

Jumbo with 5 bullet injuries succumbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Narsinghpur, July 29: An elephant that was suffering from grievous bullet injuries, succumbed Friday in Narsinghpur West Range under Athgarh Forest Division.

A team of veterinarians and wildlife experts had camped in the forest since Wednesday and managed to tranquilise the elephant for treatment.

The elephant had sustained at least five bullet injuries which led to infections.

A couple of days ago, locals had spotted the elephant moving in the Brahamni beat area and informed the forest officials about the ailing elephant.

The animal was aged around 20-25 years.

Wildlife experts and veterinarians carried out a medical check-up and detected five gunshot wounds near the left ear, leg, trunk and on two different parts of the elephant's body.



Reigning singles champion, paddler Manika Batra who is a favourite to win multiple gold medals at the Birmingham CWG, in action during India's match against South Africa. PTI PHOTO

India sought most blocks for scribe tweets

It was among top 5 countries to issue content-blocking orders to Twitter during July-December 2021 for all kinds of users

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 29: India made the highest number of legal demands globally to remove content posted by verified journalists and news outlets on Twitter during July-December 2021, the microblogging platform said.

In its latest transparency report, Twitter said India was only behind the US in seeking Twitter account information, accounting for 19 per cent of global information requests.

It was among the top five countries to issue content-blocking orders to Twitter during July-December 2021 for all kinds of users.

Twitter said 349 accounts of verified journalists and news outlets located around the world were subject to 326 legal demands to remove content, a 103 per cent increase in the number of accounts since the previous period (January-June 2021).

"This spike is largely attributed to legal demands submitted by India (114), Turkey (78), Russia (55), and Pakistan (48)," it said.

India had topped this list for January-June 2021 as well. In that timeframe, India had made 89 of the total 231 such demands the platform received globally.

Twitter said 'legal demands' include a combination of court orders and other formal demands to remove content, from both governmental entities and lawyers representing individuals.

Without giving details, 17 tweets from verified journalists and news outlets globally were withheld during the second half of 2021 as compared to 11 tweets withheld dur-

Casteist remark: Delhi Police summons Varsha

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 29: Delhi Police has summoned actress Varsha Priyadarshini for allegedly making casteist remarks on a staff of her husband Anubhav Mohanty.

According to sources, the North Avenue Police has summoned the actress and her mother and niece for the casteist comments. Delhi Police registered a case under the SC/ST Act against the actress this month for allegedly making casteist slurs against the cook of Anubhav in Delhi.

The incident had happened in July 2019. Sources said a team of Delhi Police had arrived in Cuttack July 25 in this connection but due to lack of cooperation from Purighat police, the team had to return to Delhi.

Oppn targets govt over 'large scale' vacancies

OPPOSITION SAYS OVER 2.26 LAKH POSTS LYING VACANT IN 43 DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING HOME, EDUCATION AND HEALTH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Opposition BJP and Congress slammed the state government for 'large scale' vacancies in government departments and offices. The Opposition also alleged that the administration is run by the outsourcing system and contractual employees.

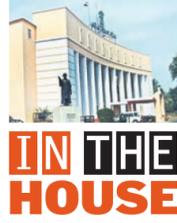
Participating in a debate on an adjournment motion in the Assembly, Opposition members demanded the government to stop contract appointments, the outsourcing system and fill up posts by regular recruitment.

Initiating the debate, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi alleged the government was not giving regular employment and recruiting people through the outsourcing system to earn money. Over 2.26 lakh posts are lying vacant in 43 departments including in important ones like Home, Education and Health, he said. On the other hand, the government is recruiting people on contract, outsourcing jobs and appointing retired people to run the administration, Majhi said. Due to such an attitude of the government, unemployed educated youths are suffering, Majhi said. The annual budget has no provision for providing jobs to unemployed educated youths and migrant workers, he added.

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Due to such an attitude of the government, unemployed educated youths are suffering, Majhi said. The annual budget has no provision for providing jobs to unemployed educated youths and migrant workers, he added.



IN THE HOUSE

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Expel him from party now. ED has recovered ₹60 cr from him while he told me only about ₹25 cr...

SHORT TAKES

Adhir's written apology to Prez

New Delhi: Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Friday tendered a written apology to President Droupadi Murmu for his 'rashtrapatni' remark, a day after a political storm erupted over it. "I am writing to express my regret for having mistakenly used an incorrect word to describe the position you hold. I assure you that it was a slip of the tongue. I apologise and request you to accept the same," Chowdhury said in his letter to the President. **More P-7**

Bar row: HC orders removal of tweets

New Delhi: Delhi High Court Friday issued summonses to Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Netta D'Souza on a civil defamation suit filed by BJP leader Smriti Irani, and asked them to take down tweets and other posts on allegations levelled against Irani and her daughter. Irani has sought damages of over Rs 2 crore from the leaders for allegedly making false accusations against her and her 18-year-old daughter. **More P-7**

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AFFLECK TO RETURN AS BATMAN IN AQUAMAN 2

Aquaman actor Jason Momoa revealed that Ben Affleck, who has recently tied knot with JLo, will return as Batman in *Aquaman 2* and the *Lost Kingdom*. The 42 year old actor spilled the beans through his social media account.

NO 'MISOGYNISTIC MEN' TO DIRECT MY BIOPIC: MADONNA

Queen of Pop Madonna revealed that she came to make a movie on her life because she was fed up with men wanting to tell her story in a misogynistic way. "No one's going to tell my story, but me," shared the *Like a Virgin* hitmaker.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh says go ahead and indulge in your artistic self today. You can reorganise your home or work place. Expenses are on the cards. If you have been longing for that expensive dressing table or a study table, buy it. Indulgence is okay sometimes.

TAURUS
You will be on your feet today, shuffling from destination to destination for business purposes. Forehead wrinkles might burden your brow due to financial worry this afternoon. Fret not, says Ganesh, you will handle your situation well and enjoy the higher accountability by sun down.

GEMINI
You are likely to work extra hard to assert your authority at the workplace. On the work front, your seniors and colleagues will appreciate your devotion and dedication to work. Monetary gains may be expected in the evening, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Today, you are likely to be a force to reckon with in every sport you take part in, predicts Ganesh. There may be some speed breakers in the second half of the day, but nothing that you can't overtake. At work, support from your seniors may help you finish long-pending projects.

LEO
It's just good business to be on the move and avoid complacency. In fact, it is one of the secrets to success in business. Keep this in mind as today, you might have to be on the move constantly, foresees Ganesh. Monetary situations will be a matter of concern and anxiety in the afternoon, but you are of invaluable support to your peers.

VIRGO
You will be a lot more selfless and giving today than most people have known you to be, feels Ganesh. Later in the day, you will reap the profits of the work you may have done with a partner or a friend. Evening may be a cocktail of business and pleasure as you attend or host a social gathering with friends, family and co-workers.

LIBRA
There are chances that you will be in a great mood to organise things your own way. You will make a favourable impression on your superiors at work through your problem-solving abilities. Do not discount a scrumptious dinner with your loved one, which will go a long way in intensifying your senses, hints Ganesh.

SCORPIO
In all probability, today you will work on improving your personal relations, foresees Ganesh. On the family front, your kids may force you to make hasty choices, after all, that is what tantrums are for. It is highly likely that family feuds with siblings may erupt today. Be careful about the decisions you take as others may try to take advantage of your generous nature, cautions Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Various things will play on your mind today. From metaphysics to philosophy, from weight loss to diet plans — your thoughts may find it hard to stay steady. Your hands may also have some trouble keeping a check on the outflow of money during a shopping excursion with a loved one.

CAPRICORN
Your sweetheart may seem to be difficult to fathom, but he/she will appear a little more readable today, says Ganesh. If you have any plans to make the day special for your love, taking him/her out for shopping; buying presents will be just the thing to do.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will be determined to clean up the mess on your desk at the office or your home. Your enthusiasm to have a neat and clean space around will certainly win you some brownie points at both the places, says Ganesh. Later on the day, you may enjoy a nice romantic dinner with your sweetheart.

PISCES
It is time to socialise, says Ganesh. Though it is unlikely that you will hit the casinos at Las Vegas today, what could be on the agenda is meeting up with long-lost school friends, or exchanging pleasantries with relatives so distant you are unsure if they are related to you.

TANUSHREE takes on 'B-town mafia'

Mumbai: Actress Tanushree Dutta has penned a lengthy note on Instagram, detailing that she is being harassed by actor Nana Patekar, his lawyers and 'B-town mafia'. The actress spoke about smear campaigns against her and appealed her fans to boycott 'B-town mafia'.

"If anything ever happens to me let it be known that #metoo accused Nana Patekar, his lawyers & associates & his B-town Mafia friends are responsible! Who are B-town Mafia?? Same people all whose names came up frequently in SSR death case. (note that all have same criminal lawyer) Do not watch their movies, boycott them totally & go after them with a vicious vengeance. The law & justice may have failed me but I have faith in the people of this great Nation. Jai Hind...and bye! Phir milenge," Tanushree had penned.

A few years ago, Tanushree had filed a sexual harassment case against Nana Patekar, accusing him of behaving inappropriately with her

on the sets of their film *Horn Ok Pleassss*. The actor was given a clean chit by the police on the grounds that there was 'no prima facie case' against him.

AGENCIES



8-year jail term sought for Shakira

Madrid: A Spanish prosecutor is seeking a prison term of eight years for Colombian superstar Shakira over a 14.5 million-euro tax fraud case, his office document showed on Friday.

The Colombian singer, who has sold more than 80 million records worldwide with hits such as *Hips Don't Lie*, rejected a settlement offer from the prosecutor's office to close the case. She is accused of failing to pay taxes between 2012 and 2014, a period in which Shakira confirms of not staying in Spain.

The prosecutor's statement asserts that Shakira was ordinarily a resident in Spain between 2012-14 and in May 2012 bought a house in Barcelona which became a shelter for her family.

However, Shakira's representatives have showed confidence on her innocence and have said that she considers the case "a total violation of her rights". The 45-year-old singer said she initially paid the 17.2 million euros that the Spanish tax office said she owed and claims she has no outstanding debt with the tax authorities. No date for a trial has been set yet.

REUTERS



Chitrangda plans biopic on youngest PVC awardee

Mumbai: Actress Chitrangda Singh is all set to produce yet another inspiring real life story. She has bought the rights to make a biopic on Yogendra Yadav, the youngest Param Vir Chakra awardee in the history of Indian Army.

Subedar Yogendra Yadav fought bravely in the Kargil war and received the prestigious Param Vir Chakra at the age of 19. He is also one of the three living recipients of the PVC in the country's history and has since continued to serve in the Indian army.

"I'm very excited to tell stories of real heroes that are many times forgotten even though they still live amongst us. We need to glorify their journey. This will be another attempt to do what I tried with *Soorma*," Chitrangda said in a statement.

On the work front, Chitrangda was last seen in web anthology *Modern Love: Mumbai*. She is gearing up for suspense drama *Gaslight*, co-starring Vikrant Massey and Sara Ali Khan. AGENCIES



RUSSO BROS' PICK

Priyanka as Captain Marvel, Ranveer as Thor

Mumbai: Filmmaker duo Joe and Anthony Russo have made their choice for the new Captain Marvel and Thor from the Indian film industry. The two chose their 'good friend' Priyanka Chopra Jonas while they found it difficult to make a choice between Hrithik Roshan and Ranveer Singh for the demigod Thor. They were recently asked about who would they cast as the famous super heroes from the Indian film industry by social media influencer Awez Zaidi during the global premiere of *The Gray Man* in Mumbai.

Russo brothers were first shown pictures of Ranveer and Hrithik and were asked to pick one for Thor. Anthony and Joe said that the two stars

look like Thor but then settled for Ranveer. They were then asked to choose between Priyanka and Deepika Padukone for a new Captain Marvel. The filmmakers chose Priyanka without a second thought.

In the clip they are heard saying: "We have to pick Priyanka. We are huge fans and we are very good friends... We are working on a project. We are producing a show. A series."

The Russo Brothers are producing the Indian actress's upcoming series *Citadel*.

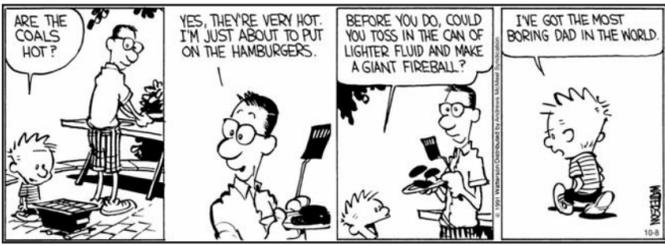
IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

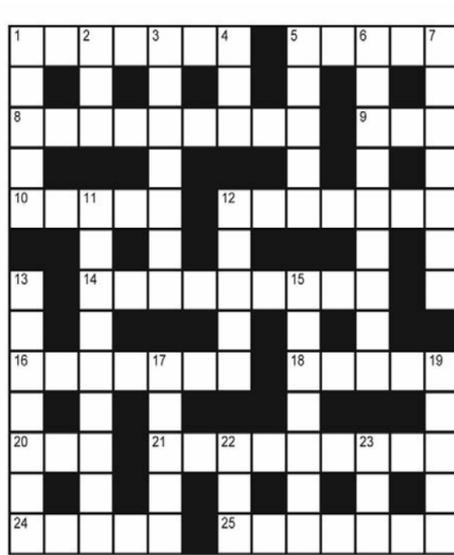


BREVITY



FUN post

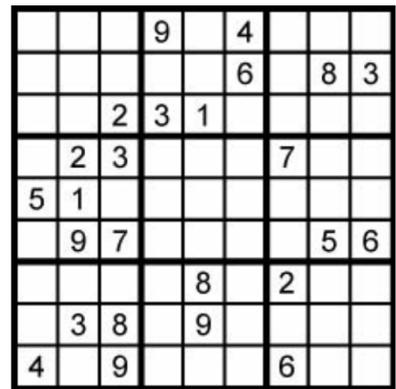
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Sea cow
 - 5 Concentrate
 - 8 Mélange
 - 9 Literary collection
 - 10 Even Stephen
 - 12 Colonised
 - 14 Medical man
 - 16 Exhortation (3,4)
 - 18 Classic theatre
 - 20 Have a bug
 - 21 Apathy
 - 24 Cruel sorts
 - 25 Photographer's target
 - 6 Take exception
 - 7 Tabloid topic
 - 11 Like an outcast
 - 12 Lizard type
 - 13 Dame Joan Sutherland, e.g.
 - 15 Drool over
 - 17 Book of maps
 - 19 Indigent
 - 22 Plea at sea
 - 23 Bring to bear
- Down**
- 1 Syrup flavor
 - 2 Safety device
 - 3 Handcart
 - 4 Musical gift
 - 5 False move

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

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



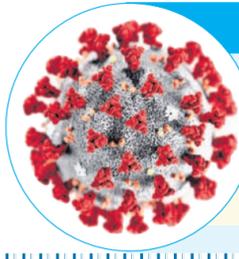
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



THREADS OF LOVE

Girls buying Rakhi from a stall at College Square in Cuttack ahead of the Raksha Bandhan festival, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	57,99,94,285	54,99,53,933	64,15,457
India	4,39,79,730	4,33,09,484	5,26,258
Odisha	13,11,135	12,96,293	9,138

NZP to boost tiger population in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) Director Manoj V Nayar said the zoo is planning to utilise its tigers for breeding of big cats in the forests to boost tiger population in Odisha.

Nayar said this during the celebration of International Tiger Day at NZP Friday.

Nayar revealed that the zoo authorities are readying a master plan to take up genetic studies of the tigers at NZP. "The tigers born in the zoo will be made wild and ferocious so that they can adapt to the outer habitat and breed more tigers in the forests. The National Center for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, will assist in the genetic studies and the breeding process with essential technical support," he said.

On the occasion, PCCF (Wildlife)



PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Sashi Paul said steps are being taken to raise tiger population in the state. The zoo authorities feted the Rakshaks of the zoo and fed chicken to the tigers to mark the occasion. The zoo authorities also organised painting and quiz competitions to celebrate the day.

The Odisha Postal Circle issued special commemorative postal cover and postcard to mark the special day.

Notably, the zoo has 26 big cats, including a few white and melanistic tigers.

