



## HATE STORY

Actor Swara Bhasker has received a death threat through an anonymous letter warning her against insulting Savarkar

LEISURE

P2



## RESULT OF WAR

NATO invites Sweden and Finland to join the military alliance in one of the biggest shifts in European security

INTERNATIONAL

P10



## CONVINCING VICTORIES

PV Sindhu and Parupalli Kashyap storm into the second round of the Malaysia Open Super 750 badminton tournament

SPORTS

P12

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## MONSOON SESSION Assembly business extended by 1 hour

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** The duration of the business hour of the state Assembly during the forthcoming Monsoon session has been increased by an hour each day, newly-appointed Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha said Wednesday.

Ahead of the monsoon session, Arukha Wednesday held an all party meeting for smooth functioning of the House. MLAs from ruling BJD, Opposition BJP & Congress attended the meeting held here at the Assembly premises.

At the meeting, Opposition BJP and Congress suggested the Speaker to allow journalists into the House to cover the proceedings. However, the Speaker said the House will run under Covid-19 restrictions.

"We have requested the Speaker to allow the journalists into the House. However, as you know, the Speaker said he will look into the matter," said BJP MLA Bishnu Sethi. Similarly, Congress members too raised this issue during the meeting.

Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said he urged the Speaker to request Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to give some time for the House and remain present during important discussions. "I hope the Speaker will intimate the CM. If he (the CM) can visit various places, why can't he attend the Assembly," said Mishra.

Arukha said the monsoon session will be held under Covid-19 restrictions like last session. "We have increased the second half time period by another hour so that a greater number of MLAs can participate in the discussions," Arukha told reporters. The House will now run till 7 pm every working day instead of 6 pm, he informed.

All the members, their staff, employees of Assembly and journalists will undergo Covid-19 testing before the commencement of the session.

The monsoon session will begin from July 2 and continue till August 4. Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari is slated to present the state Budget for the remaining eight months of the year 2022-23 on the first day of the session (July 2). The Monsoon session of the Assembly will have 24 working days. The House will be adjourned from July 7 to 13. The second phase of the session will again run from July 14.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We don't want you to get influenced by anyone. Just jump straight into Assembly a minute before trust vote!

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	53026.97	↓	150.48
NIFTY	15799.10	↓	51.10
DOLLAR	79.55	↑	₹0.10
EURO	82.70	↓	₹0.36
GOLD	₹50,729	↓	₹93
SILVER	₹59,050	↓	₹489

WEATHER			
		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	36.1°C	35.0°C
	MIN	25.6°C	25.2°C
Humidity	76%	74%	Forecast
Rainfall	0.7mm	Nil	Light rain likely



## ELECTION FOR VICE PREZ AUGUST 6: EC

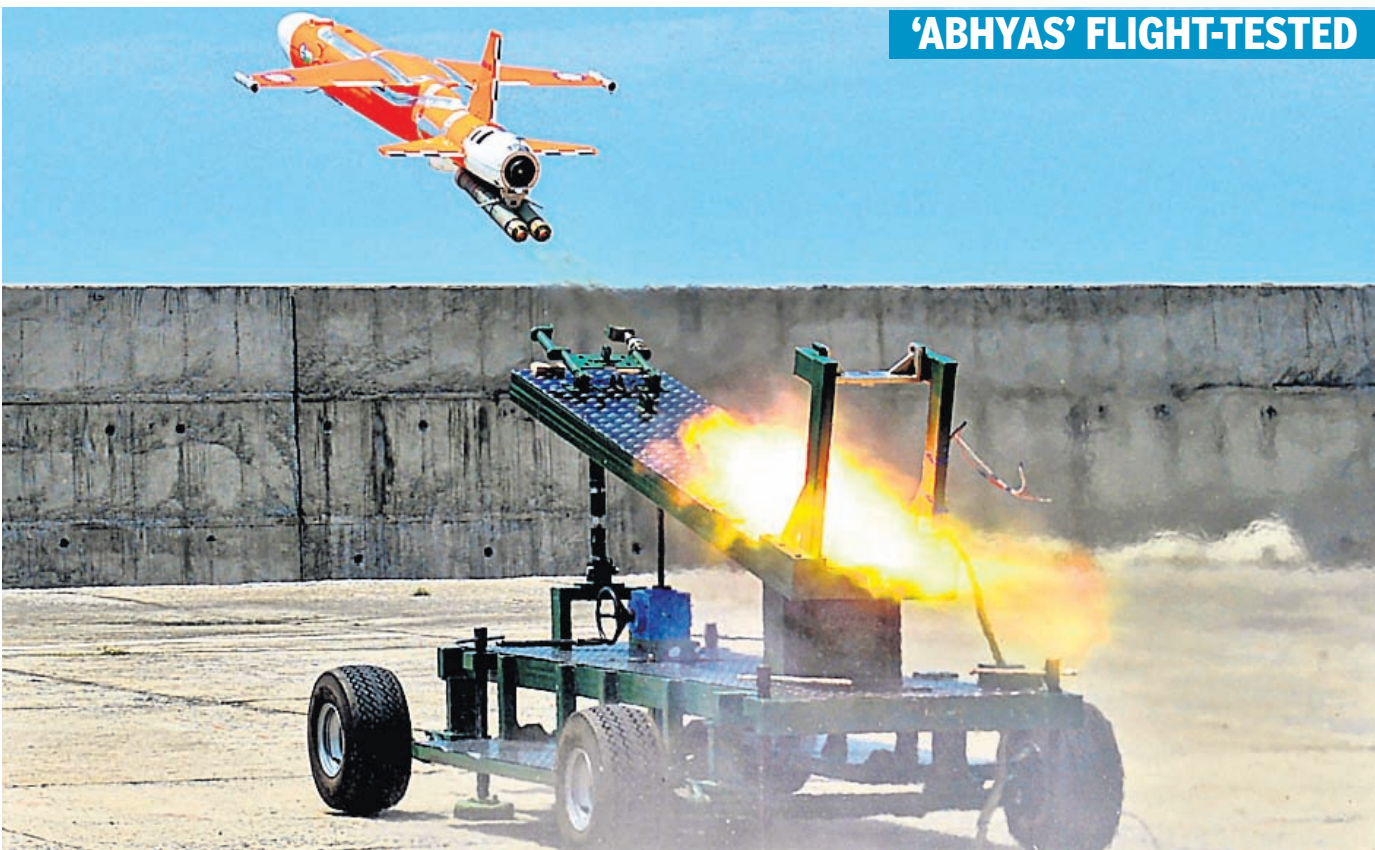
**New Delhi:** Polling to elect the next Vice President will be held August 6 and counting of votes will take place the same day, the Election Commission said Wednesday. The BJP-led NDA has a clear edge in the poll in which members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including nominated members, are eligible to vote. The notification for the election will be issued July 5, which will set in motion the nomination process. The last date for filing of nomination papers will be July 19. The scrutiny of nomination papers will be done July 20 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is July 22. The term of incumbent M Venkaiah Naidu ends August 10. The vice president is also the chairperson of Rajya Sabha. The electoral college in the vice presidential election comprises a total of 788 members of both Houses of Parliament.

P9



## FARMER ENDS LIFE OVER LOAN BURDEN

**Sonepur/Dunguripalli:** A farmer of Tuniamunda village committed suicide by consuming pesticide over alleged crop loss and debt burden under Dunguripalli block in Subarnapur district, Wednesday. The deceased farmer was identified as Bhagaban Juadi, 56, in the village. He had been to his farmland to plant saplings for Kharif crops when he consumed pesticide to end his life. According to sources, Bhagaban had to repay loan amounting to ₹8 lakh. Family members immediately rushed him to Dunripalli hospital first and later shifted him to VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla hospital where he succumbed during treatment, Wednesday. A pall of gloom and mourning spread in the Sahala panchayat after reports of the death spread.



India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), ABHYAS, from Chandipur ITR, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

## MAHA CRISIS

# Uddhav gives up chair

The announcement comes minutes after the SC held that MVA govt will have to face a floor test in the Assembly Thursday

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, June 29:** Stating that he was not interested in playing the numbers' game, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Wednesday said he was resigning from his post.

"I am also quitting as member of Legislative Council," Thackeray said in a webcast, while appealing the workers of his party not to take to the streets in protest. Thackeray's announcement came minutes after the Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to the Shiv

Sena-NCP-Congress Maha Vikas Aghadi government to take a floor test in the Assembly Thursday.

Thackeray, who was facing a rebellion by majority of Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde, said that he had no regret leaving his post. He appealed to Sena workers to allow the rebel legislators to return and not take to the streets in protest.

The rebels, earlier in the evening, left Guwahati where they were camping for over a week, and landed in Goa. Let the rebels who grew politically because of Shiv Sena and Balasaheb Thackeray get joy and satisfaction of pulling down his son from the post of chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray said. "I don't want to get into the numbers' game. It would be shameful for me to see if even one of my own party colleagues stands against me," he said.

He said security has been tight-



ened in Mumbai and Shiv Sainiks have been detained. Congress and NCP did not oppose his decision to rename Aurangabad as Sambhajinagar in the last Cabinet meeting, held in the evening, Thackeray said. He also thanked Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar for their cooperation and support while running

the MVA government. Congress leader Ashok Chavan told me that if the rebels want, Congress would get out of the government and extend outside support.

"Those who were expected to ditch me, stood by me while my own left me," he said. Referring to the rebels, he said, "What were your problems? Instead of going to Surat and Guwahati, you could

# State garners ₹21k cr investment intents

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** The state government has received investment intents worth over ₹21,000 crore with employment potential of more than 19,000 at the Odisha Investors' Meet held in Dubai, Wednesday, an official said.

The meeting, organised with FICCI and the Embassy of India in UAE, was attended by 150 companies based out of the UAE and the MENA region from sectors comprising minerals and metals processing, petrochemicals, chemicals, plastics, heavy industries, clean energy and food processing.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in his address, mentioned that Odisha holds the lion's share of India's mineral reserves with 96 per cent of the country's chromite, 92 per cent nickel, 53 per cent bauxite, 45 per cent manganese, 35 per cent iron ore, and 23 per cent coal. This has made Odisha the largest



ODISHA INVESTORS' MEET AT DUBAI

producer of steel, stainless steel, ferro alloys, alumina, and aluminium in India, he said. Odisha also has 11 per cent of India's water resources. The state has a 480-km long coastline making it a natural choice for setting up ports and for international trade, he added.

"The state is home to a large and highly skilled workforce. We have made good investments in setting up of technical and professional institutes at all skill levels - ITIs, polytechnics, and engineering & management colleges. At least 11 of India's top 100 Industrial training institutes are in Odisha," said Patnaik.

Contd...P4

## State Covid cases at 4-month high

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** The state recorded the highest single-day coronavirus cases in four months as 161 more people tested positive for the pathogen, a Health department bulletin said.

The positivity rate stood at 1.21 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing 13,317 samples.

Khurda reported the highest number of new cases at 60, followed by 32 in Cuttack. Twenty-four children were among the new infections, taking the tally to 12,89,602. On March 1, the state had logged 168 cases and eight deaths.

The toll remained at 9,126 as there were no fresh deaths. There are 629 active Covid-19 cases in the state at present. In the last 24 hours, 49 more people recovered from the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,79,794.

# Accused has Pak links; visited Karachi: DGP

NIA REGISTERS THE MURDER OF KANHAIYA LAL UNDER THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT

AGENCIES

**Jaipur, June 29:** One of the two prime accused in the brutal killing of a tailor in Udaipur has links with the Pakistan-based organisation Dawat-e-Islami and had visited Karachi in 2014, the Rajasthan Police chief said Wednesday.

The police have detained three more people in connection with the killing so far, Director General of Police (DGP) ML Lather said at a press conference here.

Two men, identified as Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, allegedly hacked Kanhaiya Lal to death with a cleaver at his shop in Udaipur Tuesday and posted videos online saying they are avenging an insult to Islam.

The duo was taken into custody Tuesday and booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the various sections of IPC, the police chief said.

"One of the accused, Ghouse Mohammad, has links with the



## UN-ISLAMIC, SAY MUSLIM BODIES

**New Delhi:** Prominent Muslim organisations have condemned the brutal killing of a tailor in Udaipur, calling it "un-Islamic" and asserting that no person has the right to take law into one's hands. Bodies like All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind issued statements condemning the murder of Kanhaiya Lal by two men who had posted videos online that claimed they were avenging an insult to Islam. Delhi Jama Masjid Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari called the killing an "act of cowardice" and "an act against Islam". Islam is a religion of "peace and tranquility", he said.

e-Islami, Lather said that it cannot be ruled out as both of them were equally involved.

Lather said that looking into all the perspectives and on directions of the chief minister; it was considered as act of terror; so investigation was started after registering a case under the UAPA.

A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrived in Udaipur, he said, adding the case has been transferred to the NIA and state police will assist them.

Lather said Ghouse Mohammad in 2014 had visited Dawat-e-Islami, Karachi. The outfit has its offices in Mumbai and Delhi, he said. Detained accused Riaz works as a welder and Ghouse is into some petty works. "It is also found that the distinct weapon used to hack Kanhaiya was made by Riaz around four-five years ago," said the DGP.

On the trans-border connection of the two prime accused, he said all digital evidence is being looked into. A case has been lodged under IPC sections 302, 452, 153 (A), 153 (B), 295 (A) and 34, and sections 16, 18 and 20 of UAPA, 1967.

Kanhaiya had filed a complaint at the police station June 15 that four-five people were following him and his life was in danger. P9

## MBBS STUDENT'S DEATH

# NHRC team starts probe at BBMCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, June 29:** A team from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) started an investigation into the mysterious death of a first year MBBS student of Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) here which occurred allegedly due to ragging, Wednesday.

The deceased first year MBBS student Nishant Kumar, 18, was a native of Karnal in Haryana. His family members alleged ragging as the reason behind the death of Kumar and had lodged a complaint at NHRC demanding an inquiry.

The three-member NHRC team led by Bimaljit Uppal and comprising Chandrasekhar and Madhabananda Rout arrived in Bolangir Tuesday evening. Commencing the probe,



they visited the hostel and its terrace at the medical college Wednesday from where Nishant had fallen to the ground and died at around 2pm April 22.

They met the college authorities, staff, students and security personnel and questioned them in this connection. The team member tried to figure out who first noticed Nishant falling from the terrace or lying dead and who picked up the body under what circumstances.

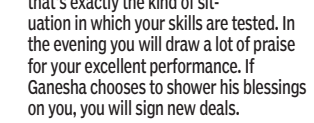
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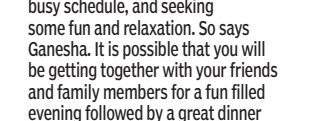
FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

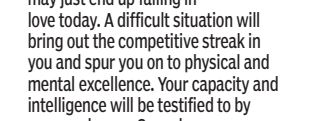
**ARIES**  
You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However, that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If Ganesha chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.



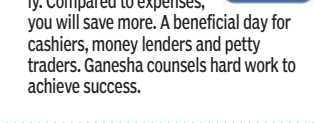
**TAURUS**  
This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesha. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie.



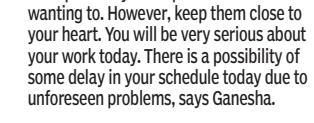
**GEMINI**  
You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesha.



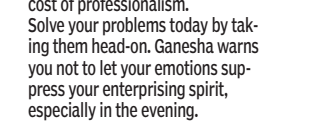
**CANCER**  
You will focus on financial matters and plan accordingly. Compared to expenses, you will save more. A beneficial day for cashiers, money lenders and petty traders. Ganesha counsels hard work to achieve success.



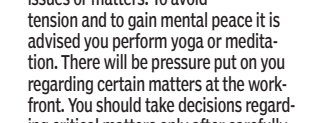
**LEO**  
You will be unable to express the feelings that rise up inside you in spite of wanting to. However, keep them close to your heart. You will be very serious about your work today. There is a possibility of some delay in your schedule today due to unforeseen problems, says Ganesha.



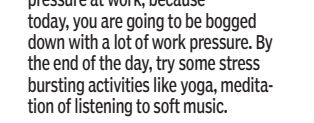
**VIRGO**  
You will remain engrossed in personal matters at the cost of professionalism. Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesha warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enterprising spirit, especially in the evening.



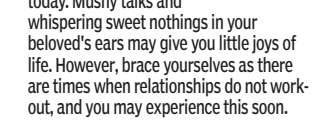
**LIBRA**  
Ganesha advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation. There will be pressure put on you regarding certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.



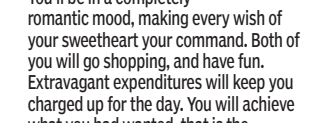
**SCORPIO**  
Thank Ganesha that you have the grace to handle pressure at work, because today, you are going to be bogged down with a lot of work pressure. By the end of the day, try some stress bursting activities like yoga, meditation of listening to soft music.



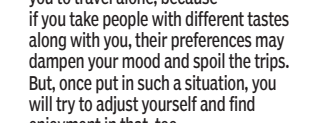
**SAGITTARIUS**  
Ganesha predicts a day full of romantic developments today. Mushy talks and whispering sweet nothings in your beloved's ears may give you little joys of life. However, brace yourselves as there are times when relationships do not work-out, and you may experience this soon.



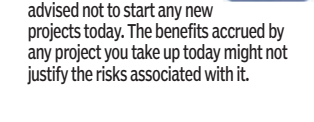
**CAPRICORN**  
Your lover is in for many pleasant surprises today. You'll be in a completely romantic mood, making every wish of your sweetheart your command. Both of you will go shopping, and have fun. Extravagant expenditures will keep you charged up for the day. You will achieve what you had wanted, that is the happiness of your sweetheart.



**AQUARIUS**  
Travelling is on the cards for you today. Ganesha advises you to travel alone, because if you take people with different tastes along with you, their preferences may dampen your mood and spoil the trips. But, once put in such a situation, you will try to adjust yourself and find enjoyment in that, too.



**PISCES**  
Your planetary configuration not being favorable, you are advised not to start any new projects today. The benefits accrued by any project you take up today might not justify the risks associated with it.



TRAVIS BARKER HOSPITALISED DUE TO UNDISCLOSED MEDICAL CONDITION

American musician and the drummer of rock band *Blink-182* Travis Barker, who is married to Kourtney Kardashian, has been rushed to a hospital following undisclosed medical condition, according to a report.



BALE WILL DON BAT SUIT AGAIN IF NOLAN DIRECTS THE MOVIE

Christian Bale, who essayed the role of DC's caped-crusader in Christopher Nolan's *Batman* trilogy, and happens to be the most loved Batman till date after Adam West, would like to don the batsuit again provided Nolan takes over the reign for directing the film if ever it is made, reports *Deadline*.



Now, Swara gets death threat

**Mumbai:** Earlier this month, Salman Khan and his father Salim Khan had received death threat through an anonymous letter handed over to the latter by a stranger. Now Swara Bhasker too has received a death threat through an anonymous letter via speed post at her residence.

