



## TAKING A STAND

Priyanka Chopra Jonas criticises US SC's decision to overturn a ruling which safeguarded women's reproductive rights

LEISURE P2



## HANDLING THE HEAT

Japan warns of power shortages as the country endures an unusually intense heatwave for the past few days

INTERNATIONAL P10



## EVES LOSE LAST GAME

Chamari Athapaththu denies India Women a clean sweep helping Sri Lanka a comprehensive win in the third T20I

SPORTS P12

## Another jumbo skeleton found

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** Officials of the Crime Branch STF which is helping the SIT team probe into elephant deaths found Monday another jumbo skeleton in Mandap reserve forest in Gopapur section of Badamba. This is the fourth elephant carcass that has been found in Narasinghpur-Badamba forest range.

Meanwhile the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) of Odisha, Sashi Paul informed Monday that three trackers have already been arrested in this connection. However, the forester and ranger are still absconding.

"The police are looking for the absconding officials. Not only criminal cases will be lodged against, once they are apprehended, they will face departmental proceedings also. The erring officers won't be spared and will face stringent punishment," Paul said.

"We want to make an example out of it so that no other official would ever be inclined to get involved with the poachers and neglect their duty," Paul added.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	53161.28	↑ 433.30
NIFTY	15832.00	↑ 132.70
DOLLAR	78.86	↓ ₹0.02
EURO	83.23	↑ ₹0.66
GOLD	₹50,665	↑ ₹42
SILVER	₹60,329	↑ ₹580

## TUSKER TERROR



Panic gripped residents of Mitrapur Bazaar locality in Nilagiri of Balasore district when an elephant strayed into the busy area Monday

OP PHOTO

## Mask mandatory for Rath Yatra devotees

With Covid-19 cases on the rise, the government urges people to watch rituals on TV and not visit Puri

PNN & AGENCIES

### STRIKE POSTPONED

**Bhubaneswar:** The private bus owners' association in Odisha has postponed its strike which was to begin from July 1. The association has decided to shift the date of the strike keeping in mind the Rath Yatra festival. They announced that the strike has been postponed till July 31 and will begin August 1 if their demands are not met.

MORE P4

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** Wearing mask was made mandatory for all participants at the annual Rath Yatra festival in Puri, July 1 amid rising Covid-19 cases in Odisha, Director of Health Service Bijay Mohapatra said Monday.

Around 10 lakh devotees and tourists are expected to gather for the festival in the temple town from across India, and some foreign nations, Mohapatra informed.

The festival of Lord Jagannath this time will see the participation of devotees after two years. In 2020 and 2021, only servitors took part in rituals due to the pandemic.

"We are expecting a large congregation during the festival this year. Mask is mandatory in Puri during the festival. Health camps will be set up at the railway station, bus stand and Grand Road (Bada Danda)," Mohapatra informed.

He also requested people to stay at home and watch the rituals on TV and asked people with symptoms to avoid visiting Puri.

"Coronavirus cases have reached

double digits over the past few weeks. So Rath Yatra may lead to further rise in number of cases. We would advise people not to rush to Puri in large numbers. They can contain the disease from spreading by watching Rath Yatra live on TV," Mohapatra said. "Also those who visit Puri, must be careful to maintain social distancing. People should spontaneously come forward to do testing if they develop symptoms," added the health official.

Meanwhile DGP Sunil Bansal said Monday that 180 platoons of police personnel and over 1,000 officers of various ranks would be deployed in and around Puri for the Rath Yatra.



## Man burnt to death as bike catches fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** A youth was charred to death after his motorcycle mysteriously caught fire on the Acharya Vihar flyover here late Sunday night. The deceased, identified as Chandan Kumar Pati is a resident of Balikuda area in Jagatsinghpur district.

Pati who used to work as a medical representative was residing at a rental accommodation at Kesura locality here under Saheed Nagar police limits. The deceased was returning home after attending a private function in Chandrasekharpur, Sunday night.

Sources claimed that some commuters witnessed Pati and his bike in flames on the NH 16 at around 12.15am in the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. They tried to rescue Pati to save him but he had succumbed by then.

On being informed, personnel from the Saheed Nagar police station and Fire services reached the spot and extinguished the fire. The severely charred body of Pati was sent to Capital hospital for post-mortem. Meanwhile the deceased's father told mediapersons that his son's death is not 'normal' and he would like a proper investigation.

Meanwhile, one of Pati's friends stated that he was a normal guy without any vices.

Police have started investigation into the matter after registering a road accident case (229/22). "We are yet to know the reasons behind the bike catching fire and charring the victim. We have sought the help of a motor vehicles inspector. Prima facie it appears to be an accident. However, we will carry out necessary action as per the findings of the investigation," informed DCP Prateek Singh.

## Shinde draws first blood

Relief for rebel Shiv Sena MLAs as SC keeps in abeyance disqualification proceedings till July 11

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 27:** In a relief to rebel Shiv Sena lawmakers, the Supreme Court kept in abeyance Monday the disqualification proceedings before the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly till July 11 and sought responses to pleas by rebel MLAs questioning the legality of notices seeking their disqualification.

A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala also directed the Maharashtra government to protect the life, liberty, and property of 39 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs and their family members.

While issuing notice to the Maharashtra deputy speaker, the



Eknath Shinde (right) along with other rebel Shiv Sena leaders at a resort in Guwahati, Monday

PTI PHOTO

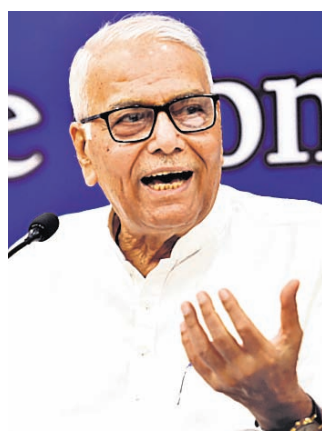
top court directed him to put on affidavit records of no trust notice served upon him by rebel MLAs.

The Supreme Court bench also declined to pass an interim order on the Maharashtra government counsel's submissions that there should not be any floor test in the Assembly

till July 11, as it extended, till July 12, the time granted to the 16 dissident MLAs to submit their responses to the disqualification notices.

The bench said it cannot pass an order, which would create unnecessary complications. It told senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, repre-

## Yashwant files nomination for Presidential poll



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 27:** Opposition presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha filed his nomination papers Monday for the July 18 election, with a host of leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Akhilesh Yadav and Farooq Abdullah accompanying him. Significantly, TRS leader KT Rama Rao, the son of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao was also present when Sinha filed his papers. He told reporters that the TRS will support Sinha. Among other leaders present were TMC MPs Abhishek Banerjee and Saugata Roy.

However, there were no leaders of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and AAP. Their absence indicated that chinks were already appearing in the Opposition camp.

Sinha handed over four sets of nomination papers to Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody, who is the returning officer for the Presidential election.

Sinha, a former bureaucrat and a Union Minister during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, was decided as the joint candidate for the Presidential election June 21 at a meeting of several opposition leaders. He is likely to launch his campaign June 28 from Chennai and will cover the southern states of Kerala and Karnataka as well during his first round of meetings.

MORE P7

## RETALIATORY MOVE

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray yanked off the portfolios Monday of nine rebel ministers, who are currently camping in Guwahati and gave them to others. The portfolios of the rebel ministers were transferred to other ministers for ease of administration, an official statement said. The Sena now has just four Cabinet ministers including Uddhav, Aaditya Thackeray, Anil Parab and Subhash Desai.

sending the Maharashtra government, that if anything illegal happens, then he can always come back to the top court.

As Kamat said if disqualification proceedings are put in abeyance, then there should not be any floor test in the Assembly, the bench said: "On presumptions, can we pass (an order)..."

Contd...P4

## Sanctions push Russia into historic default

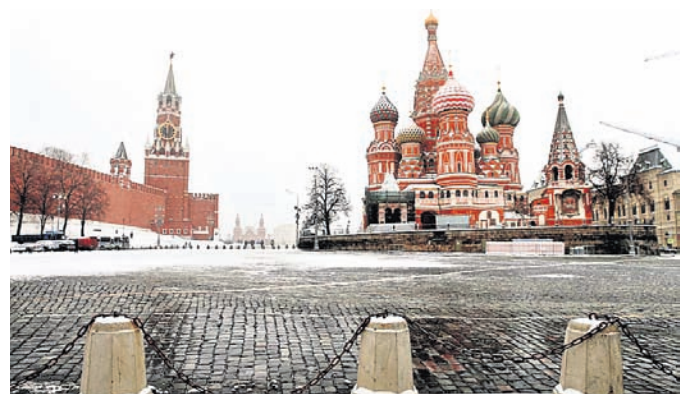
COUNTRY HAS DEFAULTED ON ITS OVERSEAS DEBT FOR THE 1ST TIME IN MORE THAN A CENTURY AFTER MISSING A DEADLINE

AGENCIES

**London, June 27:** Russia defaulted on its international bonds for the first time in more than a century, the White House said Monday, as sweeping sanctions have effectively cut the country off from the global financial system, rendering its assets untouchable.

The Kremlin, which has the money to make payments thanks to oil and gas revenues, swiftly rejected the claims, and accused the West of driving it into an artificial default. Earlier, some bondholders said they had not received overdue interest Monday following the expiry of a key payment deadline Sunday.

Russia has struggled to keep up payments on \$40 billion of outstanding bonds since it began February 24, the invasion of Ukraine.



"This morning's news around the finding of Russia's default, for the first time in more than a century, situates just how strong the actions are that the US, along with allies and partners have taken, as well as how dramatic the impact has been on Russia's economy," said

an US official on the sidelines of a G7 summit in Germany.

Russia's efforts to avoid what would be its first major default on international bonds since the Bolshevik revolution more than a century ago hit a roadblock in late May when the US Treasury

Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) effectively blocked Moscow from making payments.

"Since March we thought that a Russian default is probably inevitable, and the question was just when," Dennis Hranitzky, head of sovereign litigation at law firm 'Quinn Emanuel' had said Sunday.

A formal default would be largely symbolic given Russia cannot borrow internationally at the moment and doesn't need to thanks to plentiful oil and gas export revenues. But the stigma would probably raise its borrowing costs in future.

The payments in question are USD 100 million in interest on two bonds, one denominated in US dollars and another in Euros, that Russia was due to pay May 27. The payments had a grace period of 30 days, which expired Sunday.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm just trying to figure out...how we contribute to this Rebels' Care Fund!

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 35.3°C	32.2°C
	MIN 26.5°C	26.0°C
Humidity	85%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
	Forecast Light to Moderate Rain	



# leisure



## BAM MARGERA IS MISSING AGAIN FROM REHAB FACILITY

American filmmaker Bam Margera left a court-ordered facility in Florida June 13 but was found at a nearby hotel two days later and returned to the LifeSkills facility. However, police are now on the hunt for the 42-year-old skateboarder once again after he left without warning.

## MADONNA IN DESPAIR OVER SUPREME COURT DECISION

Pop star Madonna, a mother to four daughters, said she has been plunged into deep despair by the Supreme Court's decision, which will allow several US states to move forward with legislation to ban or restrict abortion, and called on women to fight against the move.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you have, says Ganesh. Besides, you have already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it. A date of romantic nature may turn out to be interesting or it may lead to a controversy; you have to decide on it.

**TAURUS**  
Be careful, says Ganesh. All your calculations and conclusions, plans and moves are likely to go haywire. Time and again, you could fail and, ultimately, get frustrated. Even simple and obvious things are likely to get you worked up.

**GEMINI**  
You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm. You may be prone to extreme mood swings as well. Meditative techniques should help you keep your mind calm, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advantage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sports persons will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields. You will square off against any obstacles in your way using your entire might. While it is a good day for you, keep a curb on your speculations, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
A la Sisyphus, you may realise the futility of your efforts and constant failure in achieving success. But do not despair, says Ganesh. Recharge your imagination, inquisitiveness and intelligence and focus on your long-term goals, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you will try to be adept in your favorite subject. Today you will be buying antique artistic things too. If there are any legal proceeding going on then the results will be in your favor. You shall be a success in everything that you touch today. Your artistic streak will come to the fore today and you will develop an interest in the fine arts

**SCORPIO**  
A series of events at work front may keep you busy throughout the day. You may be unable to manage the clutter and confusion created by too many things at the same time. However, you emerge a fighter because of your power of resilience.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You rule your hear today, predicts Ganesh. You are likely to become an expert in reading people's mind. Everything is fair in love and war, is what you believe! Win over your sweetheart and set out on a journey toward destination unknown, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
By and large, your life today will be dull. But, there isn't something unfavourable or negative about it, assures Ganesh, as the planetary movements signal a change, probably a positive one, happening in the near future. So, keep your chin up and get ready for a better tomorrow.

**AQUARIUS**  
You are armed with good communication skills, and like always, it will come to your aide today, too. There is one problem though. You are not clear about your emotions and it may make your arms blunt, foresees Ganesh. Make sure that you are able to identify your feelings and don't make any disastrous decisions based on that confusion.

**PISCES**  
Your energy and enthusiasm will know no bounds today, as everything seems to fall into place, seemingly on its own. You will blaze a new trail at the work-place. Certain tough calls may leave you off-balance momentarily, but you will come out of it with flying colours.

## PC slams US SC abortion ruling

**Mumbai:** Priyanka Chopra Jonas has expressed her anguish over the recent US Supreme Court decision. The Indian actress took to her Instagram stories to former US President Barack Obama's wife and author Michelle Obama's post on the ruling on abortion rights.

Renowned personalities have been protesting the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark ruling that safeguarded women's reproductive rights.

Priyanka conveyed her disagreement on her Instagram stories. She added another post that included a cartoon contrasting American gun rights with abortion rights in addition to reposting a tragic statement made by the former First Lady.

Michelle Obama had stated in her statement that she was 'heart-broken' by the decision.

"So yes, I am heart-broken, for the teenage girl, full of zest

and promise, who won't be able to finish school or live the life she wants because her state controls her reproductive decisions; for the mother of a nonviable pregnancy who is now forced to bring that pregnancy to term; for the parents watching their child's future evaporate before their very eyes; for the health care workers who can no longer help them without risking jail time."

On the workfront, Priyanka will be seen in the upcoming series Citadel, as well as Farhan Akhtar's *Jee Le Zarea*.



## Alia-Ranbir's baby coming soon

**Mumbai:** Star couple Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor is expecting their first bundle of joy.

Alia took to Instagram Monday morning to share the good news with her fans and friends.

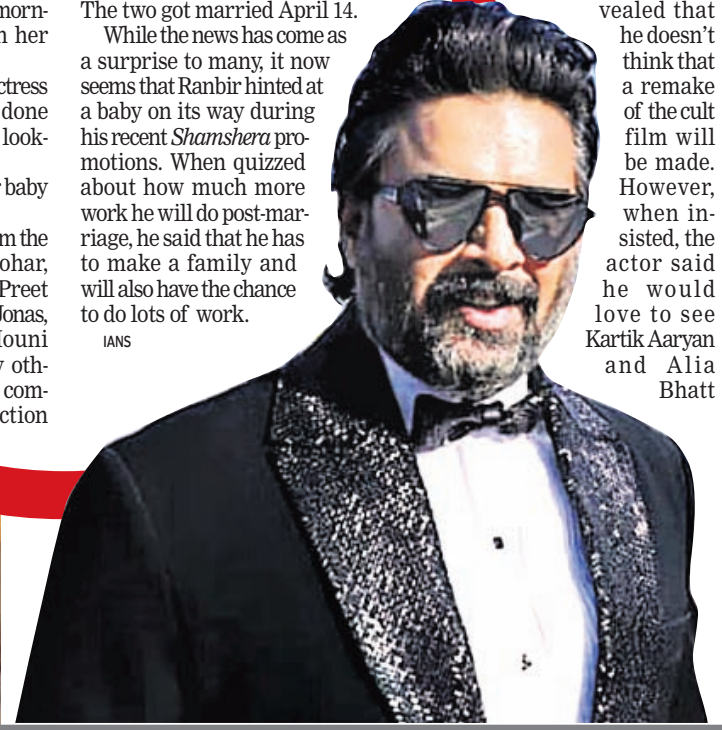
She shared a picture, where the actress is seen getting her sonography done while her husband Ranbir is seen looking at the baby on the screen.

She captioned the image: "Our baby .Coming soon."

Alia and Ranbir's friends from the industry such as Karan Johar, Parineeti Chopra, Rakul Preet Singh, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Tiger Shroff and Mouni Roy among many others took to the comment section

to congratulate the couple. Alia and Ranbir met on the sets of *Brahmastra* in 2018 and fell in love. The two got married April 14.

While the news has come as a surprise to many, it now seems that Ranbir hinted at a baby on its way during his recent *Shamshera* promotions. When quizzed about how much more work he will do post-marriage, he said that he has to make a family and will also have the chance to do lots of work.

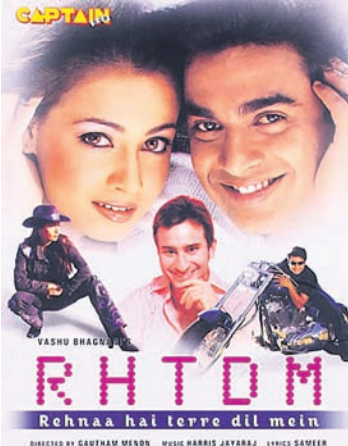


## Madhavan on his dream cast for RHTDM remake

**Mumbai:** R Madhavan, who is currently busy promoting his upcoming directorial debut, *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*, recently opened up about the possible remake of *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein*, his dream co-star and more.

In a conversation with a news portal, Madhavan revealed that he doesn't think that a remake of the cult film will be made.

However, when insisted, the actor said he would love to see Kartik Aaryan and Alia Bhatt



in the film if it is ever remade. *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein* also starred Dia Mirza and featured Saif Ali Khan in brief roles. Released in 2001, the film has achieved a cult status over the years and is still loved by many.

As far as *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* is concerned, the actor will be seen playing the titular role of Indian Aerospace Engineer Nambi Narayanan. The film was recently presented as an Indian selection at Cannes 2022 and had a world premiere there. It even got a standing ovation from the attendees.

*Rocketry* will also have special cameos from none other than Shah Rukh Khan and Suriya. After a long wait, the film is finally slated to hit the theatres July 1, 2022.

