PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

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

LEISURE



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

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

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

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.

and Nitin Deshmukh from Akola. They claimed they were 'misled and taken

EMERGENCY' OVER RAPE

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

GUNNING FOR GLORY

INTERNATIONAL P10



RONALDO SCRIPTS HISTORY

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

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, JUNE 23 | 2022

UN AWARD FOR

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 83 | www.orissapost.com

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



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

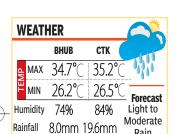
HC NIXES PLEAS ON CORRIDOR PROJECT

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court heritage site and also destroy historical structures.



The MLAs say they are not

MARKET WATCH VARIATION INDEX SENSEX **51822.53** 🖊 709.54 **1** ₹0.16 DOLLAR **78.70 EURO 1** ₹0.36 **1** ₹285 GOLD ₹51.045 ₹457 SILVER ₹60,814



MO BUS SERVICE

Mo Bus, Capital Region Urban



were one of the recipients.

This development came after

Earlier in the day, Thackeray

chief minister of Maharashtra

and also said he would be happy

Thackeray who has also been

hit by the-19 Covid bug, said the

rebel leader and MLAs support-

ing him should openly say they

don't want him to continue as chief

minister. In an 18-minute live we-

bcast, he made an emotional appeal

to the rebels as well as common

Shiv Sainiks and admitted to being

give up the post of party president

as well if Shiv Sainiks feel he isn't

capable of leading the outfit which

the girls have lodged separate com-

plaints on the basis of which police

Subir Prasad Biswal, the father

have initiated a probe.

Thackeray said he was ready to

inexperienced.

POST NEWS NETWORK

if a Shiv Sainik succeeds him.

quashed Wednesday all petitions AGENCIES filed in connection with con-Mumbai, June 22: Maharashtra struction works undertaken by the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Odisha government around Srimandir in Puri under the moved Wednesday from his offi-Heritage Corridor Project. The cial residence 'Varsha' in south Mumbai to his family home court observed that there is no relevance of hearing the petitions 'Matoshree' in suburban Bandra, after the directive of the Supreme hours after offering to quit the top post amid rebellion by Shiv Court. Earlier, the Supreme Court Sena leader Eknath Shinde. had dismissed a batch of petitions against excavation and construction work by the state government Shinde's revolt two days ago, showed along the Srimandir as part of the no signs of ebbing. Shiv Sena leaders Neelam Gorhe and Chandrakant Puri Heritage Corridor Project, calling those as 'frivolous'. The pe-Khaire were present at 'Varsha' titioners had alleged that the conwhen Thackeray was leaving. struction work would damage the said that he is ready to resign as



LIGHTNING STRIKES

is heading the Maha Vikas Aghadi

(MVA) government, which also in-

cludes the NCP and the Congress.

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.

"Why make statements from

Kujang, June 22: Two Class X **KILL 9 IN STATE** girl students of Pankapal High School under Kujang police limits killed Wednesday in lightning strikes in Jagatsinghpur district have rein different districts of the state. portedly gone missing since Tuesday. Casualties were reported from Their family members alleged Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Wednesday that the girls have been Angul and Jajpur districts. Those idenkidnapped. One of the girls is from tified among the deceased are Minati Badapal village of the district, Munda, Gandharba Behera, Sanjay while the other is from Janhapal vil-Behera (38), Akash Munda (14), Hira lage. Family members of both the Munda (65), Sushant Giri (47), Jale girls said that the two studying in Pingua (64) and Danbir Majhi. the same institution had gone to

Parents allege abduction

as schoolkids go missing

school, but did not return home. of one of the missing girls said Sources said that a common that so far they have not got any information about the girls. "We friend of both the girls had received a call from an unknown learnt about her disappearance at number. The unidentified caller 4.00 pm. Then we lodged a police said that the two students are in complaint," Biswal informed. Bhubaneswar. Families of both

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.

hotel. Late in the evening four more Shiv Sena MLAs joined him.

Shinde also stated that since he has the support of more than 40 MLAs, the anti-defection law cannot be applied against him. "I have more numbers (of Shiv Sena MLAs) than needed (to form a separate group in the Assembly without inviting the anti-defection law provisions)," he told a Marathi TV channel.

A Maharashtra Shiv Sena minister, who is among the dissidents said Wednesday they do not have any complaints against the Sena leadership, but they have been upset with the style of functioning of the NCP and Congress.

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.

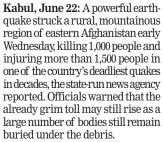
Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said BJP has fielded Murmu in the presidential poll keeping an eye on BJD's 2.9 per cent of votes in the Electoral College. "We may not support her in the elections even though she is the befitting candidate." Mishra said.

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

1,000 dead in Afghanistan quake THIS IS THE 2ND DEADLIEST EARTHQUAKE IN THE COUNTRY AFTER 1998 WHICH KILLED OVER 4,500 PERSONS

AGENCIES

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



I will resign immediately and

keep it ready and you can come and

take it to the Raj Bhavan," he said.

that 40 MLAs (35 from Shiv Sena

and five independents) from Surat

had accompanied him to

Guwahati, where they are cur-

rently staying in a heavily guarded

Meanwhile Shinde asserted

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 PTIPHOTO

try. Since then Afghanistan has been largely shunned by the world community since.

Rescuers rushed to the area by helicopter, but the response was poor since many international aid agencies left Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover. Moreover, most governments are wary of dealing directly with the Taliban, a reluctance that could slow the deployment of emergency aid and teams typically sent after such natural disasters.

In a rare move, the Taliban's reclusive supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzadah, who 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 claybricks and other rubble from de-



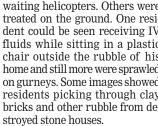














eisure



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 longtime 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 Midnight In Paris and No Time To Die to her credit, will play the role of Lady Margot in the sequel, according to reports.



Today is a bright day with all you need to do is focus ir 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 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 ambiance that will change your weak nesses into your strengths.

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 vour 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

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 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.

Ganesha sure hopes that you packed your kit right and are 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 vour wand and rebuild bridges, says Ganesha. You might even be involved in some cloak-and-dagger stuff. You are likely to be cavalier and hold 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 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

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 per fectly 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 vour way initially, for the answers to your troubles will come sooner rather than later, says Ganesha.

Wamiqa reveals about things that enrich her

Wamiga 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 nas enriched her as an actor. Wamiga says: "It has definitely made me understand different cultures and that really adds up to my experience as an

She added that whenever she is doing a movie in a particular language, closely observe how the people of that culture carry themselves.

"The added advantage and my personal favourite takeaway 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 char-

acter, 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

Directed by Sameer Saxena and produced by Posham Pa Pictures Chalkboard Entertainment, July 15.

IANS

TWO-DAY CLASSICAL DANCE CARNIVAL

12th Margi festival begins in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 kunja tara from Geeta Gobinda.

Next came a performance from

Jayadev's composition 'Dhira Samire Yamuna Tire. Gouri Shankar Then Bandita Ghosal showed her graceful gestures on Lajare Dash Dhenkanal Sarigali Aja. The members of Aradhana Dance academy perwho captivated the formed dance drama Parba Ranga

> 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

> which was the last event of the

A performance by Gouri Shankar Dash

the seniors as well as the young ex-

ponents. The dignitaries who attended the event included Mahanga MLA Pratap jena, Odissi dance Guru Dr Snehaparaya 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.

Big B joins the *Nach* Punjaabban bandwagon

MUMBAI: Megastar Amitabh nach," the thespian captioned the image. Bachchan stunned actors Varun Dhawan and Maniesh Paul as he joined the viral *Nach Punjaabban* trend on social media.

Actor Varun Dhawan took to the comment section as he could not control his excitement and wrote: "Sir (with several heart emojis).



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 JugJugg Jeeyo.

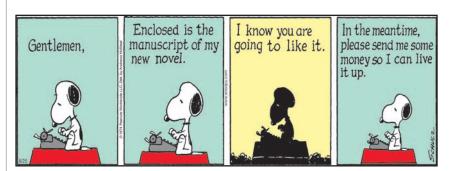
"Nach panjaban nach panjabnan nach panjaban Maniesh Paul wrote: "Yessss we love

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

PEANUTS

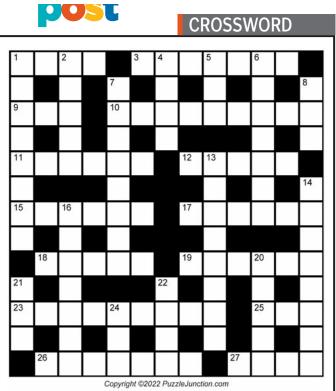


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





Across

- 1 Elevator
- 3 Brightly coloured butterfly
- 9 Chess pieces 10 Kind of
- architect 11 Capital of the
- Bahamas
- 12 Carbolic and

17 French Riviera

oxalic, e.g. 15 Fears

resort

- <u>Down</u>
- 1 Summer
- - quencher

18 Oyster's prize

19 Pace

23 Harmless

Virgo

hangout

26 Aged

27 Duck's

25 Sign before

- 2 Penalties 4 Animal shelters
- 21 Combine

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

22 Recipe direction

5 Psyches

7 Poisonous

13 Bawl out

14 Danger to

Earth

16 Enduring

domicile

20 Eskimo

6 Leave behind

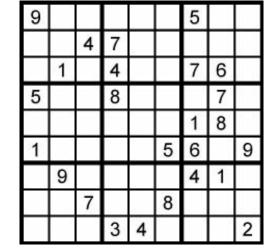
ornamental

8 Tasseled topper

24 Stage signal

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD TEMPERAMEN

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

SUDOKU

downtown



RAIN IN CITY

5 /-i		2000	COVID-19 TRACKER			
	RAIN IN CITY			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
Demonstrate	Girls run for cover at		World	54,61,37,362	52,19,04,444	63,44,229
	Rajmahal Square as monsoon rain lashed		India	4,33,31,645	4,27,25,055	5,24,903
	Bhubaneswar, Wednesday	1	Odisha	12,88,995	12,79,535	9,126
			111111111	: 		

Naveen meets Pope in Vatican



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with Pope Francis in Vatican

POST NEWS NETWORK, AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik met Pope Francis in Vatican City Wednesday. Patnaik was accompanied by

his private secretary VK Pandian to the meeting on the third day of his trip to Italy

On behalf of the people of Odisha, the Chief Minister presented a 'Pattachitra' painting to the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, and sought his blessings, an official statement issued by his office in Bhubaneswar said.

