1-4

New Delhi: Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will pay a four-day visit to India from August 1 with an aim to lend further momentum to the already close partnership between the two countries.

BJP activist's murder: 2 held

Mangalore/Bangalore: Two persons with suspected links to the Popular Front of India (PFI) were arrested by Karnataka police over the murder of a BJP youth wing leader in Dakshina Kannada district that has sparked widespread outrage in the state.

Man who married five women held

Amaravati: A man, who married five women and cheated them, has been arrested by police in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur town.

NIA conducts raids in Bihar

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has found digital devices and various incriminating materials during the raids it conducted Thursday at multiple locations in Bihar in connection with the Phulwari Sharif case.

Tripura gets new police chief

Agartala: The Tripura government Thursday appointed Amitabh Ranjan, a Tripura cadre IPS officer of 1988 batch, as the Director General of Police, officials said.



Shiv Sena is fighting a legal and constitutional battle. The Supreme Court's verdict will decide not only the party's future but also the future of democracy in the country

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA PRESIDENT

RAIN WOES

Incessant rains in the Jammu division and flash floods triggered by cloudburst in Kargil district of Ladakh UT Thursday damaged agricultural fields, private property and also led to rivers brimming up.



Sonia, Irani face-off over Adhir's remark

In his defence, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who is the leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, said he never intended to disrespect the President and his 'rashtrapatni' remark was a 'slip of the tongue'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 28: A major political row broke out Thursday over Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's 'rashtrapatni' remark with the BJP launching an all-out offensive against the opposition party, accusing Chowdhury of hurling a "deliberate sexist insult" at President Droupadi Murmu and demanding an apology from Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

Accusing the BJP of making a "mountain out of a molehill" over the issue, he said he will apologise to President Murmu but not to "these pakhandis" (hypocrites). The Congress leader said he has sought time from the President the day after tomorrow and will apologise to her if she has been offended by his inadvertent comments.

Taking on the Congress, both inside and outside Parliament, Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani said Chowdhury used the term knowing well that it demeans Murmu and her office and is against India's values. Both houses also witnessed frequent adjournments due to protests by BJP members on the issue.

"Chowdhury's comments were not a slip of tongue. It was a deliberate sexist insult against the President," Sitharaman said, making a brief statement in Rajya Sabha. Demanding an apology from the Congress president, the



finance minister said Sonia Gandhi appointed Chowdhury as the leader in Lok Sabha to speak and he had insulted the President.

The BJP also fielded six of its tribal leaders, including three Union ministers --Kiren Rijiju, Sarbananda Sonowal and Bharati Pawar, to attack the Congress over the issue.

Addressing a press conference at BJP headquarters here, the leaders said Sonia Gandhi should tender an apology to the country on behalf of her party as Chowdhury had insulted the tribal community as well as women.

Chowdhury's clarification was even "more objectionable" as he has tried to make light of the remark, Rijiju told reporters.

"What he said was not a mistake. He said it deliberately and

with stress," Rijiju said, criticising the West Bengal leader for his allegation that the BJP was making a mountain out of a molehill.

Alleging that the Congress has been targeting Murmu "maliciously" ever since the BJP-led NDA named her its presidential candidate, Irani said she was called a "puppet" and a "symbol of evil" by its leaders.

"A tribal woman from a poor family who created history is being continuously demeaned by the Congress," she told reporters.

Later, a face-off between Gandhi and Irani in the Lok Sabha chamber added to the already raging row over Chowdhury's remark with the Congress accusing BJP MPs of subjecting the party chief to "brutal heckling, verbal assault and physical intimidation", and

demanding an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The incident took place after Gandhi walked across to the Treasury benches and sought to know from BJP member Rama Devi why she was dragged into the issue.

Irani stepped in and was seen gesturing towards Gandhi and apparently protesting Chowdhury's remark. Gandhi at first tried to ignore Irani's protestations, but was soon seen gesturing towards the minister and speaking angrily.

NCP member Supriya Sule and Trinamool member Aparupa Poddar were seen escorting the Congress president away from the Treasury benches as BJP members flocked around Rama Devi and Gandhi.

In a tweet, Moitra said, "Was in Lok Sabha when 75 year old lady senior leader encircled & heckled pack-wolf style when all she did was walk over & speak (masked) to another senior lady panel chairperson."

Earlier clarifying his remark, Chowdhury said, "yesterday when we were holding a protest at Vijay Chowk, journalists asked where we wanted to go. I said 'rashtrapatni' only once by mistake. I urged the journalists not to show my video where I committed a mistake. The BJP is creating a row over it now. What should I do? I said it and realised I uttered the wrong word".

UP reported highest custodial deaths in last two years: Govt



A TOTAL OF 952 CASES OF CUSTODIAL DEATHS HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE STATE SINCE 2020

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 28: Uttar Pradesh has reported the highest number of custodial deaths among all states and Union Territories in the last two years, the Centre told Parliament.

A total of 501 and 451 cases of custodial deaths were registered in Uttar Pradesh in 2021-22 and 2020-21, respectively, and 257 and 185 such cases were registered in West Bengal during the same years, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai told the Lok Sabha

in a written reply. These were among the total 2,544 and 1,940 cases of custodial deaths registered across the country during 2021-22 and 2020-21 as per the information provided by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), he said.

The minister also said "police" and "public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, and it is primarily the responsibility of the state government concerned to ensure protection of human rights of the citizens.

Similarly, Jammu & Kashmir tops the list of states in terms of cases registered in respect of death in police encounters with 45 cases in 2021-22.

A total of 151 and 82 cases in respect of death in police encounters were registered across the country in 2021-22 and 2020-21, respectively.

The minister said that the Central government issues advisories from time to time and has also enacted the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, which stipulates establishment of the NHRC and State Human Rights Commissions to look into the alleged human rights violations by public servants.

UDDHAV FACTION MOVES TOP COURT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction has filed another petition in the Supreme Court challenging the decision of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to recognise Rahul Shewale of the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde led group as the floor leader.

A three-judge bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli is already scheduled to hear August 1 a batch of petitions filed by the Thackeray faction in relation to several political developments in Maharashtra, before the Election Commission with regard to claim over the party and its symbol and in Parliament.