### PEANUTS



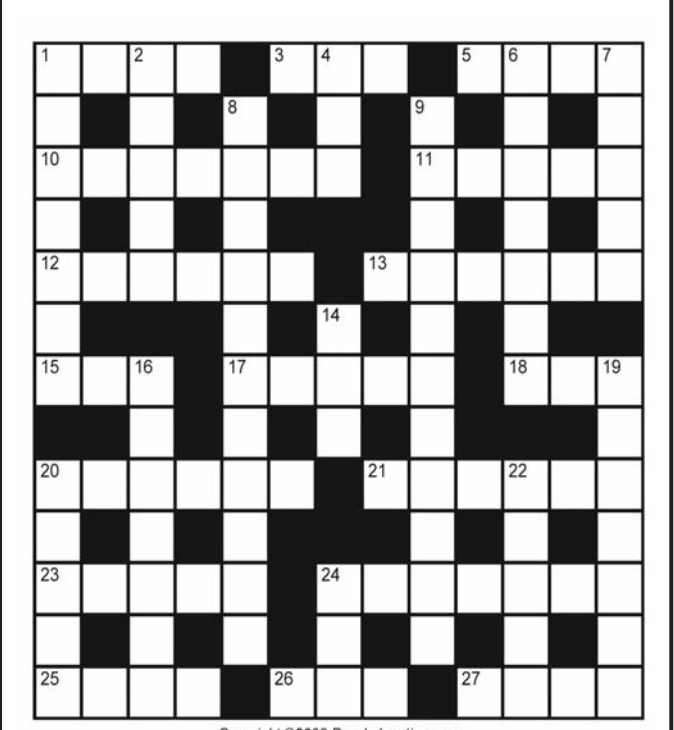
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Greek cheese
  - 3 Jamaican export
  - 5 Bit of kindling
  - 10 Joggers
  - 11 Sheeplike
  - 12 Beat with brains
  - 13 Truant
  - 15 Dead letters?
  - 17 Kind of pie
  - 18 Small pouch
  - 20 Picturesque
  - 21 Snub
  - 23 Admit (3,2)
  - 24 Pleasure trips
  - 25 Man Friday
  - 26 Cause of wrinkles
  - 27 Victim of Pizarro
- Down**
- 1 Passion
  - 2 Precept
  - 4 Raises
  - 6 Doyle and Huxley, e.g.
  - 7 Terrific
  - 8 Vacillations
  - 9 Mole (6,5)
  - 14 King Kong, e.g.
  - 16 Like some skirts
  - 19 Thames district
  - 20 Hot stuff
  - 22 Classic theatre
  - 24 Wine container

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

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

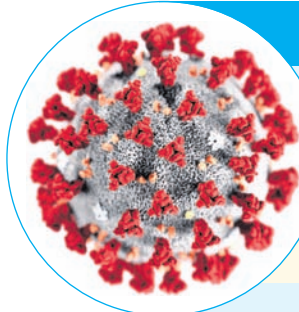
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	54,91,45,835	52,41,81,491	63,51,222
India	4,34,07,046	4,27,87,606	5,25,020
Odisha	12,89,328	12,79,745	9,126

**FRESH START**

Newly-appointed CMC Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan takes charge in Cuttack, Monday



**FESTIVAL AHEAD**



Artisans fix subsidiary deities to a chariot at Rath Yard in Puri, Monday

OP PHOTO

# DGP thrust on safety, services during Rath



DGP Sunil Bansal among senior police officials at the review meeting in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 27:** Along with ensuring safety to devotees, Odisha Police is committed to facilitating all possible services to them during the Rath Yatra July 1, said Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal during a review meet for the car festival at Town Hall here, Monday.

Lakhs of devotees are expected to take part in the car festival that is being organised with participation of public after two years of Covid hiatus. Elaborate arrangements are in place to ensure smooth conduct of the festival, Bansal said.

Officials with prior experience in handling car festival have been chosen for this year's mega festival. Special security arrangements are in place for Srimandir, Gundicha temple and three chariots, the top cop pointed out.

Highlighting the security arrangements, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Radha Kishan Sharma said 180 platoons of force, 18 superintendents of police (SPs) rank officers, 33 ASPs, 74 DSPs, 136 inspectors, 721 SIs/ASIs, 107 havildars, 673 constables and 2,008 home guards will be deployed for Rath Yatra.

Inspector General of Police (Operations) Amitabh Thakur high-

## 205 spl trains for car festival

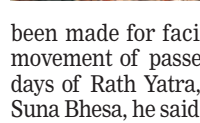
**BHUBANESWAR:** The railways will be running 205 special trains for the Rath Yatra in Puri July 1, an official of the East Coast Railways (ECoR) said Monday.

The state government expects 10 lakh devotees to gather at the Holy City this year.

In 2020 and 2021, devotees were not allowed to participate in the car festival due to the pandemic, and only servitors took part in the rituals.

The special trains run from Shalimar near Kolkata, Jagadapur in Chhattisgarh and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, besides different parts of Odisha, connecting Puri, the ECoR official said.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for facilitating easy movement of passengers on the days of Rath Yatra, Bahuda and Suna Bhesa, he said.



Bomb disposal squad, anti-terrorist squad and special tactical unit are in place to avoid any untoward incidents, Panda said, asking the officials to report their seniors in case they notice any suspicious item or person in the Holy City.

Additional DGP (Railways and Coastal Security) Sudhansu Sarangi said they would engage 1,141 officials in the Rath Yatra duty.

As many trains pass through Puri, chances are high that there may be traffic issues. RPF and Railway Police will take care of it. This apart, officials will patrol upto 12 nautical miles off the Puri coast, Sarangi said.

**MAJOR TAKEAWAYS**

Police officials have been told to ensure that devotees take back pleasant memories with them

As many as 180 platoons of force, 18 superintendents of police (SPs) rank officers, 33 ASPs, 74 DSPs, 136 inspectors, 721 SIs/ASIs, 107 havildars, 673 constables and 2,008 home guards will be deployed for Rath Yatra

Based on the traffic, the Holy City has been divided into 10 zones and 29 sectors. Arrangements are also in place for two and four-wheeler parking

Bomb disposal squad, anti-terrorist squad and special tactical unit are in place to avoid any untoward incidents

lighted about the arrangements for smooth flow of traffic during the car festival.

"Based on the traffic, the Holy City has been divided into 10 zones and 29 sectors. Arrangements are also in place for two and four-wheeler parking," Thakur said.

Inspector General of Police (Headquarters) S Dev Datta Singh said about the elaborate arrangements in place to regulate crowd during the mega festival.

Intelligence Director Sanjeeb Panda said as Srimandir comes under the high security zone, security arrangements are in place to avoid any untoward incidents.

## Odisha leader in production of paddy: Atanu

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** All Odisha Rice Millers' Association (AORMA), an apex organisation of rice millers in state, organised a conference on modernisation, technical upgradation of rice milling industry and scope of rice export here, Monday.



The two-day conference was virtually inaugurated by Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Minister of Food Supply, Consumer Welfare and Cooperation.

The primary objective of this conference was to educate rice millers on modernisation technique and technologies. Large numbers of millers and technological solution providers also participated in the event.

On this occasion, the minister said, "I would like to express my deep regret for not attending this conference as I am on a visit outside state. I would like to mention that in strong leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Odisha created records on food security. In national level also our state is one of the leaders in paddy production and surplus rice. This is now a national level talk point. We are now considered as grain surplus state. To maintain the trend we need support of all stakeholders including rice milling industry. Like our 5T initiative, we expect from all of you to use technology for timely production so that people can get benefited. I wish great success of this conference."

Storage related discussion was spearheaded by representative of Fowler Westrup (India) Pvt Ltd and in colour related discussion representatives of Kinetic, Satake and Sambit Equipment were participated.

# Chariot makers create marvels sans machines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** They have no manuals, architectural drawings or modern machines, but a group of craftsmen make gigantic and identical chariots for Lord Jagannath and His siblings—Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra—in Puri every year, using only traditional knowledge.

During the annual Rath Yatra in the Holy City, three chariots famed for their majestic structure and brilliant craftsmanship start from the 12th century Srimandir and reach the Gundicha temple.

"The chariots are constructed afresh every year. There is no deviation in their heights, widths and other key parameters for centuries. However, new features are added to the chariots to make them more colourful and attractive," Asit Mohanty, a researcher in the Jagannath culture, told PTI.

The carpenters engaged in chariot construction do not have any formal training. They only have knowledge and techniques that have been trickled down from their forefathers, Mohanty pointed out.

The chariots are constructed from over 4,000 pieces of wood by a few families who have the hereditary rights to make them.

"I have been engaged in chariot making for about four decades. I was trained by my father Lingaraj Mohapatra and he received training from my grandfather Ananta Mohapatra. It is a tradition and we are privileged to get the opportunity to serve the Lord," said Bijay Mohapatra, the chief Bishwakarma (carpenter) of Lord Jagannath's chariot 'Nandighosh' having 16 wheels.

Only traditional equipment like chisel are used in the construction of the chariots, he said.

"Our measurements are in the units of 'haat' (hand size) and 'Anguli' (finger size). There are no such units like feet or inches," Mohapatra said.



Asked how the 'haat' size remains the same over centuries as the lengths of the hands of different carpenters are not similar, Mohapatra said, "My father has given me a stick. This stick is considered as one 'haat'. It is equivalent to 20 inches. Twenty-five 'Angulis' make a 'haat'. We use these measures to calibrate the height and width of the chariots."

The carpenters start constructing chariots from the day of Akshaya Tritiya and take around 57 days to complete them.

The carpenters' children assist them in making the chariots of Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra, so that the traditional knowledge is passed on to the future generation.

"Though our children live outside Puri for a living, all of them come for two months and help their fathers in chariot making. It is considered to be a pious work for all of us," he said.

Not only carpenters but also a group of artisans and blacksmiths are involved in the work for generations.

While the 'Bishwakarma' servitors look after the main construction of chariots, 'Pahi Maharanas' fix the wheels of the chariots. There are others like 'Ojha Maharanas' (blacksmiths) who prepare nails, pins, clamps, and iron rings.

This apart, various wooden sculptures such as 'Ashta Manjar' (eight women) are fitted to the chariots. Covers, canopies, and flags made of cloth are prepared by the 'Darzi' servitors (tailors).

"As many as 150 traditional craftsmen are engaged in chariot making for 57 days," an official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said.

Another researcher Bhaskar Mishra said that Lord Jagannath's chariot, covered by red and yellow cloths, is constructed with 832 pieces of wood while Lord Balabhadra's chariot 'Tajadwaja' having 14 wheels, is draped in red and green cloths. Similarly, Devi Subhadra's chariot 'Darpadalan' having 12 wheels is covered with red and black cloth.

The Works department of the Odisha government gives fitness certificates to the chariots before they are pulled during the festival which attracts lakhs of people from across the country and abroad.

A team of engineers from the works department and the railways are kept ready for any repair work in the event of a breakdown of the chariots.

After the completion of the festival, the chariots are dismantled and major portions of them are auctioned. The remaining wood is sent to the temple kitchen.

**IN SYNC**



Artists perform during 48th Gandharba Kala Mahotsav at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## 'Need to stop stigmatisation of people with tuberculosis'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** A roundtable on role of media towards TB elimination by 2025 was organised by Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH) in association with District TB Cell, Bhubaneswar and others here Monday.

The meeting was organised keeping in mind the prioritisation of TB as a crucial public health issue for India and Odisha.

Speaking at the roundtable, the Additional Director-II, Public Health Officer-TB, Suman Sundar Ray said, "In order to end TB, we need to treat the disease like a disease. But despite government efforts, TB remains widely stigmatised. And in order to break the stigma, TB needs to be a part of public dis-

course." Reiterating the role of the media, District TB officer (DTO) Ray said, "This is where the media is extremely important as awareness levels are low. It is vital that information on TB symptoms, diagnosis and treatment and the need to stop stigmatisation of people with TB reaches citizens."

She added that in the past, media helped in making national-level health programmes on Covid-19, HIV/AIDS and polio a success and with the same commitment towards TB, it will be possible to achieve the goal of ending TB by 2025 as envisaged in the National Strategic Plan (2017-25).

The objective of the roundtable was to provide media updated information on TB as well as recent data and innovations on TB in Bhubaneswar, Odisha and India.

# Intermittent fasting may help heal nerve damage

Intermittent fasting helps change the activity of gut bacteria and increase their ability to recover from nerve damage, according to a study conducted in mice.

Researchers from the Imperial College London observed how fasting led to the gut bacteria increasing production of a metabolite known as 3-Indolepropionic acid (IPA), which is required for regenerating nerve fibres called axons—thread-like structures at the ends of nerve cells that send out electrochemical signals to other cells in the body.

This novel mechanism was discovered in mice and is hoped to also hold true for any future human trials. The team states that the bacteria that produces IPA—named *Clostridium sporogenes*—is found naturally in the guts of humans as well as mice; and IPA is present



in human's bloodstreams too. "There is currently no treatment for people with nerve damage beyond surgical reconstruction, which is only effective in a small

percentage of cases, prompting us to investigate whether changes in lifestyle could aid recovery," said Professor Simone Di Giovanni from Imperial's Department of

**There is currently no treatment for people with nerve damage beyond surgical reconstruction, which is only effective in a small percentage of cases, prompting us to investigate whether changes in lifestyle could aid recovery**

SIMONE DI GIOVANNI | PROFESSOR, IMPERIAL'S DEPARTMENT OF BRAIN SCIENCES

Brain Sciences.

"Intermittent fasting has previously been linked by other studies to wound repair and the growth of new neurons—but our study is the first to explain exactly how fasting might help heal nerves," Di Giovanni added.

The study, published in the journal *Nature*, assessed nerve re-

generation of mice where the sciatic nerve—the longest nerve running from the spine down the leg—was crushed. Half of the mice underwent intermittent fasting (by eating as much as they liked followed by not eating at all on alternate days), while the other half were free to eat with no restrictions at all.

These diets continued for a period of 10 days or 30 days before their operation, and the mice's recovery was monitored 24 to 72 hours after the nerve was severed.

The length of the regrown axons was measured and was about 50 per cent greater in mice that had been fasting.

Importantly, when IPA was administered to the mice orally after a sciatic nerve injury, regeneration and increased recovery was observed between two and three weeks after injury.



### Jayanarayan questions CM's meeting with Pope

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** Senior BJP MLA Jayanarayan Mishra Monday raised questions over Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's meeting with Pope Francis during his recent visit to Rome.

Speaking to media in Bhubaneswar, Mishra wanted to know about the source of the money spent by Patnaik during his recent trip to Italy.

"If he visited Italy on public money, what was the purpose of his visit and what did he achieve in return? What was the necessity to meet the Pope standing in a row?" asked the MLA, adding, "We have never seen him meeting Shankaracharya."

"Being a resident of Odisha and an opposition party MLA, we have the right to know why Naveen met Pope. What is his relation with the Pope? He is not a national leader," he said.

"If Naveen Babu makes any attempt to make Odisha a Christian state, we will strongly protest such a move," warned the BJP leader.

He also informed that the BJP will raise this issue during the upcoming monsoon session of the Assembly.

"What is wrong in meeting the Pope and getting support of the Christian population? If a positive mindset will be created in the world towards Odisha, it is the right decision by the Chief Minister," BJD legislator and former minister Shashi Bhusan Behera said.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEAFBLINDNESS



A workshop on 'Legal Rights And Access To Justice For People With Disabilities' was organised by Child & Women Development Society and Orissa Association for the Blind in Bhubaneswar, Monday, to observe International Day of Deafblindness

### Training programme for SC youth, women

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** A motivational training programme was organised for the members of Kalyani Tailoring Training & Production Centre Monday at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Khurda.

The KVK, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar has set up Kalyani Tailoring Training & Production Centre at Amanakuda village, Balipatna block of Khurda district under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) programme for women. The centre is established for the welfare of rural youth and women belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC).

ICAR-CIFA Director Saroj Kumar Swain graced the occasion as chief guest and lauded the efforts made by KVK, Khurda to help the rural youth and women of Scheduled Caste. He assured the group members of all kinds of support from KVK-Khurda and ICAR-CIFA to strengthen their livelihood.

ICAR-CIFA finance and accounts officer SS Mohapatra stressed on the need for quality production and marketing of garments by the group. KVK senior scientist AK Dash Khurda encouraged the participants for making designed garments and apply work to increase their profitability. He also focused on the business plan for better income of the group and prosperity of the rural poor.

Home Science specialist Harapriya Nayak while addressing the gathering, focused on the role of women in apparel designing and preparation of traditional textiles in the changing fashion scenario which will immensely contribute for strengthening their livelihood and making them self-reliant.

## AIIMS Bhub among India's best 20 medical colleges



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** Adding another feather to its cap, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been placed among best 20 medical colleges in the country. It has been ranked 20 in the medical category by a national level survey.

The survey comprises five broad parameters like 'Intake Quality and Governance', 'Academic Excellence', 'Infrastructure and Living Experience', 'Personality and Leadership Development' and 'Career Progression and Placement'.

This year AIIMS Bhubaneswar has achieved a higher rank due to its comprehensive approach towards patient care as well as research and overall development of medical students. Last year this survey had ranked the national institute at the 25th position. But this year AIIMS Bhubaneswar has stormed into the top 20 best medical colleges

in India. Notably, AIIMS New Delhi has been ranked first in the survey.

Similarly, the survey has also adjudged AIIMS Bhubaneswar in second rank among top 10 emerging/highest-scoring colleges set up in or after 2000. The institute of national importance has also been ranked fourth among government colleges with the lowest fees.

Speaking about it, AIIMS Bhubaneswar Director Mukesh Tripathi congratulated all the stakeholders for the feat achieved. AIIMS is committed to serve people with innovation and modern research methodology. It has now become a symbol of trust in the country for its overall performance, added Tripathi.

Over the years, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has emerged as one of the best medical institutes of the nation. Starting from infrastructure development to training, treatment and research, in every sector it has been performing excellently, said Medical Superintendent Sachidananda Mohanty.

It may be noted here that AIIMS Bhubaneswar has added many accolades in its illustrious first decade and envisioning the former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee's mission in establishing AIIMS Bhubaneswar to overcome the regional imbalance in tertiary health care services.

### Round one to Shinde

Continued from P1

Then as Kamat urged the court to give his client the liberty to come to the court if there is an attempt to alter the status quo, Justice Surya Kant said: "Do you need our liberty... Let us not create any complications on the basis of apprehensions not founded now."

Kamat added that no court has ever granted a stay of disqualification process and the proceedings of the House will be interdicted as he questioned the maintainability of the petitions by Eknath Shinde and rebel Shiv Sena MLAs.

Meanwhile Shinde termed the relief by the Supreme Court as the victory of Bal Thackeray's Hindutva and the ideals of his mentor Anand Dighe.

"This is the victory of Hindu hridayasmatr Balasaheb's Hindutva and the ideals of (the late) Dharamaveer Anand Dighe," tweeted Shinde, who is camping with the dissident MLAs in Guwahati.

### CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Santosh Kumar Sahu of Boipariguda, Koraput, Odisha, S/o. Bhagaban Sahu have changed my name from Santosh Sahu to Santosh Kumar Sahu vide affidavit dtd. 22.06.2022 sworn before Notary Public, Kundra.