The letter, handwritten in Hindi, directly threatened her life and was filled with abuses warning her against insulting Savarkar. The letter was signed in the end as 'Is desh ke naujawan'. Swara has filed a complaint with the Versova Police Station. "Based on the complaint, we have registered a non-cognisable offence against unidentified per-

sons," a police official said, adding that the investigation is on.

The actress has been vocal about the socio-political issues plaguing the society. In 2017 she had posted a tweet that read, "Savarkar APOL-OGISED To the British govt. pleaded to be let out of jail! That's not 'Veer' for sure..."

In 2019, she had posted another tweet with a video, "The planned construction of a most cowardly 'braveheart' Understanding 'Veer' Savarkar." IANS



Shruti has no plans to get hitched soon

**Mumbai:** Shruti Haasan is known for her bold fashion and way of life. The actress never shies away from calling spade a spade and has lived her life on her own terms. The Salaar actress initially saw rough patches in her love life, but has finally found solace in her boyfriend Shantanu Hazarika.

In a recent interview, the actress reveals she has no plans of getting hitched anytime soon. When asked about her marriage plans, Shruti said, "I have no clue. I have no answer for you."

While on the other hand, the internet is buzzing with congratulatory messages for Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt as the couple announced their pregnancy. Shruti too wished the couple as they shared the happy news, 'Congratulations to them.'

Shruti is currently shooting for Prabhas starrer *Salaar* and is waiting for the film's release.

AGENCIES



Kiara celebrating her hat-trick success

**Mumbai:** Kiara Advani has all the reasons to be on cloud nine these days. After all, the *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* actress has struck a hat-trick with her back to back releases. After the phenomenal success of *Shershaah* with Sidharth Malhotra, Kiara has delivered two hits of late - *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* and *Jug Jugg Jeeyo*. Needless to say, Kiara's fans are over the moon about her success.

And now, post the success of her last two releases, Kiara is off for a quick vacation.

Taking to her Instagram story, Kiara gave a glimpse of her vacation mode as she shared an in-flight pic. The actress had posted a pic giving a glimpse of the clouded sky from the window of her flight while she was enjoying a glass of juice. The *Indoo Ki Jawani* actress had captioned it as a 'Much needed vacay' along with a plane emoticon.

For the uninitiated, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* marked Kiara Advani's first attempt at the horror comedy genre and the movie also featured Kartik Aaryan and Tabu in the lead. On the other hand, *Jug Jugg Jeeyo* was released last week and also had Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor in key roles.

AGENCIES



Richa learning Kathak for SLB's *Heeramandi*!

**Mumbai:** Actress Richa Chadha is gearing up for her next film for which she is taking diction and dance lessons in Kathak. The actress has already been trained in the dance form till a particular stage and she wants to take it forward from there itself.

Richa has been spotted outside Sanjay Leela Bhansali's office quite a few times in the recent past and as the director is gearing up for his digital debut, *Heeramandi* these days, it could be possible that Richa is taking the dance classes for her role in *Heeramandi*.

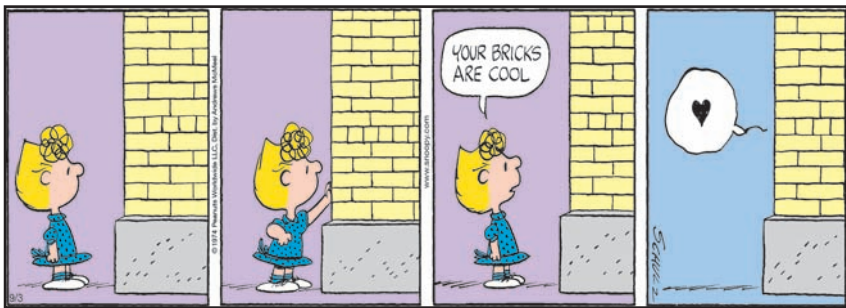
A source close to the film's production says: "Heeramandi is one of the most ambitious projects till date for Sanjay sir. It being his digital debut which makes it even more special and challenging at the same time as one has to put their best foot forward."

"Richa has already been doing the look tests for the show and she is all set to play a crucial role. As part of it, she's

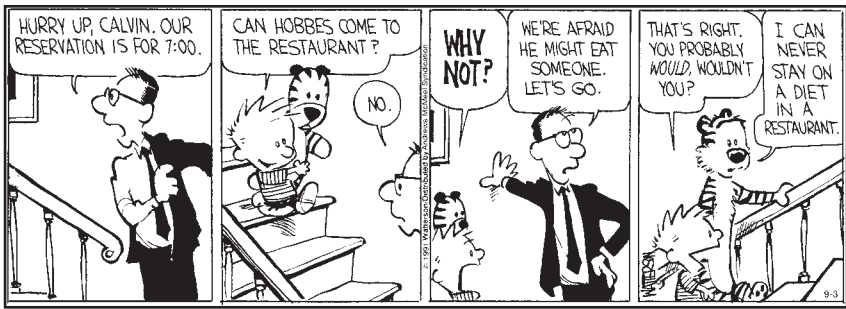
learning Kathak now and the classes have already begun ahead of the series shoot next month in Mumbai. Richa has been training for the last 2 weeks already and will continue training for another few days," it revealed. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

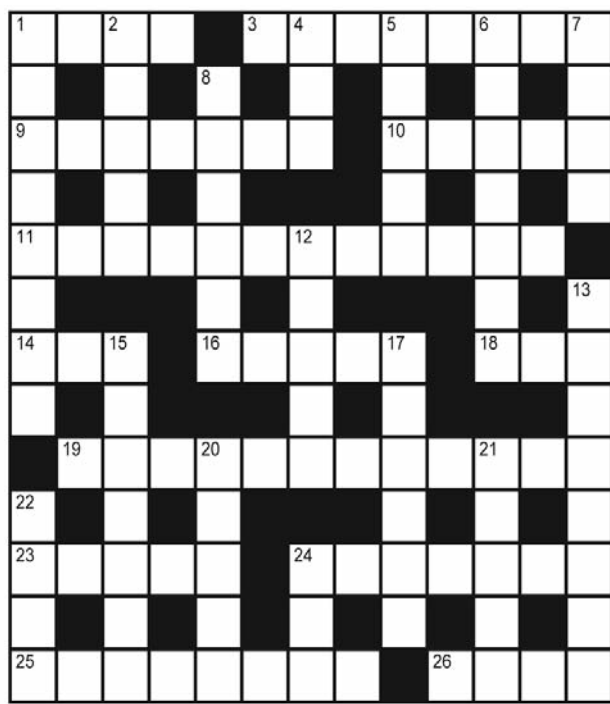


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Lackluster
- 3 Movable
- 9 Marsh
- 10 Gin's partner
- 11 River horse
- 14 Guided
- 16 Slipknot
- 18 Connect
- 19 Professor's words (3,9)
- 23 Latin dance

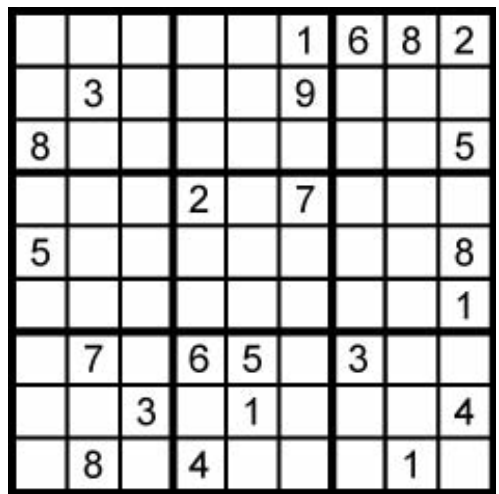
Down

- 2 Coarse lace
- 25 Words of apology (6-2)
- 26 After dinner or church
- 1 Winter
- 2 Ease off
- 4 Antediluvian
- 5 Aquarium fish

- 6 Feast
- 7 Carve in stone
- 8 Large old world monkey
- 12 Kind of layer
- 13 Beach find
- 15 Forceful
- 17 Inveigle
- 20 Wharfage
- 21 Pontificate
- 22 Man, for one
- 24 Silent

SUDOKU

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

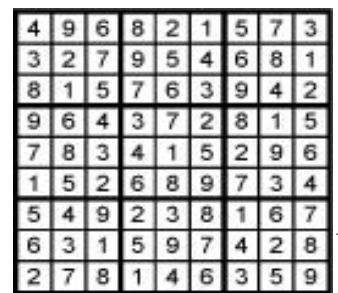


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# Thousands visit Srimandir for Nabajouban Darshan

THE STATE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED PEOPLE TO CONGREGATE AT THE TEMPLE AFTER A DECLINE IN THE PREVAILING PANDEMIC



Devotees on their way to Srimandir in Puri, Wednesday

As per the tradition, the deities remained in the 'Anasar Gruha' (the sick room) inside the temple after their ritual bath on Snana Purnima

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Puri, June 29:** Thousands of devotees Wednesday thronged the 12th century Srimandir here to witness the Nabajouban (youthful form) of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra after a gap of two years

## Black money being used in drugs trade: SIT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 29:** A meeting of the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) on black money was held here Wednesday. SIT Deputy Chairman Justice Arijit Pasayat presided over the meeting. Senior officials of police, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Bureau and Income Tax department participated in the meeting. The meeting deliberated upon measures to check the use of black money in real estate and illegal drugs trade across the country. It was revealed in the meeting that as many as 400 cases have been registered in the country in connection with the revelations by Panama papers. Action has been taken in 300 cases, Justice Pasayat said. Similarly, around 70 cases have been registered in connection with the revelations by Pandora papers in last one month. The SIT has so far submitted eight reports on black money to the apex court, he added. Justice Pasayat also revealed that GST fraud to the tune of around Rs 1,000 crore have been reported in last six to seven months.

## Emphasis on promotion of integrated farming system models

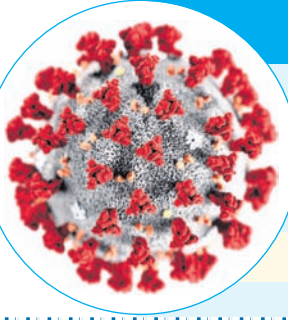
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** The two-day state level research & extension council meeting held at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) concluded Wednesday. Hemanta Kumar Panda, director of soil conservation and watershed department was the chief guest on this occasion. In his opening remark Panda expressed his satisfaction over a great transformation of OUAT. He emphasized on the use of effective and intensive tools for maximum development and stressed on promotion of Integrated farming System (IFS) models across the state. He also underlined the need for making convergence programme to push Odisha ahead. MMMishra, dean of research department in OUAT suggested that steps should be taken for validation of research activities through university's KVKs. He expressed his concerns over infrastructure, funds and manpower which need to be strengthened in OUAT for achieving overall development. The experts discussed the achievements of the university relating to technology generation by research scientists and technology assessment validation and development of technology models by the extension scientists working in different KVKs across the state.



## WARM GREETINGS

Corporators greet newly-appointed Cuttack Municipal Corporation Commissioner Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, Wednesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	55,10,66,209	52,65,48,335	63,54,470
India	4,34,33,345	4,28,08,666	5,25,077
Odisha	12,89,602	12,79,849	9,126



People from various walks of life including Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy, MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and activists of Utkal Sammilani pay floral tributes to Utkalmani Gobabandhu Das on his death anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

# Coal ministry for inclusion of 5 mine pit lakes in Ramsar list

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, June 29:** The Union Ministry of Coal has approached the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for the inclusion of five coal mine pit lakes in Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh in the list of Ramsar sites.

According to the ministry, the suitability of coal mine pit lakes for inclusion in Ramsar list was discussed with MoEFCC, the nodal Ministry for identification of wetlands for the purpose.

"The Coal India Limited (CIL) has identified five mine pit lakes in West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh for consideration of their inclusion in the list of Ramsar sites. The CIL is in process of preparing a Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS)," the Coal



ministry said.

These mine pit water bodies are regularly visited by different species of birds and they also have avifauna population, sources said.

The Ministry of Coal is also obtaining support and assistance of World Bank, GIZ and other global institutions for repurposing of abandoned mine sites to make them safe, environmentally stable and suitable for appropriate commercial usage.

# Parents ask Mayor to implement school bag norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** A delegation of Odisha Parents Federation (OPF) met Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das Wednesday and urged her to implement the school bag weight limits of students in Bhubaneswar and ensure availability of books list as per the NCERT Syllabus.

Basudev Bhatt, chairman of OPF said that as per ministry of human resource development (MHRD) guidelines the weight of the school bag should be 1.5 Kg for Classes I and II, 2 to 3 kg for Classes III to V, 4 kg for classes VI to VII, 4.5 kg for Classes VIII and IX and 5 kg for Class X. He alleged that most of the private schools in the state are not implementing the guidelines in reducing the weight of the school bag. In some cases, the weight of the bag exceeds the prescribed limit.



Due to the heavy weight of the school bags, most children complain of pain in the back posing serious health hazards. The ministry therefore, issued strict notification in this regard as per the order of High Court, Madras in 2018.

He added that as per the guidelines given by NCERT, homework shall not be assigned to the students of class I & II, schools should

not prescribe any other subjects except language and mathematics for class I & II and language, EVS and Mathematics for Class III to V students. Students should not be asked to bring additional books; extra materials and the weight of the school bag should not exceed the prescribed limit.

He also said that Odisha Human Right Commission (OHRC) had di-

## 15-day bail for Gobinda Sahu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, June 29:** The Orissa High Court Wednesday granted a 15-day conditional bail to Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the kidnapping and murder of Kalahandi teacher Mamita Meher. Sahu had prayed for the bail for the treatment of his ailing wife and son.

Granting him an interim bail, the court laid down several conditions, including that he must not influence the witnesses. He is also required to appear before the investigating officer at a short notice, the court said. The woman was allegedly murdered by Sahu in October last year, as per police.

She hailed from Bolangir and worked at an English medium school in Kalahandi. Sahu was the chairman of the school management committee.

**MAMITA MURDER**

# CRUT to provide spl bus service to Puri

Special shuttle service will be made available on three routes during Rath Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) Wednesday announced to operate two intercity Mo Buses for ferrying devotees between the capital city and Puri during Rath Yatra. According to sources, special shuttle service will be made available on three routes during the mega event. While the shuttle service on route no 5 will cater to passengers from Master Canteen to Talabania bus stand in Puri, the same on route no 6 will operate between Baramunda bus stand to Talabania.

Moreover, the standard Mo Bus service for route nos. 50, 51, 52 will be suspended while route no 53 shall be modified for shuttle service, playing as intra-city bus service from Malatipatpur to Talabania bus stand in Puri.

"For the two inter-city routes



While the shuttle service on route no 5 will cater to passengers from Master Canteen to Talabania bus stand in Puri, the same on route no 6 will operate between Baramunda bus stand to Talabania

there will be a flat fare of Rs100 for AC buses and Rs 80 for Non AC Mo Bus service. The bus fare will be Rs 20 for intra-city service from Malatipatpur to Talabania. Devotees will be able to reach their destination in a hassle-free manner by availing the Mo Bus service. Mo Buses will ply throughout the day at regular intervals for the convenience of the commuters," said an official of CRUT.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 29:** A committee of Union Environment Ministry has asked states to offer good quality land for compensatory afforestation and ensure that such land is selected in the close proximity of the area being diverted for non-forestry work. According to the guidelines issued under the Forest Conservation Act, compensatory afforestation is to be carried out on suitable non-forest land, equivalent to the area proposed for diversion, at the cost of the user agency. Compensatory afforestation can also be done on degraded land, twice in extent of the forest area diverted, in case of the projects implemented by the central government or public sector undertakings.

At a meeting held June 13, the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) observed that land for compensatory afforestation is generally selected without giving due consideration to the guidelines issued by the ministry which provide that 'as far as possible, the CA land should be selected in the close vicinity of the forest area proposed for diversion and only in cases where such land is not available in the close vicinity, alternative land in nearby district should be selected'.

The panel also said that in lieu of good quality forest land diverted for non-forestry purpose, inferior quality land is generally offered for compensatory afforestation and that's too at distant isolated and fragmented locations, making its management by the Forest department a difficult task and ultimately lead-



ing to slow restoration of ecosystem goods and services (EG&S) foregone.

"Land offered for compensatory afforestation is an important component of the proposal and good

quality land should be selected in the close proximity of forest land to compensate for the maximum loss of EG&S being foregone from the forest land," it observed.

After deliberating with senior of-

■ ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINES ISSUED UNDER THE FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION IS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON SUITABLE NON-FOREST LAND, EQUIVALENT TO THE AREA PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION, AT THE COST OF THE USER AGENCY

■ COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION CAN ALSO BE DONE ON DEGRADED LAND, TWICE IN EXTENT OF THE FOREST AREA DIVERTED, IN CASE OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OR PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

lost from non-forestry use and as far as permissible, such land should be selected in the close proximity of area being diverted to ease their management by the Forest Department and ensure their protection from likely encroachment in future.

"Potential areas which can generate and compensate the ecosystem goods and services foregone from the non-forestry use of forest land, to the maximum extent possible, should be identified and offered for raising compensatory afforestation," it said.

The panel has asked the integrated regional offices of the ministry to certify the suitability of land offered for compensatory afforestation in terms of its vicinity to the area proposed for diversion and contiguity with the existing forest area.



# 2 get 20-yr in jail for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** The fast-track special court (FTSC) here Wednesday sentenced two men to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) each after holding them guilty of raping a minor girl in the City for over three years.

The court also slapped a penalty of Rs 30,000 on each of the convicts—Binod Chandra Sahoo, 39, of Jankia area in Khurda and Pabitra Panda, 42, of Bentapada area in Cuttack. Failure to pay the penalty would entail an additional year of RI, the court ruled, ordering the District Legal Services Authority, Bhubaneswar to pay Rs 7 lakh as compensation to the rape survivor.

About the case, Special Public Prosecutor (POCSO) Rajib Sasmal said the victim, who was residing at her uncle's place in Tamando police limits here, came in contact with Sahoo, who used to stay nearby, in 2015.

In April, the girl, then 15, was chitchatting with one of her male friends in the locality when Sahoo managed to click their photos and began blackmailing her. When the

girl requested Sahoo to return the pictures, he asked the victim to come to his house where he sexually abused her and video-recorded the act.

Sahoo used the video to blackmail her and raped her repeatedly between 2015 and 2018. He also forced the girl to have physical relationships with two other men, including Panda.

The incident came to the fore in 2018. "The victim mustered courage and narrated the ordeal during a state government's awareness campaign on sexual abuse at her college in 2018. Later, she recorded her statement before the Child Welfare Committee, Khurda who in turn instructed the Childline, Bhubaneswar to file a report with Tamando police. Based on the complaint, police registered a case and arrested Sahoo and Panda March 15, 2018," the Special Public Prosecutor said.

The police are yet to arrest the third accused, Santosh, who has since been on the run.

After analysing the statements of 16 witnesses and 32 documentary evidences, the court held the duo convict under various Sections of the IPC and POCSO Act.

## 3 land in Vig net

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** Vigilance sleuths Wednesday trapped three officials including one assistant engineer on charges of corruption, officials said.