The fresh plea challenged the decision of the Lok Sabha Speaker to recognise Shewale as Shiv Sena's floor leader at the instance of the Shinde faction.

The Uddhav group terms the action of the speaker as "illegal" and

"arbitrary" alleging that the Shiv Sena leader and his chief whip in the Lok Sabha were removed unilaterally.

"The Speaker made the impugned changes to the positions of the leader and the chief whip without adhering to basic rules of natural justice or even calling for an explanation from the Shiv Sena political party or the petitioners herein, despite categorical requests in this regard having been communicated to him," the plea submitted.

The plea said names of Vinayak Raut and Rajan Vichare as the Leader and the Chief Whip of the Shiv Sena in the Lok Sabha respectively were reiterated and communicated to Birla, it said.

However, the Speaker approved the names proposed by the Shinde faction, it said. "As such, the actions of the respondent No.1 being palpably and manifestly arbitrary and in outright violation of the scheme envisaged under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, is in the teeth of Article 14 thereof," it submitted.

Shinde, with 12 of the 19 Lok Sabha members from Shiv Sena by his side, had named Shewale as the leader of the party in the Lok Sabha and Bhawana Gawale as the chief whip.

Earlier, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut and Rajan Vichare were the leader of the party and chief whip of the Shiv Sena in the Lok Sabha.

FUN TIME



Children play on a waterlogged road following monsoon rains in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

All above 17 yrs of age can apply for voter ID cards in advance: EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: In an effort to ensure greater participation of youth in polls, the Election Commission has decided that those above 17 years of age can now apply in advance to register as voters once they turn 18.

Till recently, people turning 18 on or before January 1 of a particular year were eligible to enrol themselves in the voters' list. Those turning 18 after January 1 had to wait for one whole year to register as voters.

Following change in election law, people can register as voters January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 on turning 18. According to an EC statement Thursday, the poll panel led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Chandra Pandey has directed the poll machinery in the states to work out tech-enabled solutions to facilitate those above 17 years of age (but not yet 18) to file their advance applications.

The poll panel later said "advance application can be submit-

ted on or after November 9, 2022, the date on which draft electoral roll will be published."

"Henceforth, the electoral roll will be updated every quarter and eligible youngsters can be registered in the next quarter of the year in which he or she has at-

Till recently, people turning 18 on or before January 1 of a particular year were eligible to enrol themselves in the voters' list

Those turning 18 after January 1 had to wait for one whole year to register as voters

Following change in election law, people can register as voters January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 on turning 18

tained the qualifying age of 18 years," it said.

For the current round of annual revision of electoral roll, 2023, any citizen attaining the age of 18 years by April 1, July 1 and October 1 of 2023 can also submit an advance application for registration as a voter from the date of draft publication of electoral roll, it explained.

12 'Jihadis' of B'desh terror group arrested

AGENCIES

Morigaon/ Barpeta/Guwahati, July 28: Twelve alleged Jihadis, with links to the Bangladesh-based terror group Ansarul Islam, were arrested in two districts of Assam, police officers said on Thursday.

Seven others, suspected to be linkmen of the same outfit, were also nabbed in Morigaon district. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said two major terror modules were busted in the state in a "nationally coordinated operation". Of the 12 suspected Jihadis, 10 were arrested in various pockets of Jania area of Barpeta district, while one was taken into custody from Guwahati, Superintendent of Police Amitabh Sinha said. Morigaon district police chief Aparna Natarjan said another person, who runs a private madrasa at Soruchola village under Moirabari police station was arrested and charged with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).



She said the arrested man, Mufti Mustafa, was allegedly involved in various financial transactions and anti-national activities linked to Ansarul Islam, which is affiliated with a larger outfit - Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

Seven other people, nabbed by the police on suspicion of being linkmen of the Ansarul Islam, are all teachers of another madrasa in the village. Since 2019, Mustafa had several financial transactions with Ansarul Islam activists Amiruddin Ansari and Mamun Rashid who were arrested in Kolkata and Barpeta respectively a few months ago.

international

of the day quote

Poland could become sovereign in selecting gas supplies by the end of this year

MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI | POLAND PM

Iran is determined to reach a good, robust and lasting deal. We urge the US to move realistically toward finding a solution and reaching a deal

HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The demand for petroleum products in Cambodia is projected to rise to 4.8 million ton in 2030, up from 2.8 million ton in 2020

SUY SEM | CAMBODIA'S MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

6 get death penalty

Dhaka: Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal Thursday sentenced six members of the infamous paramilitary force 'Razakar Bahini' to death for collaborating with the Pakistani Army for 'crimes against humanity' during the 1971 Liberation War. The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Mohammad Shahinur Islam delivered the verdict. "They shall be hanged by neck until their death," Islam pronounced, with five of the convicts faced the trial in person, while one convict was tried in absentia. The convicts were present on the dock as the judgment was delivered after which they were brought to Dhaka Central Jail.

Climbers die

Islamabad: An Australian and a Canadian mountain climber died last week in northern Pakistan while attempting to scale K2, the world's second-highest mountain, officials said Thursday. The death of Matthew Eakin was announced by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which expressed its "condolences to his family and friends." His body was found through drone video on Thursday. A Pakistani mountaineering official and the Canadian Press said the body of Richard Cartier, who went missing in a separate incident on the same mountain on July 19, had finally also been spotted by a search team on K2. Cartier was 60 and an experienced climber.

China jails poet

Shandong: A court in the eastern Chinese province of Shandong has handed down a six-year jail term to an outspoken poet who called on ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leader Xi Jinping to step down, two years after his trial, a media outlet reported. Zhang Guiqi, 49, who is widely known by his penname Lu Yang, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment by the Liaocheng Intermediate People's Court, which found him guilty two years ago of "incitement to subvert state power", RFA reported.

Landslide kills six

Tehran: A landslide caused by heavy rains Thursday killed at least six people in Tehran, Iranian state media reported, and as many as 14 people were reported still missing. Officials warned that heavier rains were expected later Thursday. Yahya Saleh Tabari, head of Tehran's emergency centre, urged people to avoid mountainous areas and riversides in the capital. At least nine people were injured in the mudslides triggered by flash floods that drenched the foothills of the Alborz mountains in the early hours of Thursday.