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary, Cuttack on 21.06.2022, I have changed my name from Raja Barenya Krushna Sahoo to Barenya Sahoo. Henceforth I shall be known as Barenya Sahoo for all purpose. Sd./- Barenya Sahoo.

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I, Binit Agrawala S/o Lalit Kumar Agrawala R/O 127 Budheswari Colony, Bhubaneswar - 751006, Odisha have changed the name of my minor son Atharva Agrawala aged about 09 years and he shall hereafter be known as Sammarth Agrawala, for all purposes.

## WWF calls for consensual framework to halt biodiversity loss

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be adopted at the second and final part of the 15th conference of parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting slated for December 5 to 17 in Montreal, Canada

The international community should agree on the establishment of a new and transformative framework to strengthen conservation of biodiversity in the light of threats fuelled by human actions and the climate

crisis, senior officials from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said.

Marco Lambertini, the Director-General at WWF International, stressed that a global consensus was urgent to facilitate establishment of a landmark pact to reinvigorate protection of species and speed up nature positive growth, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We need a science-based, ambitious and measurable framework to reverse habitat loss, and put us on a path towards carbon neutrality," Lambertini said at a briefing on the sidelines of the fourth meeting of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework underway in Nairobi.

The Nairobi meeting, according to Lambertini, should rise above partisan interests to agree on a text that could open a new chapter in global efforts to reverse unprecedented loss of species.

He noted that biodiversity loss had not only created an ecological crisis but had worsened poverty, food insecurity, water scarcity and declining health outcomes for grassroots communities.

Convened by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the June 21-26 meeting in Nairobi is fine tuning the final draft of a



global framework to re-engineer conservation of species in the next decade.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be adopted at the second and final part of the 15th conference of parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting slated for December 5 to 17 in Montreal, Canada.

"Addressing key drivers of species loss including harmful farming practices, pollution and unsustainable production and consumption should inform establishment of the decade-long global biodiversity framework," said Guido Broekhoven, the Head of Policy, Research and Development at WWF International.

In addition, the framework should advance repurposing of economic models to ensure they were nature positive besides strengthening climate resilience of local custodians of biodiversity hotspots, added Broekhoven.

### The green development centre with low carbon footprint will be a small contribution of ESSPL towards global climate change mitigation and an important step towards supporting the company's expanded growth plan

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** UTKARSH, a new state-of-the-art global development centre of ESSPL, was inaugurated near Infocity Square here Monday by Tusharkanti Behera, Minister of State of Home, Electronics & IT, Sports and Youth departments, in the presence of E&IT secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra, STPI, Bhubaneswar Director Manas Ranjan Panda and ESSPL President & CEO Sudhir Jaiswal.

ESSPL is a global information technology services enterprise with local roots enabling logistics and supply chain operations for more than 24 years.

About the new facility, Jaiswal said, "ESSPL's new state-of-the-art global development center UTKARSH, in addition to its existing facilities, will be able to accommodate over 300 developers. Bhubaneswar has emerged as one of the IT hubs of the country over the past few years. The City has produced numerous talents over the years. One of the aims of creating UTKARSH has been attract-

ing more talents from the city, and develop better talents for tomorrow."

Being a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) registered green building project and aiming to achieve LEED Platinum rating, the highest by GBCI India, UTKARSH demonstrates ESSPL's resolve towards solar passive architecture, water conservation, renewable energy utilisation, low embodied energy building material usage, and better ergonomic quality to enhance employee health and well-being.

### Bus owners postpone strike for Rath Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 27:** In view of the upcoming Rath Yatra, the All Odisha Private Bus Owners' Association has postponed its strike which was to start July 1, association spokesperson Debasish Nayak said here Monday.

The association has taken this decision a day after holding discussion with Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu.

The primary demands of the association include withdrawal of government's decision to allow transfer of permits to a third party as and when required and permission to run the sleeper coaches in the daytime, Nayak said.

"We are unable to get Rs 1 lakh loan from banks without a mortgage. We have been demanding the government to withdraw its decision of hand over the process of issuing bus permits to third parties," he said.

The bus owners also demand sanction of permanent route permit to the private buses and withdrawal of the decision on high security registration number. But the government is not paying any attention to the demands, alleged Nayak.

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# IN A FIRST, BROWN SUGAR SEIZED IN KANDHAMAL

## Bhadrak-Cuttack Memu train to rerun from July 15

**Phulbani, June 27:** In a first, Phulbani Town police Monday seized at least 3.59 gram brown sugar during a raid at Penjisa under Sadar police limits in Kandhamal district, the hub for cannabis.

seizure of brown sugar in the district, said sources.

The incident has triggered panic among the residents who fear hand of a big racket behind the smuggling of the contraband.

Reports said brown sugar was smuggled from Khurda district, which is known as a drugs hub. The racket might be active in neighbouring districts of Nayagarh and Boudh while being smuggled to Kandhamal, fear the locals.

According to sources, Kandhamal SP Vinit Agarwal was tipped about the smuggling of brown sugar. On his orders, Sadar SDPO Mahendra



Accused Sapan Kumar Mahapatra

**REPORTS SAID BROWN SUGAR WAS SMUGGLED FROM KHURDA DISTRICT, WHICH IS KNOWN AS A DRUGS HUB**

**THE RACKET MIGHT BE ACTIVE IN NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS OF NAYAGARH AND BOUDH WHILE BEING SMUGGLED TO KANDHAMAL, FEAR THE LOCALS**

Nath Murmu and IIC Sushant Kumar Sathy formed a special team and kept track of Sapan. On Monday morning, the team

conducted a raid and nabbed Sapan while he was going on a motorcycle (OD 12 E 4114). During probe, Sapan admitted to smuggling brown sugar from Khurda district. This apart, he is also involved in smuggling of other banned substances.

"We have registered a case in this connection and are looking into all angles like the source of the drug, his customers, his suppliers and his aides, if any. We are on the lookout for the mastermind of the drugs supply," said SDPO Murmu.

Notably, the Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch had seized over 1kg brown sugar, worth

over ₹1 crore, during a raid in Khurda Sunday.

Similarly, the STF had seized 2.058kg brown sugar worth nearly ₹2.05 crore following a raid near AIIMS, Bhubaneswar while another consignment of brown sugar worth ₹1.20 crore was seized at Baramunda in the month of May.

Police suspect there is a huge racket behind brown sugar supply that has now reached Kandhamal district.

It is pertinent to mention here that the STF is carrying out a special drive against drug peddling.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, June 27:** Services of Bhadrak-Cuttack passenger train will resume July 15 while the number of bogies in the Memu train will be increased from 12 to 16, a report said.

The matter came to fore after the Railways issued a notification in this regard, Saturday. The decision has been welcomed by students and people from various walks of life. They thanked the Bhadrak MP and the former Dhamanagar MLA for the decision.

Sources said the residents in Bhadrak under the aegis of various outfits had staged a rail roko some days ago protesting the extension of Bhadrak-Bhubaneswar DMU train service to neighbouring Balasore.

Patients and their attendants wishing to go to hospitals in Cuttack and students travelling to Bhubaneswar had to suffer a lot.

Taking note of the fact, Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal and former Dhamnagar MLA Muktikant Mandal met the Union Railway Minister Aswini Vaishnaw following which the latter and the Railway Board chairman assured that his demands will be fulfilled in phases.

### ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA

# Ganjam admin to weed out bogus beneficiaries

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, June 27:** The district administration has pulled up its sleeves to weed out bogus and ghost beneficiaries under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in Ganjam district by conducting door-to-door verification, a report said.



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

The issue came up for probe after allegations of lifting of rice in the names of bogus and dead persons under the scheme surfaced.

Antyodaya ration card is issued to those households which fall under the 'poorest of poor' category. Beneficiaries having this card are entitled to receive 35kg food grain every month.

Reports said several people lacking eligibility have managed to get a card and are lifting rice and other items under the food security scheme. Such people are allegedly found in abundance in Berhampur town, various blocks, NACs and municipality areas.

As a result, many eligible beneficiaries have been deprived of the benefits of the scheme while bogus and ghost beneficiaries siphon off the rice and other food stuffs.

Several people lacking eligibility have managed to get a card and are lifting rice and other items under the food security scheme

Such people are allegedly found in abundance in Berhampur town, various blocks, NACs and municipality areas

As a result, many eligible beneficiaries have been deprived of the benefits of the scheme while bogus and ghost beneficiaries siphon off rice and other food stuffs

Expressing concern, the district Food Supplies department in a letter directed all the block development officers (BDOs), executive officers of all municipalities and notified area councils (NACs) and the Commissioner of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC)

asking them to form teams and conduct door-to-door verification of bogus and dead beneficiaries.

The teams will visit the houses of the beneficiaries listed under AAY and weed out the names of bogus and dead beneficiaries after verification.

The teams will also include the names of actual and deprived beneficiaries as per the government guidelines after removing the names of the bogus and dead beneficiaries. The matter came up before the district administration during the public hearing and Dibyanga Samadhan camps of the district Collector.

Several allegations were made before the district Collector in these camps about the bogus and dead beneficiaries receiving rice and other food stuffs under the scheme in the district.

In past, the district Collector had directed the BDOs, executive officers of civic bodies and the commissioner of BeMC to weed out the bogus and dead beneficiaries. However, the order of the Collector received little response due to intervention of public representatives.

### STIR OVER AGNIPATH



Members of Rashtriya Yuva Sangathan took out a rally to the Collectorate in Angul, Monday, against the recently-announced defence recruitment scheme Agnipath

### Man robbed of ₹6L

**BHAWANIPATNA:** In a daylight heist, a man was robbed of ₹6 lakh while he was on his way home after withdrawing the cash from a State Bank of India (SBI) branch at Rampur under Madanpur block in Kalahandi district Monday. The victim has been identified as Bhubindar Rana of Gopalpur village. According to sources, Rana withdrew ₹6 lakh from the bank and was returning home on a motorcycle when two bike-borne miscreants chased him and hit his motorcycle at Madanpur leaving him injured. Later, the miscreants snatched the bag containing the cash from him and fled the spot. Informed, police rushed to the spot and admitted injured Rana to a hospital. Acting on the complaint, M Rampur police swung into action to nab the looters.

### Murmu's village finally gets electricity

**BARIPADA:** Presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu's native village Durgurisahi adjoining Uparbeda about 20 km from Raipur block in Mayurbhanj was finally lit up after power supply was made available to the village, Sunday night. The officials of Tata Power North Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPNODL) conducted the work on a war footing and finished it within two days. Over 50 employees of TPNODL worked at the site and laid cables for over 900 metres to connect the village with power supply, executive engineer Birsingh Soren of Raipur electrical division of TPNODL said. Meanwhile, power supply has been made available to only 16 families while it will be available to the rest of the villagers soon after installation of a transformer, officials said. Fellow villagers of Droupadi are overjoyed after receiving the news of her nomination and are eagerly waiting for the results.

# Berhampur man orders T-shirt online, duped of ₹1.27 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 27:** In a bizarre case of cyber fraud, a customer was duped of ₹1.27 lakh while he was trying to buy a T-shirt online. The matter came to the fore after the victim narrated his ordeal before the police and media persons Monday.



The victim has been identified as Lakhmi Narayan Panda, a resident of Ramkrushna Nagar in the Silk city. According to sources, Panda, a banker by profession, had ordered a T-shirt through an e-commerce site known as formalbutton.in last month.

However, upon the arrival of his parcel, Panda discovered that the product did not match his order. He then contacted the customer care of the e-commerce site to send the parcel back. The customer care agent, who interacted with Panda, asked him to download 'anydesk app' to initiate the return and refund.

No sooner Panda installed the app, the agent asked Panda for his

The victim had ordered a T-shirt through an e-commerce site known as formalbutton.in last month

Upon the arrival of his parcel, Panda discovered that the product did not match his order. He then contacted the customer care of the e-commerce site to send it back

Panda, a banker by profession, did not realise instantly that he has been duped. He discovered it a few days later when he checked his bank account and found the balance to be zero

also agreed. When I failed to get back my money, the agent attributed it to technical error and asked me to download anydesk app to create an id. I also did that and then the agent asked me to send a message to him. Using this id, the agent hacked my account and siphoned off ₹1.27 lakh," narrated Panda.

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No.B-308: The Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No-II, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for One Number of Supply, installation, testing, commissioning of (G+3) Sixteen passenger Elevator to be received in online bidding, Single cover system as detailed in : https://tendersorissa.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 27.06.2022 to 5.00 P.M of 06.07.2022. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11.30 A.M. of 07.07.2022 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No-II, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.  
Sd./Superintending Engineer  
BBSR (R&B) Division No.II, BBSR  
OIPR-34088/11/0013/2223

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www.indiaculture.nic.in  
www.ccrtindia.gov.in  
27th August, 2022 is the last date for submission of applications  
ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED  
davn - 09127/12/0004/2223

# Koraput coffee a big hit in Pondicherry



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, June 27:** The 'Koraput coffee' has already earned a name for itself in the global market, thanks to its unique taste. The beverage is so popular that the stocks get exhausted and also replenished within a few hours of opening of offline and online stores.

Currently, it is even available on Amazon.in. Now, Koraput coffee is tickling the taste buds of coffee lovers in Pondicherry's Auroville. There is a huge demand for Koraput coffee in Pondicherry.

Such is its popularity that an Auroville-based business enterprise 'Coffee Ideas' has agreed to market the coffee grown in Koraput in international market.

Koraput coffee is now available on Amazon.in

The unique beverage is tickling the taste buds of coffee lovers in Pondicherry's Auroville

There is a huge demand for Koraput coffee in Pondicherry

'Coffee Ideas' will procure coffee from growers in Koraput and sell it across the country and abroad. This initiative is expected to help in socio-economic development of coffee growers in the tribal-dominated district. This will also secure the livelihood of tribals.

Marcos, the Chief Manager of 'Coffee Ideas', had visited Chotaguda-based 'Brown Valley Coffee' a few days back. He col-

lected a few Arabica coffee beans and took it for experiment. This homegrown coffee is a single-origen 100 per cent Arabica coffee. He was so satisfied with the quality and the taste of the coffee that he has procured 5 quintal of the unique beverage. Now, the enterprise plans to market Koraput coffee globally. The enterprise has also promised to keep intact the quality of the coffee before it is sold in the market.

"The taste of our coffee is compared to the coffee produced in Brazil and Colombia. We also export it to Europe and America. The Government should encourage coffee processing here," a coffee farmer said.

Meanwhile, the state government is also providing support to the coffee farmers. Earlier, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had given forest land rights of 46,000 acre to 30,000 families for coffee cultivation.

On the occasion of International Coffee Day, he had also launched a dedicated e-commerce platform (koraputcoffee.org) which will make Koraput coffee available across the globe. Worth mentioning, coffee farming is transforming lives in the tribal hinterland of Koraput. Located at a height of 3,000 ft above sea level, the district is ideal for coffee cultivation due to its cool climate and rainfall.

ODISHA GRAMYA BANK  
Regional Office: Khurda, At: Sanapalla, P.O: Pallahat, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, Ph. No.: 06755-296213  
POSSESSION NOTICE  
[Appendix-IV (Rule 8 (1)) (For Immovable Property)]  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Odisha Gramya Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) as noted below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates and rests and charges etc. till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
1) The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property as described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates as indicated hereunder.  
2) The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the Odisha Gramya Bank for the amount stated below with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc. from the aforesaid date mentioned in the Demand Notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable on the date of taking possession is mentioned below which is payable with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc., till the date of payment. 3) The borrower's attention 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 assets.  
ODAGAON BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) Description of Immovable Properties Dues payable as on specified date of Demand/ Possession Notice Date of Demand / Possession Notice  
Borrower & Mortgagor: Sri Pitabas Senapati, S/o- Sri Hajari Senapati / Guarantors & Mortgagors: 1) Sri Kasinath Senapati, S/o- Sri Hajari Senapati, 2) Sri Bhaskar Senapati, S/o- Sri Hajari Senapati / Guarantor: Sri Sanjeev Kumar Mahapatra, S/o- Duryadhan Mahapatra, all are belongs to the village At: Panchirida Manapur, P.O.: Panchirida, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752080 Creation of Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Panchirida Manapur, Khata No.: 42, Plot No.: 1375, Area: Ac.0.060dec., Kissan: Gharabari, recorded owner: Sri Kasinath Senapati, Sri Bhaskar Senapati & Sri Pitambar Senapati. ₹5,18,329/- as on 15.09.2021 / ₹5,64,005/- as on 23.06.2022 + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment 18.09.2021 / 23.06.2022  
Borrower & Mortgagor: Sri Prabhata Kumar Dash, S/o- Sri Sudarsan Dash / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Sri Santosh Kumar Dash, S/o- Sudarsan Dash, Both are belongs to the Village At: Gothabana, P.O.: Gaudaput, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752077 Creation of Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Ghasdeipur, Khata No.: 262/179, Plot No.: 672/1093, Area: Ac.0.040dec., Kissan: Gharabari, recorded owner: Sri Prabhata Kumar Dash & Sri. Santosh Kumar Dash. ₹6,97,468/- as on 15.09.2021 / ₹7,74,965/- as on 23.06.2022 + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment 18.09.2021 / 23.06.2022  
Date: 27.06.2022 Place: Khurda Sd./ Authorised Officer, Odisha Gramya Bank



FOCUS GLOBAL ECONOMY

# HEADING TO STAGFLATION



The world is heading to stagflation, and India will not remain immune from the effect. It must pull itself up on the strength of domestic demand and fiscal support

tion, record high in UK), most central banks are increasing the interest rates and tightening money supply. This tightening is causing investors, especially those in stock markets, or private equity funding future unicorns and startups, or hedge funds, to become risk averse. The foreign portfolio investors have pulled 40 billion dollars out of India in the past six months. No wonder the stock market has crashed. The much-celebrated IPO of LIC has seen its stock price come down and value erosion of nearly ₹1.2 lakh crore. Much of this is because of foreign and global investor sentiment. Even the domestic retail investors in India, whose SIPs used to pour ten or twenty thousand crores into the stock market every month, are now reducing their participation.

The world is heading to stagflation, and India will not remain immune from the effect. It must pull itself up on the strength of domestic demand and fiscal support. Money supply is getting tightened for now but can provide some relief if inflation eases. A good monsoon is badly needed. As of now, the June rainfall is barely one fourth of the normal monsoon. To add to all this, the political instability in a large, industrialised state like Maharashtra is not helping. Instability means inaction or even paralysis in decision making, since policymakers are distracted in tackling the political situation. Private sector investors in new factories, new businesses, in housing and other consumer industries might also prefer to wait and watch. All this adds to the sluggish growth environment. However, compared to the Western economies which are entering a recession, India will have some positive growth, but perhaps not as high as needed. That is of course a small comfort for a developing economy, for job creation and growth which is imperative. Policymakers have a tough time ahead in the next six to twelve months.

