



PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Actor Wamiqa Gabbi reveals about all the experiences that has enriched her as an actor

LEISURE P2



'EMERGENCY' OVER RAPE

Pakistan's Punjab province imposes emergency following a rapid spike in cases of rape and violence

INTERNATIONAL P10



RONALDO SCRIPTS HISTORY

Ronaldo Singh scripts history by becoming 1st Indian cyclist to win silver in Asian Championships

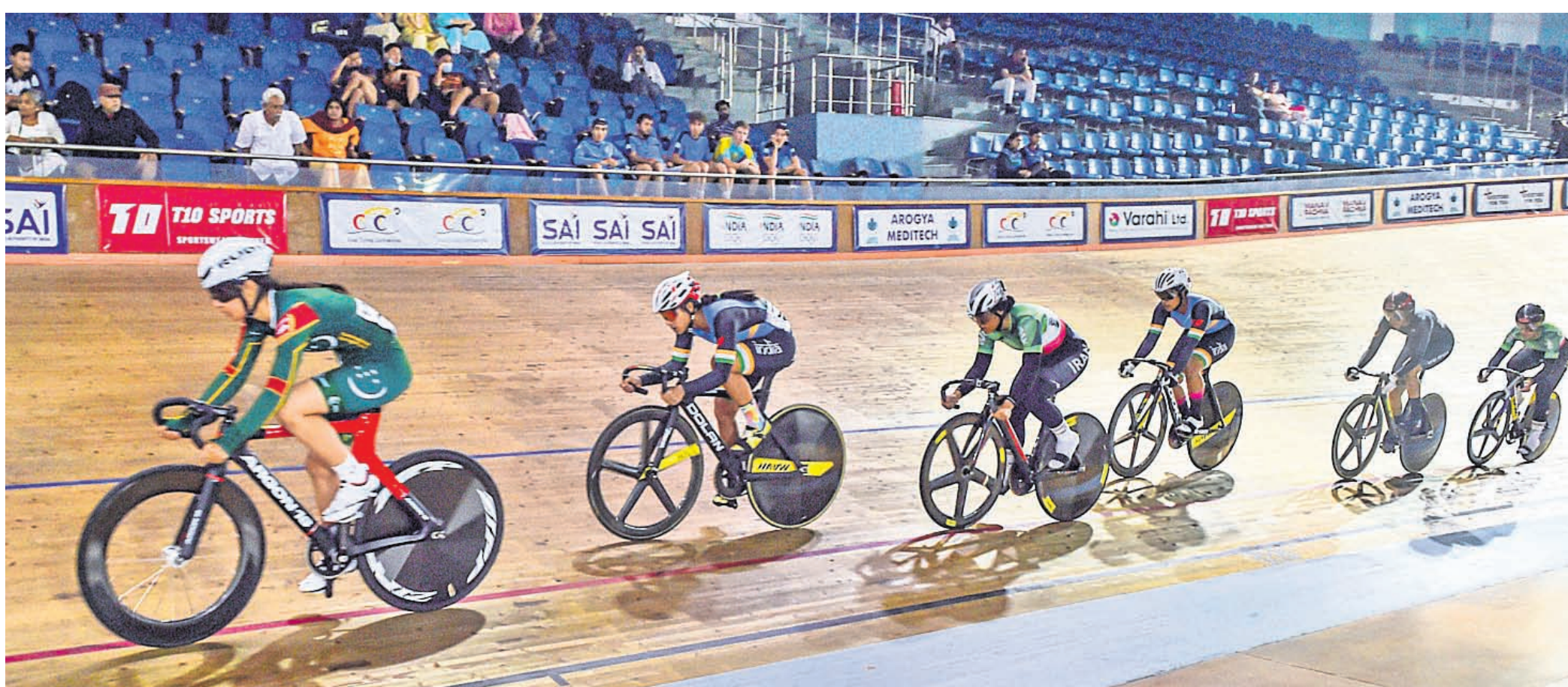
SPORTS P12

UN AWARD FOR MO BUS SERVICE

United Nations: Odisha-based public transport service Mo Bus is among the 10 global initiatives honoured with a prestigious United Nations award Wednesday for their role and efforts in helping the world recover better from Covid-19. Mo Bus, Capital Region Urban



Transport India is the recipient of the prestigious UN Public Service Awards, the global organisation announced. Ten initiatives from Brazil, Canada, India, Ireland, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Ukraine have been recognised for their innovative public service delivery with the prestigious UN Public Service Awards at a virtual celebration organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The awards recognise 10 innovations to help the world recover better from Covid-19 and the winning initiatives help keep children safe, advance gender equality, and protect life below water. The 2022 UN Public Service Award winners were announced by Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, during a virtual event here Wednesday and the Mo Bus Services were one of the recipients.



GUNNING FOR GLORY

Cyclists compete in the women's Elite Keirin Race during the Asia Track Cycling Championships at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Maha CM quits official home

With rebel Shiv Sena leader Shinde asserting he has the support of more than 40 MLAs, it looks time is up for the MVA government

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 22: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray moved Wednesday from his official residence 'Varsha' in south Mumbai to his family home 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra, hours after offering to quit the top post amid rebellion by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde.

This development came after Shinde's revolt two days ago, showed no signs of ebbing. Shiv Sena leaders Neelam Gorhe and Chandrakant Khaire were present at 'Varsha' when Thackeray was leaving.

Earlier in the day, Thackeray said that he is ready to resign as chief minister of Maharashtra and also said he would be happy if a Shiv Sainik succeeds him. Thackeray who has also been hit by the-19 Covid bug, said the rebel leader and MLAs supporting him should openly say they don't want him to continue as chief minister. In an 18-minute live webcast, he made an emotional appeal to the rebels as well as common Shiv Sainiks and admitted to being inexperienced.

Thackeray said he was ready to give up the post of party president as well if Shiv Sainiks feel he isn't capable of leading the outfit which



The dissident Shiv Sena and Independent MLAs pose together at a hotel in Guwahati, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

2 'TURNCOATS' BACK IN UDDHAV CAMP

Mumbai: Two suspected turncoat Shiv Sena MLAs made a dramatic escape from the rebels' camp - led by Eknath Shinde. They reached Maharashtra safely in the past 24 hours. The two who managed to escape are Kailas Patil from Osmanabad and Nitin Deshmukh from Akola. They claimed they were 'misled and taken against their wishes' by the rebel group late Monday. Deshmukh also said that he was 'tortured' and forcibly taken to a hospital when he tried escape from Surat.

is heading the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, which also includes the NCP and the Congress.

"Why make statements from Surat (where rebels headed first Monday night) and other places. Come and tell me on my face that I am incompetent to be Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president.

I will resign immediately and keep it ready and you can come and take it to the Raj Bhavan," he said.

Meanwhile Shinde asserted that 40 MLAs (35 from Shiv Sena and five independents) from Surat had accompanied him to Guwahati, where they are currently staying in a heavily guarded

Naveen asks all MLAs to support Droupadi

With support guaranteed from the BJD, it will now be a cakewalk for Murmu to attain the highest office in India

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Even as BJP-led NDA presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu expressed her gratitude to the almighty by sweeping the floors of the temple at Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealed Wednesday to all members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly to extend unanimous support to her so that she can attain the highest office in the country.

"Appeal all the members of Odisha Legislative Assembly, cutting across party lines, to extend unanimous support to elect the daughter of Odisha Droupadi Murmu to the country's highest office," Patnaik said on Twitter.

The NDA has 48.9 per cent votes in the Electoral College and it needs only 1.2 per cent more to get its candidate elected as the President of India. The BJD, with 21 MPs in both Houses and 114 MLAs in the Assembly has 2.9 per cent votes in its kitty.

So it is clear that that with



BJD backing Murmu, the vote share of the ruling dispensation has now crossed 50 per cent, virtually, paving the way for her election as the first tribal president and the youngest too.

After the support of Patnaik's BJD, the NDA nominee has around 52 per cent votes (around 5,67,000 votes) out of a total of 10,86,431 votes of all electors. She will file her nomination June 24.

Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said BJP has fielded Murmu in the presidential poll keeping an eye on BJD's 2.9 per cent of votes in the Electoral College. "We may not support her in the elections even though she is the befitting candidate," Mishra said.

Late in the evening Murmu arrived here where she was accorded a grand welcome. P3

HC NIXES PLEAS ON CORRIDOR PROJECT

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court quashed Wednesday all petitions filed in connection with construction works undertaken by the Odisha government around Srimandir in Puri under the Heritage Corridor Project. The court observed that there is no relevance of hearing the petitions after the directive of the Supreme Court. Earlier, the Supreme Court had dismissed a batch of petitions against excavation and construction work by the state government along the Srimandir as part of the Puri Heritage Corridor Project, calling those as 'frivolous'. The petitioners had alleged that the construction work would damage the heritage site and also destroy historical structures.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The MLAs say they are not interested in rupees... they want dollars

Parents allege abduction as schoolkids go missing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kujang, June 22: Two Class X girl students of Pankapal High School under Kujang police limits in Jagatsinghpur district have reportedly gone missing since Tuesday. Their family members alleged Wednesday that the girls have been kidnapped. One of the girls is from Badapal village of the district, while the other is from Janhapal village. Family members of both the girls said that the two studying in the same institution had gone to school, but did not return home.

Sources said that a common friend of both the girls had received a call from an unknown number. The unidentified caller said that the two students are in Bhubaneswar. Families of both the girls have lodged separate complaints on the basis of which police have initiated a probe. Subir Prasad Biswal, the father

LIGHTNING STRIKES KILL 9 IN STATE

Bhubaneswar: Nine persons were killed Wednesday in lightning strikes in different districts of the state. Casualties were reported from Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Angul and Jajpur districts. Those identified among the deceased are Minati Munda, Gandharba Behera, Sanjay Behera (38), Akash Munda (14), Hira Munda (65), Sushant Giri (47), Jale Pingua (64) and Danbir Majhi.

of one of the missing girls said that so far they have not got any information about the girls. "We learnt about her disappearance at 4.00 pm. Then we lodged a police complaint," Biswal informed.

"The police by tracking her mobile have informed us that the two were last located at the Baramunda bus stand in Bhubaneswar. We are still clueless," Biswal said.

1,000 dead in Afghanistan quake

THIS IS THE 2ND DEADLIEST EARTHQUAKE IN THE COUNTRY AFTER 1998 WHICH KILLED OVER 4,500 PERSONS

AGENCIES

Kabul, June 22: A powerful earthquake struck a rural, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan early Wednesday, killing 1,000 people and injuring more than 1,500 people in one of the country's deadliest quakes in decades, the state-run news agency reported. Officials warned that the already grim toll may still rise as a large number of bodies still remain buried under the debris.

Information from the remote area near the Pakistani border remained scarce, but early footage from villages tucked among the rough mountains showed residents picking through rubble of collapsed stone and mudbrick houses.

The disaster posed a major test for Afghanistan's Taliban government, which seized power nearly 10 months ago as the US and its NATO allies pulled out of the coun-



Taliban soldiers loading victims into a helicopter after the earthquake

almost never appears in public, called for 'the international community and all humanitarian organisations to help the Afghan people affected by this great tragedy and to spare no effort to help the affected people'.

The 6.1 magnitude quake had its epicentre in Paktika province, some 50 kilometres southwest of the city of Khost, according to neighbouring Pakistan's Meteorological Department.