FIERY RHETORIC

Kim threatens to use nukes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, July 28: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned he's ready to use his nuclear weapons in potential military conflicts with the United States and South Korea, state media said Thursday, as he unleashed fiery rhetoric against rivals he says are pushing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

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

"Our armed forces are completely prepared to respond to any crisis, and our country's nuclear war deterrent is also ready to mobilise its absolute power dutifully, exactly and swiftly in accordance with its mission," Kim said in Wednesday's speech, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

He accused the United States of "demonizing" North Korea to justify its hostile policies. He said U.S.-South Korea military drills targeting North Korea show the U.S.'s "double standards" and "gangster-like" aspects because it brands North Korea's routine military activities — an apparent reference to its missile tests — as provocations or threats.

Kim also alleged the new South Korean government of President Yoon Suk Yeol is led by "confrontation maniacs" and "gangsters" who have gone further than previous South Korean conservative governments. Since taking of



In April, Kim said North Korea could preemptively use nuclear weapons if threatened, saying they would never be confined to the single mission of war deterrent

While Kim has increasingly threatened his rivals with nuclear weapons, it's unlikely that he would use them first against the superior militaries of the US and its allies, observers say

ice in May, the Yoon government has moved to strengthen Seoul's military alliance with the United States and bolster its capacity to neutralise North Korean nuclear threats including a preemptive strike capability.

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

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

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

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

Asia's richest woman loses half her wealth

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hong Kong, July 28: Yang Huiyan, Asia's wealthiest woman, has seen her wealth fall to \$11 billion from nearly \$24 billion this year as China's property crisis escalates, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, the media reported.

The 41-year-old controls Country Garden Holdings, China's largest real estate developer by sales. Her stake was largely transferred from her father Yang Guoqi, who founded the company in Foshan, Guangdong province, in 1992, CNN reported.

Country Garden's stock has lost more than half its value this year, as the country's real estate sector has struggled with falling home prices, weakening buyer demand, and a debt default crisis that has engulfed some of its largest developers since last year, CNN reported.

Despite losing more than half her fortune, Yang remains the richest woman in Asia, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. The plunge in her net worth has narrowed the wealth gap between her and fellow female billionaires in China, making Yang only some \$100 million away from being surpassed by Fan Hongwei in wealth. Fan chairs Hengli Petrochemical, a chemical fiber producer.

Evergrande, China's most indebted property firm, defaulted on its US dollar bonds in December following months of liquidity issues. Since then, several other major developers, including Kaisa and Shimao Group, have also sought protection from creditors.

In recent weeks, the real estate crisis has escalated, as thousands of disgruntled home-buyers who had made down payments for unfinished homes threatened to stop paying mortgages if construction is not completed in time, CNN reported.

Aftershocks rattle quake-hit Philippines



More than 800 aftershocks have been recorded since the quake hit, including 24 that were strong enough to feel, the local seismological agency said

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Manila, July 28: Anxious residents slept outside after hundreds of aftershocks rattled the earthquake-hit northern Philippines, locals said Thursday as President Ferdinand Marcos Jr inspected damage in the region.

Five people were killed and more than 150 injured when a 7.0-magnitude quake struck the lightly populated province of Abra on Wednesday morning, authorities said. The powerful quake rippled across the mountainous area, toppling buildings, triggering landslides and shaking high-rise towers hundreds of kilometres away in the capital Manila. "Aftershocks happen almost every 20 minutes, 15 minutes since yesterday," said Reggi Tolentino, a restaurant owner in Abra's provincial capital Bangued.

"Many slept outside last night, almost every family." Some families have been given modular tents to stay in. Marcos Jr has urged people to wait for their homes to be inspected before moving back.

Hundreds of buildings were damaged or destroyed, roads were blocked by landslides, and power was knocked out in affected areas. But in Abra, which felt the full force of the quake, overall dam-

age had been "very minimal", police chief Colonel Maly Cula said. "We don't have a lot of people in evacuation sites, although many people are staying in the streets because of the aftershocks," Cula said.

Marcos Jr, who took office last month, arrived in Bangued Thursday to inspect the damage and discuss the response effort with government, military and disaster officials.

More than 800 aftershocks have been recorded since the quake hit, including 24 that were strong enough to feel, the local seismological agency said.

Aftershocks were expected to continue for "several weeks", Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, told a briefing presided over by Marcos Jr. There would be "a lot" in the first three days, then "hopefully it will decline afterwards", he said.

Tourism operators hit

In Vigan City, a UNESCO World Heritage site and tourist destination in Ilocos Sur province, centuries-old structures built during the Spanish colonial period were damaged.

Governor Jeremias Singson told TV broadcaster Teleradyo that 460 buildings in the province had been affected, including the Bantay Bell Tower, which partially crumbled. "Our tourism industry and small business owners were really affected," Singson said.

After visiting Vigan on Thursday, Senator Imee Marcos, the President's elder sister, said the damage to old churches in the city was "overwhelming".

Four-point 'consensus' reached on Ladakh: PLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 28: China's military Thursday said that a four-point "consensus" has been reached at the recent Corps Commander-level meeting with India which included maintaining the momentum of resumption of bilateral ties, effectively managing differences and safeguarding the stability at the borders.

India and China failed to make any breakthrough in resolving outstanding issues on the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh at the 16th round of military talks on July 17, but agreed to maintain dialogue to arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution at the earliest.

A day after the talks, the two sides, in a joint statement, reaffirmed that the resolution of the pending issues would help in the restoration of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the region and enable progress in bilateral relations.

At the talks, India strongly pressed for early disengagement of troops from all the remaining friction points in the region and demanded the restoration of the status quo ante as of April 2020 — before the start of the military standoff, official sources said in New Delhi.

Commenting on the 16th round of China-India Corps Commander-Level Meeting, Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, said the two sides discussed issues in a "constructive and forward-looking way, and reached four consensuses."

SYMBOLIC FESTIVAL



An effigy of demon Ghantakarna is burnt to symbolise the destruction of evil and in belief to drive evil spirits during the Ghantakarna festival in Bhaktapur, Nepal

Fort police asked to hand over cash found at Prez home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 28: A Sri Lankan court Thursday asked the police to immediately produce Rs 17.8 million cash found by anti-government protesters when they stormed the President's house occupied by the then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The Fort Magistrate's Court here instructed the Fort Police officer in charge to produce the money after

the police informed the court that the amount was handed over to them by protesters who found the money inside the President's House on July 9.