The writer is a noted economist.  
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Germany is the current chair of the group of seven richest nations called G7. This group is meeting in the Bavarian Alps, hosted by the Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz who took charge just six months ago after Angela Merkel's tenure of sixteen years. India is an invitee to the meeting along with Indonesia, Argentina, Senegal and South Africa. Even though the agenda for the meeting covers many topics like food security, health, climate change, terrorism, gender equality and even democracy, clearly the most important worry on everyone's minds will be the war in Ukraine and its impact on the world economy. Prime Minister Modi who is attending, tweeted that he looks forward to interacting with world leaders, but he too would like to gauge the international mood on the economy. India is very vulnerable being dependent on import of energy, mainly crude oil. Oil prices have remained stubbornly high, and are not likely to come down. India wants to take advantage of a steep discount being offered by Russia on its oil exports. In doing so, it will earn the ire of all the members of G7, who want a complete boycott of Russia, in order to put economic pressure on the country to withdraw from Ukraine.

But Germany and other West European nations are learning the hard way how much energy dependence they have on Russia, whose oil export and particularly gas pipelines have become Europe's lifeline. Switching to coal-based energy is not easy nor desirable. In this awkward geopolitical position, some people are questioning the wisdom of erstwhile, and much venerated leader Angela Merkel, during whose long tenure, Germany's energy embrace with Russia became tighter. Now Germany has started to ration the supply of gas causing much hardship. Apart from energy, even food prices are at a record high, because of the Ukraine conflict. The

inflation is also affecting other consumer items and producer inputs. One additional reason for persistent inflation is due to shortages created by the lockdowns in China. During the recent and new outbreak of COVID, possibly a fourth or fifth wave, China adopted a zero-COVID policy, imposing very harsh lockdowns even in big cities like Shanghai. This has caused the ports in China to be clogged by ships bound for the West await their consignments.

As a consequence, inflation and shortages in Western economies are being blamed on Russia and China for separate reasons. And of course, both Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping are not invited to the G7 summit. The G7 summit is also determined to show a unified front of all democracies to counter the actions and stance of Russia and China. But putting up this show of unification is not easy. For instance, India wants to have the freedom to import cheaper oil from Russia and will simply not join any call for boycott or blockade. After all Russia has always been a very dependable ally in the supply of military hardware, technology and support for several decades. Similarly, India has been conducting several rounds

of high-level talks with China (fifteen and counting) to sort out border disputes, after the bloodshed and deaths in Galwan, Ladakh. Imports from China into India continue to soar, and for the third year in a row, Indo-China trade will grow strongly.

Meanwhile, the global economic outlook continues to become gloomier. The World Bank recently reduced its global growth forecast for this year, from 4.1 to 2.9 per cent. That is a downgrade of 1.2 percentage points, which translates to a lower income of trillions of dollars. Both the US and Europe are expected to go into recession. India's growth forecast too has been reduced by one or two per cent by many economists. That translates into reduced national income of about ₹3 to 4 lakh crore, and perhaps 5 to 8 million fewer jobs. India is counting on a vigorous growth in exports for next year too, to reach closer to 500 billion dollars in merchandise exports. But that would need the world economy to be in better shape than what seems to be the case.

Since most economies are facing very high inflation (forty-year high in the US, thirty-year high in India for wholesale price index infla-



Ajit Ranade

**INFLATION AND SHORTAGES IN WESTERN ECONOMIES ARE BEING BLAMED ON RUSSIA AND CHINA FOR SEPARATE REASONS**

## They Don't Know

It does seem like no one in this country knows anything except those in absolute but temporary power. The bureaucracy has been the torch bearer of this mindset since colonial days. They were the very first to understand that the average brown skinned native was incapable, given her limited intellectual abilities, to comprehend what the goras knew about the universe. That thought process has flowed down the line to this day and time when even those youngsters who have cleared that ONE single test by the UPSC that makes them 'rulers' for life think they know whatever it may be that is needed to be known. Mostly, the bureaucracy thinks the political class is dispensable except whosoever heads it since pleasing that Headman becomes very important for them to further their careers. Political minions however have a different story to narrate. They are nowhere near the stage to matter for the bureaucracy. It is only personal relations that help them survive the upheavals that most of them face as daily grind.

The political class is an endangered species in current times. Take for example the US Supreme Court's ruling on the Roe Vs Wade issue. After drastically curbing basic human rights of women with pregnancies by nullifying a law that was in force for half a century, the USSC's verdict has been condemned across the Western world but the American politician is being viewed as a weakling who has very little power over what the social changes are doing to his career. While most Republicans have no choice but to support the anti-abortion decision while opposing any changes to existing gun laws, the Democrats have, similarly, no choice but to oppose the changes made to the abortion law while supporting changes to the gun laws. In simpler terms, politicians of all hues are observed as little flags that flutter downwind with the slightest of breeze. Downwind is where all of them end up since very few have the audacity to stand against the current. It is mostly a matter of convenience that makes politicians do whatever it is that they do. Of course, there are aberrations like Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy who seems to have a conviction that his nation needs to be independent and his strength of character seems to have percolated down to his country folks who can be observed as real combatants in a real war. The USSC ruling on abortion has not remained limited to American shores. The sign of the times is that the regressive mindset is here to stay. At least for some more time. Depriving women of a very basic right to control their own body's reproductive activities smells of a society that has corroded from deep within. Seemingly the Court did not bother to go deep into issues that affect every individual of that country. With six out of the nine judges going on a roll together, conservatism looks like it is back in vogue.

Some optimists, on the other hand, feel strongly that even though the present global scenario seems to be having a massive swing towards an anti-poor, hate filled and intolerant society, the truth could be trudging along somewhere else. They feel that there is a great desire among the common citizen for a more equitable, tolerant and just social order and that could be the key to change. Undoubtedly the courts, governments and politicians, across the globe, seem to have all lost credibility. The supporters of power are seen as scared and timid people filled with hate for everyone else. Those who oppose are counted as rodents that need to be exterminated at the very first opportunity. With a global society that is diametrically opposite to what everyone thought as being obvious and natural just a decade ago, the future could be changing. Which way the dice rolls is anyone's guess.

**Piate**  
Tathagata Satpathy

### WISDOM CORNER

- Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it. CHARLES R. SWINDOLL
- The past has no power over the present moment. ECKHART TOLLE
- There are always flowers for those who want to see them. HENRI MATISSE

### WORDSWORTH

#### Totter

A totter is a rag-and-bone collector. Not, you will note, the verb to move unsteadily (which comes from the Middle Dutch *touteren*, to swing), nor to do with tiny tots (which you might wrongly guess is an abbreviated form of totter, but which is actually an old English dialect word whose origin is unknown, though it's the same one as a tot of spirits and so means something small), nor has it anything to do with a person who tots up figures to come to a total (that's an abbreviation from the Latin *totum*, total, which was once marked against a summed figure in account books). Our totters' name is from the old slang term tot for a bone, as in the nineteenth-century tot-hunter, a gatherer of bones, a word also used as a term of abuse; both may come from the German tot, dead. Totters were once a familiar sight in the streets of every town and city in Britain, often announcing their presence with the ringing of a handbell and the cry of "rags, bones, bottles" that had been so often repeated it had been reduced to a hoarse, inarticulate shout. The original totters, of nineteenth-century Britain, really did collect rags and bones, among other items. The former were sold to a rag merchant who passed them on to firms that reprocessed them into the cheap material called shoddy. The latter were the remnants of families' meals, which were sent to firms that rendered them down for glue. Some even swept out the fireplaces and ovens of the more prosperous households, sifting out the ashes to sell to soap-makers and selling on the half-burnt coals and logs to those in need of cheap fuel. It was recycling at its most basic. Later, the cry was often "any old iron", commemorated in a famous music-hall song. By the early 1960s, when BBC Television produced *Step toe and Son* about two rag-and-bone men in Shepherd's Bush, west London, the totting trade in its old form was pretty much extinct: nobody wanted rags and bones any more. The men of that period and later were scrap merchants, picking up any unwanted item of junk that looked as though it might be worth a few coins.

### LOL

#### He's drunk at the bar

One night a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible DUI (driving under the influence) violations. At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb and try his keys on five different cars before he found his. The man sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes. Meanwhile, all the other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally, he started his engine and began to pull



away. The police officer was waiting for him. As soon as he pulled onto the street, the officer stopped him, read him his rights and administered the breathalyser test to determine his blood-alcohol content. The results showed a reading of 0.0. The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be. The driver replied, "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Correcting historical injustices

No more, at least, glaring pictures of leaders of India or international visitors dancing with or garlanding people of the most marginalised, alienated, dispossessed community in India - the tribals. By announcing its Presidential candidate from the tribal community, the BJP-led NDA has made an act of unshackling historical injustice inflicted to one of the least represented populace in India. Or will this be just another symbolism or second biggest project of increasing base of Hindutva, as alleged by its staunch opponents when the incumbent President was picked by the ruling party?

Not a single representative of a tribal community has ever been in the front race to become the head of the State despite the Constitution allocating a special schedule (Schedule-V) for tribal community Droupadi Murmu in all probability is likely to become the first tribal President of India.

While Murmu has emerged winner among 20 probable candidates of the NDA government, the speculation over selecting a candidate from the Muslim community was potentially high due to the prevailing domestic upheavals and their international ramifications. The Opposition failed three times to have a consensus candidate due to their differences, not ideologically, but in their own parochial strategies

aimed at the BJP-RSS. Fourth time, a consensus candidate emerged from the coalition of Opposition who was a former Finance and External Affairs Minister under BJP led NDA-I government. Not wasting much words and time to resurrect India's 'great Opposition' or its Presidential nomination, who has already started politicking before his official nomination filing, it's worthwhile to prospect probable mainstreaming of indigenous communities in governance of India.

The perpetual alienation, exploitation, dispossession of indigenous people during pre- and post-Independence India continued despite half-baked piecemeal approaches by various regimes. During the Constituent Assembly debate in framing the Constitution of India, Jaipal Singh Munda was the sole tribal representative. Known as 'Marang Gomme' (great leader in Mundari language in Jharkhand), Munda who also captained India to its first Olympic hockey gold, eloquently and convincingly ensured special safeguards for tribals and their recognition and Constitutional protection. Speaking for the first time in the Constituent Assembly 19 December, 1946, calling himself a 'Jungli', Munda called tribals 'the original people of India' and most democratic people on the Earth. Munda believed in the new chapter of Independent India where there

would be equality of opportunity, where no one would be neglected.

But Independent India has neglected many millions knowingly and unknowingly. In Chhattisgarh and Odisha, one would easily hear one of the oldest tribal struggles against the 1927 Indian Forest Act. There has been a constant and continuous animosity between the state forest departments and the indigenous communities across the country over access to natural resources for the livelihood of millions. It is not British-era law but Independent India's legislations related to conservation, protection and management of natural resources, developmental activities including mining, river valley projects and infrastructure projects that have deprived 8.6 per cent of India's population of their rights.

When the UPA government formulated and approved the Forest Rights Act (2006), it was the first ray of hope, meant to be compensating historical injustice, for millions of tribal people in recognising their rights to forest land. Implementation of the Act has been marred with all possible discrepancies, mostly deliberate. Frequent news of cancellation of applications of recognition rights and subsequent evictions still continue.

Murmu's nomination and probable winning as the 15th President of India may accelerate the unfin-

ished dream of Jaipal Singh Munda's Constituent Assembly statement of equality of opportunity of indigenous people in development of India. At least, formulation of any legislation in Parliament as well as in state Assemblies related to indigenous people and their lives and livelihoods must be in accordance with the meaningful participation of indigenous communities. Any developmental projects targeted in tribal areas may follow the salient features of FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent). Indigenous people's knowledge is key to addressing multiple environmental threats the world is facing - climate catastrophe, vanishing species and water scarcity. Under the leadership of Murmu, India may be able to share the knowledge of sustainable way of living of indigenous people with the world. India would like to lead in addressing challenges of indigenous peoples across the world. Can Murmu, if elected as the head of State, delivering her Constitutional duty -- neither a rubber stamp nor representing a deep BJP-RSS project -- ensure equal participation of indigenous communities in the decision making process of Naya Bharat? That's real and natural justice for indigenous people.

The writer is a scientist and teaches at IIT Madras.



Avilash Roul

**THE PERPETUAL ALIENATION, EXPLOITATION, DISPOSSESSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE CONTINUED DESPITE HALF-BAKED PIECEMEAL APPROACHES BY VARIOUS REGIMES**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

#### Double speak

Sir, This is in reference to the report "Mehbooba urges Kashmiri youth to shun militancy," Orissa POST June 26. Mufti's statement is typical double speak so commonly resorted to by many 'mainstream' Kashmiri Muslim politicians. Her reason for exhorting the youth to shun militancy is not that violence in itself is bad, but, as put forth by her - "...because killing you is an incentive for them (security forces). They get money and promotions for that" and "They (security forces) kill four-five (militants) every day..." Till such leaders who covertly support militancy are there insurgency would continue to thrive in Kashmir.

Badrika Nath Mahapatra, BHUBANESWAR

#### Veterans get a raw deal

Sir, This refers to the news item "War veterans' pensions held up in WB," Orissa POST, June 26. It is sad to know that war veterans' pensions to living pensioners and widows are not being paid timely, as expressed by a few recipients in West Bengal, due to non-allotment of funds as also the fact that no recruitment under 5 per cent for ex-servicemen category in police jobs. Bengal has 376 WWII pensioners, including 38 widows. Untimely payment/no pensions for months leads to existential crisis coupled with the reality that widows have reached ages when it becomes physically impossible to work. The Rajya Sainik Board in the state must on priority take up the issue with the government of West Bengal. As related by a widow, she was in receipt of ₹3000 per month against such payments, whereas in the state of Uttarakhand the same has been raised from ₹5000 to ₹10,000 per month. The Bengal government will do well to raise amounts to meet expenses in times of such hardships affecting all. Our WWII veterans and widows deserve some respectability for leading a good life. We cannot forget their sacrifices for national causes. The Bengal government liberally spends on every Durga Puja committee (₹50,000) and finances on a lot of schemes on women and girls, students and poor people. No state must keep our war veterans and their widows in poverty. Bengal's ruling party and the government have been critical of the new Agniveer scheme because of no pension for bulk of the new young entrants. One is distressed to know that WWII veterans and their widows are getting a raw deal in the hands of the government. Kudos to Orissa POST for bringing this up.

Parthasarathy Sen, DELHI



# national

## of the day quote

In the years to come, Amma Vodi will be seen as a path breaking initiative in the realm of education by any government in the country

Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

We don't believe in tokenism. It is not about Murmu's candidature. She represents a party which is heavily reliant on unconstitutional practices. Therefore, we are vehemently opposing the BJP candidate

K T RAMA RAO | TRS WORKING PRESIDENT AND TELANGANA IT MINISTER

The Shiv Saini I know will never digest any rebellion. Shiv Sainiks have immense strength and have built the organisation through a lot of efforts. This will have no impact on the organisation. Uddhav Thackeray will emerge victorious

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP SUPREMO

## SHORT TAKES

### Dinkar Gupta takes charge as NIA chief

New Delhi: Former Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta Monday took over as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), an anti-terror probe agency formed after the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai, relieving CRPF chief Kuldip Singh of the additional charge. Gupta, a 1987-batch IPS officer of Punjab cadre, takes over as a full-time chief of the agency after more than a year.

### Satyendar's judicial custody extended

New Delhi: A special CBI court Monday extended the judicial custody of Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain -- arrested in connection with an alleged money laundering case, by 14 days. Earlier Monday, the court had refused the extension of Jain's judicial custody as neither the minister nor his lawyers were present in the court. Jain, who is under the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) since May 31, was admitted to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital after he complained of reduced oxygen levels last week.

### 2 Armymen shot dead by colleague

Pathankot (Punjab): An Army jawan allegedly shot dead two of his colleagues at Mirthal cantonment in Punjab's Pathankot district Monday, a police official said. The 22-year-old sepoy allegedly opened fire on two havildars from West Bengal and Maharashtra in the early hours of Monday, the police official said. The sepoy, who has been serving in the Army for four years, had fled from the scene leaving behind his service weapon, but was nabbed later. A massive manhunt was launched by police and Army personnel and the accused was nabbed a few kilometers away from the cantonment, the police official said.

### Karnataka launches 'Kashi Yatra' scheme

Bangalore: The Karnataka government Monday gave its nod to the 'Kashi Yatra' project offering a cash assistance of Rs 5,000 to each of the 30,000 pilgrims willing to take up a pilgrimage to Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. In its order, the government authorised the religious endowment department commissioner to utilise Rs 7 crore sanctioned for the 'Kashi Yatra', as read out in the budget speech by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai under the accounts head of 'Assistance to Manasa Sarovara Pilgrims'.



The Prime Minister is making his friends 'daulatveer' (rich) by handing them country's airports for 50 years while making youths 'Agniveers' on a four-year contract

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## MONSOON MISSES DATE WITH DELHI

With the Southwest Monsoon proceeding slower than normal, it has missed its date with the national capital Monday even as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it will declare the monsoon arrival over Delhi Tuesday



## Rape case filed against Sonia Gandhi's personal secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: The Delhi Police has registered a case of rape and criminal intimidation against Congress president Sonia Gandhi's personal secretary P P Madhavan on a complaint by a 26-year-old woman, officials said Monday.

The woman alleged that the accused lured her on the pretext of providing her a job and had promised marriage, they said.

A police officer said the victim, who lives in Delhi, was allegedly raped and threatened of dire consequences by the accused if she reported the matter to police.

"A complaint was received at the Uttam Nagar police station on June 25. A case under sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered. We are investigating the matter," said M Harsha Vardhan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka). He said the police were investigating the allegations levelled against a 71-year-old man who is working as a personal secretary to a senior political leader.

Though the DCP did not name the political leader, officials in the Delhi Police said the allegations were levelled against Madhavan.

According to the FIR, the woman, said that her financial condition was not good and she went to the Congress office where she got Madhavan's phone number.

## India, EU resume negotiations for free trade pact

India had started negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007, but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues, including customs duties on automobiles and spirits, and the movement of professionals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: India and the European Union (EU) Monday resumed negotiations, after a gap of over eight years, for a comprehensive free trade agreement, a move aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two regions.

Senior officials from both the sides will hold discussions till July 1. India and the EU "today kick-start 1st round of trade negotiations in #NewDelhi," Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan, said in a tweet.

India and the 27-nation bloc June 17 formally resumed negotiations on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and Geographical Indications (GI).



India had started negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007, but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues, including customs duties on automobiles and spirits, and the movement of professionals. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal in Brussels on June 18 had said India wishes to engage with the world on modern products and look at areas where it can gain in terms of new technology and investments.