Footage from Paktika showed men carrying people in blankets to waiting helicopters. Others were treated on the ground. One resident could be seen receiving IV fluids while sitting in a plastic chair outside the rubble of his home and still more were sprawled on gurneys. Some images showed residents picking through clay bricks and other rubble from destroyed stone houses.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	51822.53 ↓ 709.54
NIFTY	15413.30 ↓ 225.50
DOLLAR	78.70 ↑ ₹0.16
EURO	82.58 ↑ ₹0.36
GOLD	₹51,045 ↑ ₹285
SILVER	₹60,814 ↓ ₹457

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 34.7°C	35.2°C
	MIN 26.2°C	26.5°C
HUMIDITY	74%	84%
RAINFALL	8.0mm	196mm
	Forecast Light to Moderate Rain	

leisure

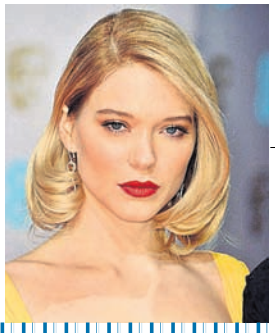


BEYONCE'S NEW SONG A HUGE HIT WITH MICHELLE OBAMA

Former US president Barack Obama's wife Michelle Obama has hailed singer Beyonce's comeback single *Break My Soul* as the song we all need right now. The former First Lady of the United States is a good friend and long-time fan of the 'Single Ladies' hitmaker, and she's thrilled to have her back.

LEA SEYDOUX JOINS DUNE: PART TWO

French star Lea Seydoux is the latest addition to the cast of filmmaker Denis Villeneuve's much-awaited *Dune: Part Two*. Seydoux, who has films like *Mighty In Paris* and *No Time To Die* to her credit, will play the role of Lady Margot in the sequel, according to reports.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today is a bright day with favourable circumstances; all you need to do is focus in the correct place. Ganesha says if you have been waiting for a chance to cement a relationship, today is the proper time to propose. Be cautious when driving and profound while making suggestions.

TAURUS
In all probability, you will challenge all conventions and traditions with innovation in a successful manner, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may manage to step on the toes of your boss, so beware. The evening promises an ambience that will change your weaknesses into your strengths.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to get some attractive options for buying a new house, says Ganesha. The afternoon will be all about striking deals, which will go on smoothly. You can be sure of success in joint ventures, but not if they include robbing a bank! You may attend classes in classical music or another such art form in the evening.

CANCER
Today, you will efficiently divide your time between business and pleasure, predicts Ganesha. You are looking forward to sealing big business deals and start new projects. If a student, you will raise your voice against discrimination and injustice.

LEO
Call it a day with a positive difference, but today, you are more keen and inclined towards entertainment and relaxation. Everybody needs a break from the routine, says Ganesha, so make the most of today. On a more personal note, you are required to make subtle moves as there are hints that you may want to give your love life a more definite turn, like a marriage. You and your beloved will spend the evening in passionate embraces. On a more cautionary note, take extra care while travelling, especially if you are alone.

VIRGO
A roof, a cloth and two square meals a day is what you obviously provide for your family; but today, your thought will be burdened by how you can deliver the luxury too. Think on a new line at work today. You may host your loved ones to a fabulous dinner in the evening, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha sure hopes that you packed your kit right and are ready to take on anything, as today promises to be an action-packed day. Most of this action might concentrate around your family members. Towards the afternoon, you may begin to feel weighed down by household responsibilities. But on the upshot, look forward to a new relationship that might develop in the evening, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
You shall be magical with relationships today. Wave your wand and rebuild bridges, says Ganesha. You might even be involved in some cloak-and-dagger stuff. You are likely to be cavalier and bold in all the moves you make. Ganesha sees you blazing a trail and winning in your path to glory.

SAGITTARIUS
You shall push yourself to the limit to make sure your authority goes unquestioned. Colleagues and seniors will laud you for your commitment. Expect that wallet to get heavier as you receive some cash gains, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Socialising is on the cards, and with increase in the number of acquaintances will be the increase of your social clout, says Ganesha. Later in the day, you will take to reading, and will pick just about any book. You will set out in search for peace as dusk sets in, and will find solace in holy places, where you would strive to improve your concentration power.

AQUARIUS
A romantic encounter may leave you breathless! Naturally, your whole day is tinged with hues of love. You will be in no mood to work or study, but you just have to go along with the world. It's a bitter-sweet experience, and you may as well enjoy it, says Ganesha. You may want to be alone in the evening, and that is perfectly okay.

PISCES
You will need to be as scheming as the proverbial fox if you hope to wriggle out of the tricky situations that you are likely to find yourself embroiled in today. Keep your temper in check if things don't go your way initially, for the answers to your troubles will come sooner rather than later, says Ganesha.

Wamiqa reveals about things that enrich her



MUMBAI: Actress Wamiqa Gabbi, who is seen in series such as *Modern Love: Mumbai* and *Mai*, has talked about working in movies in multiple languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati and Punjabi. She says the experience has enriched her as an actor. Wamiqa says: "It has definitely made me understand different cultures and that really adds up to my experience as an actor." She added that whenever she is doing a movie in a particular language, the actress make it a point to closely observe how the people of that culture carry themselves. "The added advantage and my personal favourite take-away from doing a regional project is the opportunity to learn a new language. Being a person who is always up for learning a new language, doing a multi-lingual project gives me the perfect opportunity to do so." She added: "I enjoy each and every bit of the schedule and make sure that I make the most of the experience every time I sign on a new regional film." IANS

Arushi on cloud nine over her OTT debut

MUMBAI: Actress Arushi Sharma, who is playing the female protagonist in the upcoming Netflix film *Jaadugar* which also features Jitendra Kumar, says she couldn't have asked for a better OTT debut. The story of the film revolves around a young man Jeetu who is a magician, a football player and in love with a girl who does not reciprocate his emotion. Sharing more insight into her character, Arushi said, "It was a heart-warming experience for me to play Disha. Playing a doctor is itself an honour firstly. She is a homely girl who loves her dad, and who is ambitious about her career. As life has it, her paths crossed with Jeetu, a magician's path and life take a huge leap. In fact, I can actually relate with Disha because, just like her, in a flicker of a moment, with one just destined incident, my life took a major leap." The actress claims that her entry to Hindi film industry happened quite accidentally when she was studying engineering and happened to audition for Imtiaz Ali's directorial *Tamasha* and bagged the role alongside Ranbir Kapoor. Directed by Sameer Saxena and produced by Posham Pa Pictures and Chalkboard Entertainment, *Jaadugar* releases July 15. IANS

TWO-DAY CLASSICAL DANCE CARNIVAL

12th Margi festival begins in City

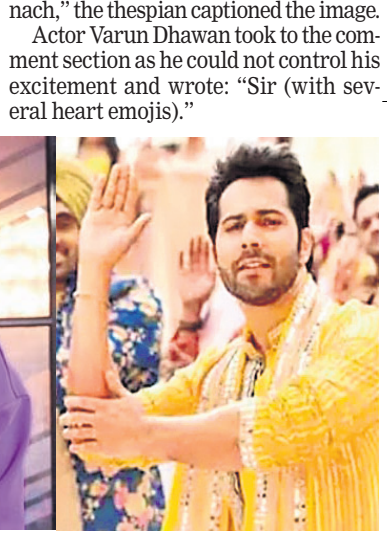
BHUBANESWAR: The 12th edition of Margi, a two-day classical dance festival organised by city based dance institution Nrutyashala began here at Rabindra Mandap, Wednesday. The first evening saw a recital by Delhi-based international Odissi danseuse Geeta Mohalik, an Padma Shri awardee. She first presented *Mangala Charan* "Krushna Stutti" followed by a performance by on the song 'Manjutara kunjara tara from Geeta Gobinda. Next came a performance from Gouri Shankar Dash of Dhenkanal who captivated the audience with Jayadev's composition 'Dhira Samire Yamuna T're. Then Bandita Ghosal showed her graceful gestures on *Lajare Sarigali Aja*. The members of Aradhana Dance academy performed dance drama *Parba Ranga* which was the last event of the evening. Nrutyashala director and festival head Guru Ashok Kumar Ghosal said, "The main objective of the Margi festival is to promote Odissi dance by providing a platform to the seniors as well as the young exponents." The dignitaries who attended the event included Mahanga MLA Pratap jena, Odissi dance Guru Dr Sneharava Samantaray, Guru Ramahari Das, Guru Ratikanta Mohapatra and theatre and film actor Asrumochan Mohanty. Aloka Kanungo, Ashok Kumar Ghosal, Madusmita Mohanty and Susanta Kumar Das are scheduled to perform on the second evening of the festival.



A performance by Gouri Shankar Dash

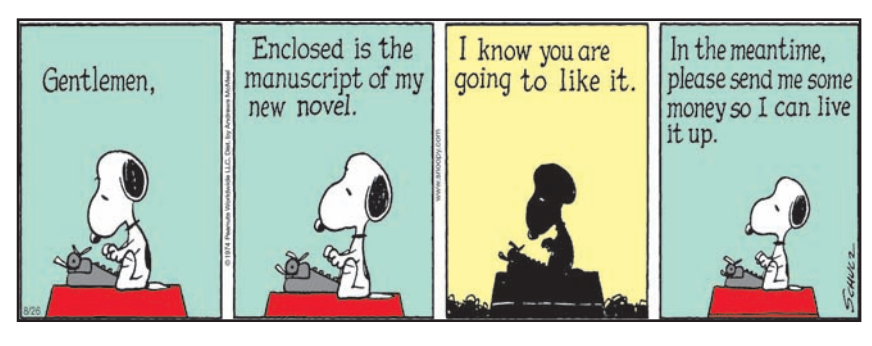
Big B joins the Nach Punjaab bandwagon

MUMBAI: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan stunned actors Varun Dhawan and Manish Paul as he joined the viral *Nach Punjaab* trend on social media. Amitabh shared a picture on Instagram, where he is seen dressed in a Purple track suit and a black sweatband. He is seen doing the hook step from the song which is featured in the forthcoming film *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*. "Nach panjaban nach panjaban nach panjaban" Manish Paul wrote: "Yesssss we love you sir!" Monday, Big B shared a throwback video performing on stage in 1983. He wrote: "Initiated and pioneered the idea of stage shows from 1983.. Been a while .. of personal performing stage shows from 1983 and on." On the work front, Amitabh will be seen in *Brahmastra* and *Uunchai*. IANS

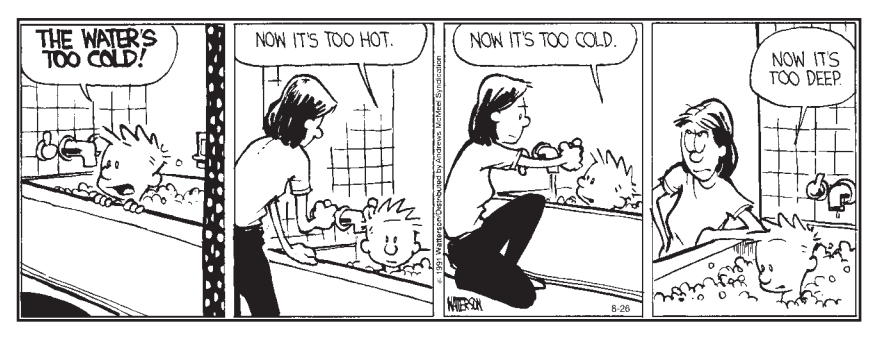


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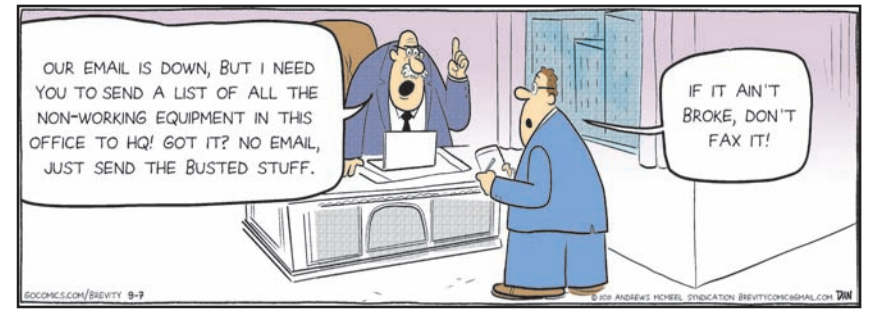
PEANUTS