The Vigilance sleuth caught Prakash Chandra Sahoo, additional commercial tax officer, enforcement unit, Paradeep while accepting bribe of Rs 2 lakh from a glass and ply dealer. Following the trap, simultaneous searches have been launched on the residential house of Sahoo in Kendrapara district and his office room at Paradeep. He has been arrested and is being forwarded to the court, the officials said.

Similarly, Himansu Sekhar Panda, a junior assistant of Badampahad community health centre (CHC) in Mayurbhanj district has been apprehended by the Odisha vigilance while accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 from a complainant. Panda has been arrested and will be forwarded to the court, they said. Further, based on a complaint, the anti-corruption wing officials raided properties of Pravat Kumar Rout, assistant engineer of Dampada block in Cuttack district on Wednesday.

During the raids at four places in Cuttack & Kendrapara districts, the vigilance has found one triple storey building worth Rs 1.25 crore in Cuttack, four plots of Rs 29 lakh, bank & insurance deposits worth Rs 70.31 lakh and gold & silver ornaments of total value of Rs 28.23 lakh.

Besides, a Hyundai i-20 (Asta) car worth Rs 11.17 lakh along with two motorcycles, cash and household articles of Rs 12.89 lakh were detected during the raid.

## INFRA BOOST



Governor Ganeshi Lal, in presence of other dignitaries, inaugurates the renovated guest annexe building in Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

# Expansion of tussar silk cultivable area need of the hour, says Sarma

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** There is an urgent need for expansion of tussar silk cultivable area as it would not only boost production but also provide livelihood options to many, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts (HT&H) department commissioner-cum-secretary Shubha Sarma said at the state level workshop on 'technology dissemination and experience sharing in tussar sector' and launching of Silk Samagra-II here, Wednesday.

Addressing the event organised by the sericulture wing of HT&H department and Central Silk Board (CSB) as chief guest, Sarma said the workshop could be marked as a new beginning of plans for increase in raw silk production and farmers' income. There is an urgent need for expansion of tussar cultivable areas in order to increase production, she said.

Additional Principal Chief



Conservator of Forests Pradeep Raj Karat said Odisha is pioneer in implementing joint forest management programme where more than 67,000 Vana Surakhya Samitis (VSSs) are involved in forest management. Since tussar cultivation is a forest-based activity, the VSSs can be instrumental in increasing tussar silk production and the Forest department will extend all possible cooperation to them. The state plans 1,800hectare of new plantation this year under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

## NHRC team starts probe at BBMCH

Continued from P1

They also wanted to know who took the body to the hospital. They examined the suicide note, diary and other relevant documents of Nishant. The probe was video recorded. Doctors Manasi Panda and Jyotish Chandra Choudhury, head of the department of forensic medicine and toxicology (FMT) and other staff were present on the occasion.

The team members visited the hostel terrace from where Nishant is stated to have fallen down and examined it from various angles. It was learnt that the team will remain here for two more days and conduct probe into the death from various other angles. The NHRC team head Utpal is learnt to have met the parents of the deceased and held discussions with them.

The death was initially termed as a suicide. However, the issue took a curious turn after his family members reached Bolangir and lodged a complaint at the police station alleging his death was due to ragging. Police registered a case under Section-306 and Section-34 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Expressing displeasure on the police probe, family members lodged a complaint against the medical college authorities before the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, Chief Minister and the Director General of Police. They even demanded a CBI probe to unravel the truth behind the death. They had also requested National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for a fair and impartial probe.

Tights activist Akhand also lodged a complaint before the rights body.

## State gets ₹21k cr worth investment intents

Continued from P1

With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank and the Institute of Technical Education Services, Singapore, the government of Odisha has recently established the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar to prepare the Odia workforce for modern and new age industry.

Odisha's use of enabling technology in delivering efficient and effective investment facilitation: State's Single Window portal for investors, GO SWIFT has transformed the B2G interface with its user-friendly

features which provide time-bound clearances for over 50 G2B services. Odisha is also home to over 1,200 startups, many of which are in the technology space, he added. On the occasion, the CM announced the third edition of Make In Odisha Conclave-2022 to be held in Bhubaneswar during November-30 to December 4, 2022.

During the investors' meet, the team Odisha also conducted 1-1 B2G meetings with major companies of the region. The companies expressed their interest to invest in the state. The CM invited them to visit Odisha.



Members of various outfits, including ALDYO and AIYF, take out a rally from Rajmahal to Master Canteen Square protesting the Agnipath scheme, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## Vaishnaw to unveil Khurda Rd new station building today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 29:** Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw is scheduled to visit Odisha Thursday.

During his visit, Vaishnaw will inspect various Railway Sections and inaugurate/announce train services, sources said.

Vaishnaw will inspect Khurda Road-Bolangir project and will open Mahipur-Naugaon Road Railway Section at Nuagaon. He will also flag off the extension of 08429/08430 Bhubaneswar-Mahipur-Bhubaneswar passenger special up to Nuagaon Road from Nuagaon Road Station and announce new train towards Puri and stoppage of Sewa Express at Bolagarh.

In the evening, Vaishnaw will Inaugurate Khurda Road new station building and flag off of the LHB services in Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Duronto Express from

Khurda Road station. Apart from this, the Railway Minister will inaugurate new building of Patia and Vani Vihar PH through video conferencing from Khurda Road station.

Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan will also grace the occasion at Khurda Road station. Member of Parliament (Loksabha) Achyutananda Samanta, MLAs Rajendra Kumar Sahoo and Ramesh Chandra Behera will grace the occasion at Nuagaon Road station.

Member of Parliament (Loksabha) Aparajita Sarangi, MLAs Suresh Kumar Routray and Susant Kumar Rout will grace the occasion at Khurda Road station.

Vaishnaw will also inspect passenger facilities and inaugurate various public amenities for Rath Yatra at Puri station in the evening.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary, Nayagarh, I, Hrushikesh Nayak, S/o- Baikunth Nath Nayak, At-Subalaya, Po- Champatipur, PS- Itamati, Dist- Nayagarh, Odisha do hereby declared notified for the information that in my name Hrushikesh Nayak stand one original Regd. Sale deed No.844 of dt.15.03.2004 has been actually lost on the way dt.26.06.2022.

Hrushikesh Nayak

# How exactly climate change affects extreme weather events

Heatwaves across America, or for that matter northwest India have been documented pretty well. However, why can't some geographic regions be consistently analysed?

When multiple extreme weather events are being witnessed across the globe, are there any that are being incorrectly attributed to climate change?

A newest study has shown how attribution science has led to major advances in linking the impacts of extreme weather and human-induced climate change damage.

Researchers from the University of Oxford, Imperial College London and the Victoria University of Wellington reviewed the impact

of five different types of extreme weather events and to what degree these damaging events could be attributed to human induced climate change.

To do this, they combined information from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and results from a fast increasing body of attribution studies, where weather observations and climate models are used to determine the role that climate change played in specific weather events.

Their study, released on Tuesday in the first issue of Environmental Research: Climate, a new academic journal published by IOP Publishing, found that for some



extreme weather events, such as heat waves, the link with climate change is unclear and unequivocal across the world, and that the extent of impacts are likely being

underestimated by insurers, economists, and governments.

For others, such as tropical cyclones, the paper shows that important differences exist between

regions and the role that climate change plays in each event are more variable than for heatwaves.

"The rise of more extreme and intense weather events such as heat waves, droughts and heavy rainfall have dramatically increased in recent years, affecting people all over the globe. Understanding the role that climate change plays in these events can help us better prepare for them. It also allows us to determine the real cost that carbon emissions have in our lives," said lead author of the study Ben Clarke from the University of Oxford.

However, a major hurdle is the data gap. The authors point out the need for more data from lower- and middle income countries, where

the impacts of climate change are more strongly felt. Research on these impacts is hampered when national weather data is not publicly available, for a variety of reasons.

"We really don't have a comprehensive overview or detailed inventory of what impacts climate change is having today, yet," said Friederike Otto from the Grantham Institute of Climate Change & the Environment at Imperial College, London, and a co-author of the study.

"But we do now have the tools and advanced understanding to create such an inventory, but these need to be applied more evenly across world to improve our understanding in areas where evidence is lacking," she said.

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# Jumbo population up in Dhenkana

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, June 29:** Good news for wildlife lovers and activists as the elephant count in Dhenkanal district has reached 270 from 240 a few months ago, as per an enumeration conducted by the Forest department.

Reports said out of eight forest ranges in the district, Hindol range has the highest number of 200 elephants.

However, the tuskers straying into human settlements and creating traffic roadblock have become a cause of concern. Sources said 26 tuskers separated from their herd are on the rampage in all these ranges. As a result, man-elephant conflicts have been raging in different parts. There are eight tuskers in Sadangi range; five in Sadar range, six in Hindol range; four in Mahavir Road range



and three in Kamakhyanagar Western range. A few months ago, the number of elephants in the district was 240 while 30 more jumbos have entered the district from Satkosia sanctuary.

Elephants often create traffic stalemate for hours on NH-55 passing through Hindol and Sadar ranges.

Reports said tuskers mainly stray into human habitats and create panic, and sometimes leading to human casualties. In 2021-22, as many as 22 people have lost their lives in the district.

Meanwhile, the department is counting elephants every day while Gaja Sathis have been engaged to keep track of the single elephants separated from their herds.

## Poachers active in Badamba and Narsinghpur forests under Athagarh range abutting Hindol range have become a cause of concern

On the other hand, poachers active in Badamba and Narsinghpur forests under Athagarh range abutting Hindol range have become a cause of concern for forest officials in Dhenkanal.

Meanwhile, the department has intensified patrolling in Kandhara range. The Forest department has emphasised on safe passage of elephants near national highways. The DFO said that construction of five underpasses across NH-55 from Rasasingh to Meramundali is in progress.

# Two including retd teacher held for rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, June 29:** Two persons were arrested Wednesday in connection with separate incidents of rape under Bada Bazaar police limits in this city. The accused have been identified as Suryanarayan Satapathy, 50, and retired teacher Ulla Sahu, 75, IIC Prashant Bhupati informed. Two separate cases have been registered in this connection and medical examination was conducted on both the accused and the victims.

Police recorded the statement of the two victims under Section-164 of IPC and produced the two accused in court, he said. They have been remanded to police custody

According to police, Suryanarayan was arrested for raping his sister-in-law. Ulla on the



other hand, has been accused of raping a widow and her two daughters in his neighbourhood for several years on the pretext of providing them help and rehabilitating them in his house despite their unwillingness. The retired teacher's crime came to light after the victims lodged complaints with the police.



An eviction drive underway to clear the illegal constructions like garages and hotels on both sides of National Highway-326 in Jeypore, Wednesday

## 5 get life term for killing woman over 'witchcraft'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Jun 29:** A court in Mayurbhanj district sentenced five members of a family to life imprisonment Wednesday for killing a woman, claiming she was a 'witch'.

Additional sessions judge Prabir Chaudhary also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 each on the convicts.

The incident occurred in the Dumurdiha village under Kuliana police station April 26, 2018. They suspected that Sambari Murmu was practicing witchcraft, which led to ailments in their family.

The accused tied Murmu's hands and legs and assaulted her with weapons. Murmu died later.

## House ethics panel holds review meet

**Bhadrak:** The members of the Assembly Ethics Committee headed by Barchana MLA Amar Prasad Satpathy held a review meeting at Pathanivas here in Bhadrak Wednesday. The Committee members - MLAs Ananta Das, Prafulla Samal, Bhupindar Singh, Arabinda Dhal and Swarup Das observed that people's representatives act as links between the government and officials in successful implementation of various government programmes. The chairperson said that copies of book circular-47 as notified December 5, 2002, should be made available to all officials. Accordingly, the officials will work in tandem with the people's representatives in implementing the government schemes and programmes.

## Minor assaulted over spilling of liquor

**Chhendipada:** A youth brutally assaulted a nine-year-old boy after the latter accidentally bumped into the liquor glass the former was holding at Saharsahi village under this police limits in Angul district. Due to the impact the glass fell on the floor and the liquor spilled over. The accused was identified as Duruji Mahar of the same village. Enraged, Mahar mercilessly beat up the kid and then bludgeoned his head with a large stone. The kid suffered grievous injuries.

## Jilted lover attacks woman

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dharmasala, June 29:** An Anganwadi worker was left battling for life after a spurned lover brutally attacked and injured her as she rejected his one-sided proposal. The was reported from Choramuhan village under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district. The woman is undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The accused was identified as Rajesh Das. Police registered a case and arrested Rajesh. Rajesh was in love with the woman, but the latter never reciprocated. However, even then Rajesh continued to harass the woman. After a complaint, he was arrested. He got bail and then attacked her.

# Overloaded, unfit vehicles causing accidents on NHs



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, June 29:** Plying of overloaded cargo vehicles without proper fitness certificates are the main reason for accidents on national highways in Odisha leading to loss of lives and properties, a report said.

An accident between an ambulance and a truck overloaded with cement on National Highway-16, April 30 this year resulted in the death of three persons highlights this issue. The accident was initially termed 'routine' on the highway. However, probe into the matter revealed harsh facts.

According to information obtained under Right to Information Act (RTI) by social activist Sarbeshwar Behura, the IIC of Barchana police station in a letter to the regional transport officer (RTO), Chandikhole has stated that overloading of the truck is the main reason behind the mishap.

The 12-wheeler truck which is around

13 years old did not have a fitness certificate. It was being used to transport 31 tonne of cement instead of its usual capacity of 25 tonne.

Behura alleged that the 'Ramco' cement company using the truck has been able to fend off public hearing and managed to obtain environmental clearance by assuring to transport raw materials and its finished product by rail instead of roads.

However, despite its promise the company was transporting its finished product on road at night. Behura stated that the matter should be probed and Ramco should be held indirectly responsible for the accident.

According to Barchana IIC, the mishap occurred when a Cuttack bound 108-ambulance (OD-02BN-5325) from Balasore with three occupants rammed against the overloaded cement truck parked on the opposite side of the road. The accident occurred as the truck had not switched the 'hazard' lights which ve-

hicles usually do when they park on national highways. So the driver of the ambulance failed to notice it.

As a result, Geetanjali Pradhan, 40, a patient from Bhogara, driver Bhaskar Chandra Sahu and hospital staff Hemant Kumar Badi died on the spot. Behura has demanded stringent action against the erring company and also the transport company which owns the truck.

Reports said that truck driver had parked the vehicle on the highway due to the deflation of the front tire. Experts later pointed out that the front tire suffered damages due to overloading.

Police probe later revealed that the truck loaded with 620 packets of cement had two invoices of two different vehicles. This was done to evade taxes. Junior MVI Biswaranjan Sahu of Chandikhole RTO has been slapped with a fine of Rs 60,940 for illegal overloading of the truck. However, it is a case of too little being done to prevent the loss of lives on national highways.

It has been alleged that these facts emerged only because of the accident. In one invoice it was shown that 25 metric tonne of cement was being transported in 500 packets while the second one was that of unknown vehicle with a different registration number transporting six tonne of cement in 120 packets. Sources alleged that Ramco has been carrying on this blatant violation for a long time now.

It should also be stated here that despite the ongoing probe, the seized truck has been released. Sources said that this may lead to destruction of evidence. They also pointed out that the license of the transport company which owns the truck is yet to be revoked.

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The under mentioned parties are hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against each of you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, that the notices under Section 13(2) of the Act sent to each of you separately by Regd. Post Ack. Due have been returned unserved. Hence both of you are hereby called upon to take notice to pay jointly and severally the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company will proceed against the below mentioned properties to realize its dues with interests and costs as contemplated under the Act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Company.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrowers	File No.Amount (Outstanding Rs.)	Description of Immovable Property
1	Mr. SK Abdul Rahim (Borrower) At - Ganipur, Po/PS - Remuna, Balasore - 756019, Odisha, India Mrs. Naazneen Parween (Co-Borrower)	File No. 66200042, Rs. 20,32,933/- (+ Interest @ 24% p.a. From 31.05.2022) + Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges.	All the peace and parcel of land comprised in Khata No-423 and plot No.785/1459, homestead measuring Area A0.06 dec at Ganipur, P.S.Remuna, Dist Balasore

for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,  
Authorised officer.

To, Date: 07th June, 2022

- Maple Furniture Private Limited, At PL-21, 1st Floor, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751 009;
- Mr. Shissak Rath, At Plot-280, Nageswar Tangi, Bhubaneswar, Orissa - 751 002;
- Madhumita Rath, At Plot-280, Nageswar Tangi, Bhubaneswar, Orissa - 751 002.
- Mr. Ullas Rath, At Plot no.280, Nagiswar Tangi, Bhubaneswar-751002, Orissa

Re: A.P. No.372 OF 2022  
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA  
ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION  
COMMERCIAL DIVISION  
TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED .....Petitioner  
Versus  
MAPLE FURNITURE PRIVATE LIMITED & ORS. ....Respondents  
My Client: Tata Capital Financial Services Limited

Sir(s)/ Madam,  
Pursuant to the direction given by the Hon'ble Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava, High Court at Calcutta in the above- captioned matter on 24th June, 2022 wherein I had been directed to publish the notice on the newspaper and to intimate you all that the matter will be taken up on 09th July, 2022 by the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.  
This is for your information, record and necessary action.  
Yours Sincerely,  
Avishek Guha,  
Advocate, High Court at Calcutta  
Office at: Guha & Co, Advocates  
7C, Kiran Shankar Roy Road,  
Hastings Chambers Ground Floor, Room No. GD/1  
Kolkata-700001 Ph: 09830956258/08420424501

**SPECIAL TRAINS for RATH YATRA**  
Dedicated Service by East Coast Railway

SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI ON 01.07.22 (GUNDICHA YATRA)					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DATE OF DEPART.	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT PURI
08907	VISAKHAPATNAM-PURI	VISAKHAPATNAM	30.06.22	1430	0115
08911	JUNAGARH ROAD-PURI	JUNAGARH ROAD	30.06.22	1100	0220
08909	JAGDALPUR-PURI	JAGDALPUR	30.06.22	1830	1235
08931	SAMBALPUR-PURI	SAMBALPUR	30.06.22	2130	0835
08418	GUNUPUR-PURI	GUNUPUR	30.06.22	2330	0925
08237	SHALIMAR-PURI	SHALIMAR	29.06.22	1345	2230(29.6.22)
08923	PARADEEP-PURI	PARADEEP	01.07.22	0315	0745
08919	CUTTACK-PURI	CUTTACK	01.07.22	0630	0840
08942	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	01.07.22	0430	0845
08921	BRAHMAPUR-PURI	BRAHMAPUR	01.07.22	0400	1045
08944	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	01.07.22	0630	1100
08917	BHADRAK-PURI	BHADRAK	01.07.22	0515	1330
08927	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	KHURDA ROAD	01.07.22	1200	1340
08425	KENDUJHARGARH-PURI	KENDUJHARGARH	01.07.22	0630	1405
08426	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	01.07.22	1230	1600
08929	KHURDA ROAD -PURI	KHURDA ROAD	01.07.22	1710	2000