"All cards are on the table and we are coming with an open heart and an open mind... Agreements do not have to always be about gain or demands, I think agreements also have to be which is good for both negotiating teams and for the people," he had said.

India's merchandise exports to EU member countries stood at about \$ 65 billion in 2021-22, while imports aggregated to \$51.4 billion.

## PRESIDENTIAL POLL

# 'Will reach out to ex-BJP colleagues for support'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: Presidential nominee Yashwant Sinha Monday said he would reach out to his former colleagues in the BJP to seek their support and expressed confidence that the Opposition unity seen on his candidature would continue till the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing a press conference here after filing his nomination, Sinha described the candidature of his rival NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu, a tribal, as part of "politics of symbolism" and insisted that he would contest the poll on the track record of the Modi government with regard to the welfare of backward communities.

Sinha, who was accompanied by top opposition leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Abhishek Banerjee, Mallikarjun Kharge, K T Rama Rao and Akhilesh Yadav during his nomination filing earlier in the day, said he would launch his campaign from Kerala Tuesday and cover Tamil Nadu Wednesday, after which he would travel to Gujarat, Telangana and Karnataka.

He filed four sets of nomination papers, signed by lawmakers of the Congress, TMC, SP and



the DMK, with Sonia Gandhi being one of the proposers.

He said the July 18 presidential election is not a contest between two individuals or identities, but a fight between two ideologies. The presidential election is a battle between the ideology of absolute power and that of freedom, he said, adding that this is a fight for protecting and safeguarding the values and principles of democracy.

"It's a battle of two ideologies and most of the Opposition parties have come together in this election to wage this battle and it's not going to stop here. I am confident they will remain together and carry the fight forward. We are confident we alone will succeed in the end because truth is on our side and we are not resorting to any

wrong measure," he told reporters.

Noting that this Opposition unity is just a beginning, he said, "I am confident that this unity among Opposition parties (we are) witnessing today will continue. The division in the Opposition from which the BJP benefitted will not be there in 2024." Sinha, whose candidature is backed by 17 Opposition parties, said he would talk to other non-aligned regional parties the JDS and the JMM, who were present in the meeting that decided on his nomination. A campaign committee comprising Jairam Ramesh, Tiruchi Siva, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Sitarang Yechury, D Raja, Ramgopal Yadav, Praful Patel, Ranjit Reddy, Manoj Jha and Sudheendra Kulkarni has been formed to steer his campaign.

## FSSAI comes out with rules for vegan foods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: In order to curb sale of fake vegan foods, food regulator FSSAI has come out with regulations by defining what constitutes vegan foods and listed out various specifications to be followed for manufacture, sale and import of such food items.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come out with the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022. The regulator had brought the draft regulations in September 2021. After considering objections and suggestions received from the public in respect of the draft regulations, the FSSAI has come out with the new regulations.

"Vegan food means the food or food ingredient, including additives, flavourings, enzymes and carriers, or processing aids that are not products of animal origin and in which, at no stage of production and processing, ingredients, including additives, flavourings, enzymes and carriers, or processing aids that are of animal origin



has been used," the FSSAI said in its definition. No person can manufacture, pack, sell, offer for sale, market or otherwise distribute or import any food as vegan food unless they comply with the requirements laid down under these FSSAI regulations.

"The food products to be called vegan, shall not have involved animal testing for any purpose, including safety evaluation, unless provided by any Regulatory Authority," it added. Every packaging material used for vegan foods should comply with the provisions of the packaging regulations. The seller of vegan food, either exclusively or as part of retail merchandise, should store and display such food in a manner distinguishable from non-vegan food. Every package of vegan foods, after the approval, should carry the logo specified by the FSSAI.



Protesters raise slogans demanding the release of social activist Teesta Setalvad after she was arrested from her home by anti-terrorism wing of Gujarat police, in Mumbai

## Journalist Mohammad Zubair held for derogatory Twitter post

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, June 27: Fact-checking website, Alt news' co-founder Mohammad Zubair was arrested in the national capital Monday for allegedly hurting sentiments of a particular religious community, the police said.

The police had registered a case after getting a complaint from a Twitter handle, where it was alleged that Zubair had tweeted a questionable image with a purpose to deliberately hurting religious sentiments.

"Such tweets were getting retweeted and it appeared that there is a brigade of social media entities, who indulge in insult mongering thereby leading to a possible ramification on communal harmony and is overall against the maintenance of public tranquility," Deputy Commissioner of Police KPS Malhotra told IANS.

On Monday, Zubair joined the investigation in a case that was registered at the Special Cell police station. During the probe, the police had given a status report, wherein the tweet by Mohammad Zubair

was not found objectionable even though subsequent tweets after his tweet led to a series of questionable and derogatory tweets. "In the investigation of this case, he had been earlier examined and the investigation is on the verge of conclusion," the police officer said.

However, earlier this month the police was alerted by a Twitter handle that Mohammad Zubair had earlier made an objectionable tweet and his followers on social media entities had amplified and created a series of debates and hate mongering in the thread.

"He was examined in this separate case under sections 153A (doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings) of the IPC and his role was found objectionable," Malhotra said. It was officially learnt that Zubair was evasive on the questions and also neither provided the necessary technical equipment for the purpose of the investigation nor cooperated in the investigation.



## SECURITY COVER TO AMBANIS

### SC to hear govt's appeal against Tripura HC order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: The Supreme Court Monday agreed to hear June 28, a plea of the Centre challenging the Tripura High Court orders on a PIL challenging the grant of security cover to industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family members in Mumbai.

A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the high court has no jurisdiction to entertain the PIL as the state government has nothing to do with the security cover provided to the Ambanis by the Centre on the recommendation of the Maharashtra government.

The Tripura High Court had on a PIL filed by one Bikash Saha had passed two interim orders May 31 and June 21 and had directed the Central Government to place the original file maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) regarding threat perception and assessment report of Ambani, his wife and children based on which security has been granted to them.

## Covid deaths more in middle-aged Indians than in other nations: Study

VARIOUS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT COVID PANDEMIC INCREASED DEATH AMONG PATIENTS WITH HEART DISEASE OR THEIR RISK FACTORS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 27: Covid-related hospitalisations claimed lives of middle-aged to elderly Indians more frequently than people of the same age groups in other regions of the world, according to a new study.

The study, led by the World Heart Federation in association with the Public Health Foundation of India, revealed that a higher prevalence of diabetes and hypertension among Indians are the major drivers of the increased mortality.

The study included 40 hospitals from 23 countries, with 5,313 patients admitted with Covid and aimed to bridge the research gap between low and high-income countries. The findings, published in the



journal Global Heart, showed that during the pandemic Indians had nearly three times higher mortality due to Covid hospitalisation, than the European population. However, the number was less than the Hispanics and Blacks.

"South Asians (Indians) in the middle-aged to elderly group died more frequently than other regions due to Covid hospitalisations, owing to significantly greater background prevalence of diabetes and hypertension," D Prabhakaran, Vice President, Research and Policy, PHFI, told IANS.

The study demonstrated that patients were relatively younger as compared to previous research (where the average age was 57 years), predominantly middle aged men, with high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors such as hypertension diabetes and high

mortality up to 30 days.

Patients of Asian, Hispanic or Black ethnicities had higher death rates both within the hospital and after discharge as compared to white Caucasians, Prabhakaran said. Another finding was that patients with HIV had increased death at 30 days but not during hospitalisation.

For example, the chances of dying or having Covid-related complications particularly with the Alpha and Delta strains were 2-3 times higher among those with hypertension, diabetes or established heart disease, including previous heart attack or those who had undergone a previous bypass surgery as compared to those without the presence of any of these.

"The effects of Covid-19 on the heart can be direct or indirect. It can be direct damage to the heart during the cytokine storm or indirect because of low levels of oxygen due to lung disease," Prabhakaran said. "However, the good news is that with recent Omicron infections, the cytokine storm is extremely low. This may be related to the high vaccination rates or the inherently lower virulence (the severity or harmfulness of the virus) of the Omicron strain," he added.





## METEOR SHOWERS ON MENU

# Why hills are drawing more astrotourists

## Kanhaiya leaves Satyagrah venue after ABVP protest



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, June 27: Kanhaiya Kumar and other Congress leaders faced an awkward situation in Patna Sahib Monday when a section of the people shouted slogans and called him a traitor.

Kanhaiya Kumar went to Shikarpur Chowk near Patna Sahib Railway station to participate in a day long Satyagrah called by the Congress party against the government's Agnipath scheme. People who were supposed to be youth wing leaders of the ABVP interrupted the event and he eventually left the venue in a huff.

Kanhaiya Sunday announced Satyagrah in all 243 assembly constituencies of Bihar against Agnipath scheme on Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the Satyagrah event, leaders like Kanhaiya Kumar, state president Madan Mohan Jha, Praveen Kushwaha and others were present at the venue. When Kanhaiya was in the middle of the speech, some people shouted slogans against him and called him a traitor. They claimed that Kanhaiya Kumar speaks only against the country.

"Serving in defence is a pride for every countryman but recruitment on the contract in the defence is extremely dangerous. The Congress party is protesting across the country against the anti national policy 'Agnipath'. It is a betrayal of the future of youth," Kanhaiya said during the early part of his speech.

"Why has this government made a provision of four years and why not 5 years. We have to understand the labour policy of the country first. If any labourer associated with a company and serves for 5 years, he/she would be entitled to get pension. The Centre has launched this scheme for four years only to avoid paying pension," Kanhaiya said.

"Agnipath scheme is simply a move towards the contractualisation of defence jobs. Agniveers won't get employment or pension after completing their service duration of four years. Students and job aspirants will definitely protest against such schemes that will thrust the youth of the country into the fire. But Union ministers are trying to sell the scheme like salesmen," he said.

"Why is Prime Minister Narendra Modi silent on the issue? The government talked about 'one rank, one pension', but has come up with a scheme of 'no rank, no pension'. The scheme is neither in favor of the country nor good for army job aspirants," he added.

"The BJP-led NDA government at the Centre is not serious about addressing the unemployment problem in the country. By bringing in the Agnipath scheme, it has made jobs contractual in defence sector. But the Union government must not play with national security. We demand an immediate rollback of the scheme," Kumar said.

Following this speech, the youth present at the venue started shouting slogans against Kanhaiya Kumar and created a ruckus.

REMOTE LOCATIONS SUCH AS BHIMTAL AND KAUSANI OFFER A PERFECT PLACE FOR STARGAZING AND EXPLORATIONS OF THE SKY AND FAR BEYOND

pandemic, more tourists are looking at domestic destinations such as Bhimtal and Kausani, propelling astrotourism among top attractions.

Astro observatories are treating travellers to rare glimpses of solar eclipses, meteor showers, moon craters, binary stars and many other celestial events.

Paul Savio, the CEO and co-founder of Starscapes Observatory in Bhimtal noted that visitors comprise all age groups.

"This includes, families, couples, children who are adding exploration of the celestial bodies to their bucket list," Savio said.

In spite of unpredictable rains in April and May, Savio said, the observatory received hundreds of visitors during the two months, a number he believes will only rise.

With more domestic travellers



discovering the thrills of astronomy clubs, local campsites and accessible destinations with spectacular night views, hotels in and around Bhimtal and Kausani are cashing in on the 'astro boom'.

"In addition to the lake aquarium and adventure sports, the main attraction near our hotel is the space observatory, which is seeing a rising interest among the visitors," says Deepak Dubey, General

Manager of the Fishermen's Lodge perched at the edge of the Bhimtal Lake. Dubey said the interest of the visitors in astrotourism has led the hotel to offer such visits on their travellers' menu.

Shiv Kr. Mehan, COO, Leisure Hotels Group, noted that although astrotourism is still in its early stages in India, it is certainly an upcoming avenue that travellers are looking forward to after the pandemic. "Post-Covid, travellers are looking for new avenues of experiential tourism. Astrotourism is still gaining popularity in India, as it is still in its early stages," Mehan said.

Mehan said remote locations such as Bhimtal and Kausani, where the hotel group has its experiential properties, offer a perfect place for stargazing and explorations of the sky and far beyond.

"Away from the city, the remote locations with higher altitudes offering clearer & darker skies are ideal for stargazing," Mehan said.

"Astro enthusiasts arrange travel ahead of time, to see solar eclipses, meteor showers, and study the constellations in the heavens above," he added.

Starscapes hopes to tie up with hotel chains and eco-tourism operators to upscale their offerings.

The startup is hosting an Astro Camp in Mukteshwar, Nainital till June 30, offering a series of astronomy-related activities from celestial shows to planetary parades.

There are efforts to tap into the growing potential of astrotourism in the country. According to reports, plans are afoot to turn Benital village, located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, into an astrovillage.

# Proposal to demolish 100-yr old Sultan Palace in Patna draws flak

# Agnipath row paralyses both Houses in Bihar

IRONICALLY, THE SULTAN PALACE IS LISTED AS A HERITAGE BUILDING IN THE 2008 BIHAR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION "PATNA: A MONUMENTAL HISTORY"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 27: Both Houses of the legislature in Bihar were paralysed Monday, the second day of the brief monsoon session, when an obstreperous opposition demanded the withdrawal of Agnipath and shouted slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inveighing against his government for bringing in the scheme.

The assembly was adjourned till Tuesday at about 3 PM by Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha, whose repeated attempts to cajole the RJD-led opposition proved to be of no avail.

RJD chief whip Lalit Yadav and Congress legislative party leader Ajeet Sharma had moved separate adjournment motions, both seeking a withdrawal of the contentious scheme of recruitment in the armed forces which provides for retirement after four years of service without pensions.

Slogans against the NDA government at the Centre, including the Prime Minister, drew sharp reactions from the treasury benches, especially members of the BJP.

Strong displeasure was expressed by Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishor Prasad who was aghast at slogans belittling the Prime Minister.

Ministers of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which has been sceptical of the new scheme and sympathetic towards those opposing it, were also of the view that since the matter had national implications, it would not be proper to hold a discussion on the same inside the House.



Statements to this effect were made on the floor of the House by Vijay Kumar Sinha and Shrawan Kumar, the ministers for parliamentary affairs and rural development respectively.

The Speaker was also visibly miffed at the recalcitrant opposition members, whom he reprimanded for raising an issue that fell outside the purview of the House and shouting slogans against the Prime Minister. "Nothing will be recorded in the proceedings. Your adjournment motion could have been taken up for consideration at noon, the assigned hour, but the House was not allowed to run," the Speaker remarked sullenly.

The Speaker, known for his penchant for sensitizing schoolchild-

ren about the functioning of the legislature, was repeatedly seen pleading with folded hands "students from Buxar have come. They are watching us. Please do not create such a scene."

Meanwhile, similar uproarious scenes over Agnipath were witnessed in the legislative council despite an assurance to opposition members by Acting Chairman Awadhesh Narayan Singh that the matter will be referred to the business advisory committee of the House.

Former Chief Minister Rabri Devi, who is the leader of the opposition in the Upper House, stood outside the Vidhan Parishad along with members of her RJD, before the commencement of pro-

ceedings, carrying placards and raising slogans.

"The scheme should be withdrawn and all the police cases lodged against protesting youths should be taken back. The government has been accusing us of fomenting trouble. Do they think the public is so stupid that it cannot think for itself? You cannot chop off the tongues of those who raise their voice", she told reporters.

JD(U) MLC Neeraj Kumar told reporters after proceedings were stalled for the day, "I wonder what went wrong with the opposition that it did not allow the House to function in the post-lunch session. They seemed okay with the Acting Chairman's assurance. They are wasting precious time".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 27: The Bihar government's proposal to demolish the historic Sultan Palace in the heart of the city has shocked historians, conservationists and ordinary citizens who have vehemently opposed the decision and appealed for preserving and restoring the "architectural icon" instead of razing it.

The Nitish Kumar government recently announced that the state cabinet had given its nod to build three five-star hotels in Patna, including one at the site of the 100-year-old Sultan Palace on Beer Chand Patel Road.

As the decision was made public, protests erupted on social media, with many citizens calling it "absolutely shocking" and "a hare-brained decision" even as some of them cited the Bihar government's earlier decision, taken a few years ago, to convert the palace into a "heritage hotel" and asked why has it discarded the widely-reported old plan.

Ordinary citizens, scholars and activists from different parts of the country have appealed to the government to not demolish the Sultan Palace, one of the last surviving palaces in Patna, and instead convert it into a heritage five-star hotel, which would only enhance its value and attract more tourists.

The palace, located on the historic Gardiner Road (now Beer Chand Patel Road), was built in 1922 by the legendary barrister of Patna, Sir Sultan Ahmad, who also briefly served as a judge in the Patna High Court and as the first Indian vice-chancellor of the Patna University from 1923-30.

He later became a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council for law and information and broadcasting, and was part of the delegation of India for the historic Round Table Conferences in 1930s in London, along with Mahatma Gandhi.

Scholar and former vice chancellor of Patna University RBP Singh termed the decision to demolish the iconic palace "absolutely shocking" and a "hare-brained and insensitive" move.

"How can anyone even think of

As the decision was made public, protests erupted on social media, with many citizens calling it "absolutely shocking" and "a hare-brained decision"

dismantling an architectural jewel and a historic building like the Sultan Palace. So many historic buildings already demolished in the last one decade or so, the latest being the centuries-old Patna Collectorate, which should have been preserved. And, now they want to bring down this beautiful palace in the name of development. This has to stop, and society needs to wake up and stand up for its heritage," he said.

Noted Delhi-based historians Swapna Liddle and S Irfan Habib have also expressed "deep shock" over the decision to raze the palace for a five-star hotel.

Liddle, who had earlier lent support to the Save Historic Patna Collectorate, a citizen-led initiative to save the Dutch-era landmark from demolition and which is now fighting to save the Sultan Palace, said, "World over the trend is now to showcase heritage and flaunt it to attract tourists, but cities like Patna are actually doing the opposite."

Habib alleged that it was yet another step to "erase history in the name of development". "I am deeply pained by what's happening in the country when it comes to our heritage, from controversy being stoked around Taj Mahal and Qutub Minar. And, Patna already has so much of heritage to demolition. The decision to raze Sultan Palace has to be resisted by the intellectuals and ordinary people, before we lose another architectural marvel," he said.

In Bihar and state capital Patna, among several others, former IPS officer Amitabh Kumar Das has resisted the move.

He has written to the Bihar governor to stop the demolition of "a heritage on which entire Bihar prides itself," and threatened to launch a "peaceful satyagraha" if needed.

# Lake formed due to frequent landslides

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, June 27: Authorities have discovered a lake that has formed near Kuwari village in Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district due to frequent landslides.

The lake has been formed after debris from landslides fell into the Pindar river near the village, officials said.