"It has been an absolute pleasure meeting His Holiness Pope Francis

n behalf of the people of Odisha, the Chief Minister presented a 'Pattachitra' painting to the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, and sought his blessings, an official statement issued by his office in Bhubaneswar said

Patnaik will also meet the Odia diaspora from various parts of Europe. On the Middle East and adjoining regions in Dubai

(@Pontifex) in Vatican City. Thanked him for the warm audience and wished him good health and a long life," Patnaik tweeted

Many priests and sisters from India, who were at the Vatican,

were happy to see Patnaik. They

wished him well, the statement

said.Pattachitra is a traditional

Patnaik is in Italy at the invitation of the World Food

the transformative initiatives of

Programme, and would share

Odisha in the field of food

security and disaster

management

painting from Odisha. This art form is known for its intricate detail, natural colours and mythological themes. It shows the unique expertise of the skilled craftsmen of the coastal state.

Patnaik is in Italy at the invitation of the World Food Programme (WFP), and would share the transformative initiatives of Odisha in the field of food security and disaster management.

As per schedule, Patnaik will also meet the Odia diaspora from various parts of Europe. He will discuss the possible ways to engage with the diaspora in promoting the art and culture of Odisha and also enabling them to partner in the state's transformational journey.

On his way back home, the Chief Minister will meet investors from the Middle East and adjoining regions in Dubai. He will also have one-on-one meetings with some big investors from the region. A high-level industrial delegation from Odisha will also be present during the investors meet for possible partnerships with the foreign investors.

This is Patnaik's second foreign trip as chief minister of Odisha in the last 22 years.

The Bharativa Janata Party (BJP), meanwhile, took a dig at Patnaik for not meeting Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati of Govardhan Peeth in Puri even once during his 22-year rule.

"It would have been better had Patnaik met the Shankaracharya at least once as head of a secular government," BJP spokesperson Biranchi Tripathi said.

Modi gives prominence to Odias: BJP

The Odisha unit of BJP has asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued to give prominence to Odias after the NDA picked Droupadi Murmu as its candidate for the upcoming Presidential election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 22: After the NDA picked Droupadi Murmu, a daughter of Odisha, as its candidate for the upcoming Presidential election, the state unit of BJP has asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued to give prominence to Odias as part of his focus on East India.

BJP Odisha unit president Samir Mohantv claimed that Odias got key positions in the central government after Modi became the PM in 2014.

Referring to the selection of Murmu as the NDA's presidential election candidate, he said, "On behalf of the 4.5 crore people of Odisha, the state unit of BJP thanks the prime minister.'

If elected, Murmu will be the first Odia to hold the country's topmost constitutional post, apart from being the first tribal President.

Though former President VV Giri was born in Berhampur town



in Odisha's Ganjam district, he hailed from a Telugu-speaking familv. He was the fourth President of India who was in office from August 24, 1969, to August 24, 1974.

Mohanty told reporters that Murmu, a resident of the tribaldominated Mayurbhanj district, was earlier appointed as the governor of Jharkhand. She was in that post from 2015 to 2021.

He said that Modi had appointed Girish Chandra Murmu, who also hailed from Odisha. as the Comptroller and Auditor

General (CAG).

A 1985 batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, GC Murmu was Principal Secretary to Modi when he was chief minister of Gujarat. He also became the first Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

Several other Odia officers were posted in key positions in several ministries after Modi became the prime minister, Mohanty said.

A 1972 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, PK Mishra who

hails from Odisha, is the Principal Secretary at PMO since September 2019. Similarly, Shaktikant Das is the

first from the state to serve as the Governor of the Reserve Bank. A 1970 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, Das was deputed to the Centre in 2014

Other Odia persons who are in high positions in the central government include Director-General of India Metrological Department (IMD) Dr Mrutunjay Mohapatra and Director-General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Satyanarayan Pradhan.

There are three leaders from the state, who are in the council of ministers headed by Modi. While Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw are Cabinet ministers, Bisheswar Tudu is a minister of state.

Mohanty said that the Modi government has conferred many Padma awards on eminent persons from the state.

FOR WELLNESS OF DEITIES



The authorities of Bishwamitra Ashram at Kakatpur send fruits for the Anasara rituals of Srimandir deities in Puri,

Mount pressure on govt to roll back Agnipath: Rahul

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, June 22: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday addressed party workers and MLAs from several states, including Odisha, and asked them to mount pressure on the Centre to roll back the contentious Agnipath military recruitment scheme.

Six MLAs from Odisha were present at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters here during the address of Gandhi, said Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka.

Gandhi also thanked party leaders for standing by his side and supporting him during his interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate. The Congress leader criticized the Centre's Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitment in the Armed Forces "We should strengthen the Army. But, this government is weakening it. It will have consequences during war,' Gandhi said.

Responding to the call given by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to put pressure on the Centre to withdraw the Agnipath scheme, the

RAHUL GANDHI ADDRESSED **CONGRESS LEADERS AND MLAS** FROM SEVERAL STATES, INCLUDING ODISHA, AT THE AICC **HEADQUARTERS**

RESPONDING TO THE CALL, **ODISHA YOUTH CONGRESS WORKERS STAGE PROTEST IN BHUBANESWAR**

Odisha Pradesh Youth Congress

workers staged a protest in the city. Addressing the party workers Smruti Ranjan Lenka, the President of Odisha Youth Congress said, 'India's three armies have a long history of reform, dignity and tradition. In many respects, Indian army has always shown a dedicated service to the country by sacrificing its life for the security of the country. But the Modi government is trying to destroy the the dignity and traditions of the army. Deploying troops in the army through this

scheme, the government is playing with the country's security.' Lenka said the security of the country is an important issue. With more than 2,55,000 posts vacant across the three armies. The Modi government has stopped recruitment in the army for the last twoyears. That's why there is so much anger among the youth. In states like Haryana and Punjab, many youths have committed suicide for not getting jobs.

The government, instead of giving permanent recruitment to the youth in the army, is providing temporary jobs. With the Agnipath scheme, the government is planning to stop pension and other insurance schemes of the army people in future, Lenka said. An army man from the beginning of joining the army aims to sacrifice his life for the country but this scheme will fail to inspire him, he added.

The army recruitment requires several years of training which takes time. How the government is thinking that young men will get all the training in short period of time. Also, after completing four vears of service in the army what will be future of this men, he questioned and said that we demand the withdrawal of the scheme.



Youth Congress activists holding a demonstration against the Agnipath military recruitment scheme in Bhubaneswar

Murmu to leave for Delhi today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 22: NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu reached the capital Wednesday night, covering a distance of about 280 km on road from her native Rairangpur town in Mayurbhanj district, amid cheers and greetings by locals along the way. She is set to leave for Delhi June 23 morning.

Murmu was received by Odisha BJP president Samir Mohanty and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi at a guest house here.

"She is scheduled to leave for Delhi Thursday morning around 9 am," the official said.

The NDA presidential candidate, who was set to visit her alma mater, Unit-II Girls' High School, in the state capital had to drop the idea, in view of the crowds she drew everywhere she went. She also wanted to pay obeisance at Lingaraj temple here, but the plans had to be shelved owing to delay in her arrival, the official said.

Murmu's school teachers and some of her college lecturers, however, greeted her at the guest house.

"We are proud that our alumnus is tipped to become the next President of India," said her school's headmistress, Kalyani Mishra.

After BJD support, NDA Prez pick to have a smooth sailing PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, June 22: With the

BJD backing NDA presidential candidate Droupadi 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 Naveen Patnaik's party, 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.

This includes 3,08,000 votes of MPs of the BJP and its allies. The BJD has around 32,000 votes in the electorate which is around 2.9 percent of the total.

The ruling party in Odisha has 114 MLAs in the House of 147 members in the Assembly while the BJP has 22 lawmakers. It has 12 MPs in the Lok Sabha and nine in the Rajya Sabha.

The NDA candidate is likely to get the support of some regional parties including the AIADMK, and the YSRCP for its candidate in the presidential poll.

The ruling BJP's strength in the crucial upper house of Parliament is 92 after the results of the just-concluded Rajya Sabha elections. It has a total of 301 MPs of its own in the Lok Sabha.

Assembly polls, including in all-important Uttar Pradesh, where the value of the vote of each MLA is more than any other state, has only added to its overall advantage.

Though the BJP and its allies in the NDA have fewer MLAs than they had during the 2017 presidential polls, their numbers of MPs have gone up since. The BJP had sprung a surprise

by picking former Jharkhand Governor and tribal leader Droupadi Murmu to succeed Ram Nath Kovind, a leader from the Dalit community, for the top constitutional post in the country.

According to the latest official figures, the BJP on its own has 393 MPs, excluding four nominated Rajya Sabha members who cannot vote, out of the current strength of 776 members from both Houses, giving it a clear majority.

The BJP's numerical advantage in Parliament, which has almost half of the votes in the electoral college which also comprises all elected MLAs, is further enhanced when the strength of its allies like Janata Dal (United), which has 21 MPs in total, Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party, Apna Dal and several from the Northeastern states are added.

While there are 776 MPs of both

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, each

having 700 votes, there are as many as 4,033 legislators in states with different votes who will also elect Ram Nath Kovind's successor.

Though the final list of electors will be notified after the by-elections to three Lok Sabha seats and Rajya Sabha polls to 16 seats, the NDA has 440 MPs in its favour while the op-

the support of Naveen Patnaik's party, he candidature of The BJD has around the NDA nominee has Droupadi Murmu, a 32,000 votes in the

around 52 per cent votes 64-year-old tribal leader electorate which is around (around 5.67.000 votes) out from Odisha, was 2.9 percent of the total. The of a total of 10.86.431 announced by BJP chief JP ruling party in Odisha has otes of all electors Nadda Tuesday night, hours 114 MLAs in the House of 147 after former Union minister members in the Assembly. It has 12 MPs in the Lok Sabha and nine in the Yashwant Sinha was declared the joint candidate by many opposition parties

position UPA has around 180 MPs. besides 36 MPs of Trinamool Congress who normally support the opposition candidate.

Among the states, the BJP has a maximum of 56,784 votes from Uttar Pradesh where it has 273 MLAs. Each MLA in Uttar Pradesh has a maximum vote of 208. The

NDA will get its second-highest votes among states from Bihar where with 127 MLAs, it will get 21.971 votes as each legislator has 173 votes, followed by 18,375 votes from Maharashtra where it has 105 MLAs and each has 175 votes.

With 131 MLAs, the NDA will get 17,161 votes from Madhya Pradesh, 16,464 votes of 112 MLAs from Gujarat and 15,982 votes of its 122 MLAs in Karnataka.

The UPA, on the other hand, has a little over 1,50,000 votes of its MPs and will get around the same number of votes from its legislators in states.

Opposition candidates in the

past too have been getting a little more than three lakh votes in the previous elections for the highest post in the country.

The value of the vote of a Member of Parliament has gone down to 700 from 708 in the presidential polls this time due to the absence of a legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.

The value of the vote of an MP in a presidential election is based on the number of elected members in legislative assemblies of states and union territories, including Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

The election will be held on July 18 to elect incumbent Kovind's successor, the Election Commission announced Thursday.