Rajapaksa was evacuated from the President's House much before the protesters stormed the iconic building and occupied it. The order comes as no report on the money was submitted to the court even after three weeks since Rs 17.8 million was handed over to

the police, the Daily Mirror newspaper quoted Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage as saying.

Gamage also ordered the police to submit a report on the recovered money.

Hundreds of anti-government protesters on July 9 stormed President Rajapaksa's residence in central Colombo's high-security Fort area after breaking the barricades, as they demanded his resignation over the island



nation's worst economic crisis in recent memory.

Amidst the unprecedented anti-government protests, President Rajapaksa fled the country on July 13 to the Maldives.

He then travelled to Singapore from where he emailed his resignation letter. Meanwhile, four men arrested for unlawfully entering the President's House on July 9 were released on a personal bail of Rs. 500,000 each.

In call with Biden, Xi warns against 'playing with fire' over Taiwan

REUTERS

Washington/Beijing, July 28: US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a fifth call as leaders Thursday, and Xi warned against "playing with fire" over Taiwan, as concerns mounted over a possible visit to Chinese-claimed island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Chinese state media said Xi told Biden that the United States should abide by the "one-China principle" and stressed that China firmly opposed Taiwanese independence and interference of external forces.

Beijing has issued escalating warnings about repercussions

should Pelosi — a Democrat like Biden — visit Taiwan, a move that would be a dramatic, though not unprecedented, show of US support for the island, which says it is facing increasing Chinese military and economic threats.

"Those who play with fire will only get burnt," Chinese state media quote Xi as telling Biden. "(We) hope the US side can see this clearly." The White House said the call lasted over two hours. US officials had said it would have a broad agenda, including discussion of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which China has yet to condemn.

At its core though, U.S. officials said they saw the exchange as an



other chance to manage competition between the world's two largest economies, whose ties have been increasingly clouded by tensions over democratically governed Taiwan, which Xi has vowed to reunite with the mainland, by

force if necessary.

Washington does not have official relations with Taiwan and follows a "one-China policy" that recognizes Beijing, not Taipei, diplomatically. But it is obliged by US law to provide the island with the means to defend itself, and pressure has been mounting in Congress for more explicit support.

"This is about keeping the lines of communication open with the president of China, one of the most consequential bilateral relationships that we have, not just in that region, but around the world, because it touches so much," White House national security

spokesman John Kirby told reporters ahead of the call.

One person briefed on planning for the call said the Biden administration thinks leader-to-leader engagement is the best way to lower tensions over Taiwan. Some analysts believe Xi also has an interest in avoiding escalation as he seeks an unprecedented third term in office at a congress of China's ruling Communist Party expected in the fall.

Biden also wanted to discuss climate and economic competition issues, the person briefed said, as well as the idea of placing a price cap on Russian oil to punish Moscow for its war in Ukraine, an issue Treasury Secretary Janet

Yellen raised with Chinese counterparts earlier in July.

The Biden administration has been debating whether to lift some tariffs on Chinese goods as a way to ease soaring inflation, but U.S. officials have said a decision was not expected ahead of the call.

When Biden last spoke to Xi in March, he warned of "consequences" if Beijing gave material support for Russia's war, and the US government believes that that red line has not been crossed in the months since. Taiwan has complained of stepped-up Chinese military maneuvers over the past two years to try and force it to accept Beijing's sovereignty.

of the day quote

Negotiations with the US and UK for the signing of social security agreements for Indian workers are ongoing

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTER

Despite the more uncertain global macro outlook, our business is well positioned to effectively manage through the cycle

ADITYA MITTAL | CEO, ARCELORMITTAL

Our underlying business revenues adjusted for Covid products contribution during last year have grown well. The profits were aided by a few non-recurring incomes, offsetting the near-term headwinds

GV PRASAD | CO-CHAIRMAN & MD, DR REDDY'S

SHORT TAKES

Power deficit slips

New Delhi: Power deficit came down from 2 per cent in April to 0.4 per cent in May and 0.6 per cent in June despite significant rise in demand of electricity, Parliament was informed Thursday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Power Minister R K Singh said electricity supplied grew 12.8 per cent in April 2022, as compared to the year-ago month, across India. Power requirement, on the other hand grew 14.7 per cent in April on all-India basis, resulting in a deficit of 2 per cent.

PNB net profit falls 70% in Q1

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) Thursday reported a 70 per cent decline in standalone net profit to Rs 308.44 crore in the three months ended June. The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 1,023.46 crore in the year-ago period. In the March quarter, the same stood at Rs 201.57 crore. Total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal fell to Rs 21,294 crore. In the year-ago period, it was at Rs 22,515 crore, according to a regulatory filing. The lender's interest income fell to Rs 18,757 crore from Rs 18,921 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Vedanta Q1 profit soars to ₹4,421cr

New Delhi: Vedanta Thursday reported a marginal 4.6 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 4,421 crore in the April-June quarter due to higher sales volume, commodity prices and strategic hedging gains. The diversified natural resources company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 4,224 crore in the year-ago period, Vedanta Ltd said in a BSE filing. Its consolidated income during the April-June period increased to Rs 39,355 crore from Rs 29,151 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said.

Nestle to buy Purina Petcare

New Delhi: FMCG major Nestle Thursday said it will acquire the pet foods business of Purina Petcare India for Rs 123.5 crore, providing Nestle an access to the fast-growing business in the country. Both Nestle India and Purina Petcare India are subsidiaries of Swiss major Nestle SA. According to a regulatory filing, the board of Nestle India Thursday "approved the acquisition of Pet Foods Business (PFB) from Purina Petcare India through business transfer" with effect from October 1, 2022.