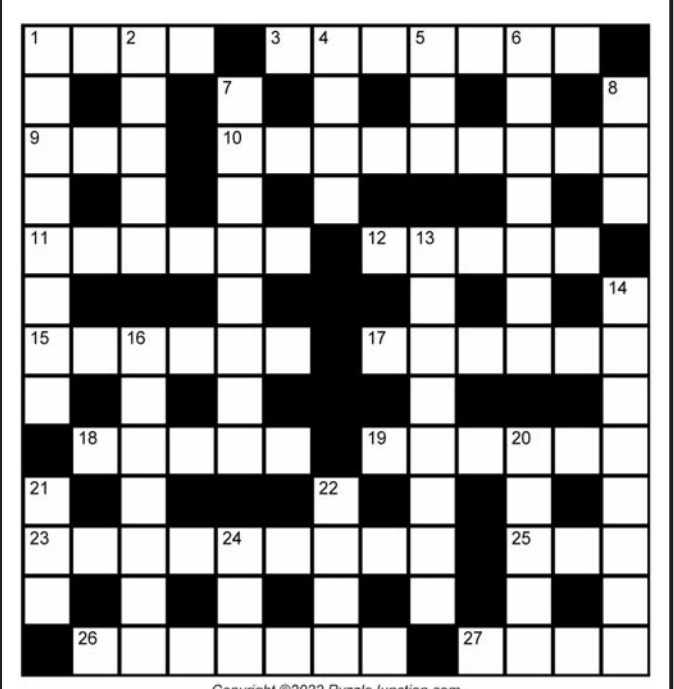
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



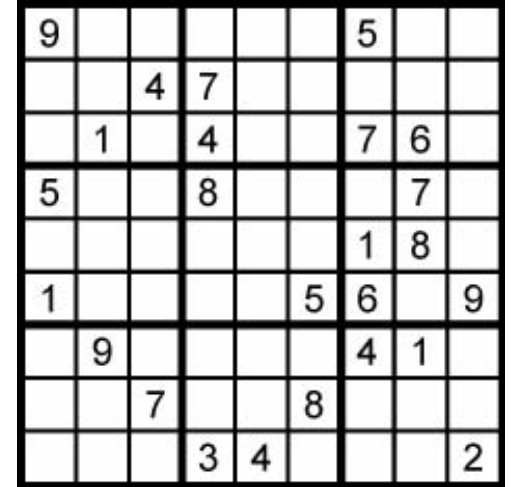
FUN post CROSSWORD



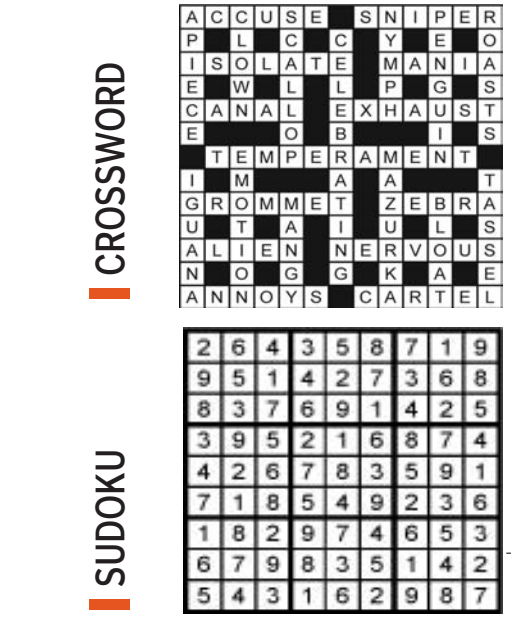
- Across**
- 1 Elevator
 - 3 Brightly coloured butterfly
 - 9 Chess pieces
 - 10 Kind of architect
 - 11 Capital of the Bahamas
 - 12 Carbolic and oxalic, e.g.
 - 15 Fears
 - 17 French Riviera resort
 - 18 Oyster's prize
 - 23 Harmless
 - 25 Sign before
 - 26 Aged
 - 27 Duck's hangout
 - 5 Psyches
 - 6 Leave behind
 - 7 Poisonous ornamental
 - 8 Tasseled topper
 - 13 Bawl out
 - 14 Danger to Earth
 - 16 Enduring
 - 20 Eskimo domicile
 - 21 Combine
 - 22 Recipe direction
 - 24 Stage signal
- Down**
- 1 Summer quencher
 - 2 Penalties
 - 4 Animal shelters

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

NAVEEN NOD TO 663 IRB POSTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday sanctioned 663 posts for three India Reserve Battalions (IRBs) in Odisha.



According to official sources, 221 posts have been created for each of the reserve battalions. Patnaik has sanctioned one Deputy Commandant post, 18 Havildar Major posts and 23 Havildar posts. The other posts that were created are Constable (154), Inspector-WT (one), Sub-Inspector-WT (two), Havildar-WT (four), Constable-WT (13), Head Clerk (one), Medical Officer (one), Pharmacist (two) and Staff Nurse (one). Apart from this, 132 outsourcing posts have also been created for the three battalions.

Man found dead; kin cries murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, June 22: A 45-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances at a cashew orchard near Netai village under Barang police limits here, Wednesday.

The deceased identified as Gopal Nayak was resident of Gayalabanka village under Banki police limits in Cuttack. He was working as a sweeper at a private healthcare facility near Banra village.

family members and found the body of Nayak, with injury mark on his leg, lying at the orchard. They also recovered a trouser and a slipper near the body. A forensic team later examined the spot.

Meanwhile, Nayak's brother Gobind and sister Nalini blamed his wife Jhumri for the murder. Jhumri, a mother of four children, had eloped with a guy a fortnight ago. A few days before that, she quarrelled with Nayak and even threatened to kill him.

The slipper found from near the body is that of Jhumri, said Barang inspector in-charge Akash Chandra Rana, quoting the complaint of Nayak's siblings.

On the basis of the complaint lodged by the victim's siblings, a case (4/22) of murder has been registered. The body has been sent for autopsy, Rana said.

BRAINSTORMING ON MENTAL HEALTH



Students and faculty at a seminar on mental health organised by Mo College-Ravenshaw University on the varsity premises in Cuttack, Wednesday

At Rakhigarhi, POWERGRID celebrates Int'l Day of Yoga



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 22: The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharashtra CPSU under Ministry of Power, has celebrated the 8th International Day of Yoga with fervour and enthusiasm at Rakhigarhi in Haryana, an official said. Hundreds of students and locals participated in the event and practice yoga, Tuesday. Minister of State for Power & Heavy Industries, Krishan Pal Gurjar, graced the event as chief guest. Rakhigarhi was one of the 75 iconic sites selected by the Centre for holding mass yoga sessions as a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. During the event, the address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Minister of State for Power & Heavy Industries, Krishan Pal Gurjar, graced the event as chief guest

was telecasted live through LED screens among the populace. Speaking on the occasion, Gurjar said yoga is an important part of our life and commended the Centre's initiative of spreading the message of yoga among the masses. Among others, Haryana Yoga Commission Chairman Jaideep Arya, Haryana Hisar's Deputy Commissioner Priyanka Soni, Narnaundand SDM Vikas Yadav and POWERGRID Director (Personnel) VK Singh were present.

'Train the Trainers' session of Olympic Values Education Programme begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: The Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust (ABFT) in collaboration with International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Olympic Foundation for Culture & Heritage (OFCH) conducted its inaugural 'Train the Trainers' session, Wednesday, to kick-start integration of the IOC's Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) into the school education system of Odisha.

The training of the Headmasters and Physical Education Teachers, selected from 90 schools in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela districts, included an orientation session and a series of interactive activities. The inaugural session was held in the city in the presence of Anupam Saha, Project Director, Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA), Abhinav Bindra, Founder of ABFT and Olympic Champion, Frederique Jamolli, Head of International Cultural Affairs, Xenia Kourgouzova, Senior Education Manager, Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage and Prashanta Kumar Swain, Additional Director, Quality, OSEPA.

The training session will be held till June 28 in Bhubaneswar and shall include a mix of intensive activities and theoretical and interactive sessions by trainers from the International Olympic Committee.



The training session will be held till June 28 and shall include a mix of intensive activities and theoretical and interactive sessions by trainers from the International Olympic Committee. The training will leverage the rich cultural heritage and art history of Odisha in contextualisation of OVEP curriculum which will be delivered to the school children. The teachers and master trainers will be encouraged to deliver the programme in their own unique ways to suit the respective needs of their local environments.

The OVEP was officially launched in Odisha last month and is one of the first major IOC projects to be implemented in India. The programme is being developed in partnership with the Government of Odisha's Department of School and Mass Education and the ABFT. In its first year, the OVEP aims to impact 32,000 children enrolled in 90 schools in the cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Once in full swing, it will reach around 7 million children. The state intends to take OVEP to all its schools and higher education institutions in a phased manner, thereby enabling its young population to truly inculcate the Olympic values.

BIPF launches 'Kanya Express'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: In a bid to address anaemia among adolescent girls, mobile health vans—Kanya Express—were launched by Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) at Sukinda in Jajpur district Wednesday.

Sandeep Bapurooji Narade, VP-Head Mining Business Unit and Executive in-charge Mines, flagged off the vans at the Sukinda Mines (Chromite) administration building in Jajpur.

According to sources, Kanya Express is a customised mobile health vehicle which will travel far-flung areas and villages in Jajpur district. This program will cover 104 villages of 25 gram panchayats in Sukinda block of Jajpur district in the current year.

In addition to haemoglobin checks and iron and folic acid supplements, the Kanya Express

Initiative (KEI) will work in close collaboration with Office of Chief District Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and District Education Officer to address development issues of adolescent girls of the block. The customised vehicle will reach to every village at least for 11 times with various awareness generation messages for the inclusive development of adolescent health.

BIPF CEO Shaifalika Panda said Kanya Express will be a game changer for adolescent girls as it would help them understand nutritional needs and address anaemia-related challenges. The project has been introduced with an objective to reduce the intergenerational challenges caused due to anaemia and poor nutrition and in turn reduce MMR and IMR in the program areas, Panda said.



FOR A GREENER TOMORROW



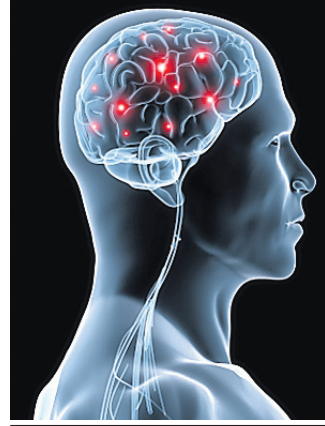
Dignitaries including Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and BMC Mayor Sulochana Das during a plantation drive at Deba Ray College in Nayapalli area of the City, Wednesday

Breathing toxic particles can affect brain, lead to neurological damage

Breathing in polluted air could lead to toxic particles being transported from lungs to brain, via the bloodstream, potentially contributing to brain disorders and neurological damage, a new study reveals.

An international team of experts from the University of Birmingham in the UK and research institutions in China discovered that inhaled particles can enter the bloodstream after crossing the air-blood barrier, eventually reaching the brain, and leading to damage of the brain-blood barrier and surrounding tissues as they do so. Once in the brain, the particles were hard to clear and were retained for longer than in other organs.