Kapkot sub-divisional magistrate Paritosh Verma said the flow of the river has been slightly affected due to the debris of the landslides but there was no danger.

He said since the 2013 disaster at Kuwari village, landslides have been taking place due to which water has accumulated in a small area beside the river.

"The debris of the landslide has



been falling in the river, but it is not as if the entire river has stopped. The debris has slightly obstructed the

flow of the river and water has collected in some areas," Verma said. He said there was no danger to

Since the 2013 disaster at Kuwari village, frequent landslides have been taking place due to which water has accumulated in a small area beside the river

the village due to the lake as it is situated very high up. However, due to frequent landslides, the process of moving people from the village has started, he said.

He informed that 70-75 families of Kuwari village have been identified and they will be moved in a phased manner.

# Rare carnivorous plant species discovered in Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, June 27: A very rare carnivorous plant species called Utricularia Furcellata has been found in the western Himalayan region for the first time.

The detection of the rare species was made by a research team of the Uttarakhand Forest Department in the picturesque Mandal valley located in Chamoli district, Chief Conservator of Forest (Research) Sanjiv Chaturvedi said.

"It is the first sighting of the plant not only in Uttarakhand but in the entire western Himalayan region," he said.

The discovery by the Uttarakhand Forest Department team consisting of Range Officer Harish Negi and Junior Research Fellow Manoj Singh has been pub-



lished in the prestigious 'Journal of Japanese Botany', a 106-year-old journal on plant taxonomy and

botany which is considered to be one of the finest in the field, Chaturvedi said.

It uses one of the most sophisticated and developed plant structures for trap and the targets range from protozoa to insects, mosquito larvae and even young tadpoles

SANJIV CHATURVEDI | CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (RESEARCH)

It is a proud moment for the Uttarakhand Forest Department as it is the first discovery by it which has been published in the prestigious journal, he said.

The discovery was part of a project study of insectivorous plants in Uttarakhand. This carnivorous plant belongs to a genus which is commonly known as bladderworts, Chaturvedi said.

"It uses one of the most sophis-

ticated and developed plant structures for trap and the targets range from protozoa to insects, mosquito larvae and even young tadpoles," he said.

Its operation is based on a mechanical process by creating a vacuum or negative pressure area, to draw prey inside the trap door. Carnivorous plants are found mostly in fresh water and wet soil. They have a completely distinct manner of arranging food and nutrition through intelligent trap mechanisms, as compared to the photosynthesis mode of normal plants.

Carnivorous plants which generally grow on poor nutrient soil have aroused new interest in the scientific community across the world because of their potential medicinal benefits, the official said.





of the day quote

Central government will soon launch the 'One Nation, One Dialysis' programme, under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

Van Mahotsav will start from the Central Ridge and culminate with the plantation of 1 lakh saplings at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary July 25

The PM should have acknowledged the tremendous achievements by 2014 and that his government is only continuing the work of previous governments

SHORT TAKES

Two terrorists killed in gunfight

Srinagar: Two terrorists were killed in an ongoing gunfight with the security forces in the Nowpora-Kherpora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said Monday. "One more terrorist killed (Total 02). Operation going on," police said in a tweet. The gunfight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area. The security forces cordoned off the area. Terrorists hiding there started firing drawing retaliation by the security forces.

Jacqueline Fernandez appears before ED

New Delhi: Actor Jacqueline Fernandez Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a fresh round of questioning and recording her statement in a money laundering case linked to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and others, officials said. The agency had in April provisionally attached ₹7.27 crore funds of the Bollywood actor under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The 36-year-old actor has been questioned two-three times by the agency in the said case earlier. The actor was issued fresh summons for recording of her statement Monday as the agency is tracing the remaining proceeds of crime in this case, officials said.

Dispute over 'rotis' leaves one dead

Bareilly: A dispute over the number of 'rotis' for a party, led to the murder of a man. The victim, Sunny, 30, had placed an order for 150 rotis at a restaurant for the party on his birthday. But the restaurant sent only 40 rotis, following which Sunny and his cousin went to the eatery and raised the matter with the owner. The two sides got into an argument and Zeeshan, the owner, with his staff attacked Sunny and his cousin, with sticks leaving them critically injured.

Mukul Roy resigns

Kolkata: Mukul Roy, who is officially still an elected BJP legislator, Monday tendered his resignation from the post of Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the West Bengal assembly. Although Roy cited health grounds as the reason for his resignation, political observers feel that through this, he wanted to bring an end to the already shrouding controversies over his moral authority to stick to the chair of the PAC Chairman. As per tradition, the post of the Chairman of PAC in West Bengal assembly is always offered to a legislator from the opposition bench.



Goa Assembly has a long history since 1963. Be it defections, governments of 15 days or 13 days, these references are used by other Assemblies. This is on record at present. For this, we need documentation and digitisation

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

CBSE, UNICEF JOIN HANDS

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), UNICEF and YuWaah are collaborating to make twenty-first century skills accessible to school students, according to officials. Generation Unlimited or YuWaah, supported by UNICEF, is a platform to bring young people together with the private sector, governments, and international and local organisations to turn them into active and engaged citizens



ED SUMMONS SANJAY RAUT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27: The ED has summoned Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut for questioning Tuesday in a money laundering probe linked to the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and other related financial transactions involving his wife and friends, officials said. The Rajya Sabha MP, who has been asked to depose before the Enforcement Directorate at its office in south Mumbai and record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), termed the summons a conspiracy and said, "Arrest me".

More Shiv Sena leaders on radar

NEW DELHI: A number of Shiv Sena and NCP leaders are currently on the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and may receive summons from the financial probe agency in the coming days, escalating the ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra. Apart from Sanjay Raut, there are other leaders who are on the radar of the ED like Eknath Khadse, Anil Parab, Bhavana Gawali, Nawab Malik and others. NCP leader Eknath Khadse was recently asked to vacate a few properties which were attached by the ED. Nawab Malik, the NCP leader, is already behind the bars. Maharashtra's former home minister Anil Deshmukh was also arrested by the ED in connection with a ₹100 crore extortion case involving former Mumbai police commissioner Parambir Singh.

of this investigation. The attached properties are in the form of land held by Pravin M Raut, Sanjay Raut's aide and a former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, at Palghar, Saphale (town in Palghar) and Padgha (in Thane district). The attached properties also include a flat in Mumbai's suburb Dadar held by Varsha Raut and eight plots at Kihim beach in Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar, the ED said in a statement.

According to the ED, Sujit Patkar is a close associate of Sanjay Raut. It is understood that the agency wants to question Sanjay Raut to know about his "business and other links" with Pravin Raut and Patkar and also about the property deals involving his wife.

After arresting Pravin Raut in February, the ED had said he appears to be "acting as a front" or in collusion with some influential person(s). The agency had said during probe it was revealed he made payments to certain "politically exposed persons".

I just came to know that the ED has summoned me. Good! There are big political developments in Maharashtra. We, Balasaheb's Shivsainiks, are fighting a big battle. This is a conspiracy to stop me. Even if you behead me, I won't take the Guwahati route. Arrest me! Jai Hind!

SANJAY RAUT

The development comes as the Shiv Sena battles rebellion from a group of its MLAs, putting a question mark on the future of Maharashtra's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. Rebel Shiv Sena legislators, who were first taken to Surat, are now camping in Guwahati.

In April, the ED provisionally attached assets worth over ₹11.15 crore of Raut's wife Varsha Raut and two of his associates as part

Chemotherapy given on road

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 27: Whenever the rain relents, staff at a waterlogged cancer hospital in northeast India seize the chance to administer chemotherapy to patients on the road outside, creating a pitiful image of the misery caused by the region's worst floods in years.

Located in the Barak valley in Assam, the 150-bed Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre has been inundated by for days, and the situation has become so dire that its administrators have requested life-jackets and an inflatable raft to transport patients and staff, along with other essential items needed to keep the facility running. "Procedures that can be done

ASSAM FLOOD FURY



An aerial view of flooded areas in Silchar

outside, like chemotherapy and initial diagnosis, we are doing on the road where there is minimal water-logging," said Dharshana R, who heads the resource-mobilisation department of the hospital. "If anybody requires emergency surgery we are conducting



Students rejoice after Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) announced Class XII results, in Dibrugarh

PTI PHOTO

IAF RECEIVES OVER 94K APPLICATIONS IN 4 DAYS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 27: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received 94,281 applications under the Agnipath recruitment scheme within four days of the registration process getting underway Friday.

After the scheme was unveiled June 14, violent protests against it rocked several states for nearly a week and several opposition parties have been demanding its rollback.

"A total of 94,281 Agniveer Vayu aspirants have registered till 10:30 am (Monday). Registration closes July 5," Defence Ministry Spokesperson A Bharat Bhushan Babu said on Twitter. Till Sunday, the IAF had received 56,960 applications under the scheme. Under the scheme, the government had said youths between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year

AGNIPATH SCHEME



tenure, while 25 per cent of them will be subsequently inducted for regular service. The government had June 16 increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the scheme to 23 years from 21 for the year 2022, and subsequently announced a slew of placatory steps like a preference for Agniveers in central paramilitary forces and defence public sector undertakings upon their retirement. Many BJP-ruled states also declared the 'Agniveers' -- as the soldiers in-

Rajnath holds talks with Malaysian counterpart

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh interacted with his Malaysian counterpart Hishamuddin bin Hussein virtually Monday to deepen defence cooperation between the two countries. Singh said on Twitter, "Had a wonderful interaction with Malaysia's Senior Defence Minister, Mr Hishamuddin bin Hussein, via video conference."

ducted under the Agnipath scheme will be known -- will be accorded priority in induction into state police forces. The armed forces have, however, made it clear those who had indulged in violent protests and arson against the new recruitment scheme will not be inducted.

Woman, 6-year-old daughter gangraped inside moving car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Roorkee (Uttarakhand), June 27: A woman and her six-year-old daughter were allegedly gangraped in a moving car in Haridwar's Roorkee by a man and his friends after giving her a lift in his car, police said Sunday.

They said the woman was on her way home from Piran Kaliyar, a Muslim religious site, during the night with her six-year-old daughter when she was offered the lift by a man named Sonu. Superintendent of Police (Rural)

U'KHAND HORROR



Pramendra Doval said some friends of the man were already in the car.

According to the complaint, Sonu and his accomplices allegedly raped the woman and her daughter in the moving car and dumped them near a canal. The woman somehow managed to reach a police station in the middle of the night and narrated the incident to the police.

According to police, said while the woman could not tell exactly how many men were there in the car, she said the person driving it was named Sonu. Police said the two were admitted to the Roorkee Civil Hospital, and their medical examination confirmed rape.

Police said they have registered a case and started looking for the accused, but have not been able to trace them yet.

Punjab FM presents AAP gov't's 1st Budget

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, June 27: Presenting the AAP government's first budget, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema Monday announced providing 300 units of free electricity to households from July 1, setting up of 117 Mohalla Clinics and upgrading 100 schools as 'schools of eminence' in the state among other proposals.

The Bhagwant Mann-led government also announced setting up cyber-crime control units in all districts of the state while keeping its focus on health, education, agriculture and police modernisation. Cheema did not announce any new

tax in the budget for 2022-23 and chose to rely on an expected jump in revenue receipts and buoyancy in GST collections by plugging loopholes for funding the proposed expenditure in the budget. The budget of the government led by AAP, which came to power while making poll promises in the form of "guarantees", remained silent on giving ₹1,000 to each woman in the state. The finance minister stressed that the government will fulfil its promise of giving 300 units of free electricity per month to each household from July 1, saying it has already planned to finance this scheme by cutting wasteful expenditure and through enhancement of own tax revenue.

'Win or lose, we go shopping after the election'

"Win or lose, we go shopping after the election," said Imelda Marcos, wife of one-time President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. In a different context, this stands true after every election in India as political entities get busy making and then breaking governments, 'shopping' list in hand.

Proof comes plentiful. After previous attempts at pulling down the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government came a cropper, a new one is underway in a never-say-die spirit. If it was the NCP of Sharad Pawar in the crosshairs of the BJP last time, it is the Shiv Sena splitting to align in 'lotus' formation this time.

National Highway-48 linking Mumbai to Delhi passes through Gujarat. So did New Delhi's attempts to align Maharashtra to its fold. The first whiff of the move to splinter the Shiv Sena and replace the MVA with a BJP-led formation came when Eknath Shinde and his rebels were moved out to a Surat hotel into the safety of

BJP ruled Gujarat which is also the citadel of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home minister Amit Shah. Interestingly, Gujarat BJP chief CR Patil, a close confidante of Modi, hails from Surat as does the state's home minister Harsh Sanghvi. The Surat hotel swarming with cops even before the rebel legislators landed was a dead give-away. The Prime Minister has visited Gujarat thrice within the last one month while the frequency of the Shah's visits has been higher.

Though Patil with his Jalgaon connection remained the interface of the initial reach-out to the Shiv Sena legislators, it was over-seen and fine tuned from New Delhi. Published reports have also hinted at the use of enforcement agencies to soften up the legislators before putting the plan into action.

However, it was the ease with which two Shiv Sena emissaries of Uddhav Thackeray managed to establish contact with the rebel leader Eknath Shinde and arranged a conversation that alerted the BJP leadership to the inherent



RK MISRA

weakness of Surat being too close to Maharashtra for comfort and therefore the move to airlift the rebels to Assam posthaste.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma seems to have now become the go-to person for the BJP and its look north-eastwards policy. It was the Assam police which had picked up Congress-backed independent legislator from Gujarat, Jignesh Mevani for tweeting against the Prime Minister and just around the time the rebellion was unfolding in Surat, Delhi Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was faced with an FIR and a ₹100-crore defamation suit filed by the wife of the Assam Chief Minister and the now the move to shift the Shiv Sena rebels also to the safety of a hotel in Assam.

Whatever may be the outcome

of this tug-of-war, what it has brought to centre-stage are the double standards of the political class. The framers of the country's Constitution would be hard put to visualise a scenario where the lawmakers would need to be herded together and moved cross-country to the safety of their favoured governments.

The 2018 Vidhan Sabha elections, conducted at stupendous cost to the exchequer in Madhya Pradesh, brought the Congress to power. The Kamal Nath government lasted 15 months before it was pulled down with 23 legislators defecting to the BJP led by Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia. The defecting legislators had to be moved to the safe sanctuary of BJP-ruled Karnataka, until the government was taken down. What principle or morality was involved in the Scindia switchover or was it just personal pique and quest for power remains a moot point.

The anti-defection law was enacted by Parliament in 1985 as the tenth schedule of the Constitution to prevent destabilising of gov-

ernments through defections. However, the political class which enacted the law is the one that comfortably bypasses it by making the legislators resign and getting them re-elected under their own party's government. The same script, tweaked with variations, had earlier played out in Karnataka, Meghalaya, Manipur, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh.

The recently concluded elections to fill up 57 Rajya Sabha seats presented a spectacle of sorts. The Congress legislators from BJP-ruled Haryana had to be spirited away to the safety of its own ruled Chhattisgarh. And yet, all in vain for legislator Kuldeep Bishnoi defiantly votes a BJP backed media baron and another one wasted the vote. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is quick to felicitate Bishnoi for listening to his inner voice and cross-voting. BJP rules Haryana and yet feels insecure so moves its legislators to Union territory, Chandigarh. Congress rules Rajasthan and yet needs to move its legislators to a resort in Udaipur. BJP was happy

with Bishnoi voting against his own party, the Congress. However in Rajasthan when BJP legislator Shobharani Kushwah did the same thing, sinking the hopes of a BJP backed media baron, she was promptly suspended.

Again, the very Congress which dismissed Bishnoi for cross-voting in Haryana had no qualms about seeking a "conscience vote" from the JD(S) MLAs for its second candidate in Karnataka. With Jairam Ramesh largely secure, Karnataka CLP leader Siddaramaiah wrote an open letter to JD(S) legislators for their second candidate, Mansoor Khan stating that his win will be a victory of "secular ideology". Khan and Kupendra Reddy of the JD(S) both lost.

Thus it is that they make the law and then they break the law. If not in letter then in spirit, thereby cheating the mandate. If there is a cooling period for retiring bureaucrats before they can take up another job, shouldn't there be one for the elected politician who changes parties? The break may do the country good.



# international



**The measures taken by the US and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization during their occupation of Afghanistan have led to increased cultivation of narcotic plants in the war-torn country**  
EBRAHIM RAISI | IRAN PRESIDENT

## DOPE TEST MANDATORY

Bangladeshi Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said that dope test will be made mandatory to students for university admission



## of the day quote

Iran welcomes the reopening of the Iranian and Saudi Arabian Embassies in Riyadh and Tehran  
**HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN** | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Development of science and technology will be instrumental in fighting climate change and environmental pollution in Nepal  
**SHER BAHADUR DEUBA** | NEPAL PM

The world is facing an ocean emergency that threatens nature and humanity  
**ANTONIO GUTERRES** | UNITED NATIONS CHIEF

# RENEWED SOLIDARITY G7 PLEDGES TO STAND WITH UKRAINE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Elmou (Germany), June 27:** Leading economic powers conferred by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Monday as they underscored their commitment to Ukraine for "as long as it takes" with plans to pursue a price cap on Russian oil, raise tariffs on Russian goods and impose other new sanctions.

In addition, the US was preparing to announce the purchase of an advanced surface-to-air missile system for Kyiv to help Ukraine fight back against Vladimir Putin's aggression. The new aid and efforts by the Group of Seven leaders to punish Moscow come as Zelenskyy has openly worried that the West has become fatigued by the cost of a war that is contributing to soaring energy costs and price hikes on essential goods around the globe.

Zelenskyy told the leaders that now is not a time for negotiation with Russia because he needs to be



Ukraine President addressed G7 leaders via video link

G7 to work with other countries, private sector on oil price cap

US readying new military hardware for Ukraine

West pledges more support, weapons for Ukraine

in stronger position first, according to a senior French diplomat. The Ukrainian leader said "he will ne-

gotiate when he will be in a position to do so," said the diplomat, who speaking under condition of anonymity in line with the French presidency's customary practices.

"His goal is to end the war as quickly as possible and to get out of it in the best possible position, so that he can negotiate from a position of strength," the diplomat said, adding that Zelenskyy told the summit leaders that he needs

## At G7 session on climate, Modi seeks support

**ELMAU (GERMANY):** Asserting that India's dedication to climate commitments is evident from its performance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday hoped that rich countries of G-7 will support India's efforts in combating climate change and invited them to tap the huge market for clean energy technologies emerging in the country. In his remarks at the session on 'Investing in a better Future: Climate, Energy, Health' at G7 Summit, Modi highlighted India's track record and said it has achieved the target of 40 per cent energy-capacity from non-fossil sources nine years before time.

economic, financial and military support.