SPECIAL TRAINS FROM PURI ON 01.07.22 (GUNDICHA YATRA)					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DATE OF DEPART.	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT DEST. STN.
08908	PURI-VISAKHAPATNAM	PURI	02.07.22	2315	0830
08912	PURI-JUNAGARH ROAD	PURI	02.07.22	0015	1345
08910	PURI-JAGDALPUR	PURI	02.07.22	2005	1300
08932	PURI-SAMBALPUR	PURI	02.07.22	2025	0445
08417	PURI-GUNUPUR	PURI	02.07.22	0145	1130
08938	PURI-SHALIMAR	PURI	30.06.22	0530(30.06.22)	1450
08929	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	PURI	01.07.22	0630	0955
08941	PURI-MAHIPUR	PURI	01.07.22	0900	1215
08943	PURI-MAHIPUR	PURI	01.07.22	1455	1700
08918	PURI-BHADRAK	PURI	01.07.22	1525	2030
08945	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	PURI	01.07.22	1900	2100
08921	PURI-BRAHMAPUR	PURI	01.07.22	1900	0305
08426	PURI-KENDUJHARGARH	PURI	01.07.22	1935	0400
08924	PURI-PARADEEP	PURI	01.07.22	2035	0050
08920	PURI-CUTTACK	PURI	01.07.22	2350	0225
08930	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	PURI	02.07.22	0045(02.07.22)	0245

SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI ON 08.07.22 (SANDHYA DARSHAN)					
SL. NO.	TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT PURI
01.	08915	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	KHURDA ROAD	0530	0655
02.	08942	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	0430	0845
03.	08944	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	0630	1100
04.	08927	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	KHURDA ROAD	1100	1235
05.	08946	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	1230	1600
06.	08933	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	KHURDA ROAD	1510	1630
07.	08929	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	KHURDA ROAD	1840	1955

SPECIAL TRAIN FROM PURI ON 08.07.22 (SANDHYA DARSHAN)					
SL. NO.	TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DEP. TIME FROM PURI	ARR. TIME AT DEST. STN.
01.	08916	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	PURI	0820	0945
02.	08941	PURI-MAHIPUR	PURI	0900	1215
03.	08943	PURI-MAHIPUR	PURI	1300	1700
04.	08934	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	PURI	1330	1450
05.	08945	PURI-MAHIPUR	PURI	1455	2100
06.	08928	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	PURI	1700	1820
07.	08930	PURI-KHURDA ROAD	PURI	2100	2200

SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAINS TO PURI ON 09.07.22 (BAHUDA YATRA)					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DATE OF DEPART.	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT PURI
08923	PARADEEP-PURI	PARADEEP	09.07.22	0315	0750
08942	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	09.07.22	0430	0845
08919	CUTTACK-PURI	CUTTACK	09.07.22	0630	0955
08944	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	09.07.22	0630	1115
08921	BRAHMAPUR-PURI	BRAHMAPUR	09.07.22	0400	1100
08918	PURI-BHADRAK	PURI	09.07.22	0515	1315
08927	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	KHURDA ROAD	09.07.22	1200	1335
08425	KENDUJHARGARH-PURI	KENDUJHARGARH	09.07.22	0630	1405
08946	MAHIPUR-PURI	MAHIPUR	09.07.22	1230	1600
08929	KHURDA ROAD-PURI	KHURDA ROAD	09.07.22	1710	1840
08933	VISAKHAPATNAM-PURI	VISAKHAPATNAM	08.07.22	1430	0115
08937	JUNAGARH ROAD-PURI	JUNAGARH ROAD	08.07.22	1100	0220
08941	GUNUPUR-PURI	GUNUPUR	09.07.22	0315	1235
08945	SAMBALPUR-PURI	SAMBALPUR	08.07.22	2130	0635

SPECIAL TRAINS TO PURI ON 29.06.2022 (GUNDICHA YATRA)					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT PURI	
08927	SHALIMAR-PURI	SHALIMAR	2140	0700	

SPECIAL TRAINS FROM PURI ON 30.06.2022 (GUNDICHA YATRA)					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT SHALIMAR	
02828	PURI-SHALIMAR	PURI	2305	0530	

SPECIAL TRAINS PURI TO MAHIPUR FROM 02.07.22 TO 07.07.22					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT MAHIPUR	
08941	PURI-MAHIPUR	PURI	1145	1545	
08945	KHURDA ROAD-MAHIPUR	KHURDA ROAD	1850	2300	

SPECIAL TRAIN BHUBANESWAR TO PURI ON 01.07.22 TO 11.07.22					
TRAIN NO.	NAME OF SPECIAL TRAINS	ORIGIN	DEP. TIME FROM ORIG. STN	ARR. TIME AT PURI	
02891	BHUBANESWAR-PURI	BHUBANESWAR	1005	1220	

**ALL THE RATH YATRA SPECIAL TRAINS WILL RUN AS UNRESERVED SPECIAL FARE TRAINS FROM AND TO PURI EXCEPT THE RESERVED ACCOMMODATION SPECIAL FARE TRAINS DURING RATH YATRA PERIOD.**

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Abortion, Democracy

Every woman should have the legal right safely to terminate a pregnancy that she does not wish to continue, at least until the very late stage of pregnancy when the fetus may be sufficiently developed to feel pain. That has been my firm view since I began thinking about the topic as an undergraduate in the 1960s. None of the extensive reading, writing, and debating I have subsequently done on the topic has given me sufficient reason to change my mind.

Yet I find it hard to disagree with the central line of reasoning of the majority of the US Supreme Court in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the decision overturning Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that established a constitutional right to abortion. This reasoning begins with the indisputable fact that the US Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and the possibly disputable, but still very reasonable, claim that the right to abortion is also not implicit in any constitutional provision, including the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The reasoning behind the decision in Roe to remove from state legislatures the power to prohibit abortion was clearly on shaky ground. Justice Byron White was right: The Roe majority's ruling, he wrote in his dissenting opinion in the case, was the "exercise of raw judicial power."

The Supreme Court exercised that power in a way that gave US women a legal right that they should have. Roe spared millions of women the distress of carrying to term and giving birth to a child whom they did not want to carry to term or give birth to. It dramatically reduced the number of deaths and injuries occurring at that time, when there were no drugs that reliably and safely induced abortion. Desperate women who were unable to get a safe, legal abortion from properly trained medical professionals would try to do it themselves, or go to back-alley abortionists, all too often with serious, and sometimes fatal, consequences.

None of that, however, resolves the larger question: do we want courts or legislatures to make such decisions? Here I agree with Justice Samuel Alito, who, writing for the majority in Dobbs, approvingly quotes Justice Antonin Scalia's view that: "The permissibility of abortion, and the limitations upon it, are to be resolved like most important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting."

There is, of course, some irony in the majority of the Supreme Court saying this the day after it struck down New York's democratically enacted law restricting the use of handguns. The Court would no doubt say that, in contrast to abortion, the US Constitution does explicitly say that "the right of the people to bear arms shall not be infringed." But that much-quoted phrase is preceded by the rationale that "a well-regulated militia" is "necessary to the security of a free state." The supposed right of individuals to carry handguns has absolutely nothing to do with the security of the United States, so a sensible application of Scalia's comment on how the question of abortion should be resolved would have been to leave the regulation of guns to democratic processes.

There is an even more radical implication of the view that courts should not assume powers that are not specified in the Constitution: the Supreme Court's power to strike down legislation is not in the Constitution. Not until 1803, fifteen years after the ratification of the Constitution, did Chief Justice John Marshall, in Marbury v. Madison, unilaterally assert that the Court can determine the constitutionality of legislation and of actions taken by the executive branch. If the exercise of raw judicial power is a sin, then Marshall's arrogation to the court of the authority to strike down legislation is the Supreme Court's original sin. Marbury utterly transformed the Bill of Rights. An aspirational statement of principles became a legal document, a role for which the vagueness of its language makes it plainly unsuited.

Undoubtedly, the US Supreme Court has issued some positive and progressive decisions. Brown v. Board of Education, in which the Court unanimously ruled that racial segregation in public schools violated the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause, is perhaps the foremost among them. But it has also handed down disastrous decisions, such as its ruling in the notorious Dred Scott case, which held that no one of African ancestry could become a US citizen, and that slaves who had lived in a free state were still slaves if they returned to a slave state.

More recently, in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Court invalidated federal laws restricting political donations, thus opening the floodgates for corporations and other organizations to pour money into the campaigns of their favored candidates or political parties. And the decision on handguns seems likely to cost more innocent people their lives.

Supreme Court decisions cannot easily be reversed, even if it becomes clear that their consequences are overwhelmingly negative. Striking down the decisions of legislatures on controversial issues like abortion and gun control politicizes the courts, and leads presidents to focus on appointing judges who may not be the best legal minds, but who will support a particular stance on abortion, guns, or other hot-button issues.

The lesson to draw from the Court's decisions on abortion, campaign finances, and gun control is this: Don't allow unelected judges to do more than enforce the essential requirements of the democratic process. Around the world, democratic legislatures have enacted laws on abortion that are as liberal, or more so, than the US had before the reversal of Roe v. Wade. It should come as no surprise that these democracies also have far better laws on campaign financing and gun control than the US has now.

The writer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University.

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WISDOM CORNER

- You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough. MAE WEST
- Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
- Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. MAHATMA GANDHI

WORDSWORTH

Trebuchet

A trebuchet was the classic medieval military siege engine for hurling heavy missiles at an enemy, a big boys' catapult. It consisted of a long pivoted arm with a sling at one end and a heavy counterweight at the other. You put a missile in the sling, wound the arm down by windlass and rope and released it by a catch. It was commonly used to pound down the walls of a castle or fortified town during a siege. As an alternative, you might shoot the putrefying corpses of horses over the walls in the hope of infecting the defenders with disease, or wage psychological warfare by lobbing back your enemies' severed heads. Don't confuse this with a mangonel, a smaller weapon in which the power for flinging the missile came from twisted ropes or animal guts. The word trebuchet came into English from an Old French word, which at first meant to stumble or trip, a compound of tres, over, with buc, body or trunk. In imitation of later senses of the French word, it has also been used in English for a set of essay scales, an animal trap, and as another name for that instrument of punishment for fraudulent tradespeople.



Asad Mirza

PRESIDENT BIDEN JUNE 26 RE-LAUNCHED HIS INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS TO POOR AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Peter Singer

Don't allow unelected judges to do more than enforce the essential requirements of the democratic process

SPECTRUM NATION



Bikash Narayan Mishra

WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE-LED PUSH FOR FASTER GDP GROWTH

Within a week two strong messages have emanated from the two sparring world powers, aimed at controlling the world or realigning the current global order: US President Joe Biden June 26 and Chinese President Xi Jinping June 23 have announced two new global initiatives at BRICS and G7 Summits, respectively.

Last week in his address June 22 at the 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and the next day at BRICS Summit in Beijing, Jinping stressed the need to forge greater synergy amongst countries for greater international development and close the development gap, by pooling resources, platforms and networks of development partnerships.

Noting that the international community is keen to achieve more equitable, sustainable and secure development, Xi said it is important to seize opportunities, meet challenges head-on, and work on the implementation of the 'Global Development Initiative' (GDI) to build a shared future of peace and prosperity. The Chinese President proposed the GDI in his speech to the 76th Session of the UNGA in September last year.

Meanwhile, at the recent G7 Summit in Germany, President Biden June 26 re-launched his initiative to provide infrastructure funds to poor and developing countries only a year after a largely similar scheme was unveiled at the G7 conference in Cornwall last July under the label 'Build Back Better World'. The fund was re-launched at the start of the G7 in Germany Sunday as the 'Global Investment and Infrastructure Partnership'. The avowed aim of this initiative is to become an alternative to the belt and road initiative (BRI) that Beijing has used for more than a decade to expand its economic ties and influence with developing countries.

The partnership aims to generate \$600 billion of private and public funds by 2027, with \$200bn over the next five years coming from the US. Projects cited at the event include a secure sub-sea cable linking Europe and south-east Asia, an industrial mRNA vaccine plant in Senegal, solar proj-

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

REALIGNING WORLD ORDER



US President Joe Biden June 26 and Chinese President Xi Jinping June 23 have announced two new global initiatives at BRICS and G7 Summits, respectively

ects in Angola, a modular nuclear reactor plant in Romania and a port linking Christmas Island with the rest of the world.

However, up until now, little has been heard of 'Build Back Better World' since last year, while in January the EU launched its own infrastructure fund for developing countries, called the 'Global Gateway', aiming to mobilise \$53 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027. Initially, EU declared that this fund would work alongside 'Build Back Better World', and not be a rival. The UK, outside the EU, launched its own infrastructure project called the 'Clean Green Initiative'. There are reports that Japan is planning to raise \$65bn over the same period for regional connectivity, though this fund/project has not been christened, yet.

All these various funds, though uniquely targeted against China have just created confusion for the politicians and the common man alike. Perhaps realising this Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor in his speech June 26, implicitly acknowledged the confusion, saying there were advantages if the G7 countries showcased their offers under a common roof.

It is reported that Biden, the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, and the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, met in November at COP26 in Glasgow to evaluate their differing projects, and whether by duplicating their efforts they were weakening what they were offering to

poor countries. However, it does not appear from the statements that the funds are being fully merged into one funding stream, but instead are being more closely coordinated.

The Guardian quoted Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser and an important member of the project, saying at an event hosted by the Centre for a New American Security last week that the US-initiated partnership will cover global infrastructure, physical health and digital infrastructure and will provide "an alternative to what the Chinese are offering." "We intend for this to be one of the hallmarks of the Biden administration foreign policy over the remainder of his tenure," he said.

On its part China has criticised the initiative as based on a "zero-sum game approach". The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, said the relevant initiative from the US side ignores the desire of all countries for common development and win-win co-operation. Though the avowed aim of the G7 Summit was to discuss, among other issues, the war in Ukraine and ways to stabilise energy markets and lessen dependence on Russian gas and oil, the announcements made seem very little, apart from moral support to Ukraine. The G7 leaders heard the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and promised him more arms, four of the G7 nations moved to ban imports of Russian gold from June 26 onwards to tighten the sanction squeeze on Moscow and

cut off its means of financing the invasion of Ukraine. However, metal analysts say this may not have a bearing on the international prices of gold, as they have held the same level since May last year.

The common denominator at these two high-level summits was the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This underlines the importance, which both China and the US attach to India currently. It is majorly due to its independent and realistic foreign policy, that the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi praised India for calling out the West at the GlobSec 2022 Bratislava Forum, earlier this month, where Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar had said that New Delhi and Beijing can manage their bilateral relationship on their own, and stressed the need for the world to come out of its Eurocentric mindset.

India so far, has neither endorsed the Chinese president's GPI nor has commented so far on Biden's new initiative. It continues to pursue a completely independent international foreign and trade policy and due to its geo-political and economic importance, and its unwavering stand has endeared it to both the blocs, and both seem to be courting it seriously.

Meanwhile, June 28, the US announced a new alliance for the Pacific including Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the UK to boost economic and security ties with the Pacific island nations. Also, on the heel of the G7 summit, the NATO summit, to be held in Madrid this week, will for the first time include the top leaders of four Asia-Pacific countries, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, and also for the first time, the bloc will identify China in its new strategic concept, a key document on NATO's future security trial and military development will be adopted at the summit.

This underlines India's central role in the new thrust for the Indo-Pacific by the Western nations led by the US and if India plays its cards well, it could translate into benefits for the country in both defence and economic and trade areas.

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

\$5 trillion economy: When & how

The Prime Minister while addressing the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort August 15, 2019 set a target of making India an economic power house by reaching the milestone of \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025. We were at \$2.83 trillion as on FY2020 so we needed to grow by nearly 100% in dollar terms in the next five years. Doubling of the Indian economy has happened in past in less than five years. In fact, this has happened in four years' time between 2003-04 and 2007-08 when we became \$1trillion economy for the first time.

So, another doubling in five years' time initially did not seem to be impossible. But then came the pandemic and with that the lockdowns and closure of factories and other establishments. With the government support like Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme and a nationwide massive vaccination programme and several other measures things started looking up in recent past. But the nascent recovery got another setback when Russia invaded Ukraine. This has prompted downgrades in growth forecast for the global economy including India's.

Policy makers have therefore shifted the goalpost by another two

years to 2027. If we become a \$5 trillion economy in five years from now it will provide an occasion to rejoice for the entire nation. It's going to happen for sure in this decade but the question is when and how.

A lot depends on the external and internal factors. A prolonged mild recession in the US can impact India's growth prospects, according to NOMURA. With protectionism gaining ground, India's exports may get affected. India's trade deficit has widened sharply to a record high of \$24.29 billion in May 2022 compared to \$6.53 billion gap a year ago. Imports have increased by 62.80% amid a surge in value of purchased petroleum and crude oil on the back of soaring commodity prices. At the same time, exports have risen by 20.6% to \$38.94 billion; but falling for the second straight month as geopolitical concerns surrounding the Ukraine have badly hurt shipments. The continuation of inflationary forces has forced the monetary policy authority to take strong measures. All this will have a bearing on our growth prospects.

We need a massive fiscal support of investments in the range of \$300 billion or so every year on roads, railways, airports, water-

ways, ports, gas and transport. We simply don't have the budgetary support for the infrastructure-led push for faster GDP growth. In Budget 2022-23, out of the total amount \$39.44 trillion/\$525 billion envisaged to be spent, the amount earmarked for infrastructure sector is \$7.5 trillion/\$100 billion. So the remaining \$200 billion need to come from private sector. How we are placed on this front? As of now the so-called animal spirit in the entrepreneurs is a bit low. The investment environment is sensitive to policy and regulatory initiatives.

Investors, both domestic and external, want improvement in the ease of doing business, deep going reforms in land, labour and capital markets. Another disturbing development is the recent trend of migration of HNIs (high net worth individuals) to advanced countries. According to a new survey carried out by 2018 Henley Global Citizen Report, which follows private wealth and investment migration trends globally, as many as 8000 HNIs are predicted to leave India in 2022. Strict tax rules and reporting requirements in India as well as the need for stronger passports remain the primary factors driving the migration. More and more young

entrepreneurs are exploring global business and investment prospects while demonstrating an ever-increasing risk appetite, according to the report. While the old industrialist base remains intact, the tech savvy, more ambitious young generation seems eager to diversify a portion of their wealth in countries that provide a majority of benefits and low tax rates. Besides, the charm of a higher standard of living, including better education and health facilities for family also drives the migration. The EU as well as the traditional favourites - Dubai and Singapore - are gaining popularity among Indians.

Notwithstanding the above we continue to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world; sometimes the fastest growing economy! We have weathered many storms in the past. With focus on Atmanirvar Bharat and on creation of an investor friendly ecosystem things are improving. So even if the goalpost has to be shifted it may not go too far and we are going to be \$5 trillion economy during 2020s.

The writer is a senior adviser, Indian Banks' Association. Views are personal.