RBI will hike the key repo rate by 0.35-0.50 per cent at the next week's review meeting. A hike of such a quantum will take the repo rate beyond the 5.15 per cent level, at which the RBI had begun the ultra-accommodative measures in the face of the pandemic

SAUGATA BHATTACHARYA | CHIEF ECONOMIST, AXIS BANK

RELIANCE JOINS INDIA'S OLYMPIC BODY

Reliance said it would support the country's athletes in major multi-sport events as part of a long-term partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). As part of the deal, the conglomerate will become the IOA's principal partner and help the country's sports federations and athletes prepare for such events as the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games



Jack Ma plans to cede control of Ant Group

Ma has been restructuring his sprawling e-commerce and fintech empire in the aftermath of a sweeping regulatory clampdown on the industry when Chinese regulators derailed Ant's planned \$37 billion IPO, which would have been the world's largest

REUTERS

Hong Kong, July 28: Chinese billionaire Jack Ma plans to give up control of financial technology company Ant Group Co in an effort to move away from affiliate Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

Shares in US-listed e-commerce giant Alibaba slipped 0.6% to \$102.20 in premarket trade after briefly jumping higher.

While Ma only owns a 10% stake in Ant, he exercises control over the company through related entities, according to Ant's IPO prospectus. The Journal said he could cede control by transferring some of his voting power to Ant officials including Chief Executive Eric Jing, citing unnamed sources.

The Wall Street Journal report said that Ant had informed officials of Ma's intention as the firm prepares to become a financial hold-

ing company, regulated by China's central bank

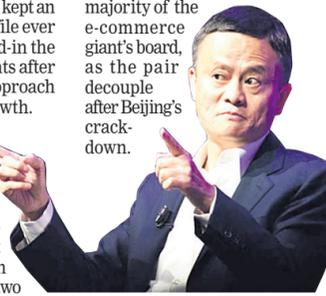
In April last year, Reuters reported that Ant Group was exploring options for Ma to divest his stake in the financial technology giant and give up control.

Once outspoken, Ma has kept an extremely low public profile ever since, as regulators reined in the country's technology giants after years of a laissez-faire approach that drove breakneck growth.

A change in control at Ant could slow plans to revive its long-sought IPO, the Journal reported, as China's domestic A-share market requires companies to wait three years after a change in control to list. The wait is two

years on Shanghai's STAR market, and one year in Hong Kong.

Earlier this week, Alibaba's annual report revealed that Ant executives are no longer part of Alibaba Partnership, a body that can nominate the majority of the e-commerce giant's board, as the pair decouple after Beijing's crackdown.



Manufacturing sector attracts \$21bn FDI in '22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The manufacturing sector attracted foreign direct investments worth \$21.34 billion in 2021-22, an increase of 76 per cent year-on-year, the commerce ministry said Thursday.

It said the government has implemented several reforms under the FDI policy regime across sectors such as insurance, defence, telecom, financial services, pharmaceuticals, retail trading, and e-commerce.

Singapore (27.01 per cent) and the US (17.94 per cent) have emerged as the top two investors during 2021-22 in India.

These were followed by Mauritius (15.98 per cent), the Netherlands (7.86 per cent) and Switzerland (7.31 per cent).

"FDI equity inflows in the manufacturing sectors have increased by 76 per cent in FY 2021-22 (\$21.34 billion) compared to previous FY 2020-21 (\$12.09 billion)," it added.

The ministry said that despite the ongoing pandemic and global developments, India received the "highest" annual FDI inflows of \$84.83 billion in 2021-22.

Top five sates receiving highest FDI in 2021-22 are Karnataka (37.55 per cent), Maharashtra (26.26 per cent), Delhi (13.93 per cent), Tamil Nadu (5.10 per cent) and Haryana (4.76 per cent).

RECESSION ODDS DEEPEN

US GDP shrinks 0.9%

Consumers and businesses in the United States have been struggling under the weight of punishing inflation and higher borrowing costs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 28: The US economy shrank from April through June for a second straight quarter, contracting at a 0.9% annual pace and raising fears that the nation may be approaching a recession.

The decline that the Commerce Department reported Thursday in the gross domestic product — the broadest gauge of the economy — followed a 1.6% annual drop from January through March.

Consecutive quarters of falling GDP constitute one informal, though not definitive, indicator of a recession.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate by a sizable three-quarters of a point for a second straight time in its push to conquer the worst inflation outbreak in four decades.

The Fed is hoping to achieve a notoriously difficult "soft landing": An economic slowdown that manages to rein in rocketing prices without triggering a recession.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell and many economists have said that while the economy is showing some weakening, they doubt it's in recession. Many of them point, in particular, to a still-robust labour



market, with 11 million job openings and an uncommonly low 3.6% unemployment rate, to suggest that a recession, if one does occur, is still a ways off.

After going backward from January through March, the US economy probably didn't do much better in the spring.

Forecasters surveyed by the data firm FactSet have estimated that the nation's gross domestic product — the broadest measure of economic output — eked out a tepid annual gain of 0.8% last quarter. Modest as it would be, that would amount to a sharp improvement over the economy's 1.6% contraction in the January-March quarter.

Still, quarterly growth that sluggish would represent a drastic weakening from the 5.7% growth the economy achieved last year.

That was the fastest calendar-year expansion since 1984, reflecting how vigorously the economy roared back from the brief but brutal pandemic recession of 2020.

Some economists fear that GDP actually shrank again from April through June, delivering the back-to-back negative quarters that constitute an informal definition of recession. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's running estimate of GDP growth, based on available economic data, is signalling a 1.2% second quarter decline.

41% income taxpayers yet to file ITR

Those who will miss the July 31 deadline for filing their returns will have to pay fine-cum-late fee of Rs 5,000 if their taxable income is more than Rs 5 lakh and Rs 1,000 if the taxable income is less than Rs 5 lakh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 28: As the deadline to file income tax returns inches closer, 41 per cent of Indians who qualify to file the return are yet to file their papers for FY 2021-22, 22 per cent say it is difficult to file it by the July 31 deadline, and



about 10 per cent were facing technical glitches, a new report showed Thursday.

However, 59 per cent respondents said they already filed their tax returns, which is a considerable improvement on the findings from a week ago July 20, according to data provided by community social media platform LocalCircles.

In an earlier survey, LocalCircles

found that 54 per cent of the respondents were yet to comply with the requirement to file tax returns by this month's end, of which 37 per cent remained uncertain if they will be able to meet the deadline.

The new survey revealed that 13 per cent respondents require "significant effort" to meet the deadline and 9 per cent admitted that it would be impossible to meet

the deadline, which the government has indicated would not be changed.

Of those still striving to file their ITR, 10 per cent of respondents complained of "difficulty in filing" but expressed keenness to do so.