The nominations can be filed till June 29 and the result of the elec-

tion will be out on July 21. When elected, Murmu, a former governor of Jharkhand, will be the first president who was born

post-independence. The candidature of the 64-yearold tribal leader from Odisha was announced by BJP chief JP Nadda Tuesday night, hours after former Union minister Yashwant Sinha was declared the joint candidate by many opposition parties, including the Congress, the TMC and the NCP.

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



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 Havildars 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

Barang, June 22: A 45-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances at a cashew orchard near Netal 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

According to family sources, Nayak left home for the hospital Tuesday morning but did not return home. The family members then began a search when they learnt about his scooter parked near the cashew orchard. They immediately informed the police.

On Wednesday morning, police reached the spot along with his

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 OP PHOTO

At Rakhigarhi, POWERGRID celebrates Int'l Day of Yoga



Power & Heavy

as chief guest

Industries, Krishan Pal

Gurjar, graced the event

was telecasted live through LED

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

Commission Chairman Jaideep

Arya, Haryana Hisar's Deputy

Commissioner Priyanka Soni,

Narnaundand SDM Vikas Yadav

and POWERGRID Director

(Personnel) VK Singh were

Among others, Haryana Yoga

screens among the populace.

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 22: The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna 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

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 '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 in-

he 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

teractive 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 Bapuraoji 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 customized vehicle will reach to every village at least for 11 times with various awareness generation messages for the inclusive development of adolescent 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,



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

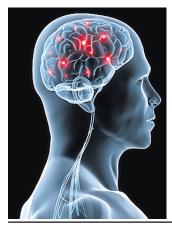
Breathing toxic particles can affect brain, lead to neurological damage

reathing 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 brainblood 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 inhaling particles and how they subsequently move around the body," said professor Iseult Lynch, from



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

BLOODSTREAM AFTER CROSSING THE AIR-BLOOD BARRIER, **EVENTUALLY REACHING THE** BRAIN, AND LEADING TO DAMAGE OF THE BRAIN-BLOOD BARRIER AND SURROUNDING TISSUES AS

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

THEY DO SO ONCE IN THE BRAIN, THE PARTICLES WERE HARD TO CLEAR AND WERE RETAINED FOR LONGER

THAN IN OTHER ORGANS 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 parti-

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Maternal, infant deaths alarming in Nabarangpur



POST NEWS NETWORK

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.

OrissaPOST

THURSDAY | JUNE 23 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAI

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.

years) have died in Papadahandi Similarly, 108 infants in Nabarangpur block, 77 in Chandahandi, 85 in Dabugaon, 144

have died in the same year. The district health department

Among the 10 blocks in the district, Papadahandi registered the highest number of infant deaths. As many as 201 infants (up to 5

in Jharigaon, 168 in Koshagumuda, 153 in Raighar, 82 in Nandahandi, 177 in Umerkote and 118 in Tentulikhunti

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

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

mong the 10 blocks in the Among the 10 size registered the highest number of infant deaths. As many as 201 infants (up to 5 years) have died in Papadahandi block

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 Raighar 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.

Drug peddler escapes; three cops suspended

JALESWAR: Three police officials of Jaleswar police station in Balasore were





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

OP PHOTO

Fear grips Patadhara after Red attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

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

Bhaisadan-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

ultras. However, it was unclear as to how many ultras were involved in the attack

Several officials also said that since the ambush took place close to the border with Chhattisgarh, the involvement of the Red rebels from the neighbouring state cannot be ruled out.

In the wake of this incident, security has been beefed up in

₹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.

MLA visits remote Daringbadi village

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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.

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 Amresh Panigrahi got the matter investigated and placed sub-inspector Priyadarshini Khatua, constables Sheikh Moiuddin and Rabindra Hansdah under suspension.



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

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rupsa, June 22: Six people sustained critical injuries after two motorcycles collided head-on at Nabara Square under Singla police limits in Balasore district, Wednesdav.

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 motorcy cle 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

Man gets 5-vr jail for murder bid on woman

details and other important documents before the court. The

Lambodar in court after arresting him over a complaint.

hearing on the bail petition of Rdhaeshyam will be held June 24

KEONJHAR: A local court Wednesday sentenced a man to five years of imprisonment after convicting him for murder bid on a woman at Badajamupasi 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

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

MAHANADI BASIN AREA

Groundwater salination worry for 49 blocks

POST NEWS NETWORK

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



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 Jagatsinghur district; Barchana and Bari in Jajpur district; Derabish, Garadpur, Kendrapara, Mahakalpara, Marshaghai, Pattamundai

Mater Resources department director Alok Kumar Kar has sought a feasibility report on underground pipeline in the areas facing groundwater salination

ormer 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.

Indian Overseas Bank

Asika Branch, Plot No.276, Kalinga Road, Asika, Dist: Ganjam Phone: 06822 - 272474, E-mail: iob2218@iob.in

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section13(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)

 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/guaranto 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

Guarantor	(
Borrower: M/s. Raghunath Motors, Prop. Mr. Susanta Kumar Nahak, At-Kalasandapur ,Aska — Berhampur Main Road, Aska , Ganjam- 761111,		
Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Susanta Kumar Nahak, S/o-Mr. Bhobani Nahak, At-Ghatakuri, Po-Kharia, Dist- Ganjam, Pin -761111	(a B B	

Name & Address of

(A) Loan / Limit Total Outstanding due as on specified date (B) Date of NPA Rs.34,35,220/-(A)Rs.34,00,000/ 06.06.2022 as on (B) 30.05.2022 30.05.2022

1. House site Property Situated at :-Mouza Kharia, PS/Tahasil/SRO- Aska, Dist-Ganjam 761111, Odisha, In New Khata No- 702/120, Plo & Chaka No-5089,5094/6990,5095/6991,5088, an extent of area measuring Ac. 0.158 dcl, Ac.0.025 dcl, Ac0.195 dcl, Ac.0.168 dcl respectively tota Extent Ac.0.546 dcl measuring 23783.76 sq.feet recorded in the name of Mr.Susanta Kumar Nahak

Description of Secured

Boundaries of the Property: North- Road, South- Land of Sahadeb Jena, Basudeb Jena &Hadubandhu Swain, East- Land of Sri GobindaBiswal&BahadurBiswal, West- Self Land & Land of RamnathBiswal 2. House site Property Situated at: Mouza- Kharia, PS/Tahasil/SRO- Aska, Dist-Ganjam-761111, Odisha, In New Khata No- 702/155, Plot &

Chaka No- 5086/7002 & 5087, extent Ac. 0.123 dcl, & Ac.0.180 dcl, respectively total Extent Ac.0.303 dcl measuring 13198.68 sq.feet recorded in the name of Mr.Susanta Kumar Nahak, Boundaries of the Property: North- Self Land, South- Land of Hadibandhu Swain & Mochia ena, East- Land of Sri Mochia Jena & Others, West- Self Land & Land of Choudhury Jena & Others

payable with further interest at contractual rates/rests as agreed, costs & expenses incurred thereon from the date mentioned above till date of payment . 4. If the said borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors fail to make payment to Indian Overseas Bank as aforesaid, then Indian Overseas Bank shall proceed against the above secured asset under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and Rules entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the said borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors . 5. Further, the attention of borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured asset . 6. The said borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors are prohibited under the SARFAESI Act from transferring the secured asset, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Indian Overseas Bank . Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules shall be liable for imprisonment and / or fine as given under Section 29 of the Act

Date: 22.06.2022, Place: Asika

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank



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

SRI AUROBINDO



Schallenberg &

fundamental threat

Phil Twyford

to humanity,

we cannot be

content with

on nuclear

the status quo

disarmament

Given the

Disarm All Nukes

ustria 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 nucleararmed 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 dis-

sonance 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 likeminded 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 deter-

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 likeminded 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

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.

WISDOM CORNER

It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.

Believe you can and you're halfway there. THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience.

WORDS**WORTH**

■ 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 J H 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.

FOCUS MAHARASHTRA

POWER AT ANY COST



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

the BJP over the last few years and the Shiv Thackeray as the Chief Minister has been a troublesome thorn in its side. Other states have provided sturdy opposition to the near-complete sweep and control of the BJP - West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are examples. But Maharashtra has been a particularly sore point for the BJP because it is here that friends have turned foes. At one point they were quite wellaligned and many viewed the BJP and the Shiv Sena almost like kinquarrels, no matter how fractious, may happen but ultimately, they would come home to one family and settle the matter under one roof was the general view. Bicker, fight and rage at each other they did, but the partnership held. However, in 2019, all that changed. Thackeray and the wider leadership of the Shiv Sena began to see the BJP as less of a partner and more as an enemy, daggers drawn, preparing, gearing, growing and waiting to gobble up all power for itself. This led to the split, with Thackeray claiming the position of CM by discarding the BJP and signing on the Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP as partners.

This didn't come easy. The BJP attempted to split the alliance and even got a government sworn in with the support of Pawar's nephew in a 6 am coup with the BJP-appointed Governor leading the oath-taking. But that didn't last beyond 48 hours and Thackeray eventually stepped in to become the 19th CM of Maharashtra. Before this he was elected president of the newly formed coalition Maha Vikas Aghadi.

The Shiv Sena has known the BJP as only friends can, and since then it has set about systematically, and with particularly stinging narratives, attacking the party and seeking to destroy its carefully cultivated if limited reach in Maharashtra. The Shiv Sena supported the fight to protect the Aarey green belt in Mumbai, reversing the BJP-era stand. The Shiv Sena has asked difficult questions on the proposed bullet train project connecting Mumbai and



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

Ahmedabad. The Narcotics Control Bureau working under the Central government was exposed for seeking to extort money by filing false cases. The party has accused the Prime Minister of "lies" in speeches to Parliament. One editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamna' said: "When Modi first set foot in Parliament, he kept his head on the steps of Parliament and shed tears. Today, in seven years, the same Parliament and democracy will be shedding tears! So much anarchy has been created. The speechwriters of Modi seem to have taken a contract to turn him into a liar because the references in his speeches are wrong." The party has also attacked the PM over the migrants' crisis, and accused the BJP of starting riots on the issue of 'hijab'

In return, the BJP has been out to teach the Shiv Sena and its leader Thackeray a lesson. Now, it appears to have caught the Sena in a pincer. The block of Shiv Sena MLAs (at first 26 Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde, Urban Development and Public Works Minister) fled to Surat in Gujarat and then to Assam, both BJPruled. And that tells a tale of how this "coup" has been engineered.

Needless to say, the Shiv Sena

ought to have known better and exercised better control on its MLAs.