Looming stagflation

Sir, Stagflation is characterised by slow economic growth and relatively high unemployment. India is facing a severe crisis in the present situation. Economists have been circulating various theories to provide a plausible explanation of why the capitalist economy around the world is sinking in an insurmountable crisis triggered by sustained shrinkage of market. Earlier, in the parlance of bourgeois economics, certain terms were coined to denote specific features of the economy. Also were provided various theories to link those terms to indicate the state of the economy at various points of time. For example, the term stagnation is defined as a condition of slow or flat growth in an economy when real economic growth (an inflation-adjusted measure that reflects the value of all goods and services, i.e. GDP produced by an economy in a given year expressed in base-year prices) is less than 2 per cent annually coupled with high unemployment and involuntary part-time employment or underemployment. It is also called recession as people lose buying power to acquire goods which are then either stockpiled or not produced at all. On the other hand, inflation is described as the decline of purchasing power of a given currency over time, or broadly rises in the general level of prices. Most commonly used inflation indices are the Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index. Creating job opportunities only can solve this problem which this market economy can't do according to the law.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Perils of fractured mandate

Sir, Democracy is the magic of numbers. The party or the leader who enjoys majority wins in the battlefield of democracy. But, fractured mandate is unwholesome and undesirable in politics. Sometimes, various political parties having different ideologies come together reluctantly to form a coalition government because of political necessity. The glaring example is the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra. What is going to happen in Maharashtra's politics in coming days is anybody's guess. The founding fathers of our Constitution did not envisage the perils of a fractured mandate. At that time, one party always ruled the roost. But, now, the scenario is totally different. A coalition government ensues political instability. It falls like playing cards because of its clash of ideologies. The worst sufferers are the public and the government institutions. Political stability is essential for maintaining growth, robust economy, social harmony and overall prosperity of the state.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR



**of the day quote**

**Akhilesh** himself should clarify that so far he has not won a single election  
**OM PRAKASH RAJBHAR** | SAMAJWADI PARTY ALLY

**BJP's modus operandi** across the country is to suppress the voice of the Opposition by attacking them  
**AMIT PATKAR** | CONGRESS' GOA UNIT PRESIDENT

**The country is** now going through inflation, unemployment and an absence of recourse for the people have made life difficult and that's what prompted me to accept the candidature. I am starting from Kerala  
**YASHWANT SINHA** | OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

**SHORT TAKES**

**Girl gangraped, killed; 7 arrested**

**Lakhimpur Kheri (UP):** A 13-year-old girl was allegedly raped by four men and strangled to death in the presence of and collusion with her elder sister in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, police said Wednesday. The police have arrested seven people -- the four who allegedly raped the girl in a sugarcane field, her elder sister and two other men who stood guard during the commission of the crime -- Superintendent of Police of Lakhimpur Kheri district Sanjiv Suman told reporters. The accused are aged between 18 and 19 years.

**TN teen forced to donate ovarian eggs**

**Chennai:** A 16-year-old girl who was forced to donate her oocytes, or ovary egg cells, by her mother and her stepfather attempted suicide Wednesday, police said. The girl, who is lodged in a shelter home after the police arrested her mother, stepfather and two others for the forcible donation, attempted suicide by drinking floor cleaner, but was rushed to Erode government medical college hospital and her condition is now stable.

**Hybrid terrorist held**

**Srinagar:** A hybrid terrorist of the LeT was arrested from Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora in a joint operation by security forces Wednesday, police said. Police said that acting on specific input, police, along with army and the CRPF, held the hybrid terrorist at a joint checkpoint established at Papchan area of Bandipora, and seized a Chinese grenade which he had kept inside the boot of his two-wheeler.

**Mumbai most expensive Indian city for expatriates; HK tops globally: Survey**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 29:** Mumbai is the costliest city in India for expatriates, in terms of both living expenses and accommodation costs, followed by New Delhi. However, these two metro cities are cost-effective globally, according to a survey. While Pune at number 201 and Kolkata at 203 are the least expensive Indian cities in the ranking, it noted. However, globally these Indian cities are among the most cost-effective places for the expatriates, it added. Globally, Hong Kong ranked the most expensive city to live in followed by Zurich, Geneva, Basel and Bern in Switzerland, Tel Aviv in Israel, New York in the US, Singapore, Tokyo in Japan and Beijing in China. The Cost of Living survey by Mercer was conducted in March 2022, and this



year's ranking compares the prices of more than 200 commodities, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment in 227 cities spread across five continents. Further, the survey found that Mumbai -- financial hub of India -- is popular for multinational corporations to establish operations. Organisations are, however, also considering other low-cost areas

like Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune due to the higher cost of living in Mumbai, it revealed. Among the accessed Indian cities, Kolkata has the lowest cost of daily necessities such as milk, breads, vegetables among others, while Mumbai and New Delhi have the highest costs. In terms of energy, it found that phone costs among others, the cost of home utilities is highest in Mumbai and lowest in Chennai and Hyderabad, while watching a movie in Mumbai is most expensive whereas Hyderabad is the cheapest. The survey found that Hyderabad had the cheapest housing of all the places examined in India when evaluating the country's housing market. However, Hyderabad is more expensive than Pune and Kolkata when both cost of living and housing are taken into account.



**The Prime Minister's 'Gabbar Singh Tax' has now taken a formidable shape of 'Grihasthi Sarvnaash Tax' (household destruction tax)**  
**RAHUL GANDHI** | CONGRESS LEADER

**Sebi penalises NSE, Chitra, 16 others**

*The case relates to the alleged differential access given to certain broking firms in the form of 'dark fibre' at NSE, to connect across the co-location facilities before other members*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 29:** Sebi has imposed a penalty totalling ₹44 crore on 18 entities, including National Stock Exchange (NSE), its business development officer Ravi Varanasi, former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna and her adviser Subramanian Anand along with certain stock brokers in the 'dark fibre' case. Apart from NSE and its former officials, others penalised by Sebi are stock brokers --Way2Wealth Brokers and GKN Securities-- Sampark Infotainment and their respective employees. The regulator has imposed a penalty of ₹7 crore on NSE, ₹5 crore each on Ramkrishna, Varanasi and Subramanian Anand, who was Group Operating Officer and adviser to then MD Ramkrishna. Also, Sebi levied a fine of ₹1 crore each on Nagendra Kumar SRVS and Deviprasad Singh. Further, Sebi has slapped a fine of ₹6 crore on Way2Wealth Brokers, ₹5 crore on



GKN Securities and ₹3 crore on Sampark Infotainment. They have been asked to pay the penalty amount within 45 days, according to a Sebi order passed Tuesday. The case relates to the alleged differential access given to certain broking firms in the form of 'dark fibre' at NSE, to connect across the co-location facilities before other members. A dark fibre or unlit fibre, with respect to network connectivity, refers to an already laid but unused or passive optical fibre, which is not connected to active electronics and does not have other data flowing through them and available for use in fibre-optic communication. The regulator initiated a probe with respect to the dealings of the several entities, for the period 2009

to 2016 in the matter of providing connectivity to certain stock brokers by NSE in a manner which may be detrimental to the investors or the securities market. In its order, Sebi found that Sampark arranged the cabling in the co-location rack of NSE in such a manner that some stock brokers, Way2Wealth Brokers and GKN Securities, had lower latency compared to other trading members connected to Sampark Multiplexer. Such an unfair advantage available with certain stock brokers was in contradiction to various regulations. Further, NSE was charged for granting preferential treatment to W2W and GKN and depriving the same to other stock brokers by facilitating laying of

**MALEGAON BLAST TRIAL**

**Prosecution witness fails to recognise accused Purohit**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 29:** A licensed arms dealer, who had allegedly sold ammunition to Lt Col Prasad Purohit, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, Wednesday refused to support the prosecution on certain aspects of his statement given to Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). He also failed to recognize Purohit in the court. Before this, 20 witnesses had turned hostile during the trial where BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur is the prime accused. The latest witness in his statement to the ATS had said that Purohit had visited his arms shop in 2006 for purchasing ammunition. Purohit was carrying a licensed weapon when he visited the shop, the witness had allegedly told the ATS, adding he sold ammunition to Purohit once. But during his deposition before the special National Investigation Agency court on Wednesday, the witness didn't confirm some parts of his statement to the ATS, a prosecution lawyer said. The witness failed to recognise Purohit in the court and also the weapon shown to him. He was afraid that if he did not give a statement as told by the ATS he would be in trouble, the witness claimed. Six people were killed and over 100 injured September 29, 2008, after an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque at Malegaon town in Nashik district, located about 200 kilometres from Mumbai. Besides Purohit and Lok Sabha MP Pragya Singh Thakur, other accused are Shudakar Diwedi, Major Ramesh Upadhyay (retired), Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, Sudhakar Chaturvedi and Sameer Kulkarni, all of whom are out on bail.

**VENUGOPAL AGREES TO CONTINUE AS A-G**

Senior advocate K K Venugopal has agreed to continue as the Attorney General for India for three more months following a request by the central government, government sources said Wednesday. His present one-year term was to end June 30



**IAF receives over 2L applications in 6 days**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 29:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received over two lakh applications under the Agnipath recruitment scheme within six days of launch of the registration process, the defence ministry said Wednesday. The registration process that began June 24 had seen filing of 94,281 applications by Monday and 56,960 applications till Sunday. After the scheme was unveiled June 14, violent protests against it rocked several states for nearly a week, and several opposition parties demanded its rollback. Defence Ministry Spokesperson A Bharat Bhushan Babu said on Twitter, "2,01,000+ aspirants have registered to become AgniveerVayu. Last date to get

on board: July 5, 2022." Under the Agnipath scheme, youths between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year-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 such as 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 inducted under the Agnipath scheme will be known -- will be accorded priority in induction into state police forces.

**'Twitter handle that flagged Zubair's 2018 tweet deleted'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 29:** The Twitter account that alerted Delhi Police regarding Alt news co-founder Mohammed Zubair's 'objectionable' post no longer exists on the social media platform. As per the FIR copy of the case, accessed by IANS, the account, Hanuman Bhakt, bore the username @balajikijain. Zubair, 33, is currently in police custody and is being questioned over one of his objectionable tweets which he posted in 2018. After Zubair's tweet, his followers on social media amplified and created a series of debates and hate mongering in the thread. According to the FIR, Zubair had used a screengrab of an old Hindi movie which showed an image of a hotel, with its board reading 'Hanuman hotel' instead of 'Honeymoon hotel'. In his tweet, Zubair had

written: "BEFORE 2014: Honeymoon Hotel. After 2014: Hanuman Hotel". The complainant -- Twitter user @balajikijain, tagging the Delhi Police had written: "Linking our God Hanuman Ji with Honeymoon is a direct insult of Hindus because he is a brahmchari. Kindly take action against this." Noting the complaint, the police in the FIR said that the words and pictures used by Zubair in the tweet against a particular community were highly provocative and more than sufficient to incite feelings of hatred among people which can be detrimental for maintenance of public tranquility in the society. Interestingly, it was the only tweet that was done from the said account which ultimately led to Zubair's arrest. The issue of the said Twitter account's veracity also surfaced during Zubair's hearing Tuesday.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

**e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIBBS 2022054, Dated : 20.06.2022**  
**NAME OF WORK: CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE OF SPAN 72M BOW STRING GIRDER WITH RCC DECK SLAB & LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) OF SIZE 4.00 x 2.50 M AT RAILWAY KM. 292/13-15 IN LIEU OF LC NO. 118 BETWEEN RANITAL-BHADRAK SECTION ON HOWRAH-CHENNAI MAIN LINE UNDER KHARAK ROAD DIVISION.**  
**Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1569.14 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 9.34,600/-, Completion Period of the Work : 18 (Eighteen) Months.**  
**Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 hrs. of 21.07.2022.**  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>  
**Note :** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.  
The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B/G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.  
**Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ PR-34/CF/22-23** Bhubaneswar

**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote**  
e-mail: eerwukt@gmail.com & eerwukt@gmail.com  
**Letter No.1292**  
**Date: 28.06.2022**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
1. Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total No. of Works: 13 (Thirteen) Nos. 3. Approx. Estimated Cost: Varies from 5.31 Lakhs to 84.96 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: "A", "B", "C" & "D" Class of Contractor. 5. Period of Completion: As per TCN.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote	Online Tender/ 02/RWD-UKT/ 2022-23	04.07.2022 at 11.00 AM	13.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM	12.07.2022 at 01.00 PM	14.07.2022 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the Government website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
OIPR-25103/11/0005/2223 Sd/-Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
**Mujagada Branch , Branch Code-0950, Landei Sahi, Bhanjanagar, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha-761126**

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Appendix-IV) [Rule-8(1)]  
(For Immovable Properties)

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank** under the Securitisation 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 a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor in the loan accounts mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Overseas Bank** for an amount with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment.

**The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties
<b>Borrower: Sayad Abdulla, S/o.: Late Akbar Sayed, At: Raghunath Bihar, PO.: Bhanjanagar, Ganjam, Odisha/ Guarantor: Shri Nisakar Gouda, S/o.: Balaram Gouda, A/P/O: Mujagada, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha - 761132</b>	<b>₹14,74,500/-</b> as on <b>28.06.2022</b> + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment	<b>15.10.2019 / 28.06.2022</b>	<b>1)</b> All that part and parcel of land and building at Khata No.: 403/72 (Old No. 87), Previous Khata No.: 74 (Ga), Plot No.: 58 of KISSAM: Gharabari, Admeasuring Area: Ac.0.070 Cents., situated at Mouza: Luduludi, Bhanjanagar, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha in the name of <b>Mr. Sayad Abdulla</b> . <b>2)</b> All that part and parcel of land and building at Khata No.: 403/72 (Old No. 87), Previous Khata No.: 74 (Ga), Plot No.: 56, KISSAM: Gharabari, Admeasuring Area: Ac.0.035 Cents situated at Mouza: Luduludi, Bhanjanagar, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha in the name of <b>Mr. Sayad Abdulla</b> . <b>3)</b> All that part and parcel of land and building at Khata No.: 403/72 (Old No. 307), Plot No.: 54, KISSAM: Gharabari, Admeasuring Area: Ac.0.238 Cents situated at Mouza: Luduludi, Bhanjanagar, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha in the name of <b>Mr. Sayad Abdulla</b> .

**Place: Mujagada, Date: 29.06.2022** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank**



# Parties attend 'high tea' meet on Amarnath Yatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, June 29:** Leaders of many mainstream Jammu and Kashmir political parties Wednesday attended a "high tea" meeting with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here where smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra was discussed.

However, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti skipped the meeting.

Sinha invited heads of various political parties in the union territory for a meeting to discuss the prevailing situation including the pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, J-K BJP chief Ravinder Raina and Congress president GA Mir were among the notable leaders who attended the meeting. Talking to media persons after the meeting, the participants said the Lt Governor sought cooperation from political parties in ensuring smooth conduct of the yatra.

"The senior leaders assured the LG of their support. They said Amarnath Yatra is part of cultural heritage of Kashmir and people will make it a success," J-K BJP president Raina said.

Congress leader Mir said while the leaders assured of cooperation, they also highlighted the need to ease the restrictions along the highway, where the yatra will pass.

"We told the LG about the need to look into the stringent measures. There are emergency cases which need to be considered," Mir added.

Amarnath Yatra will begin



**The Lt Governor sought cooperation from political parties in ensuring smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra**

Thursday. Earlier, the PDP said it was strange that the office of the Lt Governor was inviting leaders for a "high tea" meeting at such a "sensitive time". "If there were something to be discussed, an agenda should have been set for the meeting," PDP chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari said.

Reacting to the invitation, Bukhari tweeted, "For a meeting in the evening that is supposed to be a serious affair, the invitation is sent in the morning. What a mockery!"

By the way what happened to the outcome of the all parties meeting chaired by @PMOIndia in which @OfficeOILGJandK and @HMOIndia was also present?"

He also said it was ironic that the security apparatus denied Mehbooba permission to visit her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's grave in Anantnag district on the same day when the administration was inviting her for the meeting.

NC chief Abdullah, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, said he received the invitation but was not informed about its agenda.

"I arrived from Delhi today only I have received the card but the agenda is not mentioned. I will go there and find out what is it all about," he said. The Congress also lamented that no agenda was fixed for the meeting.

## Woman commits suicide with three minor daughters

AGENCIES

**Tikamgarh, June 29:** A 25-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a well along with her three minor daughters in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh Wednesday, police said.

The incident occurred at Muhara village, some 45 km from the district headquarters, under Jatara police station limits in the early hours of the day, an official said.

According to the family members, the woman, Ramdevi Kushwaha, went missing with her three daughters, aged nine months to five years, Tuesday evening, Jatara police station in-charge Trivendra Trivedi said.

Following a search, the bodies of the woman and children were found in a well at a nearby field Wednesday morning, he said.

It is suspected that the woman jumped into the well along with her daughters. She took the extreme step due to a family dispute, the official said.

## UDAYPUR BEHEADING

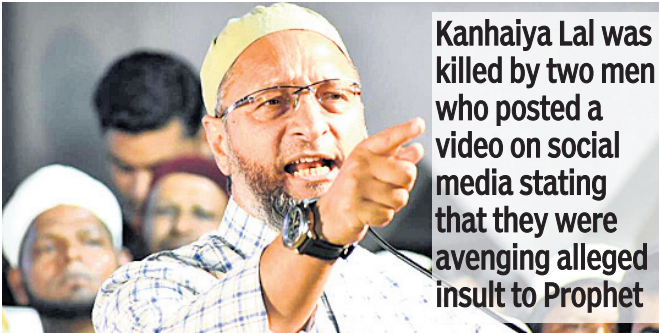
# Owaisi blames Rajasthan cops

AGENCIES

**Bhopal, June 29:** AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi Wednesday said the killing of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal as well as past killings of Pehlu Khan, Mohammad Akhlaq and Mohammed Bhatta Sheikh were all "acts of terror" and blamed the Rajasthan police for not acting in time on Lal's complaint.

Kanhaiya Lal was killed by two men who posted a video on social media stating that they were avenging alleged insult to Islam. "Udaipur incident would not have happened had Rajasthan police been alert. I read in the media that Kanhaiya Lal was receiving threats after he was arrested and released on bail," the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader said here.

When a person in Hyderabad issued threats to suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, Telangana police arrested him, Owaisi pointed out. The killing of Kanhaiya Lal, and past incidents



**Kanhaiya Lal was killed by two men who posted a video on social media stating that they were avenging alleged insult to Prophet**

where 'videos of the barbaric act were shot' such as the killings of Pehlu Khan, Mohammad Akhlaq and Mohammad Bhatta were all "acts of terror" and showed that radicalization is increasing in society, he added.

Pehlu Khan was killed by an alleged cow vigilante mob in 2017 in Rajasthan's Alwar district, while Akhlaq was killed by a mob in Uttar Pradesh's Dadri in 2015. Mohammad Bhatta Sheikh, a migrant labourer from West Bengal,

was killed in Rajasthan's Rajasamand district in 2017. Asked about the threats issued to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Kanhaiya Lal's killers in a video, Owaisi said, "It is condemnable. Modi is our prime minister. We might have ideological differences with Modi but this doesn't mean that he can be threatened."

The AIMIM leader also reiterated his demand that Nupur Sharma be arrested, saying she should face trial in a court of law for her alleged objectionable remarks.