The Income Tax department, through a tweet, informed the public that "more than 3.4 crore ITRs for AY 2022-23 have been filed on e-Filing portal till 26th July, 2022. The due date to file ITR for AY 2022-23 is 31st July, 2022. We urge you to file your ITR at the earliest, if not filed as yet. #FileNow!"

During the pandemic, the government had extended the deadline for filing ITRs for two consecutive fiscal years to ease taxpayers' hardship. In the last fiscal year (2020-21), the filing date was extended till December 31, 2021.

Facebook parent Meta posts first revenue dip in history

THE RESULTS LARGELY FOLLOWED A BROADER DECLINE IN THE DIGITAL ADVERTISING MARKET THAT IS DINGING META RIVALS SUCH AS GOOGLE, TWITTER AND SNAP. GOOGLE'S PARENT FIRM ALPHABET REPORTED ITS SLOWEST QUARTERLY GROWTH IN TWO YEARS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 28: Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, posted its first revenue decline in history Thursday, dragged down by a drop in ad spending as the economy falters — and as competition from rival TikTok intensifies.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Meta is slowing its pace of investments and plans to "steadily reduce" employee growth after a hiring blitz earlier this year.

"This is a period that demands more intensity," he said in a conference call with analysts. "Expect us to get more done with fewer resources."

Beyond the economic downturn, Meta faces some unique challenges, including the looming departure of its chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, the chief architect of the company's massive advertising business.

In addition to TikTok, the decline in ad spending among the downturn and Apple's privacy



changes, "questions about Meta's leadership" — including

Sandberg's exit and negative sentiment about the company as a

BULLS REGAIN FOOTING

Sensex soars nearly 2%, Nifty nears 17k

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 28: Extending gains for the second straight session, equity benchmark Sensex jumped by nearly 2 per cent to soar past the 56,000-mark Thursday, propelled by robust buying in finance, banking and IT stocks.

Value-buying persisted in blue chips as well as select mid- and small-cap counters after their recent spell of weakness, traders said.

A strong recovery in the rupee further boosted domestic equities despite the US Federal Reserve hiked rates to tame inflation, they added. The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 1,041.47 points or 1.87 per cent to settle at 56,857.79. During the day, it rallied 1,097.9 points or 1.96 per cent to 56,914.22.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 287.80 points or 1.73 per cent to 16,929.60. Among the Sensex constituents, Bajaj Finance rallied the most by 10.68 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv that jumped 10.14 per cent after encouraging June quarter earnings.

The other gainers were Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Nestle. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Dr Reddy's, ITC and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.94 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.65 per



Telecom was the only laggard

A total of 1,902 stocks advanced, while 1,427 declined and 150 remained unchanged.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, IT jumped the most by 2.51 per cent, followed by finance (2.21 per cent), teck (2.19 per cent), realty (2.03 per cent) and bank (1.72 per cent).

The rupee appreciated 26 paise to close at 79.65 (provisional) against the US dollar Thursday.

In Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong settled in the red.

Markets in Europe were trading lower during mid-session deals. The US markets had ended sharply higher Wednesday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.36 per cent to \$108.1 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 436.81 crore Wednesday.

5G SPECTRUM AUCTION

Bids received worth ₹1,49,623cr on day 3

Telecom Minister said 16 rounds of bidding have been completed in three days and the auction will continue Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The auction of 5G spectrum for ultra high speed internet services will stretch to the fourth day Friday, after 16 rounds of bidding conducted so far, fetched bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and a unit of billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship Adani Enterprises are in the race to bid for 5G spectrum, that offers speeds about 10 times faster than 4G and lag-free connectivity.

Bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore have been received at the end of the third day, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

This is marginally higher than Rs 1,49,454 crore-worth bids received at the end of the ninth round on Wednesday, the second day of the auction.

According to sources, high interest continued to be seen for spectrum in 1800 MHz band in UP East



circle, where Jio and Airtel were involved in intense bidding Thursday.

Bidding interest was seen across multiple bands and the industry is committed to taking services to rural areas, the minister said.

A total of 72 GHz (Gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore is on the block. The auction is being held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

On July 26, the first day of the auction, bids worth Rs 1.45 lakh crore were received. The government said the response of day one exceeded all expectations and surpassed 2015 records. On the second day of the auction, the bids received rose to Rs 1,49,454 crore.

ing partner at digital consultancy Publicis Sapient.

Meta is in the midst of a corporate transformation that it says will take years to complete. It wants to evolve from a provider of social platforms to a dominant power in a nascent virtual reality construct it calls the "metaverse" — sort of like the internet brought to life, or at least rendered in 3D. "Expect Meta's decline to continue until Meta can monetize the metaverse, and begin another Meta-reverse," Shah said.

INDIA COMPLETE CLEAN SWEEP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, July 28: Shubman Gill was unlucky to miss out on a maiden century but India rode on his sublime unbeaten 98 (98b, 7x4, 2x6) to outclass West Indies by 119 runs and complete a 3-0 rout in the ODI series here.

In a rain-affected final ODI, India scored 225/3 in 36 overs, courtesy Gill's career-best knock and another half century from skipper Shikhar Dhawan (58, 74b, 7x4).

The revised DLS target of 257 from 35 overs was a tricky one and Mohammed Siraj's (2/14 in 3 overs) near-perfect first over with the new ball set the tone as West Indies could finally manage only 137 in 26 overs.

Spinners Yuzvendra Chahal (4/17 in 4 overs), Axar Patel (1/38 in 6 overs) and seamer Shardul Thakur (2/17 in 5 overs) also performed their role admirably on a slowish surface as Brandon King (42, 37b, 5x4, 1x6) and Nicholas



CG | UNITED ODI CHAMPIONS

large on Gill's face when it started drizzling for the second time and he would curse himself for not speeding things up after entering the nervous 90's.

Nonetheless, no one can take the credit away from what has been a sublime knock and his stand out shots will be – two sixes off leg-spinner Hayden Walsh and a picture perfect off-drive off pacer Jayden Seales' bowling.

Dhawan and Gill added 113 for the opening stand, their second hundred plus partnership in the series, with the left hander notching up his second half century following his 97 in the opening game.