Events are unfolding fast and it is not easy to predict how this will end. Given its control and power, the BJP may well succeed. The narrative being built is that the Sena went against the mandate of the people by breaking a pre-poll alliance with the BJP and forging a post-poll alliance with the Congress, a party that Uddhav's father Bal Thackeray opposed. Yet, the BJP equally knows that its game is to weaken the Sena and grow its own party, a gobbling-up strategy that has been at the root of the evaporating trust between the two parties. Even when the alliance was forged first by Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray and BJP general secretary Pramod Mahajan over three decades ago, there was some mistrust which was papered over by the promise of mutual benefits the two could draw from the relationship which became official when the two parties fought the 1989 Lok Sabha elections together. Yet, when those benefits actually arrived (the Sena has not seen power at the state level since 1999), the problems acquired a new dimension. The BJP placed Devendra Fadnavis as its Chief Minister in 2014-2019, and the

Sena just could not tolerate handing them a second term. The party had worked out a 50:50 power sharing arrangement with the BJP and wanted to share the new term,

starting with itself. If the BJP succeeds this time, it will get what it wanted in the short term but at the cost of displaying to the nation that the party is willing to go to any lengths to grab power and teach its foes a lesson. This cannot be good for democracy and cannot be good for the BJF either - the message for any potential partner of the BJP will be to keep away. It also builds the argument of many within the Shiv Sena that the BJP is about control and power, for which Hindutva is being put to use. It was barely a two months ago that amid the threats to recite the 'Hanuman Chalisa' outside the Chief Minister's house that the Shiv Sena attacked the Prime Minister again. 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.

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press.

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 China agreed on who would benewith the developed world and some groups, mainly civil societies, called 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 fit 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

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

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

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

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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 it's 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 Patnaikled 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

national



Deeply saddened at the news of the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan today. My deepest condolences on loss of precious lives NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

GARUDA TO SET UP DRONE FACTORY IN MALAYSIA

India's integrated drone manufacture and drone-as-a-service (DAAS) provider Garuda Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. will set up a production facility in Malaysia at an outlay of Rs 115 crore, said a top company official



If elected as the President, I shall not allow the independence and integrity of democratic institutions to be weaponised against political opponents, as is happening now

YASHWANT SINHA FORMER UNION MINISTER

I don't want to go into details why BJP has made her (Murmu) the candidate. Several names were floated.

First meeting (of opposition parties) I attended with Sharad Pawar. But the point is, in my opinion the candidate that was selected (by BJP) is really one of the suitable

H D DEVE GOWDA | JD(S) PATRIARCH



Compound in Silchar due to flood. We have sent a rescue team with boats to rescue and bring back the stranded residents

LALCHAMLIANA HOME MINISTER OF MIZORAM

SHORT **TAKES**

MCD demolishes illegal structures

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi Wednesday conducted an anti-encroachment drive near the ITO graveyard here and demolished 50 permanent structures built "illegally" on public land having an area of 1800 square metre, civic officials said. The officials said that the action has been taken on the directions of the Delhi High Court and it may continue Thursday as well. Encroachers were provided "necessary opportunity" to furnish their ownership documents before carrying out the action, they said.

993 unlicensed weapons seized

Bhopal: More than 900 unlicensed weapons were seized by the Madhya Pradesh police as a precautionary measure ahead of the panchavat and urban body elections, an official said Wednesday. Apart from seizing 993 unlicensed weapons, the police have also gotten over 1.25 lakh people to fill bonds to ensure that they won't indulge in any illegal activity, the official said.

Delhi: Fake call centre busted

New Delhi: With the arrest of two persons, including one woman, the police claimed to have busted a fake call centre duping people on the pretext of issuing insurance policies in south Delhi. The accused have been identified as Pradeep Gupta and Neha, an official said Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (south district) Benita Mary Jaiker said a complaint was lodged March 2 at Cyber Police Station where the complainant stated that he received a call from Neha who convinced him to take out an insurance policy.

Man beaten to

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man was beaten to death by around half a dozen people in Delhi's Azadpur area, an official said Wednesday. The incident took place at around 1.30 a.m. on the intervening night of June 21-22. "A PCR call was received at Adarsh Nagar police station regarding a quarrel after which the police immediately reached the spot in Meel Wala Park Azadpur where one person aged about 21 years was found lying in an injured state and blood was scattered near his body," DCP (north-west), Usha Rangnani said.



Rampur/Azamgarh, June 22: Over 35 lakh people will be voting Thursday to decide the fate of 19 candidates in the by-polls to the Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha seats, considered as the bastions of the Samajwadi Party.

The polling will take place between 7 am and 6 pm, Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said.

The by-polls to the Azamgarh seat were necessitated by the resignation of Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, who was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly as an MLA in the elections earlier this year. The Rampur seat was vacated by senior SP leader Azam Khan, who too was elected to the state Assembly.



According to officials, 13 candidates are in the fray from Azamgarh, where 18.38 lakh people are eligible to vote. Six candidates are contesting from Rampur, which has 17.06 lakh voters.

The campaigning for the bypolls had ended Tuesday evening. From Rampur, the BJP has fielded Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi, who recently joined the party, while the SP has fielded Asim Raja, handpicked by Khan. The Mayawati-led BSP is not contesting from Rampur.

The Azamgarh seat will see a triangular contest among BJP's Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirhua', a famous Bhojpuri actor-singer, SP's Dharmendra Yadav and BSP's Shah Alam, also known as Guddu Jamali.

The BJP is eyeing to bolster its strength in the Lok Sabha further through these bypolls while the SP will go an extra mile to protect its pocket-boroughs. In Azamgarh, of the 18.38 lakh voters, 9,70,249 are men, 8,67,942 women and 36 third gender. Officials said 2,176 booths will be set up at 1,149 polling stations of the constituency, where an estimated 15 per cent of the residents are Muslim. All four assembly constituencies--Azamgarh, Mubarakpur, Sagdi, Gopalpur and Mehnagar-falling in this Lok Sabha seat were won by the SP in the recent assembly elections.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, there was an alliance between the SP and the BSP, and Akhilesh Yadav had won easily, getting 6.21 lakh votes against BJP's Dinesh Lal Yadav, who had got 3.61 lakh votes. While central BJP leaders remained absent from campaigning this time, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

dates on the two seats.

Akhilesh Yadav and his wife Dimple did not campaign in the by-polls. When asked about it, the SP chief, who was in Kannauj Tuesday, had said, "We are winning both Azamgarh and Rampur

The Rampur constituency, which has almost an equal number of Hindu and Muslim voters, is considered a bastion of prominent SP Muslim face Azam Khan. Yadav. Sikhs and Dalit voters are also in a position to influence the outcome of the by-poll on the seat.

In the 2019 Lok Sabaha elections, Azam Khan had received 5,59,177 votes, whereas BJP candidate Java Prada got 4,49,180 votes and Congress candidate Sanjay Kapoor lost his deposit.

UPSC civil services prelims result out



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Over 13,000 candidates have qualified the civil services (preliminary) examination 2022, the results of which were declared Wednesday by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The civil services examination is conducted annually by the commission in three stages -- preliminary, main and interview -- to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others. The preliminary examination was held June 5, 2022.

Nearly 11.52 lakh people have applied for the examination and as many as 13,090 candidates have qualified it, an official said.

The UPSC has put up on its website -- www.Upsc.Gov.In -- a detailed list mentioning roll numbers of candidates who have been declared successful in the test.

Initially, a total of 861 vacancies were sought to be filled through the civil services examination 2022, which have now been increased to 1,022, the official said.

All the successful candidates have been asked to apply again in the Detailed Application Form-I (DAF-I) for the civil services (main) examination 2022, a statement issued by the UPSC said. The dates and important instructions for filling up the DAF-I and its submission will be announced in due course of time on the website of the commission, it said.

Candidates are also informed that marks, cut-off marks and answer keys of the civil services preliminary examination 2022 will be uploaded on the commission's website only after the entire process of the civil services examination 2022 is over, i.E. After the declaration of the final result, the UPSC said.

Assam flood situation remains grim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

inside PS in Delhi

Five cops, home

guard stabbed

New Delhi, June 22: Five policemen and a home guard were stabbed by a man inside a police station in east Delhi's Shahdara Wednesday, officials said.

The incident took place on the third floor of Cyber Police Station, Shahdara, they said. The accused, identified as Bharat Bhati, 28, has been arrested, police said.

The injured personnel have been identified as Head Constable Deepak, constables Amit, Manish, Naresh Sunil, and Homeguard Ravi, they said. Twenty people were inside the police station, including eight women, when the man went on a stabbing spree.

According to police, Wednesday,

a man entered the police station and started recording a video. When he was stopped by the police and was asked the reason behind his recording the video, the man suddenly took out a knife and stabbed several personnel one after the other: R Sathiyasundaram, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) said, "Bhati came to the police station around 12.45 pm. He was talking to the staff there and went to the third floor. He then started taking a video. He was armed with a knife. When he was stopped, he started attacking policemen. Our staff is injured. Whoever came to rescue the injured and stop the accused was also stabbed.'

When he tried to escape from the police station, the sentry closed the gates. Two-three policemen chased and overpowered him. They snatched his knife and arrested him," he said.

All injured were rushed to hospital where they are being treated,

Guwahati, June 22: The flood situation in Assam continued to remain grim with rising water levels of the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers inundating fresh areas in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ficials said Wednesday. Eighty-nine people have lost their lives since mid-May due to deluge, they said.

the state and impacting over 55

lakh people across 32 districts, of-

Undertook a train journey from Guwahati to flood-affected areas in Chaparmukh and Kampur. The journey enabled me to take a closer look at the areas ravaged by flood along the railway tracks, which will help us in taking informed decisions and intervene accordingly," Sarma said on Twitter.

Sarma visited Chaparmukh railway station to interact with floodaffected people taking shelter there and took stock of relief materials provided to them. "Assuring them all possible help, I asked district administration to ensure adequate relief to the affected people & be on stand-by," he said.

The Chief Minister is scheduled to visit Silchar to review the prevailing flood situation.

Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya has been camping at Silchar in Cachar and monitoring the flood situation in the Barak valley with the local MLAs, deputy commissioners and senior officials of the three districts.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of Japan to India Satoshi Suzuki expressed sympathy to the families who lost their "beloved ones and are affected by the recent floods and landslides occurring in Assam and Meghalaya".