# Amarnath Yatra symbol of communal harmony: NC

*The 43-day annual pilgrimage is scheduled to commence Thursday from the twin base camps, traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Anantnag and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, after a break of two years following the outbreak of coronavirus*

AGENCIES

**Jammu, June 29:** Welcoming pilgrims intending to visit the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in Jammu and Kashmir, senior

National Conference leader Rattan Lal Gupta Wednesday said the yatra is a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood and the safety and security of the yatra should be the priority focus

of the administration.

The 43-day annual pilgrimage is scheduled to commence Thursday from the twin base camps, traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Anantnag and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, after a break of two years following the outbreak of coronavirus.

"It is a unique pilgrimage performed by the people of one faith and facilitated by the people of another faith," Gupta, who is Jammu provincial president of the National Conference, said in a statement here.

He said while this speaks a lot about the unity in diversity of this great nation it is a matter of pride for Jammu and Kashmir and its people that despite all odds and turbulence for over three decades the people here continue to demonstrate the highest degree of hospitality to one and all irrespective of caste, colour, creed, religious or regional affiliations, that commenced from time immemorial.

"The pilgrimage is a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood among different communities," he said.

# Man kills father over petty dispute

AGENCIES

**Jabalpur, June 29:** A 25-year-old man allegedly killed his father over a petty dispute and was caught while transporting the body in a plastic sack in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district, police said Wednesday.

The police intercepted the accused, who was on a motorcycle, in Maharajpur locality Tuesday and the latter claimed that he was transporting vegetables in the sack, Panagar police station in-charge R K Soni said.

Aman Vanshkar was taking

the body of his father Ramlal (50) for disposal to an isolated area, and was arrested when the police checked vehicles at a crossing in Maharajpur, he said.

The policemen asked the accused to open the sack to examine the contents and were taken aback to find the dead body, he said.

The accused revealed that he had strangled his father, after the latter had allegedly started abusing him in an inebriated state, the official said.

The killing had taken place Barjhaiya village under Panagar police station limits, he added.

# 2 LeT ultras killed in J&K encounter

*Police said the encounter is 'very close' to a route used in the Amarnath Yatra, which is scheduled to begin Thursday, after a two-year hiatus*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, June 29:** Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, police said.

Security forces had launched a cordon and search operation at Nawapora in Mir Bazaar area of Kulgam following information about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

The two neutralised terrorists have been identified as local members of proscribed terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, Kashmir Zone Police said. Police also said the encounter is 'very close' to a route used

in the Amarnath Yatra, which is scheduled to begin Thursday.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including one AK 47 rifle and a pistol was recovered from the site of encounter, police added.

The official said the search operation turned into an encounter in which two militants were killed.

"Both the killed #terrorists have been identified as #categorised local terrorists of proscribed #terror outfit LeT. Again an important #encounter as the operation site was very close to NHW (#Yatra route)," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar tweeted.



## TRIP TO CAVE TEMPLE



An Army personnel keeps vigil as a convoy of the first batch of Amarnath Yatra 2022 pilgrims leaves for Kashmir, in Jammu, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

# Mango that sells at ₹2.5L a kg being grown in Jabalpur

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jabalpur, June 29:** You may be surprised to hear that a variety of mango is sold at Rs 2.5 lakh per kg, but it's a fact. A mango lover here in Madhya Pradesh is growing such a mango that is priced in Japan at Rs 2.5 lakh per kg.

Sankalp Singh of Jabalpur has two orchards spread over 12.5 acre land in which mangoes are being grown. In both these orchards, he has planted different types of mango saplings. There are varieties from 'Hapus' mango to Japan's 'Taiyo No Tamago'. Its specialty is that this mango is sold in Japan for up to Rs 2.5 lakh per kg.

Sankalp Singh took up horticulture in 2013. After that he focused on mango cultivation, at present there are more than 24 varieties of trees in his orchards. He had found a tree of the 'Taiyo No Tamago' variety of Japan while travelling. "The variety of 'Taiyo No Tamago' mango is attractive in appearance as well. I offered the first fruit to Baba Mahakal. This mango weighs an



**Though 'Taiyo No Tamago' is priced at Rs 2.5 lakh per kg in Japan, in India it has not got this price so far**

average of 900 grams. This is the reason that a large number of people come to my orchard to see this mango," he says.

"Earlier it was a difficult task for me to protect this mango during the night. That's why I kept 12 dogs to

guard at night. But now I have kept security guards during the day, despite this there is a fear of mango theft," he adds. Though 'Taiyo No Tamago' is priced at Rs 2.5 lakh per kg in Japan, in India it has not got this price so far. "This mango is expensive and only financially capable people can buy it, yes it has been sold up to Rs 50,000 a kg in the country too. I also run a restaurant here and these mangoes are the centre of attraction for the people who come here," Sankalp Singh says.

# Five-year-old boy falls into borewell, rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal/Chhatarpur, June 29:** A five-year-old boy who had fallen into an open borewell was rescued safely after eight hours in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district Wednesday, officials said.

Dipendra Yadav, son of Akhilesh Yadav, a farmer, was brought out of the borewell around 10pm and rushed to a hospital for a medical check-up, the state's additional chief secretary (ACS) home Dr Rajesh Rajora told PTI.

The boy slipped and fell into an open borewell in his father's farm at Narayanpura Patharpur village, located near the district headquarters, around 2pm.

After digging a parallel pit up to a depth of 28 feet, the rescuers got access to the borewell shaft through a tunnel, Rajora said.

The boy was stuck at a depth of 30 feet.

Heavy rains hampered the rescue operation but rescuers had covered the borewell's opening to prevent the entry of rainwater, an official said.

The district administration had



also lowered a camera and oxygen pipe in the shaft and the child's movements were seen in the footage, Chhatarpur collector Sandeep JR said.

An Army team comprising two officers, two junior commissioned officers and 23 jawans, besides National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) teams helped in the rescue operation, Rajora said.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had directed the chief secretary, his principal secretary and the collector of Chhatarpur to make all necessary arrangements to rescue the child, an official said.



Killing of a tailor in Udaipur is a big example on the manner in which law and order has collapsed in Rajasthan under the Ashok Gehlot government

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

Delhi government will now make public transport more comfortable and world-class. We will focus on integrating and modernising the transport sector and making it at par with international standards

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Violence and extremism are unacceptable, no matter what! I strongly condemn what happened in Udaipur. As law takes its own course of action, I urge everyone to maintain peace

MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

■ **BJP leader booked in dowry case in UP**

**Badaun (UP):** A BJP leader has been booked on charges of dowry harassment and beating up his wife in Badaun district, police said Wednesday. A case has been registered against Atif Nizami at the Sadar Kotwali police station here allegedly for beating his wife for a car. Badaun Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Praveen Singh Chauhan said that Kahkashan Fatima, wife of Nizami, the regional vice president of the BJP Minority Cell, in her complaint to the police alleged that Nizami and his mother tortured her for not getting a car as dowry.

■ **Two die after consuming liquor**

**Patna:** Two persons died in mysterious circumstances after allegedly consuming liquor in Vishambharpur Pathra village under Darlapur block in Bihar's Saran district. The deceased have been identified as Bhola Mahto and Dwarka Mahto. The family members of the deceased claimed that they had consumed liquor Tuesday evening and their health deteriorated in the night. The family members of the victims immediately took them to a primary health centre in Darlapur where doctors declared Bhola Mahto dead on arrival.

■ **Assam floods: Sena rebels donate ₹51L**

**Mumbai:** As they prepare to leave a Guwahati five-star hotel for their home-state, the rebel group of Shiv Sena MLAs Wednesday spared a thought for the victims of the raging floods in Assam. Rebel leader and Minister Eknath Shinde announced a contribution of ₹51 lakh to the Assam Chief Minister Relief Fund on behalf of all the Sena MLAs and his supporters camping there.

■ **Fire guts chemical godown in Delhi**

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at a chemical godown in the national capital in the wee hours of Wednesday, a fire department official said. However, no injuries or casualties were reported. The official informed that they received a call about the fire incident at 3.05 a.m. in a chemical factory at MangolPuri Industrial Area Phase 1 in west Delhi after which as many as 20 fire tenders were pressed into the service.

■ **Two held for raping minor**

**Mathura (UP):** Two youths accused of raping a minor girl, filming the act and sharing it online were arrested here, police said Wednesday. Two more accused in the case are absconding, they said.



All ports should prepare a master plan in order to become mega ports by 2047  
SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER OF SHIPPING & WATERWAYS

**FIRST INDIGENOUS mRNA COV VAX GETS DCGI APPROVAL**

The apex drug regulator Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved India's first indigenously developed mRNA vaccine against Covid-19. The vaccine has been given approval for restricted emergency use for those aged 18 years and above



**UDAIPUR KILLING**

**Police in northwest ban public gatherings, suspend internet**

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, June 29:** Fearing outbreaks of religious violence, police in the Indian state of Rajasthan banned public gatherings and suspended Internet services a day after two Muslims posted a video claiming responsibility for slaying a Hindu tailor in the city of Udaipur.

Two suspects were being interrogated by federal investigators Wednesday, while state police were on guard against any unrest in the northwestern state.

"We are under strict orders to prevent any form of protests or demon-



People raise slogans during the funeral procession of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur

PTI PHOTO

strations scheduled to condemn the murder," Hawa Singh Ghumaria said, a senior police officer in Rajasthan said, adding that the crime had sent "shockwaves through the country."

Brandishing a meat cleaver, two bearded men said in the video that they were avenging an insult to Prophet Mohammad caused by the victim.

They also alluded to Nupur Sharma, a former spokeswoman for the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose remarks about the Prophet earlier this month triggered domestic and international outrage.

Home Minister Amit Shah said in a tweet that federal police had taken over the investigation into "the brutal murder" of Kanhaiya Lal, giving the victim's full name. "The involvement of any or-

ganisation and international links will be thoroughly investigated," Shah said. Two assailants slashed Kanhaiya's head and throat in an attack while the tailor was taking measurements, according to Bhawarlal Thoda, a city administrator in Udaipur.

According to Thoda, the tailor had been detained over a social media post in support of the BJP spokeswoman that was traced to his mobile telephone, and that after being released Kanhaiya Lal had told police June 15 that he was being threatened by some group.

A traders' body supported by the VHP and other Hindu groups has announced that markets in Jaipur will remain closed Thursday.

The call was given by the Sanyukt Vyapar Mahasangh which is supported by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and other Hindu groups.

**Karnataka sisters stripped, assaulted for not repaying loan**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, June 29:** In a shocking incident, two sisters were stripped and assaulted at their residence in the limits of Sarjapur police station on the outskirts of Bangalore. More shockingly, it is alleged that the police refused to lodge a complaint for two days. It was only after public outrage that the complaint was lodged.

The police Wednesday arrested accused persons Ramakrishna Reddy and Sunil Kumar for the assault.

The incident took place in Doddabommasandra in Anekal taluk. The complaint was lodged against Ramakrishna Reddy and Sunil Kumar and Indramma. The third accused is yet to be arrested.



According to the complaint, one of the victims had taken a loan of ₹1 lakh at an exorbitant 30 per cent interest for the education of her children from Ramakrishna Reddy, a resident of Neriga village near Doddabommasandra.

However, she was asked to repay the entire loan amount at once. The villagers had brokered an agreement that once they sell their land, the victim would repay the loan amount.

Despite this, the accused barged into their residence and assaulted and stripped the victims. They had approached Sarjapur police station in connection with the incident.

**VICE PRESIDENT POLL**

**Oppn, ruling party to pick candidates**

*The ruling party has no dearth of candidates but the opposition has to field a joint candidate in the election to challenge the BJP as the numbers are stacked in favour of the latter*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 29:** As the Election Commission announced the schedule for the Vice President poll, the ruling BJP-led NDA and the opposition will have to pick candidates in July itself.

The ruling party has no dearth of candidates but the opposition has to field a joint candidate in the election to challenge the BJP as the numbers are stacked in favour of the latter.

Incumbent Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu could be given a second term while West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Thakur, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Jammu Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha are said to be front runners from the ruling camp. But as of now there has been no official deliberations for the post, sources said.

Though opposition has not discussed the issue but sources said that they will field a joint candidate for the post, however, the opposition has very less chance since in this election the voters are mem-



bers of Parliament and the BJP has huge mandate in the lower house while in the upper house it is the single largest party having more than 95 seats.

Sources say that in view of the political turmoil in the Maharashtra, someone from the state could be fielded from the opposition camp. The opposition in the Presidential election has fielded Yashwant Sinha but not all the opposition parties are on board yet.

In the last election, the opposition fielded Gopalkrishna Gandhi but he lost to Venkaiah Naidu. This time also Gandhi's name was proposed for the Presidential candidate but he declined the offer.

Venkaiah Naidu in 2017 polled 516 votes defeating the opposition's Gopalkrishna Gandhi, who could manage only 244 votes.

The Election Commission Wednesday announced the Vice Presidential election which is scheduled to be held on August 6 (Saturday). The date on which counting, if required, shall be taken on the same day, said the EC in an official statement.

**Flood situation in Assam worsens**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, June 29:** The flood situation in Assam worsened further Wednesday with 12 more people losing their lives and the number of affected people increasing to 31.5 lakh, while Silchar town in Cachar district remained under water for the last 10 days, officials said.

Eleven people died due to floods and one in a landslide, a bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. The number of affected people increased to 31.54 lakh in 26 districts, up from 24.92 lakh on the previous day. Brahmaputra, Beki, Kopili, Barak and Kuchiyara rivers were flowing above the danger level.

Most localities of Silchar town were under water with residents facing shortage of food, drinking water and medicines.

The town is submerged for the last 10 days due to breach of dyke at Bethkundi, and work is under-

**Heavy rains, landslides wreak havoc in Arunachal**

Itanagar: Incessant rains battered Arunachal Pradesh Wednesday, triggering floods and landslides that snapped connectivity and affected lives, officials said. In the last 24 hours, two more people died in landslides, while a search operation was underway for another two persons who went missing, they said.

way to repair it, Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said. Priority is being given to reach out to affected people with clean drinking water and food, while medical camps are being organised by the health department in all the 28 municipal wards in Silchar to ensure prevention of water-borne diseases.

As many as 2,675 villages in 79 revenue circles have been affected across the state, with 3,12,085 people having taken shelter in 569 relief camps. Cachar is the worst affected with 14.30 lakh people suffering, followed by Barpeta (5.49 lakh) and Nagaon (5.19 lakh). Five embankments have been breached, while 177 roads and five bridges have been damaged.

A total of 548 houses have been fully damaged, and 1,034 have been partially damaged due to the floods.



Women workers plant paddy saplings in a field, in Nadia district in West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

**Twitter gets time till July 4 to comply with all govt orders**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 29:** The government has issued a notice to Twitter to comply with all its past orders by July 4, an official source said Wednesday.

"A notice was issued on June 27 to Twitter to comply with all government orders issued till date. Twitter was issued notices earlier this month but it did not comply

with them. This is the final notice," the government source told PTI. An email query sent to Twitter elicited no response.

Twitter has been at loggerheads with the government on several occasions. On June 26, the microblogging site submitted a list of over 80 Twitter accounts and tweets that it has blocked based on a request from the government in 2021.

The request from the govern-

ment was to block multiple accounts and some tweets from the international advocacy group Freedom House, journalists, politicians and supporters of the farmers' protest.

The government source, however, said that there are several other orders, with which Twitter is yet to comply and they have been given a final deadline of July 4 for compliance.

Twitter has received over 17,000

requests from the government between January 2012 - June 2021 for taking down Twitter accounts and tweets, out of which it has complied with only 12.2 per cent of requests. It has withheld around 1,600 accounts, and 3,800 tweets and action was taken on 6,300 items under Twitter's term of service. The government has sent most of the requests under section 69A of the IT Act.

**Police can't handcuff accused without recording reason: HC**

THE HC SAID THAT POLICE HAVE TO SEEK PERMISSION OF THE TRIAL COURT TO HANDCUFF THE UNDER TRIALS WHO ARE PRODUCED BEFORE THE TRIAL COURTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, June 29:** Awarding a compensation of ₹two lakh to an accused who was handcuffed by the police and allegedly paraded, the Karnataka High Court has said that "an accused who is arrested can normally not be handcuffed."

To ensure that the manner of arrests are recorded, the court directed the Director General of Police to make available body cameras to all the police officers enti-

tled to arrest a person, so that the manner of arrest is recorded by such cameras.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj at the Dharwad bench of the HC in his order said he issued directions on when accused persons, under trials and convicts, can be handcuffed.

"It is only under extreme circumstances that handcuffing of an accused can be resorted to. When such handcuffing is made, the arresting Officer is required to record the reasons for handcuff-



ing, which would have to sustain the scrutiny of the Court", it said.

"If no such permission is applied for and under trial prisoners were to be handcuffed, the concerned police officer would be taking a risk of such handcuffing being declared illegal and action being

taken against them," it said.

Regarding body cameras, the camera shall also be equipped with a microphone to record the conversations that take place at that particular point of time. The video recording as also audio recording shall be retained at least for a pe-

riod of one year from the date of recording."

Suprit Ishwar Divate, a law student, was returning from an exam when police arrested him in the marketplace of Ankali in Chikkodi taluk of Belagavi district. He was handcuffed and paraded and taken in a public bus to the Chikkodi police station.

In a dispute with another person, Divate was facing cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act for dishonouring cheques. Five Criminal cases had also been filed against him and a non-bailable warrant was issued against him. He was arrested in this connection.

Divate approached the HC seeking a compensation of ₹25 lakh for this act of the police. He also submitted video evidence of the act which the police themselves had

recorded.

The Arresting Officer or the prosecution failed to produce any objections to the demand made by Divate. The court therefore went ahead to award him the compensation.

However, the HC said the video does not show him being paraded in town and therefore there was no need to pay him exemplary compensation, and noted that he was also a student and the arrest was made based on a non-bailable warrant.

Therefore, "the arrest being proper; the only question being handcuffing of the petitioner not being required, I deem it fit to award a sum of ₹2 lakhs as compensation to the petitioner payable by the State within a period of six weeks," the court said.



of the day quote

NATO should give up the cold war mentality, zero-sum game and the practice of creating enemies, and not to try to mess up Asia and the whole world after disrupting Europe

**ZHAO LIJIAN** | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

I think, first of all, in any place around the world, it is very important that people be allowed to express themselves freely, journalists be allowed to express themselves freely and without the threat of any harassment

**STEPHANE DUAJARRIC** | SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

With nine out of 10 lung cancers caused by tobacco, we want to make smoking as unattractive as possible to protect the health of our citizens and save lives

**STELLA KYRIAKIDES** | COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY, EU

SHORT TAKES

Khan sold 3 gifted watches for ₹36mn

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan earned Rs 36 million by illegally selling three watches gifted to him by foreign dignitaries to a local watch dealer, according to a media report Wednesday. According to the details of an official inquiry shared with Geo News, Khan during his tenure as prime minister earned millions of rupees from these jewel-class watches collectively worth over Rs 154 million. The watches were gifted to him by foreign leaders.