For the study, published in the journal PNAS, the team analysed various fine particles in human cerebrospinal fluids taken from patients who had experienced brain disorders, uncovering a process which may result in toxic particulate substances ending up in the brain. "There are gaps in our knowledge around the harmful effects of airborne fine particles on the central nervous system. This work sheds new light on the link between inhaled particles and how they subsequently move around the body," said professor Iseult Lynch, from



AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF EXPERTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM IN THE UK AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN CHINA DISCOVERED THAT INHALED PARTICLES CAN ENTER THE BLOODSTREAM AFTER CROSSING THE AIR-BLOOD BARRIER, EVENTUALLY REACHING THE BRAIN, AND LEADING TO DAMAGE OF THE BRAIN-BLOOD BARRIER AND SURROUNDING TISSUES AS THEY DO SO

ONCE IN THE BRAIN, THE PARTICLES WERE HARD TO CLEAR AND WERE RETAINED FOR LONGER THAN IN OTHER ORGANS

the University of Birmingham. "The data suggests that up to eight times the number of fine particles may reach the brain by travelling, via the bloodstream, from the lungs than pass directly via the nose, adding new evidence on the relationship between air pollution and detrimental effects of such particles on the brain," Lynch added. Air pollution is a cocktail of many toxic components, but particulate matter (PM, especially ambient fine particles such as PM2.5 and PM0.1), are the most concerning in terms of causing detrimental health effects. Ultrafine particles, in particular, are able to escape

the body's protective systems, including sentinel immune cells and biological barriers. Recent evidence has revealed a strong link between high levels of air pollution and marked neuroinflammation, Alzheimer's-like changes and cognitive problems in older people and even in children. While the findings offer new evidence in proving the risks from particulate pollution to the central nervous system, the researchers recommend that more investigation is needed into the mechanics of how inhaled ambient fine particles reach the brain.

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Maternal, infant deaths alarming in Nabarangpur



As many as 1,281 children died in the district in 2021-22 fiscal. The toll could be more if the death of children in the 5-6 age group is taken into account. Among the 10 blocks in the district, Papadahandi registered the highest number of infant deaths. As many as 201 infants (up to 5 years) have died in Papadahandi block.

Nabarangpur, June 22: A sharp spike in maternal and infant mortalities in Nabarangpur district, despite the state government and the Centre pumping in funds and floating a host of schemes, has emerged as a cause of concern, a report said. Many children have died due to lack of nutritious food and anaemia at a time when massive irregularities plague food distribution among children and pregnant women in Anganwadi centres of the district. The children are the worst hit as there is zero monitoring of the implementation of the schemes. According to a report by the state Health department, as many as 1,281 children died in the district in 2021-22 fiscal. The toll could be more if the death of children in the 5-6 age group is taken into account.

Among the 10 blocks in the district, Papadahandi registered the highest number of infant deaths. As many as 201 infants (up to 5 years) have died in Papadahandi block. Similarly, 108 infants in Nabarangpur block, 77 in Chandahandi, 85 in Dabugaon, 144 in Jharigaon, 168 in Koshagumuda, 153 in Raigarh, 82 in Nandahandi, 177 in Umerkote and 118 in Tentulikhunti have died in the same year. The district health department in a report said 519 children have perished within 28 days of their birth while 636 children from 28 days till 1 year and 127 from 1 to 5 years have died. This takes the total to 1,282 infant deaths, the department's report said. The highest number of deaths from birth to 28 days and from 1 to 5 year age group has been recorded in Umerkote block. The number of

children dying within 28 days of their birth and up to one year is highest in Koshagumuda block. Similarly, 38 pregnant women have died in the district in 2021-22 financial year. Five of them died due to anaemia, eight for excessive post-delivery bleeding, 13 for hypertension, two in painful delivery, one for dryness in womb and nine for various infections. Among them, 10 have died in Umerkote, one in Chandahandi, six in Dabugaon, three in Jharigaon, four in Koshagumuda, two in Nandahandi, two in Nabarangpur, three in Papadahandi, five in Raigarh and two in Tentulikhunti blocks. Moreover, one has died at home, 29 in hospitals and nine on way to hospitals. Contacted, CDMO Kali Prasad Behera said a report will be submitted to the family welfare secretary while a meeting has been convened with the doctors to seek their advice on the reasons and remedy of this problem.

MLA visits remote Daringbadi village

Daringbadi, June 22: G Udayagiri MLA Saluga Pradhan negotiated with hilly tracks to reach Sirsiptanga village under Gumukia panchayat in Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district recently and assured the residents of development of the village inhabited by SC/ST people.

Drug peddler escapes; three cops suspended

Jaleswar: Three police officials of Jaleswar police station in Balasore were placed under suspension in connection with escape of a drug peddler from police custody. Reports said police had arrested a drug peddler identified as Muktar Khan near Sahu Chhak under Jaleswar police limits in the evening of June 18 and seized 10gm brown sugar from his possession. The accused was not produced in court June 19 and was in police custody. At midnight, the accused managed to escape from the police station. Some media had reported the news. Thereafter, following a directive from the eastern range IG, SP Animesh Panigrahi got the matter investigated and placed sub-inspector Priyadarshini Khatua, constables Sheikh Mouuddin and Rabindra Hansdah under suspension.



Girls performed Sambalpuri dance during district-level Raja Mahotsav celebrations at Sanskruti Bhawan in Sonepur, Wednesday

Fear grips Patadhara after Red attack

Boden, June 22: A day after three CRPF personnel were killed by Maoists in Patadhara reserve forest under Boden block of Nuapada district, people in the area have been living in an atmosphere of terror. Ultras were holed up inside the forest and had first made an attack on jawans with rocket launchers, reports said. The market place recently inaugurated by the Collector was closed Wednesday as people feared to venture out. Locals said the ultras have been opposing restoration work of Bhaيسان-Patadhara road. CRPF personnel were engaged here to provide security to the ongoing road work. Now, reports revealed that Maoists were holed up inside the forest and had made an attack on jawans with rocket launchers and then started raining bullets. As the jawans retaliated, the rebels cringed but in the process three jawans fell to the bullets of the



₹10L burgled from Gorekhanath Temple

RAGHUNATHPUR: Miscreants broke open the donation box of Lord Gorekhanath Temple at Kerekera under this block of Jagatsinghpur district and decamped with Rs 10 lakh in cash, late Tuesday night. The donation box was not opened for the last 10 months. Executive officer of the temple trust Souryaranjan Parija has filed an FIR at the police station in this regard. Following the complaint, a team of police officials along with a scientific team and sniffer dogs started an investigation into the incident. Police examined the footage of the CCTV installed on the temple premises and came to know that three miscreants had looted the donation box before 12am. Special police personnel were engaged for the temple security while the temple trust has also appointed a night watchman. It is suspected that some local people are involved in the loot.

The MLA urged the new party workers to extend cooperation so that all development works will be executed and all issues sorted out

He was accompanied by Budaguda sarpanch Tatura Pradhan, samiti member Srikant Pradhan and zilla parishad member Ranjan Pradhan. After taking round of the underdeveloped village, the legislator held a meeting of the people and discussed issues of development. Villagers urged Pradhan to take step for ensuring safe drinking water, improving road connectivity and filling up vacancies in the school. They also said that many poor people have been deprived of housing schemes. Most villagers are supporters of Congress party, said sources. However, some villagers and residents of a neighbouring village, inspired by the development agenda of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), said sources. The villagers exuded hope that after the visit of the legislator, various developmental works would be taken up in the village.

STIR OVER PONZI FRAUD



Residents staged a dharna outside the office of the sub-collector in Titilagarh of Bolangir district, Wednesday, over alleged defrauding of Rs 6 crore from hundreds of women by the staffers of a private microfinance company

6 severely hurt in road mishap

Rupsa, June 22: Six people sustained critical injuries after two motorcycles collided head-on at Nabara Square under Singla police limits in Balasore district, Wednesday. Locals rescued the injured persons and rushed them to Basta community health centre. Later, three of them were shifted in a 108 ambulance to the district headquarters hospital in Balasore after their conditions deteriorated. Sources said three youths were on their way to Basta from Baliapal on a motorcycle when another bike with three youths coming from opposite direction hit them. Locals alleged that the mishap occurred due to over-speeding. Police registered a case and seized the bikes that met with the accident. Road mishaps have seen a spike in the area in recent times due to overspeeding and rash driving.

Gobinda, Radhe produced in court

BOLANGIR: The prime accused in the Mahaling teacher Mamita Meher murder case, Gobinda Sahu and his associate Radheshyam Chandi were produced before Kantabanji Additional District Judge (ADJ) court in Bolangir, Wednesday. Special police force from Bolangir brought the duo from Kantabanji sub-jail to the ADJ court amid tight security. The next hearing of the case is scheduled for June 24. Notably, Gobinda's advocate had earlier requested the court that they would submit the call record details and other important documents before the court. The hearing on the bail petition of Rdhaeshyam will be held June 24.

Man gets 5-yr jail for murder bid on woman

KEONJHAR: A local court Wednesday sentenced a man to five years of imprisonment after convicting him for murder bid on a woman at Badajumpasi village under Ghatagaon police limits in Keonjhar district in 2019. Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Ranjulata Lenka also slapped a penalty of Rs 3,000 on the convict Lambodar Mohanta for the offence. Lambodar tried to bludgeon Kasturi Mohanta to death with large stones in the village over alleged past enmity. Ghatagaon police registered a case and produced Lambodar in court after arresting him over a complaint.

Annexure - I REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) No. i-51: Sukinda Block invites RFP in the prescribed format for agencies for "Setting up of complete supply, installation, training, operation and maintenance of Sanitary Napkin manufacturing unit". The detail of the RFP is available in the district web portal i.e. www.jajpur.nic.in. Sd/- Block Development Officer, Sukinda Block OIPR-19028/11/0004/2223

MAHANADI BASIN AREA Groundwater salination worry for 49 blocks

Jajpur, June 22: Rapid salination of the groundwater in the river basin areas of Mahanadi has become a cause of concern for the people in 49 riparian pockets of Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagarh and Puri districts. The groundwater in the areas near Brahmani, Birupa and Genguti rivers under Bari block of Jajpur is getting salinated. The groundwater is unfit for consumption and irrigation. "Wherever you dig, the water is saline and not fit for drinking," locals said. Over 40,000 people in Ratnagiri, Mandar, Amathpur and Serapur under Bari block have been suffering a lot because of the salty groundwater. Taking a serious note of the issue, the Water Resources department and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department have taken steps for solution to salination of the groundwater. A proposal has been made to provide drinking water to these villages through underground pipelines (UGPL). Meanwhile, the Mahanadi Water



Water Resources department director Alok Kumar Kar has sought a feasibility report on underground pipeline in the areas facing groundwater salination. Former minister Sitakanta Mohapatra May 20, 2022 had drawn attention of the Chief Secretary towards the groundwater pipeline project in the river basin areas and Rajnagar in Kendrapara district; Balianta, Balipatna, Begunia, Bhubaneswar, Bolagarh, Jatni, Khurda and Tangi in Khurda district; Nayagarh and Ranpur in Nayagarh district; Astarang, Brahmagiri, Delang, Gop, Kakatpur, Kanas, Krushnaprasad, Nimapara, Pipli, Puri and Satyabadi in Puri district. Former minister Sitakanta Mohapatra May 20, 2022 had drawn attention of the Chief Secretary towards the groundwater pipeline project in the river basin areas. Water Resources department director Alok Kumar Kar June 17 ordered for a feasibility report on underground pipeline in the areas facing groundwater salination.

Dispute Tribunal had ordered for a scientific study and a report on the underground water salination in Mahanadi river basin areas. The RWSS has sought a report on the groundwater salination in river basin areas from the superintending engineer of the mechanical division by June 30. The areas facing underground water salination include Athagarh, Baranga, Cuttack Sadar, Dampara, Kantapada, Mahanga, Niali, Nischintakoili, Salipur, Tangi and Choudwar in Cuttack; Gondia in Dhenkanal; Balikuda, Biridi, Erasama, Jagatsinghpur, Kujanga, Nuagaon, Raghunathpur and Tirtol in Jagatsinghpur district; Barchana and Bari in Jajpur district; Derabish, Garadpur, Kendrapara, Mahakalpara, Marshaghai, Pattamundi

Indian Overseas Bank Asika Branch, Plot No.276, Kalinga Road, Asika, Dist: Ganjam Phone: 06822-272474, E-mail: iob2218@iob.in DEMAND NOTICE Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002(Rules) 1. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/guarantor listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrower"), to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice, as per details given below. 2. The said Notice have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities / have not been duly acknowledged by the borrower/mortgagor/guarantor. Hence the Bank by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known address of the said borrower/ mortgagor/guarantor as per the said Act. Copy of the said Notice is available with the undersigned and the said borrower/mortgagor/guarantor, may, if they so desire, collect the said copies from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. 3. Against the above background, Notice is hereby given, once again, to said borrower/mortgagor/guarantor to pay to Indian Overseas Bank, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated/payable as given below under the loan & other documents. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following asset have been mortgaged to Indian Overseas Bank by the respective party as below.