Open Ratna Bhandar, audit its valuables: Oppn to govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Opposition BJP and Congress Friday asked the state government to open Srimandir Ratna Bhandar and prepare a detailed list of the valuables available at the temple treasury.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Assembly, Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said the devotees of Lord Jagannath are eager to know whether the jewellery and other valuables of the temple are in safe custody or not.

He urged the Speaker to ask the state government to open the temple treasury and renovate the structure. The Congress legislator also asked the state government to go for an inventory of valuables at Ratna Bhandar and make it public.

Moreover, Saluja requested Speaker BK Arukha to direct the



state government to table the report of Justice Raghbir Dash Commission, which was constituted to probe issues relating to the missing keys of Ratna Bhandar. "The BJD government has set up 24 commissions of inquiry on various issues at the cost of crores of rupees during last 21 years of its rule. However, it is a matter of regret that eight commissions have not submitted their reports yet.

The government, on the other hands, has been extending their tenures," Saluja said.

Speaking to media persons outside the Assembly, Saluja claimed that Puri king Dibyasingha Deb has also expressed concern over the structural status of Ratna Bhandar. The king has also supported the demand for opening of the temple treasury and an audit of the ornaments stored in it, he added.

BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi asked the government to open Ratna Bhandar and prepare a list of the ornaments and valuables stored in it.

"Questions are being raised regarding the state government's reluctance to open Ratna Bhandar and audit its valuables. We all have the right to know about the precious items stored inside the temple treasury," Majhi said.

Naveen inaugurates KIMS Superspeciality Hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated a Superspeciality Hospital and Cancer Centre of Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here.

The 300-bed Superspeciality Hospital with state-of-art infrastructure will have 12 departments including Cardiology, Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS), Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Surgical Gastroenterology, Nephrology and Kidney Transplant, Orthopaedics and Spinal Surgery and Plastic Surgery.

The Cancer Centre with 300 beds will be led by acclaimed radiation oncologist Bidhu Kalyan Mohanti. The centre will immensely help the people from Odisha and outside with five distinct Superspeciality Departments—Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Oncology and Palliative Care.



During his visit, Naveen undertook a trip of KIMS on a battery-run vehicle and appreciated the new facilities.

"Today, KIMS has expanded its infrastructure with 1600 beds fully air-conditioned hospitals for all. The modern complexes will offer the advanced healthcare services to patients coming from Odisha and neighbouring states as well," said an official.

Among others, Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das, KIIT, KISS and KIMS founder Achyuta Samanta, KIIT & KISS president Saswati Bal and KIIT DU VC Sasmita Samanta were present.

SC nixes Moquim's plea against HC poll order



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 29: The Supreme Court Friday dismissed a special leave petition filed by Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim challenging the order of the Orissa High Court that refused to quash a petition against his election in 2019.

A two-judge bench of the apex court, comprising Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh, dismissed the

petition saying, "We're not inclined to interfere with the order of the Orissa High Court. The special leave petition is accordingly dismissed."

Notably, former Barabati-Cuttack MLA Debasish Samantaray had approached the court challenging the election of Moquim from the Assembly seat. Samantaray alleged that Moquim suppressed facts with respect to criminal cases pending against him while filing nomination papers.

Moquim, on the other hand, approached the High Court seeking dismissal of Samantaray's petition. The HC, however, dismissed Moquim's application with a cost of Rs 5,000.

ECoR observes 67th annual award function



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: East Coast Railway observed its 67th annual award ceremony at Railway Auditorium, Bhubaneswar Friday. Sharad Kumar Srivastava, General Manager (I/C), East Coast Railway was the chief guest for the occasion.

In his address to the employees, the Srivastava complimented them for their determination, commitment, and their positive attitude towards the work. He further appealed them to continue their efforts and lead ECoR to the position of the

best zone in the Indian Railways system. He then felicitated some 285 employees for their outstanding performance in the presence of Anupama Srivastava, president, East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ECoRWVO).

Merit awards and shields were handed over to various officers and staff for outstanding performance. Waltair Division received the Overall Efficiency Shield for overall performance in different fields. Balangir Station received the Best Major Clean Station Shield and Harichandanpur Station received the Best Minor Clean Station Shield. Various group awards and individual awards were handed over to various meritorious employees and departmental units.

CM flags off e-bus, e-rickshaw services

POST NEWS NETWORK

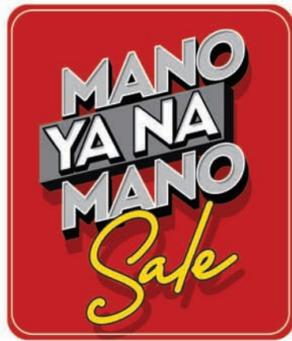
Bhubaneswar, July 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated e-bus and e-rickshaw services here. The Chief Minister flagged off the e-vehicles in presence of Bhubaneswar mayor Sulochana Das.

With the inauguration of the e-bus and e-rickshaw services, the state government has taken a major step towards reducing air pollution in the city.

In the first phase, 10 e-buses and 50 e-rickshaws have been rolled out. The government has plans to operate 50 more e-buses in the coming days, sources said.

While there are 30 seats in each bus, the seats reserved for women are marked in pink. It is worth mentioning that 255 diesel buses are currently operated by the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT).

Emphasising on gender equality, CRUT has appointed 50 per cent women as guides in the city buses. Emphasis has also been given on the employment of women in other jobs.



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Centre to develop Puri's Raghurajpur craft village

'LINKING TEXTILE WITH TOURISM' INITIATIVE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 29: Raghurajpur in Puri district is among the eight craft villages across the country selected for development under the Ministry of Textile's 'Linking Textile with Tourism' initiative, an official release said.

About 18 km from Puri, Raghurajpur heritage village is famous for Odisha's ancient Pattachitra art, a cloth-based scroll painting. Legendary artist late Jagannath Mohapatra lived in this

Overall development of the eight craft villages has already been taken up, the release said.

Apart from Raghurajpur, the places which have been selected are Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Vadaj (Gujarat), Naini (Uttar Pradesh), Anegundi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Taj Ganj (Uttar Pradesh), Amer (Rajasthan).

Through this programme, around 1,000 artisans will be benefited directly across the country, it said.

In 2000, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) declared Raghurajpur as a 'heritage village'.

Every member of the family, including women and children, also work as an artist.

Apart from Pattachitra and palm leaf paintings, the artists of Raghurajpur also make masks, coconut crafts, and wooden toys.

Recently, Raghurajpur was in the news when 'Tree of Life', a Pattachitra painting done by an artist of this village, was presented by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to the Pope during his visit to Rome.

area and it houses artists practising various traditional arts.

There are about 160 houses in the village with every house filled with crafts and talented artists.

Pattachitra painting is done on specially stiffened seven layers of cloth cut into discs. Traditional craftspeople of Raghurajpur prefer to use organic colours.

Palm-leaf painting is also an important art practised in Raghurajpur. Under the 'Linking Textile with Tourism' initiative, major tourist places are being linked with the handicrafts clusters.

Tractor mows down 2

Padmapur: Two people died after a tractor ramed into a roadside house at Kenduguda Medical Chhak under this police limits in Rayagada district Friday. The deceased were identified as Narasingha Sabar and Lalu Bidika. The tractor was going on National Highway-326 when its driver lost control over the vehicle that skidded off the road before ramming into the house. A probe is on, said an official.

S&ME min unveils 10th SAIMUN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: SAI International School hosted the annual SAI Model United Nations Conference July 29 and 30, 2022 in a hybrid format (offline and online).

The conference was attended by over 720 delegates from across six countries including Japan, UAE, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and India.

At the 10th edition of SAIMUN the young delegates represented the Model United Nations as it should be: people from all countries coming together to find solutions to global problems through constructive debate and an exchange of ideas.

The national and international issues discussed this year were unnering but like every year, the young delegates proved to be cat-

alysts for positive change with their innovative approaches to help confront the challenges in areas of climate change, global health, counter-terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The welcome address was delivered by Silpi Sahoo, chairperson, SAI International.

The conference was formally declared open by the esteemed chief guest Minister Samir Ranjan Das, Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha.

He congratulated the delegates by saying that he was happy to see delegates from across the globe gather at SAI International to discuss world issues, such an event will not only keep the students aware of the current situations but also nurture in them leadership and problem-solving skills.



Artistes perform the play 'Dharmapada Ra Abhiseka' at Amapurna Theatre in Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

Capacity building training in Jajpur for road engineers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: In yet another bid to improve the road safety scenario in the state, the State Transport Authority has initiated a capacity building and training programme for road engineers of Odisha. The programme was inaugurated Friday at Heavy Motor Vehicle Driver Training Institute, Chhatia, Jajpur.

Road safety is a high priority area for the government. The transport department is taking a lot of initiatives to reduce road accidents in the state.

Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary, Commerce and Transport Department, on several occasions has emphasised on the importance of capacity building for the road engineers.

It is first of its kind training programme in the state where engineers working on design and construction of National Highways and State Highways will attend the workshops.

About 200 engineers in four groups will take part in the two-day long training programme between July 29 and August 6.

CARE Hosps takes majority control of United CIIGMA

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 29: CARE Hospitals Group, an asset of TPG Growth managed Evercare Fund, Friday announced expansion of its network in Maharashtra through strategic partnership with Aurangabad-based United CIIGMA Hospitals.

Through this investment, CARE Hospitals will have a majority stake in United CIIGMA Hospitals and will be present across three cities in the state. CARE Hospitals Group CEO Jasdeep Singh said, "We're delighted to welcome United CIIGMA Hospitals to the CARE Hospitals network. The addition of this institution adds tremendous clinical depth and scale to our presence in

Maharashtra and takes forward our focus on expanding the network in tier 2 cities of the country and creating faster accessibility of high quality tertiary care to patients in these markets."

United CIIGMA Hospitals Chief Managing Director Unmesh Takalkar said, "CIIGMA Hospitals has been delivering high-quality healthcare with a patient-first approach in the Marathwada region for over a decade. With this partnership, our combined efforts with CARE Hospitals will allow us to scale up through better quality, newer and high-end specialities and make quality healthcare accessible to all our patients across Marathwada and beyond."

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	57570.25	↑ 712.46
NIFTY	17158.30	↑ 228.70
DOLLAR	79.92	↓ ₹0.45
EURO	80.61	↓ ₹0.551
GOLD	₹51,255	↓ ₹49.00
SILVER	₹57,570	↓ ₹49.00

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.6°C	35.6°C
MIN	25.8°C	26.2°C
Humidity	71%	73%
Rainfall	nil	nil
Forecast	Cloudy	sky

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit I Manish Kumar Agrawal, Kesinga state that my son name is Sambhav Agrawal which is wrongly endorsed in passport No. L 3218822 as Subham Agrawal. But as per Aadhaar name is Shambhab Agrawal. So now his name Sambhav Agrawal use for all purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I Md Zafar Hussain, S/o late Md Zahid, Village-Badamangalpur, P.O./ P.S. Dharmasala, Dist.- Jajpur do hereby solemnly affirm that mine, my wife's name has been wrongly mentioned in the Birth Certificate of my son Maaz Bin Zafar issued by Jajpur Municipality vide Registration No. 5257/2010. The same has been corrected as Md Zafar Hussain, Tanjiya Kaiser by the authority vide issue No. 1490/2022 dtd.09.02.2022. Both names M.d. Zafar Hussain, Tanzia Quaser corrected as Md Zafar Hussain and Tanjiya Kaiser are one and same for all purposes.

LOST

By virtue of affidavit before Notary Public, Jajpur, I Silima Moharana (40 yrs), W/o- Akshaya Moharana, Vill/Po-Sunakhandi, PS- Salipur, Cuttack declare that I lost original regd. Sale deed (No.1569), dt.09.07.2004 of mouza-Kulia under Khata No.326/35 and Plot No.234, while I was walking from Gandhi Chhak to bus stand. So I request if anyone find please contact the above address.

CALL FOR POLL



Students stage a demonstration near College Square in Cuttack, Friday, seeking student union polls in colleges

OP PHOTO

Oppn targets govt over 'large scale' vacancies



ing in the state day by day, he said. Bahinipati demanded the govern-

Continued from P1
Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said it is shameful that the government is running the Home department by recruiting constables, home guards and havildars on contract basis.

Due to such a recruitment policy, corruption and crime were ris-

ment to stop contract appointment and outsourcing of jobs.

In his reply, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari rejected the Opposition's claim that over 2 lakh government posts are lying vacant and said only 73451 base-level posts are vacant in the state.

India sought most blocks for...

Continued from P1
Twitter also received the second highest number of government legal requests for providing account information of users from India, after the US.

"The United States submitted the most government information requests during this reporting period, accounting for 20 per cent of the global volume, and 39 per cent of the global accounts specified."

"The second highest volume of requests originated from India, comprising 19 per cent of global information requests and 27 per cent of the global accounts specified," it said. Japan, France and Germany were the other three nations in top five countries by volume.

"Twitter received 63 (+3 per cent) more routine requests from India, while the number of routine accounts specified increased by 205 (+3 per cent) during this reporting period for a total of 2,211 re-

quests for 7,768 accounts," the report said.

Globally, Twitter received 11,460 requests. Giving details of legal demands made from India, Twitter said a total of 3,992, or 8 per cent of 47,572 worldwide, requests to remove content from its platform were made during July-December 2021. These included 23 court orders and 3,969 other legal demands.

"During this period, Twitter withheld 88 accounts and 303 tweets in India. As per Twitter guidelines, 'government information requests' include both emergency and routine legal demands for account information issued by law enforcement and other government agencies.

"Routine requests' (aka non-emergency requests) are legal demands issued by government or law enforcement authorities (e.g., subpoenas, court orders, search warrants) that compel Twitter to turn over account information.

Covid-19 increases stroke risk among young patients

Covid-19 infection raises the risk of stroke, often among younger and healthier patients, who are then likely to face worse outcomes, according to a study.

People with Covid are over 2.5 times more likely to have an unfavourable outcome and face a difficult recovery post-stroke.

Researchers from Thomas Jefferson University in the US found that the patients with Covid, who were younger and had less risk factors, were less likely to achieve successful revascularisation -- a procedure aimed to restore blood flow into blocked arteries or veins.

Moreover, thrombectomy -- a

minimally invasive procedure that uses a catheter to reopen blocked arteries in the brain -- was prolonged in the Covid group, as was the length of hospital stay.

Most alarming, mortality rates were higher by more than two-fold in the Covid group compared to the control.

Overall, Covid was a predictor of poorer outcomes, even though many of the patients were younger, healthier and even had mild symptoms of the virus before the onset of stroke, the researchers said.

"There is still so much we need to learn about Covid, especially its impact on younger patients," said lead author Pascal Jabbour, Professor of neurological surgery



■ People with Covid are over 2.5 times more likely to have an unfavourable outcome and face a difficult recovery post-stroke

■ Researchers found that the patients with Covid, who were younger and had less risk factors, were less likely to achieve successful revascularisation -- a procedure aimed to restore blood flow into blocked arteries or veins

■ Moreover, thrombectomy -- a minimally invasive procedure that uses a catheter to reopen blocked arteries in the brain -- was prolonged in the Covid group, as was the length of hospital stay

at the university. "Stroke's impact on individuals with Covid-19 is alarming and one we must continue to research and remedy," Jabbour added.

The findings were presented at the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery's (SNIS) 19th annual meeting held in Canada.

For the study, researchers reviewed data for 575 patients with acute large vessel occlusion (LVO), 194 of which were Covid positive and the remaining 381 were not.

The control group was composed of patients who presented with LVO and received a mechanical thrombectomy between January 2018 and December 2020.

The team compared which patients had successful revascularisations and left the hospital with little to no disabilities.

Of the individuals with Covid, the severity of the virus on stroke onset was moderate in 75.5 per cent of the cases, severe in 15.8 and critical in 8.7 per cent.

The mean duration between symptoms and stroke onset was about nine days, and 34 per cent of the Covid group had stroke as their first symptom of the disease.