Siraj's ability to extract movement in the air and off the pitch did the trick as he removed Kyle Mayers (0) and Shamarh Brooks (0) in a space of three deliveries.

In case of left-handed Mayers, it was a perfectly full outswinger (inswinger for the batter) that tailed in and went through his defence. Right-handed batter Brooks got an off-cutter that was pitched slightly short of length but jagged back sharply to find the batter plumb in front.

In a chase of 257 in 36 overs, the scorecard reading 0/2 is always bad omen and West Indies never recovered from that setback.

The normally consistent Shai Hope (22) was stumped by Sanju Samson off Chahal's bowling, while King after some breathtaking shots was beaten by an arm-ball from Patel.

The match was over by then but the resistance completely ended when Prasadidh Krishna forced Pooran to go for a pull to a delivery that was fast and bouncy. The resultant catch was gleefully accepted by Dhawan as West Indies fizzled out without a fight.

BRIEF SCORES

India 225/3 in 36 overs (Shubman Gill 98 n o, Shikhar Dhawan 58, Shreyas Iyer 44; Hayden Walsh 2/57) beat West Indies 137 (Nicolas Pooran 42, Brandon King 42; Yuzvendra Chahal 4/17, Mohammed Siraj 2/14, Shardul Thakur 2/17) by 119 runs (D/L method).

Gill 'disappointed' with show in first two games



PORT OF SPAIN: Shubman Gill might have been unlucky to miss out on a maiden international ton but was happy that he could convert a good start, something that was amiss in the first two games. Gill was out for 64 and 43 in the first two games and was "disappointed" that he frittered away the solid starts.

"I was disappointed with how I got out in the first two matches. I tried to rotate strike. After the rain break, we let our instincts take over. I just wanted one more over when we walked out before the last break," said the flamboyant right-handed batter.

Gill, who remained not out on his career-best score of 98, said had he got one more over he would have definitely reached the three-figure mark.

"It was bittersweet (mission century). I was expecting to get 100. It was not under my control as it rained, but I was happy with my innings," he said in the post-match presentation ceremony here Wednesday.

The Punjab batter was all praise for the Queen's Park Oval pitches that produced big runs in all the three ODIs. "The wicket played fantastically in all the three games. The wickets were good, I thought the ball was gripping after 25-30 overs but they were great."

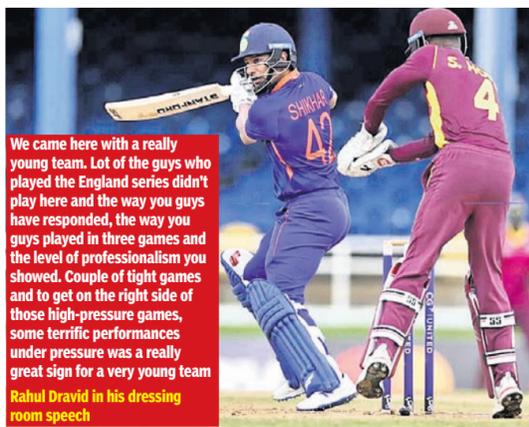
Dhawan heaps praise on young Indian team

PORT OF SPAIN: Shikhar Dhawan feels it was a complete performance from the team a captain could ask for and said that the young players "showed character and turned challenges into opportunities" in India's 3-0 series whitewash of the West Indies. Dhawan became the first-ever Indian captain to white-wash the West Indies in their own backyard.

"I am very proud of the team, the way we have played the whole series. In every match we showed character and turned the challenges into great opportunities. I am happy the way everyone has performed and chipped in," Dhawan said during the post-match press conference.

"I feel this was as a complete performance I can get as a captain. I am very happy and content. Whatever I asked from the boys they did it," he added.

The Indian batters came out with guns blazing against the West Indies with the likes of Shubman Gill, Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Axar Patel shinning



Rahul Dravid in his dressing room speech
We came here with a really young team. Lot of the guys who played the England series didn't play here and the way you guys have responded, the way you guys played in three games and the level of professionalism you showed. Couple of tight games and to get on the right side of those high-pressure games, some terrific performances under pressure was a really great sign for a very young team

bright.

"I am very happy with my own batting because I could feel the way I was hitting the shots. With some much experience I know how to play with calmness. I feel good when I handle pressure with more calmness now," said Dhawan,

who finished as the second highest scorer in the series 168 runs after Gill (205 runs).

"There are only positives from the team's perspective. Everyone made runs in the batting unit, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju, Axar. It's a very good sign for any

batting unit. They are all youngsters and the way they responded in all the matches it's a big thing.

"And in bowling (Mohammed) Siraj, Prasadidh (Krishna), Shardul (Thakur)... Yuzi (Yuzvendra Chahal) is experienced. Axar also chipped in. Even Hooda bowled well too. The entire bowling unit also did well. It feels good to see both the units performing," he said.

Dhawan reserved special praise for the 22-year-old Gill and compared the youngster's batting prowess with Rohit Sharma. "He (Gill) has got a very good technique and he is a very classy player. I think he has got bit of a Rohit touch in him. He seems to have a lot of time the way he bats. Good to see that he scored 98 today. He knew how to convert those fifties into 90s," he said.

The skipper also heaped praise on Siraj and all-rounder Deepak Hooda for their bowling exploits. Dhawan went on to credit India's existing domestic structure, especially the IPL for the growth of young players.

Pooran (42, 32b, 5x4, 1x6)'s counter-attacking resistance was never going to be good enough.

While all the three ODIs were played at the same venue, Dhawan and his men deserve full credit for making most of the opportunities, showing good game awareness in crunch situations throughout the series.

If they defended well under pressure in the first game, the second one saw the lower middle-order accomplish a tricky chase after a not-so-great show from top-order.

The third game posed a different challenge as rain-break could have caused a decisive shift in momentum but the stylish Gill and the talented Shreyas Iyer (44, 34b, 4x4, 1x6) changed the complexion of the game post rain-break.

India were 115/1 in 24 overs when there was the first stoppage but once the play resumed, visitors suddenly upped the ante, smashing 110 runs in the next 12 overs as Gill looked good for his maiden ton, which was not to be. However, Gill would have little complaints having scored 205 runs in three games with scores of 64, 43 and 98 not out.