"Japan always stands with the people in such difficult times," Satoshi said on Twitter. The CM



travelled to Nagaon by train to review the situation in flood-hit areas in the

Nagaon was severely affected by the 4,57,381 people coming under the mpact of the deluge and 15,188 inmate have taken shelter in 147 relief camps

the Barak Valley - Cachar, Karimganj rising water levels of the Barak and

places, while representatives of Stat agencies were deployed in the two

thanked him for expressing his concern for the state and people af-

fected by the current wave of floods. "We sincerely acknowledge the support and cooperation of Japan

and its beautiful people towards the development of our state. Sarma said on the microblogging site. Oil India Ltd has contributed Rs 5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Sarma thanked Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli and the company's chairman and managing director Sushil Kumar Mishra for the contribution and said this will

relief work". Altogether 55, 42,053 people have been affected by the ongoing floods in 32 of the 36 districts of the state.

floods during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 89 and one was reported missing from Kamrup, according to a bulletin of the Assam

Authority. Among the worst-affected districts are Barpeta with 12,51,359 people reeling under the floodwaters, Dhubri with 5,94,708 and Darrang with 5,47,421, according to the bulletin. The devastating floods, caused

by incessant rainfall, affected 121 revenue circles and 5,577 villages, while 2,62,155 inmates have taken shelter in 862 relief camps, it said.

Relief materials were uted from 825 delivery points among flood-hit people who have not taken shelters in the relief camps. According to the bulletin of the Central Water Commission (CWC), the Kopili river was flowing above the danger level at Kampur in Nagaon district, and the Brahmaputra at Nimatighat, Tezpur, Guwahati, Kamrup, Goalpara and Dhubri

Eight killed as car collides with auto -

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamirpur (UP), June 22: Eight people, including a child, were when a pickup van collided with an auto, police said here.

The incident took place on the National Highway-34 in the Makrawan locality of the Maudaha area. The victims were identified as Shyambabu (35), his wife Mamta (30), daughter Dipanjali (7), niece Ragini (15), Pancha (65), Vijay (26), auto driver Rajesh (25) and Rajulia (45), Circle Officer Vivek Yadav said. The injured were rushed to the hospital where the condition of

two is stated to be serious. Police said the pickup van was going to Mauhada from Lucknow with mangoes in it. It collided with an overloaded auto carrying passengers. After the mishap, the bodies scattered on the road. The locals rushed to the spot and removed those trapped inside the auto.

They also informed the ambulance and police, after which they were taken to the hospital. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the deaths and directed

officials to provide all medical facilities to injured. A detailed probe is on into the matter. Sovan Chatterjee

meets Mamata

Kolkata: Former Kolkata mayor

Sovan Chatterjee Wednesday met

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Baneriee at the state secretariat, fuelling speculation of his return to the state's ruling party. Chatteriee. who was accompanied by friend Baisakhi Bandopadhyay to 'Nabanna', avoided a direct reply to questions over his next move and told reporters that he would follow directions of "Mamata di". "Whatever decision Mamata di takes, I will abide by it. I will follow her directions," he told reporters after an hour-long meeting. Asked if he was ready to join politics again after keeping away from it for more than a year, Chatterjee wondered whether any individual is "apolitical" in West Bengal.

Reducing air pollution may improve brain growth in kids

The study, published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, found that the children born to mothers who had used the air cleaners had an average full-scale intelligence quotient (FSIO) that was 2.8-points higher than the group that did not use an air cleaner during pregnancy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Toronto, June 22: Having a portable air cleaner in the home can reduce the negative impacts of air pollution on brain development in children, says a new study.

The study, published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, found that the children born to mothers who had used the air cleaners had an average full-scale intelligence quotient (FSIQ) that was 2.8-points higher than the group that did not use an air cleaner during pregnancy.

"These results, combined with evidence from previous studies, strongly implicate air pollution as a threat to brain development," said researcher Ryan Allen from Simon Fraser University, in Canada. The team recruited 540 pregnant women in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to participate in the study.

Ulaanbaatar has some of the worst air quality in the world, wellexceeding guidelines set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).



The women were less than 18 tervention group.

weeks into their pregnancies and non-smokers who had not previously used air filtering devices in their homes. They were randomly assigned to either the control or in-

The intervention group was provided with one or two HEPA filter air cleaners and encouraged to run the air cleaners continuously for the duration of their pregnancies. The air cleaners were removed

from the home once the child was born. The researchers later measured the children's FSIQ at four years of age. Children in the intervention group also had significantly greater average verbal comprehension index scores, which is consistent with results from previous observational studies.

The research suggests that a child's verbal skills may be particularly sensitive to air pollution exposure.

to appear before ED PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonia seeks more time

'significantly aid our ongoing flood-

Seven more people died due to the

New Delhi, June 22: Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who was hospitalised for over a week for Covid-19 complications, wrote to the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday seeking postponement of her appearance in the National Herald case by a few weeks till she

recovers completely.

The ED is learnt to have accepted her request and may give her a fresh date soon, sources said. The 75-year-old Congress leader, who was discharged from hospital on June 20, had been summoned by the agency for questioning on June 23 in the money laundering case related to the newspaper. Her son and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has already been quizzed by the probe agency for over five days.

Sonia Gandhi had earlier been scheduled to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 8 but had sought more time from the probe agency in view of her Covid-19 infection. The agency had then issued a fresh summons "Since she has been strictly advised rest at home following her hospitalisation on account of Covid and lung infection, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi has written to ED today seeking the postpone-



ment of her appearance there by a few weeks till she has recovered completely," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok

Gehlot earlier said that Gandhi should not appear before the ED as she has just returned after many days of hospitalisation. "Sonia Gandhi has just come back from the hospital after many days, I don't think she should go there now,' Gehlot told reporters when asked about her appearance before the ED. He said she would cooperate with the ED but would not be able to go there. Gehlot again asserted the case against the Gandhis has nothing in it as it has been reopened by the ED seven years after it was closed by the same agency.

death in Azadpur



TWO STATES





THURSDAY | JUNE 23 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

Flash floods, landslides batter Jammu Ker to raise ₹250cr

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

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.

Traffic on Mughal Road, which connects the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, was also suspended due to landslides, they said.

"The shuttering of under-construction Peerah bridge was washed away due to heavy rains (on highway)," a police official said, adding that the one which is normally used for traffic is safe.

In Udhampur district, a 150-foot stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar highway was washed away Wednesday near Toldi Nallah, 16 km away from Udhampur town, they said. Many machines were involved in the work to restore the road

'FAKE' VIDEO ROW

LoP's legal notice

to LDF convener

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 "base-

Jayarajan had said that Satheesan was one among those who were instrumental in prepar-

ing and releasing a video that defamed the Thrikkakara CPI-M can-

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.

the former.

didate Joe Joseph.

allegation against



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 Dishkhall 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 I&K move to highland meadows with their livestock during the summer months.

patch swept away in the flash floods in the Tawi river.

"Chances of road opening today are less. There are no reports of any loss of life," they said. The Jammu-Srinagar highway is blocked due

TAWI IN SPATE

to fresh shooting stones and landslides at several places in Ramban

district," a traffic official said. There are over 33 landslides, mudslides and incidents of shooting stones reported on the 270-km 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

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 nal lah and efforts are on to clear them

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

to boost startups



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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.

In suspected suicide case, man, son die in car crash

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, June 22: In an apparent case of suicide, a 50year-old man along with his 12vear-old son rammed his car into a tanker lorry near here, police said Wednesday.

As a result of the impact, the father-son duo was seriously injured and later succumbed to in-

The accident happened close to Tuesday midnight and the man

Devaraj. The local police's suspicions were raised after finding Prakash's messages in his social media account Tuesday. Police also recovered a letter from the vehicle.

In the letter, he blamed his wife.

her friends and asked the police to

take appropriate steps as they are ___ all responsible for the deaths. His wife is a dance teacher and is working abroad and reports have now surfaced that there were do-

mestic issues between the two.

Meanwhile, the local police have has been identified as Prakash now started a detailed probe.

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 Veena 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

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

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.

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

The producer-actor had also al-

Film producer nabbed for 'fraud'

Thiruvananthapuram: Ahead of the release of his Malayalam film 'Sayana Varthakel', 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 Dhyan 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 produceractor for the past one-and-half

Cybercriminal using my details to dupe colleagues: Choudhary

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 FINANCIAL HELP Administrative Service (IAS) of-



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

HE 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 offi-

cers 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 toextract money by hacking into

bank accounts.

national



support of people of all classes and religions in the by-election to Azamgarh Lok Sabha seat in UP, to be held June 23, is very encouraging this public support will definitely turn into votes MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

TRAGIC INCIDENT

In a shocking incident, a 24-year-old youth was killed by his friend for ₹50 in Basaveshwaranagar police station limits of Bangalore. The deceased person has been identified as Shivamadu, a resident of Laggere. According to police, the deceased and accused were childhood friends





medium industries -the Modi

all those who train in the morning to get into Army, Navy and Air force that the prime minister has broken the spine of the country and this country will not be able to give jobs to its youth

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER



Work is going on on a war footing ahead of the rainy season to save the rainwater in Delhi. With an aim to make Delhi self-

sufficient for water, 1,548 new rainwater harvesting pits will be readied by July 15. Reviewed the ongoing work on these with all the nodal agencies

MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Father strangles newborn to death

Kolkata: In a shocking incident, a newborn girl was strangled to death by her father in Baduria in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district Wednesday morning. The reason behind the heinous act was that the newborn was his third consecutive girl child and had a dark complexion. The culprit, Rohul Amin Islam, a small-time building contractor by profession, was thrashed by the local people before being handed over to the police. Islam is currently in police custody while the body of the newborn has been sent for post-mortem.

Man guns down father, brother

Azamgarh (UP): A man in a village here allegedly shot dead his father and brother in a property dispute, police said Wednesday. The incident took place in Dhandhari village in Kaptanganj area here Tuesday night, when an argument broke out between one Manoj singh and his father Shrinarain, 75, and his 35-year-old brother Manish Singh, police said. In anger, Manoj Singh shot his father and brother with his licensed pistol, killing both of them on the spot, police said.

Anil Parab appears before ED for 2nd day

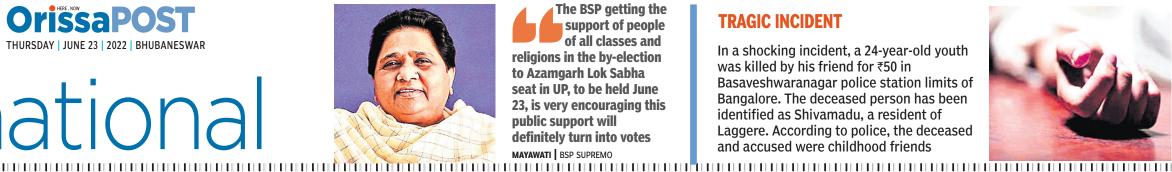
Mumbai: Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at its office in south Mumbai for the second consecutive day Wednesday in connection with the alleged money laundering case against him, officials said.

NIA conducts searches in Punjab

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday conducted search operations in Punjab's Ludhiana, Ferozpur and Gurdaspur in connection with a case related to the seizure of IEDs and ammunition from Batrara Toll Plaza in Haryana's Karnal.

Leopard found dead

Gariaband: A leopard was found dead in the forest in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district, with officials suspecting a lightning strike carcass was found under a tree in a jungle near Suhagpur village under the Parsuli forest range in the Gariaband district Tuesday evening, an official said.