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RPDACs run out of steam across state



BODY BLOW TO INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The RPDAC in the state was formed July 6, 2006 to tackle R&R and other issues with effective solution, particularly in mineral-bearing areas and industrial areas of the state

As per guidelines, RPDAC meetings at district levels should be held four times a year -once in every three months

But ironically, RPDAC meetings have been held only 11 times in some mining-hit and industrially rich districts in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 29: Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC), which assumes significance in dealing with issues of the displaced and land losers, and in suggesting developmental projects, has apparently been pushed to the doldrums over the years as the meetings are not being held regularly as per norms.

The RPDAC in the state was formed July 6, 2006 to tackle R&R and other issues with effective solution, particularly in mineral-bearing areas and industrial areas of the state. As per guidelines, Revenue and Disaster Management department has been mandated to hold RPDAC meetings at district levels four times a year -once in every three months.

Hence, RPDAC meetings in Jajpur district should have been held 64 times during the last 16 years. But ironically, RPDAC meetings have been held only 11 times in some mining hit and industrially rich districts in the state. This was revealed by Revenue and Disaster Management minister while replying to queries in this regard in the Assembly recently.

Revenue Divisional Commissioners (RDCs) are chairpersons of RPDACs while Collectors are the conveners. It is alleged that indifference of the top officials has left the RPDACs in doldrums.

RPDAC's role assumes significance as the state government lays stress on industrialisation to foster economic growth and alleviate unemployment. Issues of rehabilitation and displacement crop up and persist in areas where industries are being set up. This is when RPDAC comes to play its role with its mediatory and advisory roles in resolving these issues on a priority basis.

As per guidelines, decisions taken by RPDACs are executed in the troubled areas. But in reality, RPDAC's roles are allegedly being given a short shrift the reasons of which are unknown. Reports said in Angul, RPDAC meetings relating to Mahanadi Coalfields, Talcher, have been held only six times between 2012 and 2021.

In Bolangir, RPDAC meetings under Lower Suktel project were held three times between 2007 and 2018 while it was held twice about the issues of Arti Steels Limited; thrice for Tata Powers and twice for KVK Nilachal Powers in Cuttack.

In Dhenkanal, RPDAC meetings were held thrice for Rungta Mines; seven times for Kalinganagar Industrial Complex in Jajpur between 2006 and 2016.

Moreover, such meetings were confined to 11 times in case of Mahanadi Coalfields; nine times for Vedanta Alumina and three times for OPGC in Jharsuguda.

It was held eight times in case of Vedanta Alumina at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi; five times for Kanpur major irrigation project in Keonjhar; five times for Utkal Alumina International and three times for Aditya Alumina in Rayagada; 10 times for Aditya Alumina; nine times for Hindalco Hirakud and nine times for Burla MCL in Sambalpur.

It was found that there has been no RPDAC meeting for some projects from 2016 till date. When asked, Kalinganagar ADM Santosh Kumar Mishra said that the administration has been successfully handling issues of the displaced with focus on employment.

A decision on the RPDAC meeting will be taken in time, he added.



Trees stood silhouetted against the setting sun on the outskirts of Angul town. The lensman captured it in such a way that the sun looks like the very part of a flower plant

STF SEIZES LEOPARD SKIN IN KALAHANDI

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, July 29: As the state observes International Tiger Day to create awareness on protection of big cats, the Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police has seized a leopard skin and arrested one person on charge of smuggling wildlife body parts.

Taking to twitter, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "Tiger is a powerful icon of India's cultural and natural heritage and the protection of the iconic animal is deeply linked to our ecology. On #InternationalTigerDay, let us pledge to further intensify our efforts to create a hospitable habitat for our national animal to flourish."

Acting on a tip-off, the STF conducted a raid near Satpur Chhah in Kalahandi district Thursday and arrested one person on charges of dealing/possessing wildlife products. Leopard skin and other incriminating materials were seized from the possession of the arrested person. The STF had also seized a leopard skin and arrested one person in Koraput district July 20.

The STF since 2020 has seized at least 31 leopard skins and arrested 44 wildlife criminals, an official said.

60% of rural Kendrapara lacks safe drinking water

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 29: More than 60 per cent of rural households in Kendrapara district lack safe drinking water even though the Centre and state government have launched a slew of plans to provide the basic necessity on a sustainable manner.

Shoddy implementation of water supply schemes is evident from the fact that piped water does not reach people living in the far end of at least 226 villages while over 10 per cent of the tube wells in this district throw out saline water which is unfit for consumption.

According to reports by Jal Jeevan Mission, out of 3,04,725 households in Kendrapara district, drinking water supply is available for 1,56,905 households. Similarly, 70 per cent of the households in only 501 revenue villages out of 1,592 villages in the district are being supplied with drinking water. Drink from tap connection is less than 70 per cent in 501 villages.

Moreover, drinking water supply connection is underway in 83 villages while no project has been sanctioned for the rest of the villages in the district. In many areas, drink from tap facility has failed to reach the end of the villages. If these figures are taken into account, over 60 per cent of the rural households have been deprived of getting safe drinking water.

On the other hand, over 10 per cent of the 16,228 tube wells in rural areas throw out water with high fluoride and iron content. However, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department claims that 79 per cent of the rural areas are being supplied with safe drinking water when a report by the district says that every year lakhs of people are affected with water-borne diseases due to use of polluted water from rivers and ponds.

This has come at a time when the fate of a mega drinking water project for the residents of saline areas of Mahakalapara and Marshaghai blocks under Basudha Yojana is mired in uncertainty despite completion of 70 per cent works.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

Man gets 10-yr jail for rape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, July 29: A court in Mayurbhanj district sentenced a 49-year-old man to 10 years of imprisonment Friday for raping a woman four years ago.

Rairangpur additional district and sessions judge Deepak Kumar also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on Lalmoan Munda, additional public prosecutor Pankaj Das said.

Munda had raped the 55-year-old woman when she was sleeping alone in her house under Gorumohisani police station area April 20, 2018.

The judgement was based on the medical report, the statements of the woman and eight witnesses.

Dengue spreads tentacles in Ganjam; 3 affected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 29: Dengue is spreading its tentacles in Ganjam as the third case in the district was detected in the Sadar block this year.

Sources said a 20-year-old youth of Badachakada village has tested positive for dengue. He was work-

ing in Surat and was down with fever. On returning home, he went through a test for the vector-borne disease which came out positive.

Earlier, a person of Lanjipalli under Berhampur Municipal Corporation had tested positive. The first dengue case was detected in Podampetta July 14.

Chief district medical officer (CDMO) Umashankar Mishra has advised the health workers to sanitise low-lying areas and drains by applying disinfectants and mosquito repellents.

Health workers are advising people to maintain proper sanitation of their surroundings.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Artists of Nataraj Cultural Association sensitised people through Ghodanacha about misuse of electricity and consumer safety as part of Bijuli Mahotsav organised on the premises of Randia Children's park in Bhadrak district, Friday

Retd techie's pomegranate farm the envy of many

FORMER ENGINEER DIBAKAR BEHERA NOW EARNS ₹6-7 LAKH PER ANNUM FROM THE FRUIT FARMING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, July 29: Dibakar Behera of Umerkote town in Nabarangpur district, though an engineer by profession, used to keep his childhood passion for horticulture and orchard farming burning.

After retirement, he found enough time and used it on pomegranate farming that brought him resounding success. He is now earning ₹6-7 lakh per annum from this fruit farming. Moreover, he has also created scope of earning for seven families.

His success story has given a ray of hope for other farmers in the area who have been struggling to make both ends meet from traditional paddy farming.

His lush green pomegranate farm spread over three acres at Badabasini village is said to be an object of envy for many. But for this passionate farmer, the well

After retirement, Behera found enough time and used it on pomegranate farming that brought him resounding success

The fruits are grown organically and no fertilizer is used. The yield has good demand in the market too



grown farm is the outcome of his steely will and indefatigable efforts which he has been investing in his farmland every day.

After retirement as an assistant engineer, Behera was browsing social media for information about

commercially viable farming that can fetch him a good income. During Covid times, he joined 'Bharatiya Chasi Sangh' and later came in contact with a Gujarat-based professor BT Gore, who provided him training and guidance online about pome-

granate cultivation. Significantly, the advantage of pomegranate farming is that these plants are drought-proof and can survive even with little water.

"I procured pomegranate saplings from Surat and planted

them on three acres of farmland. There are 1,050 plants in the farm. After a year of nursing and proper care, these plants started bearing fruits," he added.

A plant bears 25 to 30 pomegranates and produces fruits twice/thrice a year.

"In the first phase, the farm yielded 15 quintal pomegranates. One can earn ₹ 6 to 7 lakh per annum from a 3-acre farm. The fruits are grown organically and no fertilizer is used. The yield has good demand in the market too," he said.

He sells his produce to some dealers in parts of Nabarangpur and neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Besides, he is engaging five to seven local labourers per day in the farm activities.

He said that if anyone is keen to learn about the pomegranate farming, he would provide technical knowhow to them.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23	E-Tender/52 Dt.: 28.07.2022
(1) Tender No. e-tender-HQ-KUR-121-2022	Dt.: 21.07.2022
Description: EXECUTION OF 15.00 KM THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL WORK FROM KM 450.20 TO 455.20 ON UP DN AND MID LINE IN BETWEEN RETANG-KHURDA ROAD SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work	₹ 376.31 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 3.38,200/-
(2) Tender No. e-tender-HQ-KUR-129-2022	Dt.: 21.07.2022
Description: EXECUTION OF BALANCE WORK FOR TRAIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT KHURDA ROAD.	
Approx cost of the work	₹ 172.98 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2.36,500/-
Completion period: 08 months (for SI No.1) & 06 months (for SI No.2)	
Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 12.08.2022 (for both 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.ireps.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),	Khurda Road
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Sunday, 31st July, 2022; 6:00 p.m. onwards.
at Hotel Hindustan International, A-112, Shriya Talkies Street, Janpath Road, opposite IICI Bank, Unit 3, Kharvela Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751 001, Odisha.
For registration, please contact: Sanket Swaroop, Mobile: 99370 81778.

Registration is compulsory.
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.
It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.
No walk-ins will be allowed.

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- Civil Engineer (Marine):** Diploma/B.E./B.Tech (Civil) with 5-15 years of experience in Marine Civil Construction field i.e. Jetty, Piling, Precast structures, Shore protection, marine equipment etc. Exposure to port construction activities will be an added advantage.
- Civil Engineer (Buildings):** Diploma/B.E./B.Tech (Civil) with 5-15 years of experience in High rise Buildings/Township in MEP Services/Finishing work/Landscaping work.
- Civil Engineer (Roads):** Diploma/B.E./B.Tech (Civil) with 5-15 years of experience in Road/Highway Ground improvement/Culvert/Subways/Asphalt mix/ Topcoat and associated civil works.
- Safety officer/ Steward/Supervisor:** Diploma/Graduate in safety with 5-8 years of experience in Construction field (Preferably in Ports)
- Railway S&T Engineer:** Diploma/B.E. (EEE/E&C/Electrical) with 10-15 years of experience in Railways Signaling and Tele-Communication work.
- MEP Engineer:** Degree/Diploma (MEP) with 5-8 years of experience.

*Positions are available at-Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Kolkata, Vizag, Chennai locations

Let us keep flaming in our heart the fire of progress

THE MOTHER



Prez's Core Team

Absolutely no changes, a rarity in this top team, is not surprising. This Government has a track record of preferring the tried and tested in crucial spots, which certainly, these ones are.

President Droupadi Murmu has inherited four senior officers of the Rashtrapati Bhavan from the Ram Nath Kovind presidency, including the President's Secretary Kapil Dev Tripathi, Joint Secretary Ajay Bhadoo, Officer on Special Duty Jagannath Srinivasan and Press Secretary Ajay Kumar Singh. Though these officers had been working on a co-terminus basis with the term of Kovind, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of their tenure for a period of two months beyond July 25 or until further orders.

We wonder if an able and proven competency in governance and government won't make the new President assemble her own team? Even if, traditionally, there is a sign-off, by the System (read Cabinet Secretary) it's usually a minor presidential privilege some choose to exercise more than others. Most likely, Murmu will eventually assemble her own team of trusted aides, and these officers will be at hand to ensure a seamless transition as the President settles into her role.

Tripura gets a new DGP

When senior IPS officer Tapan Deka was appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), he superseded four IB colleagues, who quickly decided to move out and seek what is called a "respectful rehabilitation" in babu parlance. Deka checks many boxes, to occupy this especially sensitive post. His skills weren't in question and seniority issues were mainly the ones in play. However, sensing some unhappiness over Deka's appointment, the government has moved quickly to acquiesce to their request.

Special Director of Intelligence Bureau, Amitabh Ranjan, who was among the four IPS officers superseded by Deka, has been appointed as the new Director General of Police of Tripura. Sources have informed DKB that Ranjan had a major backer in Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who called Union Home Minister Amit Shah to clear all the formalities for the 1988-batch IPS officer's appointment. The state is headed for assembly elections early next year.

DKB has learnt, that three other superseded officers have been moved out of IB. Special Director Manoj Kumar Lal, has returned to his parent UT cadre, while Manoj Yadava has been sent to the National Human Rights Commission as Director General (Investigations). Only Anish Dayal Singh, Deka's junior, continues to work in IB as Special Director.

Calm has been restored by placing these IPS officers in other rank-appropriate positions. It needs to be noted that Deka's is not the first instance of a junior officer being promoted to the top position in a hierarchy-driven organization. The new IB chief is junior to Manoj Yadava, Manoj Kumar Lal and Amitabh Ranjan. And even though seniority is not the sole criterion for appointment to a prestigious post like this, the episode does point to perhaps taking a fresh look at the promotion policy and managing succession among the senior police officials.

Vacancies at Centre hit new low

Even as the Centre continues to grapple with a shortage of civil service officers, the Ministry of Personnel has revealed that the number of vacancies advertised by the UPSC has fallen by more than 50 per cent since 2014!

The Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh reportedly informed Parliament that UPSC recommended 4,119 candidates for Central government jobs in 2021-22, which is the lowest number of job positions at the Centre in the past 10 years. As the Modi sarkar sets its sights on the 2024 general elections, it is clear that governance will be a big factor in its claims to retain power. As of now, the panel's report should set off alarm bells within the ruling dispensation. Shortage of IAS officers is compelling many states to take recourse to appointing non-cadre officers in cadre officer posts, and also continuing them in such posts beyond permissible limits. Also, we have noted several IAS officers holding multiple assignments due to the dearth of eligible officers.

Certainly, the shortage of IAS officers is nothing new. Apparently, even back way in 1951, the number of appointed officers compared to the required was low. There were 336 fewer officers than the required strength of 1232 officers. But over the decades instead of bridging the gap, it has steadily widened.

But the bigger question is why have successive governments not managed to solve the issue, despite diligent annual cadre reviews and recommendations of numerous panels? Hopefully, the urgency recommended by the Modi panel will stir the Centre into moving determinedly in this direction.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

- Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**
- No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path. **GAUTAMA BUDDHA**
- You must understand the whole of life, not just one little part of it. **J. KRISHNAMURTI**

WORDSWORTH

Alamagoozlum

It's a wonderful word, one of the best of the exotics that came out of North America in the nineteenth century. It's still to be found, though you're likely to encounter it in the company of the Corpse Reviver, the Fogcutter, the Monkey Gland and the Widow's Kiss. The original alamagoozlum was maple syrup. The name may have been a blend of French-Canadian and American terms, since it's conjectured it was created from à la (as in à la mode) and goozlum, with a ma thrown in to make it bounce better in the mouth. The goozlum or goozle was the throat, windpipe or Adam's apple, possibly a variant form of guzzle. The word was rarely recorded in the old days. The Bradford Era of Pennsylvania in 1888 did its best to confuse unwary etymologists by composing a ditty that included the lines, "From Alamagoozlum / To Kalamazoo, / We can bamboozle 'em!" Today, alamagoozlum is almost entirely the province of those well-informed mixologists who know their old-style cocktails. Charles H Baker recorded it in 1939 in The Gentleman's Companion or Around the World with Jigger, Beaker and Flask. It's not a drink for the faint-hearted, either to create or consume, since it includes Chartreuse, gin, Jamaican rum, orange curaçao, egg whites, Angostura bitters, and a big dollop of syrup. Curiously, none of the recipes that I've seen even mention maple syrup, the classic ingredient being gomme syrup (perhaps from French gomme or an old form of English gum), which is a mixture of a simple sugar syrup with gum arabic. A reader, Mary Louise Lyman, recalled that her father referred to a stew or casserole of leftovers as a magoozium. It isn't common in print, but it is in the Long Goodbye by Raymond Chandler: "I've written twelve best-sellers, and if I ever finish that stack of magoozium on the desk there I may possibly have written thirteen." It has been defined as hoey, nonsense, tosh, tripe, twaddle or tommy-rot. Etymologists have suggested it may derive from the cartoon character Mr Magoo or from magoo, Hollywood slang for the gooey insides of custard pies (the throwing sort), but it seems at least as likely that it's a shortening of alamagoozlum.

Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE COUNTRY CAN FILL THE STOMACHS OF THE FARMERS IF THEY GET THE RIGHT PRICE FOR THEIR PRODUCE, PROPER STORAGE, MARKETING FACILITIES AND BETTER TECHNOLOGICAL INPUTS

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

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FOCUS UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

EMULATE KENYA MODEL

When the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting recession pushed 120 million people worldwide into extreme poverty in 2020, many countries relied on social-protection measures to cushion the blow. By May 2021, a total of 3,333 such schemes had been planned or implemented in 222 countries or territories.

Because the world will face other crises in the coming decades, we must learn how to protect people better against unexpected events – particularly as the effects of climate change become more pronounced and leave many exposed to natural disasters and income shocks. But how?

Social-protection programs that assist low-income families, insure against shocks, and break poverty traps offer a potential solution. But targeted cash transfers, the most prevalent scheme, might not address supply-side barriers such as shortages of food and other essential goods, particularly during crises. So, can any type of cash transfers mitigate the impact of large shocks? Do crises require new social-protection measures, or can existing policies boost resilience?

An increasingly popular and much-debated form of social protection is a universal basic income (UBI): an unconditional cash transfer that is large enough to meet individuals' basic needs and is delivered to everyone within a community. While the UBI idea is not new, it has recently been gaining traction globally, with pilot programs launched in countries including Finland, India, and the United States.

The concept builds on decades of evidence concerning the impact of cash transfers. For example, contrary to popular opinion, studies show that cash transfers reduce spending on "temptation goods" like alcohol and tobacco, do not discourage work, and have a wide range of positive effects.

But a lack of accurate, dynamic data makes it difficult to direct cash transfers to those most in need. Targeting individuals rather than households is even more complicated, because poor individuals often live in non-poor households.



Policy-makers and businesses in poorer countries should consider building cash-transfer systems that can be activated at short notice to deliver additional funds to a large number of people

A UBI could circumvent these issues, because it is not only universal but also can be provided to individuals rather than households. Furthermore, a UBI could help soften the blow of unexpected shocks that might leave some segments of the population vulnerable and in need of government support – although whether it could do so cost-effectively has yet to be determined.

In 2017, a team of researchers – Abhijit Banerjee, Michael Faye, Alan Krueger, Paul Niehaus, and one of us (Suri) – in collaboration with Innovations for Poverty Action and Give Directly, began a randomized evaluation in Kenya to test the effect of a digitally transferred UBI. The team focused on two low-income counties, Siaya and Bomet, and evaluated three distinct UBI designs: a large lump sum, equivalent to approximately \$500 (the "lump-sum arm"); a payment of \$0.75 per day for two years, equivalent to about \$500 (the "short-term arm"); and a payment of \$0.75 per day for 12 years (the "long-term arm"). Payments were made to each adult over the age of 18 in the assigned villages.

When the pandemic hit Kenya in 2020, the team quickly realized that they needed to understand whether this UBI was helping people

weather the crisis. So, with funding from J-PAL Africa's Digital Identification and Finance Initiative, they conducted phone surveys of the households participating in the program. By this point, the lump-sum and short-term arms were complete; the long-term arm was ongoing.

The team found that the UBI improved households' food security and physical and mental health, relative to the comparison group of households that did not receive the transfer. UBI recipients also reduced their social interactions, possibly because of the pandemic and perhaps because they did not need to rely on friends and relatives as much during the hungry season (though this is speculative at best). This may have lessened the burden on local public-health systems as UBI recipients were less likely to fall ill.

Hunger was widespread in the two counties the team studied. But whereas 68% of people in the comparison group reported experiencing hunger in the past 30 days, UBI recipients were 5-11 percentage points less likely to do so. This effect was significantly larger for people in the long-term arm, who expected to continue receiving transfers.

UBI recipients were also 4-6 per-

centage points less likely to report that a household member had been sick during the past 30 days, as compared to 44% in the comparison group. And while 29% of people in the comparison group had recently sought medical attention at a hospital, UBI beneficiaries were 3-5 percentage points less likely to do so, because they were less likely to be sick.

The researchers also saw how more income can lead people to take greater risks. Before the pandemic, new businesses established by some UBI recipients posted large increases in profits. But such risk-taking does not always pay off. Although these enterprises largely remained open during the COVID-19 crisis, earnings declined to levels similar to those in the comparison group.

This decrease in income for UBI beneficiaries during the pandemic was not a failure of UBI. The grant is designed to maintain a minimum standard of living and, by providing a form of insurance, may encourage recipients to take more risks. But in a crisis of the magnitude of the pandemic, policy-makers should also consider protecting incomes (as some high-income countries did).

The onset of the pandemic in Kenya coincided with the agricultural off (or lean) season, when hunger and illness typically increase, and income declines. Although the study could not isolate the pandemic's effects from these seasonal trends, the evidence highlights the importance of access to cash transfers and other income supplements during crises, particularly to reduce hunger and illness. Policy-makers and businesses in poorer countries should therefore consider building cash-transfer systems that can be activated at short notice to deliver additional funds to a large number of people, if not everyone, in response to unanticipated shocks.

Tavneet Suri is Professor of Applied Economics at MIT. Nidhi Parekh is a project director at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).

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SPECTRUM FARM INCOME

Govt support, tech input vital

Two recent developments in the agricultural sector merit attention. The first is the constitution of the long-awaited committee to look into the financing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism. The other development is the release of a report by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) documenting success stories of 75,000 farmers from across the country, noting how technological and policy interventions could lead to overall 150-200 per cent increase in their income in 2020-21 compared to 2016-17.

The terms of reference of the Committee on MSP, however, has made no mention of the farmers' demand for an MSP guarantee law. The 28-member committee, to be headed by Former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal, will have three members from the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) - the farmers' collective which had spearheaded the year-long protest against the three laws. But the Morcha will be outnumbered as five representatives of farmers' organizations are outside the SKM. The announcement comes after the split within the SKM firmed up recently, and both sides are un-

happy with it.

The ICAR report has claimed that farmers in Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Puducherry recorded more than 200 percent rise in their overall income in four years, whereas most of the other states recorded increases in the range of 150-200 percent.

Similarly, another study by SBI showed farmer income doubled in fiscal 2021-22 compared to FY 18 for certain crops in some states. In all other cases, it rose in the range of 1.3-1.7 times. The study found that the increase in farmers' incomes, engaged in cash crops, has been more prominent compared to those growing non-cash crops. Allied and non-farm income showed a significant increase of 1.4-1.8 times in most states in tandem with farm income during the period.

These developments augur well for the sector, though questions remain. The first and foremost is the condition of small and marginal farmers who have not witnessed any increase in their income while most have shown a decline. The rising prices of inputs coupled with lack of availability of water, in some states, have aggravated

their problem. Further, the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is affecting farmers and their farms. Despite this, the government wants farmers to abandon traditional farming and adopt new technologies. As a result, the cost of cultivation is increasing and the profit is decreasing in comparison.

The government's efforts to take care of the farmers are adding to their worries. Take seeds, in the last five years, there have been cases of foreign seeds like Bt being expensive but hurting a section of farmers. The claim that such seeds have high yields and no pests has proved no base. In fact, small and marginal farmers have become indebted.

The National Sample Survey data showed that around 80 per cent of farmers in Andhra Pradesh are in debt, while in Punjab and Maharashtra, the figure averages 65 per cent. These states have the highest number of farmer suicides. The country can fill the stomachs of the subsistence farmers if the farmers get the right price for their produce, proper storage, marketing facilities, reduction of cost of agricultural produce, ban on entry of

capitalists in this business.

This being the present situation in the agricultural sector, there is a need to take adequate measures to boost agricultural growth. Obviously, productivity has to increase in the states that are below the national average. Added to this, one cash crop would have to be grown to increase farmers' income. For this, technological support is very much needed and research institutes such as the ICAR have to come forward in locating at least 200 to 250 districts where cash crop production has to be encouraged in a big way.

International scientists have been of the opinion that responsibility does not lie solely with the state, but with civil society too. There is a need for allocation of more resources from the Centre, promoting good nutrition through education, promoting better local farming methods, increasing local food processing and, of course, better technological inputs which India's scientific institutions can provide. Only then can India emerge as a major food hub in the world by increasing agricultural production and productivity.

INF A

Hail Hima

Sir, Indian sprinter Hima Das scripted history Thursday as she clinched the gold medal in the 400m final - at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland becoming the first Indian athlete to do so in a track event. The 18-year-old clocked 51.46 seconds to claim the top position. Andrea Miklos of Romania came second with a timing of 52.07 seconds. She now joins the illustrious company of star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won a gold in Poland in the last edition in 2016 in a world record effort. Hima had suffered a lower back injury at the 2018 Asian Games and that forced her to miss the World Championships in Doha. Hail Hima for a historic and a heroic win.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Lame excuse

Sir, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is embroiled in an inexcusable controversy over his purported remarks on the present Indian President. Calling her 'Rastrapati,' he has gone to the extent of maligning the highest constitutional post. His clarification has not found any favour with the Indians. He must unconditionally apologise to the nation. He should not forget that appropriate Hindi translation of President is 'Rastrapati', which is a gender agnostic word. Before accepting this Hindi version for our Constitution, the members of the Constituent Assembly had vigorously deliberated it. Chowdhury should not shrink from the responsibility as he is answerable when he represents a political party that has a glorious history.

Sanjib Kumar Das, CUTTACK

Positive development

Sir, It's a positive development that the Election Commission of India (ECI) now permits those above the age of 17 to apply in advance to be included to the voter list rather than having to wait until they reach the required age of 18 in a particular year. Additionally, ECI should let all individuals to register their cell numbers and email addresses so that they appear on voter identification. The ECI made a wise choice to update the electoral roll every three months is appreciable. In order to make it simpler for the young people to submit their advance applications along with emails and mobile numbers, the executives of ECI in all states must come up with latest technological solutions. The registration forms should be simplified and made more user-friendly.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

national



The whole country is shocked by the incident in Barmer. For a few years now, the MiG-21 has been involved in frequent accidents. When will this 'flying coffin' be removed from our fleet?

VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

of the day quote

Accidents are increasing during night time. Perhaps, they may be under influence of alcohol. 'Drunk and driving' should be fully stopped for saving lives. If needed we can bring changes in law

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

Passenger safety is paramount to the government and DGCA's measures to ensuring this would continue in the coming days in the backdrop of increased technical snags being reported by different airlines in the country

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

Even after Presidents demit office, it is their national duty to keep following all constitutional principles, treating all sections of the society and religions as equal

RAM NATH KOVIND | FORMER PRESIDENT

GALWAN CLASH

Chinese casualties can't be disclosed: CIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Information regarding casualties suffered by Chinese soldiers in the Galwan valley clash with Indian forces in Ladakh two years ago cannot be disclosed, the Central Information Commission has held.

In a recent order, the CIC, the highest appellate body under the Right to Information Act (RTI), refused to allow a plea seeking "the casualties to the Chinese forces, if any, by brave soldiers of the country" during the clashes in the night of June 15 and 16, 2020.

RTI applicant Akhand had also sought information about casualties suffered by Indian forces at Galwan River Valley, Ladakh near the Line of Actual Control during the clash and rehabilitation and ex-gratia paid to the families. In addition, the RTI applicant had sought to know from the army if Indian soldiers are missing in the Galwan river valley after the clash and its plans to rescue them.

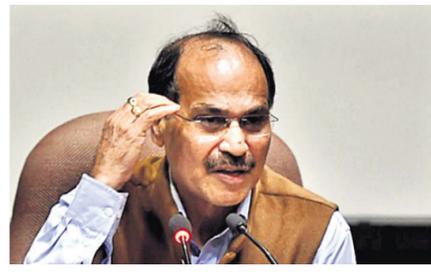
The army refused to disclose the information saying it was third party information which cannot be shared under Section 8(1)(j) of the Act, which exempts from disclosure the information which is personal in nature.

To deny the information, the army also cited Section 8(1)(a) of the Act which exempts from disclosure the information which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence. The representative of Akhand argued before the CIC that the matter involves larger public interest and the information should be provided to him.

Adhir apologises to Murmu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to President Droupadi Murmu Friday and apologised to her for his "rashtrapatni" remark after the political storm over it escalated.



In his written apology to President Murmu, Chowdhury said it was a slip of the tongue and he used the word mistakenly Both the houses failed to transact any business Friday

The Congress also upped the ante on Smriti Irani over the alleged heckling of Sonia Gandhi by her and BJP MPs and organised protests inside and outside Parliament and demanded that she be sacked for her behaviour. As both the "rashtrapatni" remark and Sonia-Smriti face-off issues reverberated, the opposition and the ruling party traded charges against each other.

In his written apology to President Murmu, Chowdhury said it was a slip of the tongue and he used the word mistakenly. "I am writing to express my regret for having mistakenly used an incorrect word to describe the position you hold. I assure you that it was a slip of the tongue. I apologise and request you to accept the same," Chowdhury wrote to the President.

Chowdhury's apology has set the tone for defusing the situation and sources said as per broad understanding with the opposition, Lok Sabha is likely to take up a discussion on price rise on Monday and Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. The last week has seen disruptions by the opposition over the issue.

Both houses of Parliament were stalled on Friday after uproar by opposition members against Gandhi's alleged heckling, even as treasury benches continued to demand an apology from the

the House raising slogans against the government, while BJP members and union ministers, including Sarbananda Sonowal were on their feet demanding an apology from Gandhi.

Leader in Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge also wrote to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu urging him to expunge the remarks made by union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal on Gandhi in the house on Thursday.

Both Sitharaman and Goyal had demanded an apology from Gandhi over Chowdhury's 'rashtrapatni' remark, alleging that he had insulted the President of India. Kharge said according to parliamentary practices and conventions, critical remarks should not be made on the other House or members of the other House. He also cited a ruling made by former RS Chairman R Venkataraman on April 15, 1987, wherein no person who is not a member of the House can be referred to in the House in a derogatory manner. The senior Congress leader said even the question of privilege cannot be raised directly in one house against members of the other House.

They were joined by their colleagues from the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), among others. Both the houses failed to transact any business Friday. In Rajya Sabha, while opposition MPs stormed the well demanding action against Irani and on Gujarat deaths due to illicit liquor, the ruling party members were on their feet demanding an apology from Chowdhury.

Congress members in Lok Sabha were in the Well of

GOA BAR ROW

Delhi HC asks Congress leaders to drop tweets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The Delhi High Court Friday issued summonses to Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Netta D'Souza on a civil defamation suit filed by BJP leader Smriti Irani, and asked them to take down tweets and other social media posts on allegations levelled against the union minister and her daughter.



Smriti Irani has sought damages of over Rs 2 crore from the Congress leaders

Irani, the Minister for Women and Child Development, has sought damages of over Rs 2 crore from the Congress leaders for allegedly making baseless and false accusations against her and her 18-year-old daughter.

The high court said it was of the considered view that the statements made by the

defendants (Congress leaders) are "slandorous and bogus" and added that, "Plaintiff (Irani) has made out a prima facie case and balance of convenience lies in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendants". Justice Mini Pushkarna issued summonses to the three Congress leaders on the defamation suit and passed an interim injunction directing them to remove from social media the allegations made against Irani and her daughter.

The court said in case the defendants fail to comply with its directions to remove tweets, retweets, posts, videos and photos from social media in relation to the allegations made against Irani, and her daughter within 24 hours, social media platforms Twitter, Facebook and YouTube shall take down the material.

Number of tigers up, but rise in poaching cause of concern: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Though India's tiger conservation efforts have yielded favourable results, the rise in poaching and man-animal conflict due to shrinking prey base is a cause for concern, experts said Friday.



