

## Udaipur murder accused attacked

JAIPUR: A group of lawyers Saturday attacked the four accused in Udaipur Kanhaiya Lal murder case, kicking and slapping them and hurling abuses as they were being taken to a prisoner vehicle after being produced in a court here. The clothes of one of the four accused were also torn, and the agitated lawyers raised slogans against Pakistan. Main accused Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, and two others namely Mohsin and Asif were produced in a special court amid tight security.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Can't we reconstruct SC as part of Central Vista?

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	33.0°C	32.2°C
TEMP. MIN	25.6°C	25.6°C
Humidity	89%	86%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

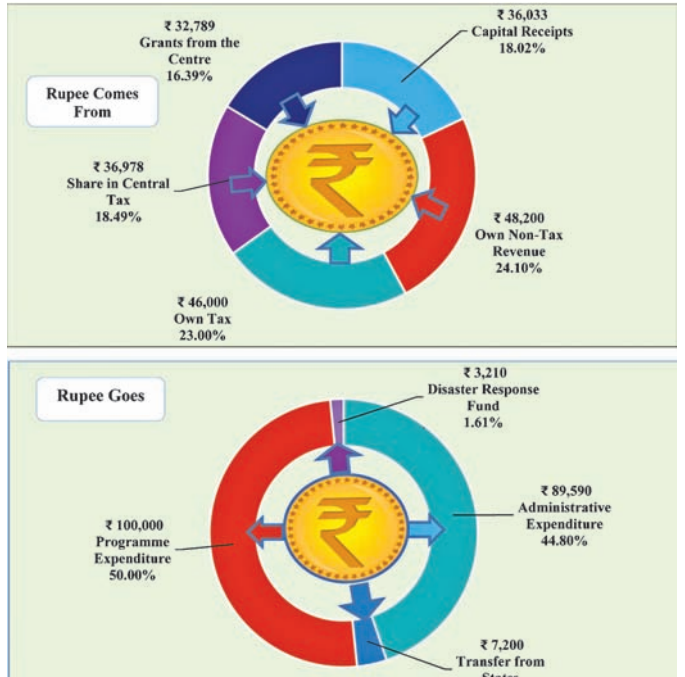
Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

# Pujari presents ₹2L crore Budget

₹27,324crore FOR EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVPT | ₹21,166crore FOR AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTORS | ₹12,624crore FOR PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari Saturday presented an annual Budget of ₹2 lakh crore for financial year 2022-23 in the state Assembly. The budget size is ₹30,000 crore more than the annual Budget of the previous fiscal. "The fiscal space created has been effectively employed for creation of physical, social and human capital. Over the last 22 years, there has been a 17-fold increase in the Budget size and this year, we are touching the landmark figure of ₹2 lakh crore," Pujari said while delivering a budget speech in the House. Programme expenditure has shown a 28-fold increase and capital spending has increased by about 50 times during the same period, he said. Total programme expenditure outlay for FY 2022-23 is estimated at ₹1 lakh crore, which is half of the entire budgetary allocation. In addition, ₹10,000 crore will be spent through off-budget sources and by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), he said. Administrative revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹89,590 crore in 2022-23 while the outlay for disaster risk management fund is ₹3,210 crore and ₹7,200 crore earmarked for transfers from state, said the Finance minister.



## PROGRESSIVE, PRO-POOR BUDGET: CM

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Saturday, termed the annual budget as a progressive, pro-poor and development oriented budget. Priority of the Budget is to create quality healthcare facilities, quality education including school transformation, life and livelihoods, women empowerment as well as infrastructure development, he said. "The capital spending will increase by more than 56 per cent, which will foster growth. A separate budget for Mission Shakti with allocation of ₹2,000 crore will further deepen our engagement with 70 lakh women of our state," said the Chief Minister.

## TAJ TRIP



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal as clouds hover over the monument, in Agra, Saturday. PFI PHOTO

## Plus III girl hangs self over 'ragging' in City

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** A Plus III first-year girl student of a Government autonomous college here committed suicide in her hostel room, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Ruchika Mohanty from Kakhadi area in Cuttack district. Ruchika, a History Honours student, was allegedly under severe mental pressure due to ragging by her seniors. Sources claimed that Ruchika, who was good at studies, was also preparing for UPSC examinations. "When I was taking a class in my department, the matron of Karubaki Hostel informed me that

a girl was not opening the door of her room (201). I rushed to the hostel after informing the Principal about the incident. I asked other students to call an ambulance and directed the male staffers to break open the door. Meanwhile, police also reached the spot and we found the deceased lying on her bed," one of the faculties told media. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Capital Hospital for post-mortem. Her body was later handed over to the family members after the autopsy was conducted. Ruchika had reportedly told her friends that she would not attend the class and read in her room.

## Over 20 chullahs in Gundicha razed

**Puri, July 2:** More than 20 out of the 752 chullahs (ovens) in the Rosaghara (kitchen) of Srigundicha Temple here were found damaged Saturday morning. The incident is a stark reminder of a miscreant vandalising around 40 ovens in Srimandir kitchen in April this year. "It is not known who is behind this incident. The servitors who were in charge of the kitchen need to have monitored the condition of the chullahs (ovens). There should be no doubt about security lapses. Action should be taken against the erring persons," said senior servitor Binayak Dasmahapatra.



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and then another.

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# leisure



## 'STRANGER THINGS 4' FINALE LEADS TO SERVER CRASH AT NETFLIX

The final two episodes of the sci-fi horror drama series 'Stranger Things 4' caused the server to crash at Netflix, the platform that is streaming the show. Complaints about errors with Netflix peaked at nearly 13,000 at the top of the hour, before the situation was resolved within half an hour.

## SIDHARTH MALHOTRA, CHRIS PRATT DISCUSS FOOD, FITNESS

Sidharth Malhotra and Chris Pratt recently engaged in a conversation over their love for Indian food, fitness, and essaying the role of an armed force officer on the occasion of the release of Pratt's upcoming OTT series 'The Terminal List'.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

You will be a compassionate and caring person. Today you are feeling very generous and will give freely of your treasures, which, Ganesha says, will be adequately compensated in future. You have the exceptional ability to combine work and fun, and will treat peers and juniors as your family.

#### TAURUS

Your efficiency and resourcefulness will, today, be functioning on overdrive. You will manage difficult problems and sort out complex issues with any sweat. You make have to take instant decisions on vital and central issues, without any forewarning, or time to think things out.

#### GEMINI

You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind and will likely revisit old memories from the past. The post noon sessions should see some occurrences that will leave you feeling sentimental. You will take decisions guided by your heart rather than your mind.

#### CANCER

It is highly probable that today you will recognise the importance of time in your profession. You will realise how long was the time that you wasted cribbing about how short is the deadline for the work allotted to you.

#### LEO

A busy mind has no time for a hungry stomach. This phrase seems to have become your motto for the day as the stars dictate every possibility of you staying extremely busy with work. This might kill your appetite in the afternoon, warns Ganesha.

#### VIRGO

The place you dwell in could do well with a new look. At least, that is what you want to do today. Add some lively show pieces and sprinkle some of that personality to get the right effect, says Ganesha. In the evening, be prepared to shine out as a master performer and possibly a valuable helping hand.

#### LIBRA

It's smooth sailing for you today. Your eloquence shall take precedence, and your accomplishments as a person of words will foreshadow your real achievements. But there is nothing wrong in that. Let your eloquence win everyone's hearts, including colleagues. You shall be able to sort out and complete pending projects by the end of the day.

#### SCORPIO

The power of your personality will be under the scanner today, feels Ganesha. At work, you will be occupied with looking for solutions to pending problems. Your creative outlook and innovation will help you find a way out of difficult situations. It is the most favourable day for getting the support of your colleagues or superiors, says Ganesha.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Chances are high that you will be isolated and left to fend for yourself. Your resourcefulness and enterprising nature may be tested by an unpleasant situation. Seeking Ganesha's blessings can make all the difference.

#### CAPRICORN

Nothing as melodramatic as a Bollywood saga, but you will pour your heart out in front of your family members, letting out your fears, concerns, regrets and every other feeling that has been building up inside you over the years, says Ganesha. The second half of the day will find you high on energy, and you will go that extra mile to interact with your peers.

#### AQUARIUS

You will plan the day very meticulously to ensure minimum wastage of time and energy, feels Ganesha. Now, you will have more time in spare and you will utilise it for doing things that you like. Enjoy your free time rejuvenating yourself.

#### PISCES

You are likely to achieve a goal you have been slaving over for the past some time. However, keep your celebrations muted, for merely winning a battle does not win the war, says Ganesha.

## Vijay Deverakonda bares it all in 'Liger' poster



Hyderabad: If the response to his 'Liger' poster is any indication, actor Vijay Deverakonda is well on his way to becoming the next South sensation across India.

Saturday saw Vijay Deverakonda take to his social media handle to drop the poster of his pan-India film, 'Liger'.

The young actor made jaws drop when he unveiled his bold poster, semi-nude with just a bouquet of roses for his highly anticipated next, 'Liger'. The poster reads, "Saala Crossbreed".

Vijay is a popular star with movies like 'Arjun Reddy' and 'Geetha Govindam'. The young actor is the latest star from the South to foray into pan-India movie space after Prabhas, Ram Charan, Jr NTR and Yash.

The actor took over social media within minutes of the launch of the poster. It started trending on Twitter instantly. Netizens lost no time in heaping praise on Vijay's sculpted physique. They took to their social media handles to share their admiration.

Directed by Puri Jagannadh, 'Liger' hits the big screens August 25.

## Shahid, Mira give major vacay goals

Mumbai: 'Kabir Singh' star Shahid Kapoor is currently on a vacation with his wife Mira Rajput and their kids, Misha and Zain, in Switzerland. The actor recently took to his social media to share a few romantic pictures with Mira from their picturesque vacation.

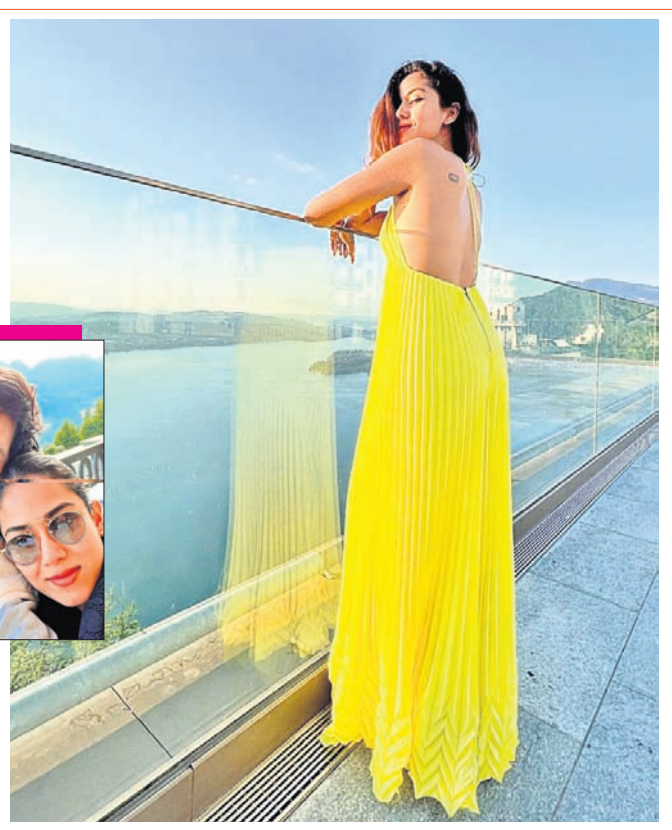
Taking to the stories section of his Instagram, Shahid shared a picture with Mira who was in a backless yellow dress. He had his hand around her waist as she looked away from the camera.

He also shared a picture with Mira, on his feed. It showed Mira with her head on his shoulder. The

mountain range can be seen in the background in blue as the sun shines on them.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shahid will be soon making his OTT debut with his series 'Farzi', which also stars Vijay Sethupathi, Raashi Khanna, Kay Kay Menon and Regina Cassandra.

Shahid is also working with director Ali Abbas Zafar on an action-entertainer film.



## Ranbir's big dream to play villain once

Mumbai: Ranbir Kapoor, who is set to return to the silver screen with the upcoming period actioner 'Shamshera', harbours the dream of essaying a negative character.

The actor expressed his wish to do so and spoke about his love for the bad boys of Hindi cinema, the towering villains who make the hero bigger, in the third episode of 'RK Tapes', a special promotional video series.

The actor listed out some of his favourite on-screen vil-

lains -- the iconic Amjad Khan as Gabbar Singh in 'Sholay', Amrith Puri as Mogambo in 'Mr. India', Sanjay Dutt as Kancha Cheena in 'Agnepath', Ranveer Singh as Alauddin Khilji in 'Padmaavat' and Shah Rukh Khan in 'Darr'.

'Shamshera', which also stars Vaani Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt, has been directed by Karan Malhotra and has been produced by Aditya Chopra under the banner of YRF.

The trilingual film is arriving in cinemas July 22 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.



## Rashmika sizzles in red saree

Bengaluru: Fans of actress Rashmika Mandanna cannot keep calm after seeing her in a red saree. Rashmika's recent snaps in which she has donned a red saree have stolen the hearts of her fans and the photos have gone viral on social media and WhatsApp groups.

Rashmika's traditional look in pan-India superhit movie 'Pushpa' has been

appreciated by one and all. The actress is busy shooting for movies in both Hindi and Telugu languages.

The actress is awaiting release of 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' and her Hindi project 'Mission Majnu' with actor Siddharth Malhotra. She has also another movie 'Animal' in her kitty in which she will star opposite actor Ranbir Kapoor.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

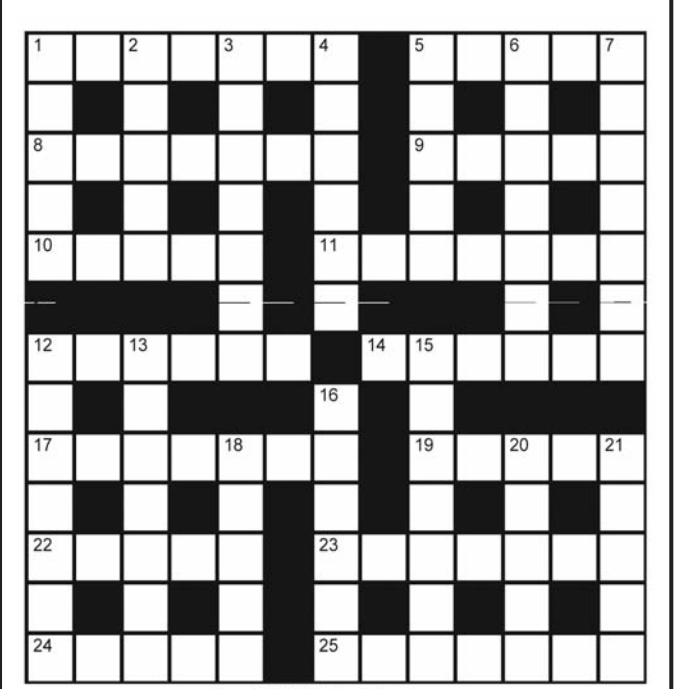


### BREVITY



### FUN post

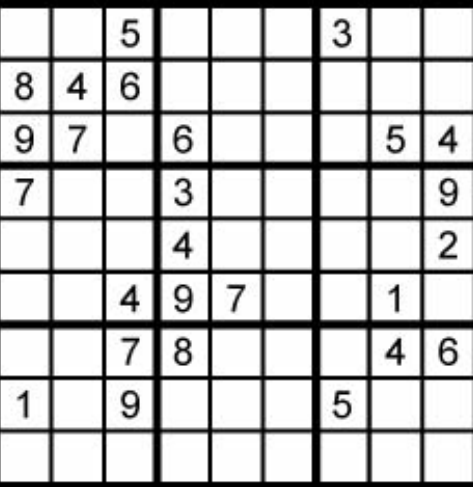
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 One lacking courage
  - 5 Pied \_\_\_ of Hamelin
  - 8 Numbers pool
  - 9 Minimal
  - 10 Ridgeline
  - 11 Headache reliever
  - 12 Gentle breeze
  - 14 Mourn
  - 17 Patrick Macnee played one
  - 19 Come to pass
  - 22 Desert sight
  - 23 Assembles
  - 24 Bubbly drinks
  - 25 Uneasy
  - 5 Small vascular growth
  - 6 Grassland
  - 7 Entourage
  - 12 Enthusiastic
  - 13 Delighted
  - 15 Nature's alarm clock
  - 16 Wyvern, e.g.
  - 18 Short pants
  - 20 'Loch' in 'Loch Ness'
  - 21 Get-out-of-the-doghouse gift, at times
- Down
- 1 Kind of toast
  - 2 Petrol unit
  - 3 Backdrop for a play
  - 4 Gambler's wish for 8
  - 5 Across

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



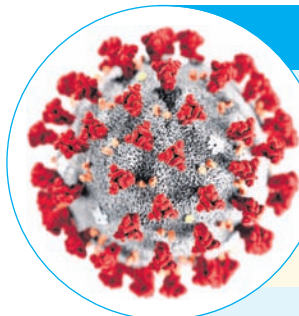
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





**SMART CLASSROOM**

Former Supreme Court Justice Arijit Pasayat and Mayor Subhas Singh inaugurate Bishwanath Pasavat memorial smart classroom at Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack, Saturday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	55,37,87,259	52,84,94,307	63,60,367
India	4,34,86,326	4,28,51,590	5,25,168
Odisha	12,90,192	12,80,049	9,126

# Ruckus in House over Nupur Sharma remark



Proceedings at Odisha Assembly in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

**THE SESSION, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TILL AUGUST 4, WILL HAVE 24 WORKING DAYS. TWO DAYS HAVE BEEN MARKED FOR PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

POST NEWS NETWORK, AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Odisha Assembly Saturday witnessed several adjournments amid uproar by two opposition parties - the Congress and BJP over Nupur Sharma's controversial statement on Prophet Mohammad and subsequent Supreme Court's admonishment of her. The issue was raised by Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra during Zero Hour. Mishra sought to know Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's views on Sharma's statement. "Nupur Sharma was the spokesperson or agent of Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP). Yesterday Supreme Court reprimanded her and also criticized the political party indirectly," he said. BJP should be held responsible and the party cannot escape its

responsibility, the CLP leader said. The House witnessed a ruckus when Mishra targeted the BJP. His statement provoked the saffron party members who also stood up near their seats and hurled allegations against the Congress. BJP deputy leader in the House, BC Sethi said that Congress is in power in the state (Rajasthan) where the barbaric killing of a tailor took place recently. Referring to the incident in Udaipur, he said "Did the Chief Minister of that state resign after his residence while Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallick and senior BJD MLA Prafulla Samal joined the session from Lok Seva Bhawan. The MLAs were made to seat at a distance of two metres with some seated in the press gallery. The press was not allowed inside the House, and allotted a hall where the proceedings were shown on a TV screen. The House paid tribute to former MLA Late Surendra Nath Kanhar. Following that, the Question Hour was held with all members participating in the proceedings. The session, which will continue till August 4, will have 24 working days. Two days have been marked for private members' business.

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Speaker BK Arukha, who for the first time presided over the House after his election last month, said that the House should not discuss on a person who is not its member and was not present

ers who intensified their protests in the well of the House.

Unable to conduct the business, the speaker adjourned the house proceedings twice for 10 minutes and later till 4 pm.