The BSP getting the

BIGGEST BANKING FRAUD

CBI books DHFL, its ex-CMD and director

DHFL, ITS PROMOTERS AND OTHERS ALLEGEDLY CHEATED A CONSORTIUM OF 17 BANKS TO THE TUNE OF ₹34,615 CRORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: The CBI has booked Dewan Housing Finance Ltd, its former CMD Kapil Wadhawan, director Dheeraj Wadhawan and others for bank fraud of ₹34,615 crore, making it the biggest such case probed by the agency, officials said Wednesday.

Following the registration of case June 20, a team of over 50 officials from the agency Wednesday carried out coordinated searches on 12 premises in Mumbai belonging to FIR-listed accused which also include Sudhakar Shetty of Amaryllis Realtors and eight other builders.

The action came on a complaint from the Union Bank of India (UBI), leader of 17-member lender consortium which had extended credit facilities to the tune of ₹42.871 crore between 2010 and 2018

The bank has alleged that Kapil and Dheerai Wadhawan in criminal conspiracy with others misrepresented and concealed facts, committed criminal breach of trust and abused public funds to cheat the consortium to the tune of ₹34,614 crore by defaulting on

OPS faction expects

Sasikala's help to gain

control of AIADMK



loan repayments from May 2019 onwards. The audit of DHFL account books showed that the company allegedly committed financial irregularities, diverted funds, fabricated books, round tripped funds to "create assets for Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawan" using public money. Both are in judicial custody in connection with previous fraud cases against them.

lender banks, they said.

When DHFL was hit by investi-

The Panneerselvam faction is trying to rake up the Thevar

card and the strengthen the

community wields in South

A subtle campaign has already commenced in

Thevar face in the upper

echelons of power in the

disarmed and shunted to a

t is to be noted that both

Sasikala and Panneerselvam

are from the Thevar community

moves among the Thevar com-

munity and put pressure on the

Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) fac-

tion to not press ahead single power

centre in AIADMK in the general

and executive council of the party

to be held on Thursday, June 23.

Most of the party district sec-

retaries and former ministers

have extended support to the EPS

and their demand is that the party

has gone down due to the present

system of dual leadership and instead if a single leader is pro-

jected the party can come out in

flying colours.

which has a major say in the

power politics of Tamil Nadu

corner in the party

south Tamil Nadu, that the only

AIADMK, is being systematically

"Most of the transactions of such entities and individuals were

were disbursed ₹29,100 crore against

which ₹29,849 crore remained out-

in the nature of investments in land and properties," the bank alleged. It revealed that the DHFL, in number of instances, disbursed funds within one of month, diverted funds for investment in entities of Shetty, loans were rolled over without NPA classification, repayments worth hundreds of crores was untraceable in bank statements and unjustified moratorium on principal and interest was given. Another major outstanding in

DHFL accounts was ₹11,909 crore arising out of loans and advances worth ₹24,595 crore given to 65 entities between April 1, 2015 and December 31, 2018. The DHFL and its promoters also disbursed ₹14,000 crore as Project Finance but reflected the same as retail loans in their books. "This led to creation of inflated retail loans portfolio of 1,81,664 false and non-existent retail loans aggregating ₹14,095 crore outstanding.

The loans referred to as "Bandra

Books" were maintained in a sep arate database and subsequently merged with Other Large Project Loans (OLPL). "It was revealed that OLPL category was largely carved out of the aforesaid non-existent retail loans amounting to ₹14.000 crore, out of which ₹11.000 crore was transferred to OLPL loans and ₹3,018 crore was retained as a part of retail portfolio as unsecured retail loans," it alleged. The DHFL, its directors and executives kept maintaining that they were trying to de-stress the company through various means like securitization of pool of housing loans, project loans, divestment of promoters' stake in the

company, they said. Kapil Wadhawan continued to maintain that DHFL has six months of cash liquidity and would remain cash surplus even after considering all repayment obligations, the bank alleged.

After having "falsely assured" lenders, the DHFL delayed interest payment obligations to terms loans in May 2019 which continued thereafter with account declared a nonperforming assets, they said.

CBI gets 7 days custody of Sanjay **Gupta in NSE** co-location scam



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 22: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Wednesday got seven days custody of Sanjay Gupta, the managing director of Delhi based OPG Securities Private Ltd in connection with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location scam involving its CEO and MD Chitra Ramkrishna and others.

Gupta was produced before the Rouse Avenue Court where the CBI moved a plea demanding his fourteen days custody. The court after hearing the argument granted them seven days custody.

Gupta had allegedly made profits by getting early access to the stock market. A Mumbai based group helped Gupta in reaching SEBI officials. In April the CBI had filed its first chargesheet in the case against Ramkrishna and Anand Subramanian, the ex Group Operating Officer of the NSE.

Subramanian was arrested by the CBI February 24 while Ramkrishna was placed under arrest March 6.

The CBI is probing the matter since May 2018 but it has not found any concrete evidence to identify the mysterious Himalaya Yogi with whom the classified information was shared by Ramkrishna.

PM to visit Germany, **UAE from June 26–28**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Alpine castle of Schloss Elmau in southern Germany June 26 and 27 to attend the annual summit of G7 that is expected to delve into pressing global challenges including the Ukraine crisis and the situation in the Indo-Pacific.

From Germany, Modi will travel to the United Arab Emirates June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf nation.

Modi is attending the G7 summit following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Germany is the current chair of G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations. It comprises the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Schloss Elmau, Germany at the invitation of Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz, for the G7 Summit under the German Presidency on June 26 to 27," the Ministry of External

Modi's last visit to Germany was May 2 when he travelled to the country to attend the meeting of the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC). US President Joe Biden, British

Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are among the top leaders attending the summit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, June 22: The O

Panneerselvam (OPS) faction of

the AIADMK facing challenges

after most of the party district sec-

retaries showed their allegiance

to the Edappadi K Palaniswami

group, is trying to play the Thevar

card and get the support of for-

mer interim general secretary of

party and several second-rung lead-

ers have come out in the open

against her reinduction, she has

clout among several of the cadre.

trying to rake up the Thevar card

and the strengthen the commu-

nity wields in South Tamil Nadu.

A subtle campaign has already

commenced in south Tamil Nadu,

that the only Thevar face in the

upper echelons of power in the

AIADMK, is being systematically

disarmed and shunted to a corner

South Tamil Nadu area has al-

ways been a fiefdom of the

AIADMK but in the recent Urban

local body elections, the party fared

poorly in many parts of South

Tamil Nadu including in the home

district of Panneerselvam, Theni.

Sasikala may make some smart

The OPS faction is hoping that

in the party.

The Panneerselvam faction is

While Sasikala is out of the

the party VKSasikala.

The DHFL loan accounts were declared non-performing assets at different points of time by

gation in January 2019 after media reports on allegations of siphoning

of funds surfaced, the lender banks held a meeting February 1, 2019 and appointed KPMG to conducted a "special review audit" of DHFL from April 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018. The banks also issued a Look Out Cirular against Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawan on October 18, 2019 to prevent them from leaving the country, they said

The UBI has alleged that KPMG, in its audit, red-flagged diversion of funds in the garb of loans and advances to related and interconnected entities and individuals of DHFL and its directors.

The scrutiny of account books showed that 66 entities having commonalities with DHFL promoters

DIPLOMATIC ETIQUETTE



Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles inspects a guard of honour at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi

DEMOLITIONS LAWFUL, NO INK TO RIOTING: UP TO SC

New Delhi, June 22: The Uttar Pradesh government has told the Supreme Court that demolitions of illegal structures were carried out by its Kanpur and Prayagraj municipal bodies as per law and were not related to punishing the accused involved in violent protests following remarks by two BJP lead-

ers on Prophet Mohammed. In an affidavit filed pursuant to pleas filed by a Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, the state government said, "the said demolitions referred to in the interlocutory applications have been carried out by the local development authority, which are statutory autonomous bodies, independent of the state administration, as per law as part of their routine effort against unauthorised/illegal constructions and encroachments, in accordance with



the UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1972'

It said that none of the actual affected parties, if any, have approached this court concerning the lawful demolition action.

"It is humbly submitted that in so far as taking action against the persons accused in rioting, the state government is taking stringent steps against them in accordance with a completely different set of statutes namely--CrPC, UP gangster, and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986 and Rules, 2021, Prevention of Public Property

Damages Act and Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, 2020 and Rules, 2021", it said. It pointed out that the factum of construction being illegal has also been admitted by the two builders in Kanpur.

It pointed out that the top court in a recent writ petition filed by a political party concerning the alleged demolitions in Shaheen Bagh here, noted that only the affected party and not political parties should come forward and allowed withdrawal of the petition with liberty to approach the High Court.

Cloudflare 'deeply sorry' over global outage that hit users

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 22: Digital infrastructure services provider Cloudflare has issued an apology over the outage that affected traffic in 19 of its data centres that has a significant proportion of its global traffic

In a detailed blog post, the company said that the global outage Tuesday was caused by a change that was part of a long-running project to increase resilience in our busiest locations.

"A change to the network configuration in those locations caused an outage which started at 06:27 UTC (11:57 am India time). At 06:58 UTC the first data centre was

brought back online and by 07:42 UTC all data centres were online and working correctly," the company mentioned.

The outage affected several popular platforms like Discord, DoorDash, NordVPN, Zerodha, Upstox and others that went down for users globally, including in India. The company said that over the

working to convert all of our busiest locations to a more flexible and resilient architecture. "In this time, we've converted 19 of our data centres to this architecture, internally called Multi-Colo

last 18 months, Cloudflare has been

PoP (MCP)," said the company. Although Cloudflare invested significantly in MCP design to im-



prove service availability, "we clearly fell short of our customer expectations with this very painful

n a detailed blog post, the company said that the global outage Tuesday was caused by a change that was part of a long-running project to increase resilience in our busiest location

The outage affected several popular platforms like Discord, DoorDash, NordVPN, Zerodha, Upstox and others that went down for users globally, including in India

"We are deeply sorry for the disruption to our customers and to all the users who were unable to access Internet properties during the out-

age," said Cloudflare. Even though these locations are

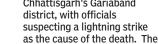
only 4 per cent of its total network, the outage impacted 50 per cent of total requests.

'We are very sorry for this outage. This was our error and not the result of an attack or malicious activity," it added.

Cloudflare also suffered another outage last week when several online platforms like Shopify, Discord, Acko, GitLab and others went down for users in India.

'The root cause of the issue was an increase in resource consumption due to a software release," the company had said in a statement. Several customers in India faced 'HTTP 504' error-basedservice outages, especially for long-

running queries.



international



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

'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

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



key strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region And there's many ways that that partnership

The Ukraine

sounded the

alarm for humanity.