Snap election likely in Israel

**Jerusalem:** Israel's parliament is expected to dissolve Wednesday, ending Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's year-long tenure and triggering a fifth election in less than four years that could see ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu reclaim power. Barring an 11th hour shock agreement to save the coalition or form a new government within the existing parliament, Bennett's eight-party alliance is due to end by midnight, installing Foreign Minister Yair Lapid as prime minister.

SK's 1st homemade Cov vax approved

**Seoul:** Health officials in South Korea Wednesday approved the country's first domestically developed Covid-19 vaccine for people 18 years or older, adding another public health tool in the fight against a prolonged pandemic. In clinical trials involving some 4,000 participants in South Korea and five other countries, SK Bioscience's two-dose SKYCovione vaccine appeared to be more effective than the broadly used AstraZeneca shots in building immunity against infections, officials at Food and Drug Safety Ministry said.

Over 500 escape from rehab in SL

**Colombo:** More than 500 inmates have escaped from a heavily guarded drug rehabilitation centre Wednesday in northern Sri Lanka after a suspicious death led to a breakout of violence, police said. The Kandakadu rehabilitation centre, about 250 kilometers northeast of the capital Colombo, mainly treats prisoners convicted of drug-related crimes. Nearly 1,000 people were undergoing rehabilitation at the centre, which is guarded by army troops.



Putin has become a terrorist. Daily terrorist acts, without weekends. Every day they are working as terrorists. We need to act urgently to do everything to make Russia stop the killing spree

**VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY** | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

CHOLERA CASES SPIKE IN NEPAL

Nepal has banned the sale of street food items in the Kathmandu valley in an effort to contain the spread of cholera in the capital city. The decision to ban the sale of street food items was issued by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City as 12 positive cases of cholera were reported in the area since Sunday



Ghislaine Maxwell sentenced to 20-ysr for helping Epstein

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, June 29:** Ghislaine Maxwell, the jet-setting socialite who once consorted with royals, presidents and billionaires, was sentenced to 20 years in prison Tuesday for helping the financier Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse underage girls.

The stiff sentence was the punctuation mark on a trial that explored the sordid rituals of a predator power couple who courted the rich and famous as they lured vulnerable girls as young as 14, and then exploited them.

Prosecutors said Epstein, who killed himself in 2019 while awaiting trial, sexually abused children hundreds of times over more than a decade, and couldn't have done so without the help of Maxwell, his longtime companion and onetime girlfriend who they said sometimes also participated in the abuse. In December, a jury convicted Maxwell of sex trafficking, transporting a minor to participate in illegal sex acts and two conspiracy charges.

US District Judge Alison J. Nathan, who also imposed a \$750,000 fine, said "a very significant sentence is necessary" and that she wanted to send an "unmistakable message" that these kinds of crimes would be punished.

"We will continue to live with the harm she caused us," said Annie Farmer, one of the four accusers who testified against Maxwell at trial, before the sentencing.

When she had a chance to speak, Maxwell said she empathized with the survivors and that it was her "greatest regret of my life that I ever met Jeffrey Epstein." Maxwell called him "a manipulative, cunning and controlling man who lived a profoundly compartmentalized life," echoing her defense attorneys' assertions that Epstein was the true mastermind.

NATO invites Finland, Sweden to join

Ratification in allied parliaments is likely to take up to a year, but once it is done, Finland and Sweden will be covered by NATO's Article 5 collective defence clause, putting them under the United States' protective nuclear umbrella

REUTERS

**Madrid, June 29:** NATO invited Sweden and Finland Wednesday to join the military alliance in one of the biggest shifts in European security in decades after Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed Helsinki and Stockholm to drop their traditional of neutrality.

NATO's 30 allies took the decision at their summit in Madrid and also agreed to formally treat Russia as the "most significant and direct threat to the allies' security", according to a summit statement.

"Today, we have decided to invite Finland and Sweden to become members of NATO," NATO leaders said in their declaration, after Turkey lifted a veto on Finland and Sweden joining.

"We will make sure we are able to protect all allies, including Finland and Sweden," NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said.

After four hours of talks in Madrid Tuesday, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan agreed with his Finnish and Swedish counterparts a series of security measures to allow the two Nordic countries to overcome the Turkish veto that Ankara imposed in May due to its concerns about terrorism.

Allies also agreed on NATO's first new strategic concept - its master planning document - in a decade. Russia, previously classed as a strategic partner of NATO, is now identified as NATO's main threat.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is "a direct threat to our Western way of life," Belgian Prime Minister Alexander de Croo added, citing the wider impact of the war, such as rising energy and food prices.



Both Finland, which has a 1,300 km (810 mile) border with Russia, and Sweden, home of the founder of the Nobel Peace Prize, are now set to bring well-trained militaries into the NATO, aimed at giving the alliance Baltic Sea superiority.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded in 1949 to defend against the Soviet threat. Russia's Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine gave the organisation a new impetus after failures in Afghanistan and internal discord during the era of former US President Donald Trump.

US BOLSTERS MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE

The move marks the first permanent basing of US forces on NATO's eastern edge

**Madrid:** US President Joe Biden Wednesday said the US will significantly increase its military presence in Europe for the long haul, including by establishing its first permanent presence in Poland, to bolster regional security after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Biden opened his participation in the summit by announcing the permanent basing of a US military garrison in Poland. He also said the US is sending two additional F-35 fighter jet squadrons to the UK and will send more air



defense and other capabilities to Germany and Italy. "Today I'm announcing the US will enhance our force posture in Europe and respond to the changing security environment as well as strengthening our collective security," he said. Biden said the US will permanently station the US Army V Corps forward command in Poland, a move that he said would strengthen US-NATO inter-operability across the alliance's eastern flank.

Russian missiles rain down on Ukraine as West vows support

The stepped-up attacks took place as Putin's forces make slow but inexorable progress in a conflict now in its fifth month

REUTERS

**Kyiv, June 29:** Russian forces struck at targets in the Mykolaiv area of southern Ukraine Wednesday and intensified attacks on fronts across the country as NATO members met in Madrid to plan a course of action against the challenge from Moscow.

The mayor of Mykolaiv city said a Russian missile strike killed at least three people in a residential building there, while Moscow said its forces had hit what it called a training base for foreign mercenaries in the region.

In the east, the governor of Luhansk province said there was "fighting everywhere" in the battle around the hilltop city of Lysychansk, which Russian troops were trying to encircle.

The governor of Kryvyi Rih in central Ukraine said Russian shelling had increased there too in the past few days. "Several villages have been wiped from the face of the earth," Kryvyi Rih governor Oleksander Vilkul said.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

The mayor of Mykolaiv, Oleksandr Senkevych, said eight



Russian missiles had struck the city, including hitting an apartment block. Photographs showed smoke billowing from a four-storey building with its upper floor partly destroyed.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces carried out strikes on a military training base for "foreign mercenaries" near the city and also hit eight ammo depots and a fuel dump. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said the Russians had also fired missiles at civilian infrastructure in Sumy region in the past 24

'FIGHTING EVERYWHERE' AROUND LYSYCHANSK

COMMANDER SAYS 130 RUSSIAN MISSILES HIT UKRAINE

ZELENSKY URGES SECURITY COUNCIL TO EXPEL MOSCOW FROM UN

hours, killing two civilians.

Ukrainian armed forces commander General Valery Zaluzhny said Russia had fired around 130 missiles on Ukraine within the last four days - an indication of the intensification of attacks.

Russia has denied targeting civilian areas but the United Nations says at least 4,700 civilians have been killed since Russia invaded Ukraine Feb 24.

The Moscow-imposed military-civilian administration in Kherson region said it had begun preparations for a referendum on joining Russia, Russian state news agency TASS reported.

FIGHT FOR FISH



An activist with Ocean Rebellion walks to take part in a protest outside the UN Ocean Conference against what they describe as a "war on fish", in Lisbon, Portugal

REUTERS PHOTO

Trump wanted to join Capitol riot, says ex-aide

Hutchinson testified that Trump struggled with Secret Service agents who insisted he return to the White House rather than join supporters storming the Capitol where Congress was meeting to certify Democrat Joe Biden's victory over him in the presidential election

REUTERS

**Washington, June 29:** Donald Trump tried to grab the steering wheel of his presidential limousine Jan 6, 2021, when his security detail declined to take him to the US Capitol where his supporters were rioting, a former aide testified Tuesday.

The then-president dismissed concerns that some supporters gathered for his fiery speech outside the White House that day carried AR-15-style rifles, instead asking security to stop screening attendees with metal-detecting magnetometers so the crowd would look larger, the aide testified.

"Take the effing mags away;

they're not here to hurt me," Cassidy Hutchinson, who was a top aide to Trump's then-White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, quoted Trump as saying that morning.

Hutchinson, in testimony on the sixth day of House of Representatives hearings into the deadly Jan 6 Capitol assault by Trump's followers, said the conversation was relayed to her by Tony Ornato, a senior Secret Service official who was Trump's deputy chief of staff for operations.

The New York Times and NBC, citing sources in the Secret Service, said the head of Trump's security detail, Robert Engel, and the limousine driver were prepared to tes-



tify under oath that Trump never lunged for the steering wheel. Engel was in the room when Ornato relayed the story, Hutchinson said.



"I'm the effing president. Take me up to the Capitol now," Hutchinson quoted an enraged Trump as saying. She said Trump tried from the

back seat to grab the steering wheel of the heavily armored presidential vehicle and lunged in anger at a Secret Service official.

Trump, a Republican, denied her account of his actions. "Her Fake story that I tried to grab the steering wheel of the White House Limousine in order to steer it to the Capitol Building is 'sick' and fraudulent," Trump wrote on Truth Social, his social media app.

In a statement, the Secret Service said it was cooperating fully with the committee and would continue to do so. "We learned of the new information shared at today's hearing and plan on responding formally and on the record as soon as

they can accommodate us," it added.

Hutchinson's lawyer Jody Hunt wrote on Twitter that she had "testified, under oath, and recounted what she was told. Those with knowledge of the episode also should testify under oath."

Dozens of courts, election officials and reviews by Trump's own administration rejected his fraud claims, including outlandish stories about an Italian security firm and the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's tampering with US ballots. Four people died the day of the attack, one fatally shot by police and the others of natural causes. More than 100 police officers were injured.



of the day quote

As far as the new materials business is concerned, the outlay in entire technology development, including incubation, over the next three to four years is about ₹1,200 crore

**DEBASHISH BHATTACHARJEE** | VICE-PRESIDENT, TATA STEEL

We are pleased to strengthen our network by adding frequencies on Delhi-Leh, Delhi-Srinagar and Lucknow-Pantnagar routes, catering to increased demand for travel to Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Kashmir

**SANJAY KUMAR** | CHIEF STRATEGY AND REVENUE OFFICER, INDIGO

The management of the company is now purely focused on harnessing these strengths for delivery of results. Some of the initiatives may need some time to fructify, but directionally these are for long-term and sustainable value creation

**SUVOMY SAHA** | MD, EVEREADY INDUSTRIES

SHORT TAKES

Rupee plummets to all-time low

**Mumbai:** The rupee depreciated 18 paise to close at a record low of 79.03 (provisional) against the US dollar Wednesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows, a strong dollar overseas and surge in crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 78.86 against the greenback and finally settled at 79.03, down 18 paise over its previous close. During the session, the rupee touched an all-time low of 79.05 against the American currency.

Marine exports up 30% in FY22

**New Delhi:** Exports of marine products rose 30.26 per cent to \$7.76 billion during 2021-22 as against \$5.96 billion in previous fiscal year, the commerce ministry said Wednesday. India shipped 13,69,264 MT (metric tonne) of seafood worth ₹57,586.48 crore during 2021-22. "During 2021-22, the export improved in rupee term by 31.71 per cent, in USD terms by 30.26 per cent and in quantity terms by 19.12 per cent," the ministry said in a statement.

Gupta to be next chairman of GAIL

**New Delhi:** Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Director for Finance at Indian Oil Corporation NSE 1.39 %, has been picked to head India's largest gas utility GAIL NSE 1.72 % (India) Ltd, the government headhunter said. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) selected Gupta, 56, for the post of chairman and managing director of GAIL after interviewing 10 candidates, it said in a post-interview notice. He will replace Manoj Jain, who is scheduled to retire August 31.

₹2,516cr outlay to upgrade PACS

**New Delhi:** The Centre Wednesday decided to computerise all functional 63,000 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) over the next five years with a budget outlay of ₹2,516 crore in order to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in their operations. The scheme, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will also facilitate PACS to diversify their business and undertake multiple activities and services.



We have earmarked ₹10,000 crore for investments to reduce our carbon emissions through various initiatives, such as increasing the use of renewable energy to replace thermal power, reducing fuel rate through improved raw material quality via beneficiation, and deployment of best technologies

**SAJJAN JINDAL** | CHAIRMAN, JSW STEEL

BYJU'S LAYS OFF 600

As the Indian edtech space continues to shrink considerably, online learning giant Byju's laid off at least 600 jobs - 300 from its Toppr learning platform and another 300 at coding platform WhiteHat Jr. The company spokesperson said as the next step, "we are optimising teams to recalibrate business priorities and accelerate long-term growth"

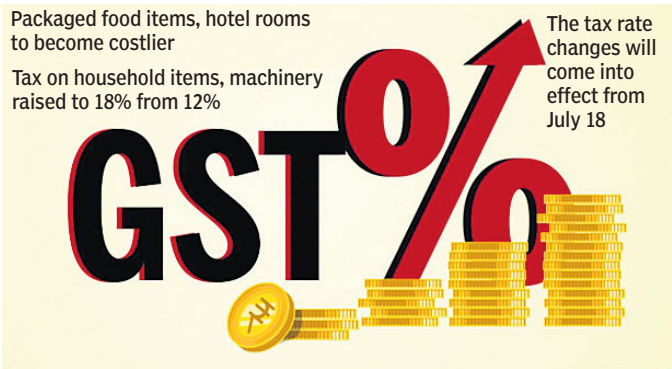


More GST burden on middle class

THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO REFER THE REPORT OF THE GoM ON CASINOS, ONLINE GAMING AND HORSE RACING BACK TO THE PANEL OF MINISTERS FOR FURTHER DELIBERATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, June 29:** Pre-packed and labelled wheat flour; papad, paneer, curd and buttermilk will be taxed at 5 per cent after the GST Council decided to stop allowing exemptions on such items while raising rates on a host of others. The GST Council, at a two-day meeting here, accepted recommendations for rate rationalisation made by different groups appointed by it, resulting in tax changes, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters. The finance minister of Goa wanted further discussions on GST rate to be applicable on casinos and in that context both online gaming and horse racing too would be relooked. The panel had recommended 28 per cent GST levy on all three activities and equalled them to gambling.



Any increase in GST rates under the rate rationalisation exercise is intended to make up for the inefficiencies in the value chain

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | FINANCE MINISTER

The report is expected to be ready by July 15 and would be taken up by the council in its next meeting in August.

The ending of exemption would mean pre-packed and labelled meat (except frozen), fish, paneer, lassi, honey, dried leguminous vegetables, dried makhana, wheat and other cereals and puffed rice (muri) will now attract a 5 per cent tax.

Similarly, an 18 per cent GST will be levied on tetra packs, fees charged by banks for the issue of cheques (loose or in book form). Maps and charts including atlases will attract a 12 per cent levy. Goods that are un-packed, unlabelled and unbranded will continue to remain exempt

from GST. Besides, a 12 per cent tax will be levied on hotel rooms costing less than ₹1,000 a day. At present, this falls under exempted category. A 5 per cent GST will be levied on hospital room rent above ₹5,000 per day (excluding ICU).

Tax rates have been raised to 18 per cent on products such as printing, writing or drawing ink; knives with cutting blades, paper knives and pencil sharpeners; LED lamps, drawing and marking out instruments. Solar water heater will now attract 12 per cent GST as compared to 5 per cent earlier.

Some services such as work contracts for roads, bridges, railways, metro, effluent treatment plants

and crematoriums too will see tax going up to 18 per cent from the current 12 per cent.

Tax has, however, been cut on the transport of goods and passengers by ropeways to 5 per cent and on ostomy appliances to 5 per cent from 12 per cent. Renting of truck, goods carriage where the cost of fuel is included will now attract a lower 12 per cent rate as against 18 per cent.

GST exemption on the transport of passengers by air to and from north-eastern states and Bagdogra has now been restricted to economy class.

Services rendered by regulators such as RBI, IRDA and SEBI will be taxed and so will be on renting of a residential dwelling to business entities. Also, electric vehicles whether or not fitted with a battery pack, are eligible for the concessional GST rate of 5 per cent.

The GST council also decided to ease process for intra-state supplies made through e-commerce portals. Now such suppliers will not have to obtain GST registration, if their turnover is lower than ₹40 lakh and ₹20 lakh for goods and services, respectively. This would come into effect from January 1, 2023.

The council has also decided to constitute a group of ministers to address various concerns raised by the states in relation to constitution of the GST Appellate Tribunal and make recommendations for appropriate amendments in CGST Act.

Sebi okays FPIs to participate in commodity derivatives market

In a significant move, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) will be allowed to trade in all non-agricultural commodity derivatives and select non-agricultural benchmark indices. Initially, FPIs will be allowed only in cash-settled contracts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 29:** Capital markets regulator Sebi Wednesday decided to allow foreign portfolio investors to participate in the exchange-traded commodity derivatives segment, a move that will further increase depth and liquidity in the market. The board of Sebi, during its meeting held Wednesday, also approved



amendments to rules governing mutual funds and portfolio managers. Further, it has cleared amendments to SECC Regulations provisions relating to Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) for clearing and settlement of corporate bond repo transactions.

In a significant move, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) will be allowed to trade in all non-agricultural commodity derivatives and select non-agricultural benchmark indices. Initially, FPIs will be allowed only in cash-settled contracts.

"The participation of FPIs in Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCD) market is ex-

pected to enhance liquidity and market depth as well as promote efficient price discovery," Sebi said in a release after the board meeting.

The regulator has already allowed institutional investors such as Category III Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), Portfolio Management Services and Mutual Funds to participate in ETCD market. The existing route, which required actual exposure to Indian physical commodities, has been discontinued. Any foreign investor desirous of participating in Indian ETCD segment with or without actual exposure to Indian physical commodities can do so through the FPI route.

Currently, foreign entities having actual exposure to Indian commodity markets, known as Eligible Entities (EEFs) are allowed to participate in the Indian commodity derivatives market. However, FPIs being financial investors with huge purchasing power were not allowed to participate in the ETCD segment.

UltraTech paying for Russian coal in Chinese yuan

REUTERS

**New Delhi, June 29:** India's biggest cement producer, UltraTech Cement, is importing a cargo of Russian coal and paying using Chinese yuan, according to an Indian customs document reviewed by Reuters, a rare payment method that traders say could become more common. UltraTech is bringing in 157,000 tonne of coal from Russian producer SUEK that loaded on the bulk carrier MV Mangas from the Russian

Far East port of Vanino, the document showed. It cites an invoice dated June 5 that values the cargo at 172,652,900 yuan (\$25.81 million).