Earlier in the morning, Arukha said members are allowed to participate in the proceedings through videoconference due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chief Minister attended the proceedings virtually from his residence while Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallick and senior BJD MLA Prafulla Samal joined the session from Lok Seva Bhawan.

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**A SIGHT TO BEHOLD**



Lord Jagannath being taken to the Adapa Mandap of Srigundicha temple from Nandighosa chariot through Pahandi procession in Puri, Saturday OP PHOTO

# Budget Stabilisation Fund of ₹10k cr soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** With an aim to meet an unexpected revenue shortfall or budget deficit, the state government is going to create a Budget Stabilisation Fund (BSF) of Rs 10,000 crore, state Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari announced while presenting the annual Budget for the year 2022-23. "Due to our proactive steps in renewal of the mining leases at the appropriate time, we had a substantially higher collection of mining revenue during previous two years, which had been instrumental in meeting the need of a higher public expenditure in revamping health service delivery and creating livelihood opportunities during the pandemic," Pujari said. However, as the best practice, the state now was able to acknowledge the substantially higher realisation of mining revenue as a positive fiscal shock. It may turn



Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari and Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha with the Budget document, Saturday

negative affecting the state budget and public expenditure, since the international commodity prices are highly volatile, pointed out the Minister. "As a mitigation measure to neutralise the risk of price shock of metals on the state budget, we are going to set up a Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF), which is the first of its kind initiative in a state in the

country," he announced. Pujari said this fund would help the government to set aside certain surplus revenue for times of unexpected revenue shortfall or budget deficit. In 2021-22, Odisha's own revenue constituted about 61 per cent of total revenue, resulting in reduced dependence on central transfers. To facilitate higher spending, Finance

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To facilitate higher spending, Finance department has made relaxation in the procedure and enhanced delegation of financial power at all levels of government

department has made relaxation in the procedure and enhanced delegation of financial power at all levels of government, he added. Speaking about transformative initiatives, he said artificial intelligence is now being used for identification of the pensioners while End-to-End Digital Transaction (e-voucher) is being piloted in 5 district treasuries and all the special treasuries. The government is planning to roll out the initiative in all treasuries, he added.

## COTTON & SILK EXPO

MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and Mayor Sulochana Das visit stalls after inaugurating Cottonfab-2022 at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

## State Budget: What they say

**The state government has proposed Rs 15 crore for Ama Jungle Yojana aiming to include larger forest areas under Joint Forest Management. This is a welcome move but the government should also consider irrational felling of trees across the state in the name of progress. Sustainable development is the need of the hour and efforts should be made to preserve the rich green cover the state.**

**DUSMANT BEHERA** | ENVIRONMENTALIST

There should be more allocation of funds for agriculture, irrigation, fisheries, cold storage facilities, conservation and protection of

forests, development of micro, small and medium entrepreneurship where more people will get engagement. Priority should be given for the procurement of all agricultural, minor forest produce and cash crops of all farmers in general and tribal farmers in particular.

**NARENDRA MOHANTY** | CONVENING BODY MEMBER, SANYUKTA KISHAN MORCHA

While budget size has increased and programmes allocation has risen, the overall direction of the budget is nowhere to be seen. My point is what about employment generation? And special packages for the people and sector affected by Covid-19 pandemic. The state government should have planned a

special drive to stop outgoing migration, only increasing state share on MGNREGA is not sufficient.

**SUDARSHAN CHHOTRAY** | SOCIAL ACTIVIST

This is a very sad budget for education. Only Rs 100 crore for 5T transformation of 3,500 schools? This will take another five years to complete. We shall not discriminate students for good schools under 5T for long years. Mo School will get Rs 646 crore for construction works, which is not required right now. We need teachers and guest teachers for schools in Odisha. Mo School has

failed to provide these basic needs of students.

**BASUDEV BHATT** | EDUCATIONIST

The environment sector has received only Rs 2,217 crores. It was expected to have a higher allocation keeping in view the significance of afforestation, ecosystem restoration, wildlife conservation, pollution prevention, and climate change adaptation and mitigation in the changing global scenario. Disaster management has been given due weightage, but more emphasis was required to have been laid down on alternative energy sources, technology upgradation, and research and development.

**JK PANIGRAHI** | ENVIRONMENT EXPERT

# NHRC moved over Balasore electrocution

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** A petition has been filed with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in connection with the electrocution of a devotee during Rath Yatra at Gudikhala Mutt under Basta police limits in Balasore Friday. Petitioner Himanshu Sekhar Nayak sought financial compensation for the family of deceased Anil Kumar Sahu of Agarpada village. Sahu was electrocuted when the chariot of lord Jagannath accidentally came in contact with a live electric wire during Rath Yatra. As many as 11 persons have sustained injuries in the mishap. Nayak requested the rights body to direct the Chief Secretary of Odisha to pay a compensation of Rs 30 Lakh to Sahu's family and send the documentary proof of the same

**Petitioner Himanshu Sekhar Nayak sought financial compensation for the family of deceased Anil Kumar Sahu of Agarpada village** to the commission within three weeks. Nayak also sought Rs 5 Lakh as compensation to the critically-injured persons. "The authorities usually cut the power supply in the 11 KV lines for smooth conduct of Rath Yatra. However, they did not do the same during this year's Rath Yatra. This has violated human rights under Article 21 of Indian Constitution," alleged the petitioner. He also sought stringent action against the erring officials of Energy department.

# State's debt burden to reach ₹1.12 lakh crore by FY 23

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The public debt burden of the state will climb up to Rs 1.12 lakh crore by the end of 2022-23 financial year, according to the Status Paper on Public Debt in Odisha released by the government Saturday. As per the report, the total outstanding public debt of the state as per the revised estimate for the financial year 2021-22 stood at Rs 1,00,813 crore which is 15.8 per cent of the State's Gross Domestic Product (GSDP). For the year 2022-23, it is estimated that the total debt burden will be Rs 1,12,401 crore which is 15.6 per cent of GSDP. The Fifteenth Finance Commission and Odisha FRBM Act, 2005 prescribe for limiting the debt to GSDP ratio within 25 per cent. The current debt level of Odisha is within the stipulated



debt limit, it said. In the medium term, the total debt to GSDP ratio of the state is projected to reach to a level of 18.1 per cent in the financial year 2025-26, which will be also within the stipulated limit of 25 per cent. Similarly, the fiscal deficit stands at 0.4 per cent of GSDP

and the interest payment to revenue receipts (IPRR) pegged at 4.3 per cent for the financial year 2021-22, which is also within the limit of 15 per cent set by the FRBM Act. As per the budget estimate for FY 2022-23, fiscal deficit and IPRR are estimated to be 3 per cent and 5.2

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per cent respectively. The state government, last year, had decided to avail loans from Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation fund and compensatory afforestation fund through amendment to the accounting procedures at interest rates 2 to 2.5 pc lower than the open market borrowing. The state government can borrow up to 60 per cent of the surplus fund available in these funds. The open market borrowing during the last fiscal of 2021-22 is zero because cheaper sources were available to meet the total requirement of borrowing in the previous financial year, sources said. Similarly, the total loan guarantees (guarantee to PSUs, urban local bodies, co-operative institutions) as on March 31, 2022 is Rs 6,140.91 crore which is 0.96 per cent of GSDP. The guarantees do not constitute a part of the state government's loan. But, in case of default by the state owned entities (PSUs), the state government is liable to repay the loan, sources added.



CONTINUED FROM P1

## Pujari presents ₹2L Cr Budget

Capital outlay in 2022-23 is ₹ 38,732 crore, which is about 5.4 per cent of GDP and 56 per cent increase over the previous year. Additionally, loans and advances, grants for creation of capital assets and other expenditure for capital formation together account for ₹11,933 crore - additional 1.7 per cent of GDP.

The outlay is proposed to be financed mainly through revenue receipts of ₹1,63,967 crore and borrowing and other receipts of ₹36,033 crore, he pointed out.

A total sum of ₹12,624 crore has been proposed for public health care, which is an increase of about 25 per cent over previous year's provision. Similarly, an allocation of ₹27,324 crore has been made for the education and skill development sector and ₹21,166 crore for agriculture & allied activities.

For conserving and developing the places of religious and cultural importance, the state has allocated ₹1,950 crore under different schemes for FY 2022-23. This includes an outlay of ₹1,325 crore under ABADHA, ₹200 crore each under EKAMRA and SAMALEI, and ₹150 crore under Integrated Development of Heritage, Monuments & Tourist Destinations in the Budget.

Pujari said, "To further improve road infrastructure for the upcoming industrial regions and their connectivity with the mineral hinterlands and ports, it has been proposed to allocate about ₹14,454 crore during the year 2022-23 for construction and improvement of roads in the state."

This apart, around ₹2,970 crore will be utilised for maintenance of the existing roads, he stated.

Similarly, ₹830 crore has been earmarked for tourism sector, ₹911 crore for sports, ₹7,850 crore for rural drinking water supply, ₹7,258 crore for Housing & Urban Development, ₹2,000 crore for Mission Shakti department, ₹2,001 crore under MGNREGA, ₹3,337 crore under social security pension schemes, ₹1,023 crore for ₹1 per kg rice scheme, ₹3,482 crore for power sector, ₹1,269 crore industry & MSME sector, ₹2,217 crore for the forestry sector and ₹3,262 crore for disaster management.

Similarly, ₹3,567 crore has been earmarked for women and child development, ₹32,596 crore for SC & ST development, ₹7,551 crore for judiciary and ₹3,035 crore for planning and convergence.

## Plus III girl hangs self over 'ragging'

Later, she ended her life by hanging herself with a plastic rope.

The cops have also seized a suicide note from the pocket of the deceased's dress. The deceased in her suicide note has accused three seniors of constantly ragging her.

"I am completely exhausted. My father and mother suffered a lot to provide me education. My family members find it hard to make their ends meet due to my education costs. However, my senior tortured me a lot. Three seniors mentally harassed me. I failed to bear with torture and revealed it before my family," Ruchika mentioned in the alleged suicide note.

Ruchika's family members also staged a sit-in on the college premises. Some seniors also alleged that the victim had a heated argument with some seniors during a welcome ceremony a few days back. She had also reportedly complained to the hostel warden about the seniors' behaviour.

Notably, Richa Mishra, 20, committed suicide November 18, 2005 allegedly because three college lecturers mentally harassed her.

## Over 20 chullahs in Gundicha razed

The miscreants breached the security arrangements and barged into the Shrine late Friday night to destroy the chullahs. The ovens were prepared four-five days back for cooking 'Abadha' for the Trinity during the Lords' stay at Gundicha Temple. Meanwhile, temple administrator has launched a probe into the incident.

# Masks mandatory in Cuttack as Cov rises



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, July 2:** The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Saturday made it mandatory for people to wear masks in the Silver City here amid a surge in Covid-19 cases in Odisha.

A few days ago, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) had issued an advisory making face masks mandatory for people residing in the capital city.

In its advisory, the CMC has asked the residents of the city to wear face masks appropriately while moving out and while in public places.

The civic authorities have also asked the people who are coming to Cuttack city from outside to wear masks as a precautionary measure against the deadly virus.

This apart, the CMC has asked the residents of the city and outsiders to maintain social distance in public places. Moreover, the civic body has advised government and private

offices, shopping malls and other business entities to ensure social distancing on their premises.

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Moreover, the civic body has advised government and private offices, shopping malls and other business entities to ensure social distancing on their premises.

The civic authorities have also asked the people who are coming to Cuttack city from outside to wear masks as a precautionary measure against the deadly virus.

"The pandemic is not over yet. We are urging people not to lower their guard against the deadly virus. Any violation in this regard will invite stern action," said an official of the CMC.

## TREE IS LIFE



Governor Ganeshi Lal plants a sapling at Puri Raj Bhawan as part of the celebration of Vana Mahotsav, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# Heavy to very heavy rain likely in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The Met office Saturday warned of heavy to very heavy rain for the next three days across Odisha due to a low pressure area and issued an orange warning in several districts.

A low pressure area may form over north Odisha and its neighbouring area during the next 48 hours under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over Bangladesh

and neighbourhood, according to its bulletin.

Orange warning has been issued in Jajpur, Dhenkanal and Angul districts among others.

There can be heavy to very heavy downpour in Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal and Nayagarh on Tuesday, it said.

The weather office also issued a yellow warning of heavy rain in many district for the next four days. Heavy rain is likely in Khurda,

Sonepur, Bargarh, Keonjhar, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Boudh and Deogarh Tuesday.

On Wednesday heavy rain is likely in Kalahandi, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada, it said.

There was moderate to heavy rain during the day between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm in many areas, the met department said.

## Rath Yatra at Esplanade

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The Nexus Esplanade in the Capital city celebrated Rath Yatra in a magnificent way while abiding by all Covid protocols. A considerably large crowd could be witnessed during the chariot pulling ceremony.

In the Rath Yatra celebration, people present at the mall including customers, retailers, guests, mall staff and officials participated to make chariot pulling a grand success.

## HONOURING THE DEPARTED



Students and staffers of Sangita Mahavidyalaya in Bhubaneswar took out a candle march as a tribute to late actor Raimohan Parida, Saturday

OP PHOTO

## SOA releases critical edition of 10 Parvas of Sarala Mahabharatha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Saturday released a critical version of ten 'parvas' of the 'Saralada Mahabharatha' authored by eminent poet Saraladas.

The book, both in prose and verse, has been painstakingly put together by an editorial team and published by Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN), the literary and cultural arm of SOA.

"Enabling and empowering the masses with their timeless classics, works of saint poets like Saraladas have enriched different Indian languages by bringing in new imageries, similes and metaphors from other cultures," said Chandrashekhara Kambara, eminent writer and President of Shitya Akademi.

"Each region, language and community had acquired and assimilated the best of other cultures and languages of the land. To reduce the alien elements, to make highest philosophical truths easier to understand for the masses and to reduce the cultural shocks, the scholars and pundits of the bygone centuries used adaptations wisely," he added.



Eminent litterateur Ramakant Rath's recorded message for the occasion was played during the release function. In his message, Rath said Odia, which was a spoken language, turned into a script only after Saraladasa wrote the 'Mahabharatha'.

## 'DILUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JURISPRUDENCE'

# Experts slam proposed amendments to Env, Water, Air Acts

**A** day after the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) announced its intention to bring about amendments to the Environment, Water and Air Acts for decriminalisation of relatively minor offences; experts have slammed the proposed move terming it as dilution of environmental jurisprudence.

As reported by IANS Friday, the Ministry put out proposed amendments to decriminalise the existing provisions of three important legislations - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Apart from decriminalisation, the proposed amendments to the three basic building laws also proposes creation of an earmarked fund that can be utilised for paying compensation to the affected parties, for restoration of the environment or for reparation. The three funds are to be named 'Environmental Protection Fund', 'Water Pollution Remediation Fund' and 'Air Pollution Remediation Fund'.

### THE PROPOSITIONS

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The three funds are to be named 'Environmental Protection Fund', 'Water Pollution Remediation Fund' and 'Air Pollution Remediation Fund'.

"The proposed amendments are directed at two kinds of changes. First, it is carving out the criminal or civil liability based on a hierarchy of non-compliance or legal offence, as defined by the Environment Ministry. Second, the EPA amendments attempt to delink non-submission of reports/studies from offences leading to loss of life or injury, but there may be cause and effect relationship between the two," said Kanchi Kohli, a senior researcher with Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Policy Research.



Kohli pointed at the serious issue with the proposed amendments that will increase the amounts of financial penalties and recommend the creation of management funds where the money will be collected, saying, "These proposals require wider and informed public debate based on whether the proposed liability framework can effectively

incentivise compliance and whether the fund creation mechanism can become a distraction from acknowledging the long history of pollution related impacts in many parts of the country."

Leo Saldanha, Coordinator of Bangalore's Environment Support Group (ESG), an advocacy NGO that also files petitions against environmental and forest law violations, drew attention to the exercise of dilution of environmental laws that had started in 2003-04 during NDA-I rule and continued through

**“The proposed amendments are directed at two kinds of changes. First, it is carving out the criminal or civil liability based on a hierarchy of non-compliance or legal offence, as defined by the Environment Ministry. Second, the EPA amendments attempt to delink non-submission of reports/studies from offences leading to loss of life or injury, but there may be cause and effect relationship between the two**

KANCHI KOHLI | SENIOR RESEARCHER WITH DELHI-BASED THINK-TANK CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

till the current dispensation took it to further levels of dilution.

Charting out the chronology, Saldanha said that it was in 2004 when then Environment Secretary Pradipto Ghosh had proposed to turn India's environmental jurisprudence based on criminal jurisprudence to civil.

"The UPA I and II regimes neither pushed for watering it down nor strengthened it, and also made no attempt to ensure it remained without trampling," Saldanha said.

The T S R Subramanian Report of 2014 was the first major environmental reform brought about by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this dilution got a boost based on self-regulation by the corporate/industry sector in 'utmost good faith', he said, adding that following the nation-wide outcry and criticism, the then Environment Minister backed out only to bring the Environmental Laws Amendment Bill of 2015, which too was heavily slammed by the civil society.

"Then during the pandemic came the Forest (Conservation) Act, EIA notifications - all pushed back by public pressure. Now, these proposed amendments. The EPA is an umbrella protection law. If you remove this, you are leaving the field open. It will legalise criminality in the garb of decriminalisation and lead to dilution of environmental jurisprudence built over the last four decades," Saldanha warned.

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# Women pull chariot of Devi Subhadra at Baripada

# 'Belated' Rath Yatra held in Ganjam

Annual sojourn of deities is a 10-day affair at Dwitiya Shrikhetra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, July 2:** A day after the world famous Rath Yatra at Puri, pulling of chariots of the Holy Trinity was started in Baripada Saturday as per tradition. The Rath Yatra at Baripada, known as the Dwitiya (second) Shrikhetra, is held on the second day of the Puri Rath Yatra.

Thousands of devotees pulled the chariots of the Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra of the Haribaldev Jew temple on the Badadanda amid the beatings

of gongs, sankirtan and ullulation. The Rath Yatra here is unique for its 10-day sojourn of the deities while the chariot of Devi Subhadra is pulled by women only. Tight security arrangements were made for the festival.

SP Rishikesh Dnyadeo Khilari monitored the law and order situation, but two women devotees sustained critical injuries due to scuffle among them while pulling the chariot. They were admitted to PRM Medical College and Hospital here.

A woman fainted while trying to catch hold of a rope to pull the chariot of Devi Subhadra. This allegedly happened as women police officials were not there to control the crowd.

Lakhs of devotees thronged the



Badadanda to witness the Rath Yatra notwithstanding the sultry atmosphere. Many devotees climbed on the chariots to have a close look at the deities. The chariot pulling started at 2.30 pm as per the time schedule set by the endowment department.

The chariot of Lord Balabhadra was first pulled by devotees and it reached the Mausima temple at 4.30 pm. Later, the pulling of the Darpadalan chariot of Devi Subhadra started at 5.15 pm and it reached near the Town police station at 6 pm. Women from in and

outside the district and from neighbouring state gathered in large numbers on Badadanda to pull the Darpadalan. It stopped halfway after the sunset.

The pulling of chariots will resume Sunday. The cars of Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath will be pulled to Gundicha temple where a set of rituals will be performed.

Collector Vineet Bhardwaj, SP Rishikesh Dnyadeo Khilari, Sub-Collector Anya Das, Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta, Baripada Municipality chairman Krushnanda Mohanty, vice-chairperson Seema Das, former minister Sarojini Hembram, Debashis Marndi and former deputy speaker Sanand Marndi were present at the Rath Yatra.