After hearing from Zelenskyy, the leaders pledged in a statement to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes." They underlined their "unwavering commitment to support the government and people of Ukraine" in the battle for their country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They said it is up to Ukraine to decide on a future peace settlement.

Leaders were finalizing the deal to seek a price cap during their three-day G-7 summit in the German Alps. The details of how

a price cap would work, as well as its impact on the Russian economy, were to be resolved by G-7 finance ministers, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview announcements from the summit.

The largest democratic economies will also commit to raising tariffs on Russian imports to their countries, with the US announcing new tariffs on 570 categories of goods, as well as use of sanctions to target Russia's defence supply chains that support its effort to rearm during the war.

## G7 leaders launch plan to rival China's BRI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Berlin, June 27:** G7 leaders have launched a detailed plan to mobilise hundreds of billions of dollars and deliver quality, sustainable infrastructure in a move deemed to counter Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

According to the BBC, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) relaunches a scheme unveiled at last year's G7 talks in Cornwall, England.

Addressing the summit in Krun on Sunday, US President Joe Biden said that last year in Cornwall, the G7 made a commitment to "step up and provide financing for quality, high-standard, sustainable infrastructure in developing and middle-income countries".

"We're offering better options for countries and for people around the world to invest in critical infrastructure that improves the lives, their lives, all of our lives, and delivers real gains for all of our people, not just the G7, all of our people," the President was quoted as saying in a readout issued by the White House.

Biden said that the G7 leaders aim to mobilise nearly \$600 billion by 2027. Of the total, the US will raise \$200 billion via grants, federal funds and private investment, while the European Union (EU) has pledged 300 billion euros (\$316 billion). "These strategic investments are areas of critical to sustainable development and to our shared global stability."

## NATO set to boost rapid reaction force

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brussels, June 27:** NATO will increase the strength of its rapid reaction force nearly eightfold to 300,000 troops as part of its response to an "era of strategic competition," the military alliance's secretary-general said Monday.

The NATO reaction force currently numbers around 40,000 soldiers which can deploy quickly when needed. Coupled with other measures including the deployment of forces to defend specific allies, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the move is part of the "biggest overhaul of collective defense and deterrence since the Cold War."

"These troops will exercise together with home defense forces," Stoltenberg said.

"And they will become familiar with local terrain, facilities, and our new pre-positioned stocks. So that they can respond smoothly and swiftly to any emergency."

Stoltenberg made the remarks at a press conference ahead of a NATO summit later this week in Madrid when the 30 allies are expected to also agree on further support to Ukraine in its war against Russia. Stoltenberg said he expects allies to make clear they consider Russia "as the most significant and direct threat to our security."

In NATO's new strategic concept, the alliance is also expected to address for the first time the security challenges posed by China, Stoltenberg said.

In Madrid, allies will discuss how to respond to the growing influence of Russia and China in their "southern neighborhood," he added.

## SHORT TAKES

### 6 Mexican police officers killed

**Mexico City:** At least six police officers were killed during a shootout with armed individuals travelling in a convoy of about 10 armoured trucks in Nuevo Leon state, authorities said. "Four more policemen were injured and are already receiving medical attention," Xinhua news agency quoted the state's security department as saying. The attack occurred between the towns of Lampazos and Colombia in the north of the state, where police were outnumbered by the attackers, who carried large-caliber weapons, according to the authorities.

### US delegation meets Gotabaya

**Colombo:** A high-level US delegation Monday met Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and discussed measures to help the island nation cope with an unprecedented economic crisis and severe shortages of essential supplies. US Ambassador Kelly Keiderling, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State, and Robert Kaproth, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury accompanied by Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie J Chung met the President to discuss Sri Lanka's economic crisis. "It's a challenging time, but we continue to deliver assistance and long-term partnership to help Sri Lanka achieve a prosperous, secure & democratic future," tweeted the US Ambassador.

### Russian missile strike hits mall

**Sloviansk (Ukraine):** Scores of civilians were feared killed or wounded in a Russian missile strike Monday on a crowded shopping mall in Ukraine's central city of Kremenchuk, Ukrainian officials said. Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post that the number of victims was "unimaginable," citing reports that more than 1,000 civilians were inside at the time of the attack. Images from the scene showed giant plumes of black smoke from a shopping center engulfed in flames, as emergency crews rushed in.

### Gas leak kills 10, injures 250

**Amman:** A poisonous gas leak in Jordan's southern port city of Aqaba Monday killed at least 10 people and injured some 250, authorities said. Video carried by state-run media outlets showed a crane hoisting a large tanker from a truck and then dropping it on the deck of a ship, causing an explosion of yellow smoke and sending dock workers racing away. The Public Security Directorate said a gas tank sprung a leak while being transported. It did not identify the contents of the tanker.

## GRIEF AND SHOCK

# Mystery over deaths of 21 teens at nightclub

*The teenagers were reportedly celebrating the end of mid-year exams, a local DJ's birthday and the relaxing of Covid restrictions in South Africa, which was announced earlier in the week*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cape Town, June 27:** South African authorities were seeking answers Monday after 21 underage teenagers reportedly celebrating the end of school exams died in a mysterious incident at a nightclub.

The bodies of many of the victims, the youngest just 13, were discovered by police lying on tables, slumped over chairs and sprawled on the floor of the club in the early hours of Sunday morning. Police spokeswoman Col. Athlenda Mathe said the investigation into the deaths at the Enyobeni Tavern in the city of East London in Eastern Cape Province was ongoing and no cause of the deaths had yet been established.

But Police Minister Bheki Cele said forensic samples taken from the victims were being sent to a toxicology laboratory in Cape Town, indicating that police were investigating whether the victims had ingested a poison or toxin. Cele said the toxicology tests might take "a lot of time."

Provincial safety official Unathi Binqose told the Daily Maverick

newspaper that the victims may have ingested a toxic substance through alcohol they were drinking or through hookah pipes, which were being smoked at the party. Initial reports speculated that the teenagers may have died in a stampede because of overcrowding at the party; but authorities found no visible signs of injuries on the bodies.

Police said they were called to the nightclub at around 4 a.m. Sunday morning after receiving a report that there were "lifeless bodies" there. Officers responding to the call walked in on a grim scene: 17 teenagers were found dead on the spot. Two more died at a local clinic, one died on the way to the hospital and one at the hospital. Their ages were between 13 and 17, police said.

The teenagers were reportedly celebrating the end of mid-year exams, a local DJ's birthday and the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions in South Africa, which was announced earlier in the week. Parents were asked to come to a mortuary to identify their children.

Police Minister Cele visited the nightclub and the mortuary Sunday and choked back tears as he spoke to reporters outside the mortuary. "The scene I have seen here inside, it doesn't matter what kind of a heart you have," Cele said. "Firstly the sight of those bodies sleeping there. But when you look at their faces you realize that you're dealing with kids, kids, kids." "You've heard the story that they are young but when you see them you realize that it's a disaster. Twenty-one of them. Too many."



REUTERS

# Lanka shuts schools, urges work from home to save fuel

*With its foreign exchange reserves at a record low, the island of 22 million is struggling to pay for essential imports of food, medicine and most critically, fuel*

REUTERS

**Colombo, June 27:** Troops in Sri Lanka handed tokens Monday to people queuing for petrol amid a severe fuel shortage in the nation battling its worst economic crisis in seven decades, while schools shut in Colombo and public employees were asked to work from home.

With its foreign exchange reserves at a record low, the island of 22 million is struggling to pay for essential imports of food, medicine and most critically, fuel.

"I have been in line for four days, I haven't slept or eaten properly during this time," said autorickshaw driver W.D. Shelton, 67, one of those who received a token



Sri Lanka's Air Force members distribute tokens to people queuing for fuel due to fuel shortage, amid the country's economic crisis, in Colombo

## HANDLING THE HEAT

# Tokyo warned of power crunch

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tokyo, June 27:** The Japanese government warned of possible power shortages Monday in the Tokyo region, asking people to conserve energy as the country endures an unusually intense heatwave.

Weather officials have announced the earliest end to the annual summer rainy season since the Japan Meteorological Agency began keeping records in 1951. The rains usually temper summer heat, often well into July.

The economy and industry ministry urged people living in the region serviced by the Tokyo Electric Power Co. to conserve power in the afternoon, especially when demand peaks at 4-5 p.m. Kaname Ogawa, director of electricity supply policy at the ministry, said electricity demand Monday was bigger than expected because the temperature is higher than Sunday's forecast.

"We are struck by unusual heat for the season," Ogawa said. "Please



**The economy and industry ministry urged people living in the region serviced by the Tokyo Electric Power Co. to conserve power in the afternoon**  
**Power supply is relatively tight after Japan idled most of its nuclear reactors after 2011 meltdowns in Fukushima**

cooperate and save as much power as possible." Ogawa, however, said people should use air conditioning appropriately and take pre-

cautions against heat stroke.

TEPCO is expecting contributions from the Tohoku Electric Power Co., which serves Japan's northern prefectures, to help ease the crunch. The Japanese archipelago has seen record high temperatures for June in some areas. In Isezaki, north of Tokyo, the temperature rose to 40.2 Centigrade (104.4 Fahrenheit) on Saturday, the highest ever for June.

More than 250 people were taken to hospitals in Tokyo over the weekend for treatment of heat stroke.

meant to hold his place in the queue for when fuel becomes available.

"We can't earn, we can't feed our families," added Shelton, who was 24th in line at a fuel station in the centre of Colombo, but set to stay there as he had no petrol for the journey to his home just 5 km (3 miles) away.

It was not immediately clear how far the government could stretch its fuel reserves. The stockpiles stand at about 9,000 tonnes of diesel and 6,000 tonnes of petrol, Power and Energy Minister Kanachana Wijesekera said on Sunday, but no fresh shipments are due.

The government has told employees to work from home until further notice, while schools have

been shut for a week in the commercial capital of Colombo and surrounding areas.

Fuel station queues have grown rapidly since last week. "This is a tragedy, we don't know where this will end," Shelton said.

Public transport, power generation and medical services will get priority in fuel distribution, with some rationed to ports and airports. A team from the International Monetary Fund is visiting Sri Lanka to hold talks on a \$3-billion bailout package.

Although the Indian Ocean nation is hoping to reach a staff-level agreement before the visit ends on Thursday, that is unlikely to unlock any immediate funds.



## of the day quote

Geo-Political tensions, supply chain challenges, and demand-supply mismatches in crude and several other commodities are driving persistent inflation, which will likely impact demand across categories

**N CHANDRASEKARAN**  
CHAIRMAN, TATA CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Timely stock build-up by the power plants when coal is available will be crucial. We are gearing up to meet our part of committed supplies to power sector in the ensuing months

**PRAMOD AGRAWAL** | CHAIRMAN, COAL INDIA

We have raised \$47 million fund in our Series B. We will double our headcount. We will strengthen our technological capabilities. We also intend to open offices overseas

**KUNAL MOKTAN**  
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, PROPSHARE

## SHORT TAKES

### Sensex, Nifty rally nearly 1 percent

**Mumbai:** Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rallied nearly 1 per cent to close at over two-week high levels Monday, posting gains for a third straight day as global equities advanced on easing inflation concerns. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 433.30 points or 0.82 per cent to settle at 53,161.28, a level not seen since June 10. During the day, the barometer rallied 781.52 points or 1.48 per cent to 53,509.50. The NSE Nifty also gained 132.80 points or 0.85 per cent to close above the 15,800 level at 15,832.05, the highest closing level since June 10.

### VIL arm unveils 'Ready for Next'

**New Delhi:** Telecom operator Vodafone Idea's enterprise arm Monday announced the launch of 'Ready for Next' programme to help MSMEs to accelerate their digital transformation journey. Digital adoption is driving new business prospects, and digitally securing the business has become crucial in the new era of remote working. Vi Business 'Ready for Next' programme is built on the philosophy of handholding the MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) in their entire digital journey, the company said in a statement.

### Mahindra unveils all-new Scorpio-N

**Mumbai:** Home-grown auto major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Monday launched the all-new Scorpio-N SUV in five variants, equipped with advanced modern features and latest technology, with prices starting from ₹11.99 lakh (ex-showroom). The bookings for the latest SUV will commence from July 30 online as well as at Mahindra dealerships, while the deliveries will begin from the upcoming festive season, the company said.

### Zomato shares slide over 6%

**New Delhi:** Shares of Zomato Ltd fell by over 6 per cent Monday after announcement that the online food delivery platform will acquire Blink Commerce Pvt Ltd (formerly known as Grofers) for ₹4,447.48 crore. The stock declined 6.40 per cent to settle at ₹65.85 on the BSE. During the day, it fell 7.53 per cent to ₹65.05. Zomato Ltd Friday said it will acquire Blink Commerce Pvt Ltd for ₹4,447.48 crore in a share swap deal as part of its strategy of investing in quick commerce business.



**Ongoing negotiations with the UK, the EU, GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council), etc will throw open new opportunities for Indian exporters**  
**A SAKTHIVEL**  
PRESIDENT, FIEO

## GAIL OUTLOOK STABLE: FITCH

Fitch Ratings has affirmed a 'BBB-' rating to gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd, with a stable outlook, on premise that the firm's financial profile will remain strong. Its rating is capped by the Indian sovereign rating of 'BBB-'



# NITI pegs gig workforce at 2.35cr by FY30

India – with its demographic dividend of half-a-billion labour force and the world's youngest population, rapid urbanisation, widespread adoption of smartphones and associated technology – is the new frontier of this revolution, the report noted



As per the report, in terms of industrial classification, about 26.6 lakh gig workers were involved in retail trade and sales, and about 13 lakh were in the transportation sector. About 6.2 lakh were in manufacturing and another 6.3 lakh in the finance and insurance activities. At present, about 47 per cent of the gig work is in medium skilled jobs, 22 per cent in high skilled, and about 31 per cent in low skilled jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 27:** India's gig workforce is expected to expand to 2.35 crore by 2029-30 from 77 lakh in 2020-21, a NITI Aayog report said Monday, and recommended extending social security measures for such workers and their families in partnership mode as envisaged in Code on Social Security.

The report titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy' further said gig workers are expected to form 6.7 per cent of the non-agricultural workforce or 4.1 per cent of the total livelihood in India by 2029-30.

According to the NITI report, it is estimated that in 2020-21, 77 lakh workers were engaged in the gig economy and they constituted 2.6 per cent of the non-agricultural workforce or 1.5 per cent of the total workforce in India.

Similarly, it estimated that there were 68 lakh gig workers in 2019-20, using both principal and subsidiary status, forming 2.4 per cent of the non-farm workforce or 1.3 per cent of the total workers in the country.

Gig workers can be broadly classified into platform and non-platform workers. Platform workers are those whose work is based on online software apps or digital platforms while non-platform gig work-

ers are generally casual wage workers, working part-time or full-time.

Gig workers prefer a flexible work schedule, typically with low to middle level of education. Income through gig work is not their primary source of income and they are often holding another regular job.

The report pointed out that the employment elasticity to GDP growth for gig workers was above one throughout the period 2011-12 to 2019-20, and was always above the overall employment elasticity.

To harness the potential of the gig-platform sector, the report recommended accelerating access to finance through products specifically designed for platform workers, linking self-employed individuals engaged in the business of selling regional and rural cuisine, street food, etc, with platforms to enable them to sell their produce to wider markets in towns and cities.

Other recommendations include undertaking a separate enumeration exercise to estimate the size of the gig-platform workforce and collecting information during official enumerations.

According to the report, the trend shows the concentration of workers in medium skills is gradually declining and that of the low skilled and high skilled is increasing.

# Rupee to remain under pressure: Experts

For a nation that is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and 50 per cent for gas requirements, soaring international energy and commodity prices have worsened its external finances

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 27:** India's rupee is likely to remain under pressure due to high prices of crude oil and other commodities, and may stabilise at around 79-80 against the US dollar in the near term, say experts amid limited headroom available with the Reserve Bank to check the weakening of the domestic currency.

Also, the continuing FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investments) outflows has put the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in a situation where it cannot go all out to strengthen the



rupee as it needs to hold on to forex reserves to meet the import requirements.

An article published in the RBI's latest bulletin has cautioned that in case of an adverse global scenario, potential portfolio outflows can average up to 3.2 per cent of GDP or \$100 billion (Rs 7.8 lakh crore) in a year.

The article, titled 'Capital Flows at Risk: India's Experience' further said in a 'black swan' event comprising a combination of shocks, potential portfolio outflows can rise to 7.7 per cent of GDP.

Indian currency has slumped over 5 per cent this year

Monday, rupee ended at a fresh all-time low of 78.34

The previous all-time low was at the 78.32 level

After the Philippine peso and the Thai baht, the rupee was the third-worst performing Asian currency in recent months

According to NSDL, foreign portfolio investors sold a net of \$28.48 billion in local securities during

# India saw 9.36bn transactions worth ₹10.2tn in Q1, UPI tops

UPI RECORDS ABOUT A 99% INCREASE IN VOLUME AND OVER 90% INCREASE IN VALUE COMPARED TO LAST YEAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 27:** India saw 9.36 billion transactions amounting to ₹10.25 trillion in the first quarter (January-March period) via various payment modes led by Unified Payment Interface (UPI), a new report showed Monday.

The UPI P2M (person to merchant) transactions emerged as the most preferred payment mode among consumers with a market share of 64 per cent in volume and 50 per cent in terms of value, according to the report by Worldline, a global leader in payments industry.

As of the first quarter, the top UPI apps in terms of volume were PhonePe, Google Pay, Paytm Payments Bank App, Amazon Pay, Axis banks App while top PSP UPI Players were YES Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Paytm Payments Bank.

Among the top UPI Apps, Phone Pe, Google Pay and Paytm accounted for 94.8 per cent of UPI transactions volume and 93 per cent of UPI transactions value as of March 2022, the report showed.

The average ticket size (ATS) for UPI P2P (peer-to-peer) trans-



actions was ₹2,455 and ₹860 for P2M transactions (as of March).

Credit cards accounted for 7 per cent of transactions, but 26 per cent of value, indicating that customers still prefer to use their credit cards for high value transactions.

Debit cards account for 10 per cent of transactions, but 18 per cent in value. The volume has shrunk from previous years likely because of the rise of UPI.

As of March, the total number of POS terminals deployed by merchant acquiring banks were 6.07 million with over half a million POS terminals deployed during Q1 2022.

The POS deployment witnessed over 28 per cent growth in Q1 2022 compared to a year before.

As of March, the total number of Bharat QRs were 4.97 million, a 39 per cent rise as compared to March 2021 while UPI QRs stood at 172.73 million, registering an increase of 87 per cent as compared to March 2021.

The total number of credit and debit cards in circulation by the end of Q1 2022 was 991.28 million.

In Q1 2022, consumers made 15.6 billion mobile based payments whereas net banking/Internet browser-based transactions were over 1 billion, the report showed.