Countries will surely end up in security

hardships if they

expense of others XI JINPING PRESIDENT, CHINA

Give this

carry out economic

reforms. We will then

selected government

hopefully come out

and electoral

PAKISTAN

government

some time to

of the mess left behind by the

SHORT **TAKES**

Iran executed over

100 in Jan-Mar: UN

Geneva: Iran executed more

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-Nashi

presented Guterres' latest

executions in the country

were on the rise.

report on Iran, decrying that

than 100 people in the first

three months of 2022.

BILAWAL BHUTTO-ZARDARI FOREIGN MIN.

crisis has again

place blind faith in their positions of strength, expand military alliances, and seek their own safety at the

represents itself, both in defense and security, economic as well JOHN KIRBY | SECURITY COUNCIL

> dren, 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-

Lahore, June 22: Authorities in

Pakistan's Punjab province have

decided to declare an emergency

following a spike in cases of sex-

ual abuse against women and chil-

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 the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)



headquarters. The minister, in the

Index 2021 rankings

Pakistan ranks

153 out of 156

according to

countries

the Global

Muhammad Ahmed Khan, stressed

G7 to discuss

Marshall plan for

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

summit in Germany. Scholz hopes

support for Ukraine when he hosts

the annual G-7 summit in Bavaria

world's leading economic powers

Germany, Italy, the UKs, Canada

"rebuilding Ukraine will be a task

for generations. Recalling his visit

last week to Irpin, a Kyiv suburb

that saw intense fighting, he said

just me of the pictures of German

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.

cities after World War II." Like

that "some things there remind not

and Japan. The chancellor told

Germany's parliament that

for a united front on long-term

next week. The group of the

is made up of the US. France.

countries at their upcoming

Ukraine: Scholz

Gender Gap

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 students 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.

Zelenskyy looks to EU offer

Kyiv/Kharkiv, June 22: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy 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

Ukraine says

Russians hitting Kharkiv

as they did Mariupol

Fire breaks out at oil

refinery inside Russia

when Hitler invaded

Soviet Union

mainly symbolic, the move will help lift national morale at a

very diffi-Putin to mark day in 1941 cult time in a four-month conflict that

has killed thousands, displaced millions 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



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

"I do believe that all 27 European Union countries will support our candidate status," Zelenskyy 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 Zelenskyy, 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.

an escalation in fighting ahead of Zelenskyy has also warned of

Economy has completely collapsed: Sri Lankan PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 22: Sri Lanka's economy has completely collapsed and it is facing a far more serious situation beyond the mere shortages of fuel, gas, electricity and food, Minister Rani Prime Wickremesinghe warned Wednesday, underscoring the urgency of arriving at an early agreement with the IMF to obtain an additional credit facility.

Sri Lanka has been facing the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948 which has prompted an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and fuel across the island nation.

Giving an update to Parliament on the government's mitigation measures taken so far, Wickremesinghe, also the finance minister, said, it is no easy task to revive a country with a completely collapsed economy, especially one that is dangerously low on foreign reserves.

"If steps had at least been taken to slow down the collapse of the economy at the beginning, we would not be facing this difficult situation today. But we lost out on this opportunity. We are now seeing signs of a possible fall into the very bottom. However, we In fact, this is our only option. We

must take this path. Our aim is to hold discussions with the IMF and arrive at an agreement to obtain an additional credit facility

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE I PRIME MINISTER, SRI LANKA

must come out of this situation. If not, we will be unable to seek solutions to any other issue in the country," he said.

"We are now facing a far more serious situation beyond the mere shortages of fuel, gas, electricity and food. Our economy has faced a complete collapse. That is the most serious issue before us today. These issues can only be resolved through the reviving of the Sri Lankan economy. In order to do this, we must first resolve the foreign re-

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, Kviv

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.

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 cashstrapped 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 yes-terday (Tuesday). Th anking 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 allweather 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 softshot 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

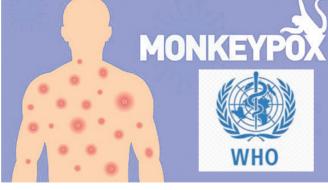
WHO is holding an emergency meeting today to assess whether the outbreak represents a public health emergency of international

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 place-holder 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 batsfrom 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'

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





key agri-inputs required for reducing crop losses. 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 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





AMIT SYNGLE | MD & CEO, ASIAN PAINTS

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 fourwheeler 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 Temasekowned Rivulis in a cash-andstock 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 twowheeler 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 plant of the company apart from the two manufacturing



NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

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

the war would have been won if India is able to bend down the fu-

ture trajectory of inflation," he

said, and exuded confidence retail

inflation would fall back to below

6 per cent by the fourth quarter of

Director and MPC member, said

with protracted geopolitical ten-

sions and no early resolution of

the conflict in sight, considerable

uncertainty clouds the evolving

"While the supply side meas-

ures taken by the government

would undeniably alleviate some

cost-push pressures, it needs to be

complemented by calibrated mon-

etary policy actions to anchor in-

flation expectations and contain

the broadening price pressures," he

said, as he too voted for increasing

Governor, two central bank offi-

cials, and three independent mem-

bers nominated by the government.

Bhide said the inflationary pres-

sures that have intensified since

March 2022 are expected to remain

a concern in FY2022-23 unless the

international supply conditions

improve quickly, as per the minutes.

trajectory to reach targeted level is a

priority at this stage for monetary pol-

icv although the growth momentum

remains modest one," he noted.

"Changing the course of inflation

Independent member Shashanka

The MPC comprises the RBI

the reporate by 50 basis points.

inflation trajectory.

Rajiv Ranjan, RBI Executive

other risks," analysts at the bro-

economic outlook, including fears of a recession in the US, we see

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 earning 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

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 cental 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 reporate 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

> 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 instru-

now threatens the

ment 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

May domestic air traffic grows 5-fold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 22: Domestic air passenger traffic saw a strong recovery in demand as Indian carriers flew 1.20 crore passengers on the local routes in May, logging nearly five-fold year-on-year volume growth DGCA data showed Wednesday.

Domestic air passenger traffic in May 2021 stood at a meager 21lakh, as per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data.

Of the total 1.20 crore passengers flown by the domestic carriers in May 2022, market leader IndiGo transported around 70 lakh with 57.9 per cent market share, followed by Mumbai-based carrier Go First with 12.76 lakh passengers, accounting for 10.8 per cent of the total domestic traffic.

The two full-service carriers - Air India and Vistara, which are part of the Tata Group along with nofrills AirAsia India -- carried 8.23 lakh and 9.83 lakh passengers, respectively, in the previous month.

AirAsia India flew 6.86 lakh passengers across the domestic routes in May 2022, the DGCA said.

During the reporting month, budget carrier SpiceJet delivered the highest load factor at 89.1 per cent followed by Go First at 86.5 per cent, as per the monthly data.

1.2% of GDP in FY22

India's CAD narrowed in the three months from Jan-March, mainly on the back of a moderation in the trade gap and a lower net outflow of primary income

Govt reports CAD of

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 22: India witnessed a current account deficit (CAD) of 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2021-22 against a surplus of 0.9 per cent in FY2020-21 due to a wider trade deficit, the Reserve Bank said Wednesday For the January-March 2022

quarter, the CAD narrowed on a sequential basis to \$13.4 billion or 1.5 per cent of GDP against \$22.2 billion or 2.6 per cent of GDP in the December 2021 quarter.

Current account deficit occurs when the value of goods and services imported and other payments exceeds the value of export of goods and services and other receipts by a country in a particular period. The trade deficit widened to \$189.5 billion in FY22 from \$102.2 billion a year ago, which resulted in slippage in the number which is considered a key representation of a country's external

strength, the RBI said. Net foreign direct investment

inflows stood at \$38.6 billion in FY22, lower than \$44 billion in FY21. The Balance of Payments data suggested that goods imports stood at \$618.6 billion in FY22 as against \$398.5 billion in the yearago period, leading to the widening of the trade deficit.

"The current account deficit printed well below our forecast of \$16 billion in Q4 FY2022 benefiting from higher than expected secondary income," said Aditi Navar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA

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 I-T Rules 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 chal-___ lan-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.

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 technologybased 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 fueling stations and bunkering,

Homegrown start-up Fire-Boltt leads smartwatch market

Bhubaneshwar: Homegrown wearable and audio brand, Fire-Boltt 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

Jay Sadany (MD of regional distributor RJS Enterprises). Despite the industry grew at a stagnant pace, Fire-Boltt 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-Boltt 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-Boltt 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-Boltt 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."

Manager, FireBoltt), Kunal Bose (RSM, FireBoltt), Sujit Das (DGM, Savex Technologies) &

BIZ BUZZ

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.

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 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-

knowledged plans for a headset, although it has reportedly given its board a sneak peek of the product, 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 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.



DISCIPLINED MADHYA PRADESH KEEP THE 41-TIME CHAMPIONS IN CHECK ON DAY 1

Mumbai reach 248/5 at stumps



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 22: An unheralded bunch of Madhya Pradesh bowlers stuck to its plans as a starstudded Mumbai side toiled its way to 248/5 on the first day of the Ranji Trophy final here.

Despite an opening stand of 87 between Prithvi Shaw (47, 79b, 5x4, 1x6) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (78, 163b, 7x4, 1x6), Mumbai failed to drive home the advantage on a pitch that wasn't conducive for strokeplay.

A 400-plus first-innings total will now depend on the season's highest run-getter Sarfaraz Khan (40 batting, 125b, 3x4), who is looking good for another big knock with the dependable Shams Mulani (12 batting) giving him company.

While left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya was the tireless operator from one end, having sent down 31 overs for figures of 1/91, seamer Gaurav Yadav (23-5-68-0) was distinctly unlucky and the wickets column don't reflect the relentless pressure that he put on Mumbai batters, especially skipper Shaw.

In fact, it was the pressure applied by Yadav which helped nippy seamer Anubhav Agarwal (19-3-56-2) and tall off-spinner Saransh



Jain (17-2-31-2) to share the bulk of the spoils, with some intelligent execution of plans.

Mumbai did enjoy the advantage during the first hour after Shaw opted to bat and, along with Jaiswal, took on the MP attack. The strategy to start with Kartikeya's slow left-arm orthodox seemed to have backfired when Jaiswal took him on and lofted him over long-on for a six.

Shaw followed suit and hit Kartikeya over long-off for a six as they added 87 for the first wicket. But while Jaiswal, with his drives and upper cuts, looked to continue from where he left in the semifinal. Shaw, despite his seven fours (at least three of them behind square)

Both the seamers, Anubhav and Gauray, got some movement in the air with a nice cloud cover helping their cause. They also hit the perfect length with movement off the pitch in both directions, into and away from the batter.

Both look run of the mill medium pacers but are deceptively quicker than they actually look. In fact,

the best over of the first day was the 12th of the Mumbai innings when Gaurav first cut Shaw into half with a massive in-cutter and then bowled the outgoing deliveries. beating the bat as many as five times in six balls. By the end of the over, he was in his hunches.