AGENCIES

**Berhampur, July 2:** A large number of devotees pulled the chariots of Lord Jagannath at some places in Ganjam district Saturday, a day after the Rath Yatra festival was celebrated in Puri.

Traditionally, the belated festival is held at Surangi, Digapahandi, Dharakote and some other areas in the district. The return of the chariots, known as the Bahuda festival, is also observed at these places a day after it is held at other places.

In terms of rituals, the festival at these places was almost similar to Puri where Rath Yatra was celebrated in a grand manner Friday. Since the Jagannath temple was built by the then king of Surangi in the 18th century, locals and the temple management com-

mittee have been pulling the chariots a day after the car festival is celebrated elsewhere.

It is believed that as people used to visit other places to celebrate the festival, there were not enough devotees to pull the chariots. So, the king had postponed it by a day, according to locals.

Several Telugu-speaking people from the nearby villages of Andhra Pradesh also participated in the festival at Surangi in Patrapur block, said the president of the festival committee Gopal Chandra Hota.

# Rupsa on edge over jumbo menace

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rupsa, July 2:** Elephant menace continued to keep Rupsa area in Balasore on edge while a tusker went on a damaging spree at Lachmankunta of Gadapada panchayat late Friday night.

The tusker has damaged several houses in the area, leaving people panicked. The elephant damaged the houses of Kuni Singh, Bangu Singh, Baikutha Singh, Ekadashi Singh and Husn Bibi.

The animal broke into the house of Kuni Singh and



gobbled up ripe jackfruits. The walls of many houses were pulled down by the animal in the last few days.

Locals said, the animal strayed from a fringe area of neighbouring Mayurbhanj district and entered the village in the wee hours. Later, the tusker was seen moving freely in Jarasahi, Darakhuli, Guabania, Nimadiha and other villages. The locals had sought help from the forest department to scare away the animal. Many people alleged that the tusker has consumed stocked rice and paddy in the houses.

For the last several weeks, local people are panicked and have been spending sleep-

less nights. They have to make bonfires in some villages to ward off the elephants at night.

Later, forest officials reached the village and drove it into Nimadiha forest. For safety of the animal, electricity supply was snapped for hours. "For last six months, we have been facing elephant menace. The forest department should make permanent solution to the elephant menace," locals said. The affected people have intimidated the forest officials and Basta tehsildar about the damage done by the animals.

<b>UCO BANK</b>		<b>Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423</b>	<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b> For Immovable Property
(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)			
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of UCO 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 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers 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 UCO Bank for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.			
<b>PURI BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrowers</b>	<b>Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date</b>	<b>Date of Demand / Possession Notice</b>	<b>Description of the Immovable Property</b>
Borrowers : 1) Mr. Suryakant Dash, S/o: Durga Charan Dash, 2) Mrs. Sabita Dash, W/o: Mr. Suryakant Dash, Both are At/PO.: Gopinathpur, Nushahi, Puri-752001	₹4,31,590.20 as on 31.01.2022 + interest and other expenses thereon	10.03.2022 / 28.06.2022	All part and parcel of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Gopinathpur alias Rautarapur, P.S.: Puri, Tahasil / Dist.: Puri, Khata No.: 165/702, Plot No.: 380/1443, Area: Ac.0.02.5 Dec., standing in the name of Mr. Suryakant Dash, Bounded by North: Arjun Mallick, South: Lokanath Mohapatra, East: Ahalya Dei, West: Road
Place : Bhubaneswar Date: 02.07.2022			Authorised Officer UCO Bank

<b>UNION BANK OF INDIA</b> REGIONAL OFFICE : CUTTACK, M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph.: 0674-2537900		<b>MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE</b>		
<b>SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES</b> E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable/immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable/immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 20.07.2022 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM for recovery of outstanding dues to the Union Bank of India from the Borrowers & Guarantors mentioned below. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit is stated in the column respectively.				
Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees/Co-Aplicants/ Co-Obligants/Outstanding Dues	Description of Properties to be Auctioned	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment	Account Details for EMD Submission
1.	<b>DHENKANAL BRANCH, Mob.: 8584884228</b> Borrower: M/s. Women Fitness Zone, Prop: Smita Mishra, Co-Aplicant/Guarantor: Sri Sunil Kumar Padhi, both are resident of At: kancha Bazar, kumbhar sahi, Ps: Sadar, Dist: Dhenkanal, Dhenkanal - 759001. / Outstanding: Rs.76,97,948.19 as on 31.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Land and Building At Plot No. 1335/2137/1333/2136 and 1336/2135, Khata No. 417/335, Area - 0.400 Dec. i.e. 17424 sq.ft. Mouza-Dholapasi, PS-Dhenkanal Sadar and No-55 TS: Dhenkanal Sadar and No 231 Dist: Dhenkanal in the name of Mrs. Smita Mishra W/o: Sunil Kumar Padhi. Bounded by: North-Pravat Sahoo, South-Santosh Mishra, East - Canal Road, West- Road.	Rs.15,00,000/- / Rs.1,50,000/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 540501980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0554057
2.	<b>DHENKANAL BRANCH, Mob.: 8584884228</b> Borrower/Co-Aplicant/Guarantor: (1) Mrs. Rasida Bibi, W/o Samad Beg, (2) Mr. Khalid Beg, S/o Samad Beg, (3) Mr. Abdul Malik Beg, S/o Samad Beg, (4) Mr. Samad Beg, S/o Late Sharif Beg, Address: Ward No. 13, Mina Bazar, Near Tarini Temple, Dhenkanal. / Outstanding: Rs.17,44,478/- as on 30.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Residential Land & Building situated at Plot No. 356, Mutation Khata No. 387/836, Area: Ac.0.062 Dec. Mouza - SanashathieBatia, Tahasil- Dhenkanal Sadar, PS/Dist - Dhenkanal in the name of Rasida Bibi, Bounded by: North-Kapila Behara, South-Own Road, East-S.K Sepharuktn, West-Raj Behara.	Rs.48,35,000/- / Rs.4,83,500/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 540501980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0554057
3.	<b>TURUNGA BRANCH, Mob.: 7327939418</b> Borrowers: (1) Mr. Ramakanta Das, (2) Mr. Amulya Das, S/o- Late Trinath Das, At- Ambamunda sahi, Rantalei, PO- Rantalei, PS/Dist- Angul, Odisha, Pin - 759132, Guarantor: Mr Jagat Jyoti Rath, S/o- Hrusikantha Rath, At- Hulusuringha, Ps/Dist- Angul, Pin-759122 / Outstanding: Rs.9,66,097/- as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Land & Building over Plot No.-2912/3896, Khata No.-505/502 in Mouza-Rantalei, Tahasil/PS/Dist-Angul, Area: Ac.100 dec belonging to Mr. Ramakanta Das & Mr Amulya Das. Property bounded by: North - Sribaschha Behera, South - Ashok Modi, East - Road, West - Mr Atei Sahoo.	Rs.17,25,000/- / Rs.1,72,500/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 665019800500000 IFSC Code: UBIN0566519
4.	<b>TURUNGA BRANCH, Mob.: 7327939418</b> Borrower: Mr. Amulya Naik, S/o- Late Chaturbhuja Naik, Guarantor: Mr. Abinash Naik, S/o- Amulya Naik, both are resident of At- Rankasingha, Po-Kukudanga, Ps/Dist-Angul, Odisha, Pin-759123. / Outstanding: Rs.11,13,898/- as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All the piece and parcel of Land & Building over Plot No.-574,575 & 578, Khata No.-138/108 in Mouza- Rankasingha, Tahasil: Banarpal, Ps/Dist-Angul, Area: Ac.0.080 Dec. belonging to Mr Amulya Naik, S/o Late Chaturbhuja Naik, Property is bounded by: North - Village Road, South - Mr. Banambar Naik, East - Mr. Banambar Naik, West - Mr. Pradiip Naik.	Rs.7,65,000/- / Rs.76,500/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 665019800500000 IFSC Code: UBIN0566519
5.	<b>JAGATPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 7735346669</b> Borrower/Co-Aplicant/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Niranjan Kumar Sena, S/o: Mr Surendra Nath Sena, At: Trilochanpur, Post.: Mahajampur, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200. / Outstanding: Rs.7,02,463/- as on 31.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	(1) Land & Building bearing situated at Plot No. 1258, Khata No.624/153, Mouza-Trilochpur, Dist. Cuttack, Area-0Ac.0.095 dec. belonging to Mr.Niranjan Kumar Sena, (2) Land situated at plot No.1257, Khata No.624/152, Area Ac.0.055 dec. Located at Mouza-Trilochpur, Dist.Cuttack belonging to Mr.Niranjan Kumar Sena, Bounded by: North- Plot No.1257, South- Rest of the plot, East- Plot No.1266, West- Plot No.1254.	Rs.19,20,000/- / Rs.1,92,000/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 177621980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0917761
6.	<b>JAGATPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 7735346669</b> Borrowers: (1) M/s Behera Paints & Hardware, (Prop.Mr Nageswar Behara), (2) Mr.Nageswar Behara, S/o: Mr.Alekha Chandra Behara, Guarantors:(1) Mr.Alekha Chandra Behara, S/o: Hari Behara, (2) Mr Golekha Chandra Behara, S/o: Hari Behara, (3) Mr Alok Kumar Sukla, S/o: Ashok Sukla, (4) Deepak Sukla, S/o: Ashok Sukla, (5) Mrs Nirupama Sukla, W/o: Ashok Sukla, all are address at Narajpur, Jagatpur, Cuttack, Odisha -754021. / Outstanding: Rs.63,16,533.31 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Property-1: Land and Residential Building - belonging to Nirupama Sukla, Mr Alok Kumar Sukla, Deepak Kumar Sukla, Dist. Cuttack, SRO: Jagatpur, Tahasil: Tangi, Choudwar, PS: Tangi, No.71, Mouza: Nimpur, Mutation Khata No. 7721/1799, Plot No.2636/6389, and Plot No.2634/3956, KISSAM- Gharabari, Total Area: A0.05 dec., Boundary of Property: North- Ismail Road, South-S. Row Babu, East- Trilochan Swain, West- Road. Property-2: Land belonging to Alekha Behara and Golekha Behara, Dist. Cuttack SRO: Jagatpur, Tahasil: Tangi, Choudwar, PS: Jagatpur, Mouza: Kaira, Mutation Khata No.492/1346, Plot No.904/2104, Area: Ac.0.10 dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Boundary of Property: North- Plot No.902, Canal Bandha Road, South- Plot No. 905, East- Plot No.906, West- Plot No.903.	Rs.53,58,000/- / Rs.5,35,800/- / Rs.10,000/- / Rs.38,00,000/- / Rs.3,80,000/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 177621980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0917761
7.	<b>PARADEEP BRANCH, Mob.: 9925185123</b> Borrowers: (1) M/s Sidhu Engineering, Mr Jsmarendra Nandan Choudhury, (Managing Partner), having its registered Office at Plot No.48, Jubilee Market, Badapadia, Paradeep, PO/PS: Paradeep, Dist: Jagatsinghpur- 754142, Odisha, (2) Mr Jsmarendra Nandan Choudhury, (Managing Partner), (3) Mrs Samita Choudhury (Partner), both are resident of At: Plot No.278/2402/2998, AllMS Nagar, Patrapada, PS.: Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Dist Khurda-751019, Guarantor: Mr Manas Ranjan Swain, S/o: Madhabananda Swain, At: Nimidihi, PO: Paradeepgarh, PS: Paradeep, Dist: Jagatsinghpur-754141. / Outstanding: For all parties jointly & severally Rs.7,59,117.17 as on 31.05.2022 and For Sl.1 & 2 are jointly and severally Rs.13,42,749.78 as on 31.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Homestead Land & Building belonging to Mr Jsmarendra Nandan Choudhury over Plot No.278/2402, Khata No.703/816, corresponding to conversion ROR Khata No.780/107, Plot No.278/2402/2998, KISSAM: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.05 dec., situated at Mouza: Patrapada, SRO/PS.: Khandagiri, Odisha, bounded by: North- Rest Part of Plot, South- Road, East- Puja Subudhi, West- Private Road.	Rs.79,25,000/- / Rs.7,92,500/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 480601980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0548065
8.	<b>PARADEEP BRANCH, Mob.: 9925185123</b> Borrower/Guarantor: (1) Mr. Kishore Pradhan, S/o: Sudharsan Pradhan, At: Siju, PO.: Jhimani, PS: Paradeep, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur 754141, (2) Mr. Ashok Kumar Patra, S/o: Gopi Patra, At: Jhimani, Bagatia, PS: Paradeep, Dist: Jagatsinghpur - 754141. / Outstanding: Rs.4,82,022.85 as on 31.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Residential Land and Building belonging to Mr Kishore Pradhan over Plot No. 591, Khata No. 45, Tahasil No. 205, Thana No. 250 to an extent of Area Ac 0.03 Dec, KISSAM- Gharabari, Mouza- Siju, SRO- Kujanga, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Orissa bounded by: North- Panchanana Pradhan, East- Vendeed, West- Road, South- Narayan Pradhan.	Rs.15,76,000/- / Rs.1,57,600/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 480601980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0548065
9.	<b>CDA BIDANASI BRANCH, Mob.: 9918301433</b> Borrower: Mr Chandan Kumar Behera, Prop.- M/s Vision and Vision, S/o: Mr Chandrasekhar Behera, Guarantors: (1) Mr Chandrasekhar Behera, S/o: Bansidhar Behera, (2) Mr Kasinath Behera, S/o: Bansidhar Behera, all are address of Plot No.1299/5646, At: Kumbharasahi, PS: Purihant, Dist: Cuttack- 753009. / Outstanding: Rs.4,90,468/- as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All that piece and parcel of Residential land and building owned by Mr. Chandra sekhar Behera and Mr. Kasinath Behera on plot No. 1299/5646, Mutation Khata No. 1570/807, Area : Ac.0.016 Dec., corresponding to Hal Khata No. 1361, Plot No. 1299 /Ac0.016 dec., Mouza :Cuttack Town, Unit No. 16, Kathagodasahi, P.S. - Purihant No. 1, SRO/Tahasil/Dist: Cuttack, KISSAM - Homestead, Property bounded by: North: Plot No 1300, South: Plot No 1298, East: Plot No 1297, West: Road.	Rs.20,23,000/- / Rs.2,02,300/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 588601980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0558869
10.	<b>CDA BIDANASI BRANCH, Mob.: 9918301433</b> Borrower: Mr Samarendra Gopal, Guarantor: Mr Sangremendra Gopal, both are resident at Mansinghpur, Gopalsahi, Tulaspur, Cuttack, Odisha- 753008. / Outstanding: Rs.10,33,399.86 as on 10.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All that piece and parcel of Land and Ground Floor Building - Residential belonging to Mr Samarendra Gopal & Mr Sangremendra Gopal, both S/o- Late Braja Gopal, situated at- Khata No.981, Plot No.1528, area- Ac0.017 dec, Mouza- Unit-13 Chandni chowk, Thana-Lalbag-1, Tahasil-Cuttack Sadar-202, Dist-Cuttack,odisha-753008, Property Bounded by: North- Road, South- Babaji Charan Sahoo, East- Ashirbad Behera, West- Jagat Ballabh Gopal	Rs.22,47,000/- / Rs.2,24,700/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 588601980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0558869
11.	<b>KUMUNDA BRANCH, Mob.: 8328820334</b> Borrower: Mr Prasanta Biswal, Prop.- M/s Sriya Medical Store, S/o: Lochan Biswal, Shop Room No.5, At: Bus Stand, in front of RI Kurudu Office, Angul- 759132. Guarantors: (1) Mr Lochan Biswal, S/o: Sadananda Biswal, (2) Sri Ranjan Biswal, S/o: Sri Sadananda Biswal, both are address At: Sankerjanga, PO: Golabandha, PS: Nisha, Dist: Angul- 759143. / Outstanding: Rs.11,32,650.60 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All that piece and parcel of residential land at Khata no. 277/712, Plot no.2239/3289, Area: Ac.0.130 dec., & Plot No.2240/3290, Area:Ac. 0.150 decimal &, Village/ Mouza-Sankerjang., PS-Nisha., Dist-Angul., State-Odisha., Pin-759143 standing in the name of Shri Lochan Biswal & Shri Ranjan Biswal, Plot no-2239/3289 bounded by: North- Babaji Biswal South- Road, East- N12, West - Banambar Biswal, Plot No-2240/3290 bounded by: North- Sadhu Biswal, South- N12, East - N12, West - N12.	Rs.18,90,000/- / Rs.1,89,000/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 193191980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0819395
12.	<b>CHANDICHAK BRANCH, Mob.: 9338403401</b> Borrower: Mr Shamsher Ahmed, S/o: Shabbir Ahmed, H/o: Mumtaz Khan, At: Odia Bazar, Lalbagh, Buxi Bazar, Cuttack- 753001. / Outstanding: Rs.33,56,698.10 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All the piece and parcel of land and building at Plot No. 461/4238, Khata No. 29/168, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar, Unit no. 12, Sutahat, PS: Lalbagh No.2, Tahasil: Cuttack, At: Odia Bazar, Near Urdu Girls High School, PO: Buxi Bazar, Cuttack, Area- Ac.0.020 Dec, Property Bounded by: North - Asgar Hashim, South- Common Passage, East- Safdar Hashim, West- Haider Hashim.	Rs.67,48,000/- / Rs.6,74,800/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 718201980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0571822
13.	<b>JAGATSINGHPUR ECB BRANCH, Mob.: 7989183798</b> Borrower: Sri Tusharkanta Mohanty, S/o: Sri Bholanath Mohanty, At: Gajarajpur, PO.: Dabidola, PS.: Nuagaon, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754113. / Outstanding: Rs.32,55,749.34 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Land & Building measuring Ac.0.15 dec. situated at Plot No.421, Khata No.168, Mouza-Gajarajpur,Ps/Tahasil-Naugaon,Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Property owned by Tusharkanta Mohanty, Property Bounded by: North - Road, South - Road, East - Chandramohan Nayak, West - Gopi Nayak.	Rs.21,54,000/- / Rs.2,15,400/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 199321980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0119934
14.	<b>MAHANADI VIHAR BRANCH, Mob.: 7008105322</b> Borrower/Co-Aplicant/Guarantor:(1) Mr Minaketan Behera, C/o: Late Madhabananda Behera, (2) Mr Manoj Kumar Behera, C/o: Late Madhabananda Behera, (3) Mr Malaya Kumar Behera, C/o: Late Madhabananda Behera, (4) Manoranjan Behera, C/o: Late Madhabananda Behera, Address: Qtr no-7, Labour Colony, Rajabagicha, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack-753009. / Outstanding: Rs.11,66,332.13 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Land and Residential Building belonging to Late Madhabananda Behera(Father), Mr Minaketan Behera (Son), Mr Manoj Kumar Behera(Son), Mr Malaya Kumar Behera(Son), Mr Manoranjan Behera(Son) at Plot no.1721/2118 & 1721/2441, Khata no. 657/48, Mouza: Cuttack Town, Unit No. 35, Jhanjhirangala, PS : Purihant, 5 Thana : Cuttack 215, Dist: Cuttack -753012, Area : Ac.0.015 dec., Property Bounded by: North - Road, South - Ramachandra Rai, East - Madhusudan Kar, West - Satyabadi Panda.	Rs.25,82,000/- / Rs.2,58,200/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 302219800500000 IFSC Code: UBIN0830224
15.	<b>SOMPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 7873301333</b> Borrower/Co-Aplicant/ Guarantor: (1) Smt Ranjana Sethi [Party No.1], W/o: Late Rabindra Kumar Sethy, (2)Shri Rashmi Ranjan Sethy [Party No.2] (3) Smt Benga Bewa [ Party No. 3 ], (4) Shri Subash Chandra Sethy [ Party No. 4 ] ( Party No. 1 to 4 are the Legal Her of Late Rabindra Kumar Sethy), Prop. of M/s Shiv Shakti Stores, (5) Smt Sapani Sethy [Party No.5], (6) Hemanta Sethy [Party No.6], (7) Shri Sarat Sethy [Party No.7], (Party No. 5-7 are Legal her of Guarantor Late GovindaSethy), Address: Kamrapada, Post.: Jaspada, Dist : Cuttack -754130. / Outstanding: Rs.1,05,55,729.43 as on 30.04.2021 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Land & Building belonging to Late Rabindra Kumar Sethy over Plot No.1, 1988, 1389/1598 and 1369 (Chaka No 398), Khata No. 493/29 and 259, Area: Ac.0.61 dec., At: Kamrapada, Mouza/PS/ Tahasil: Kishannagar, Dist: Cuttack.	Rs.1,29,67,000/- / Rs.12,96,700/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 025319800500000 IFSC Code: UBIN0802531
16.	<b>DIEMS BRANCH, CUTTACK, Mob.: 9861186122</b> Borrower/Co-Aplicant/Guarantor:(1) Rajani Kant Sahani, (2) Mrs Lizy Sahani, both are resident of Tala Sahi, Chauliaguni, Cuttack-753004. / Outstanding: Rs.34,16,650.87 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All that part and parcel of Land and Building over Plot No. 577, Khata no. 650/478, Unit 28, Holding no. 1013/A/31/1, Area Ac.0.091 dec or 3963.96 sqft, Mouza: Cuttack Sadar, Dist/DSRO-Cuttack; standing in the name of Mr Rajani Kant Sahani, Property bounded by: North - Residential Building, South - Residential Building, East - Pond, West - Road.	Rs.1,06,02,000/- / Rs.10,60,200/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 149519800500000 IFSC Code: UBIN0814954
17.	<b>COLLEGE SQUARE BRANCH, CUTTACK, Mob.: 707798855</b> Borrower: Sk Karim Mohd, Prop. M/s Hazra Electricals, At: Idcol Chack, Imman Nagar, PS.: Jagatpur-754200, Guarantor: Mrs Sahin Sahenaj, W/o: Sk Karim Mohd, At: Gujjarpur, PO.: Bhaipur, PS.: Jagatpur, Cuttack-754200. / Outstanding: Rs.18,87,422.82 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All the piece and parcel of vacant land belonging to Mrs. Sahin Sahenaj, plot No. 2104/2919, Khata No. 747/944, Mouza : Gujjarpur, Thana: Salipur no.1, Tahasil: Salipur No.511, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha, Area: Ac. 0.040dec., Property is bounded by: North- Rajak Khan, South- Ismile Khan, East - Alimi Bibi, West- Common Road.	Rs.12,42,000/- / Rs.1,24,200/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 407101980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0540714
18.	<b>SALIPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 9090587336</b> Borrower/Co-Aplicant/ Guarantor: (1)M/s Shree Ganesh Jewellery, (Prop: Kamalakanta Sahoo), (2) Shri Kamalakanta Sahoo, At: Dhunasahi, Sunguda, Salipur, Cuttack-754221, (3) Mr. Pratap Chandra Sahoo, S/o: Late Babaji Charan Sahoo, At: Kusambi, Po: Sunguda, Salipur, Cuttack-754221, (4) Mrs Jharana Sahoo, W/o: Late Babaji Charan Sahoo, At: Kusambi, Po: Sunguda, Salipur, Cuttack-754221 (5) Mr. Raj Kishor Sahoo, S/o: Late Durga Charan Sahoo, At: Kusambi, Po: Sunguda, Salipur, Cuttack-754221. / Outstanding: Rs.11,06,604.49 as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	Land and residential Building belonging to Mr Babaji Charan Sahoo, Mr. Raj Kishor Sahoo, S/o: Late Durga Charan Sahoo, At: Kusambi, Po: Sunguda, Salipur, Cuttack-754221, over plot no. 416/2899, khata no 987/208, mouza Kusambi, Tahasil- Salipur, Dist. Cuttack, Area - Ac.0.059 dec., Property bounded by: North - Balram Sahoo & Ahalya Singh, South - Road, East - Vendeed, West - Vendeed.	Rs.11,81,000/- / Rs.1,18,100/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 301019800500000 IFSC Code: UBIN0830101
19.	<b>SALIPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 9090587336</b> Borrower/Co-Aplicant/ Guarantor: (1) Mr Akshaya Mallick, S/o: Late Uttam Mallick, At: Kulanapur, PO.: Salipur, Cuttack-754202, over plot no 2072, khata no 51, mouza: Kulampur, Tahasil- Nischintakoliil Dist: Cuttack, Area Ac 0.100 dec., Property Bounded by: North - Premchand Mallick, South - Canal, East - Baban Mallick, West - Road.	All the piece and parcel of Land and residential building belonging to Mr.Akshaya Mallick, S/o Late Uttam Mallick, At: Kulanapur, PO.: Salipur, Cuttack-754202, over plot no 2072, khata no 51, mouza: Kulampur, Tahasil- Nischintakoliil Dist: Cuttack, Area Ac 0.100 dec., Property Bounded by: North - Premchand Mallick, South - Canal, East - Baban Mallick, West - Road.	Rs.5,15,000/- / Rs.51,500/- / Rs.10,000/-	Account No.: 301019800500000 IFSC Code: UBIN0830101
20.	<b>SOGAR BRANCH, Mob.: 7978786470</b> Borrower: Sri Bidyadhar Jena, (Prop. M/s Jagannath Agencies), S/o: Sri Ramachandra Jena, Guarantor: Mr Pravat Sahoo, S/o: Late Sri Jayakrushna Sahoo, both are resident of At: Korian Bypass, PO: Korian, Dist: Dhenkanal-759013. / Outstanding: Rs.35,88,199.36 as on 31.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.	All that piece and parcel of land owned by Mr Pravat Sahoo, S/o Late Sri Jayakrushna Sahoo, Plot No. 1330, 1332, 1336, Khata No. 417/162, Mouza: Dholapasi, Tahasil: Dhenkanal Sadar & No. 131, PS.: Barbi & No.55, Area: Ac.0.45 dec. Dist: Dhenkanal, Odisha, Property bounded by: North- Geetanjali Sahoo, South- Vendeed, East- Canal, West: Road.	Rs.20,25,000/- / Rs.2,02,500/- / Rs.10	



