



SPARKING A DEBATE

Actor Taapsee Pannu opens up about the pay disparity between men and women in the Hindi film industry

LEISURE P2



TROUBLE MOUNTS

Ukrainian forces prepare for a new phase in war as President Vladimir Putin proclaims Russia's win in Luhansk

INTERNATIONAL P10



DOMINATING WIN

Brilliant performances by Renuka Singh, Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma guide India to a 10-wicket win over Sri Lanka

SPORTS P12

Matric results to be declared July 6: Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The results of the annual Matric Examination-2022 conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) will be declared July 6 at 1.00pm, School & Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Monday.

Candidates can check their marks by visiting the following websites: <http://bseodisha.ac.in/> and <http://odishareult.nic.in>

After a gap of two years due to Covid-19 restrictions, around 5,28,000 Class X students had appeared in the examination in offline mode this year. The Matric exams were held from April 29 to May 7, 2022.

Dash also said that the results of Plus-II examinations conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will be declared by the end of July.

The Plus-II exams were conducted in offline mode from April 28 to May 31. Approximately 3,21,508 students in Arts, Science, Commerce and Vocational streams had appeared for the exams. Around 2,13,432 students in Arts stream had registered for the exams. In the science stream there were 78,077 examinees. A total of 24,136 students were from the Commerce stream and for the Vocational courses the figure stood at 5,863.

The evaluation of answer sheets has been completed and arrangements are being made for publication of the results of the annual Plus-II examinations in all streams by end of this month, the minister informed the media.

The evaluation of answer sheets was done in two phases. The first phase was from June 2-12 and the second started from June 13, at 65 offline evaluation centres in addition to 37 online ones. The evaluation continued till June 22, Dash informed.

Responding to a query on the delay in evaluation of answer sheets, the minister said, "All the issues relating to evaluation of answer copies have been resolved. A review meeting was recently held in this regard. All the loose ends have been tied up and we will announce the results by July end."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Electricity, water, education, medicine... all are FREE in the state! Why do MLAs then need a salary hike?

Over 15,000 rape cases in last 3 yrs

Alarming during 2019-21, incidents of sexual assault on women and minors have shown no signs of abating, raising serious questions on law and order situation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Odisha has registered over 15,000 rape cases in the period from 2019 to 2022, Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Tusharkanti Behera told the Assembly, Monday. While giving a written reply to a question asked by Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja, the minister said a total of 15,713 rape cases have been registered between 2019 and 2021 in Odisha.

Out of the total cases registered, women were victims in 10,129 cases while 5,584 sexual assaults were against minors, Behera said.

In 2019, a total of 4,585 rape cases were registered followed by 4,630 in 2020. The following year there was steep rise in the figure with Odisha registering 5,198 cases. Till April this year, 888 rape cases have been reported across the state, Behera informed.

Out of the total rape cases reported in the three-year period, a total of 1,635 rape cases of minors were reported in 2019. The figure rose to 1,646 (2020) and 1,871 (2021). In 2022 (till April) 432 incidents of sexual assaults against minors have been reported.

Similarly, the state has also registered 3,756 dowry torture and 341

More than 7K girls go missing in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha has registered 7,603 cases over girls who have gone missing during 2019 to 2021, MoS (Home) Tusharkanti Behera said Monday. Replying to a question of BJD MLA Prafulla Samal, the minister said 5,826 of them have been found. It means that 1,777 girls have remained untraceable. The minister also informed that 1,096 cases have been lodged over missing of minor boys in Odisha during 2019 to 2021. Out of them, 907 have been traced.

dowry homicide cases in 2019. In 2020, 320 dowry deaths and 3,759 dowry torture incidents were reported. The following year, 293 dowry deaths and 4,953 cases of torture against women were reported in Odisha. A total of 1,442 dowry torture and 85 dowry-related homicide cases have been registered till April this year," Behera said.

Odisha also witnessed a steep rise in non-dowry related torture against women in the last three years. While 2,532 cases were reported in 2019, the numbers increased to 3,153 in 2020 and 4,889 (2021).

5,198 rape cases reported in 2021, **4,630** cases in 2020 and **4,585** in 2019

7,603 cases of girls going missing during 2019-21, **5,826** traced, **1,777** still not traced



GRAND WELCOME



Beautifully-attired tribal women accorded a cordial welcome to NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu upon her arrival Monday in Ranchi. Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das is seen next to Murmu

CBI PROBE DEMANDED OVER RAGGING DEATH

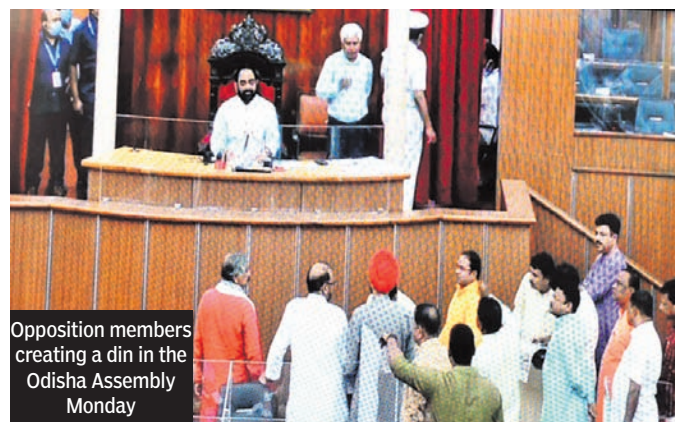
Report by Odisha police reveals that students' suicide cases have been occurring in all parts of the state at an alarming rate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: On a day when the Odisha Assembly was adjourned for about 50 minutes Monday due to a din over the death by suicide of a college fresher following ragging, an Odisha police report said that state was ranked second in students' suicides with 1,400 cases being registered in 2020.

The Opposition members demanded a probe by CBI into the matter and accused the Odisha government of failing to stop ragging in educational institutions for which there has been a rise in cases leading to a series of suicides.

The woman, a first year student of BJB Autonomous College, had died by suicide July 2. A first-year MBBS student of Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital at



Opposition members creating a din in the Odisha Assembly Monday

Bolangir had allegedly died by suicide by jumping off the college hostel building April 22. An NHRC team is probing the incident at present.

As soon as the House assembled for the day, BJP and Congress law-

makers rushed to the well of the House demanding suspension of the question hour for a discussion on the issue. However, Speaker BK Arukha asked the agitating members to raise the issue during zero hour instead.

Contd...P4

Close shave for passengers as bus catches fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Passengers travelling in a bus which was heading towards the Baramunda bus terminus in the city had a close shave as the vehicle caught fire Monday. During the rescue operations, four persons suffered injuries. Sources said that the bus was coming from Bolangir.

According to eyewitnesses, the bus was travelling towards the Baramunda stand when one of its tyres suddenly got deflated. The driver of the vehicle lost control due to which it collided with a culvert before a bridge on the service road adjacent to the Baramunda flyover.

Fire broke out from the engine of the bus immediately after the collision. Locals rushed to the scene and rescued the passengers in the bus. Some of the passengers were so panic-stricken that they jumped through the windows after breaking the glass. In the process some of them suffered injuries. It was good that they took the step, because the fire spread rapidly and engulfed the entire bus.

Fire services personnel rushed



to the spot, but had a tough time in dousing the fire. However, they managed to do it.

Police also arrived at the spot and detained the driver of the bus for questioning. However, the exact reason behind the outbreak of the fire is still not clear. RTO and police officials have launched a probe into the cause and circumstances that led to the accident. Police said two passengers along with the driver and conductor were treated for minor injuries at the Capital Hospital here. The driver has been detained.

Now a mask to kill coronavirus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 4: Researchers have developed a new N95 face mask that can not only reduce Covid-19 spread but also kill the SARS-CoV-2 virus upon contact with it. The mask can potentially be worn longer, causing less plastic waste as it does not need to be replaced as frequently, the researchers said.