Jaiswal, at the other end, scored his first 30 runs in 52 balls, but then, gauging the two-paced nature of the pitch, started playing more cautiously. His next 48 runs came in another 111 deliveries.

The first breakthrough came minutes before lunch break when Anubhav, who was bowling closer to the stumps, decided to move slightly wide and fired in a couple of deliveries with the angle. While Shaw managed to defend one, the second delivery saw him play across the line and the stumps rattled.

Arman Jaffer (26) looked solid till he tried a forward-defensive jab off Kartikeya, without factoring in the extra bounce, and the ball took an inside edge off his bat and Yash Dubey, at short mid-wicket, completed a diving catch.

The pitch in the second session

slowed down considerably and Suved Parkar (18) paid the price when a delivery from Saransh stopped on him and the leading edge off closed bat face just lobbed up for the easiest of catches for rival captain Aditya Shrivastava.

The dismissal that was most well-planned was that of Jaiswal, who was closing in on a fourth hundred of the season.

Anubhav, who had started operating wide of the crease, started cramping the left-hander for room. As he was finding it difficult to get the boundaries, Jaiswal, without much room, tried the square cut but failed to keep it down and Dubey at gully took a sharp low catch.

Hardik Tamore (24) was living dangerously till Saransh got some drift and the delivery straightened after pitching, taking the outside edge into Rajat Patidar's hands in the first slip

BRIEF SCORES

Mumbai 248/5 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 78, Prithvi Shaw 47, Sarfaraz Khan 40 batting; Saransh Jain 2/31, Anubhav Agarwal 2/56) vs Madhya Pradesh. Match to continue.

Rumeli Dhar announces retirement from cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 22: Former India women's team captain Rumeli Dhar on Wednesday announced her retirement from all forms of the

The right-handed batter and medium pacer announced her decision through an Instagram post. "23 years of my cricket that started from Shyamnagar in West Bengal has finally come to an end as I announce my retirement from all formats of cricket,'

Dhar said in her post. The 38-year-old played four women's Tests, in which she scored 236 runs with one half-century. She has picked up eight Test wickets since making her debut against England in 2005 at Delhi. She played her last Test against the same opponent in 2006 at Taunton. She also played 78

WODIs, scoring 961 runs and taking 63 wickets, with six half centuries since her debut against England in 2003 at Lincoln. She played her last ODI in 2012. Dhar, who played for Bengal

among other domestic sides, also featured in 18 T20s, in which she scored 131 runs and took 13 wickets after making her debut against England Women in At 34, she made an unex-

pected comeback to the India T20 team in 2018 against South Africa, and played her last game in the format against Australia Women at the Brabourne Stadium the same year. One of the high-

lights of her career was taking India to the final of the 2005

in South Africa. "The journey has been prolonged one with highs and lows. The high was representing the Indian Women's cricket team, playing the World Cup final in 2005 as well as leading the Women in Blue,"

said Dhar. According to Dhar, a "string of

injuries" plagued her career but she always came back stronger. She thanked the BCCI, her family, friends, and all the teams that she represented - Bengal, Railways,

Air India, Delhi and Rajasthan -for their contributions during her career. Dhar has promised to "be associated" with the sport



MASSIVE GAIN FOR KARTHIK

T20 rankings: Ishan breaks into top 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, June 22: On the back of his recent exploits, veteran Dinesh Karthik jumped a massive 108 spots to 87th on the latest ICC T20 rankings for batters, even as young opener Ishan Kishan broke into the top 10

Kishan finished the series with two half centuries against South Africa and was the leading run scorer with 206 runs at an average of 41. That form catapulted the lefthander up one spot to sixth on the latest T20 rankings for batters.

Karthik has been in excellent form since the IPL-15 and had a few blazing knocks in the T20 series against South Africa.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam still holds the top spot on the T20 batting rankings and Kishan is the only

Indian player rated inside the top 10. Yuzvendra Chahal was the biggest mover on the T20 rankings for bowlers with the spinner jumping three places to 23rd following his six wickets during the SA series.

Josh Hazlewood maintains his position as the top ranked T20 bowler, with Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (joint third) and Sri Lanka tweaker Wanindu Hasaranga (sixth) both moving up a place inside the top 10.

Ravindra Jadeja maintains his top position in the Test all-rounders' list with 385 rating points. He is currently in the UK for India's upcoming Test against England, a spill over of last year's five-match series, which could not be completed owing to a COVID-19 outbreak.

Bangladesh captain Shakib al Hasan moved up to second position with 346 rating points, though he has a long way to go if he wants to overtake Jadeja at the top of list.

Former India captain Virat Kohli (742) maintained his 10th position in the Test batting chart, while seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (850) and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (830) occupied the second and third positions in bowling respectively.

CYCLIST RONALDO BAGS HISTORIC SILVER



(From L): Ronaldo Singh, Kento Yamasaki and Andrey Chugay pose with their medals on the podium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Ronaldo Singh Wednesday scripted history as he became the first Indian cyclist to win a silver in a continental

tournament in the senior category by finishing second in the sprint event on the concluding day of the Asian Track Championship here.

Ronaldo's feat was the best performance by any Indian cyclist in a continental championship. He gave a tough fight to Japan's experienced rider Kento Yamasaki but finished with a silver.

Yamasaki defeated Ronaldo in back-to-back races to finish at the top of the podium. Kazakhstan's Andrey Chugay won the bronze in the event.

'This (Ronaldo's silver) was the first silver won by an Indian in Asian Championships. No Indian has won a gold in our history, so his silver winning feat is the best ever performance by an Indian in continental championships," Cycling Federation of India chairman Onkar Singh told this agency. Singh is also the secretary general of

Asian Cycling Confederation. Ronaldo's silver Wednesday w his third medal of the championships. He had earlier won bronze medals in 1km time trial and team sprint events

In the morning, Ronaldo defeated Kazakhstan's Chugay in the semifinal. The Indian lost the first race but bounced back to win the next two to storm into the final.

"Gold was in my mind but I'm also happy with the first-ever silver. This is the best ever performance of my career. In every tournament I improved my technique, this is

most important," Ronaldo said. Tuesday, World Junior Champion and Asian record holder Ronaldo created a national record in 200m flying time trial by breaching the

10 seconds barrier on way to the

semifinals of men's Elite sprint race event. The home team won one silver and two bronze medals on the final day.

Indian junior cyclist Birjit Yumnam won a bronze in 15km Points Race with 23 points. Korea's Sungyeon Lee won the silver with 24 points while Farrukh Bobosherov of Uzbekistan grabbed the gold.

The big surprise of the day was 19-year-old Chayanika Gogoi, who opened the Indian tally with a bronze over Kazakhstan's medal favourite Rinata Sultanova in 10km Women Scratch Race finals. Youri Kim won the gold while Kie Furuyama of

Japan clinched the silver. The Asian Junior and Para championships were also being held simultaneously at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium veledrome. There were a handful of crashes on the final day which saw 10 finals. Japan topped the combined medal tally with 18 gold, seven silver and two

bronze. In the world class field, the Indian cycling team finished fifth with 23 medals (2 Gold, 6 Silver, 15 Bronze). Korea finished second with 12 gold, 14 silver and three bronze medals while Kazakhstan secured third place with four gold, four silver and three bronze.

VANDANA SCORES TWICE AS SAVITA & Co OUTCLASS USA 4-0 TO END A CREDITABLE DEBUT SEASON

India eves finish 3rd in FIH Pro League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rotterdam, June 22: The Indian women's hockey team produced a dominating performance to outclass USA 4-0 in the second-leg match to finish a creditable third in its debut season at the FIH Pro League here Wednesday.

The Indians had earlier defeated USA 4-2 in the first match of the double header Tuesday. Vandana Katariya (39th, 54th) scored a brace, while Sonika (54th) and Sangita Kumari (58th) sounded the board once for India. Argentina have al ready won the title with Netherlands finishing second.

USA started the match on a bright note and secured the first chance of the match a as early as in the second minute, but Elizabeth Yeager's high shot was easily saved by India skipper and goalkeeper

The Indians too had their chances soon after but Sharmila Devi wasted a golden opportunity as she failed



to beat USA goalkeeper from close

USA once again started positively after the quarter break but the Indians drew in confidence as the match progressed. India secured their first penalty corner in time. the 23rd minute but failed to exe-

The Indians kept on attacking thereafter and earned two more penalty corners but the end result was the same as both the teams failed to break the deadlock at half-

It was Janneke Schopman's girls

who broke the deadlock in the 39th minute when Vandana got a faint touch to deflect in Guriit Kaur's flick from India's fifth penalty corner.

The Indians had numerous chances in the last two quarters. Navneet missed a sitter as her slap shot in front of an open goal went over the post. India then scored three goals in a span of four minutes to seal the match.

First, Vandana scored an open goal from a build up from the right flank and then seconds later, Sonika found the USA net from a goalmouth melee from another attack from the right.

India skipper Savita soon made a double save to deny the Americans from a penalty corner. Young Sangita too registered her name in the scoresheet with a fabulous field

goal in the 57th minute. The win will boost India's confidence ahead of the Women's World Cup to be co-hosted by the Netherlands and Spain from July

Serena wins on return after a year

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eastbourne (England), June 22: As "What A Feeling" boomed around Devonshire Park, Serena Williams strode onto center court at Eastbourne to a standing ovation for her first competitive tennis match in nearly a year.

Around 90 minutes later, fans were on their feet again, celebrating a comeback win for the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion at the Wimbledon warm-up event on England's south coast.

Williams partnered Ons Jabeur to victory over Sara Sorribes Tormo and Marie Bouzkova in the first round of the women's doubles. Williams and Jabeur recovered from losing the first set 6-2 to win the second 6-3 and then the match tie-breaker 13-11 on their third match point.

"It was so fun to play with Ons," Williams said on-court. "It was great. We had a lot of fun and our opponents played amazing. We were happy to stay in there. I called Ons, she has been playing so well and I knew I needed to play some matches and she has always been



so nice to me on tour. Yeah, I caught

some fire behind me, it was good.' The win means Williams will have at least one more competitive match before playing singles at Wimbledon as a wild-card entry. Main-draw play at the All England

Club starts Monday. It was at the grass-court Slam where Williams was last seen in competitive action in 2021. She was playing in the first round when she lost her footing and her right leg buckled, leading to Williams

retiring from the match.

With no competitive activity since then, she is ranked No. 1,204 in singles and wasn't among the seeded players announced by Wimbledon Tuesday.

She was also sporting three black patches on her right cheek, a move that had fans and commentators baffled. "Serena Williams appears to have two large black bandages or some type of tape on her face. No idea what that's about," tweeted reporter Dan Wolken.

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