Children look at the Royal Bengal Tiger Shakti roaming inside its enclosure at Byculla zoo, on International Tiger Day in Mumbai

According to the 2018 tiger census, India has a tiger population of 2,967. There were 1,411 tigers in 2006. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) says India has lost 1,059 tigers since 2012 with Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the "tiger state" of the country, recording the highest number of deaths of the striped felines.

NTCA data showed 75 tigers have died this year so far,

while 127 had died last year, the highest in the 2012-2022 period. As many as 106 tiger deaths occurred in 2020; 96 in 2019; 101 in 2018; 117 in 2017; 121 in 2016; 82 in 2015; 78 in 2014;

68 in 2013; and 88 in 2012. According to the data, 197 tigers died due to poaching in the 2012-2021 period. Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini

Kumar Choubey in Lok Sabha on Monday said that 125 people have been killed in "tiger attacks" in the last three years, including 61 in Maharashtra and 25 in Uttar Pradesh.

Tito Joseph, programme manager, Wildlife Protection Society of India, said though the mortality rate is not a matter of concern, authorities should be worried about the deaths due to poaching and human-tiger conflict.

"The government is putting in a lot of effort in tiger conversation and the number of tiger reserves has increased to 52 (from nine in 1973). But, states should focus more on areas where poaching is high and involve local people," he said.

Union Bank of India MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. REGIONAL OFFICE: CUTTACK, M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph.: 0674-2537900. SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable/immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Union Bank of India REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE. MANIKHAMB, OT ROAD, POLICE LINE, BHASKARGANJ, DIST.: BALASORE, PIN-756001, Email: cb8832recovery@unionbankofindia.bank, Mob.: 8249176744. SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES. (E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002).

WBSSC SCAM

Partha recites 'conspiracy theory'; Arpita breaks down

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 29: As Partha Chatterjee and his close aide, Arpita Mukherjee, both tainted in the multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) scam, were brought by the (ED) officials Friday to the ESI Hospital here for routine medical checkup, their reactions were noteworthy. While Chatterjee spoke of 'conspiracy', Mukherjee appeared devastated.

Of the two, Arpita Mukherjee was the first one to be brought to the hospital. She burst into tears as the ED vehicle carrying her reached the hospital premises. She even refused to come out of the vehicle and the female staff of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the accompanying central armed forces had to virtually drag her out and take her to the hospital building. A visibly devastated Arpita Mukherjee did not utter a single word to the waiting media-persons.

Soon after she was taken inside the building, another vehicle of ED carrying Partha Chatterjee reached the hospital premises. But unlike Mukherjee, he did not resort to any emotional scene and while going into the hospital building on a wheelchair pushed by the ED



staff, he just gave a one-liner to the media - "I am a victim of conspiracy".

However, that one-liner was enough to provoke sharp reactions from the political circles.

Ridiculing Chatterjee's one-liner, state Trinamool Congress general secretary and party spokesman, Kunal Ghosh said that in such cases the natural reaction would have been - "I am innocent".

"However, if Partha Chatterjee really thinks that he is a victim of conspiracy, he should prove that in the court," Ghosh said. BJP's national vice president and the party MP, Dilip Ghosh said that it was strange that one of the key accused in the entire WBSSC conspiracy was crying and claiming that he was a victim of con-

ED raids another flat of Arpita

Kolkata: The Enforce Directorate raided the third apartment linked to Arpita Mukherjee, the close associate of arrested West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, in the city's Chinar Park area after recovering around Rs 28 crore cash from another flat belonging to her. The raid by the ED, which is probing the money trail of the school jobs scam, was conducted late Thursday evening, an official of the agency said. As the door of the flat was locked and the keys could not be traced, the ED sleuths broke open its entrance door in the presence of central force officers.

spiracy. "As of Arpita Mukherjee all I can say is that if she is really repentant, then she should clearly reveal to ED and CBI whatever she knows about this scam," Ghosh said.

Sujan Chakraborty, CPI-M's central committee member and the former leader of the Left legislative parties in the West Bengal Assembly, said the actual conspiracy was against the thousands

of eligible candidates who were deprived to accommodate ineligible ones against the financial consideration.

Veteran Congress MP and the state party president, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that Partha Chatterjee's conspiracy theory is an indirect admission that he is not alone in this entire scam. "This is just the trailer and the movie is yet to start," he said.

Forgery of certificates leaves WB govt worried

Forgery of certificates was first brought to the notice of the state by some banking representatives in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), West Bengal, which have representatives from banks operating in the state as well as from the state govt



to be careful about such forgeries. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee is herself in charge of the said department.

In that instruction circular (No-3054-LP/5M-22/15), the departmental secretary has clearly said that it has recently come to the notice of the department that some of the death, warison and mutation certificates issued by the panchayats and municipalities are either forged or had been tampered with. In the circular, the departmental secretary has sent clear notification to the district land & land reforms officers (DLROs) and the block land & land reforms officers (BLROs) to conduct spot investigations whenever such complaints of forgery of death, warison or mutation certificates reach the district offices. It is learnt that the state government has constituted a three-member committee at each block to investigate such cases of forgery in certificates. There three members of the block level com-

mittees are the block development officers (BDOs), BLROs and the inspector-in-charge (ICs) of the local police stations.

Sources from the state land & land reforms department said that cases of forgery of such certificates was first brought to the notice of the state by some banking representatives in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), West Bengal, which have representatives from banks operating in the state as well as from the state government.

"These banking representatives pointed out case-studies, where individuals approaching the banks for loan applications come to know their property inherited by them has been already kept as mortgage and a loan account is active against it as collateral security. From there it came to the notice of the banks as well as the department that loans were taken issuing forged death, warison and mutation certificates," a senior departmental official said.

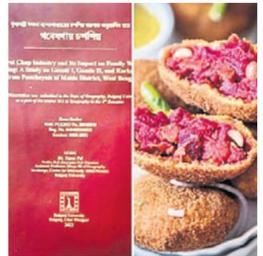
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 29: Forgery of death, warison and mutation certificates to facilitate change of ownership of land or property taking into confidence a section of the employees in municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats has become rampant in West Bengal.

These are not allegations from the opposition parties. Rather, it is the realisation of the government, following which the state land & land reforms department has become active in initiating checks over such malpractices.

On July 18, 2022, the West Bengal land & land reforms and refugee relief & rehabilitation department gave clear instructions to all the district administration asking them

Roadside snacks trade turns into research subject in varsity



Roadside snacks trade, which surely helps many people earn their livelihood throughout the country, has become a subject of research for a post-graduate student of geography

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had once said that selling 'pakodas' can also be a form of employment. Similarly, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had said many times how a roadside seller of 'chop' (fritters) changed his fortunes through this humble business.

While it is not clear which of the two is more lucrative from the business point of view, but roadside snacks trade, which surely helps many people earn their livelihood throughout the country, has become a subject of research for a post-graduate student of geography in one of the state-run universities in West Bengal.

Kana Sarkar, a final year post-graduate student at the Raiganj University in North Bengal, had submitted a proposal christened 'Rural chop industry and its impact on family wellbeing' to the university authorities, which has

now accepted. She said that her guide for the research, Tapas Pal, an assistant professor in the university, has helped select this topic as her research paper.

The geographical location to be covered in the study includes three village panchayats in Malda district - Gazole-I, Gazole-II and Karkach. The research proposal also states that it is inspired by Mamata Banerjee.

Explaining the logic behind selecting the research topic, Pal said that reports have proved that around 83 per cent of the country's labour class hails from the unorganised sector, where an important component is the roadside fried snacks industry. According to the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), 5-6 million people live off the street food business across the country. Most of them are migrants and work at least 10-12 hours a day. It's a huge undocumented economic activity.

JOVIAL MOOD



Tribal people dance during celebrations of 'Mohun Bagan Day' in Kolkata, Friday. The day is celebrated every year to mark the club's historic victory over East Yorkshire Regiment in the IFA Shield Final in 1911

PTI PHOTO

No 'good' air quality day in Delhi in first half of '22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Delhi has not recorded even a single "good" air quality day with an AQI of 50 or less in the first six months this year, according to government data presented in Rajya Sabha Thursday. Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey, however, said Delhi saw

a 27 per cent reduction in PM10 and a 22 per cent reduction in PM 2.5 in 2021 compared to 2016.

According to the data presented by the minister, Delhi has not recorded a single "good" air quality day in the first six months of this year. It has, however, logged seven "satisfactory" and 47 "moderate" air quality days during this period. Air quality index (AQI) between



zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301

and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The main sources of pollution in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas include stubble burning, especially in north-western states, open municipal solid waste burning, road dust, industrial pollution, thermal power plants, vehicular pollution and dust from construction and demolition activities, Choubey said.

Over one lakh saplings planted in MCD drive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Over a lakh saplings were planted across the city to mark the World Nature Conservation Day Thursday, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi claimed.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena participated in an event here as part of the day-long mega tree plantation drive, he said.

"Working on this vision and under the able guidance and leadership of the LG, MCD organised a mega tree plantation drive and "planted over 1,00,000 trees in a single day," the civic body claimed in a statement. Under this mega tree plantation drive, approximately 8,500 saplings each were planted in all the 12 zones. The main objective of this drive was to make citizens aware and to inspire them to work towards betterment of nature, it said. In all the 12 zones of MCD, citizens, RWA, local leaders and NGOs helped in planting of saplings in municipal parks, road sides, community centres, municipal schools and mini-forests.



DELHI GOVT LOOKS AT RAPID GROWTH OF EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The Delhi government will be joining hands with discoms and civic bodies to create a coordinated strategy for rapid expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, an official statement said Thursday.

The decision was taken at the fifth meeting of the government's Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Working Group.

The Working Group, chaired by Vice Chairperson, Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, Jasmine Shah plays a role in guiding the overall strategy for roll-out of public and private EV charging infrastructure in the city. The Working Group discussed the need for a coordinated strategy that encompasses all relevant government entities to leapfrog the deployment of charging infrastructure in Delhi, the statement said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Noida-based Priyanka was convinced that she had contracted monkeypox after she discovered spots on her leg.

The 28-year-old marketing executive said within a day other parts of her body also had spots. "Since monkeypox was being discussed in news reports, I first thought I had contracted it. I was worried and looked for pictures and news about it. I called my doctor who allayed my fears but for me, the situation normalised only after the spots subsided and I realised it was a normal skin allergy," she told PTI.

Priyanka is not the only one to have panicked after seeing rashes on her skin. Hospitals in Delhi-NCR are seeing hurried patients, who are developing allergies, rushing to them inquiring whether they have contracted the infection. "Due to increased awareness, people are coming to hospitals to con-

firm if their symptoms are related to monkeypox, which is being supervised under experts. We have been getting such queries and observing a rise in panic among people from the last seven to 10 days, especially after the first case of monkeypox was found in the country," said Dr Ramanjit Singh, visit-

ing consultant, dermatology, Medanta Hospital. The fear is especially among those people who have recently travelled abroad, Singh said. In the rainy season, people are more prone to viral infections and chickenpox cases are largely seen in this season along with other infections that



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

have symptoms of rashes, and nausea, he added.

"Due to this situation, some patients are getting confused and misinterpret it with monkeypox. The patient may determine whether they have monkeypox or not by understanding the sequence and the onset of symptoms," Singh said.

Explaining further, he said monkeypox usually starts with fever, malaise, headache, sometimes sore throat and cough, and lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes) and all these symptoms appear four days prior to skin lesions, rashes and other problems which primarily start from the extremities like hand, eyes and spread to the whole body.

"If someone gets symptoms in this sequence, they should get examined for monkeypox. The boils that occur during chickenpox are filled with fluid and don't include malaise," he said.

Experts unanimously stress that in monkeypox, there will be other symptoms along with skin involvement.

Dr Sachin Dhawan, senior consultant, Department of Dermatology Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, said a woman recently visited him after her 10-month-old baby had a reaction following an in-

sect bite.

"With increased awareness through the internet, people are coming to us with queries about monkeypox if they have rashes or simple insect bite. There is no need to panic. The number of cases is relatively low. But if you have a doubt, it is better to consult the doctor," he said.

Dr Pooja Chopra, senior dermatologist, Aakash Healthcare Super Speciality Hospital, Dwarka, said her colleagues in other parts of the country have seen cases of patients with atypical rashes accompanied by fever and joint pains.

Stressing that being vigilant and alert is the key, she concurred with her counterparts that patients are confusing skin allergy with monkeypox.

"Look out for symptoms like atypical rashes, fever, joint pain, generalised weakness, in case you suspect you have the infection," she added.

of the day quote

The government has demonstrated its commitment to tiger conservation by increasing the number of tiger reserves from initial nine in 1973 to the current 52, the latest being Ramgarh Vishdhari in Rajasthan

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Now we are doing well. We have introduced various curricula that have reduced academic pressure. Happiness classes help reduce mental stress in students and that's why thankfully there is no case of student suicide in Delhi

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

We want to regularize the contractual and temporary employees. We also want to repeal the two laws enacted by the previous governments

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

Cop suspended

Bhopal: A police constable of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district was suspended Friday after a video of him thrashing and dragging a senior citizen went viral on social media.

One dead in Mumbai fire

Mumbai: One person died as a major fire broke out on two adjacent film sets at Chitrakoot Grounds in suburban Andheri West Friday afternoon, a civic official said.

Couple thrashed

Gurugram: In a shocking incident, a couple was allegedly thrashed by bouncers at the newly constructed Ghamrolj toll plaza on the Gurugram-Sohna Highway.

Girl rescued

Surendranagar (Gujarat): An Indian Army team rescued a 12-year-old girl from a borewell in the Gajanvan village of Gujarat's Surendranagar district.

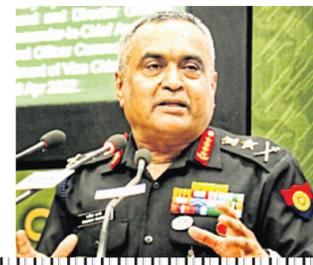


In 'dry state' Gujarat, many houses were destroyed due to the consumption of spurious liquor. Drugs worth billions are also being recovered from there continuously

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

ARMY CHIEF LEAVES FOR BHUTAN

Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande Friday left for two-day visit to Bhutan, aimed to further enhance the unique and time-tested bilateral relationship, characterised by utmost trust, goodwill and mutual understanding



NIA to probe BJYM leader's murder: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore/Mangaluru, July 29: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Friday said the probe into the murder of a BJP youth wing leader will be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), noting it was an 'organised crime' with inter-state links.

As the move came in the backdrop of a backlash from section of the BJP cadres against its state top brass after the brutal killing of Praveen Netti and demand for a NIA probe, a Karnataka minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said time has come to carry out "encounters" against perpetrators of such incidents and that the state government is ready for it.

Narayan's comments came a day after Bommai said, if the situation demands, the "Yogi model" government in Uttar Pradesh will be adopted in Karnataka too to deal with anti-national and communal elements trying to create unrest.

One more person was arrested on Friday in the killing of Netti, a leader of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), on Tuesday night in front of his broiler shop in Dakshina Kannada district, taking to three the total number of arrests.

The communally sensitive Dakshina Kannada district has been rocked by back-to-back murders of two people belonging to different communities in the last three days. Mohammad Fazil, a native of Surathkal, was murdered by four unknown assailants outside a shop on Thursday night, police said.

Bommai said that upon getting complete details of the Netti murder case, the state government will write to the Union Home Ministry requesting for a probe by the NIA. "We have decided to hand over the case to the NIA since it is an inter-state issue (Karnataka-Kerala),"



Mohammad Fazil, a native of Surathkal, was murdered by four unknown assailants outside a shop on Thursday night, police said

Bommai told reporters in Bengaluru.

Nettar's killers had allegedly come on a Kerala registered two-wheeler. The Karnataka police has been in touch with its counterparts in neighbouring Kerala in the aftermath of the killing as both state DGPs spoke to each other. The chief minister said Netti's murder was a planned and organised crime.

Minister Narayan said no one should suffer the way the BJYM activist's family is suffering. "Without giving any opportunity, merciless action will be taken. We are ready for encounters. We have already communicated to our Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the State government," Narayan, who holds the higher education, skill development, IT-BT portfolio, told reporters.