"We think the work is a first step toward longer-lasting, self-sterilising personal protective equipment, such as the N95 respirator," said Edmund Palermo, from 'Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute' in the US. "It may help reduce transmission of airborne pathogens in general," Palermo informed.

In a research recently published

in the journal 'Applied ACS Materials and Interfaces', the team successfully grafted broad-spectrum antimicrobial polymers onto the polypropylene filters used in N95 face masks.

"The active filtration layers in N95 masks are very sensitive to chemical modification. It can make them perform worse in terms of filtration, so they essentially no longer perform like N95s. They are made out of polypropylene, which is difficult to chemically modify," Palermo stated. "Another challenge is that you don't want to disrupt the very fine network of fibres in these masks, which might make them more difficult to breathe through," he added.

The team, including researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, at-

tached antimicrobial quaternary ammonium polymers to the fibre surfaces of nonwoven polypropylene fabrics using ultraviolet (UV)-initiated grafting.

"The process that we developed uses a really simple chemistry to create this non-leaching polymer coating that can kill viruses and bacteria by essentially breaking open their outer layer," informed Palermo. "It's very straightforward," he added.

Contd...P4

Scientists have claimed that the new face cover can kill viruses and bacteria by essentially breaking open their outer layer

ONE TEST FOR ALL COVID VARIANTS

Houston: Scientists in the US have developed a rapid Covid-19 test that can accurately detect all current variants of SARS-CoV-2 within hours. The test, 'CoVarScan', detects the signatures of eight hotspots on the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19. The test was successfully conducted on 4,000 patients. The research published recently in the journal 'Clinical Chemistry', shows that the test is as accurate as other methods used to diagnose Covid-19, and can successfully differentiate between all current variants of SARS-CoV-2.



MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	53234.77 ↑ 326.84
NIFTY	15835.40 ↑ 83.40
DOLLAR	79.49 ↑ ₹0.00
EURO	82.28 ↓ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹52,125 ↑ ₹208
SILVER	₹57,800 ↑ ₹58

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 34.8°C	34.6°C
	MIN 26.3°C	26.0°C
Humidity	97%	92%
Rainfall	47mm	1.4mm
		Rain would occur

leisure



LINDSAY'S LATEST INSTA POST SPARKS MARRIAGE RUMOURS

Hollywood star Lindsay Lohan recently took to her Instagram to share a mushy picture with Bader Shammas, the man whom she calls her 'husband'. The post since then has sparked marriage rumours of the actress who is known to be a very private person.

HEARD'S ATTORNEY URGES COURT TO TOSS OUT DEFAMATION TRIAL VERDICT

Amber Heard wants the verdict of the defamation trial against her ex-husband Johnny Depp to be tossed out. The *Aquaman* actress's attorney filed a motion stating that the jurors' \$10.35 million award against the actress is "inconsistent and irreconcilable."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You are bristling with excitement about your work and relationships. In your workplace, you will impress other people to join your group. But Ganesh warns you to be cautious and think before taking any action, as things can backfire and you will have to bear the responsibility.

TAURUS
Managers and administrators are in for a very profitable day, assures Ganesh. They must, however, not expect too much from their subordinates. Doing that could be a source of great disappointment and anxiety. Later in the day, you could be in for some cheerful and encouraging news from abroad.

GEMINI
You will feel the urge to chuck your daily routine and spend time leisurely with your friends and family, entertaining and being entertained. You may also decide to embark upon a trip. The number of guests turning up at your place will increase.

CANCER
You are honest and straightforward, and today will be no different. It's just that you can be too straight at times, leaving those around you embarrassed. Early in the day, small things may bother you in a big way.

LEO
Today, you will most certainly pay close attention to your personal appearance, says Ganesh. After all, no one ever said looking good was a crime. At work, you shall find the resources to dig up a successful business tactic. If you are a job aspirant, an interview in the evening shall go well.

VIRGO
The fairer sex will find pleasure in both the kitchen and the dining table. Expect to host the closest in the evening for some food and drinks. You might just go all mushy and gaga over your beloved too, says Ganesh. Not that they would mind.

LIBRA
Wear your best suit and put on your favourite tie, because today you shall be in the limelight at work. Watch your hard work and innate talents get their share of rewards. Also, expect the best possible assistance from your colleagues. The stars align themselves in a position to give you the maximum leverage possible and boost your reputation by leaps and bounds, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Like an oracle, you can feel how things might turn out today. Trust only what you say, and hear yourself to avoid any sort of confrontations. Ganesh expects your antennas to be on high alert especially with your dearest at your side today.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh suggests you get down to looking your dashing best. Preen that plumage and make heads turn. Your social standing, on the other hand, will add that extra jazz. Talking fast and smooth might just help you effect a robust consummation.

CAPRICORN
When work starts to give nightmares, even meditation cannot restore the peace of mind. You are likely to have a similar kind of harrowing experience at work today, says Ganesh. But the day won't be completely dulling. It's an auspicious day if you have plans to buy a house or a car. You may also move to a new house some time soon.

AQUARIUS
The stars foretell some good news from foreign shores. Also, you will be focused entirely on work. If you are striving to discover innovative ways to achieve speed, accuracy and efficiency, you may succeed today. Ganesh advises you to keep up the hard work.

PISCES
You have been under a lot of pressure of late, but today should see a marked change in your fortunes. A progressive day when it comes to business and professional matters.

Taapsee opens up on pay disparity



Mumbai: Taapsee Pannu, who has created a space for herself in the industry collected within the first weekend itself. So, she wants people to stop blaming the industry only for this problem as it is also the audience who has to contribute to this change.

Further, the actress also spoke about the success of her films, *Badla* and *Pink* which minted good numbers. According to her, the films started out very average. Taapsee added that to have a big opener film, it has to be associated with a big hero presence. She also stated that a big filmmaker backing a movie is another criteria for a big opener.

The actress told a news portal in an interview that when it comes to a female-driven film, people wait for reviews more than advance bookings. However, when it comes to a male-driven film, the advance bookings are so high that the footfalls are

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Kriti talks about her chemistry with Tiger

Mumbai: Remember when Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon made their debut with the 2014 release *Heropanti*? The duo had left everyone in awe of their sizzling chemistry with the first collaboration. And now, the two are making the headlines as they have collaborated once again after eight years for Vikas Bahl's directorial *Ganapath Part 1* which is an action entertainer. Interestingly, Kriti is quite excited to share the screen with her first co-star and is all praises for him. Talking about it, Kriti said, "We have taken very long to reunite. Next time we should do it sooner. It was a lot of fun also because I feel like we both have a soft corner for each other because we started our journey together literally. We were like babies and we both have grown as people and also as actors, professionally, personally everything. So, it's nice to be back on set with him and see him like a much more evolved person."

"I think we have great chemistry, we always have had. Some people have seen some footage of the film and they have really loved the chemistry," added the *Mimi* actress.



Noted film director Tarun Majumdar dies

Kolkata: Noted Bengali film director, Tarun Majumdar, an Padma Shri awardee, passed away at a city hospital here Monday. He was 91.

Besides Padma Shri, he had won multiple honours like National Award, Bengal Film Journalists' Association Award and Filmfare Awards (East).

A dyed-in-the-wool Marxist in personal belief, Majumdar has the credit of launching a number of legendary film actors and actresses like Moushumi Chatterjee, Late Tapas Paul and Debasree Roy and his own wife Sandhya Roy.