FOCUS TRIBAL AS PRESIDENT

# BEYOND ELECTORAL POLITICS



Given the tribal population in many states, of course, this decision is taken by looking at the electoral interests of the party. In a democracy, this isn't wrong either

seen in this year's Manipur Assembly polls. However, BJP's electoral victory has little to do with the party's Hindutva ideology. That's the reason the BJP chose Murmu out of a list of 20 probable candidates this time. Last time, it had nominated Ram Nath Kovind, a Dalit, to enter Rashtrapati Bhavan.

On the other hand, the Opposition has nominated former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, who was a Union minister in Vajpayee government. He quit the party as he felt ignored by the "New BJP". Sinha's nomination hasn't gone down well within the Opposition too. The supporters of CPM are questioning the party for supporting a former BJP leader and a candidate sponsored by their arch-rival Mamata Banerjee. After quitting BJP last year, Sinha had joined TMC. The tribal party, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is unlikely to support him as it can't be seen to vote against one of its own. Mayawati's BSP has already announced support for Murmu.

As the parties can't issue whips in this election, the Opposition camp is worried that some, particularly tribal MLAs and MPs, may vote with the ruling NDA camp. The only achievement for the Opposition camp is that this time Telangana CM KCR's Telangana Rashtra Samithi has extended support to Sinha, though last time it had supported NDA's candidate.

That the BJP-led NDA has the upper hand in the presidential polls was known to all. The Opposition could have at least sent a correct political message by nominating a better candidate than Sinha. But it failed to do so, clearly showing its hopelessness and desperation to just fight the BJP without an alternative agenda. On the other hand, supported by its Hindutva agenda, the BJP by choosing Murmu has sent a loud and clear message: it cares about the marginalised sections and is serious about women empowerment. The election of the country's next President is to prove it.

INFA

A time when the country is celebrating its 75 years of Independence, it is really heartening that a tribal and a woman, Droupadi Murmu, is set to get elected as the President of India. Belonging to the Santhal community, she hails from Odisha and is a self-made leader, who was a Minister in Odisha government and later became Governor of Jharkhand. Nominated by the BJP-led NDA, largest bloc in the electoral college that elects the President, and with BJD and YSR Congress extending support, Murmu's victory is just a matter of time.

Sceptics, however, are refusing to view this beyond symbolism. They argue that the post of President is a ceremonial one and the nomination of a tribal is just an eyewash. True, the post is mostly ceremonial and the power rests with the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, but that doesn't mean the President has no powers. One of the crucial powers vested is that in case of a hung Lok Sabha, it is the President who has the authority to elect the Prime Minister and also dismiss the government if it doesn't have the majority in the Lok Sabha.

The Opposition parties and Left-leaning intellectuals claim the policies of the present dispensation, led by PM Narendra Modi, haven't been fair to the marginalised sections of the country. And opting for a tribal for the top post is just an act of symbolism by the BJP. Their assessment is simply refusing to see the changes happening on the ground.

Over the last years, the BJP has increased its support among the marginalised sections. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 44% of tribals, according to the Lokniti-CSDS post-poll survey, voted for the BJP. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the figure of tribals voting for the safiron party was 38%. Not only tribals, but the BJP has also been able to increase its support among the Dalits. According to CSDS-Lokniti, it got 33% votes of Dalits in 2019 polls, an increase of 9% in com-

parison to 2014.

The Left and the liberals choose not to accept the bitter fact that the BJP is no more a Brahminical party or a party of the 'upper-castes'. A significant chunk of the backward sections of the society today are its voters. Not only is the BJP ruling at the Centre but in majority of the states because of the tacit support it is getting from these backward sections. So it's quite natural the BJP sees its responsibility to address their issues and aspirations.

At the same time, the Left and the liberals aren't wrong when they say Murmu's nomination has a lot to do with electoral politics. Given the tribal population in many states, of course, this decision is taken by looking at the electoral interests of the party. In a democracy this isn't wrong either. As Murmu hails from Odisha, it is no secret that the BJP is eyeing this eastern state ruled by Naveen Patnaik. Additionally, the calculated move is also taken to ensure electoral benefits in two neighbouring eastern states - Jharkhand and West Bengal.

In tribal areas of West Bengal, the BJP got electoral benefits in the 2019 polls but failed to keep that momentum in the 2021 Assembly polls. Similarly, the BJP is also focussing on Jharkhand, a state with

a significant tribal population, where the party lost in the 2019 Assembly polls due to erosion in tribal support. There are other states such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Gujarat with significant tribal populations.

The critics are also missing the point that the nomination of a tribal to the President's post isn't just about electoral politics. The ideological parent of the BJP, the RSS-led Sangh Parivar, has been trying to get a foothold for decades among the backward sections, particularly the Dalits and the Scheduled Tribes. It has been working tirelessly to spread the ideology of Hindutva among these marginalised sections.

By nominating a tribal, the Sangh Parivar wants to clearly convey the message that the Scheduled Tribes have the right to occupy the highest post of the country, which never happened in the past 75 years. Although the BJP and the Sangh Parivar have been able to gain a foothold among these marginalised sections, their target is to consolidate their presence. Also, there are areas where the party and the Sangh still have to grow - the tribal dominated areas in the northeast.

In recent times, the BJP has successfully penetrated here, as



Sagarnel Sinha

**AS PARTIES CAN'T ISSUE WHIPS IN THIS ELECTION, THE OPPOSITION CAMP IS WORRIED THAT SOME, PARTICULARLY TRIBAL MLAs AND MPs, MAY VOTE WITH THE RULING CAMP**



Aakar Patel

**There are many who are enjoying the fact that activists like Setalvad and journalists like Zubair are in jail without being convicted. These people should realise that there is no benefit to India as a constitutional democracy or modern State from such actions**

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Don't cancel Russian culture



Nina L. Khrushcheva

**EVEN RUSSIANS WHO DO NOT FULLY BUY THE KREMLIN'S UKRAINE NARRATIVE ARE AGHAST AT THE READINESS WITH WHICH THE WEST TURNED ON ALL THINGS RUSSIAN**

Before he wrote *The Brothers Karamazov* or *Notes from the Underground*, Fyodor Dostoevsky was sentenced to death by the czarist government for allegedly participating in revolutionary activities, sent to a Siberian prison camp, and forced to perform military service in exile. Nonetheless, it was after returning from Europe, where he spent years living in freedom, that Dostoevsky wrote in *A Writer's Diary*, that "everyone" has "secretly harbored malice against" Russians, that Russians "were followers and slaves."

With many, if not most, cultural institutions in both Europe and the United States having effectively "canceled" Russian artists and culture, Dostoevsky's words ring truer than ever. As Ian Buruma recently noted, Russians are now increasingly thinking that the Kremlin might have been right all along: Russia really is a "besieged fortress," forever misunderstood and undermined by a hostile West.

Of course, there is something of a chicken-or-egg question at play here. The West's rejection of Russian culture is a response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's launching of a brutal "special military operation" in Ukraine. But that operation, Putin claims, was a response to Western hostility - in

particular, America's efforts to turn Ukraine into "anti-Russia."

Even Russians who do not fully buy the Kremlin's Ukraine narrative are aghast at the readiness with which the West turned on all things Russian. After World War II, schools continued to teach the German language; orchestras continued to perform Bach and Mozart to full houses; and people continued to read Goethe and Thomas Mann. All of German history and culture was not stained by the crimes of the Nazis.

Yet, since Putin launched his war on Ukraine, the Munich Philharmonic orchestra has fired its Russian chief conductor, Valery Gergiev, and the New York Metropolitan Opera has severed ties with Russia's Bolshoi Theatre. Russian musicians have been excluded from international competitions. Some orchestras have even removed Tchaikovsky from their concert programs.

Another great Russian author, Vladimir Nabokov, described the tendency to dismiss a culture as a form of vulgarity. While cutting ties with Russian universities might seem less vulgar than smashing German stores on Nevsky Prospect in St. Petersburg, as Russian nationalists did in the 1910s, the underlying sentiment is the same.

Even in Ukraine's case, the dismissal of Russian art and culture

seems to be based on flawed logic. Of course, if anyone is justified in rejecting Russia, it is Ukraine. But the decision to eliminate Russian literature and language from school curricula is not nearly as straightforward as "throwing out" everything that "somehow connects us with the Russian Empire," as Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Education and Science Andriy Vitrenko put it.

The Ukrainian film director Sergei Loznitsa has urged caution in canceling Russian artists, partly because what makes something "Russian" is not always clear: He was expelled from the Ukrainian Film Academy over his stance, but he makes a good point. In fact, the education ministry's approach to Nikolai Gogol highlights this ambiguity: Though Gogol was born in Ukraine - and his Ukrainian stories will be allowed - he wrote masterpieces like *The Overcoat* and *Dead Souls* while living in St. Petersburg and Rome. These works will thus be banned from Ukrainian schools, depriving the country's students of great art by a genius many Ukrainians claim as their own.

In Nikolai Leskov's short story "The Tale of the Cross-eyed Lefty from Tula and the Steel Flea," Czar Alexander I orders his servant to find a Russian capable of improving upon a small mechanical flea

the czar had brought back from London. Tula's blacksmiths work for days, to no apparent avail. But one - "Lefty" - eventually shows the czar that the Russians had managed to fit the flea with horseshoes, using tiny nails Lefty had forged. It was a masterful achievement, but what was the point?

Invading Ukraine does not serve Russia's national interests. But, like Alexander I in Leskov's story, Putin has a point to make: Russia is a great power, capable of achieving things others cannot. Peter the Great - whom Putin has invoked in his effort to justify the Ukraine war - made a similar point in the eighteenth century, by reclaiming from Sweden the "Russian lands" on the Baltic coast.

Like so many Russian works, Leskov's story ends in tragedy. After astonishing the czar and the English alike, Lefty engages in a drinking competition with a British sailor in St. Petersburg that ends with him being sent to a hospital for unknown people, owing to his lack of identification. There, Lefty dies, with little to show for the point he so impressively made. Perhaps Putin, too, should be reading Russian literature more closely.

The writer is Professor of International Affairs at The New School.

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WISDOM CORNER

- Care about what other people think and you will always be their prisoner. LAO TZU
- Do one thing at a time, and while doing it put your whole soul into it to the exclusion of all else. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
- A ship is always safe at the shore, but that is not what it is built for. ALBERT EINSTEIN

WORDSWORTH

Tripudiate

If you tripudiate a person, you dance with excitement or figuratively trample on an opponent in triumph. The Oxford English Dictionary marks this as "rare and affected", a reasonable conclusion. It had its time before the public, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but as writers came to eschew rhetoric and prefer straightforward prose, it gradually fell out of use and had pretty much vanished by the end of the nineteenth century. A typical instance of the type of high-flown language in which it flourished is Thomas Carlyle's *History of Friedrich II of Prussia*. He recounts the occasion in 1730 when the future king let slip some premature news about the marriage of his sister Wilhelmina to Frederick, the British Prince of Wales: "Upon which the whole Palace of Charlottenburg now bursts into tripudiation; the very valets cutting capers, making somersets, - and rushing off with the news to Berlin." [Somerset is an old form of somersault, to turn head over heels.] The word is from Latin tripudium, stamping on the ground, which is possibly from words meaning three and foot, indicating a measured dance of some sort, perhaps during a religious ritual. The first sense in English referred to dancing, skipping or leaping for joy or excitement. The sense of trampling on an opponent came into the language only in the nineteenth century. An example is in Love's *Meinie* by John Ruskin: "And observe also, that of the three types of lout, whose combined chorus and tripudiation leads the present British Constitution its devil's dance, this last and smoothest type is also the dullest."

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Ideological compromise

Sir, This refers to "Shinde not Shiv Sena CM: Uddhav," Orissa POST, July 2. The whole political drama that unfolded in Maharashtra - converging at the anointment of the Shiva Sena rebel Eknath Shinde as Chief Minister, is a well strategised plan of the ace politicians Narendra Modi and Amit Shah to snatch Shiv Sena from the Thackerays. The BJP and the Shiv Sena, both driven by the Hindutva ideology, vied for the same vote bank in Maharashtra. The growth of the BJP in the state has been stymied for decades by the belligerent Sena which still controls the streets and a large chunk of the Hindutva votes. While BJP refused to play junior partner to the Sena and demanded the chief minister's chair after winning the last Assembly election, Uddhav dumped the decades-old ally to join hands with the Sena's ideological opponents and arch enemies - Congress and its splinter Nationalist Congress Party - to head a coalition government. But, Uddhav's ideological compromise did not go down well with the party's cadre. It bred disquiet within the ranks. The BJP was quick to read the situation and moved in for the kill. So, the BJP lost no time in exploiting the growing schism in the Sena and effected a clean split in the latter's legislature party. The idea is to isolate the Thackeray family and make it impossible for it to rise again.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Protect journalists

Sir, In the evening of June 27, officers with the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations unit of Delhi police arrested Zubair, co-founder of the fact-checking website Alt News, on charges of allegedly hurting religious sentiments following a complaint by a social media user who referred to a tweet from 2018. Police accuse Zubair of promoting enmity between different groups and committing malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings. If charged and convicted, he could face up to three years of prison and a fine for each offence, according to the IPC. In fact he was exposing lies, and then he was in danger. When the game of hate was exposed in the name of religion, it became hated. There is a danger to those who reveal lies. Justice Chandrachud said the government's lies should be exposed. Indian authorities must immediately and unconditionally release Zubair, and cease harassing him in retaliation for his work. The job of an honest journalist is to bring the truth to the forefront, but the system does not allow it.