Narayan further said some instigators are testing our patience. "Hence, our government and the chief minister have given a clear message. In the coming days, we will make arrangements that the criminals should tremble to even think or dream of committing such murders."

SC orders status quo on AIADMK row

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 29: The Supreme Court Friday asked the Madras High Court to decide afresh O. Paneerselvam's (OPS) challenge to the General Council meeting of the AIADMK within 3 weeks.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana asked the rival OPS and K. Palaniswami (EPS) factions of the AIADMK to maintain status quo in connection with the affairs of the party. EPS was elected as the interim General Secretary of the AIADMK in its General Council meeting held on July 11.

Senior advocate Gurukrishna Kumar, representing OPS, submitted extreme decisions were taken and his client was expelled from the party in the July 11 meeting. He added that OPS was removed from the post of the Treasurer and the post was also abolished. Counsel argued that the top court had said that further meetings can proceed in accordance with law, but the meeting was in contravention of the bye-laws.

The dual-leadership model in the AIADMK was ended in the party's General Council meeting, and OPS was elevated as the interim General Secretary of the party. The top court had vacated the high court's stay on the passing of resolutions in the AIADMK meeting.

The bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, was hearing a plea filed by OPS challenging the high court's order, refusing to stall the General Council meeting of the AIADMK. Another counsel representing OPS urged the bench for restoring



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Another counsel representing OPS urged the bench for restoring

the status quo that existed on July 11, prior to conducting of the party's General Council meeting. However, the top court said it is remanding the matter back to the high court.

It said that instead of keeping the matter here, it will send back the matter to the high court for fresh consideration without being influenced by the orders passed by it.

"We request the HC to dispose of the matter within a period of 3 weeks max. Status quo has to be maintained by the parties. We have not expressed any opinion on merits," said the bench.

On July 6, 2022 the top court had vacated the stay imposed by the high court on the passing of resolutions in the AIADMK General Council meeting. On July 11, the Madras High Court refused to interfere with the meeting of the AIADMK. The plea to stall the meeting was filed by OPS, who argued that proper notice was not issued for conducting the meeting, as per the bye-laws of the party.

FOR A CAUSE



Fishermen with their fishing nets take part in a protest march against the government's alleged apathy towards the coastal community in Thiruvananthapuram

Teacher held for sexual harassment

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 29: A physical education teacher in a government school near Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore city was arrested after several girl students complained of his sexual harassment, police said on Friday.

Prabhakaran, 55, from Valparai was recently transferred to the government school in Coimbatore and ever since, girl students have been complaining about him. Parents of the girl students alleged that even after the students had lodged formal complaints with the headmistress, no action was taken against him.

Friday morning, parents and students gathered at the school and demanded Prabhakaran be arrested. The students said that ever since he joined the school, he had been touching them with bad intentions and that even after complaining several times to the headmistress, he was not punished, hence they had to resort to a mass protest in front of the school.

Judge says suspended for fast-tracking justice

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 29: The Supreme Court Friday observed that the approach of a judge, who sentenced a convict to capital punishment within four working days and decided a POCSO case and awarded life term to the convict within a working day, cannot be termed commendable.

However, the top court sought response from the Registrar General of the Patna High Court on the plea by the judge, Shashi Kant Rai, challenging his suspension.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh along with advocate Nitin Saluja, represented the judge, before a bench headed by Justice U.U. Lalit. Singh submitted that his client, who sought seniority on the basis of a new evaluation system, received a call from the high court and he was subsequently suspended without any reason.

The bench said: "Merely because something is done in four days it does not mean that judgment has to be set aside."

"But we cannot say such an ap-



proach is commendable," it added.

The bench told petitioner's counsel: "You have heard and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment in a single day. It does not happen like this," and clarified that pendency is one issue and approach to a matter is a different issue.

Citing top court's judgments, the bench pointed out that there are many judgments which say sentencing issues should not be done on the same day. However, counsel argued that a judge cannot be proceeded against for an erroneous judgement.

The bench recalled that a person was given death sentence in a span of nine days and the top court set aside that order and sent the matter back to the sessions court for fresh trial.

It said it will be a travesty of justice if adequate notice is not given, and also adequate opportunity not given to the person who is finally going to get the death sentence.

After hearing arguments in the matter, the top court issued notice

HOWEVER, THE TOP COURT SOUGHT RESPONSE FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL OF THE PATNA HIGH COURT ON THE PLEA BY THE JUDGE, SHASHI KANT RAI, CHALLENGING HIS SUSPENSION

to the Registrar General and the state government on the claim by Rai that his suspension order and the pending disciplinary proceedings against him recorded no reasons. Rai, an Additional District and Sessions Judge in Araria, sought quashing of the non-speaking suspension order dated February 8, 2022 issued by the Patna High Court and the purported disciplinary proceedings as mentioned therein, being malicious, illegal and arbitrary.

IAF TO PHASE OUT ENTIRE MIG-21 FLEET BY 2025

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 29: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to retire a squadron of MiG-21 Bison aircraft by September 30. Thereafter, only three squadrons of the aircraft will remain in service, which would be phased out by 2025.

"The 51 Squadron based out of Srinagar airport is being number plated on September 30... Thereafter, every year one squadron will be fitted with a number plate," sources said.

The 51 Squadron is famous for thwarting Pakistan's air strike on India on February 27, 2019 and shooting down an F-16 by an aircraft shot down by Wing Commander (now Group Captain) Abhinandan Varthaman. Sources said this is the only instance when a MiG-21 aircraft shot down an F-16 in an air-to-air combat. IAF is replacing MiG-21 fighter jets with more capable aircraft like Su-30 and indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

In the last 20 months, 6 MiG-21 aircraft have crashed in accidents in which five pilots have lost their lives. On Thursday evening, a MiG-21 Type 69 Trainer aircraft crashed in Barmer, Rajasthan killing both the pilots. The MiG-21 was supposed to be discontinued long back, but the delay in induction of the LCA Tejas aircraft has forced the IAF to continue flying these aircraft.

As per officials, the IAF conducts extensive checks of these aircraft before flight and all safety aspects are taken care of before the pilot takes off. Officials said that the number plated squadron would be reactivated soon with more capable aircraft in the near future.



7,700 medicine samples declared poor quality

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 29: A total of 7,700 samples of medicines were declared not of standard quality and 670 declared spurious or adulterated out of a total 84,874 samples picked for testing during the last three years.

The government data disclosed that a total of 2,652 samples of medicines were declared not of standard quality and 263 were declared spurious or adulterated out of a total 84,874 samples picked for testing during the year 2020-21.

The enforcement actions were carried out in terms of samples tested, number of drug samples declared sub-standard and spurious/ adulterated during the last three years. While 164 persons were arrested as the concerned authority



initiated prosecutions in the year 2020-21, over 500 such arrests were made in the last three years.

In a reply in the Lok Sabha on

Friday, the ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs in the country are regulated

under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945. The regulatory control over the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs in the country is exercised through a system of licensing and inspection by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by respective State Governments. The SLAs are legally empowered to take action in case of violation of the condition of Licence.

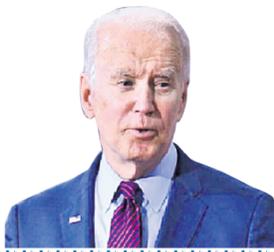
The government has taken measures, including strengthening of legal provisions, workshops and training programmes for manufacturers and regulatory officials and measures such as risk based inspection.

In cases of fake and spurious drugs, various enforcement actions like drug seizure, arrests of accused persons / registration of

FIR, etc., have been carried out by the states/UTs Drugs Controllers. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have taken various regulatory measures to ensure the quality of medicines distributed in the country.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 was amended under the Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Act 2008 to provide stringent penalties for manufacture of spurious and adulterated drugs. Certain offences have also been made cognizable and non-bailable. Besides, the states / union territories were requested to set up special courts for trial of offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for speedy disposal. So far, 33 states have already set up designated special courts.

international



Today, the House passed a Bill that will make cars cheaper, appliances cheaper, and computers cheaper
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

BAN LIFTED

The Pakistan government has decided to lift a recently imposed ban on the import of "non-essential and luxury items" to control the cash-strapped country's depleting foreign reserves, according to media reports Friday



of the day quote

It was a pleasure to receive @state_SCA HE Donald Lu this afternoon and exchange views on friendly and cooperative Nepal-US relations. I thanked the US for its continued development cooperation and look forward to a higher level of economic engagements
SHER BAHADUR DEUBA | NEPAL PM

Nicaragua revoked its approval of Hugo Rodriguez as candidate for the new US ambassador for meddling in the country's internal affairs
DENIS MONCADA | NICARAGUA FOREIGN MINISTER

An embargo on Russian gas in the European Union (EU) is impossible due to EU countries' heavy dependence on Russian energy
KARL NEHAMMER | AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR

SHORT TAKES

Pak likely moving towards snap poll

Islamabad: Pakistan may be hurtling towards a snap poll later this year, despite denials by the ruling alliance that is increasingly unsure of support from the powerful army and finds its key actions negated by the judiciary. Although no panacea, early polls appear to be the only, but also difficult, way to resolve the country's political mess that has been exacerbating its unprecedented economic crisis. Also, the decision to advance the elections, due July 2023, may send the country in a tailspin.

Ranil initiates talks with Oppn

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has initiated negotiations with the Opposition parties to persuade them to join an all-party government led by him as part of his efforts to establish trust in his administration and help the bankrupt country to recover from the worst economic crisis, according to media reports Friday. Talks are expected to be completed in one week, the Daily Mirror newspaper quoted sources as saying.

Monkeypox in Philippines

Manila: The Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) Friday confirmed the detection of the first monkeypox case in the country. The DOH's officer-in-charge Undersecretary Beverly Lorraine Ho said the virus was detected in a 31-year-old Filipino who arrived in the country July 19, reports Xinhua news agency. The patient's 10 close contacts have been tracked down and are asymptomatic.

China renews orange alert

Beijing: China's national observatory has renewed an orange alert, the second highest, for high temperatures Thursday, as intense heat waves linger in many regions of the country. During daylight hours Thursday, vast swathes of China's southern regions and some parts of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia are expected to experience temperatures of over 35 degrees Celsius, the National Meteorological Centre said.

Turkey: Wildfire spreads to hotel

Ankara: A wildfire that broke out Friday in a resort area in southwestern Turkey spread to a hotel that also serves as a tourism training school, officials said. No injuries were reported, and the blaze later was brought under control.

China defends military ship's SL visit

India worries that the Chinese-built and leased port of Hambantota will be used by China as a military base in India's backyard. The \$1.5 billion port is near the main shipping route from Asia to Europe

REUTERS

Beijing/New Delhi, July 29: China said Friday it hoped 'relevant parties' would refrain from interfering with its legitimate maritime activities, after New Delhi voiced concern over a Chinese military ship's planned visit to a port in India's southern neighbour Sri Lanka.

India worries that the Chinese-built and leased port of Hambantota will be used by China as a military base in India's backyard. The \$1.5 billion port is near the main shipping route from Asia to Europe.

Shipping data from Refinitiv Eikon showed Chinese research and survey vessel Yuan Wang 5 was en route to Hambantota and due to arrive August 11, at a time when Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis in seven decades. India has provided Sri Lanka with nearly \$4 billion in support this year alone.

During a weekly briefing late Thursday, an Indian foreign ministry spokesman said the government was monitoring the planned



Representational image

visit of the Chinese ship, adding that New Delhi would protect its security and economic interests.

India has already lodged a verbal protest with the Sri Lankan government against the ship's visit, Reuters reported Thursday.

In response to questions from Reuters, China's foreign ministry said Beijing had always exercised freedom of the high seas lawfully.

"China hopes that the relevant parties will view and report on China's marine scientific research

activities correctly and refrain from interfering with normal and legitimate maritime activities," the ministry said in a statement.

Relations between India and China have been strained since armed clashes on their border two years ago killed at least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers and led to a massive build-up of troops on both sides.

Foreign security analysts describe the Yuan Wang 5 as one of China's latest generation space-

LIFE AMID CRISIS



Drivers push auto rickshaws in a line to buy petrol from a fuel station, amid economic crisis, in Colombo, Sri Lanka

WILL SMITH APOLOGISES TO CHRIS ROCK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles, July 29: A contrite Will Smith has opened up about the controversy surrounding his assault of Chris Rock at this year's Academy Awards, offering his most unvarnished thoughts about an altercation that has marred his public image, despite being named Best Actor, reports 'Variety'.

In an emotional YouTube post, according to 'Variety', Smith addressed why he did not apologise to Rock when he accepted the Best Actor prize for his work in 'King Richard' shortly after he charged the stage and slapped the comic for making a joke about his wife Jada Pinkett Smith's short haircut. "It's all fuzzy," Smith said. "I've reached out to Chris and the message that came back is he's not ready to talk, and when he is, he will reach out." Smith once again reiterated that he was sorry for his actions, calling his behaviour "unacceptable". The actor has said he had responded violently because Rock's joke referenced the hair loss that Pinkett Smith suffers because of her medical condition known as alopecia.

94 migrants escape suffocation in truck

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico City, July 29: Authorities in Mexico said Thursday that at least 94 migrants had to bash their way out of a suffocating freight trailer abandoned on a highway in the steamy Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

Carlos Enrique Escalante, the head of the state migrant attention office, said migrants had to break holes in the freight container to get out, some apparently through the roof. Some were injured when they leapt from the roof of the trailer, but their injuries did not include any broken bones and were not considered life-threatening. Escalante said local residents near the town of Acayucan heard the noise, and helped open the freight container.

Shelling kills dozens of Ukrainian POWs

REUTERS

Odesa, Ukraine/Kyiv, July 29: Dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war appeared to have been killed when a prison building was destroyed in a missile strike on Friday, with Moscow and Kyiv accusing each other of carrying out the attack.

The deaths, some of which were confirmed by Reuters journalists at the damaged prison where the men were held, overshadowed UN-backed efforts to restart shipping grain from Ukraine and ease a looming global hunger crisis. Russia's defence ministry said 40 prisoners were killed and 75 wounded in the attack on the prison, in the frontline town of Olenivka, in a part of Donetsk province held by separatists.

It accused Kyiv of targeting it with US-made HIMARS rockets, Russian news agencies reported. Ukraine's armed forces denied carrying out the strike, saying Russian

artillery had targeted the prison to hide the mistreatment of those held there and lay the blame on Ukraine.

Reuters TV footage showed the remains of a cavernous burned-out building filled with metal beds, some with charred bodies still lying on them while other bodies were lined up on military stretchers or on the ground outside.

Shell fragments had been laid out on a blue metal bench, apparently so they could be photographed.

It was not immediately possible to detect any identifying markings and it was not clear where the fragments had been collected from.

■ RUSSIA, UKRAINE TRADE BLAME FOR PRISONER DEATHS

■ UK SAYS RUSSIA DEPLOYS WAGNER FIGHTERS MORE WIDELY

■ UKRAINE SAYS GRAIN SHIPS LOADED BUT NO DATE YET TO MOVE

■ PUTIN PREPARING TO FLEE RUSSIA SHOULD HE BE DEFEATED IN UKRAINE, REPORT CLAIMS

■ RUSSIAN DICTATOR 'AWARE OF POSSIBILITY OF A SHARP CHANGE OF MOOD IN THE COUNTRY'

■ IT IS THOUGHT EVACUATION PLANS WOULD TAKE PUTIN'S PLANE THROUGH TURKISH AIRSPACE

■ SEPARATE REPORTS CLAIM PUTIN SUFFERING ILL HEALTH FROM CANCER AND PARKINSON'S

US, Japan launch economic dialogue



REUTERS

Tokyo, July 29: Long-time allies the United States and Japan launched a new high-level economic dialogue on Friday aimed at pushing back against China and countering the disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Japanese media said the so-called economic "two-plus-two" ministerial meeting in Washington was expected to agree on joint research for next-generation semiconductors to establish a secure source of the vital components.

The meeting was headed by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Trade Minister Koichi Hagiuda.

"As the world's first- and third-largest economies, it is critical that we work together to defend the rules-based economic order, one in which all countries can participate, compete and prosper," Blinken told the opening session.

Blinken said recent world events, including Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine, had shown the vulnerability of critical supply chains, while a growing number of countries were struggling with debt burdens due to unsustainable and non-transparent lending practices.