The film *Gandevata*, based on the legendary novel by Bengali writer Tarashankar Bandopadhyay was the first reflections of Majumdar's leanings towards Marxist ideology, where he portrayed the breakdown of

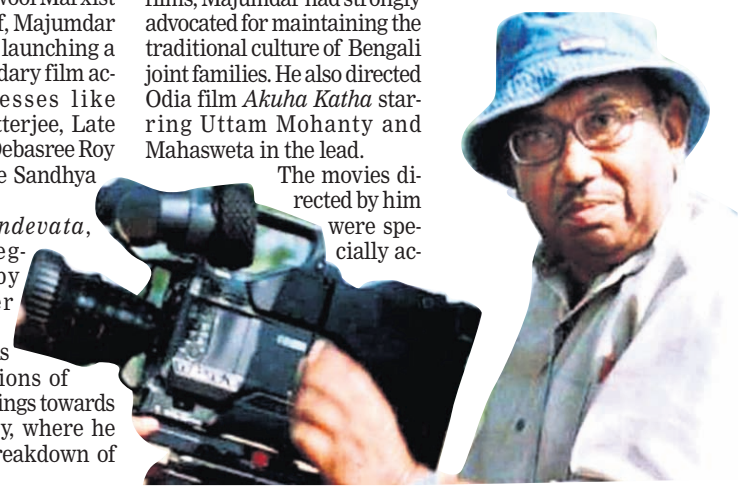
socio-economic structures, impact of industrialisation and non-cooperation movement in rural Bengal.

On the contrary, his films like *Dadar Kirti*, *Bhalobasha* and *Apan Amar Apan* depicted the spirit of romanticism prevalent in then Bengali society. In many of his films, Majumdar had strongly advocated for maintaining the traditional culture of Bengali joint families. He also directed Odia film *Akuha Katha* starring Uttam Mohanty and Mahasweta in the lead.

The movies directed by him were specially ac-

claimed for extensive and sequential use of songs by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

A pall of gloom descended over the entire Bengali silver screen world as the news of his demise spread. Many dignitaries, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, expressed their condolences. IANS



Aarya - Season 3 announced

Mumbai: Filmmaker Ram Madhvani has announced that the 3rd season of Sushmita Sen's digital debut series *Aarya* is in development. Sushmita and Ram Madhvani spoke about their collaboration and how it is to work together.

The first season of the show even got an Emmy nomination.

Based on Dutch drama series *Penoza*, the crime thriller revolves around Aarya (Sushmita), who joins a mafia gang and turns into a don to take revenge for her husband's murder. The show's lead actor said: "It is a new dawn for Aarya Sareen, and she is fierce. In Season 3, she is going places and starting her own story free from the obstacles of her past."

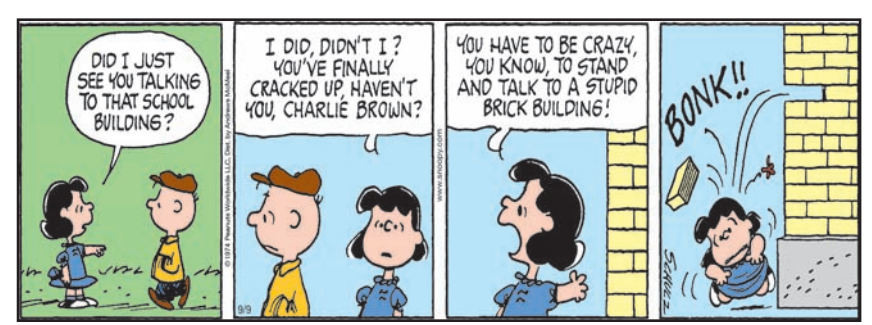
Sushmita shared further how it feels to reprise her role and how it is to work with Ram Madhvani: "Reprising the role of Aarya is like slipping into old jeans but for a brand-new journey. It feels great to be back with Ram Madhvani and can't wait to return the love and appreciation viewers have showered on Aarya."

Elated about the upcoming season, creator and filmmaker Ram Madhvani added: "Disney+ Hotstar has been an amazing partner in building *Aarya* through 2 seasons and we are delighted to associate with them once again for yet another season."



It also features Chandrachur Singh, Sikandar Kher, Ankur Bhatia, and Vikas Kumar among others. IANS

PEANUTS



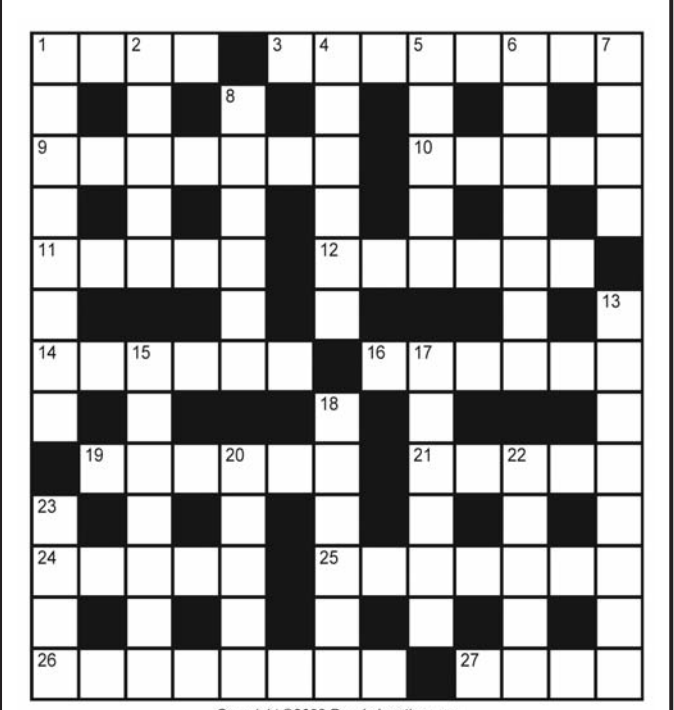
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



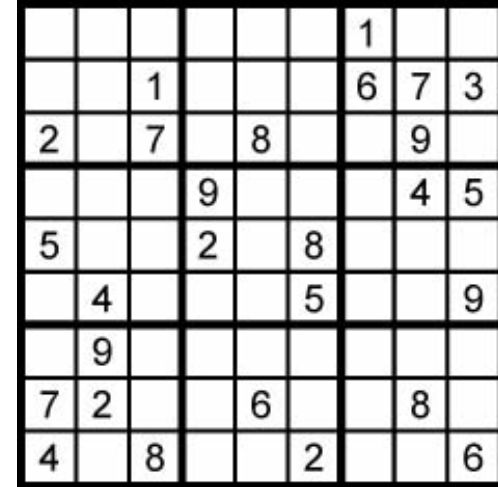
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Mission
 - 3 Bomb fragments
 - 9 Employer's handout
 - 10 Bury
 - 11 Classic theatre
 - 12 Fairness
 - 14 Thomas a Becket, e.g.
 - 16 Dried fruit
 - 19 Large lizard
 - 21 Sign of life
 - 24 Place to lounge
 - 25 Orator's forte
 - 26 Guessing game
 - 27 Seed cover
 - 7 Tackle box item
 - 8 Bligh's ship
 - 13 Inherent
 - 15 Boat race
 - 17 Fund-raising letter
 - 18 Injure badly
 - 20 Plato's plaza
 - 22 Large-eyed primate
 - 23 "Beowulf," for one
- Down**
- 1 Pubs
 - 2 Fashion
 - 4 Gallic
 - 5 Bisect goodbye
 - 6 Writes down

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

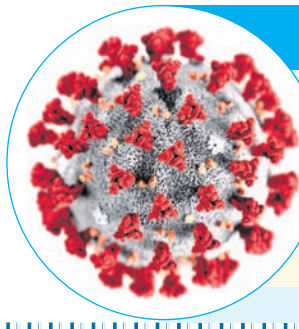


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SINGING LORD'S GLORY

A Bhajan Samaroh was organised by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre at Bhanjakala Mandap, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	55,45,05,230	52,94,46,092	63,61,678
India	4,35,18,564	4,28,79,477	5,25,223
Odisha	12,90,783	12,80,114	9,126

BJB GIRL SUICIDE

OHRC seeks report from Twin City Commissioner



Members of the student wing of state Congress and police Monday engaged in a tussle near the Assembly in Bhubaneswar as the former staged protest demanding justice for Ruchika Mohanty, deceased student of BJB College

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Monday took suo motu cognizance of the suicide of Ruchika Mohanty over ragging and asked the Commissioner of Twin City Commissionerate Police to submit a report in this regard. The Commissioner has also been directed to apprise the commission of the current status of enquiry in the matter.