FOCUS MAHARASHTRA

POWER AT ANY COST



The Shiv Sena has been vocal in its opposition, providing one of the most potent and aggressive voices against the BJP in the nation today. The BJP is out to silence that voice now

MAHARASHTRA HAS BEEN A PARTICULARLY SORE POINT FOR THE BJP BECAUSE IT IS HERE THAT FRIENDS HAVE TURNED FOES



Lekha Rattanan

MAHARASHTRA HAS BEEN A PARTICULARLY SORE POINT FOR THE BJP BECAUSE IT IS HERE THAT FRIENDS HAVE TURNED FOES



Alexander Schallenberg & Phil Twyford

Given the fundamental threat to humanity, we cannot be content with the status quo on nuclear disarmament

Sin and virtue are a game of resistance we play with God in His efforts to draw us towards perfection.



SRI AUROBINDO

Disarm All Nukes

Austria and New Zealand may be far apart geographically, but we are connected by shared values and principles. Particularly relevant today is our longstanding opposition to nuclear weapons and our shared concern about the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament.

While the threat of nuclear weapons never went away after the end of the Cold War, steep cuts to nuclear stockpiles in the early 1990s represented progress. But the trend toward disarmament stalled. Three decades on, nine nuclear-armed states possess some 13,000 nuclear warheads, and, far from phasing out their arsenals, these states are modernising and expanding them. The risks of nuclear escalation, miscalculation, and accident are mounting, even though we have a better understanding than ever of the catastrophic consequences that would follow from the use of nuclear weapons.

We recently received a fresh wake-up call. In early January, the five nuclear powers on the United Nations Security Council reaffirmed the 1985 statement by US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." Yet, the following month, Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime threatened to unleash those same vastly destructive and indiscriminate weapons in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

This threat - which we unequivocally condemn - has sparked a new global debate on the value of nuclear deterrence, highlighting a bleak dissonance between the avowed collective goal of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, and nuclear-armed states' ongoing reliance on them. This dissonance is also evident in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which entered into force more than 50 years ago following a "grand bargain" between nuclear-armed China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and non-nuclear-armed states, including Austria and New Zealand.

The NPT's signatories acknowledged that nuclear disarmament is ultimately the most effective way to discourage proliferation. But while proliferation risks have increased in recent decades, concrete progress has stalled. Sixty years after the Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world to the brink of catastrophe, we find ourselves again faced with the threat of nuclear escalation.

Countries the size of New Zealand and Austria cannot coerce others to heed our wishes. But we are far from powerless when it comes to encouraging constructive change, especially when we work together with like-minded partners. In July 2017, we were among more than 120 states to adopt the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The TPNW crystallizes our total opposition to nuclear weapons. Consistent with the NPT, it is a practical manifestation of our commitment to nuclear disarmament. And it is based on evidence, both of the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, and of the risks associated with nuclear deterrence.

The new treaty asks tough questions of those with nuclear decision-making authority. It is they who must consider the sustainability of an approach to national security that imposes existential risks on their populations, as well as all other states and, indeed, the rest of humanity. The treaty also gives voice to the majority of states that do not accept nuclear deterrence as a valid basis for security. We are convinced that it is a fundamental error to believe that these weapons provide security. In reality, they pose a profound threat to us all, as well as to future generations.

The TPNW is also a means of focusing public debate and channeling resources toward those affected by the use of nuclear weapons, not least the Pacific communities that have been exposed to nuclear testing. The TPNW's evidence-based focus on the humanitarian consequences and existential risks of nuclear weapons gives it immense transformational potential.

From June 21-23 in Vienna, Austria will host the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW. Even as we acknowledge that there is much work to be done, we should understand that this meeting is a major achievement in itself. It shows what can be accomplished by a strong alliance between like-minded states and civil society. Similar alliances were instrumental in banning anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

Moreover, several nuclear-allied states and other non-state parties have indicated that they will attend the meeting as observers. We welcome them. Even if our views differ on the validity of nuclear weapons for security, we value the perspectives they will bring to an international conversation about the consequences, risks, and challenges of nuclear weapons. This conversation is essential, especially now that nuclear risks are higher than they have been in decades.

The TPNW is not a quick fix. But it can build international pressure and help to put the world back on track toward nuclear disarmament. Given the fundamental threat to humanity, we cannot be content with the status quo on nuclear disarmament. Austria and New Zealand will continue to spearhead these efforts. In the interests of humanity, we will continue to work with all willing state and civil-society partners to remove the nuclear sword of Damocles that is hanging over all our heads.

Alexander Schallenberg is Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria. Phil Twyford is Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control of New Zealand.

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WISDOM CORNER

- It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life. ELIZABETH KENNY
- Believe you can and you're halfway there. THEODORE ROOSEVELT
- Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience. PAULO COELHO

WORDSWORTH

■ Toffee-nosed

Americans don't much know this slang term - its constituency is mainly Britain and Australia. It's rude, describing a pretentiously superior, supercilious, snobbish or arrogant person. One rather splendid suggestion about its origin came from a British journalist some years ago. He argued it was WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) slang from the Second World War and referred to a facial expression caused by trying to disengage a toffee from your molars while keeping your mouth shut so as not to be noticed. "Inevitably, you are 'looking down your nose', the traditional long-faced and disapproving expression of snobs." Ingenious, but untrue. We can say this with certainty because the written evidence suggests that it was created in the First World War. Right context, wrong war. The issue of Notes and Queries for 10 December 1921 includes an article with the title English Army Slang as Used in the Great War. It has the entry: "TOFFEE-NOSED. Stuck up. (Trenches.)" The trenches would be those in Belgium and northern France during the war. A services origin is supported by a quotation in Jonathon Green's Dictionary of Slang: it's dated 1922 and is from The Mint, a brutal but faithful record of life at that time in the Royal Air Force, written by JH Ross, a pseudonym of T E Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia. It also appears in a compilation of Soldier and Sailor Words and Phrases by Edward Fraser and John Gibbons of 1925, in which it is likewise defined as "stuck-up", a slang term of the time for the supposed nose-in-air attitude of the supercilious.

SPECTRUM WTO

Unending wait for TRIPS waiver



Guru Prasad Mohanta

WE MUST REMEMBER, IF PEOPLE SURVIVE THE PANDEMIC, THERE WILL BE BUSINESS

The 12th Ministerial Conference at World Trade Organization (WTO) concluded 17 June in Geneva without taking a meaningful decision on Intellectual Property Rights issue. In the midst of the pandemic, in October 2020, India and South Africa together proposed the waiver of certain provisions of the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement for the duration of the pandemic. The intention was to facilitate access to technologies necessary for the production of vaccines and medicines. The vaccines have limited role and hence the two countries proposed patent waiving beyond vaccines to include all medical tools that are helpful in fighting the pandemic.

The ministerial conference deliberated on five major matters: pandemic response, fisheries, food security, e-commerce and WTO reform. This small article focuses on WTO's decision on IPR as a pandemic response. The WTO with 164 member countries finally agreed to a temporary waiving of intellectual property protection in developing countries for five years. Even this small decision came after a long time only after the US and

China agreed on who would benefit from the IPR waiving of vaccines. China and the US opted out. The eligible member countries will have the option for utilising the compulsory licencing mechanism, using any national legal mechanism such as an executive order, emergency decree, government use authorisation or judicial or administrative orders.

Time period given is five years which severely limits its usefulness. It takes about 2-3 years for a developing country to bring a new COVID-19 vaccine into the market or use. This is necessary for issuing compulsory licence to production and regulatory approval. Looking at the time period available, this is not an attractive proposition for an investor. With frequent changes in the virus mutation, the same vaccine may not be effective. Manufacturing vaccines is not easy in absence of trade secrets and manufacturing know how.

Union Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal, who led the Indian delegation at the WTO, has publicly expressed his disappointment for the matter. His concerns are reflected in the statement: "I am sorry to share with you that in some bilaterals that I have had

with the developed world and some of the countries who are opposing this in a way, they have almost clearly hinted and indicated that IP rights are extremely important. We are flowing with wind only because of the international pressure but on diagnostics and therapeutics there is no way we are going to yield." This shows the dominance of rich nations and that developing countries have little say. Rich nations are home to big pharma, and for big pharma profits come before patients.

The concession extended looks like a face saving formula for WTO. Though WTO at this juncture is not able to support poor nations in providing complete patent waiving of all products associated with diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, it provided this small concession for vaccines. This decision arrived too late to be relevant. Diagnostic and therapeutic tools are more important at this point of time to manage COVID-19. People continue to die without having access to life saving treatment. WTO did not rise up to the occasion, leaving the people in developing countries to wait in line to die. Besides two countries, over 150

groups, mainly civil societies, called upon the participating countries and their ministers to insist on real IPR waivers for all medical tools to fight COVID-19. Unfortunately, the WTO conference ended after just addressing the waiver of IPR on COVID-19 vaccines. Even this has come almost 20 months after the proposal was submitted to WTO. Too late a decision. Now, there are surplus COVID-19 vaccines even in India and there are no takers. At this juncture, offering this flexibility in IPR on COVID-19 vaccines is meaningless. The rich countries who have opposed the IPR waiving should have been a little more generous accepting the proposal for the benefits of those who are not able to afford the diagnostic and treatment tools. We must remember, if people survive the pandemic, there will be business. No people, no business! The wait for the patent waiver for diagnostics and treatment continues as a six-month time is given to member countries to decide whether such a decision is needed!

The writer is a former Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacy, Annamalai University. Views are personal.

Save Kotia panchayat

Sir, The inhabitants of Kotia panchayat in Koraput district are undergoing severe stress and strain owing to the highhandedness of the Andhra Pradesh government and its administration that have been consistently persuading the local tribals to come under their fold. For this, they have been luring the tribals of the area with a lot of lucrative benefits. Both the Odisha government and the district administration seem to be mute spectators. Not much has been done to reverse the ongoing mission of Andhra Pradesh. Both the print and electronic media have been highlighting the issue relentlessly, but to no avail. A few days back, the leading cultural organisation of Odisha, Neelachakra, had deputed some of its members to take stock of the situation. As per reports, the team headed by its the outfits general secretary Kanhu Charan Panigrahi reviewed the ground realities which are alarming. If no immediate action is taken, Odisha may have to lose the panchayat for ever, the team has felt. The Andhra Pradesh government has with it a plethora of packages that is most likely to sway the inhabitants bordering our state in their favour. It would be wise and fruitful if an initiative is taken at the earliest at the Chief Ministers' level of the two states to save our people in the border. Or else, the political map of Odisha may look otherwise. It's time to resolve the burning issue without any further loss of time.

Sanjib Kumar Das, BHADRAK

Councillor to Prez candidate

Sir, The NDA's decision to nominate Droupadi Murmu for the country's highest post ahead of the Presidential election is a welcome decision. Opposition parties are criticizing the BJP for this saying the BJP is playing tribal card to get into the eastern part of India. Hailing from the Santhal tribe in Mayurbhanj district, Murmu has been committed to the tribal cause for two decades. She had worked as an assistant teacher and a junior assistant at the irrigation department. She started her political career as a councillor in 1997. She has been a two-time BJP MLA in Odisha and was also a minister in the Naveen Patnaik-led government. Murmu has also been conferred with the Neelkanth Award for best performance as an MLA. She last year completed her stint as the Governor of Jharkhand. Murmu's journey from fighting against poverty to becoming a Presidential candidate will inspire generations.

Susant Pal, BHUBANESWAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Flash floods, landslides batter Jammu

IN UDHAMPUR DISTRICT, A 150-FT STRETCH OF THE JAMMU-SRINAGAR HIGHWAY WAS WASHED AWAY DUE TO FLASH FLOODS

AGENCIES

Banihal/Udhampur/Jammu, June 22: Flash floods triggered by heavy rains washed away the shuttering of an under-construction bridge and a 150-foot section of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway even as landslides in Ramban and Udhampur districts forced closure of the strategic road for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, officials said.