SEMI-CONDUCTORS

Japan's Hayashi called Russia's invasion of Ukraine a serious challenge to the international order and - in an apparent reference to

China, though he did not name it directly - referred to attempts "to use economic influence unfairly and opaquely to realize... strategic interests and to modify the existing international order".

"In order to effectively deal with this, it is essential to discuss foreign policy and economic policy as a unit rather than discussing foreign policy and economic policy individually," said Hayashi.

Japan's Nikkei Shimbun newspaper said the semi-conductor development center would be set up in Japan by the end of this year to research 2-nanometer semiconductor chips. It will include a prototype production line and should begin producing semiconductors by 2025, it said, adding that the agreement to set up the center would be included in a statement to be issued after the meeting.

Taiwan now makes a vast majority of semiconductors under 10-nanometers, used in products such as smart phones, and there is concern about stability of supply should trouble arise involving Taiwan and China, which views the island as a renegade province. Friday's meeting comes at a time of heightened tensions over Taiwan. On Thursday, Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned in a call with US President Joe Biden against playing with fire over Taiwan, highlighting Beijing's concerns about a possible visit to the Chinese-claimed island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Appalachian floods kill 16

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jackson (US), July 29: Search and rescue teams backed by the National Guard searched Friday for people missing in record floods that wiped out entire communities in some of the poorest places in America. Kentucky's governor said 16 people have died, a toll he expected to grow as the rain keeps falling.

"We've still got a lot of searching to do," said Jerry Stacy, the emergency management director in Kentucky's hard-hit Perry County. "We still have missing people."

Governor Andy Beshear told The Associated Press Friday that children were among the victims, and that the death toll could more than double as rescue teams search the disaster area.

"The tough news is 16 confirmed fatalities now, and folks that's going to get a lot higher," the governor said during a late-morning briefing. He said the deaths were in four eastern Kentucky counties. Emergency crews made close to 50 air rescues and hundreds of



Powerful floodwaters swallowed towns that hug creeks and streams in Appalachian valleys and hollows, swamping homes and businesses, trashing vehicles in useless piles and crunching runaway equipment and debris against bridges

■ Mudslides marooned people on steep slopes and at least 33,000 customers were without power

water rescues on Thursday, and more people still needed help, the governor said: "This is not only an ongoing disaster but an ongoing search and rescue. The water is not going to crest in some areas until tomorrow."

Determining the number of people unaccounted for is tough with cell service and electricity out across the disaster area, he said:

"This is so widespread, it's a challenge on even local officials to put that number together."

More than 200 people have sought shelter, Beshear said. He deployed National Guard soldiers to the hardest-hit areas. Three parks set up shelters, and with property damage so extensive, the governor opened an online portal for donations to the victims.

Putin preparing to flee Russia if defeated: Report

AGENCIES

London, July 29: Russian President Vladimir Putin and his friends are "making preparations to flee Russia" should his army be defeated in Ukraine, according to a Telegram channel that claims to come from inside the Kremlin, a media report said.

With his Donbas offensive stalling, Ukraine preparing to recapture Kherson and his economy crumbling, the Russian leader is "aware of the possibility of a sharp change of mood in the country", the Daily Mail reported. Last week, the General SVR

channel reported that the 69-year-old had suffered from "severe nausea" overnight, with doctors at his bedside for around three hours.

Following on from that report, they claim that "Putin himself and his entourage are preparing plans for evacuation from Russia."

It is thought that any plane carrying Putin and his family out of Russia would head to Syria, the nearest friendly state and whose leader, Bashar al-Assad, Putin bailed out by intervening in the Syrian civil war in 2015.

Any flight from Russia to Syria, however, would have to fly through the airspace of Turkey, a NATO



member. Were Turkey's strongman leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to refuse permission to the plane

carrying Putin and his family to enter his airspace, it would effectively scupper the Russian

leader's "quickest" and perhaps "only" getaway route, the media outlet reported.

Erdogan and Putin have a complex relationship, having been friends and enemies at various times over the past decade as each leader tries to navigate their country through a challenging geopolitical neighbourhood. Iran is another regional power - and Western foe - that would be interested in Putin's fate.

"In principle, it is beneficial for Iran and Turkey to keep the Russian president in exile in reserve, using him, depending on the situation, as a lever or as a bar-

gaining chip," the channel was quoted as saying. Although Turkey is a member of the Western military alliance, under Erdogan's leadership the country has "cut its own diplomatic path in international relations".

Earlier this month Putin met with his Turkish and Iranian counterparts in Tehran, ostensibly to discuss Syria. It is not too much of a stretch to imagine that Erdogan and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi discussed in private the possibility of Putin requiring asylum from a coup or revolution at home, the report concludes.

business

of the day quote

The quarter recorded record revenue in developed and emerging markets with double-digit growth in Brazil, Indonesia and Vietnam, and a new doubling of revenue in India

We are proud to celebrate our one millionth Nissan vehicle exported from India to the world. Nissan India is a key hub for the exports of completely built-up cars and for parts supply

RBI has given approval for infusion of Rs 500 crore in PNB Housing Finance. Post rights issue, the holding of the bank would come down below 30 per cent but would be higher than 26 per cent so that bank retains promoter status

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves fall \$1.15 billion

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves declined \$1.152 billion to \$571.56 billion for the week ended July 22, according to RBI data. The reserves have been declining amid continuing volatility in the rupee which has also significantly depreciated against the US dollar. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had declined by \$7.541 billion to \$572.712 billion. The country's reserve position with IMF increased by \$23 million to \$4.96 billion in the reporting week.

IOC logs 1st loss in over two yrs

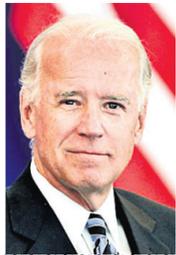
New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Friday reported a net loss of Rs 1,992.53 crore for the June quarter because of a freeze on petrol, diesel and LPG prices despite rising input costs. Net loss of Rs 1,992.53 crore in April-June compared to Rs 5,941.37 crore of net profit in the same period a year back, the company said in a stock exchange filing. This is the company's first quarterly loss in over two years. The company had in January-March 2020 reported a net loss because of inventory losses.

NTPC net profit rises 15% in Q1

New Delhi: State-owned NTPC Friday posted a more than 15 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,977.77 crore in the June quarter on the back of higher income. The consolidated net profit of the company in the quarter ended on June 30, 2021 was at Rs 3,443.72 crore, according to a filing to BSE. Its total income rose to Rs 43,560.72 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal from Rs 30,390.60 crore in the same period of the last year. The expenses stood at Rs 38,399.33 crore in the latest June quarter compared to Rs 26,691.49 crore in the year-ago period.

Ola to sack 1K boost EV plans

New Delhi: As Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola aims to ramp up its electric vehicle (EV) business, media reports have claimed that the ride-hailing platform is laying off around 1,000 employees from across verticals. According to reports verticals like mobility, hyperlocal, fintech, and Ola's used car operations have included in the layoff process. However, according to sources close to the company, these layoffs may impact less than 500 employees and not 1,000, and "are a result of restructuring in the Cars and Dash businesses".



There is going to be a lot of chatter today on Wall Street and among pundits about whether we are in a recession. But if you look at our job market, consumer spending, business investment, we see signs of economic progress in the second quarter as well

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

SWIGGY ADOPTS WORK-FROM-ANYWHERE

On-demand delivery platform Swiggy Friday announced a permanent work-from-anywhere for majority of its employees. The decision was based on team needs and feedback from several managers and employees who vouched for the flexibility and increased productivity working from home has given them in the last two years



RECORD HIGH Inflation hits 8.9% in 19 countries using euro

For months, inflation has been running at its highest levels since 1997, when record-keeping for the euro began, leading the European Central Bank to raise interest rates last week for the first time in 11 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 29: Inflation in the European countries using the euro currency shot up to another record

in July, pushed by higher energy prices fueled by Russia's war in Ukraine, but the economy still managed better-than-expected, if meager, growth in the second quarter. Annual inflation in the eurozone's 19 countries rose to 8.9% in July, an increase from 8.6% in June, according to numbers published Friday by the European Union statistics agency. Energy prices surged in July by 39.7%, only slightly lower than the previous month due to gas supply concerns. Prices for food, alcohol and tobacco rose by 9.8%, faster than the increase posted last month due to higher transport costs, shortages and uncertainty around



With the region's gas supply now reduced and inflation set to remain high for some time, the eurozone is likely to fall into recession

MICHAEL TRAN | ASSISTANT ECONOMIST, CAPITAL ECONOMICS

Ukrainian supply. "Another ugly inflation reading for July," said Bert Colijn, senior eurozone economist for ING bank, adding that there was "no imminent sign of relief."

The eurozone's economy, meanwhile, grew from April through June, expanding by 0.7% compared with the previous quarter, despite stagnation in Germany, Europe's traditional economic engine. France

avoided fears of a recession by posting modest 0.5% growth, while Italy and Spain exceeded expectations with 1% and 1.1% expansions, respectively. With inflation continuing to rise higher than expected, analysts expect economic growth to be the last glimmer of good news, with inflation, rising interest rates and the worsening energy crisis expected to push the region into recession later this year. Europe's risk is largely tied to its reliance on Russian energy, with Moscow throttling down flows of natural gas that power factories, generate electricity and heat homes in the winter.

Investors richer by over ₹9tn in three days of market rally



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: Investors' wealth grew by over Rs 9 lakh crore in three days of sharp rally in the equity market. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 712.46 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 57,570.25 Friday. In three days, the benchmark has climbed 2,301.76 points or 4.16 per cent. The three-day buoyant trend in equities have added Rs 9,03,574.58 crore to the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms which now stands at Rs 2,66,58,604.02 crore.

"Domestic equities continued its northward journey for the third consecutive day on the back of healthy corporate earnings and positive global cues," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. Softening commodity prices, reduced intensity of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) selling and better-than-expected earnings season have led to the recovery in the markets, analysts said. "Markets traded robust for yet another session and gained over a per cent," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said Friday. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.38 per cent and midcap index climbed 1.01 per cent Friday. Among Sensex constituents, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance were the biggest gainers. Dr Reddy's, Kotak Mahindra Bank, State Bank of India, ITC and Axis Bank were the laggards. All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with metal climbing the most by 4.59 per cent, followed by energy (2.41 per cent), basic materials (2.30 per cent), oil & gas (2.21 per cent), IT (1.71 per cent), teck (1.68 per cent) and consumer durables (1.47 per cent).

TO BRING TRANSPARENCY India unveils its first int'l bullion exchange

REUTERS

Ahmedabad, July 29: India launched its first international bullion exchange Friday as the world's second biggest consumer of the precious metal tries to bring transparency to the market for the precious metal.

India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), based at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City in western Gujarat state, could lead to standard gold pricing in India and make it easier for small bullion dealers and jewellers to trade. "We would have better price negotiation strength with the launch of this bullion exchange," said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Gold is tightly regulated in India and currently only nominated banks and agencies approved by the central bank can import gold and sell to dealers and jewellers. "IIBX with its technology-driven solutions, will facilitate transition of Indian bullion market towards a more organised structure by granting qualified jewellers a direct access to import gold directly through the exchange mechanism," the exchange said in a statement. China, the top gold consumer, runs such a bourse, where all domestic production and imported gold has to be bought and sold. India imported 1,069 tonne of gold in 2021, up from 430 tonne a year ago.



Today, India is standing in line with countries like the USA, UK and Singapore where new trends in the global financial sector are shaped. I congratulate people of the country for this achievement

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) offer gold futures contracts in India, but there wasn't any physical exchange to buy gold. "India's efforts to monetise gold will also derive tremendous support from a transparent bullion trading system in GIFT City," said Somasundaram PR, regional chief executive officer of WGC's Indian operations. Indian households own an estimated collective 25,000 tonne of gold, which passes from one generation to the next. New Delhi has been trying to monetise these holdings to reduce the imports.

21.2% OF ANNUAL TARGET Q1 fiscal deficit at ₹3.51tn

Tax collections grew, partly due to higher inflation, helping the govt collect more GST, as well as higher corporate tax receipts on improved economic activity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The central government's fiscal deficit touched 21.2 per cent of the annual target in the June quarter as against 18.2 per cent in the year-ago period, according to official data.

The fiscal deficit is the difference between total expenditure and revenue of the government. It includes the total borrowing that are needed by the government.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit was at Rs 3.51 lakh crore at the end of the first quarter of 2022-23, data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data showed Friday. The country's fiscal deficit is



Centre's spending on major subsidies including food and fertilisers, came down around Rs 680bn in Q1, compared to over a trillion rupees a year earlier

Net tax receipts rose to Rs 5.06tn in the first three months through June while total expenditure was Rs 9.48tn

This has given a confidence that the country could meet the targeted fiscal deficit of 6.4% of GDP for the current fiscal year ending in March 2023, despite headwinds on the economic front

projected at 6.4 per cent of the GDP for this fiscal ending March 2023 as against 6.71 per cent for the previous year.

As per the monthly account of the Union government up to June 2022 released by CGA, the receipts stood at Rs 5,96,040 crore or 26.1 per cent of the corresponding

Budget Estimates (BE) 2022-23 of total receipts. In the year-ago period, the receipts stood at 27.7 per cent of BE 2021-22.

In the latest June quarter, the total expenditure incurred by the central government was at Rs 9,47,911 crore or 24 per cent of corresponding BE 2022-23. It was at 23.6 per cent of BE 201-22 in the corresponding period.

For 2022-23, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be Rs 16,61,196 crore. Kaushik Das, chief economist at Deutsche Bank said the government could hold the 2022/23 fiscal deficit close to the target, assuming no further tax duty cuts or additional spending was announced.

RECORD FDI INFLOW IN FY22

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow in India was at its highest ever of Rs 6,31,050 crore in the previous fiscal, i.e. FY 2021-22. Som Parkash, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said Friday. The amount of FDI equity entering the manufacturing sectors surged by 76% in FY2021-2022 to Rs 1,58,332 crore from Rs 89,766 crore in the prior year. As per the official announcement, the increase in FDI inflows is a result of the government's adjustments to its FDI policy.

Core sector expands by 12.7% YoY in June

THE EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES ACCOUNT FOR 40.27 PER CENT OF THE IIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: The output of eight core infrastructure sectors expanded by 12.7 per cent in June against 9.4 per cent in the year-ago period, according to official data released Friday.

The production growth of eight infrastructure sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - was 19.3 per cent in May 2022, the data showed.

In June, the output of coal, refinery products, fertiliser, cement and electricity rose by 31.1 per cent, 15.1 per cent, 8.2 per cent, 19.4 per cent, and 15.5 per cent, respectively.



Crude oil production contracted by 1.7 per cent. Growth rate in the output of natural gas and steel slowed down to 1.2 per cent and 3.3 per cent during the month under review. Cumulatively, during April-June 2022-23, the output of the eight sectors

rose by 13.7 per cent, lower than 26 per cent during April-June 2021-22.

Commenting on numbers, Icri chief economist Aditi Nayar said that coal, cement, refinery products and electricity generation demonstrated double digit growth in June,

OUTPUT OF COAL, REFINERY PRODUCTS, FERTILISER, CEMENT AND ELECTRICITY ROSE BY 31.1%, 15.1%, 8.2%, 19.4%, AND 15.5%, RESPECTIVELY

CRUDE OIL, NATURAL GAS AND STEEL PRODUCTION CONTRACTED BY 1.7%, 1.2% AND 3.3%, RESPECTIVELY

whereas the rise in steel and natural gas was quite muted. "In line with the moderation in the year on year performance recorded by most high frequency indicators as well as the core sector in June 2022, we expect the IIP (Index of industrial production) growth to ease to 11-13 per cent in that month," she said.

5G SPECTRUM AUCTION Bids worth ₹1,49,855 crore received; 71% of block sold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 29: India's 5G spectrum auction received bids worth about Rs 1,49,855 crore as of Friday, the fourth day of sale, as continued interest for radiowaves stretched the bidding process to Saturday.

About 71 per cent of the total spectrum put on the block has been provisionally sold, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said. "This is a very good response," Vaishnav said. Seven rounds of bidding took place and incrementally Rs 231.6 crore came in Friday. In all, 23 rounds of bidding have been conducted so far.