OHRC has asked the commissioner to submit the report by the

next hearing scheduled to be held July 19. The human rights body will also hear another petition filed by Tejeswar Parida on behalf of 'Ragging Free Campus Abhiyan' organisation the same day.

Tejeswar had filed a petition urging the commission to direct the state government to check rampant ragging incidents in the campuses of educational institutions across the state. While hearing the case, the commission had earlier sought a report from the state Chief Secretary in this regard. Besides, Parida also drew the

commission's notice towards the unfortunate suicide of Ruchika following ragging by some of her seniors at the Karubaki hostel of BJB Autonomous College.

Meanwhile, the parents of Ruchika along with members of Nava Nirman Yuva Chatra Sangathan continued their sit-in protest before the BJB College's gate demanding immediate arrest of the accused seniors and stringent action against them.

On the other hand, the workers of the student wing of Congress (Chhatra Congress) held a protest over the matter at Lower PMG area Monday.

Three different teams of Commissionerate Police have been investigating into the matter under supervision of Additional DCP Bhubaneswar. However, police are yet to identify the three seniors who were accused of mentally harassing her by Ruchika in the suicide note.

A seven-member internal team has been set up by the college administration to investigate the circumstances and persons responsible behind the suicide of the victim. Meanwhile, Principal Niranjana Mishra told mediapersons that the college administration is fully cooperating the police in the probe.

INTERACTIVE SESSION



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik virtually interacted with two-time Grammy Award-winning Indian music composer and environmentalist Ricky Kej during his talk on "My Earth Song" at the Convention Centre of Lok Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Monday, as part of the 25th Odisha Knowledge Hub Lecture Series. Senior officials of the state government were also present at the event.

State launches Special Handloom Expo '22

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: In a bid to boost sales and provide regular employment to the weaver communities of the state, the state Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department began the Special Handloom Expo-2022 across Odisha, Monday.

Organised by Directorate of Textiles, the event was inaugurated by Rita Sahu, Minister of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Department. As per sources, about 34 stalls have been placed in Bargarh, Cuttack, Sonapur, Athagarh, Baripada, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kalahandi,



Bolangir and Boudh for the weavers and traders to showcase and sale their products. Moreover, the stalls are allotted to the par-

ticipants for free of cost. As per information provided by the state government, about 994 weavers and traders had par-

About 994 weavers and traders had participated in earlier expo held at Ekamra Haat in the Capital city between October 2 last year and June 30 this year. A total sale of ₹1,028.65 lakh was recorded during the period. The Special Handloom Expo-2022 will continue till July 20.

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Odisha among top performers in States' Startup Ranking 2021

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 4: Odisha has been adjudged as one of the top performers in developing strong startup ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs in the third edition of States' Startup Ranking 2021 released here by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Monday.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conducted the third edition of the States' Startup Ranking exercise with the key objective of supporting states and Union territories (UTs) in developing their startup ecosystem and learning from each other's best practices.

Leading in three reform areas out of seven, Odisha was named leader in three pillars i.e. institutional champion, procurement forerunner and capacity building pioneer. A total of 24 states and 7 UTs participated in the exercise, which ranked them under five categories - best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders and emerging startup ecosystems.

Gujarat and Karnataka have been ranked as the best performers. For the third time in a row, Gujarat was ranked as the best performer. The states and UTs were also ranked under these five categories based on the population of less than one

Odisha Startup Carnival begins



Bhubaneswar: With the aim of improving employment generation and self-reliance in state 13-day-long Odisha Startup Carnival was inaugurated here Monday. It will see the biggest congregation of startups, mentors, investors and enablers in state, all converging at a single platform. The two-week long event will run from July 4 to 16 and will witness joining of over 35 experts, mentors and investors from varied fields and sectors across the country. Mentoring sessions, investment readiness and pitching sessions are also planned for the event. Guest of honour of the event and President of Vedanta Tapan Kumar Chand opined that use of technology is very much essential for startups to scale their business. "Startups should focus on ideas that would bring benefits for common people. They should look for employment generation and reap the benefit of demographic dividend," Kumar said. It can be mentioned that stakeholders from government, industry and enablers will also participate in the event and the event will culminate with startup-investors' meet and a valedictory ceremony on concluding day at O-Hub, here. Large numbers of startups, innovators and enablers will join the programme and a special startup privilege club of 50 startups will also be announced on this occasion.

crore. Among smaller states having population of less than one crore, Meghalaya has been adjudged as the best performer. Odisha, Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana and Jammu and Kashmir were categorised as the top performers.

The ministry said participants were evaluated across seven broad reform areas consisting of 26 action points like institutional, incubation, funding and mentorship support; fostering innovation and entrepreneurship; and access to market.

Man gets life term for burning wife to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The court of additional district cum sessions judge Monday sentenced a person to life imprisonment holding him guilty of burning his wife to death in city ten years ago. The convict identified as Tutu Guni, 47, was a resident of Shantipalli Basti under Sahid Nagar police limits.

The convict has also been instructed by the court to deposit a fine of Rs 5,000. He has to spend additional six months in jail if he fails to pay the fine.

The victim Ranju Nayak was staying along with the convict, her

in-laws and their three-year-old son at Shantipalli Basti in Sahid Nagar area. The convict Tutu used to assault the victim under the influence of alcohol. The victim used to put up with the torture as she had married Tutu after leaving her first husband.

On May 10, 2012, Tutu poured kerosene on the victim and set her on fire when she was sleeping in her room. Though the victim's parents-in-law rushed to the room after hearing her loud screams, they did not take any step to douse the fire.

They took Ranju to Capital Hospital after neighbours came to her rescue and doused the fire. A



severely injured Ranju was later referred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital for better treatment.

However, instead of making arrangements for Ranju's treatment there, the convict brought her back July 4, 2012. The convict left the victim at the residence of her elder sister at Nilamadhaba Basti in Chandrasekharpur.

The victim's brother-in-law and sister took her to Mahila police station where a case was registered under sections 498-A, 307 and 34 of the IPC on the complaint filed by the ailing victim on the same day Tutu was arrested by the police July 7, 2012.

The victim succumbed to the burn injuries due to lack of proper treatment August 18, 2012.

The court after examining the statements of 12 witnesses and 21 documentary evidences held Tutu guilty and awarded life sentence to him. The case was conducted by public prosecutor Suresh Kumar Barik on behalf of the complainant.

Parents' federation demands OBC quota in govt institutions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Members of the Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) Monday met Governor Ganeshi Lal and demanded immediate implementation of 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) at all state government and private education institutions.

"Barring Odisha, almost all other states have accepted and implemented reservations for OBCs. In Odisha, generally agricultural farmers are more than 75 per cent. Other traditional business communities like Gudia, Barik, Gauda also come under OBC," said OPF Chairman Basudev Bhatt.

"For their upliftment, we need 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in all Adarsha Vidyalayas, government colleges, universities, private educational institutions in Odisha," he added.

Hotels, restaurants barred from levying service charge: CCPA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Amid rising consumer complaints, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Monday barred hotels and restaurants from levying service charge automatically or by default in food bills and allowed customers to file complaints in case of violation.

The CCPA has issued guidelines for preventing unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights with regard to levying of service charge.

"No hotels or restaurants shall add service charge automatically or by default in the bill," CCPA Chief Commissioner said in the guideline. There should not be any collection of service charge by any other name, it added.