Asit Mohanty, Jajpur



# national

## of the day quote

I think if someone asks me if I'm scared of something, I would say 'yes'. There is a reason to be afraid now. The current situation in the country has become a cause for fear

AMARTYA SEN | NOBEL LAUREATE

Maharashtra always has immense potential. But the last (MVA) government was acting like a speed-breaker, which resulted in the state lagging behind in development

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

The cost of electric vehicles should be affordable for the common man. Then only its usage could see an increase. The manufacturers should focus more on this aspect

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Two arrested for death threats

**Durg:** Two persons, including a woman, were arrested on Saturday for allegedly giving death threats to a 22-year-old man in Chhattisgarh's Durg district after he shared a social media post in support of former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her remarks against Prophet Muhammad, an official said. The accused identified as Kunal Sendre alias Kasif (22) and Ritika Bharti (20), both residents of the Gole Bazar area in the state capital Raipur, were arrested from their native places, said Vishwas Chandrakar, City Superintendent of Police (Old Bhalai). Based on the mobile numbers provided by the victim, Raja Jagat, a resident of a town in Durg, the accused were traced and nabbed, he added. Jagat works in a shopping mall located near Gole Bazar area.

### Cop found dead

**New Delhi:** A Delhi Police Constable was found dead inside a car here on Saturday, an official said. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rohini, Pranav Tayal said a passerby informed police about a dead body in a car parked alongside a petrol pump boundary wall at Prashant Vihar around 9 a.m. "On reaching the spot, there was a foul smell from inside a Santro car and the body of a person was found on the driver seat. It was later identified to be of Constable Amandeep Singh posted in Prashant Vihar police station and on casual leave," he said. A crime team of Delhi Police also reached the spot along with forensic experts. "Family members have been informed and the inquest proceedings under section 174 CrPC have been undertaken," DCP Tayal said, adding that no suicide note was recovered from the spot.

## Manipur landslide death toll rises to 29

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Imphal, July 2:** The toll in the landslide at a railway construction site in Manipur's Noney district climbed to 29 Saturday after eight more bodies were recovered from under the debris, officials said.

Thirty-four people are still missing after a massive landslide hit the Tupul yard railway construction camp on the night of June 29. Inclement weather is affecting the search operations, officials said.

Out of the eight bodies recovered during the day, five are of Territorial Army personnel and one of an employee of a construction company. The two others are yet to be identified. The defence personnel were there to provide security to the construction site. "Eight bodies were found on Thursday and 13 yesterday," an official said.

He said that altogether 34 people, including 14 employees of two construction companies, five villagers and three of the railways, are still missing. Eighteen people were rescued from the site on Thursday.

The search started at 4 am and rescue teams have been advised to proceed with caution.



I believe today we do not need a silent president who gets elected to the post but does not discharge constitutional obligations. The president has the right to give suggestions to the government but if he or she is a puppet in the hands of the prime minister, then he or she will not do it

YASHWANT SINHA | OPPOSITION'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

## KARNATAKA SHOCKER

In a shocking incident, a police inspector attached to Karnataka police department is accused of raping his step-daughters. His wife has sought a CBI probe into the matter



## Cops issue lookout notice against Nupur

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, July 2:** Kolkata police, Saturday, issued lookout notice against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma, whose controversial comments about Prophet Muhammad had created nationwide stir and tension last month.

A senior official of the city police informed that they were forced to issue the lookout notice as Sharma did not turn up after she was sent two notices for appearance for interrogation. Kolkata Police is the first to issue a lookout notice against Sharma on this issue.

First, Narkeldanga Police Station, under the eastern suburban division of Kolkata Police, had issued a similar summons to Sharma, asking her to be present for questioning at the said police station on June 20. Then a fresh notice was issued by Amherst Street police station, under Kolkata Police's north and north suburban division, asking Sharma to be present at the police station on June 25.

However, in both the cases, she had sent a last moment email communicate to the city police ex-



pressing her inability to appear seeking more time for the same. She also expressed apprehension about security threats if she comes to Kolkata.

The city police official informed that different individuals have filed 10 FIRs in different police stations against Sharma holding her controversial comments about Prophet Muhammad responsible for fuelling communal tension in different pockets in the state. Already, a motion condemning Nupur Sharma's controversial comments has been passed in the West Bengal assembly.

Soon after Sharma's controversial comments went viral, there was severe tension in several minority-dominated pockets in West Bengal in districts like Kolkata and adjacent Howrah, Murshidabad, and Nadia.

## PC George held in sexual assault case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, July 2:** Controversial Kerala politician P C George was Saturday arrested here on the basis of a sexual assault complaint filed by an accused in the solar panel case, two months after he was arrested and released on bail for hate speech.

The 70-year-old George, who represented the Poonjar constituency in the state Assembly for 33 years, was taken into custody by the Museum police from a guest house in the capital city this afternoon in a dramatic move.

At that time, the senior politician was being grilled by a team of Crime Branch personnel in connection with a conspiracy allegedly hatched to defame the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in smuggling charges levelled by gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh.

According to police sources, the sudden move to arrest George was made based on a secret statement given by the accused and according to a written complaint filed directly by her at the local police station here in this regard. As per the complaint, the senior politician had allegedly behaved in a way insulting her modesty on February 10 at a guest house here and sent her indecent messages in mobile phone.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Trucks carrying wheat from India as part of a humanitarian aid to Afghanistan stand parked before passing through the Attari-Wagah border between India and Pakistan, near Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

## From allies to arch-enemies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, July 2:** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was an enthusiastic supporter of the BJP-led NDA's presidential candidate Ram Nath Kovind around this time five years back, with his party Telangana Rashtra Samithi often backing the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government on key issues in Parliament.

In a sign of how sour things have turned between him and the BJP now, Rao Saturday skipped a ceremonial welcome for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his arrival in the city where the BJP is holding its national executive meeting to plan, among other things, the Telangana CM's ouster from power.

Rao instead accorded a warm welcome to the Opposition's presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha. That Sinha arrived here on the same day Modi did was seen as more than a mere coincidence. The TRS has dismissed the BJP meet as a "circus" where political "tourists" from across the country will gather while the saffron party accused him of insulting not an individual but the institution by yet again not joining the customary welcome for the prime minister.

While Rao has taken its battle against the BJP national, visiting

In China, there is less talk and more action, therefore the outcome is its pacing economy. Here all talk, no work, so no outcome. Make in India is a big lie. People are losing their jobs and labourers are on the road

K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM



different states and the national capital to work to forge an opposition alliance, the BJP has redoubled its efforts to end his reign in the resource-rich state where he is in power since 2014.

A few BJP leaders, who arrived in the city for the two-day national executive meet, were quick to draw a parallel between Rao and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray to assert that the state chief minister will meet the fate of the Maharashtra leader, a longtime BJP ally turned rival.

That the meeting is taking place in the immediate aftermath of the

toppling of the Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government and the swearing-in of the dispensation led by the BJP and Shiv Sena rebels has made the comparison obvious.

Besides, the TRS was seen as a friendly party to the BJP before it turned against the saffron party gradually after the Modi government came to power for a second term in 2019. The TRS was also a member of the BJP-led NDA during the 2009 Lok Sabha polls. BJP leaders blamed Rao's "frustration and anger" with the party after he sensed the potential for its rise in the state.

## Pulitzer awardee stopped from flying abroad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** A Pulitzer-winning Kashmiri photojournalist was Saturday stopped from flying abroad by immigration authorities at the airport here who cited restrictions imposed on her by the Jammu and Kashmir police.

Sanna Irshad Mattoo was on her way to Paris to attend a book launch event and participate in a photography exhibition when she was stopped by immigration authorities



at the Delhi airport. "Whatever happened today was totally unexpected," she said.

In a tweet, she said, "I was sched-

uled to travel from Delhi to Paris today for a book launch and photography exhibition as one of 10 award winners of the Serendipity Arles grant 2020. Despite procuring a French visa, I was stopped at the immigration desk at Delhi airport." "I was not given any reason but told I would not be able to travel internationally," she tweeted. Karti Chidambaram, son of former union minister P Chidambaram, was among those who reacted on social media.

## NIA to investigate chemist's murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** The anti-terror probe agency NIA will investigate the killing of a chemist in Maharashtra's Amravati, the government said Saturday, after it emerged it might be linked to his social media posts supporting suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

The chemist, Umesh Prahlad Rao Kolhe, was killed June 21. A Home Ministry spokesperson tweeted that the probe of the case relating to the "barbaric killing" of Kolhe has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The federal probe agency would thoroughly investigate the conspiracy behind the killing and involvement of organisations and international linkages.

Kolhe's killing had taken place a week before two men hacked to death a tailor in Rajasthan's Udaipur before posting videos online saying that they were avenging an insult to Islam.

Days before his killing, the Udaipur tailor had told the local police that he had received threats over a social media post shared from his account, apparently "sup-

- The federal probe agency would thoroughly investigate the conspiracy behind the killing and involvement of organisations and international linkages
- Kolhe was killed between 10 pm and 10:30 pm June 21 when he was returning home on a two-wheeler after closing his shop

porting" BJP leader Sharma's remarks on Prophet Mohammad. The NIA is also probing the killing of the Udaipur tailor, Kanhaiya Lal.

The Maharashtra Police have arrested five people in connection with the Amravati killing and are looking for one Irfan Khan, who runs an NGO and is alleged to be the prime accused in the case.

According to the police, Kolhe had allegedly shared a post on some WhatsApp groups in support of Nupur Sharma, following which Khan is alleged to have hatched a conspiracy to eliminate him.

Kolhe was killed between 10 pm and 10:30 pm June 21 when he was returning home on a two-wheeler after closing his shop.



THERE ARE 90 SEATS IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY, OUT OF WHICH 71 ARE OCCUPIED BY THE CONGRESS AND ONLY 14 MLAs BELONG TO THE BJP

## In Chhattisgarh, it is a straight contest between Baghel, BJP

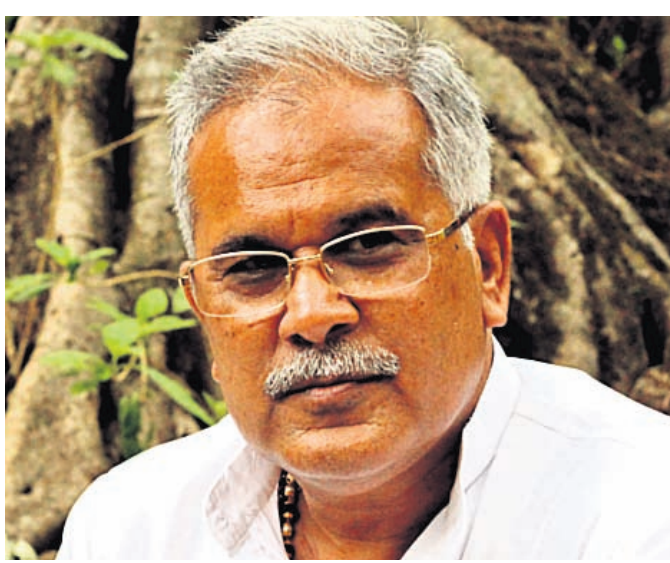
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Raipur, July 2:** Chhattisgarh is probably the only state in the country where the Congress and especially its Chief Minister have become a big challenge for the BJP. Here the BJP is not competing with the Congress as much as with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. This situation is likely to continue till next year's assembly elections.

There are 90 seats in the state assembly, out of which 71 are occupied by the Congress and only 14 MLAs belong to the BJP. Apart from this, three MLAs are from the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh and two MLAs are from the Bahujan Samaj Party. Overall, the position of the Congress in the Assembly is very strong as it enjoys more than

a two-thirds majority in the state. While maintaining this position is a big challenge for the Congress, it is a far cry for the BJP to return to power.

More than the organisation, the pro-activity of Chief Minister Baghel is clearly visible. Here the Congress is Bhupesh Baghel. He had the command of the Congress before 2018 and the party won under his leadership. During the election to strike a chord with the voters, he raised the slogan 'Chhattisgarh ki Char Chinhari Narva, Garwa, Ghurva au Bari, Ella bachana hai Sangwari'. (There are four symbols for the identity of Chhattisgarh, Narva (nala), Garwa (cattle), Ghurva (manure of the garbage heap) and Bari (garden), their protection is necessary). After



forming the government, he started implementing this.

Referring to the developing state, Baghel said that important programmes being run in Chhattisgarh using innovation in the public interest are being discussed in other states. "Our main goal is to increase the income of the people. Keeping this in mind, the schemes are being implemented in a better way. Through them, farmers, labourers, youth, women and tribals etc. have started getting ample opportunities to progress in the state," he stated.

Baghel said apart from the four symbols of Chhattisgarh, the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiless Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana etc. programmes are bringing change in

the rural economy of Chhattisgarh.

On the other hand, BJP MLA Shivratna Sharma says that the Congress government in the state had come with many promises, but not a single public announcement has been implemented. "Every class is upset and annoyed. Due to this, the departure of the Congress government in the assembly elections to be held next year is certain. The BJP will come to power again," he claimed.

The Congress implemented the farmers' loan waiver scheme as soon as it came to power in the state, whereas, through the Godhan Nyay scheme, it made cowsheds and bought cow dung. It also provided employment opportunities to women. Presently, the unemployment rate in the state is the lowest in the country.



# 4 communal incidents in 3 months highlight intel failure in Rajasthan

In Rajasthan, riots have taken place in Karauli, Jodhpur, Bhilwara and now the horrific murder in Udaipur, but the intelligence had no clue



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, July 2:** Four incidents of communal violence in three months in Rajasthan have shifted the attention to the intelligence failure in the desert state and now questions are being raised on the governance.

The intelligence failure is being discussed all across the state after the brutal and horrific murder of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, the video of which was put on the social media.

In three months, communal riots have been reported in four districts of the state and surprisingly in all these incidents, the intelligence failed to give any input to the district administration.

The riots have taken place in Karauli, Jodhpur, Bhilwara and

now the horrific murder in Udaipur, but the intelligence had no clue.

In Karauli, stone pelting was reported April 2 on the occasion of Ram Navami, but the intelligence had no idea about it. A total of 37 people were arrested while around 140 were booked. Some are still absconding. Several shops were set on fire. The police registered a case against 144 people but till now only 37 could be arrested.

A month later, communal tension erupted at Jalori Gate in Jodhpur triggered by dispute over raising flag of a certain community, near the statue of freedom fighter Bal Mukund Bissa. Internet was suspended for four days. Around 40 people were rounded up, and as usual there was no intelligence about the communal clash.

In Bhilwara, May 5, in the Sanganer area, the fight between the two communities took the form of communal tension. Members of both the communities came on the streets. The police had to shut down Internet for two days. While twenty five people were booked, only a few have been arrested so far. After six days, there was communal tension again in Shastri Nagar area of Bhilwara. The authorities again shut the Internet for a day. Bhilwara police had no intelligence about the communal tension in the area.

Rajasthan Police have formed an SIT to probe if these riots were a part of any conspiracy, a report is yet to be given to the government.

Meanwhile, BJP State President Satish Poonia said that the Udaipur murder has highlighted the complete failure of the law and order as well as of intelligence in the state.

He said, "The Udaipur incident shows how criminals are becoming fearless which highlights the failure of the law and order of the state government. The NIA or central agency comes only when local administration fails. If the police administration and the state government become weak, it is the Home Minister and Chief Minister who have the moral responsibility to maintain law and order. It is regrettable that the CM appealed for peace through Twitter."

# Refuting Cong charge, BJP says Udaipur killer not its party member



AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Jaipur, July 2:** The Congress on Saturday alleged that the main accused in the Kanhaiya Lal murder case in Udaipur was a member of the BJP, which dismissed the claim as "fake news" and an attempt to deflect attention from the "failures of Ashok Gehlot government" in Rajasthan.

At a press conference in the national capital, Congress' media department head Pawan Kherra cited Facebook posts showing accused Riyaz Akhtari with local BJP leaders and sought to know whether the Centre had moved quickly to transfer the case to the NIA due to this reason.

"Through the posts of BJP leader Irshad Chainwala on Facebook November 30, 2018, and Mohammad Tahir February 3, 2019, October 27, 2019, August 10, 2021, and November 28, 2019, and other posts, it is clear that the killer of Kanhaiya Lal terrorist Riyaz... Was not only close to BJP leaders, but was also an active member of the BJP," Kherra alleged.

He said Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had welcomed the transfer of this case to the NIA.

However, in light of new facts, the question arises whether the BJP-led government at the Centre moved quickly to transfer the case to the NIA due to these reasons, he said and demanded that the BJP come clean on the issue.

Responding to a tweet by a

Congress leader, BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya said the accused were not BJP members and the opposition party should "stop fooling around" on matters related to national security.

"I am not surprised that you are peddling #FakeNews. The Udaipur murderers WERN'T members of the BJP. Their attempt to infiltrate was like the LTTE assassin's attempt to enter the Congress to kill Rajiv Gandhi," he tweeted.

Congress should stop fooling around with terror and national security, Malviya said.

Mohammad Sadiq Khan, Rajasthan president of the BJP Minority Morcha, also said the photos cannot be held as proof of Akhtari being a party member.

He alleged that the Congress wanted to shift the blame on the saffron party to divert public attention from the failures of the Ashok Gehlot government which did nothing for minorities in three-and-a-half years.

Anyone can have a photo with any leader. It does not mean that he is a member of the BJP, Khan told reporters.

He might have gone to some programme of the party to carry out a recee and got photos clicked with local leaders. Since it is a normal trend to upload photos with leaders or celebrities on Facebook and other social media platforms, he might have also uploaded the photo but it does not mean that he is a BJP member, Sadiq said.

The BJP leader said the murder highlights the state government's failure as it did not provide security to Kanhaiya Lal despite a clear threat.

Khan said Akhtari's vehicle number was 2611, which he obtained by choice in 2013, and this indicated his radical ideology.

BJP leader Kapil Mishra met the family members of Kanhaiya Lal and announced financial help of Rs 1 crore collected through a fundraising initiative.

Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor, was hacked to death Tuesday afternoon by two cleaver-wielding men, who posted online a grisly video of the crime saying they were avenging an insult to Islam. The killing has sparked widespread outrage.

Akhtari and another accused Ghouse Mohammad were arrested hours after the incident while fleeing on a motorcycle.

Two more people, who were allegedly involved in a recee of Kanhaiya's shop and the conspiracy to kill him, were also arrested later. The four were Saturday remanded in police custody till July 12.