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, lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time. After a flying start Tuesday, that saw players pouring in Rs 1.45 lakh crore on Day 1. A total of 72 GHz (gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore were put on the block.

India blocks BGMI on concerns over data sharing in China

The removal of BGMI, which had more than 100 million users, comes after India banned PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) in 2020 which was part of govt's crackdown on more than 100 mobile apps of Chinese origins, following a months-long border standoff between the nuclear-armed rivals

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 29: India's government blocked a popular battle-royale format game from Krafton Inc, a South Korean company backed by China's Tencent, as it was concerned about its data sharing and mining in China, an Indian government source said.

New Delhi used powers it has under India's IT law to block Battlegrounds Mobile India (BGMI), relying on a provision it has invoked since 2020 to ban several other Chinese apps on national security concerns, said the government official and another source with direct knowledge. The Indian government has not

publicly announced the blocking. But the app was removed from Alphabet Inc's Google Play Store and Apple Inc's App Store as of Thursday evening in India.

Tencent held a 13.5% stake in Krafton as of end-March through an investment vehicle, according to Krafton's regulatory filing.

Krafton shares slumped more than 9% on the news Friday, later paring losses to close down 4.5% in Seoul. The company said in May India accounted for a high single digit percentage of its revenue in the first quarter of this year.

Tencent Holdings shares fell 4.9% to their lowest since March 15.

A Google spokesperson said it blocked the game following a gov-



ernment directive, while India's IT ministry and Apple did not respond to requests for comment.

In Seoul, a Krafton spokesperson said the developer was talk-

The ban elicited strong online reactions from popular gamers in India on Twitter and YouTube

Krafton's India CEO Sean Hyunil Sohn told news portal TechCrunch earlier this week that the Indian government had previously noted that PUBG and BGMI are different games, adding that "BGMI complies with all guidelines" in India.

'CHINA INFLUENCE' India invoked a section of its IT law, called 69A, to impose the ban, the two sources with direct knowledge told Reuters. The section allows the government to block pub-

lic access to content in the interest of national security, among other reasons. Orders issued under the section are generally confidential in nature.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) and non-profit Prahar had repeatedly asked the government to investigate "China influence" of BGMI, Prahar president Abhay Mishra said. SJM is the economic wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, an influential Hindu nationalist group close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party.

"In the so-called new avatar, the BGMI was no different from erstwhile PUBG with Tencent still controlling it in the background," Mishra said.

Indian eves hammer Ghana 5-0

WOMEN IN BLUE BEGIN CWG HOCKEY CAMPAIGN ON A BRIGHT NOTE WITH COMMANDING TRIUMPH



TAKING THE OPPOSITION ON: Salima Tete, who scored one goal for India, tries to get past two Ghana defenders during the game Friday at Birmingham

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 29: The Indian women's hockey team defeated a lowly-ranked Ghana 5-0 to start their Commonwealth Games (CWG) campaign on a winning note here Friday. However, in spite of the emphatic margin of victory, the Savita Punia-led team were far from impressive in their first Pool A game. Gurjit Kaur (3rd, 39th) scored a brace, while Neha Goyal (28th), Sangita Kumari (36th) and Salima Tete (56th) struck a field goal each for India.

Even though India dominated the match in all departments in all the four quarters, it was a lacklustre performance from them in the first two as Ghana's defence produced a resolute show to frustrate their fancied opponents. What was frustrating for India was the weak link-up between the midfield and the forward line. Penalty corner conversion rate also continued to haunt India as they made use of just one out of 10 set-piece chances. The Indian eves were expected to steamroll Ghana, but goalkeeper

Abigail Boye made some phenomenal saves to keep her side in the contest. She was ably supported by the defenders. The Indians pressed on the accelerator from the onset and took the lead in the third minute when Gurjit converted her side's first penalty corner with a fierce drag-flick to the right corner. India soon earned a second penalty corner but Ghana defended bravely with Boye producing yet another fine save. Just before the end of the first quarter, India were awarded a penalty stroke for a foul inside the

'D' but Ghana successfully challenged the decision. The Indian eves came out attacking in the second quarter while Ghana were content on soaking up the pressure. The Indians mounted attacks after attacks but the Ghana backline thwarted them. The Indians were also guilty of mis-passing the ball on a number of occasions. Ghana secured a penalty corner with three minutes to go for half time but failed to get past India captain Savita. The African nation secured another set-piece before the breather but wasted the opportunity. The Indians doubled their lead in the very next minute through Neha, whose push went inside the goal after getting a deflection from a Ghana defender. A couple of minutes later, Neha was once again in the thick of things but her fierce shot from point blank range was saved by goalkeeper Boye. Three minutes after the change of ends, India secured two quick penalty corners but wasted both. Sangita extended India's lead, finding the target from a goalmouth melee in the 36th minute. India earned another penalty corner soon after but failed to utilise it. The Indians, however, made it 4-0 shortly when Gurjit scored from a penalty stroke. India wasted another penalty corner in the 42nd minute. Three more penalty corners were also wasted after that leading to the end of the third quarter. Salima scored four minutes from the hooter after her shot went into the goal following a deflection from the stick of Ghana captain Nafisatu Umaru. India will next take on Wales in their second pool match Saturday. However, they will certainly have to improve coordination.

Aussies scrape past resilient India in thrilling encounter

HISTORY MADE AS WOMEN'S CRICKET MAKES ITS DEBUT AT CWG

AGENCIES

Birmingham, July 29: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's (52, 34b, 8x4, 1x6) brilliant half century and a sensational spell of fast bowling by Renuka Singh (4/18) failed to inspire the Indian eves as they went down to World Champions Australia by three wickets in a Group A T20 game of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) here Friday. With women's cricket making its debut at the Birmingham CWG, it was the perfect occasion for India to make it a memorable occasion by beating Australia. Renuka had the Aussies on the mat with the score reading 39 for four and 49 for five at one stage. However, the Australians showed great character to come back into the game with Ashleigh Gardner (52 n o, 35b, 9x4) leading the charge. The target of 155 should have been a straightforward chase for Australia, but Renuka, playing only her seventh T20, broke the backbone of their batting. However, Gardner with two crucial stands of 51 (sixth wicket) with Grace Harris (37, 20b, 5x4, 2x6) and 47 (unbeaten for the eighth wicket) with Alana King (18 n o, 16b, 3x4) took the game away from the Indian eves. In the end, Australia overcame the target comfortably, showing that the reigning T20 and ODI World Champions can win from any situation. After Renuka's opening burst much was expected of Indian spinners. However, left-arm spin twins Radha Yadav (0/42 in 4 overs) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (0/24 in 2 overs) gave away 66 runs in six overs between them to let the momentum slip. Earlier Shafali Verma (48, 33b, 9x4) and Kaur's innings entertained the Edgbaston crowd but the other batters disappointed. India however, lost their way in the last



Renuka Singh bowled a dream spell



Harmanpreet Kaur top-scored for India

five overs when they scored only 39 runs losing five wickets in the process. In the process they were 20 runs short of the total which would have been a par score on the pitch here. And they had to pay for it dearly. Smriti Mandhana facing pacer Darcie Brown on the first ball of the competition marked the beginning of a pivotal point in women's cricket with the game aiming to reach the Olympics via the CWG route.

SHORT TAKES

SA level series

Cardiff: South Africa took their Twenty20 International series with England to a decider after easing to a 58-run win in the second match. Rilee Rossouw (96 n o, 55b, 10x4, 5x6) was the architect of South Africa's victory as he helped his team post 207 for three here in 20 overs after the visitors were put into bat Thursday. In reply, England were bowled out for 149 in 16.4 with left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/27 in 4) shining with the ball. Jonny Bairstow (30) was the only England batter to offer some resistance. Jos Buttler (29), Jason Roy (20), Moeen Ali (28) and Liam Livingstone (18) all got starts but failed to convert.

Barca complete deal

Barcelona: Xavi Hernández can scratch the last item off his wish list after Barcelona struck a deal for France defender Jules Koundé. The Spanish club said Friday that Sevilla have agreed to transfer the highly-touted centre-back for a still-undisclosed sum. The deal will be complete after the 23-year-old Koundé undergoes a medical exam. The France international will join Ronald Araujo (23) and Eric Garcia (21) as Barcelona's young core of central defenders playing with Gerard Piqué. Earlier this month Barcelona secured the transfers of striker Robert Lewandowski from Bayern Munich and winger Raphinha from Leeds for around a combined 110 million euros (USD 111 million).

Sriram ends tenure

Sydney: Former India all-rounder Sridharan Sriram has decided to end his tenure as Australia's spin bowling coach to focus on his role with IPL side Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). The development comes ahead of Australia's tour of India next year. Sriram, who played eight ODIs between 2000 and 2004, has been part of the Australian coaching set up since 2015. "After being on the road for six years it's with a heavy heart I have decided to move on from my current role as an assistant coach of the Australian men's team," Sriram said in a statement. "During this period I have grown incredibly richer in experience and it will help me in future," he added. AGENCIES

COLTS BOUNCE BACK STRONGLY AGAINST SL

JUNIORS SCRIPT EMPHATIC 4-0 VICTORY TO STAY IN CONTENTION



SUCCESSFUL TRIO: The three Indian goalscorers (from left) Himanshu Jangra, Gurkirat Singh and Prakash Gogoi pose at the Kalinga Stadium

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 29: After losing their first game against Bangladesh, hosts India bounced back strongly by thrashing Sri Lanka 4-0 in their second match of

the SAFF U-20 Championships at the Kalinga Stadium here Friday. After a barren first half, goals from Himanshu Jangra (50th), a brace from Parthiv Gogoi (69th and 90+3rd) and Gurkirat Singh (73rd) ensured an emphatic win for the

Indian side. The tireless Jangra, who wasn't to be bogged down all throughout, nodded home a cross by Gogoi from the right to give India the lead after the interval. He had a chance to double the lead immediately, but his shot on goal was palmed away by rival goalkeeper Shane Banuka. However, India were not to be denied for long. In the 69th minute it was the turn of Jangra to feed Gogoi inside the opposition box. The latter kept his cool to hit the target with a rasping right footer. Four minutes later, Gurkirat scored from the spot to put India's stamp of authority in the game. Then it was Gurkirat's turn to beat the entire Sri Lankan defence with sheer speed and set the ball up for an unmarked Gogoi, who made no mistake to ensure full points for India. Two changes by head coach Shanmugam Venkatesh at half-time - Gurkirat and Taison Singh coming in for Sajad Parray, and Harsh Patre - changed the complexion of the game after a boring first half. In the first half, the easiest chance fell to Jangra, but an alert Banuka moved the right way to block his powerful shot.

INDIA IN OTHER SPORTS AT BIRMINGHAM CWG

Paddlers register emphatic victories



PACKING A PUNCH: Shiva Thapa (in red) in action against his Pakistani opponent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 29: India's men's and women's table tennis teams had easy starts to their respective campaigns with identical 3-0 victories over Barbados and South Africa in the Commonwealth Games here Friday. In a Group 3 encounter against minnows Barbados, the pair of Harmeet Desai and G Sathiyam steamrolled Kevin Farley and Tyrese Knight 11-9, 11-9, 11-4 while veteran Sharath Kamal made short work of Ramon Maxwell 11-5, 11-3, 11-3 in less than 15 minutes. Sathiyam then hardly broke

a sweat before disposing off Tyrese Knight 11-4, 11-4, 11-5 to seal the tie. In the women's event, the Indian pair of Sreeja Akula and Reeth Tennon trounced South Africa's Lalaa Edwards and Danisha Patel 11-7, 11-7, 11-5 to hand India the lead. Then reigning CWG singles champion Manika Batra thrashed Musfique Kalam 11-5, 11-3, 11-2 in the first singles. Akula then scored a dominating 11-5, 11-3, 11-6 win over Patel in the second singles. **Shiva in pre-quarters** Ace boxer Shiva Thapa began his campaign on a rousing note by defeating Pakistan's Suleman

Baloch in the first round of the 63.5kg category. The 28-year-old Thapa hardly broke a sweat as he registered a comprehensive 5-0 win over Baloch to move to the pre-quarterfinals of the light welter weight division. **Mixed fortunes for swimmers** Swimmer Srihari Nataraj clocked 54.68s to qualify for the semifinals of the men's 100m backstroke event. However, seasoned Sajjan Prakash (50m butterfly) and debutant Kushagra Rawat (400m freestyle) failed to advance to the semifinal of their events respectively.

Cyclists disappoint

Indian cycling's CWG campaign began on a disappointing note with all the three teams failing to make the finals Friday. The men's sprint team finished sixth in the qualifications at the Lee Valley VeloPark here with a time of 44.702 seconds. The women's sprint team finished seventh and also were knocked out. In the men's 400m pursuit, India again finished sixth and last in qualification with a total time of 4:12.865 seconds.

Easy for shuttlers

Indian shuttlers started their CWG campaign with a crushing 3-0 victory over arch rivals Pakistan. Both PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth won their singles matches easily.

Rohit, spinners script easy win

INDIA CONTINUE EXPERIMENTING WITH OPENING SLOT AHEAD OF T20 WORLD CUP

AGENCIES

Tarouba (West Indies), July 29: India started their T20I series against the West Indies here Friday in style defeating the hosts by an emphatic margin of 68 runs. After being put in, the visitors rode on a blistering knock by Dinesh Karthik (41 n o, 19b, 4x4, 2x6) and a fine half century by skipper Rohit Sharma (64, 44b, 7x4, 2x6) to post a challenging 190 for the loss of six wickets. The spinners then came to the party to snuff out the West Indies chase quite early on. Finally the hosts finished on 122 for eight in their 20 overs. Ravi Bishnoi (2/25 in 4 overs), Ravichandran Ashwin (2/22 off 4) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/26 off 4) conceded just 73 runs in 11 overs while picking up five wickets to seal the match in favour of the visitors. None of the West Indies batters looked comfortable against the spinners



Ravi Bishnoi celebrates with skipper Rohit Sharma after the dismissal of a West Indies batter, Friday

and lost the plot quite early on. The spinners were well supported by pacers Arshdeep Singh (2/24) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/11). Overall it was a clinical per-

formance by India which saw them win the game by a huge margin. Earlier Rohit was in his element while Karthik provided the final flourish as India scored a compet-

Brief scores

India 190 for 6 (Rohit Sharma 64, Dinesh Karthik 41 n o) beat **West Indies** 122 for 8 (Ravi Bishnoi 2/25, Ravichandran Ashwin 2/22, Arshdeep Singh 2/24) by 68 runs.

itive 190 for six. The Indian captain who endured a barren spell in the shortest format since the IPL provided glimpses of his vintage self with some breathtaking shots on way to fine half century. In the process, Rohit reclaimed his position as the highest run-getter (3,443 runs) in T20Is from Martin Guptill (3,399 runs). Karthik, the team's designated finisher, justified his billing with a blazing, unbeaten cameo. Along with Ashwin (13 n o), he put on 52 runs for the seventh wicket in just four overs to put India in a commanding position.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mamallapuram, July 29: Indian teams opened their campaigns with easy wins in the Open and Women's sections of the 44th Chess Olympiad here Friday. All the six Indian teams (three in Open and three in Women's event) won 40 over their first round opponents. Top-seeded Indian Women's A team beat Tajikistan while the 'B' side got the better of Wales. India's star player Koneru Humpy, playing on the top board, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdeva and Bhakti Kulkarni secured victories to ensure a winning start. The Indian C team too began with a win, hammering Hong Kong 4-0. The formidable US team, the top-seed in the Open event, dropped half-a-point against 93rd ranked Angola when International Master David Silva held Levon Aronian to

a draw. Wesley So, Leinier Dominguez, Perez and Sam Shankland recorded wins to register 3.5-0.5 victory for US. The three Indian teams in the men's event posted wins in the first round matches over Zimbabwe, UAE and South Sudan respectively. The star-studded 'A' team, ranked second behind the US squad, rolled over Zimbabwe, with Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi, SL Narayanan and K Sasikiran recording wins. Raunak Sadhwani of the India 'B' team was the first player to register a victory over arch rivals B Gukesh, the experienced D Adhiban, and Nihal Sarin. The team coached by RB Ramesh chose to rest R Praggnanandhaa for Friday's match.