No hotel or restaurant can force a consumer to pay service charge. They have to clearly inform the consumer that service charge is voluntary, optional and at consumer's discretion. "No restriction on entry or pro-

vision of services based on collection of service charge shall be imposed on consumers," the guideline added. Further, service charge cannot be collected by adding it along with the food bill and levying GST on the total amount.

If any consumer finds that a hotel or restaurant is levying service charge in violation of the guidelines, s/he can request the concerned establishment to remove it from the bill amount.

The consumers can also lodge a complaint on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH), which works as an alternate dispute redressal mechanism at the pre-litigation level, by calling 1915 or through the NCH mobile app.

They can also file complaints with the Consumer Commission. The complaint can be filed electronically through the e-Daakhil portal for its speedy and effective redressal.

Moreover, the consumer can submit a complaint to the District Collector of the concerned district for investigation and subse-



quent proceedings by the CCPA. The complaint can also be sent to the CCPA by e-mail.

The CCPA said it has observed, through grievances registered on NCH, that hotels and restaurants are levying service charge in the bill by default without informing consumers that paying such a charge is voluntary.

"Further, service charge is being

levied in addition to the total price of the food items mentioned in the menu and applicable taxes, often in the guise of some other fee or charge," it added.

The guidelines state that a component of service is inherent in price of food and beverages offered by a restaurant or hotel.

Pricing of the product covers both the goods and services com-

ponent. There is no restriction on hotels or restaurants to set the prices at which they want to offer food or beverages to consumers.

"Thus placing an order involves consent to pay the prices of food items displayed in the menu along with applicable taxes. Charging anything other than the said amount would amount to unfair trade practices under the (Consumer Protection) Act," the guidelines said.

The CCPA, in its guidelines, said a tip or gratuity is towards hospitality received beyond basic minimum service contracted between the consumer and the hotel management, and constitutes a separate transaction between the consumer and staff of the hotel/restaurant at the consumer's discretion.

Only after completing the meal, a consumer is in a position to assess the quality as well as service and decide whether or not to pay a tip and if so, how much.

The decision to pay a tip by a consumer does not arise merely by

entering the restaurant or placing an order.

"Therefore, service charge cannot be added in the bill involuntarily, without allowing consumers the choice or discretion to decide whether they want to pay such charge or not," the guidelines said.

Further, any restriction of entry based on collection of service charge amounts to unfair trade practice, it added.

According to an official statement, various cases relating to levying of service charge have also been decided by consumer commissions in favour of consumers, holding the same as an unfair trade practice and in violation of consumer rights.

The CCPA has been established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements. It has been set up to promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.

New office bearers for CREDAI Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: CREDAI Bhubaneswar Foundation elected its new office bearers for term 2022-2023. Pradipta Kumar Biswasroy became president while Umesh Patnaik was elected general secretary as per the notification issued by CREDAI Bhubaneswar. Other elected office bearers are Suryakanta Nanda and Parthajeet Patnaik as vice presidents, Jitendra Kumar Patra and Satyajyoti Mohanty as joint secretaries and Siddharth Sekhar Mohapatra as treasurer.

CONTINUED FROM P1

1.4K students died by suicide during 2016-20

Later on giving his statement, Minister of State (Home) Tushar Kanti Behera told the members that the government has immediately directed for a probe considering the sensitivity of the incident. He also informed the House that the government as per the direction of the Supreme Court has asked all to follow the standard operating procedure issued by the Home department to rein in the incidents of ragging in educational institutions. Commissionerate Police have formed a three-member team headed by additional DCP for investigation into the case under direct supervision of Bhubaneswar DCP, Behera said. He added that based on the statement of the family members of the deceased girl, her relatives and the suicide note, investigation was being pursued. The report by Odisha police revealed that a total of 1,469 students died by suicide in Odisha in 2020.

Now, a mask to kill Coronavirus

The team used only UV light and acetone in their process, which are widely available, to make it easy to implement. The process can be applied to already manufactured polypropylene filters, rather than necessitating the development of new ones, the researchers said. "The threat of diseases caused by airborne microbes is not going away. It's about time that we improved the performance and sustainability of the materials that we use to protect ourselves," stated another researcher.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Kaptipada, Udala, I have changed my minor son's name from Preeti Ranjan Prusty to Pratyush Mohan Prusty. Henceforth he will be known as Pratyush Mohan Prusty for all purposes. Sd./- ABHAY PRUSTY

JC-682194P-Nb/Sub-Debashisa Nayak, Vill-Kuansh (Ward No-16), PO/Dist- Bhadrak, State-Odisha, have changed my daughters name Baishnobi to Baishnavi Nayak, Affidavit Dt.23.06.2022, On Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak.

LOST

I Sri Amir Kumar Ray, S/o- Late Banshidhar Ray, Resident of at-Chataragarh, Po- Alana hat, PS-Naugaon, Dist-Jagatsinghpur, Present Add.- Plot No.-683, Suralata Bhawan, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar, Mob- 9861233313 my original sale deed No.14170/2008, is lost at Laxmi Sagar Sqr. on dt.25.06.2022. I declared that I don't take loan any bank or organisation against on this sale deed.

Over 2.26 lakh posts lying vacant in state



POST NEWS NETWORK

Out of the total posts, as many as 2,06,940 regular posts including Group A, B, C & D posts and 19,619 Grant in Aid (GIA) posts are lying vacant in the state. As many as 12,337 Group A posts; 45,969 Group B posts; 1,13,536 Group C posts; and 35,098 Group D posts were vacant till December 2021. The state government has also abolished 45,513 vacant posts from between 1999 and 2008

Bhubaneswar, July 4: More than 2.26 lakh posts are lying vacant in different departments of state government, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari told the Assembly Monday.

Replying to the question posed by BJD legislator Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Pujari said a total of 2,26,559 government posts were lying vacant in the state till December 2021.

Out of the total posts, as many as 2,06,940 regular posts including Group A, B, C & D posts and 19,619 Grant in Aid (GIA) posts are lying vacant in the state, he said.

The Minister also revealed that 12,337 Group A posts; 45,969 Group B posts; 1,13,536 Group C posts;

and 35,098 Group D posts were vacant till December 2021.

The state government has also abolished 45,513 vacant posts from between 1999 and 2008, Pujari said in his reply.

Patnaik sought an answer on the financial burden caused to the state exchequer because of re-appointment of retirees and two-year extension of employees who have superannuated from service, instead of appointing educated unemployed youths.

The Minister said his department has no information on the financial burden caused due to this factor. The respective departments can provide information on the number of contractual and re-employment post retirement, he added.

3,740 B'deshi infiltrators staying in state

Bhubaneswar: The state government has identified 3,740 Bangladeshi infiltrators who are staying in the state, Minister of State (MoS) for Home Tusharkanti Behera told Assembly Monday. The Union Home ministry has issued instructions to the state government at different times to identify the Bangladeshi infiltrators. The infiltrators are staying in Bargarh, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Bhubaneswar urban police districts, Behera said. Of the 3,740 infiltrators, as many as 1,711 foreign nationals were served deportation notice. However, only 21 Bangladeshi infiltrators have been deported, said the minister.



Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Mayor Subhash Singh chaired a preparatory meeting for the upcoming Eid-ul-Zuha at the CMC conference hall, Monday

41 kids among 245 new Cov cases

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Odisha recorded 245 more fresh Covid-19 cases Monday, taking the tally to 12,90,783, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) fell to 1.92 per cent from 2.68 the previous day; as the cases were detected out of 12,748 samples tested, the bulletin added.

Khurda district, of which the Capital city Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of new infections at 135, followed by 38 in Cuttack. Among the total 245 fresh cases, forty-one children were afflicted with the highly infectious disease. On Sunday, the state had logged 346 daily Covid-19 cases.

Currently, the state holds 1,490 active Covid-19 cases and 65 more people recuperated from the virus, taking the total recoveries to 12,80,114.