# IN A FIRST CIAL starts technical landing for refueling planes

THE LAST THREE DAYS SAW 9 AIRCRAFT FLYING EITHER IN COLOMBO-EUROPE OR COLOMBO-MIDDLE EAST SECTORS OPTING FOR COCHIN AIRPORT'S TECHNICAL LANDING CAPABILITY AND UPLIFTED 4,75,000 LITRES OF ATF FROM KOCHI AIRPORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, July 2:** Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) Saturday said it has started facilitating technical landing for refueling of flights operating in the nearby international air route.

Having established itself as a major airport in the Indian sub-continent and capable of addressing technical requirements for aircraft up to Code E category, the in-built hydrant fuelling system at Cochin Airport meets the quick turnaround requirement of international carriers, it said in a statement here.

The technical landing facility is being done for the first time in the history of Kochi airport.

The last three days saw 9 aircraft flying either in Colombo-Europe or Colombo-Middle East sectors opting for Cochin airport's technical landing capability and



uplifted 4,75,000 litres of ATF from Kochi airport, it said.

With the fuel crisis in Sri Lanka looming large, airlines bound to Colombo from the Middle East or flying out from Colombo to the Middle East European destinations started using the route proximity advantage of Cochin airport.

Quick response by CIAL in terms of efficient apron management by making available a fuel hydrant system for such a requirement, more aircraft could effectively be accommodated on the apron without affecting scheduled operations in any way.

Since June 29, six flights operated by Sri Lankan Airlines bound to Sharjah, London Heathrow and Frankfurt, two flights operated by Air Arabia to Abu Dhabi and one flight operated by Jazeera Airways bound to Kuwait (all flying out from Colombo) used the

technical landing facility of CIAL, the statement said.

CIAL Managing Director S Suhas said the management's prompt response and adaptability to changing situations have helped connect with the foreign carriers and make available its fuel hydrant system to tide over a commercial aviation crisis.

"When we have foreseen the change in fuel distribution dynamics in the region, we upped the ante by recalibrating our apron management systems. Now more airlines have started contacting

us and we are sure that this will boost our revenue potentials," added Suhas.

There are many airports in the world doing more business in technical landing compared to regular operations. The system established at Cochin Airport has the potential to serve more airlines, whether for a planned stopover or for any unplanned technical stopovers, the company said. CIAL said it has started discussions with airlines using this flying route offering to make use of its facility.

**When we have foreseen the change in fuel distribution dynamics in the region, we upped the ante by recalibrating our apron management systems. Now more airlines have started contacting us and we are sure that this will boost our revenue potentials**

S SUHAS | MANAGING DIRECTOR, COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED

# NAVAL GIANT



Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant goes for a sea trial, ahead of its commissioning into the Indian Navy, in Kochi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

# IPL-style Champions Boat League to begin Sept 4

SNAKE-BOATS HAVE SEVEN CENTURIES OF HISTORY, STARTING WITH AN ORDER OF 14TH-CENTURY KING DEVANARAYANAN TO DESIGN WOODEN VESSELS WITH ITS ONE PROW RISING IN THE SHAPE OF A REPTILE'S HOOD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, July 2:** The second edition of the IPL-modelled Champions Boat League (CBL) will be held from September 4 to November 26 across five districts in Kerala, Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas said Saturday.

The inaugural leg of the snake-boat races will be held at Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha alongside the iconic Nehru Trophy Boat Race September 4, the minister announced at a curtain-raiser event here.

Concluding with President's Trophy in Kollam November 26, CBL-2 is being organised by Kerala Tourism as consecutive weekend events - after the inaugural at the sprawling Punnamada Lake, 50km south of Kochi.

CBL-2, like its first edition held in 2019 on the lines of Indian Premier League in cricket, will have half of its legs in Alappuzha district, two each in Kollam and Ernakulam districts and one each in Thrissur and Kottayam districts.

The venues in Alappuzha will be Pulinkunnu, Kainakary, Karuvatta, Pandanadu (Chengannur) and Kayamkulam, besides the district



headquarter city.

Piravom and Marine Drive will be the venues in Ernakulam, while Kollam town and Kallada will be those in Kollam. Thazhathangadi (Kottayam) and Kottapuram (near Kodungallur in Thrissur district) are the other venues.

Besides, there will be an allied round, featuring a competition of small boats, at the Chaliyar river in Kozhikode district, said Riyas, who also unveiled the new jerseys of the nine CBL teams.

The final, which is set to be held at the scenic Ashtamudi Lake, is 60 km north of the state capital of Thiruvananthapuram.

Kerala Tourism Principal Secretary KS Srinivas and Director of Tourism PB Nooh were present at the function.

The debut CBL edition, which was flagged off by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the presence of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar in August 2019, featured nine teams and carried prize money totalling

Rs 5.86 crore.

Tropical Titans (traditionally Pallathuruthy Boat Club) turned out to be the winners by scoring 173 points, followed by Raging Rowers (Karichal) and Mighty Oars (NCDC Devas).

Snake-boats have seven centuries of history, starting with an order of Chembakassery principality's 14th-century king Devanarayanan to design wooden vessels with its one prow rising in the shape of a reptile's hood.

The ruler won the battle in the sprawling backwaters, earning more reputation to the 138-foot-long boats as multipurpose carriers too.

The looks of the boat made from wild jackfruit tree remain unchanged in the present times; only that CBL rules permit the number of rowers to be between 80 and 100 (when the capacity can be 150).

Kerala has a string of local boat races, but the first among them to gain national prominence was the Nehru Trophy Boat Race (NTBR).

That was in 1952, when the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was accorded welcome as the chief guest at the boat-race on the Punnamada Lake in water-logged Kuttanad. So excited was Nehru on seeing the racing boats that he got into one of them and went on to donate a silver trophy before returning to Delhi.

If NTBR subsequently earned Kerala international fame, CBL has further strengthened the state's legacy of snake-boat races.

Though conceived as an annual event, the CBL missed its 2020 and '21 editions owing to the outbreak of Covid-19.



of the day quote

The Delhi government will organise a nearly fortnight-long expo to promote and strengthen the wholesale sector in the capital

BJP's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu has better chances (to win presidential polls) because of Maharashtra development. If the BJP had asked for our suggestion before announcing the name of Murmu, we could have considered it, too, bearing greater interests in mind

Violation of the ban on single-use plastic (SUP) items in Delhi will invite a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh or a jail term of up to five years

SHORT TAKES

Five of family found dead

Thiruvananthapuram: Five members of a family including two minor children were found dead in their house at nearby Kallambalam on Saturday morning, police said.

SpiceJet flight returns to Delhi

New Delhi: SpiceJet said its flight heading to Jabalpur returned to Delhi Saturday after crew members observed smoke in the cabin at around 5,000-foot altitude.

Man injured

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man was shot at by two assailants in the national capital's Dwarka area in the wee hours of Saturday, an official said.

Four arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police have busted a gang of vehicle thieves and arrested four people in this connection, an official said.



The BJP has turned the Congress' 'Genuine Simple Tax' into a 'Gabbar Singh Tax', making the GST a nightmare for doing business in India

15 KG TUMOUR REMOVED

A massive ovarian tumour, weighing about 15 kg, was surgically removed from the abdomen of a woman at a government hospital in Patna, doctors operating upon her said Saturday



Stage set for major battle



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 2: The stage is set for the first major battle, the election of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker to be held on Sunday, with the Shinde government and Maha Vikas Aghadi candidates filing their nominations here on Saturday.

The Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led government, which took office June 30, has fielded Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Rahul Narwekar while the Opposition MVA alliance has nominated Shiv Sena MLA Rajan Salvi for the crucial post.

The Congress, which had claim to the post in the previous regime, has given it up in favour of the Shiv Sena after holding discussions among the three allies including Nationalist Congress Party.

Will reply legally: Rebel Sena MLA

Panaji: Reacting to the removal of Eknath Shinde, now Chief Minister of Maharashtra, as leader of party (Shiv Sena), rebel MLA Deepak Kesarkar said that they will reply to it legally, but sender should introspect whether he is doing insult to the people of Maharashtra or not.

will easily win the Speaker elections. Congress leader Nana Patole was the last Speaker, who was elected late in 2019 after the MVA government headed by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took over.

Delhi court rejects Zubair's bail plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: Citing the nature and gravity of the offences alleged against the accused, a Delhi court Saturday dismissed the bail plea of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair and sent him to 14-day judicial custody, but not before high drama involving a senior Delhi Police officer over the outcome of the petition erupted outside the courtroom.

The case in which Zubair is an accused is related to an alleged objectionable tweet he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity, even as the Delhi police invoked new provisions - sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act - against Zubair.

During the hearing, Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastava alleged that the accused accepted money through Razorpay payment gateway from Pakistan, Syria and other countries, which requires further investigation.



Mohammed Zubair, a journalist, being taken to jail from Patiala House court after court sent him to 14-day judicial custody, in New Delhi

pearing for the accused, moved a bail application before the court on the ground that her client was not required for the investigation any further and said, "I (Zubair) am not some terrorist that they need to secure my presence".

(Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations), was forced to admit he had incorrectly informed the media earlier in the day that Zubair was sent to 14-day judicial custody when the lawyer of the journalist of the fact-checking website emphatically said the judge has not given any order yet.

ON CLOUD NINE



Cadets celebrate after their passing out parade at the Bihar Regimental Center in Patna

Judiciary only answerable to Constitution: CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: In India a party in power believes that every governmental action is entitled to judicial endorsement and the opposition parties expect the judiciary to advance their political positions and causes but the "judiciary is answerable to the Constitution and Constitution alone"

He also expressed disappointment that even after 75 years of Independence people have not understood the roles and responsibilities assigned by the Constitution to each Institution.

CJI Ramana said both India and the US are known for their diversity which needs to be honoured and cherished, everywhere in the world



year and as our Republic turned 72, with some sense of regret I must add here that we still haven't learnt to appreciate wholly the roles and responsibilities assigned by the Constitution to each of the Institutions.

MHA amends FCRA rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: The Union Home Ministry has amended certain rules related to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) allowing Indians to receive up to Rs 10 lakh in a year from relatives staying abroad without informing the authorities.

The earlier limit was Rs 1 lakh. In a notification, the home ministry also said if the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have 90 days to inform the government instead of 30 days earlier.

The new rules, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022, were notified by the home ministry through a gazette notification Friday night.

"In the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011, in rule 6, - for the words "one lakh rupees", the words "ten lakh rupees" shall be substituted; and for the words "thirty days", the words "three months" shall be substituted," the notification said.

RAINS COVER ALL OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: Southwest Monsoon has covered the entire country six days before the normal date, as parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat received their first seasonal rains Friday.

The monsoon had set over Kerala on May 29, three days ahead of the normal date of June 1. "Southwest monsoon has covered the entire country on Saturday, six days before the normal date of July 8," the IMD said Saturday.

Similarly, making changes in rule 9, which deals with application of obtaining 'registration' or 'prior permission' under the FCRA to receive funds, the amended rules have given individuals and organisations or NGOs 45 days to inform the home ministry about bank account (s) that are to be used for utilisation of such funds.

Political weather in HP a little too rough for lotus to bloom

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, July 2: The political weather in Himachal Pradesh, it seems, in the assembly election year is a little rough for the lotus to bloom - at least for the time being.

As the silent rebels within the BJP continue to prick, the task also appears to be uphill for the main rival Congress, which is largely banking on a trend to sweep the polls as both the Congress and the BJP ruled the state alternatively from 1985.

Political observers say though the ruling BJP, which believes the forthcoming assembly polls is a

semi-final ahead of the final of the 2024 parliamentary polls, has somehow managed an edge over its seemingly 'faction-ridden' rival by signalling that its chief ministerial candidate well ahead of the year-end assembly polls, the Congress is still a "divided house" in the absence of a mass leader like the late Virbhadra Singh, who had devoted over 50 years to the common man.

Sensing a threat from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) after its emphatic win in neighbouring Punjab by crushing the traditional players that ruled the state for over seven decades, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief J.P. Nadda, who has his roots in Himachal Pradesh, in



April announced that the party will not replace Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and the assembly elections will be contested under

his leadership. His assertion came in the wake of a claim by AAP leader Manish Sisodia that Union minister Anurag Thakur will replace Jai Ram Thakur as Chief Minister to counter anti-incumbency. The Congress, under the leadership of state party chief Pratibha Singh, wife of six-time Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, is struggling to speak unitedly about the key issues to put the government in the dock relating to corruption, deteriorating law and order, rising debt, an education scam for selling more than 45,000 fake degrees and the constable recruitment question paper leak that was sold for Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh.

A strong anti-incumbency wave against the ruling BJP is evident from the loss of three Assembly and one parliamentary seat in the October 2021 by-polls.

Confident of repeating the government on the basis of performance, senior BJP minister Suresh Bhardwaj said Friday, "Though the BJP is always ready for elections, but that is not our priority"

"Our government works for the people's welfare. In Himachal, our government led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated several steps in the public interest. "We have enhanced the ambit of social security pen-

sions, Ayushman scheme by rolling out Himcare, free power within certain limits, low bus fare for the women, reduced fare for others, etc. There are so many other steps taken by our government. The BJP is strong with the people's blessings and ready for the 2022 assembly polls." A confident four-time legislator, Bhardwaj said the party has just organised conventions of booth-level office-bearers in all four Lok Sabha segments. "This (assembly polls) is just like a semi-final, while the final is the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. We will win the semi-final in the state's interest and strengthen Modi ji for the final in the nation's interest."



# international



As the child and grandchild of immigrants, I can testify to the openness, fairness, and, yes, warmth, with which British society welcomes talented individuals who seek to contribute to our society and become a part of our communities  
RISHI SUNAK | CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, UK

## MUSK MEETS POPE

Elon Musk, whose USD 44 billion bid to buy Twitter remains in limbo, used the social media platform to announce he had met with Pope Francis. "Honoured to meet @Pontifex yesterday," Musk tweeted



## of the day quote

We understand the concerns of our neighbour Turkey but we oppose any military measure in Syria. Iran is trying to solve the misunderstanding between Turkey and Syria through dialogue  
HOSEIN AMIRABDOLLAHIAN | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

But I'm confident they'll ask me questions. But my answer is going to be look, we're going to meet our goals... And the president is going to continue to fight for legislation from the Congress. We absolutely are convinced we can meet our goals  
JOHN KERRY | US CLIMATE ENVOY

As a contiguous neighbour and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, India has direct stakes in ensuring the return of peace and stability to the country  
PUNEET AGRAWAL | BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN, INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Strong quake kills 5 in Iran

**Tehran:** Five people were killed and 44 others injured in a magnitude 6.3 earthquake in southern Iran Saturday, state television reported. Rescue teams were deployed near the epicenter, Sayeh Khosh village, which is home to around 300 people in Hormozgan province, some 1,000 kilometers south of the capital, Tehran, the report said.

### Gunmen attack anti-polio team

**Peshawar:** Gunmen have opened fire at a polio vaccination team in northwest Pakistan bordering Afghanistan, injuring a worker, police officials said Saturday -- the latest attack on vaccination teams in recent years by militants in the restive region. Unidentified assailants attacked a polio vaccination team in Mir Ali Tehsil in North Waziristan tribal district Saturday, which left a worker named Sher Ali injured, police said. Ali was immediately admitted to a local hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, they said.

### Protesters storm into Libyan Parl

**Benghazi:** Demonstrators broke into the building that houses the eastern Libya-based parliament in Tobruk Friday, setting fire to parts of it amid protests over months of failed efforts to set the divided country on a path toward elections. One witness, Taher Amaizig, said thousands joined a march to the parliament building calling for the current political powers to be dissolved and elections to be held. He said that as security guards tried to prevent people from entering, a protester was shot in the legs and other demonstrators then forced their way inside.

### WWII-era boat emerges in US

**Las Vegas:** A sunken boat dating back to World War II is the latest object to emerge from a shrinking reservoir that straddles Nevada and Arizona. The Higgins landing craft that has long been 56 metres below the surface is now nearly halfway out of the water at Lake Mead. The boat lies less than a mile from Lake Mead Marina and Hemingway Harbour. It was used to survey the Colorado River decades ago, sold to the marina and then sunk, according to dive tours company Las Vegas Scuba.

# Monkeypox cases triple in Europe: WHO

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, July 2:** The World Health Organization's Europe chief warned Friday that monkeypox cases in the region have tripled in the last two weeks and urged countries to do more to ensure the previously rare disease does not become entrenched on the continent. And African health authorities said they are treating the expanding monkeypox outbreak as an emergency, calling on rich countries to share limited supplies of vaccines to avoid equity problems seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

WHO Europe chief Dr Hans Kluge said in a statement that increased efforts were needed despite the UN health agency's decision last week that the escalating outbreak did not yet warrant being declared a global health emergency.

"Urgent and coordinated action is imperative if we are to turn a corner in the race to reverse the ongoing spread of this disease," Kluge said. To date, more than 5,000 monkeypox cases have been reported from 51 countries worldwide that don't normally report the disease, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Kluge said the number of infections in Europe represents about

90% of the global total, with 31 countries in the WHO's European region having identified cases. Kluge said data reported to the WHO show that 99% of cases have been in men — the majority in men that have sex with men. But he said there were now "small numbers" of cases among household contacts, including children. Most people reported symptoms including a rash, fever, fatigue, muscle pain, vomiting and chills. Scientists warn anyone who is in close physical contact with someone who has monkeypox or their clothing or bedsheets is at risk of infection. Vulnerable populations like children and pregnant women are thought more likely to suffer severe disease. About 10% of patients were hospitalised for treatment or to be isolated, and one person was admitted to an intensive care unit. No deaths have been reported.



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## 'TRADE-DISTORTING PRACTICES'

# 12 lawmakers urge Biden to hold India accountable at WTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, July 2:** A group of US lawmakers have urged President Joe Biden to file a formal request for consultations with India at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) over its dangerous trade-distorting practices.

The 12 Congressmen, in a letter to Biden, stated that current WTO rules allow governments to subsidise up to 10 per cent of the value of commodity production. However, the Indian government continues to subsidise more than half of the value of production for several commodities, including rice and wheat, they said.

India's lack of rule-following and the Biden administration's lack of enforcement have reshaped the global agricultural production and trade channels by driving down prices, depressing production of rice and wheat commodities, and putting American producers at a disproportionate disadvantage, the Congressmen alleged in the letter. India's practices are dangerously trade-distorting on a global scale and impact US farmers and ranchers, the letter read. The lead in the letter was taken by Congressmen Tracey Mann and Rick Crawford.

"We urge the administration to file a formal request for consultations with India at the WTO and to continue monitoring other WTO members' domestic support programmes that undermine fair trade practices," they said.

The US must not yield for the sake of reaching a consensus. Instead, America must work to promote solutions that will alleviate the global supply chain and food shortages. It must take actions that will address those consumers most impacted by inflation and rising food prices, the lawmakers demanded.

"It is up to the American agriculture to contribute to building resilient conditions for food security for the US and throughout the world," they said. India has defended its stand at the WTO. Several countries and organisations across the world have applauded India for taking a firm stand in protecting the interests of its farmers.



members' domestic support programmes that undermine fair trade practices," they said. The US must not yield for the sake of reaching a consensus. Instead, America must work to promote solutions that will alleviate the global supply chain and food shortages. It must take actions that will address those consumers most impacted by inflation and rising food prices, the lawmakers demanded. "It is up to the American agriculture to contribute to building resilient conditions for food security for the US and throughout the world," they said. India has defended its stand at the WTO. Several countries and organisations across the world have applauded India for taking a firm stand in protecting the interests of its farmers.