The disappointment was writ

Eves look to end medal drought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 28: A podium finish on his mind, the Indian women's hockey team would look to bury the ghosts of a disastrous World Cup campaign by steam-rolling minnows Ghana in the Commonwealth Games opener Friday.

The Indian women are clubbed in Pool A alongside hosts England, Canada, Wales and Ghana, while Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Scotland and Kenya complete Pool B.

Just like their male counterparts, the Indian women returned empty-handed from the last edition of the Games in Gold Coast, finishing fourth after being routed 0-6 by England in the bronze medal playoff match.

Going into Games, the Indian women must have been haunted by their below-par effort in the recently concluded World Cup in Spain and the Netherlands, where the Savita Punia-led side finished a disappointing ninth.

And the Janneke Schopman-coached side would be desperate to prove that it is a far better side than what the recent results indi-



cate. They would be itching to prove their detractors wrong about the perception that a historic fourth place finish in last year's Tokyo Olympics was a mere fluke.

The Indian women would also be hoping to break their 16-year medal drought in the Games here. The India's last medal – a silver – in CWG came in 2006 Melbourne. The only other medal that Indian women bagged in the Games since hockey introduction in 1998 was a gold in the 2002 edition in Manchester.

Besides the brilliant Olympic campaign, the Indians would also be boosted by their creditable third

place finish in their maiden Pro League outing this season.

But to finish on the podium, the ninth ranked Indians will have to get the better of World No.3 Australia, fifth ranked England and World No.8 New Zealand, who are also strong medal contenders.

In the last edition of the Games, New Zealand won the gold ahead of Australia and the Trans-Tasman rivals would fancy their chances in this Games too. Australia have dominated women's hockey in CWG, bagging as many as four gold medals, one silver and a bronze. While it is expected to be a cake-

walk for India in their opening two pool games against World No.30 Ghana, and World No.24 Wales (Saturday), the Savita's side will face its first real challenge against England August 2 before finishing their pool campaign against No.15 Canada.

With the top two teams from each pool progressing into the semifinals, India and England are clear favourites from Pool A unless something drastic happens. But the recent World Cup has brought to light some chinks in India's armour, which they need to address quickly.

Pakistan boycotts international chess tourney in Chennai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad/New Delhi, July 28: Pakistan said Thursday that it will boycott the International Chess Federation event in Chennai citing the torch relay of the event passing through Jammu and Kashmir, a move termed by India as "highly unfortunate".

Pakistan was invited by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to participate in the 44th Chess Olympiad scheduled to be held in Chennai, India, from July 28 to August 10.

Regrettably, India has chosen to politicise this prestigious international sporting event by passing the torch relay of this event through Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement.

"Pakistan condemns India's mischievous attempt to mix politics with sports. As a protest, Pakistan has decided not to participate in the 44th Chess Olympiad and will also raise the matter with the International Chess Federation at the highest level," it said.

Reacting to Pakistan's decision, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said it was surprising that Pakistan has suddenly taken the decision not to participate in the event. It is highly unfortunate that Pakistan has politicised the prestigious international event by making such statements and withdrawing its participation after its team has already reached India, he said in New Delhi.

Bagchi asserted that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will remain an integral part of India." Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after a terror attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by terror groups based in the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on an Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The relationship dipped further after India announced withdrawing the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August, 2019.

VETTEL TO RETIRE AT END OF SEASON

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Budapest, July 28: Four-time Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel will retire at the end of the season to spend more time with his family, the German driver said Thursday.

Vettel won his four F1 titles from 2010-13 with the Red Bull team. His last race victory came with Ferrari in 2019. This season with Aston Martin, he has been largely unsuccessful with a best finish of sixth place.

"The decision to retire has been a difficult one for me to take, and I have spent a lot of time thinking about it," Vettel said.

"At the end of the year I want to take some more time to reflect on what I will focus on next; it is very clear to me that, being a father, I want to spend more time with my family."

Vettel won 53 races, the third-highest total in F1 behind Lewis Hamilton (103) and Michael Schumacher (91). He won an F1 record 13 races in 2013.

Vettel became the youngest World Champion at 23 in 2010 and later became the third driver to win four consecutive championships after F1 greats Juan Miguel Fangio and Michael Schumacher. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton has since joined them.

"I love this sport. It has been

central to my life since I can remember," Vettel posted on his Instagram video. "But as much as there is life on track, there is my life off track, too. Being a racing driver has never been my sole identity."

Vettel's title bids with Ferrari were unsuccessful after promising starts were undone by driver errors under pressure. He led the standings at the midway point in 2017 and was in contention the following year, only to lose both championships to Hamilton. He crashed from pole position at the Singapore GP in 2017 and swerved off track into the barriers when comfortably leading the rain-soaked German GP the following year.

He was stunned when Ferrari did not renew his contract after he struggled to compete alongside newcomer Charles Leclerc in 2019, and again in 2020. He thought about retiring then, before joining Racing Point in 2021.

Along with Hamilton, Vettel has also been increasingly vocal about human rights conditions in countries where F1 races and environmental issues.

At the Austrian GP in Spielberg three weeks ago, he wore a T-shirt with "Save the Bees" written on it. At the Canadian GP in June he had the message, "Stop mining tar sands. Canada's climate crime," written on his race helmet.

NEED TO DEVELOP KILLER INSTINCT: KAUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 28: Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants her players to develop the "killing attitude" that champion teams of the past possessed. India are still some distance away from becoming world beaters but all the players who are here for the Commonwealth Games have bought into an idea suggested by all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar during the Sri Lanka tour last month.

Harmanpreet, who began her all-format captaincy stint with the Sri Lanka series, feels a ruthless approach is needed even when the chips are down.

"During the Sri Lanka tour, we had a meeting with the players. I asked the girls how they want the team to play. Pooja gave a good answer about the killing attitude.

"Right now we are working on that whether we are training or



Indian players go through their warm-up drills ahead of Australia tie at CWG

playing. Everyone is talking about that in the team. All players have bought into this and Pooja is someone who comes up with funny ideas all the time," said Harmanpreet on the eve of the opener against Australia at the Birmingham Games.

Pooja however is not part of the

team yet as she was forced to stay back in India after returning a positive COVID-19 test a day before the squad's departure for Birmingham. "She has been doing well for the past one year. Normally senior players give a lot of ideas but she came up with this and spoke