The Covid-19 death toll in state remained at 9,126 as there were no new deaths, as per the Health department bulletin. Fifty-three other Covid patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it added.

Looking at the sudden rise in Covid-19 cases in state, the government has stepped up its countermeasures as civic authorities of state Capital Bhubaneswar and Silver City Cuttack have made wearing of masks mandatory at public places.

In its recent advisory, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has

urged the residents of the Silver City to wear face masks appropriately while moving out and while in public places. The civic authorities have also urged people who are coming to Cuttack from outside to wear masks as a precautionary measure against the deadly virus.

This apart, the CMC has urged residents of the city and outsiders to maintain social distance in public places. Moreover, the civic body advised government and private offices, shopping malls and other business entities to ensure social distancing on their premises.

The CMC advisory also urged people to go for testing if they have symptoms like fever, cold and sneezing.

CARE Hospitals acquires CHL Hospitals, Indore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Hyderabad-based CARE Hospitals Group, an asset of TPG Growth managed Evercare Fund and one of the largest hospital networks in India, announced its entry into Madhya Pradesh region through the acquisition of Indore-based CHL Hospitals, Monday.

Established in 2001, Convenient Hospitals Ltd (CHL) was the first corporate hospital in the central region of India and is known for its strong clinical expertise in the fields of Cardiology/Cardiac Surgery, Neuro Sciences, GI, Liver Transplants, and critical care.

CARE Hospitals was instituted in 1997 as a single speciality cardiac hospital in Hyderabad with 100 beds & 20 cardiologists. The Group has now evolved as India's leading multi-speciality hospital network with 15 healthcare facilities across six states and over 2400 beds offering 30 clinical specialities.

Speaking about the acquisition, CARE Hospitals group CEO Jasdeep Singh said, "We welcome CHL Hospitals to the CARE Hospitals network and are excited by the potential to create greater accessibility to high-end clinical care to patients with our combined expertise in central India. As a national chain, CARE Hospitals has always been at the forefront of providing quality healthcare to the patient community in Tier-2 cities and our hospitals are leading providers in each of these cities. This partnership with CHL consolidates our presence further with a leadership position in a key geography of the country."

With a highly talented team of more than 1,200 doctors across the network, CARE group treats millions every year. Over the last 25 years, the group has excelled in Cardiac Sciences, Oncology, Neurosciences, Renal Sciences, Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement, ENT, Vascular Surgery and Integrated Organ Transplants.

KISS concludes 2nd annual convocation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Deemed to be University, celebrated its second annual convocation ceremony Monday.

"I have been profoundly touched during my visits to KISS and I get a feeling that the voice of the tribal community of India is here", Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche, Master of Tibetan Buddhism and Spiritual Director of the Ripa International Center said in his convocation address.

Congratulating the graduates, Rinpoche urged them to carry a sense of gratitude for the rest of their lives as so many people have contributed to their success.

"From ecology to economy, real life is challenging and one can succeed only by accepting diversity. Warm-heartedness is the key to solving most of the problems the world is facing today. The real meaning of education is to help others," he said

while advising students to contribute to the overall good of humanity.

The university conferred Honoris Causa Degrees of D Litt upon four personalities of international repute - Rajiv Kumar, Chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics; Pavan Sukhdev, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador; Ricky G Kej, Indian Music Composer; and Erik Solheim, President of Green Belt and Road Institute.

"What KISS does and what KISS focuses on, make this recognition very special," said Rajiv Kumar in his acceptance speech. KISS has the transformative potential for the country, he said while congratulating Achyuta Samanta, founder of KISS.

While commending the role of KISS in developing human capital, Sukhdev remarked, "It is essential to focus on human capital, natural capital and social capital, along with GDP, which merely conveys a notion of produced capital."

RATH YATRA BY ESPLANADE



Nexus Esplanade, Bhubaneswar, celebrated a grand Rath Yatra this year while following all Covid protocols, with the presence of customers, retailers, guests, staff and officials of the mall, and well-known individuals of the City

ALTERNATIVE TO ACS

IIT develops radiative cooling system which needs no electricity

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati have designed an affordable "radiative cooler" coating material, an alternative to air-conditioning system that needs no electricity to operate.

According to officials, this material is an electricity-free cooling system as it can be applied on the rooftops. It also functions both during day and night time to provide an alternative to conventional air-conditioners.

"Passive radiative cooling systems operate by emitting heat absorbed from the surrounding in the form of infrared radiations that can pass through the atmosphere before getting dumped into the cold outer space. Most passive radiative coolers operate only at night. For daytime operation, these coolers need to reflect entire solar radiation as well," Ashish Kumar

Chowdhary, research scholar at IIT Guwahati, said.

Till now, these cooling systems are not able to provide sufficient cooling at daytime. We are set to resolve these issues and bring out an affordable and more efficient radiative cooling system that can operate round-the-clock, he added.

Their innovation has been published in the 'Journal of Physics D Applied Physics' by IOP Publishing, United Kingdom.

"Designing a passive radiative cooler for daytime operation is more challenging due to the simultaneous requirement of high reflectance in entire solar spectral regime and high emissivity in the atmospheric transmittance window," said Debabrata Sikdar, Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, IIT Guwahati.

These radiative coolers require



no external energy sources for their operation could be one of the best alternatives to replace the conventional air conditioning systems used to cool buildings and automobiles in countries experiencing hot weather, such as India. Unlike traditional cooling technologies that dump the waste heat

into the surroundings, radiative cooling is a unique process that cools an object on the earth sending excessive heat directly into the extremely cold universe, he added.

The team hopes this will reach the market once the large-scale prototypes are developed and tested for operational stability and dura-

Designing a passive radiative cooler for daytime operation is more challenging due to the simultaneous requirement of high reflectance in entire solar spectral regime and high emissivity in the atmospheric transmittance window

DEBABRATA SIKDAR | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, IIT GUWAHATI

bility under different climatic conditions. They are now working towards this.

"For a radiative cooler to work during daytime, the material should reflect the solar and atmospheric radiations falling on it. Since the materials used in conventional coolers absorb more solar radiations and emit less during the day, those do not work during daytime. While daytime cooling can be achieved using polymer-based passive radiative coolers, oxidation degrades the polymers resulting in a limited lifespan," Chowdhary said.

"To address this, we considered using thin films of silicon dioxide and aluminium nitride. These materials have low optical density corresponding to the wavelength range of solar and atmospheric radiations. But at atmospheric transmittance wavelengths, they have high optical density. When optical density is high, radiations travel slower through a medium and get absorbed more. To remain at thermal equilibrium, the material emits all the absorbed radiations like a black body," he added. pti

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6 KILLED, 2 INJURED IN ROAD MISHAPS

Komna/Bhadrak, July 4: At least six people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Nuapada and Bhadrak districts Monday, police said.

In Nuapada, five people, including a minor, were killed and a woman sustained serious injuries after the motorcycle they were all travelling on was hit by a speeding truck on National Highway-353 between Udayanbandha and Krishna villages, a police officer said.

Three people died on the spot, and two others succumbed to the injuries at a hospital.

The identities of the deceased and the injured were not immediately known but it is suspected that the injured woman may be the mother of the deceased minor.

In another incident, a man died and his wife was critically injured after the car they were travelling in dashed into a concrete mixer machine on National Highway-16 near Rahanja Chhak in Bhadrak district.

The deceased was identified as Surendra Sahu, 45, an employee of Electricity department and a native of Asurali area in the district. His wife Sudhansubala, 40, was seriously injured in the accident while their three-year-old daughter survived the crash unhurt, police said.



elling in dashed into a concrete mixer machine on National Highway-16 near Rahanja Chhak in Bhadrak district.

Keonjhar-Duburi road 4-laning on the cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 4: The district administration has proposed four-laning of Naranpur (Keonjhar) - Duburi (Jajpur) road to facilitate better transportation of iron ores and minerals from the mines in Joda, Barbil and Suakati to Paradip, a report said.