Cloudbursts kill 52 sheep, 8 horses, 5 cows

Srinagar: Cloudbursts in the last two days in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district have killed 52 sheep, eight horses and five cows in Durian, Ayud, Koreg, Lathermand and Dishkhal hilly areas, district officials said. Officials said relief and rescue teams have been sent to the affected areas to assess the damage caused by the inclement weather. Shepherds and nomads in J&K move to highland meadows with their livestock during the summer months.

highway in Ramban and Udhampur districts, they said. The highway was closed for traffic due to shooting stones at Panthiyal on Tuesday. Work is on to clear the highway, the officials said.

The situation at Battery Cheshma on the highway is bad as a lot of mud is to be cleared to ensure that heavy vehicles trapped in it are cleared, they said.

The road connecting Khari to Mahoo and Khari to Nachlana blocked due to mudslide and shooting stones and part of the road sank at Hirnihaal, they said, adding the people are again advised not to venture out. According to some reports, over 1,000 vehicles are stranded at various places along the highway.

As highway continues to be closed for traffic, stranded passengers were provided with food and medical facilities, they said. It is still raining in Ramsoo-Ramban sector as of now, the officials said.

The Mughal Road is blocked due to landslides at Poshana while the SSG road is blocked at Chini nallah and efforts are on to clear them, they said.

However, heavy rains are hin-

11 rescued, 2 missing in Tarsar Lake area

Srinagar: Eleven tourists were rescued from J&K's Tarsar Lake area in Anantnag district Wednesday while two other persons were still missing, officials said.

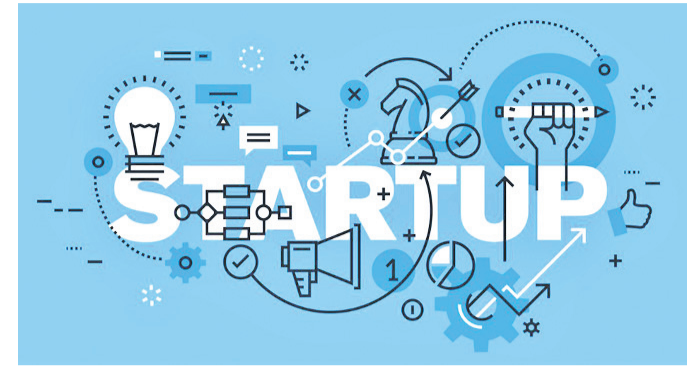
Officials said the tourists were rescued from Tarsar Lake where they were stranded while guide Shakeel Ahmad from Gangangeer area of Ganderbal and a non-local, Mahesh from Uttarakhand, are still missing.

Police from Pahalgam had sent rescue teams to the mountain lake area to rescue the stranded persons. Earlier, reports had said that a tourist guide was feared dead while 11 tourists and 2 other guides were trapped near the banks of the lake.

Official sources said that a group of 14 people, including 11 tourists and three guides, were sightseeing near Tarsar Lake. Ahmad was feared to have drowned in the lake, the sources had said.

dering the cleaning operation, the officials said.

Ker to raise ₹250cr to boost startups



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, June 22: The Kerala government Wednesday decided to raise a government-sponsored Venture Capital Fund with Rs 250 crore as corpus for the growth of startups in the southern state.

The decision was taken at the state Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The cabinet also earmarked an amount of Rs 1 crore for the initial expenditure, a CMO release said here.

It said the funds will be mobilised through a jointly sponsored trust of Kerala State Financial Enterprises such as KFC, KSFE, KSIDC or any other financial institution owned/controlled by the Kerala government.

Earlier, the proposal for setting up the venture capital was made in the state budget presented by Finance Minister KN Balagopal in March this year.

Considering Kerala's inherent strength in diverse sectors, the state government, in its 2022 budget, had proposed to raise a Venture Capital Fund in Green Shoe for startups with a limit of Rs 250 crore.

The funds will be mobilised through a jointly sponsored trust of Kerala State Financial Enterprises or any other financial institution owned/controlled by the Kerala govt

The cabinet also decided to take steps to facilitate the operations of the newly established Kerala Paper Products Limited (KPPL) in Vellore in Kottayam district.

As part of this, the Cabinet has decided to allot 24,000 MT of forest based raw materials for paper pulp production from the plantations under the Forest Department in Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur districts.

A committee headed by the Chief Secretary was tasked to give directions on the rates for this, the release said.

The KPPL is the renamed version of the Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL), a central PSU, acquired by the state government.

'FAKE' VIDEO ROW

LoP's legal notice to LDF convener

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, June 22: Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan Wednesday served a legal notice on top CPI-M leader and Left Democratic Front convener EP Jayarajan for the latter's "baseless" allegation against the former.

Jayarajan had said that Satheesan was one among those who were instrumental in preparing and releasing a video that defamed the Thrikkakara CPI-M candidate Joe Joseph.

Incidentally, it was Jayarajan who was the lead campaigner for the CPI-M at the keenly contested by-election. The entire Pinarayi Vijayan cabinet and around 70 of the Left legislators were engaged in a massive campaign for Joseph, but the Congress candidate won by a margin of over 25,000 votes, the highest ever in the constituency.

During the campaign, a fake video portraying Joseph in a poor light became viral, after which the Left targeted the Congress for creating it.

TAWI IN SPATE



A construction machine stuck at Tawi River Front after sudden rise in the water level of the river in Jammu, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

GOLD SMUGGLING SAGA SWAPNA SURESH GRILLED FOR 5 HRS



AGENCIES

Kochi, June 22: Following her explosive revelations in a confessional statement before a magistrate early this month, the prime accused in the gold smuggling case, Swapna Suresh Wednesday was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials for five hours. She was asked to appear again Thursday.

Swapna, after meeting her lawyer, reached the ED office after 11am and was allowed to go around 4:30pm but was asked to return again Thursday at 11am.

In her confessional statement made under Section 164 (5) of the Criminal Procedure Code, parts of which she herself told the media early this month that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his wife Kamala and their daughter Vena were engaged in smuggling of gold and

Swapna was asked by the Enforcement Directorate to appear before it again Thursday

currency and also biriyani vessels were moved from the residence of the UAE Consul general here to Vijayan's residence contained metal objects.

Following this revelation, the Congress and the BJP launched a massive protest demanding the resignation of Vijayan, forcing him to go into a shell and after this he has remained indoors most of the time.

And when stepping out, he moves around a massive security cordon.

It was last week the ED had served a notice on Swapna asking her to present herself before them at their office here Wednesday.

HC reprieve for actor Vijay Babu in rape case

AGENCIES

Kochi, June 22: Malayalam movie producer and actor Vijay Babu was Wednesday granted anticipatory bail by the Kerala High Court in a rape case against him.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas granted Babu the relief subject to the conditions that he shall appear before the police from June 27 to July 3, shall not intimidate the actress-victim or her family, he shall not leave Kerala and if he has been issued a fresh passport, he shall surrender the same.

The court said if Babu is arrested by the police, he shall be released on bail on furnishing a bond of Rs 5 lakh along with two sureties of the same amount.

During the period he is enjoying the interim protection from arrest, the film producer shall be deemed to be in police custody, the



court added and disposed of Babu's plea seeking anticipatory bail in the rape case.

The court had granted him interim protection from arrest May 31 and since then it was being extended from time to time.

In his plea, Babu had alleged

that the rape case has been filed against him to blackmail him.

He has been accused of allegedly sexually assaulting a female actor and disclosing the victim's identity through a Facebook live session.

The producer-actor had also al-

Film producer nabbed for 'fraud'

Thiruvananthapuram: Ahead of the release of his Malayalam film 'Sayana Varthakal', producer MD Mahfoose was arrested Wednesday by the Crime Branch police from Kasargod district in Kerala. The South Indian Bank had registered a complaint against Mahfoose stating that he "cheated" the bank by taking loans using forged documents. His arrest has come as a shock to all those who worked in the film. The film stars the sons of hugely popular artiste Suresh Gopi and Sreenivasan. The movie, starring Gokul Suresh and Dhyana Sreenivasan, is directed by debutant Arun Chandu who has also co-scripted with Sachin Chandran. The movie is slated for release later this week.

leged in his plea, that there is a "trend" of making sexual allegations against anybody to tarnish the image of a person who is having popularity in society and for the sake of publicity.

Babu had claimed that he was innocent and was "highly aggrieved" by the one-sided approach of the authorities to make him a "scapegoat for the purpose of news

and the media".

The woman, who appeared in movies produced by Babu's production house, lodged a complaint with the police April 22 and detailed through a Facebook post the physical assault and sexual exploitation she had allegedly suffered at the hands of the producer-actor for the past one-and-half months.

Cybercriminal using my details to dupe colleagues: Choudhary

AGENCIES

Srinagar, June 22: Senior IAS officer Shahid Choudhary said Wednesday that a cybercriminal was using his mobile number to defraud colleagues and friends.

The officer took to Twitter to inform about the matter and requested the Jammu and Kashmir Police to take strict action against the culprit.

He said a cybercriminal was using mobile number 8105819214 and his picture to send messages to his colleagues and friends seeking financial help.

Choudhary, a 2009-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of-



THE SENIOR IAS OFFICER SAID A CYBERCRIMINAL WAS USING A MOBILE NUMBER 8105819214 AND HIS PICTURE TO SEND MESSAGES TO HIS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS SEEKING FINANCIAL HELP

THE OFFICER TOOK TO TWITTER TO INFORM ABOUT THE MATTER AND REQUESTED THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE TO TAKE STRICT ACTION AGAINST THE CULPRIT

ficer, is tribal affairs department secretary and chief executive officer of the Mission Youth Jammu and Kashmir. He won the prime minister's award for excellence in public administration in 2015.

In a tweet, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Kashmir said, "General public is advised to remain cautious and follow precautionary measures to deal with fraudsters using fake WhatsApp display picture to impersonate as high-profile government officers or dignitaries."

It also shared an advisory on fake WhatsApp DP scam issued by the Cyber Police Kashmir. It has advised people not to

reply to messages received from unknown WhatsApp number and not to transfer money or purchase online gift vouchers. It also asked people not to share banking details and, install any remote access app and click on any suspicious link.

Cyber criminals have recently used a photo of the Chandigarh Police chief to seek "Amazon gift cards" from his friends.

According to sources, some other senior officials in the Jammu and Kashmir administration have also been targeted by the cyber criminals in a bid to extract money by hacking into bank accounts.

international

of the day quote

India is a very key strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region. And there's many ways that that partnership represents itself, both in defense and security, economic as well

The Ukraine crisis has again sounded the alarm for humanity. Countries will surely end up in security hardships if they place blind faith in their positions of strength, expand military alliances, and seek their own safety at the expense of others

Give this government some time to carry out economic and electoral reforms. We will then hopefully come out of the mess left behind by the selected government

SHORT TAKES

Iran executed over 100 in Jan-Mar: UN

Geneva: Iran executed more than 100 people in the first three months of 2022, continuing a worrying upward trend, according to a report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that was presented Tuesday. Speaking before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, UN deputy human rights chief Nada Al-Nashif presented Guterres' latest report on Iran, decrying that executions in the country were on the rise.

Polio virus found in London sewage

London: The UK health authorities issued a nationwide appeal Wednesday for parents to ensure their children's vaccines are up to date after the polio virus was detected in sewage samples in London. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said investigations are underway after several closely-related viruses were found in sewage samples taken between February and May. The virus has continued to evolve and is now classified as a "vaccine-derived" poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2), which on rare occasions can cause serious illness, such as paralysis, in people who are not fully vaccinated. UK was declared polio-free in 2003.