2022. Commenting on the rupee movement, Ranen Banerjee, Leader, Economic Advisory Services, PwC India, said the demand for dollars is going up owing to India's rising value of imports and FII (Foreign Institutional Investments) outflows.

"We are likely to see the exchange rate in the range of 77.5 to 79.5 depending on the movement of oil prices and other commodity prices as those have begun softening owing to two factors – risk of demand slowdown with hawkish actions of central banks to control inflation and cheaper oil from Russia leading to possibly lesser demand of Brent and WTI from China and to an extent also from India," he said.

The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$5.87 billion to \$590.588 billion in the week ended June 17, the RBI data showed. The merchandise trade deficit in May 2022 was estimated at \$24.29 billion against \$6.53 billion in May 2021.

The deficit for April-May 2022 was estimated at \$44.69 billion as against \$21.82 billion in the year-ago period, up 104.80 per cent.

## ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING

### Govt okays schemes worth ₹86,824cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 27:** The electronics and IT ministry has approved a total of 314 applications with proposed investments of ₹86,824 crore under a modified special incentive package scheme till May 31, 2022, an official note said.

The proposals that were approved in May included an investment of ₹596 crore from Bosch Automotive Electronics Private Limited, the official note dated June 24 said.

"As on May 31, 2022, 320 applications with proposed investment of ₹89,232 crore are under consideration. Out of these 320 applications, 314 applications with proposed investment of approximately ₹86,824 crore have been approved," the official document said.

M-SIPS (Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme) was announced by the government in July 2012. It has been amended twice – in August, 2015 and in January, 2017, and mainly provides a capex subsidy of 20-25 per cent.

Samsung, LG, Bosch, Tejas Networks, Motherthon Sumi Systems, Tata Power SED, Nidec India, Nippon Audiotronix, Continental Automotive, GE BE and Wipro GE healthcare were the initial applicants for the scheme.

## BIZ BUZZ

### BIS organises two-day mentor training programme

**Bhubaneswar:** The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organized a two-day residential training programme June 23 and June 24 at Hotel Empires, Saheed Nagar, for the mentors of standards clubs formed at various educational institutions in Odisha. The programme was attended by 54 mentors. Jagannath Majhi, Scientist and Head of BIS Bhubaneswar highlighted the various activities of BIS and the role of standards clubs in standardisation. Majhi with other dignitaries discussed in details the importance of standards in creating a quality ecosystem, procedure of formulation of standards, roles and responsibilities of mentors in the functioning of standards clubs and utility of e-BIS in standardisation and BIS care application. A workshop with respect to formulation of standards was also organised for the mentors during the programme. All the mentors actively participated in the workshop. The programme was interactive and well attended and ended with a vote of thanks and distribution of certificates to the mentors.



### SBI CGM meets Governor

**Bhubaneswar:** Newly joined Chief General Manager of State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle Chandher Shekhar Sharma, met Governor Ganeshi Lal, at Raj Bhavan, Monday. Sharma presented a bouquet to the Governor on behalf of SBI family with lots of good wishes. On this occasion CGM Sharma assured SBI's commitment to deliver all people oriented schemes of central and state government aiming to reach each individual in Odisha with better banking and customer service. He also committed to retain and maintain the premier position of SBI in the state.



## OFCD ISSUANCE CASE

### ₹12cr fine on 2 Sahara firms, Subrata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 27:** Sebi Monday imposed penalties totalling ₹12 crore on two Sahara Group firms – Sahara Commodity Services Corporation Ltd and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Ltd – as well as Subrata Roy Sahara and three others for violating regulatory norms in the issuance of optionally fully convertible debentures in 2008 and 2009.

The individuals penalised by Sebi are Ashok Roy Choudhary, Ravi Shanker Dubey and Vandana Bhargava. The fines need to be paid jointly and severally within 45 days, according to a Sebi order.



The case relates to issuance of Optionally Fully Convertible Debentures (OFCDs) by Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Limited (SIRECL), now known as Sahara Commodity Services Corporation Limited, and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Limited (SHICL).

# MSMEs require least money to go green; top priority for BEE

A fourth of Indian micro, small and medium enterprises have lost 3 per cent or more of their respective market share to big corporations during the Covid pandemic, a report by Crisil said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 27:** Small and medium businesses are the top priority for Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) as they require least investment for transition to

cleaner forms of energy, a senior official said Monday.

Addressing a conference on the occasion of the World MSME Day, BEE Director General Abhay Bakre lauded MSMEs for being responsive, flexible, highly skilled, and requiring the least investment to transition to green energy.

"For us, the MSME sector is our top priority, and we believe whatever we do for the...Sector, will shape India's transition to clean energy," he said.

The conference was organised by World Resources Institute India (WRII) in partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC).

"India cannot achieve net-zero

## WORLD MSME DAY



emissions by 2070 without addressing the energy needs and

clean energy challenges of the country's 63 million strong small

MSME can generate higher profits through e-commerce. It will increase revenue and margin, extend reach to new markets, help them save marketing expenses and customers will get a better experience

**BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA**  
MINISTER OF STATE, MSME

businesses community. Solutions for this sector would also make them globally competitive, as ever more multinational corporations look to decarbonizing their supply chains," OP Agarwal, CEO, WRII said.

Highlighting the need for a just

transition in this sector, he also opined that moving to cleaner energy and low carbon operations will enhance the sector's competitiveness and profit margins.

The conference also marked the culmination of the week-long launch of the Innovative Clean Energy Technology Platform (I-CET) by WRII and ISC in partnership with the government's Technology Information Management Assessment Forecasting Council.

This platform aims to create an enabling ecosystem to promote clean technology innovations in India's small businesses sector. I-CET would focus on small businesses' cluster specific technological challenges.



# Athapaththu denies India a clean sweep



**LEADING FROM FRONT:** Chamari Athapaththu (R) gives a fist-bump to one of his batting partners while guiding Sri Lanka to a comprehensive win, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dambulla, June 27:** Skipper Chamari Athapaththu struck a counter-attacking 48-ball 80 not out (14x4, 1x6) as Sri Lanka outplayed India by seven wickets in the third and final T20I to avoid a white-wash here Monday.

The 32-year-old Chamari became the only cricketer from the island nation to get to the 2000-run mark in T20Is. Tillakaratne Dilshan (1889) is the highest run-scorer among the male cricketers from Sri Lanka. Chasing a modest 139 to avoid a clean sweep by the Indians, Sri Lankan batting finally came good as the hosts hunt down the target with three overs to spare to claim a consolation win.

The three-match T20I series thus ended 2-1 in favour of India, who stuttered after opting to bat before skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's resilient 39 not out (33b; 3x4, 1x6) propped up their total to 138/5.

In reply, Sri Lanka lost Vishmi Gunaratne (5) in the first over, but Harshitha Samarawickrama (13) gave a fine support to Chamari in the powerplay before being dis-

missed by Radha Yadav in the fifth over.

Thereafter, Nilakshi de Silva (30) joined hands with Chamari as the skipper cruised to a 29-ball fifty – the fastest fifty for Sri Lanka women's T20I.

Luck also was on her side as Chamari got a reprieve on 42 when Jemimah Rodrigues missed a running catch in the midwicket boundary. She soon slammed back-to-back fours en route to her fifth T20I fifty.

With Chamari looking furious, Sri Lanka just needed 18 runs in the final five overs and the hosts it without much ado to seal their first T20 win against India at home. India were sloppy on the field and missed a slew of run-outs and signed off the T20I series on a disappointing note.

Earlier, India stuttered in the middle overs after Smriti Mandhana (22) and Sabbhineni Meghana (22) departed in successive overs to leave the visitors reeling at 51/3.

The duo looked well in control in their 41-run second wicket partnership after the talented Shafali Verma (5) fell in the opening over

but run-rate dried up as the hosts bounced back aided by some fine fielding.

There was a lull in the middle when India failed to get a boundary in 38 deliveries with Harmanpreet and Jemimah struggling to get going. The duo finally broke the shackles in the 13th over as Jemimah showed her attacking intent in her 30-ball 33 (3x4), while the skipper was a class apart.

Jemimah fell in the penultimate over but Harmanpreet looked in firm control and displayed her array of shots during her 33-ball knock, which was studded with three fours and one six. After Jemimah's departure, Harmanpreet took charge and along with Pooja Vastrakar scored 49 runs in the final five overs to prop up the total.

#### BRIEF SCORES

India Women 138/5 (Harmanpreet Kaur 39 n o, Jemimah Rodrigues 33 n o; Oshadi Ranasinghe 1/13) lost to Sri Lanka Women 141/3 (Chamari Athapaththu 80 n o, Nilakshi de Silva 30; Renuka Singh 1/27) by 7 wickets.

# INDIA SAIL PAST SPIRITED IRISH TEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Malahide, June 27:** Ireland put up a spirited fight but India proved too strong for the home team to win the rain-hit opening T20I by seven wickets here Sunday.

Harry Tector's counter-attacking 64 not out (33b, 6x4, 3x6) took Ireland to 108/4 after the rain reduced the game to 12 overs-a-side.

India were always ahead of the run rate in the chase and with contributions from Ishan Kishan (26), Deepak Hooda (47 n o, 29b, 6x4, 2x6) and skipper Hardik Pandya (24), cruised to victory in 9.2 overs.

Kishan continued his good form to get India off to a quick start. The first over of the innings went for 15 runs. In a rather surprising move, Hooda came to open alongside Kishan in place of Rituraj Gaikwad, who had a calf niggle (informed by Hardik in the post match interview). He found his rhythm after a scratchy start and put up a match winning 64-run stand with Hardik.

Just when it seemed Indian were running away with the contest, Craig Young got rid of Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav (0) in successive



Bhuvaneshwar Kumar is congratulated by his teammates after providing India a fine start with the ball against Ireland, Sunday

deliveries to raise hopes for his team. Kishan's stumps were rattled in another attempt to get a full ball out of the park.

Returning to the side after an injury break, Suryakumar got a beauty first up that seemed back to trap him in front of the stumps. However, Hardik and Hooda kept

going for their strokes and a 21-run over from Andy McBrine put India back in control.

Earlier, India opted to bowl in overcast conditions but soon after the rain arrived, delaying the start of play by more than two hours and 20 minutes. The conditions were ripe for Bhuvaneshwar Kumar

to make the ball talk and he did just that in the opening over of the match.

The wily operator got the ball to swing both ways before an in-swinging breached the defence of Ireland skipper Andrew Balbirnie. Hardik got himself into the attack in the second over and took two balls to dismiss the dangerous Paul Stirling.

Avesh Khan then had Gareth Delany caught behind in his first over to leave Ireland at 22/3. India were expected to run through the opposition but Ireland staged a spirited recovery through Tector, who went for the offensive against the Indian pacers, including debutant Umran Malik.

The last over of the innings yielded 17 runs and pushed the total past 100 with Tector collecting a boundary from a reverse hit off Avesh before smashing a full toss for six over deep cover.

#### BRIEF SCORES

Ireland 108/4 (Harry Tector 64 n o; Yuzvendra Chahal 1/11, Bhuvaneshwar Kumar 1/16) lost to India 111/3 (Deepak Hooda 47 n o, Ishan Kishan 26, Hardik Pandya 24; Craig Young 2/18) by 7 wickets.

# Mayank to join Test side as cover for Rohit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 27:** Oponer Mayank Agarwal has been called up to join the Indian squad in the UK as cover for skipper Rohit Sharma, who has been rendered doubtful for the Edgbaston Test against England after testing positive for COVID-19.

Rohit competed on the first day of the drawn warm-up game against Leicestershire before being placed under isolation. He had tested positive in a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT).

The 31-year-old Agarwal had missed out on making the 15-man squad for the game, starting July 1, but an opportunity has come his way as KL Rahul got injured just ahead of the South Africa series and now Rohit has contracted infection.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has added Mayank Agarwal to India's Test squad for the rescheduled fifth Test as cover for captain Rohit Sharma, who tested positive for COVID-19. Mayank has left for the UK and will link up with the squad in Birmingham," said the BCCI in a statement.

A BCCI source added: "If needed he will be available for the Test



match as UK Covid protocols don't require any quarantine period on landing if RT PCR test is negative."

The fifth Test against England is from last year's incomplete series which got spilled to this season due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the Indian camp. India are leading the series 2-1.

The squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Mohd Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Prasad Krishna & Mayank Agarwal.

# Dravid satisfied with India's preparations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Leicester, June 27:** India ticked all the required boxes during the four-day practice match against Leicestershire and will look to hit the ground running when they face England in the rescheduled one-off Test beginning Friday, said head coach Rahul Dravid.

Shreyas Iyer, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja – all struck fifties during the drawn warm-up game.

"I think whatever we needed to achieve and whatever boxes we needed to tick in terms of our preparation leading into the Test match Friday, I think we are very satisfied and happy, we have been able to do that this week," Dravid said in a video posted by Leicestershire Foxes on Twitter.

Asked about the challenges of playing in English conditions, Dravid said: "When you have got just one game or one-off game in a series, it's not really a lot of time, you've got to hit the ground running hard and you've got to be able to hopefully get your act together right from the first day of the Test match."

"There is not lot of room to manoeuvre or things to go wrong. So



having said that it has been a good week. I thought the match week was challenging on first couple of days and settle down in the last two so, it was good, it was a great week."

The former India batter also gave a thumbs up to the facilities and atmosphere here. "I thought you know everyone's really looked after us really well. It's been great crowds you know, it's really lovely to see so many people come to watch the game like this and just the atmosphere and the vibe have been excellent," he said.

# Djokovic makes history with win at Wimbledon



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wimbledon, June 27:** These days, Novak Djokovic makes history just about every time he wins another match. Monday, the top-ranked Serb did just that at Wimbledon.

Djokovic, a six-time champion at the All England Club, beat Kwon Soon-woo 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Centre Court, his 80th victory at the grass-court major. With it, he became the first man or woman to win that many matches at each of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments.

Djokovic was playing for the first time since losing to Rafael Nadal last month in the French Open quarterfinals. It didn't all go his way on Monday, however.

With the roof closed because of sporadic rain, Kwon was able to pick his spots with his booming forehand. It all came together in the second set, and even continued into the third, but Djokovic stepped it up and played like he usually plays in southwest London – unbeatable.

Djokovic has won the last three Wimbledon titles and is going for his seventh overall. That would put him in a tie for the second most with Pete Sampras and William Renshaw.

Only Roger Federer, with eight, has more. Another major title would also give him 21 for his career: Nadal has 22, and Federer has 20.

Most of Djokovic's Grand Slam singles championships have come at the Australian Open, where he is a nine-time champion. But he was unable to defend his title in Melbourne this year after being deported because of Australia's vaccination protocols.

The first player to reach the second round was Alison Riske, who defeated Ylena In-Albon of Switzerland 6-2, 6-4. Other seeded women who advanced were No. 3 Ons Jabeur of Tunisia and No. 29 Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine. Kalinina will face another Ukrainian, Lesia Tsurenko, in the second round.

#### AID FOR FAINTING BALLBOY

Tsurenko's match was halted for about 10 minutes when her opponent, British wild-card entry Jodie Burrage, stopped to help a ball-boy who was feeling faint. Burrage gave the boy a sports drink and a nutritional gel before someone in the crowd passed her some chewy candy. The boy was soon helped off court.

# Sindhu, Prannoy lead India's challenge

## MALAYSIA OPEN BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kuala Lumpur, June 27:** PV Sindhu will look to quickly recover from her first-round exit at Indonesia, while HS Prannoy will eye another consistent show as the duo spearhead the Indian challenge at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament starting here Tuesday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, was shown the door in the opening round by China's He Bing Jiao at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 earlier this month and she will have to put behind that defeat when she begins her campaign against a formidable Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand.

While Sindhu enjoys a 5-3 head-to-head count against Chochuwong, the Indian has lost to the Thai World No.10 three times in their last five meetings, making their clash a mouth-watering prospect.

If she can cross the opening hurdle and hit a consistent run, Sindhu might come across Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei of China.

London Olympics bronze medal-



list Saina Nehwal also stars in the same half of the draw and will open against USA's Iris Wang. A win will put her face-to-face with Japanese sixth seed Nozomi Okuhara, a former world champion.

Saina had skipped the Indonesia leg to manage workload and will look to put up a good show against Wang, whom she had defeated in three games the only time they met last year at Orleans Masters.

In men's singles, Prannoy has been on a consistent run with a

series of quarterfinals since the world championships last year. He played a pivotal role in India's epic Thomas Cup win and then dished out some superlative performances in Jakarta to reach the semifinals.

The 29-year-old was crestfallen after a series of unforced errors led to his ouster from Indonesia. Prannoy, who is desperate to end his five year title drought, will be pitted against Malaysian veteran Daren Liew, who had defeated him at the Thailand Open in May this year.



Among others, Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneth will be up against sixth seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting, while Sameer Verma takes on another Indonesian Jonata Christie, seeded seventh.

Former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Parupalli Kashyap, also returning after recovering from an injury, will meet Korea's Heo Kwang Hee in the opening round.

World No.8 pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and

Chirag Shetty will also be back in action after skipping the last two events due to fitness issues. The duo will open Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee.

In mixed doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and B Sumeeth Reddy, who are part of India's Commonwealth Games squad, will take on the Netherlands' Robin Tabeling and Selena Piek. Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan will square off against Korea's Kim Won Ho and Jeong Na Eun.

# MORGAN SET TO ANNOUNCE INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, June 27:** England's World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan is set to announce his retirement from international cricket Tuesday after a career spanning 16 years during which he amassed over 10,000 runs across ODIs and T20Is.

According to a report in Sky Sports, the 35-year-old Dublin-born Morgan wanted to lead England at this year's T20 World Cup in Australia but he had a change of

heart after struggling with his form and fitness in the last 18 months.

Morgan captained England in the first two ODI games against the Netherlands this month but failed to open his account on both the occasion. He subsequently missed the third game due to a groin niggle.

Vice-captain Jos Buttler is likely to replace him as England skipper and the upcoming white-ball series against India could be his first assignment.

Morgan made his debut for



Ireland in 2006 but then after three years he switched his allegiance to England in 2009. The elegant left-handed batter, who played in the middle-order, has so far scored 7,701 runs from 248 ODIs, after making his debut against Scotland.

He also featured in 115 T20 matches, amassing 2,458 runs, after making his debut in the format for England against the Netherlands in 2009. The soft-spoken Morgan also featured in 16 Tests but managed to score only 700 runs and played

his last Test in 2012 against Pakistan.

However, Morgan's legacy will be defined by his seven and a half year rein as England's limited over captain during which the team rose to the No.1 position in the world rankings in both ODI and T20 cricket.

Morgan along with then coach Trevor Bayliss breathed a fresh air into the English side, which encouraged the players to play a fearless brand of cricket, which eventually led them to win the World Cup in 2019 in their own back-yard.