The 88.2-km long road, when completed, will be renamed as National Highway-720 and will have two toll plazas.

A detailed project report (DPR) in this regard has been sent to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for approval of the land acquisition committee. However, the details regarding the commencement of the work and the estimates are yet to be revealed.

The matter came to the fore at a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) held here June 30.

As per reports, two flyovers and equal number of underpasses will be built along the route to facilitate



The 88.2-km long road, when completed, will be renamed as National Highway-720 and will have two toll plazas

easy movement of large vehicles. Moreover, an additional 28 underpasses will also be constructed on the route to facilitate the movement of LMVs and pedestrians. Similarly, four large and eight small bridges will also be constructed on the highway while two old bridges will be expanded.

This apart, 145 new culverts will also be constructed on the highway. The new road will

start from Sirishpal bypass on NH-20 (Panikoli-Rimuli route) and will run via Harichandanpur, Brahmanipal, to connect with Tata Steel plant at Kalinganagar on Duburi-Chandikhole road.

Meanwhile, the move has sparked concern among the environmentalists as large tracts of green cover will be destroyed for construction of the highway. The environmentalists alleged that several jungles were destroyed to make way for construction of NH-20 and NH-49 in Keonjhar district but greenery was never replenished. The loss of the green cover has led to disruption in climatic conditions in the district.

They also alleged that the officials, instead of planting saplings beneficial for humans, have planted some flower and other non-essential plants which have been destroyed due to lack of maintenance and upkeep.

Moreover, there is a need to plant saplings on both sides of the highway which is still awaited.

Redhakhole, July 4: In a bizarre incident, a man climbed a 33KV electric tower and threatened to commit suicide following a tiff with his wife at Khandahata under Redhakhole police limits in this district Monday.

A police team reached the spot and rescued the man identified as Akash Nayak, a resident of Hanumanpur under Kaniha police limits of Angul district. According to sources, Akash is married to Kuni Nayak of Jubrajpur under Redhakhol police limits. The couple had an argument two days back following which Akash's wife went to her paternal place. Later, Akash also followed her along with the two children and insisted Kuni to return home to which the latter declined. After failing to persuade her, Akash climbed atop the electric tower and threatened to commit suicide.

Later, Kuni reached the spot and urged him to cooperate with the police in the rescue operation. She also promised to return with him.



FUN & FROLIC

Tourists enjoyed a sea bath on the Saikat beach road of Digha near Bhograi of Balasore as the Bay of Bengal remained turbulent due to a low pressure OP PHOTO

Youth loses lakhs to online games, ends life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, July 4: In a case that could be a warning to all youngsters and parents, a youth Monday ended his life after losing lakhs by playing online games.

The victim has been identified as Debendra Parida, son of Bhagaban Parida of Bhuasuni village under Balikuda police limits in Jagatsinghpur district.

According to reports, Debendra was a trader who was dealing in turmeric, vegetables and other food grains. Recently, he had received around ₹3 lakh through his business.



However, he was addicted to online games. Unfortunately, he lost more than ₹2 lakh through online games and was under depression. Furthermore, his family members had also scolded him following the loss.

Man beaten to death

Bhadrak: A member of a groom's entourage was beaten to death while returning home from the marriage venue at Tarini Square under Rural police limits here late Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Bidyadhar Majhi, 34, son of Dinabandhu Majhi in Gangadharpur under Bhadrak Rural police limits. Police said Bidyadhar was part of the groom's procession. He had a heated argument with another member of the entourage and later, returned home after attending the feast. He had gone to bring his bike parked at Tarini Square when someone hit him with a stick from behind, injuring him critically. Family members rushed him to Bhadrak DHH where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. A probe is on.

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For registration, please contact: Darshan Doshi, Mobile: 87899 69133.

Registration is compulsory.
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Dawn-to-dusk bandh hits life in Talcher

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, July 4: Normal life was paralysed in Talcher industrial belt Monday after members of Talcher Surakhya Manch observed a dawn-to-dusk bandh over operationalisation of Talcher Medical College here.

The outfit demanded that the state government should take immediate steps for smooth functioning of Talcher Medical College while MCL should provide the necessary funding. Though the construction of buildings for the medical college is already completed, they are yet to be functional, the agitators alleged.

Through the state government had announced two years ago that the Mahanadi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (MIMSAR) in Talcher will be made functional from 2021-22 academic year, it is yet to be operational.

It has not yet been decided as to who will run the medical col-



Business establishments remain closed during the Talcher bandh OP PHOTO

The Talcher Surakhya Manch demanded that the state government should take immediate steps for smooth functioning of Talcher Medical College

mines in Talcher coalfield came to a grinding halt due to the bandh.

The agitators picketed at all coal mines resulting in disruption of coal production and transportation. Meanwhile, the colliery official sources said MCL has lost about 2 lakh tonne of coal production due to the agitation. The strike went off peacefully with no untoward incidents, police sources said.

The agitators warned that they would intensify the stir in coming days if their demands are not met. The bus owners' association also extended support to bandh.

Man's body found stuffed in sack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, July 4: Body of an unidentified man was found stuffed in a sack near Biju Expressway at Chancharamunda Chhak under Golamunda block of Kalahandi district Monday.

The incident came to the fore after locals spotted the sack lying under suspicious conditions near the road and alerted the cops.

Circumstantial evidence suggested it to be a case of murder. It has been suspected that someone might have killed the man and later stuffed his body inside the sack before dumping it near the Expressway.

Being informed, Golamunda police reached the spot, recovered the body and started an investigation.

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Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.

SONEPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession/Outstanding dues (As per 13(2) notice)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction
Borrower: Mr. Shiba Bhuie, S/o: Gobinda Bhuie, Plot No.: 721, Khata No.: 290/17, Mouza: Mayurudan, P.S.: Sonepur, Dist.: Sonepur	All that piece and parcel of Land Measuring an Area of 0.0041 acre or 1785.96 sq.ft. together with structure thereon at Plot No.: 721, Khata No.:	21.08.2019/ 03.12.2019/ ₹ 14,84,755/- as on 31.03.2021	₹20,00,000/- / ₹2,00,000/- / ₹10,000/-	19.07.2022 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 19.07.2022 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 18.07.2022 upto 05.30 PM by online

Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 12.07.2022 between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and <https://ibapi.in>. prospective bidders may also contact the Authorized Officers / Branch no. as mentioned in above list. 2) This is a 15 days notice to the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date. 3) All expenses relating to the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/ conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 4) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 5) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.
Borrower/Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 04.07.2022 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-563

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA
e-mail: rw_mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in

e-Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 03/RWD/BPD/2022-23

- Name of the Work : Road Works
- Total No. of Works : 21 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Approx. Estimated Cost Rs.6.00 lakhs to Rs.32.00 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'D' & 'C' & 'C' & 'B'
- Period of Completion : 3 (Three) Calendar Months
- Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Baripada	03 (Online)/RWD-BPD of 2022-23	Dt.08.07.2022 at 07.00 A.M.	Dt.15.07.2022 upto 01.00 P.M.	Dt.14.07.2022 upto 01.00 P.M.	Dt.16.07.2022 at 10.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Aswini Kumar Dandapat
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada

OIPR-250571/11/0006/2223

Union Bank of India REGIONAL OFFICE : CUTTACK

M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest

A Demand Notice under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued and sent by Regd. Post with A.D. by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, DRIEMS Branch (e-AB) against the following Borrower/Guarantor, which could not be served to the below mentioned parties. Therefore, the contents of the same including the outstanding, Loan Amount and details of the secured assets are herein furnished below .