# Blasts rock Ukrainian city as Russia grinds out gains

REUTERS

**Kyiv/Konstantynivka, July 2:** Blasts shook Ukraine's southern city of Mykolaiv Saturday as Russia's artillery helped grind out gains in the east, after a week when the civilian death toll from Russian missile strikes climbed in urban centres well behind the frontline. "There are powerful explosions in the city! Stay in shelters!" Oleksandr Senkevych, mayor of the Mykolaiv region which borders the vital Black Sea port of Odessa, wrote on the Telegram messaging app as air raid sirens sounded.

The cause of the blasts was not immediately clear, although Russia later said it had hit army command posts in the area. Reuters could not independently verify the reports. Kyiv says Moscow has intensified missile attacks on cities far from the main battlefields in the country's east and that it deliberately hit civilian sites. Ukrainian troops on the eastern frontlines meanwhile describe intense artillery barrages that have pummeled residential areas.

Russia says it has targeted military sites and denies aiming at civilians. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said "Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets". The Chief of General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, inspected Russian troops involved in what Moscow calls its "special military operation", Russia's defence ministry said, although it was not clear if he was in Ukraine.

The inspection follows slow but steady gains by Russian forces with the help of relentless artillery in east Ukraine, a focus for Moscow after it narrowed its broader war goals of toppling the government following fierce Ukrainian resistance. "Definitely they are trying to demoralise us. Maybe some people are affected by that, but for us it only



A damaged residential building in the town of Serhiivka, Ukraine

'Stay in shelters!' Mykolaiv mayor tells residents  
Ukrainian troops say Russian artillery flattens buildings  
Zelensky denounces 'deliberately targeted Russian terror'  
Moscow says its forces 'do not work with civilian targets'

brings more hatred and determination," said a Ukrainian soldier returning from Lysychansk, Ukraine's last bastion in Luhansk province.

Russia is seeking to drive Ukrainian forces out of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces in the industrialised eastern Donbas region where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Kyiv since Russia's first military intervention in Ukraine in 2014.

Russia's TASS news agency quoted a source close to Russia-backed forces in Luhansk saying Ukraine's last forces in Lysychansk were under intense attack. "They will be defeated in the near future if they do not surrender," the source said. It was not possible to independently verify the report. Ukrainian officials did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment.

## 50 YEARS OF PRIDE



Mohammed Nazir from London, poses in front of a Tesco float, ahead of the Pride in London parade, in London, Saturday, marking the 50th Anniversary of the Pride movement in the UK

# Over 2 dozen vessel crew missing as Chaba hits HK

REUTERS

**Hong Kong, July 2:** More than two dozen crew on an engineering vessel with 30 people on board were missing after it snapped in two in waters off Hong Kong as tropical storm Chaba passed through, authorities said.

Three crew members were rescued, and search and rescue operations were continuing for others about 300 km southwest of the city, the Hong Kong Government Flying Service said. Some of the crew had abandoned the vessel and harsh weather conditions were hampering rescue efforts, they said. Chaba skirted the global financial hub, bringing heavy rain and

wind, restricting public transport and forcing many businesses to close.

The financial hub's weather forecaster lowered the storm warning to signal No 3 Saturday afternoon as Chaba was set to make landfall near Zhanjiang in China's Guangdong province.

Authorities in Hong Kong raised the typhoon warning Thursday just as Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in the city to commemorate the 25th anniversary of its handover from Britain to China.

The Palace Museum, which was set to open Saturday as part of celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to Chinese rule, remained closed.

# Google to delete location history when users visit abortion clinics

Activists and politicians have been calling on Google and other tech giants to limit the amount of information they collect to avoid it being used by law enforcement for abortion investigations and prosecutions

AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE

**United States, July 2:** Google announced Friday it would delete users' location history when they visit abortion clinics, domestic violence shelters and other places where privacy is sought.

"If our systems identify that someone has visited one of these places, we will delete these entries from Location History soon after

they visit," Jen Fitzpatrick, a senior vice president at Google, wrote in a blog post. This change will take effect in the coming weeks.

Other places from which Google will not store location data include fertility centers, addiction treatment facilities, and weight loss clinics.

The announcement comes a week after the US Supreme Court made the tectonic decision to strip



American women of constitutional rights to abortion, leading a dozen states to ban or severely restrict the procedure and prompting mass

protests across the country.

Activists and politicians have been calling on Google and other tech giants to limit the amount of information they collect to avoid it being used by law enforcement for abortion investigations and prosecutions. Fitzpatrick also sought to reassure users that the company takes data privacy seriously.

Google has a long track record of pushing back on overly broad demands from law enforcement, including objecting to some demands entirely, she wrote.

We take into account the privacy and security expectations of people using our products, and we notify people when we comply with

# Pak journalist attacked for criticising army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lahore, July 2:** Senior journalist and political analyst Ayaz Amir was assaulted by unidentified men in Lahore Friday night, a day after he termed Pakistan's Army generals property dealers.

Amir (73) was returning home after his TV programme on Dunya News was intercepted by unidentified men. He claimed that he was dragged out of the car and thrashed. With bruises on his face, Amir alleged that the masked men not only hit him and tore his clothes, they also took away his cell phone and wallet. They left when people started gathering on the busy road.

On Thursday during a speech at a seminar in Islamabad on the 'Regime Change and its Fallout on Pakistan', Amir targeted the powerful military establishment for its role in Pakistan's politics. The seminar was also attended by former prime minister Imran Khan. He referred to the Army generals as property dealers and even suggested removing the portraits of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal and replacing them with the property dealers.

In an indirect reference to Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Amir said he was into his sixth year of tenure and looking for another extension. Parts of Amir's speech have gone viral on social media. Journalists, lawyer bodies and rights activists condemned the assault.

# NY bans guns in many places

REUTERS

**New York, July 2:** New York state passed a law Friday banning guns from many public places, including Times Square, and requiring gun-license applicants to prove their shooting proficiency and submit their social media accounts for review by government officials.

The law, passed in an emergency legislative session, was forced by a landmark US Supreme Court ruling last week that struck down New York's restrictive gun-license laws. The court's conservative majority ruled for the first time that the US constitution grants an individual the right to carry weapons in public for self-defense.

New York's Democratic leaders have decried the ruling and the court, saying there will be more gun violence if there are more people carrying guns.

They conceded they must loosen the state's century-old permit scheme to comply with the ruling, but sought to keep as many restrictions as they could in the name of public safety. Some will likely be targets for further legal challenges.

The court ruled that New York's former license regime, which dates from 1911, gave too much discretion to officials to deny a permit.

The law passed Friday makes it a felony crime to carry a gun into a long list of sensitive places, including government buildings, medical facilities, places of worship, libraries, playgrounds, parks, zoos, schools, colleges, summer camps, addiction-support centers, homeless shelters, nursing homes, public transit including the New York City subway, places where alcohol or marijuana is consumed, museums, theaters, stadiums and other venues, polling places and Times Square.



## of the day quote

The year 2021, the calendar year, was the best year for diamond business. In 2021, we have not only recovered but have accelerated as the year has been one of the strongest years for the business yet, right from mining to manufacturing to trading and eventually to retail

**SACHIN JAIN** | DE BEERS INDIA MD

The growth expectations with which we set out in the beginning of FY23 is gradually turning into a reality. Timely arrival of monsoon has impacted the economic indicators favourably

**ATSUSHI OGATA** | PRESIDENT, HONDA MOTORCYCLE AND SCOOTER INDIA

There are immense possibilities of waste utilisation of waste generated during mining, steel manufacturing process and end of life products

**RAM CHANDRA PRASAD SINGH** | UNION STEEL MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### BoB Network DGM-I office starts ops

**Bhubaneswar:** Deputy General Manager, Network-I Office of Patna Zone, Bank of Baroda has started its operation from July 2, at Bhubaneswar as per the new organizational structure of the Bank. Dr. Ramesh Kumar Mohanty, Deputy General Manager took over the functioning of Network DGM-I office from this place. There are five regions having 293 branches operating in Odisha and Jharkhand under his jurisdiction. Prior to this, his office was functioning temporarily from Jamshesdpur.

### T Raja Kumar new FATF chief

**New Delhi:** T. Raja Kumar of Singapore has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog. Kumar has replaced Marcus Pleyer who was holding the post till now, and will discharge his service for next two years. "Raja Kumar starts as FATF President today. He will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of global anti-money laundering & counter-terrorist financing measures, improving asset recovery and other initiatives." FATF tweeted while making the announcement Friday. Kumar has been working against global terror financing for quite a long time. Soon after taking over the charge, Kumar presented his objectives for the coming Plenary period (July 2022 - June 2024) to strengthen the FATF.

### Timex to launch Adidas watches

**New Delhi:** Timex Group India will soon launch Adidas Originals watches and products of German luxury fashion house Philipp Plein in the domestic market, as per the company's latest annual report. "The Company will soon be launching the Adidas Originals watch collection. The new range will blend Timex Group's watchmaking and design expertise and Adidas Originals' street culture inspiration, while keeping in mind the brand's commitment to sustainability," it said. Further, Timex Group India said it will launch products of Philipp Plein, a brand known for use of crystals, studs, multicolour plating and military patterns.



**The data economy has created an awareness that something needs to be done for the safety of user citizens**

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR** | MINISTER OF STATE FOR IT

## META SLASHES HIRING PLANS

Facebook-owner Meta Platforms Inc has cut plans to hire engineers by at least 30% this year, CEO Mark Zuckerberg told employees, as he warned them to brace for a deep economic downturn



# Large borrowers' loan accounts decline: RBI

*This indicates the reduction in credit concentration and diversification of borrowers*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 2:** The share of large borrowers for scheduled commercial banks (SCB) has declined in the recent times while their share in the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) also went down, said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

According to the RBI's Financial Stability Report, the share of large borrowers, those having aggregate fund and non-fund based exposure of ₹5 crore and above, has been declining in the recent years.

This indicates the reduction in credit concentration and diversification of borrowers.

Their share in total GNPA of SCBs moderated marginally to 62.3 per cent during second half of 2021-22 and remained well below its level in September 2020 (75.6 per cent).

The GNPA ratio of large borrowers has been declining over the last two years to reach 7.7 per cent in March 2022, the RBI said. As industrial activity revived



during the second half of the year, the share of top 100 large borrowers in SCBs' total loan books as well as in SCBs' GNPA increased.

These borrowers accounted for 17.1 per cent of SCBs' total credit and 6.9 per cent of their GNPA, the RBI report said.

According to the report, the asset quality of SCBs continued to improve through the year, with GNPA ratio declining from 7.4 per cent in March 2021 to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March 2022.

The net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio also fell by 70 bps during 2021-22 and stood at 1.7 per cent at the year-end.

The slippage ratio, measuring new accretions to NPAs as a share of standard advances at the beginning of the period, declined across bank groups during 2021-22.

The write-off ratio declined for the second successive year to 20 per cent in 2021-22.

## Taxpayers face issues accessing e-filing portal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** As taxpayers face issues in accessing the e-filing portal, the Income Tax department Saturday said software provider Infosys is taking "proactive measures" to deal with the 'irregular traffic' on the portal.

"It has been noticed that taxpayers are facing issues in accessing ITD e-filing portal. As informed by @Infosys, they have observed some irregular traffic on the portal for which proactive measures are being taken," the I-T department tweeted.

The new e-filing portal www.Incometax.Gov.In, launched on June 7, 2021, had a bumpy start with taxpayers and professionals reporting glitches and difficulties in its functioning. Infosys was given the contract in 2019 to develop the portal.



More recently, the portal faced snags on the first anniversary of its launch and many users complained that they were unable to log in into the portal, while some complained malfunctioning of the search functionality. The government has paid ₹164.5 crore to Infosys to build the new income tax e-filing portal.

# IRDAI sets ₹11.73L cr premium target for non-life insurance biz



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, July 2:** Ever heard of a sectoral regulator giving targets for the industry as a whole and also for the individual players?

Well, it happened in the insurance sector with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) Chairman Debasish Panda, at his meeting with the heads of non-life and reinsurance companies at Hyderabad Friday.

"The IRDAI is now looking at the market developmental role. All these years, the Authority was carrying out the regulatory role," a senior industry official told IANS preferring anonymity.

Pointing out the low penetration of the non-life sector in the country - about 1 per cent - two decades after opening up the sector, Panda said the global average of insurance penetration is 4.16 per cent.

He said the target penetration rate is 2.52 per cent by FY27 and it means the Indian non-life sector would grow from ₹2.20 lakh crore premium from FY22 to a whopping ₹11.73 lakh crore by FY27.

Panda also listed out the target for all the non-life insurance companies. At the meeting Panda sounded like a consultant or a CEO of an insurance company but certainly not like a sectoral regulator. Target the low hanging fruits, he told the insurers and also cited a couple of low hanging ones.

For instance, he said the balance in the 45 crore Jan Dhan accounts - that started with zero balance some years back - is now about ₹1.5 lakh crore.

Similarly, the central government gives ₹6,000 per annum to small and marginal farmers.

Asking the industry to chalk out strategies to tap these segments

which in turn would increase insurance penetration amongst the rural segments, Panda said there should be an information technology interface between the insurers and the bankers.

The regulator also said, once the certificate of insurance could be sent to the policyholders.

He said nominees of many policyholders who had died of Covid were not aware of the insurance policy taken by the deceased from the banks.

Panda said the IRDAI will involve itself in sorting out the regulatory issues by taking up the matter with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) if need be.

The IRDAI Chairman also told the industry captains that the Authority is on mission mode on the following: i) developing and implementing risk based supervisory with a knowledge partner; ii) establish framework for risk based capital in two to two-and-half years time; iii) strategies for implementing applicable IFRS/Ind AS accounting standards; iv) developing an ecosystem for InsureTech and v) strengthening the policyholder grievance redressal mechanism and naming it as Bima Bharosa.

Panda also said onboarding of new players will be made easy with a 'no objection certificate' from IRDAI to go to the Registrar of Companies to incorporate the company will be automatic.

He said a two member facilitation cell at IRDAI will be formed. The cell will handhold the investors. The IRDAI Chairman also said a new intermediary channel 'Bima Vahak', a community centric one will be formed. The channel will be women centric and technology enabled.

# EV registrations fall amid fire fears

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 2:** As customers delay purchasing electric two-wheelers amid fire incidents, Ola Electric again saw its registration dipping in the month of June, taking the company to fourth place in the overall category.

Bhavish Aggarwal-run Ola Electric saw 5,869 electric scooters' registrations (as of June 30), according to the VAHAN data. The June tally for EV two-wheelers was led by Okinawa Autotech, at 6,976 vehicles, followed by Ampere Vehicles Pvt Ltd at 6,534.

Hero Electric came third with 6,486 EV 2-W registrations across the country.

Ather Energy moved up from May to reach 3,797 vehicles, along with Revolt that saw a big leap in registrations to reach 2,419 vehicles for June.

Ola Electric was the top EV player in the country in April and since then, it has seen its position sliding continuously.

Ola's registration numbers fell by more than 30 per cent on June 30, compared to May 30.

Okinawa had sold 9,302 electric



scooters in May and Ola Electric delivered 9,225 units of the S1 Pro electric scooter.

According to Ola Electric, they were prepared to see the impact of supply chain constraints, especially on cell shortage in June.

"We calibrated our business priority for the month to focus on bettering our customer service and brought our TAT (turnaround time) to within 48 hours. Come July, we are confident that supply chain issues will start fading out and our strong order book will be fulfilled,"

the company said in a statement. However, industry experts feel that the continuous fall in the EV 2-W registrations number is owing to the fear the new buyers have around them amid rising fire episodes, battery explosions and government probes that have found fault with batteries.

An expert committee set up by the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry has found safety system flaws in batteries of electric two-wheelers.

The electric two-wheeler man-

ufacturers took shortcuts in order to bump up the production and meet the growing demand rather than looking into ensuring safety for the riders, according to the initial report.

The expert committee found that the EV manufacturers offered no mechanism to identify overheating of cells and isolate failed battery cells.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which was earlier tasked with investigating electric two-wheeler fire incidents by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry, also found serious defects in the EV two-wheeler batteries.

These defects occurred because the electric two-wheeler manufacturers like Okinawa Autotech, Pure EV, Jitendra Electric Vehicles, Ola Electric and Boom Motors may have used "lower-grade materials to cut costs", the DRDO probe had revealed.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has now issued new performance standards for lithium-ion batteries to safeguard the consumers amid the rising EV fire episodes in the country.

## Hindustan Zinc mined metal production rises 14% in Q1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Saturday reported a 14 per cent increase in mined metal production to 2,52,000 tonnes for the first quarter of 2022-23.

The rise in mined metal production was due to higher ore production largely at Sindesar Khurd, Rampura Agucha and Kayad mines supported by better mill recovery.

The mined metal output was at 2,21,000 tonnes in the corresponding quarter of previous fiscal, Hindustan Zinc said in a statement. The refined metal production in the first quarter of the

current fiscal was at 260,000 tonnes, registering a rise of 10 per cent as compared to Q1 FY22 in line with availability of mined metal and better plant availability and flat sequentially.

The output of integrated zinc increased by 10 per cent to 2,06,000 tonnes.

"Refined lead production was 54,000 tonnes for Q1 FY23, up 11 per cent as compared to Q1 FY22 and up 9 per cent sequentially on account of better plant availability and Pyro plant operation on lead-mode for part of the quarter," it said.

Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta group company, is an integrated producer of zinc, lead and silver.

# MCL gears up to maintain daily coal dispatch

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, July 2:** State-owned CIL arm Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) has geared up to deal with the monsoon season keeping a close watch on the stock situation of dry fuel in thermal power plants in Odisha.

With continuous monitoring and out-of-the box approach to maintain coal production and dispatch operations, MCL has been able to maintain sufficient coal stocks at its pit heads in all the mines as well as at railway sidings. Even the smallest bottleneck in the business operations is being addressed to optimise production and dispatch with the coal-rail synergy and dedicated team effort.

The CMD-MCL and Functional Directors, and other senior offi-



cial are continuously reaching out to the project teams to ascertain the bottlenecks in mining and supply operations, and augment coal dispatch to consumers. The approach of top management to reach out to field teams and provide on-the-spot administrative support has further enhanced the performance of the company. There has

been 35.4% growth in coal production while coal dispatch had a tremendous growth of 22.1% in the 1st quarter of FY23. Currently, the company has sufficient coal stocks at all mines as well as railway sidings. All the sidings of MCL are connected with all-weather road and dispatch potential is more or less consistent. NS

Mondal, Member Secretary ERPC, Kolkata, Ministry of Power along with his team, GM(M&S) of MCL and his team accompanied by Area Teams visited the mines and sidings of MCL to see the stock position of mines and work out a plan of logistics for lifting available coal to TPPs. The team expressed its satisfaction with the stock position of MCL but stressed for increase of evacuation of coal, rake supply to the sidings as per requirement. The visiting team appreciated steps taken by MCL for increasing supply of good quality coal to power plants.

It is expected that the power plants in Odisha will have sufficient coal stocks with MCL regularly supplementing the consumption during monsoon this year.

# Top crypto hedge fund Three Arrows Capital files for bankruptcy

*This comes as popular crypto tokens such as Bitcoin and Ethereum nosedived by nearly 70 per cent from their record highs amid the economic meltdown*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**San Francisco, July 2:** Top crypto hedge fund Three Arrows Capital (3AC) has filed for bankruptcy in the US, days after its liquidation began in the British Virgin Islands, the media reported Saturday. The liquidation, and now Chapter

15 bankruptcy in New York, comes as popular crypto tokens such as Bitcoin and Ethereum nosedived by nearly 70 per cent from their record highs amid the economic meltdown.