Indonesian Prez to visit Moscow, Kyiv

Jakarta: Indonesian President Joko Widodo will visit Moscow and Kyiv by the end of June and meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky respectively, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told a press briefing Wednesday. Retno said that during the visits, Widodo will discuss the food crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Xinhua news agency reported.

Kuwait's Parliament dissolved, poll soon

Dubai: Kuwait's crown prince Wednesday dissolved Parliament and called for early elections, a move to ease government gridlock that has bred popular opposition and paralysed the tiny country for months. In his televised national address, Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber said that while the ruling family respected Kuwait's constitution that grants the country's rowdy parliament more power than elsewhere in the autocratic region of Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, popular dissatisfaction over the deepening dysfunction compelled the emir to intervene.



How may killings there are in Mexico! Once again, I repeat that violence never resolves problems but just increases useless suffering

POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF CATHOLIC CHURCH, VATICAN CITY

BIDEN'S NOMINATION FOR SCIENCE ADVISOR

Leading Indian-American scientist Dr Arti Prabhakar has been nominated by Joe Biden as a top science advisor to the US President, a decision hailed by the White House and the Indian-American community as historic



'Emergency' in Pak's Punjab over rising rape cases

Pakistan has been suffering and battling a gender violence epidemic and violence against women cuts across classes in the country

AGENCIES

Lahore, June 22: Authorities in Pakistan's Punjab province have decided to declare an emergency following a spike in cases of sexual abuse against women and children, the media reported. Punjab Home Minister Atta Tarar speaking at a press conference Monday said the administration was forced to declare an emergency to deal with rape cases. The minister said the rapid in-

crease in cases of sexual abuse against women and children in the province was a serious issue for the society and government officials. "Four to five cases of rape are being reported daily in Punjab due to which the government is considering special measures to deal with cases of sexual harassment, abuse and coercion," the Dawn newspaper quoted the provincial minister as saying in a press conference at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)



headquarters. The minister, in the presence of Law Minister Malik

Muhammad Ahmed Khan, stressed that all cases will be reviewed by the

Pakistan ranks 153 out of 156 countries according to the Global Gender Gap Index 2021 rankings

Cabinet Committee on Rape and Law and Order, and that civil society, women rights organisations, teachers, and attorneys will also be consulted to keep a check on such incidents. Tarar also urged parents to teach their children about the importance of safety and that youngsters should not be left alone in their homes without supervision.

Tarar stated that the accused in a number of cases had been detained, the government had launched an anti-rape campaign, and that stu-

dents would be sensitised about sexual harassment in schools. The home minister also said the role of Punjab Forensic Science Agency would be improved for sampling of DNA on a fast track basis and a meeting with the lab authorities was scheduled for later Monday.

The minister in a response to a query also regretted that taking drugs had become a fashion in elite schools and colleges, which was contributing to the rise in the crime graph.

Zelensky looks to EU offer

EU SET TO MAKE HISTORIC OFFER OF CANDIDATE STATUS TO UKRAINE

REUTERS

Kyiv/Kharkiv, June 22: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky Wednesday hailed the European Union's expected offer of candidate status for his battle-weary nation as Russian forces pounded Ukraine's second biggest city Kharkiv and the eastern Donbas region.

European leaders will formally set Ukraine on the long road to EU membership at a summit in Brussels Thursday. Though mainly symbolic, the move will help lift national morale at a very difficult time in a four-month conflict that has killed thousands, displaced millions and flattened towns and cities. The war has also had a massive impact on the global economy and European security arrangements, driving up gas, oil and food prices, pushing the EU to reduce its heavy reliance on Russian energy and prompting Finland and Sweden to seek NATO membership.



A fire from a gas processing plant continues to burn behind a field of wheat after the plant was hit by shelling a few days prior in Andriivka in the Kharkiv region as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues in Ukraine

Ukraine says Russians hitting Kharkiv as they did Mariupol
Fire breaks out at oil refinery inside Russia
Putin to mark day in 1941 when Hitler invaded Soviet Union

"I do believe that all 27 European Union countries will support our candidate status," Zelensky told students of the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy in Toronto via videolink. "This is like going into the light from the darkness."

But for now Zelensky, his forces running low on ammunition as a fierce war of attrition grinds on in the Donbas, has more urgent priorities than attempting to meet EU standards on tackling corruption or reforming public administration. 'MISSILE IMPACT' The Russian strikes Tuesday and Wednesday on Kharkiv, near

the Russian border, were the worst for weeks in an area where normal life had been returning since Ukraine pushed Moscow's forces back in a major counter-offensive last month. Kyiv characterised the strikes, which killed at least 20 people, as an attempt to force Ukraine to pull resources from the main battlefields further south in the Donbas to protect civilians.

Inside Russia, a fire tore through an oil refinery just 8 km (5 miles) from the border with territory in the Donbas controlled by pro-Russian separatists, after what the refinery described as a cross-border attack Wednesday by two drones. Zelensky has also warned of

G7 to discuss Marshall plan for Ukraine: Scholz

Berlin: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Wednesday that he wants to discuss the outlines of a "Marshall plan for Ukraine" with the leaders of the Group of Seven countries at their upcoming summit in Germany. Scholz hopes for a united front on long-term support for Ukraine when he hosts the annual G-7 summit in Bavaria next week. The group of the world's leading economic powers is made up of the US, France, Germany, Italy, the UKs, Canada and Japan. The chancellor told Germany's parliament that "rebuilding Ukraine will be a task for generations. Recalling his visit last week to Irpin, a Kyiv suburb that saw intense fighting, he said that "some things there remind not just me of the pictures of German cities after World War II." Like Europe then, "Ukraine today needs a Marshall plan for its rebuilding," Scholz said — referring to the US-sponsored plan that helped revive European economies after WWII.

an escalation in fighting ahead of the EU summit.

Pak signs \$2.3bn loan agreement with China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 22: Pakistan Wednesday signed a 15 billion yuan (USD 2.3 billion) loan facility agreement with a Chinese consortium of banks to help the country's cash-strapped economy in the wake of depleting foreign exchange reserves and depreciation of its local currency. Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail in a tweet said that the Chinese consortium of banks has today (Wednesday) signed the RMB 15 billion (USD 2.3 billion) loan facility agreement after it was signed by the Pakistani side yesterday (Tuesday). Thanking the Chinese government for facilitating this transaction, Ismail said the inflow was expected within a couple of days.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also expressed his gratitude to the Chinese leadership. The people of Pakistan are grateful for the continued support of our all-weather friends, he said. The loan agreement with Chinese banks will boost the crisis-hit Pakistan's reserves and enable



Islamabad to make import payments while lending some support to the rupee as well. The Pakistani rupee has lost over 34 per cent since the beginning of the outgoing fiscal year 2021-22. The latest development comes as a massive relief to economic policymakers after foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) fell below USD 9 billion as of June 10, with the level staying at less than six weeks of import cover. The deal with China also came on a day when reports emerged of Pakistan reaching an understanding with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to restore the stalled USD 6 billion assistance package from the global lender.

Telangana techie shot dead in US

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Baltimore (US), June 22: A software engineer from Telangana was shot dead by an unidentified person in Maryland state of the US.

Nakka Sai Charan (26), who hailed from Nalgonda district of Telangana, was killed when a person said to be a black man opened fire at him Sunday evening.

His friends in the US informed his family about the incident. Sai Charan was shot dead when he was travelling in his car near Catonsville in Maryland. He was returning home after dropping a friend at the airport.

The techie was shot in the head. He was shifted to University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center where he was pronounced dead.

The software engineer was working with a company in Baltimore city of Maryland for the last two years.

His parents and other family members were shocked on receiving the information. They have appealed to the Government of India and Telangana government to help bring the body home.

Saudi crown prince visits Turkey



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ankara, June 22: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Ankara Wednesday, making his first visit to Turkey following the slaying of Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan greeted the prince at the gates of the presidential palace.

As Saudi Arabia and Turkey press ahead with efforts to repair ties that were strained by Khashoggi's killing.

Prince Mohammed is on the last leg of a Middle East tour that also took him to Egypt and Jordan. Erdogan said talks with the

prince, who is commonly referred to by his initials MBS, would focus on advancing Turkish-Saudi relations to a "much higher degree."

Erdogan visited Saudi Arabia in April, paying his first visit to the kingdom since 2017, a year before the gruesome killing of Khashoggi by Saudi agents inside the kingdom's Istanbul consulate.

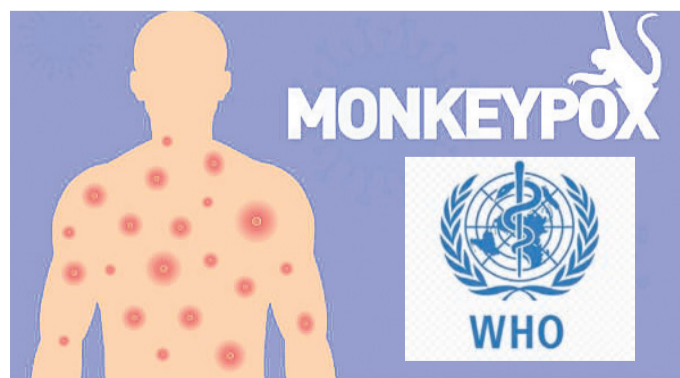
Why WHO is mulling a new name for Monkeypox disease

WHO is holding an emergency meeting today to assess whether the outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern — the highest alarm it can sound

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, June 22: Monkeypox may soon have a new name after scientists called for a change to dispel stereotypes of Africa being seen as a crucible of disease.

The World Health Organization announced last week that it is



"working with partners and experts from around the world on changing the name of monkeypox virus, its clades and the disease it causes." Monkeypox's clades, which are different branches of the virus' family tree, have been particularly

controversial because they are named after African regions.

Last year the WHO officially named Covid-19 variants after Greek letters to avoid stigmatising the places where they were first detected.

Just days before the WHO announced it would change monkeypox's name, a group of 29 scientists wrote a letter saying there is an "urgent need for a non-discriminatory and non-stigmatising nomenclature" for the virus.

The letter, signed by several prominent African scientists, called for the names of the "West African" and the "Central African" or "Congo Basin" monkeypox clades to be changed. Until a few months ago, monkeypox had largely been confined to West and Central Africa.

But since May, a new version has spread across much of the world. The letter's signatories suggested naming this version as a new clade, giving it "the placeholder label hMPXV" — for human monkeypox virus.

Out of the more than 2,100 monkeypox cases recorded globally this year, 84 percent were in Europe, 12 percent in the Americas and just three percent in Africa, according to the WHO's latest update last week.

'Not a monkey disease' Oyewale Tomori, a virologist at Redeemer's University in Nigeria, said he supported changing the name of monkeypox's clades.

"But even the name monkeypox is aberrant. It is not the right name," he told AFP. "If I were a monkey, I would protest because it's not really a monkey disease."

The virus was named after it was first discovered among mon-

keys in a Danish lab in 1958, but humans have mostly contracted the virus from rodents.

The letter pointed out that "nearly all" outbreaks in Africa were sparked by people catching the virus from animals — not from other people.

But the current outbreak "is unusual in that it is purely spreading through human to human transmission," said Olivier Restif, an epidemiologist at the University of Cambridge.

"So, it is fair to say that the current outbreak has very little to do with Africa, in the same way that the Covid-19 waves and variants we're still being battered by have little to do with the Asian bats from which the virus originally came a few years ago."

business



This year, we are expecting 7.5 per cent growth, which makes us the fastest growing major economy. Transformative changes are taking place in every sector in the emerging 'New India'

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

UK INFLATION AT 40-YR HIGH

Soaring food prices pushed British consumer price inflation to a 40-year high of 9.1% last month, the highest rate out of the Group of Seven countries and one which underlines the severity of the country's cost-of-living crunch



of the day quote

Pesticides are key agri-inputs required for reducing crop losses. It is necessary to reduce the GST on pesticides to 5 per cent at par with other farm inputs like seeds and fertilizers

RG AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, DHANUKA AGRITECH

We need to work on local sourcing which will help us to lower prices even more. We are working with our own costs to keep them down as much as possible, so that is how we navigate with affordability

SUSANNE PULVERER | CEO & CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, IKEA INDIA

As we look forward to this new financial year, the customer confidence appears strong despite the challenging inflation and geopolitical uncertainties

AMIT SYNGLE | MD & CEO, ASIAN PAINTS

Nifty to slide to 14,500 by year-end, rupee to depreciate to 81: BofA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 22: Indian equities will bottom-out only in August or September and the 50-share benchmark Nifty will fall by another 6 per cent to 14,500 points by the end of this year, an American brokerage said Wednesday.