Two trade sources familiar with the matter said the cargo's sale was arranged by SUEK's Dubai-based unit, adding that other companies have also placed orders for Russian coal using yuan payments.

The increasing use of the yuan to settle payments could help insulate Moscow from the effects of western sanctions imposed on



Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and bolster Beijing's push to fur-

Govt gives ONGC, Vedanta freedom to sell crude oil

In the present system, the government fixes the quantity each buyer will pick. This limits the scope for price negotiations and often sellers sold oil at discount



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 29:** The government Wednesday allowed firms like ONGC and Vedanta to sell locally produced crude oil to any Indian refinery for turning it into fuel, such as petrol and diesel, as it deregulated one of the last few avenues that were still under its control.

While contracts for oilfields awarded since 1999 gave producers the freedom to sell oil, the government fixed buyers for crude produced from older fields, such as Mumbai High of ONGC and Ravva of Vedanta.

Briefing reporters on the decisions taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said from October 1, the companies will have the freedom to sell crude oil in the domestic market.

This decision would mean ONGC can auction its 13-14 million tonne a year of crude oil produced from Mumbai High field to any refiner, including private sector Reliance Industries Ltd and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy.

The firm at present has to sell the Mumbai High crude oil to state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL). It could not sell the oil to its own Mangalore refinery, which had conceived a petrochemical complex on the premise that 5 million tonne of Mumbai High crude could be turned into value-added PTA and Benzene.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved 'Deregulation of Sale of Domestically Produced Crude Oil', whereby Government has decided

Cabinet to deregulate sale of locally produced crude oil from Oct 1. The ban on the export of crude oil will continue. Sellers can e-auction the crude to anyone paying the highest price

to cease allocation of crude oil and condensate with effect from October 1, 2022," an official statement said. This will ensure marketing freedom for all exploration and production (E&P) operators, it said. "The condition in the production sharing contracts (PSCs) to sell crude oil to the government or its nominee or government companies shall accordingly be waived off," the statement said. "All E&P companies will now be free to sell crude oil from their fields in the domestic market."

The government revenues like royalty and cess will continue to be calculated on a uniform basis across all contracts, it said, adding as earlier, exports will not be permissible.

The decision would allow Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to sell their domestic produce to anyone offering the most price in an e-auction.

"This decision will further spur economic activities, incentivise making investments in upstream oil and gas sector and build on a series of targeted transformative reforms rolled out since 2014," the statement said.

"The policies relating to production, infrastructure and marketing of oil and gas have been made more transparent with a focus on ease of doing business and facilitating more operational flexibility to operators/industry."

EU nations okay climate laws; fossil fuel car ban by 2035

THE DECISION TO INTRODUCE A 100 PER CENT CO2 EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET BY 2035 FOR NEW CARS AND VANS WOULD EFFECTIVELY PROHIBIT THE SALE IN THE 27-NATION BLOC OF NEW CARS POWERED BY GASOLINE OR DIESEL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brussels, June 29:** European Union countries reached a deal following hard-fought talks that dragged into early on Wednesday

to back stricter climate rules that would eliminate carbon emissions from new cars by 2035.

The 27 EU members found agreement on draft legislation aimed at slashing EU greenhouse gases by at least 55 per cent in 2030 compared with 1990 rather than by a previously agreed 40 per cent.

"A long but good day for climate action. The council's decisions on Fitfor55 are a big step towards delivering the EU Green Deal," said Frans Timmermans, the European Commission vice-president in charge of the Green Deal, after the meeting of environment ministers in Luxembourg.

The agreement on the five laws proposed by the EU's executive arm last year paves the way for final negotiations with the European Parliament. EU lawmakers are backing ambitious bloc-wide targets. Final approval of the legislative package requires the



Parliament to resolve differences with the bloc's national governments over various details.

"The council is now ready to negotiate with the European Parliament on concluding the package, thereby placing the European Union more than ever in the vanguard of fighting climate change, said Agnès Pannier-Runacher, the French

Minister for the energy transition. Europe's leading clean transport campaign group, Transport and Environment, said the EU government's agreement was "historic" as it "breaks the hold of the oil industry over transport".

Greenpeace was more skeptical, saying the 2035 deadline is too late to limit global warming to

The EU wants to drastically reduce gas emission from transportation by 2050 and promote electric cars

Transportation accounts for about 25 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the EU

In addition to the landmark agreement on cars, the package also features a reform of the EU's carbon market

The creation of a social climate fund to help vulnerable households cope with the planned clean-energy revamp was finalised

The overall goal is to put the EU on track to become climate-neutral in 2050 and to prod other major polluters, including the US and China, to follow suit

below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The deal poses a mighty challenge for German automakers, who have long relied on sales of

based currency trader said.

The sale highlights how India has maintained trade ties with Russia for commodities such as oil and coal despite the western sanctions. India has longstanding political and security ties with Russia and has refrained from condemning the attack in Ukraine, which Russia says is a "special military operation".

It was not immediately clear which bank opened a letter of credit for UltraTech and how the transaction with SUEK was executed.

increasingly big, gas-guzzling vehicles for their profits.

Following intense haggling within the three-party government, particularly between the environmentalist Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats, German officials voted in favour of the compromise overnight.

The German government said the deal will also see the Commission make a proposal that will allow cars which run exclusively on climate neutral e-fuels to continue to be sold after 2035.

"This is a huge step forward and steers the transport sector onto the path of climate neutrality," Environment Minister Steffi Lemke, said. By declaring that only cars and light utility vehicles which emit no CO2 can be sold from 2035, "we are sending a clear signal that we need to meet the climate targets. This gives the car industry the planning security it needs."



SAINA BOWS OUT OF MALAYSIA OPEN SUPER 750 BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

SINDHU, KASHYAP THROUGH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kuala Lumpur, June 29:** Two stalwarts of Indian women's badminton, PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, suffered contrasting fates at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament with the former progressing to the second round and the latter bowing out after losing her opener here Wednesday.

Sindhu, a former World Champion, dished out a fine performance to outwit Thailand's World No.10 Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-13, 21-17, but London Olympics bronze medallist Saina went down fighting against American Iris Wang, ranked 33rd in the world, 11-21, 17-21 in 37 minutes.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap also made a positive return from injury as he prevailed 21-12, 21-17 over Korea's Heo Kwang Hee to

advance to the second round in men's singles.

Sindhu, seeded seventh, will next face Phittayaporn Chaiwan, a 21-year-old from Thailand who held the number one ranking in world junior ranking and also was part of the bronze medal-winning team at the Uber Cup in Bangkok.

Kashyap, ranked World No.39, will meet Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who had won the German Open Super 300 in March. B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, who will be leading India's charge at the Commonwealth Games, couldn't get past world number 21 pairing of Robin Tabeling and Selena Piek of the Netherlands. The Indian duo lost 15-21, 19-21, 17-21 after a 52-minute battle.

Sindhu enjoys a 5-3 head-to-head record against Chochuwong, having won the last time they met, at the 2021 World Championship, and the Indian



looked in good touch against the Thai, who struggled with her lengths and finishing strokes.

The match started with the duo playing at a good pace but it was Sindhu who dictated terms with her better court coverage. Chochuwong matched Sindhu in the rallies but faltered in her finishing.

The result was Sindhu led throughout the first game after securing a 4-1 advantage early on. A tight net shot earned her a four-point cushion at the break. Sindhu's front court play was more polished than her rival and she used the smashes and attacking returns to good effect whenever there was an opportunity.

Sindhu extended her lead to 16-11 before producing an over-the-head return to grab seven game points and converted it with a smash.

After the change of sides,

Chochuwong started with two net errors before pouncing on some weak returns from Sindhu to lead 4-2. The Thai player kept gathering points with Sindhu also committing errors at the net or going wide.

It was one such long return from Sindhu which handed Chochuwong a three-point advantage at the break. Chochuwong quickly moved to 16-10 with the help of two precise returns on both sides and Sindhu also miscued her shots.

But the Indian then scripted a phenomenal recovery with a five-point burst with her rival falling into a heap of unforced errors.

With the Thai going long again, Sindhu levelled the score at 17-17 and then moved to the lead with yet another shot from Chochuwong getting buried at the nets. With the shuttle sailing out twice again, Sindhu grabbed three match points and sealed it comfortably.

Pace helps Umran get last over

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Malahide (Ireland), June 29:** Express pace was the reason India skipper Hardik Pandya asked Umran Malik to bowl the final over of the second T20I against Ireland here. Ireland took the chase of 226 to the last over but fell short by four runs as Umran defended 17 runs in the last over Tuesday.

"Not worried to be honest. Wanted to keep pressure out of my equation, wanted to be in the present. I backed Umran since he has pace. With his pace, it's difficult for people to hit," Hardik said, explaining the rationale behind giving Umran the crucial final over.

Deepak Hooda hit a blistering maiden century as India survived a scare before prevailing over their less fancied opponents in a nail-biting finish.

"I think we've come to play a game of cricket, so Ireland were going to show us what they have. Credit to them, they played amazing shots. At the same point of time, credit to our bowlers to cross the line.

"The crowd was amazing. Their favourites boys were Dinesh and Sanju, great to see them enjoy them. Good for us to experience cricket in this part of the world



too. Grateful to the fans," Hardik said to loud cheers.

Regarding the team's new faces, the skipper said, "Proud. As a child, it is everyone's dream to play for the country. At the same point of time, leading and getting first victory

and now first series win is special. Also happy for Hooda as well, the way he batted. And Umran."

Set an imposing target, Ireland showed a lot of heart and nearly pulled off what would have been a memorable victory.

Hooda opens up on his role in 2nd T20I

**MALAHIDE (IRELAND):** The big-hitting Deepak Hooda believes himself to be "a warrior" when faced with the task of tackling the new ball in conditions favourable to bowlers.

Because, according to him, there is no other option but to just face the challenges head on when batting at the top of the order. Batting at No.3, Hooda became only the fourth Indian batter to score a century in the shortest format.

"I've never opened in an international game, but being a top-order batsman, you have to cope up to the challenges and you don't have any option.

"And if you don't have any option, then why don't you go there like a warrior. That's how I think, and things turned in my way. I'm happy about that," said Hooda after the match.

With young talents bursting at

the seams, the 27-year-old all-rounder admitted that it is not easy to get into, and retain, one's place in the Indian team.

"To be honest, yes it is difficult to find a spot in the Indian team and then staying there. But at the same time when you're playing in India colours, that time you never think about yourself, you think about the team.

"That's what I think about on the ground 'How can I contribute to the team in that situation'. I don't think more than that, try to keep things simple. Yes, it's a matter of pride for me that I'm playing for India, no matter if I'm scoring or not," said Hooda.

Walking in following the dismissal of opener Ishan Kishan in the third over, Hooda smashed nine boundaries and six sixes to score his maiden T20I century.

"To be honest, the Irish team

played really well against us and we enjoyed playing against them. Between the first and second game, I think there was a difference in the pitch. In the first game, the conditions were overcast and the wicket was damp. But today the wicket was very good for batting, as is clear by the way both teams batted. So I felt the wicket was a big factor."

Hooda also revealed that a mindset change recently has helped him perform better: "Being a cricketer, what I've learnt lately is that you should not think too far ahead. How many ever series, look at it one game at a time. If my work ethic is good, I'm going to be in a good space of mind and I'm going to score, that's my thinking.

"Try to keep it simple, live in the present, play the situation well, and then automatically the outcome will come. Now or later, it will come," Hooda said.

England Test: Rohit ruled out, Bumrah to lead



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 29:** Jasprit Bumrah is set to become the first fast bowler in 35 years to lead Indian Test team in the rescheduled 'fifth Test' against England as regular captain Rohit Sharma has been ruled out of the game after testing positive for COVID-19 for the second time Wednesday.

The last pacer-captain that India had was the great Kapil Dev, who was removed from captaincy in 1987. Since then India has never had a speed merchant leading the team in traditional cricket.

"Rohit is out of this Test match, starting July 1, as his RT-PCR test has come positive again. He is still in isolation. Jasprit Bumrah, who is one of the vice-captains in absence of KL Rahul, will lead the team," a senior BCCI official told this agency on conditions of anonymity.

Bumrah will be the 36th cricketer to lead India in the longest-for-

mat since the country first played in 1932. The Gujarat pacer, who has 123 wickets in 29 Tests, has grown into world's best fast bowlers.

The Chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma had already said that he is being groomed as a future leader. Fast bowlers have not been traditionally given the job in India unlike in Pakistan where their greatest skipper was Imran Khan. Legends like Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis also led national side.

In West Indies, Courtney Walsh led the side for a considerable amount of time and World No.1 Pat Cummins now leading Australia in longest format.

Pujara, Vihari vie for 2nd opener's slot

With the experienced Rohit out of the playing eleven, seasoned Cheteshwar Pujara has a good chance of opening the batting with young Shubman Gill. The source said that Mayank Agarwal has just been brought as "cover" and is not

in the scheme of things as far featuring in the playing eleven is concerned.

It is understood that the specialist batters in the set-up will be Pujara, Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Vihari and Rishabh Pant.

The only other debatable matter is whether to play a fourth fast bowling all-rounder in Shardul Thakur or a second spinner in Ravichandran Ashwin alongside Ravindra Jadeja. Along with Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami select themselves automatically.

Ireland tour squad to play first T20I

With the first Test scheduled to finish July 5 and the first T20I scheduled for July 7 in Southampton, the selection committee has decided that the star players will be given a three-day recovery period before they are picked from the second game. India are scheduled to clash with England three T20Is and as many ODIs.

Boxers Simranjit, Ananta march into quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nur-Sultan, June 29:** Indian boxers Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Ananta Chopade (54kg) registered contrasting victories on the opening day to progress to the quarterfinals of Elorda Cup here Wednesday.

The 2018 World Championships bronze medallists Simranjit lived up to the favourite's tag with a dominating start to her campaign by pulling off a comprehensive win against local boxer Ischanova Nazym by an unanimous decision in the women's 60kg bout.

Ananta, on the other hand, faced a stiff challenge from Mongolian pugilist Dorjnyambuu Ganbold. However, the Indian kept his cool during an intensely fought men's 54kg thriller and eventually managed to tilt the result in his favour by a narrow 3-2 verdict.

Simranjit and Ananta will now square off against China's Xu Zichun and local boxer Altynbek Nursultan respectively in their quarterfinals matches. Meanwhile,

three other Indian pugilists suffered opening round defeats.

Muhammed Etash Khan (60kg), Kaisham Johnson Singh (63.5kg) and Manjeet Singh (+92kg) lost to their respective Kazakh opponents - Samchuk Vassily, Bazarbai Uulu Mukhammadsabyr and Saparbay Nurlan, by a similar 0-5 margin in the men's category.

A 33-member Indian contingent is participating at the ongoing event with two teams featuring in the women's section. Apart from India, pugilists from other top boxing nations such as Uzbekistan, hosts Kazakhstan, Cuba, China and Mongolia are also participating in the tournament.

World Championship medallists Simranjit, Sonia Lather and Jamuna Boro are leading the Indian challenge in the women's section alongside 2021 Youth World champions Gitika and Alfiya Pathan.

While in the men's category, reigning national champion Lakshya Chahar and Youth World champion Sachin are among the Indians.

Neeraj primed for podium finish

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Stockholm, June 29:** Buoyed by a strong start to the season, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is primed to clinch his maiden Diamond League podium finish in his first appearance in four years in the prestigious one-day meet here Thursday.

The 24-year-old Chopra was second in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku with a big national record throw of 89.30m before winning his event at Kuortane Games with a creditable 86.60m effort under treacherous conditions.

Both the events in Finland had strong fields, though the Turku line-up had more stars than at Kuortane, where Chopra slipped after an awkward release of his spear in his third attempt under slippery conditions due to rains. Luckily, he was up on his feet immediately and won the event without any injury.

This will be Chopra's first competition in a Diamond League meet after his fourth-place finish in Zurich in August 2018 with an effort of 85.73m. He has taken part



in seven Diamond League meets - three in 2017 and four in 2018 - but is yet to win a medal. He had two fourth-place finishes, the other one being in Doha in May 2018, where he had thrown 87.43m.

The prestigious one-day meet at the Swedish capital will be Chopra's biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month. He will also be facing the toughest field of the season so far with all the three Tokyo Olympics medallists in fray.

The Indian superstar has beaten reigning World Champion Anderson Peters of Grenada twice

this month. Peters has seen a dip in form after winning the Doha Diamond League meet with a season-leading throw of 93.07m.

Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic and compatriot Tokyo Games bronze winner Vitezslav Vesely will also be in action. The same is the case for Germany's Julian Weber, who returns after finishing fifth at Paavo Nurmi Games with 84.02m. Finland's Oliver Helander, who surprisingly won gold at the Paavo Nurmi Games with a big throw of 89.83m, will also be seen in action after skipping the Kuortane Games.

Not in Harmony, Serena out of SW19



EXPRESSION SAYS IT ALL: Serena Williams looks disappointed, while Harmony Tan (inset) rejoices after her win at Wimbledon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wimbledon, June 29:** Serena Williams began — and ended — her comeback at Wimbledon after 364 days out of singles competition looking very much like someone who hadn't competed in just that long. She missed shots, shook her head, rolled her eyes.

In between, there were moments where Williams played very much like someone whose strokes and will have carried her to 23 Grand Slam titles. She hit blistering serves and strokes, celebrated with arms aloft.

Returning to the site of her last singles match, which she had to stop after less than a set because of an injury June 29, 2021, and seven of her major championships, the 40-year-old Williams came within two points of victory. But she could not finish the job against an opponent making her Wimbledon debut and bowed out with a 7-5, 1-6, 7-6(10-7) loss to 115th-ranked Harmony Tan of France.

With her older sister, Venus, jumping out of a guest box seat at Centre Court to celebrate the best points, Serena Williams was oh-so-close to pulling out a topsy-turvy match that lasted 3 hours, 11 minutes and was contested with the retractable roof shut for the last two sets.

This is one indication of how things were at the get-go: Of Tan's first 11 points, only one came via a winner she produced. Others

came via errors by Williams, either forced or unforced.

While Williams — who wore two pieces of black tape on her right cheek; the reason was not immediately clear — recovered from dropping the opening two games to lead 4-2, she reversed course again and allowed Tan to quickly climb back into that set with her mix of spins and slices.

When Tan pulled even at 4-all by striking a down-the-line backhand winner, she celebrated with a yell; that shot was so good that even Williams felt compelled to applaud.

Tan came into the day with a 2-6 career record at all Grand Slam tournaments. After first set, it seemed reasonable to ask: Could Tan pull off by far the biggest victory of her career? Might Williams exit a major in the first round for only the third time in 80 appearances (the previous were a loss at the 2012 French Open and that mid-match retirement at Wimbledon last year)? The latter is what happened, of course, although Williams certainly played spectacularly in the second set. In the third set, Williams was two points from advancing while serving for the match at 5-4 but couldn't get closer.

Next for Tan is a second-round match Thursday against No.32 seed Sara Sorribes Tormo of Spain. Sorribes Tormo advanced by defeating American qualifier Christina McHale 6-2, 6-1.