According to court documents seen by the Financial Times, crypto options and futures exchange



"Deribit claimed Three Arrows failed to repay \$80 million, as fi-

ancial woes have plagued the hedge fund".

"The company is or is likely to become unable to pay its debts as they fall due, and is therefore insolvent," claimed Deribit.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore this week slammed Three Arrows for providing false information and breaching an asset under management threshold, the report noted.

The mega fund, founded by Credit Suisse traders Zhu Su and Kyle Davies, once managed an estimated \$10 billion in assets.

Its insolvency has forced major industry players to reshuffle op-

erations and limit customer withdrawals amid a crypto selloff that seemed to catch plenty of mega firms off guard, according to The Verge.

On Friday, beleaguered crypto lending firm BlockFi announced a deal with leading crypto exchange FTX US, saying it had lost around \$80 million from its dealings with Singapore-based 3AC.

The Chapter 15 bankruptcy will allow the foreign firm to protect its stateside assets while the liquidation is carried out in the British Virgin Islands.



# INDIA HOLD ALL ACES

**BUMRAH'S SPLENDID ALL-ROUND SHOW, ALONG WITH JADEJA'S TON, HELPS VISITORS PUSH ENGLAND INTO BACKFOOT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, July 2:** Skipper Jasprit Bumrah (31 n.o., 16b, 4x4, 2x6; 3/35) held sway with a mesmerizing all-round performance, which included a world record feat with the bat and an incisive spell with the ball as India seized complete control from England on a rain-hit second day of the rescheduled fifth Test here Saturday.

Such was the power of Bumrah's all-round show in his first appearance as India captain that it easily overshadowed Ravindra Jadeja's superbly constructed third Test hundred (104, 194b, 13x4) that took India to a commanding first innings score of 416.

England were in all sorts of trouble with half of the team back in the pavilion with the scoreboard reading a sorry 84/5 with the hosts 332 runs behind the visitors.

In the first session, Stuart Broad must have had a feeling of 'deja vu' when he was literally butchered by the stand-in Indian captain, who scored 29 runs with the willow and also was gifted six extra runs to make it 35, highest ever in a single over in Test cricket.

Broad can't be faulted if he remembered that September, 2007 night in Durban, when Yuvraj Singh pummeled him for six sixes in an over. He got his 550th Test wicket on the day but by the end of it all, Bumrah had wiped that wry smile off his face.

When England came out to bat, the skipper had nicely warmed up and bowled a menacing first spell and for a change was rewarded for even putting his 'foot wrong' on two occasions that resulted in ad-



ditional deliveries which fetched him a couple of wickets.

After two days of play, India held all the aces and look good to retain the Pataudi Trophy and stay in contention for a place in the World Test Championship final.

Bumrah was good with his bowling changes, field placements and also DRS call of his own bowling. In all, a complete package in place.

At the start of the day, Jadeja reaffirmed his status as India's most valuable player across formats as he scored his best Test hundred. This century, though, was of a far better quality than his earlier two,

especially if one factors in the conditions, match situation and quality of opposition bowling.

Having already scored 2500 runs in Test cricket alongside taking 242 wickets, Jadeja can safely be termed as the best all-rounder that the Indian team has had since the great Kapil Dev. A Test batting average of 37 plus is better than many specialists who have played for India over the years.

**THE 'BOOM BOOM' SHOW**  
Bumrah used the bat like a sword and even the top-edges seemed like ball hitting the 'sweet spot' as four boundaries and two sixes came off

Broad's over. There were hooks, pulls and drives to enthrall the capacity crowd.

The Indian captain, in fact, gave the hosts a dose of 'Bazball' (Brendon McCullum's attacking philosophy), which had become a trending lingo in English cricket during the past few weeks.

While Rishabh Pant's century for the ages and Jadeja's third Test ton set up the platform, one can't discount the 93 runs that India added with contributions from No.9, 10 and 11.

As far as England's bowling is concerned, James Anderson (5/60), who is a month shy of turning 40, is still class personified, as he got his 32nd five-wicket haul in Test matches. But 40 extra runs, including 14 no balls, will certainly haunt England in the long run.

Once he came out to bowl, Bumrah had by then already known left-handed opener Alex Lees' (6) weaknesses. He went round the wicket and got one to nip back slightly with the angle as it breached the opener's defence.

In case of Zak Crawley (9), Bumrah bowled a fuller delivery on the 'fourth off-stump' and Crawley's drive was snapped up by Shubman Gill stationed at third slip. Similarly, after another rain break, he tested Ollie Pope (10) with another fuller delivery that was slightly wider and the expansive drive only ended in Shreyas Iyer's hands in the second slip.

But India saved their best for the last as Mohammed Siraj got one to rear up awkwardly with wobbly seam as England's best batter Joe Root (31) could only get into a tangle and offer a simple catch to Pant behind stumps.

**BRIEF SCORES**

**India 416**  
(Ravindra Jadeja 104, Jasprit Bumrah 31 n.o., Mohammed Shami 16; James Anderson 5/60);  
**ENGLAND 84/5**  
(Joe Root 31; Jasprit Bumrah 3/30, Mohammed Siraj 1/5).  
**Match to continue.**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Birmingham, July 2:** India captain Jasprit Bumrah bludgeoned a hapless Stuart Broad for 29 runs to create a world record (WR) for maximum runs off a single over in Test cricket, beating the legendary Brian Lara's feat by one run.

The world record stayed with Lara for 18 years - he had hit South African left-arm spinner Robin Peterson for 28 runs in a Test match in 2003-04, which included four fours and two sixes off six legal deliveries. Former Australia player George Bailey had also scored 28 in an over but he was behind Lara in terms of boundary count.

Broad, who had also been hit for six sixes in an over by Yuvraj Singh in the inaugural World T20 in 2007, gave away 35 runs in the 84th over of the India first innings in the fifth rescheduled Test here. There were six extra runs - five wides and a no-ball.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri said what he saw from Bumrah was "bizarre". "Now don't tell me I was again on the mic when 35 runs were scored. I thought I had seen it all, but not really 36 (runs) from Yuvraj; 36 I had hit myself," said Shastri.

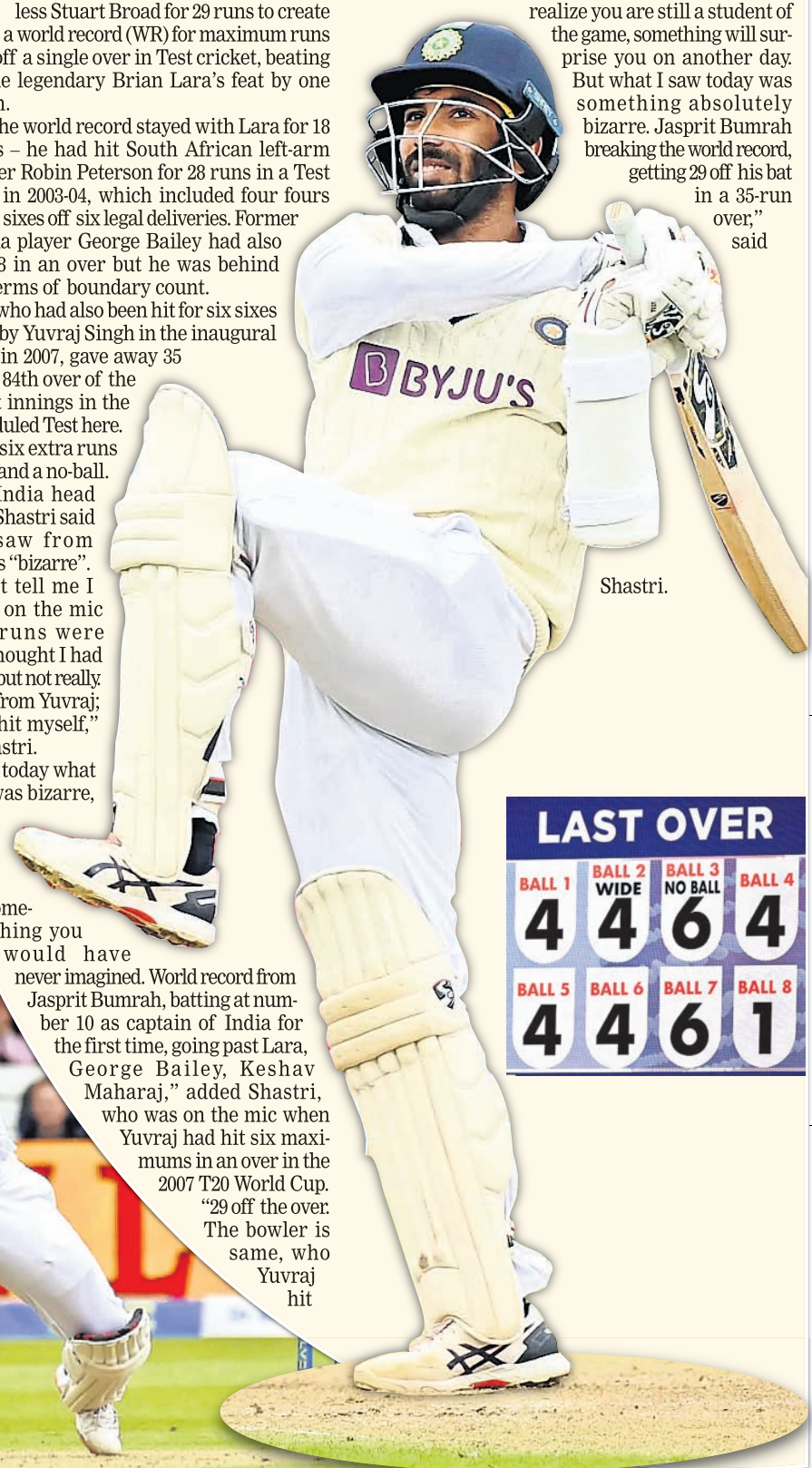
"And today what I saw was bizarre, it is

something you would have never imagined. World record from Jasprit Bumrah, batting at number 10 as captain of India for the first time, going past Lara, George Bailey, Keshav Maharaj," added Shastri, who was on the mic when Yuvraj had hit six maximums in an over in the 2007 T20 World Cup. "29 off the over. The bowler is same, who Yuvraj hit

## BUMRAH BREAKS LARA'S WORLD RECORD IN 35-RUN BROAD OVER

for six sixes - Stuart Broad, going for that many. And the entire over went for 35, which is world record. Previous highest was 28.

"You feel you have seen everything, but you must realize you are still a student of the game, something will surprise you on another day. But what I saw today was something absolutely bizarre. Jasprit Bumrah breaking the world record, getting 29 off his bat in a 35-run over," said



## Cricketers laud Pant's 'special' knock

*Flamboyant India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant's sublime counter-attacking ton on the opening day of the rescheduled fifth Test against England earned praise from the cricket fraternity, which described the knock as "a special one under pressure"*

**SACHIN TENDULKAR:** Simply awesome Rishabh Pant! Well done. Crucial innings by Ravindra Jadeja. Rotated the strike well and played some amazing shots.

**SOURAV GANGULY:** Special exhibition of test match batting under pressure Rishabh Pant. Ravindra Jadeja can't get better than this.

**VIRENDER SEHWAG:** Pant is in a league of his own. The most entertaining cricketer in the world, this is a special one.

**VENKATESH PRASAD:** Box of fice stuff from Rishabh Pant. One of the best counter-attacking innings that one will ever see. One special player.

**SURESH RAINA:** What a fan-

tastic partnership. Pant and Jadeja keep up your spirits with the same intent, kudos to you both.

**HARBHAJAN SINGH:** Top knock 100 Rishabh Pant when team needed the most... Keep it up.

**AMIT MISHRA:** When in trouble, call the Spiderman! What a fierce knock by rockstar Rishabh Pant against a quality English bowling under such circumstances. Best way to fight a fire is to fight it with the fire.

**SANJAY MANJREKAR:** Pant is playing great Test innings for fun these days! Hats off!

**MOHAMMED KAIF:** Pant shows that self-belief can make you a game-changer

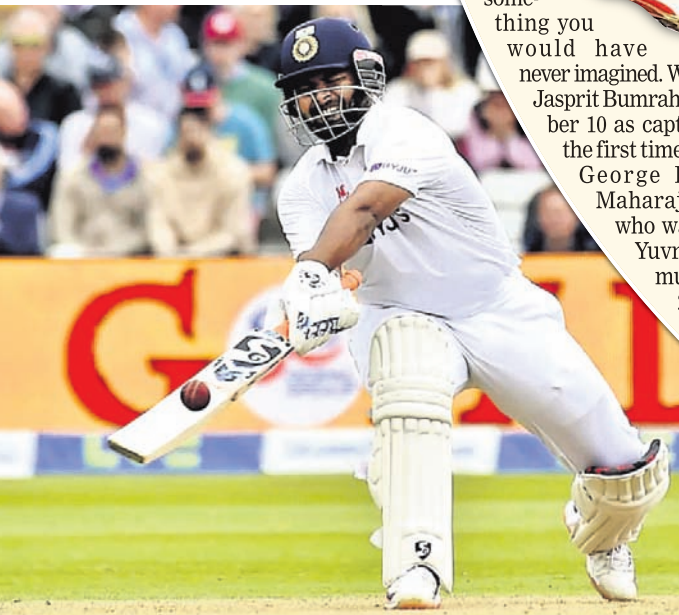
**WASIM JAFFER:** Super stuff Rishabh Pant. Easily the best WK batter in Tests right now.

**MANOJ TIWARI:** Pant's inning is again a gentle reminder to all the coaches who teach cricket to young kids that if you find someone talented like him and can play shots like he does, let him do that and encourage it rather than trying to change his original game.

**IAN BISHOP:** Phenomenal from Rishabh Pant. Simply outstanding. Fabulous partnership with Jadeja to given they were 98/5.

**RASHID KHAN:** Rishabh Pant simply amazing

**MICHAEL VAUGHAN:** This is great viewing... Rishabh Pant doing a Jonny Bairstow.



## Harmony reaches 4th round at Wimbledon



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wimbledon (England), July 2:** Whether her opponents are tournament favorites or crowd favorites, Harmony Tan keeps knocking them out of Wimbledon.

First there was Serena Williams, a seven-time champion at the All England Club. Then came 32nd-seeded Sara Sorribes Tormo. Saturday, it was British player Katie Boulter.

The unseeded Frenchwoman is making her debut at the All England Club. She has played at the French Open four times, reaching the second round once. She also played at this year's Australian Open and again reached the second round. At the US Open, she lost in the first round in 2018 in her only appearance at Flushing Meadows.

Saturday, Tan beat Boulter 6-1, 6-1 on No.2 Court. She never faced a break point in the match and converted five of the 10 she earned.

Tan's debut at Wimbledon came on Day 2 of the tournament on Centre Court, the biggest stadium on the grounds. That's where she eliminated Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, in three sets. Tan will next face either Coco Gauff or Amanda Anisimova.

French Open champion Iga Swiatek was scheduled to face Alize Cornet on No.1 Court. Swiatek is the top-seeded player at Wimbledon and has won 37 straight matches.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova was scheduled to follow Gauff and Anisimova on Centre Court. Then Rafael Nadal was to play Lorenzo Sonego in the main stadium after that.

## SAVITA & Co. OPEN CAMPAIGN AT WOMEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP India eye revenge against England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Amstelveen (The Netherlands), July 2:** No more considered as pushovers, a rejuvenated India would seek revenge against England when the two sides open their Pool B campaign in the Women's Hockey World Cup here Sunday.

The Indian women's hockey team would be eager to settle scores against a side which shattered their bronze medal hopes in last year's Tokyo Olympics. India came tantalisingly close to claiming their maiden Olympic medal in Tokyo, only to lose 3-4 against England, who are playing as Great Britain in the showpiece here.

But going into the tournament, the Indians would be high on confidence, especially after finishing a credible third in their maiden outing in the FIH Pro League.

India's best performance in the World Cup was a fourth place finish at the inaugural edition in 1974, but since achieving a historic fourth place in Tokyo Games, the team has been on a phenomenal rise.

The Indian women's team achieved its best-ever world ranking, a sixth position in May and then gave some top teams of the world a run for their money in the FIH Pro League. The Indian team finished on the podium ahead of strong sides like Belgium, Australia and England.

Experienced goalkeeper Savita Punia performed captaincy re-



India's chief coach Janekke Schopman (with cap) speaks to the players during their warm-up game against Ireland

sponsibilities brilliantly since taking over from talismanic Rani Rampal, who has been sidelined since the Tokyo Games due to a hamstring injury.

Savita has been in stellar form, while she will have young and energetic back-up in Bichu Devi Kharibam. The backbone will be under the watchful eyes of vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Udita and Nikki Pradhan, while the responsibility of building the attacks will be on the shoulders of Sushila Chanu, Neha Goyal, Navjot Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, Nisha and Monika.

Salima Tete, who has been in terrific form and is known for electrifying runs down the flanks, will need to play the linking role. The responsibility of scoring goals will

be on experienced Vandana Katariya, Lalremmsiam, Navneet Kaur and Sharmila Devi.

India finished eighth in the last edition in 2018, but they are hoping for their first podium finish in this edition of the tournament and going by their form and recent results, it is definitely not impossible.

England's best result in the World Cup is a bronze medal in the 2010 edition in Rosario, Argentina. Besides, they also finished fourth in 1990 in Sydney. There is hardly anything to differentiate between the two sides. England are placed fourth in world rankings while India are at sixth.

After England, India will face China June 5, followed by their last pool match against New Zealand July 7.

## CAB GRANTS NOC TO WRIDDHIMAN SAHA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, July 2:** Veteran India discard Wriddhiman Saha Saturday was granted the NOC (No Objection Certificate) by Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), bringing down curtains to his 15-year association under acrimonious circumstances.

A veteran of 40 Tests, Saha who will turn 38 in October, was categorically told by Indian team management earlier this year, that they don't want an aged second wicket-keeper in the set-up.

Since then, Saha has been critical of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and also at the beginning, didn't have charitable things to say about head coach Dravid either.

"Mr Wriddhiman Saha came to CAB and in an application to President Avishek Dalmiya sought the NOC from the association," the CAB stated.

"CAB gave concurrence to the request of Mr Saha and provided the NOC to him for playing for another state. CAB also wished him the very best for his future endeavours," it added.

Saha took a decision to leave Bengal after CAB joint secretary Debabrata 'Debu' Das alleged that the veteran keeper makes excuses to skip domestic matches for the state.

An irate Saha wanted an un-

conditional apology from Das, which he didn't get and when the official was sent as Indian team's administrative manager to England, it broke the proverbial camel's back.

Talking to reporters after getting the NOC, Saha said he was requested again to reconsider his decision. "I was asked earlier. Requests have been made again and again today. But my decision has already been made. So today I took NOC," he said.

He further said he would never keep any grudge against Bengal and would be ready to serve again if needed in future. "I never had any ego issues with Bengal cricket establishment. May be, there was a disagreement with someone (joint secretary Debu), that's why I had to make this decision."

"I extend all my good wishes for Bengal. If I needed in the future, and if the situation is conducive then, I'm there for help," Saha further added before leaving the Eden Gardens premises.

Saha was last in discussion for a player-cum-mentor role with Tripura but a top official claimed that he demanded an "exorbitant fee" for the contract.

Asked where he was heading to in the next season, Saha said: "Talks are on with many states. But, it's still not decided, will let you know when it's 100 per cent confirmed."