A cut in companies' earnings as the advantage from cheaper inventory buffer wears off, continuing headwinds on crude oil prices and "vulnerable" valuations of Nifty stocks even after the recent correction were cited by BofA

Securities as the factors which will drag down the markets.

The brokerage had initially estimated the Nifty will rise to 19,100 by the end of the year and revised the target down to 17,000 after the sell-off.

The benchmark, which closed 1.44 per cent down at 15,413.30 points Wednesday, has been losing ground over the past few weeks, driven by factors like monetary policy tightening globally and higher commodity prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"We are cautious on markets de-



spite the recent market correction. In addition to globally tightening monetary conditions and a slowing

economic outlook, including fears of a recession in the US, we see other risks," analysts at the bro-

THE 30-SHARE BSE SENSEX TANKED 709.54 POINTS OR 1.35% TO CLOSE AT 51,822.53
THE BROADER NSE NIFTY FELL 225.50 POINTS OR 1.44% TO 15,413.30
RUPEE DROPS 19 PAISE TO HIT ALL-TIME LOW OF 78.32 AGAINST US DOLLAR

kerage said. Other factors driving the brokerage to be cautious include earnings cuts of up to 4 per cent with the risk of more downgrades and crude prices, which it said can

spike to \$150 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the brokerage said the rupee will depreciate beyond its own expectations to ₹81 against the US dollar by the end of 2022. "We believe the risks are still skewed towards more depreciation for the rupee as the fundamental outlook has deteriorated further primarily due to higher oil and other commodities," it said.

However, the analysts were quick to add that the RBI's reserves of nearly \$600 billion will be a mitigating factor against the risks.

MPC flags inflation woes

The members stressed that it may be important for both Centre and state govts to successfully complete their budgeted capex plans and work through their counter-cyclical policy levers to ensure a soft-landing for the economy amid monetary tightening to rein in inflation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 22: All the six members of the MPC, including the RBI Governor, expressed concern over continued high inflation and stressed that the central bank's endeavour would be to bring down price rise within the target range, as per minutes of the latest Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released Wednesday.

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel, which met during June 6-8, raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points - the second hike within five weeks. In early May, the policy repo rate was hiked by 40 basis points.

As per the minutes, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while high inflation continues to be the major concern, revival of economic activity remains steady and is gaining traction. The time is appropriate to go for a further increase in the policy rate to effectively deal with inflation and inflation expectations.

The rate hike, he added, will reinforce the RBI's commitment to price stability - its primary mandate and a pre-requisite for sustainable growth over the medium term.

Besides raising the repo rate to 4.9 per cent, the RBI also revised upwards its inflation forecast for the

current fiscal to 6.7 per cent from its earlier estimate of 5.7 per cent.

MPC member and RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said the global inflation crisis is just the face of one of the most severe food and energy crises in recent history that now threatens the most vulnerable across the globe.

With inflation majorly being driven by supply constraints amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Patra said to gain time for supply to respond, the blunt instrument of monetary policy has to be deployed, and there is no other recourse at this juncture.

He said if inflation is allowed to go out of hand, it could corrode the foundations of the recovery that is gaining traction, and deter investment decisions.

"The battle would be lost but

While high inflation continues to be the major concern, revival of economic activity remains steady and is gaining traction. The time is appropriate to go for a further increase in the policy rate to effectively deal with inflation and inflation expectations. Accordingly, I vote for a 50 bps increase in the repo rate which would be in line with the evolving inflation-growth dynamics and will help in mitigating the second round effects of adverse supply shocks

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

FIRST IN COUNTRY

GAIL to enter distributed LNG production business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: GAIL (India) Ltd, the nation's largest gas transportation and marketing firm, Wednesday said it plans to enter into distributed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) production to take the fuel to users.

GAIL will liquefy or turn natural gas into liquid at sub-zero temperature and transport it in trucks to users. "In a first-of-its-kind endeavour in the country, GAIL plans to enter into distributed LNG production with the vision to cater to the demand from off-grid locations and the transport sector," it said in a statement.

GAIL has placed an order for two small-scale liquefaction skids ca-



pable of producing LNG on a pilot basis. Liquefaction will be achieved through proprietary technology-based mobile liquefaction skids.

"These plants will help in the distribution of natural gas through liquefaction in new cities areas, liquefaction of gas at isolated fields and will support setting up of LNG fuelling stations and bunkering," it said.

Meta, Microsoft join hands for Metaverse, Apple left out

The forum aims to facilitate communication between a variety of standards organisations and firms to bring about "real-world interoperability" in the metaverse

AGENCIES

Washington, June 22: Meta, Microsoft and other tech giants racing to build the emerging metaverse concept have formed a group to foster development of industry standards that would make the companies' nascent digital worlds compatible with each other.

Participants in the Metaverse Standards Forum include many of the biggest companies working in the space, from chipmakers to gaming companies, as well as es-

tablished standards-setting bodies like the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the group said in a statement announcing its creation Tuesday.

Conspicuously missing from the member list for now however is Apple, which analysts expect to become a dominant player in the metaverse race once it introduces a mixed reality headset this year or next. Gaming companies Roblox and Niantic also were not included among the forum's participants, nor were emerging crypto-based



metaverse platforms like The Sandbox or Decentraland. Apple has not yet publicly ac-

knowledgeable plans for a headset, although it has reportedly given its board a sneak peek of the prod-

uct, according to Bloomberg.

Introducing such a device would put Apple in direct competition with Meta, which has staked its future on the growth of the metaverse and invested heavily in hardware to make its vision of interconnected virtual worlds a reality.

Meta, known as Facebook until it changed its name as part of its metaverse pivot last year, has disclosed plans for a mixed-reality headset code-named "Cambria" to be released this year.

Apple has been heavily involved in creating web standards such as HTML5 in the past. For three-dimensional content in the metaverse, Apple worked with Pixar on the "USDZ" file format and with Adobe to ensure it supported the format.

Neil Trevett, an executive at chip maker Nvidia who is chairing the Metaverse Standards Forum, said in a statement to Reuters that any company is welcome to join the group, including participants from the crypto world.

SHORT TAKES

Sebi sends ₹5L notice to Future

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi Wednesday sent a notice to Future Enterprises asking it to pay over ₹5 lakh in a matter pertaining to disclosure lapses about initiation of arbitration proceedings against Future Group by Amazon. The regulator also warned the company of attachment of assets and bank accounts if it fails to make the payment within 15 days. The notice came after the company failed to pay the fine imposed on it by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Jio-bp partners with Nexus Malls

New Delhi: Nexus Malls has partnered with Jio-bp, a fuel and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries Ltd and bp, for the rollout of EV charging stations and battery swapping stations across its portfolio of 17 malls in 13 cities. "As part of this partnership, Nexus malls will be installed with 24x7 charging infrastructure for two and four-wheeler EVs," Jio-bp said in a statement. "In the first phase, these charging stations will be available at Nexus malls in Navi Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad from June 2022."

Jain Irrigation shares up 17%

New Delhi: Shares of Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd Wednesday rose 17 per cent after the company said its global irrigation business will be merged with Temasek-owned Rivulis in a cash-and-stock deal, a move that will help the firm to reduce its consolidated debt. The stock jumped 17 per cent to ₹43.90 on the BSE. At the NSE, it rallied 16.8 per cent to ₹43.80. Jain Irrigation Systems Tuesday said its global irrigation business will be merged with Rivulis in a cash-and-stock deal, a move that will help the company to reduce its consolidated debt by ₹2,700 crore or around 45 per cent.

Okinawa to invest ₹500cr in Raj

New Delhi: Electric two-wheeler maker Okinawa Autotech Wednesday said it will invest ₹500 crore to set up a new manufacturing plant at Karoli in Rajasthan. Spread across 30 acres of land, the factory will have an annual production capacity of 10 lakh units and will be fully operational from October 2023, Okinawa Autotech said in a statement. This will be the third plant of the company apart from the two manufacturing facilities at Alwar in Rajasthan.

CBDT sets TDS norms for cryptos, VDAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: The income tax department has come out with detailed disclosure requirements for TDS deductions for virtual digital assets (VDAs), under which date of transfer and mode of payment will have to be specified.

From July 1, tax deducted at source (TDS) of 1 per cent will be levied on payments towards vir-

tual digital assets or cryptocurrencies beyond ₹10,000 in a year, as the Finance Act 2022 has introduced Section 194S in the I-T Act.

In the run up to implementation of the new provision, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) June 21 notified certain amendments in ITRules with respect to furnishing TDS returns in Form 26QE and Form 16E. CBDT has notified that the TDS shall be deposited within 30 days

from the end of the month in which the deduction has been made. Deposit shall be made in the challan-cum-statement Form 26QE.

It also said that the TDS would be levied on net transaction value and the onus of deducting the tax would primarily be on the exchanges. In case the payment is through a broker (and the broker is not seller), there has to be a written agreement that the broker would be deducting the tax.

BIZ BUZZ

Homegrown start-up Fire-Bolt leads smartwatch market

Bhubaneswar: Homegrown wearable and audio brand, Fire-Bolt has surpassed the front-runners by being adjudged as the undisputed leader in the wearable watches market according to the latest International Data Corporation (IDC) report. To celebrate the milestone, the brand organised a meet and greet session in Bhubaneswar with its top retail partners in presence of Amit Srivastava (Product Manager, FireBolt), Kunal Bose (RSM, FireBolt), Sujit Das (DGM, Savex Technologies) & Jay Sadany (MD of regional distributor RJS Enterprises). Despite the industry grew at a stagnant pace, Fire-Bolt has grown by 47.5% quarter-on-quarter and sold a total of 916,765 units in comparison to 628,789 units while the overall industry de-grew by 25% approx. Fire-Bolt is the only brand that's aggressively focused in the offline market. The brand has split online and offline marketing to a 50-50 percent ratio, which helped them sold over 5,00,000 units every month. Commenting on this achievement, Arnav Kishore, Founder & CEO at Fire-Bolt asserted, "Orissa is an important market for us and we are glad to organise this retail meet with our partners. These sessions help us in engaging with our retail partners & get an on-ground understanding to become better. Fire-Bolt has risen to become the number 1 player in the wearable watch market and it would not have been possible without the support of our partners. We are honored to have achieved this milestone in such a short period of time with our diverse product portfolio and value-for-money offerings. With our focus on expansion, we will continue on organising these meet-ups to stay connected with our retail partners. We look forward to achieving bigger milestones in the near future & Orissa will continue to be the leading contributor to our brand."



Spectrum usage charge cut ahead of 5G auction

New Delhi: The Department of Telecom (DoT) has issued a new order that will enable telecom operators to reduce spectrum usage charges proportionately on buying fresh radiowaves in the upcoming 5G auction. The DoT, in the order dated June 21, has removed spectrum usage charge (SUC) from the radiowaves that will be bought in the auction scheduled to start from July 26. The government will, next month, auction about ₹4.3 lakh crore worth of airwaves capable of offering fifth-generation or 5G telecom services including ultra-high-speed internet. The DoT collects SUC from a company based on a weighted average method, where charges applicable for each auction and spectrum acquired is taken into account and the sum is divided by the total spectrum acquired by it in various auctions. The order notifies a new formula which makes the SUC rate nil for the upcoming auction. Till the previous auction, telecom operators were required to pay SUC based on 3 per cent of the amount at which they purchased the spectrum. The Cabinet in September 2021 had approved removal of SUC from future auctions.