DRIEMS BRANCH (e-AB) Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor	Nature / Limit	Date of Demand Notice / Outstanding	Details of Property Mortgaged
Borrower: Mr Santosh Kumar Ojha, Prop. M/s Shree Jagannath Distributors, S/o: Mr Dharendra Ojha, Guarantor: Mr Prasant Kumar Ojha, S/o: Mr Dharendra Ojha, both are resident of At: Kaintha, PO.: Champapur, PS: Mahanga, Mouza: Kaitha, Champapur, PS: Mahanga, Dist: Jajpur, Pin- 754023.	SGNEI Term Loan / Rs. 8,00,000/-	26.05.2022 Rs.7,06,154/- as on 21.04.2022 together with further interest & charges from 22.04.2022	EMD of Land and Building over consolidation Khata No.304 and nonconsolidated Plot No.2043 corresponds to LR Khata No.459 and LR Plot No.354 situated at Village Kaitha, PO.: Champapur, PS: Mahanga, Mouza: Kaitha, in the name of Mr Santosh Kumar Ojha, S/o: Mr Dharendra Ojha .

As the above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor of the DRIEMS Branch (e-AB) has defaulted in repayment of the principal loan/facility in installments /interest/ both, the account has been classified as NPA and all of you are jointly and severally liable to pay the above mentioned amount as mentioned against the respective account with subsequent interest as per the agreement . You are hereby called upon to pay the said outstanding amount together with up to date interest within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Bank shall be constrained to take any one or more of the following measures against the properties Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the Bank detailed above, to recover the amount without the intervention of the court as provided under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (54 of 2002) i.e 1. Take possession of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets . 2. Take over the management of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets . 3. Appoint any person (hereafter referred to as the manager) to manage the secured assets the possession of which has been taken over by the secured creditor . 4. Require at any time by notice in writing any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from the borrower and from whom any money is due or may become due to the borrower, to pay the bank, so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt, Please take notice that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by the way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the Bank. The charges, expenses incurred for taking the aforesaid actions shall be met out of the sale proceeds and if the sale proceeds are found insufficient to satisfy the entire amount due to the bank, for the balance amount appropriate legal action as provided in the SARFAESI Act 54 of 2002 or any other Act as deemed necessary will be taken against you, holding all of you jointly and severally liable to all costs and consequences thereof, it may be noted that under the provisions of section 13(8) of the Act, right to redemption is available to you, by paying the dues of the Bank together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the bank, at any time, before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets .

This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the bank available under any other law .

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:04.07.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India



Vain indeed is all overweening pride in the conquest even of the entire universe if one has not conquered one's own passions.

SRI AUROBINDO



Eco First, Biz Later

A countrywide ban on manufacture, import, production and sale of single use plastic items has been announced by the Central Government from 1st July. While this is a long awaited welcome step in the right direction, the implementation has to be strategic for the ban to be successful. Plastic ban has been one of the top priorities of countries which are part of the United Nations Environment Assembly. In early 2022, about 124 countries, including India, had signed a resolution to make it legally binding for signatories to address the full life of plastics, from production to disposal, to end plastic pollution. The recent plastic ban in India might be a step towards fulfilling this commitment. This is not going to be an easy road.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has requested the government to delay the ban by a year and form a committee of stakeholders to develop alternatives. They have also requested the government to not take coercive action against violators in the first year, saying this will hurt small and medium industries and the retail sector very badly. It is true that the single use plastic industry provides jobs and is integral to the food manufacturing, healthcare, packaging and other industries. While care needs to be taken to find other sources of income for the industries and individuals who are set to lose their livelihood due to this ban and also find alternatives to single use plastics, it may be admitted that a phased ban has very little chances of working in a vast country like India. The only way might be a ban first and solutions later, at least for now. There are times that the environment must come before economy and that time is now.

India is among the top 100 countries when it comes to the volume of plastic waste it generates. Many high littering but low utility items have been banned such as ear buds with plastic tips, plastic cups, plates, forks and spoons, wrapping films, plastic straws and others. While the list seems good enough to start with, it is in no way a blanket ban on single use plastics. The biggest resistance to this move has been for plastic straws since big FMCG companies are involved who insist that soft drinks need to be packaged with straws.

Most importantly, plastic carry bags will not be banned but the thickness requirement has been jacked up to more than 75 microns till end of the year with a proposal to get it up to 120 microns thickness later. In the fight against the menace of plastics, the biggest polluter and threat has always been carry bags. Micro plastics from such bags are ingested by animals and even humans, endangering their health. Landfills and water bodies get clogged with plastic bags and they even end up in the bellies of ocean creatures as large as whales.

The government must get all stakeholders on board to move strategically in order to completely ban single use plastics. For this, cooperation must be sought from citizens as well as trader bodies. At the same time, industries that are set to lose revenue due to the ban must be supported and a workable action plan for research into alternatives for plastic must be put in place urgently. Only then, one can hope to take baby steps towards a single use plastic free India.

WISDOM CORNER

Each day is a little life: every waking and rising a little birth, every fresh morning a little youth, every going to rest and sleep a little death.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

Is the system going to flatten you out and deny you your humanity, or are you going to be able to make use of the system to the attainment of human purposes?

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

All compromise is based on give and take, but there can be no give and take on fundamentals. Any compromise on mere fundamentals is a surrender. For it is all give and no take.

MAHATMA GANDHI

WORDSWORTH

■ Troubleshoot

To judge from Google, troubleshoot is by a factor of about 3:1 more common than the alternative of troubleshot. That's very reasonable; the usual rule is that in a compound the past tense follows that of the base verb, here "shoot". The troubleshot version arises from people taking the verb as being a new regular weak verb. The oldest form in the records is trouble-shooter from the start of the twentieth century (August 1904: "A. L. Pels, 'trouble shooter' for the Bell Telephone Co., visited at Geo. Dewell's the past week.") It seems to have been jargon of the early telephone business. It's based on a rather older slang sense of shoot, to discard or get rid of, of which the earliest form is to get shot of something, which dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century. An alternative version is characteristically American, of which an example from 1884 in the Oxford English Dictionary is: "If I had all the cash he takes in to-night, I'd buy an island and shoot the machine business." It often turned up as shoot that, a mild imprecation, especially as shoot that hat! The next step might have been to form the verb to shoot trouble in the sense of disposing of, dealing with or generally getting rid of trouble. Oddly, the records don't show this form turning up until recently as a humorous reversal of troubleshoot. The first recorded form after trouble-shooter is trouble-shooting for the process. The verb to troubleshoot doesn't appear until the late 1930s, which means it may have been a back-formation from trouble-shooter, the -er ending suggesting to people that there ought to be a verb to go along with it.

■ Truckle

Truckle is recorded as a dialect name for a cheese from about the beginning of the nineteenth century, usually one that is cylindrical or barrel-shaped. Some of my dictionaries say it's dialect still, but cheesemaker acquaintances tell me that today it's a standard term in the industry for any barrel-shaped or cylindrical cheese that is taller than it is wide. This sense of the word came to us from the Latin trochlea, "pulley wheel; sheaf", related to the Greek trokhilia, "pulley". Truckle came into the language some 600 years ago with that meaning, referring to a simple wooden wheel with a groove in it to guide the rope. Soon afterwards a type of furniture castor shaped like a slim disc was given the same name. Perhaps its best-known use is in truckle bed, a low bed on small wheels that could be stored under the main bed in a room. This was used by personal servants who slept in the same room as their masters or mistresses; the truckle bed would be dragged out at night and stored away again in the morning. Someone who slept like this was said to truckle and the implication of being below someone of higher social status led about 1660 to the figurative sense of truckle under or truckle down — to take a subservient or an inferior position. More recently English re-borrowed the Latin original trochlea to describe features in humans and insects that look like pulley wheels.

LOL

Dealing with shoplifter

A shoplifter was caught red-handed trying to steal a watch from an exclusive jewellery store. "Listen," said the shoplifter, "I know you don't want any trouble either. What do you say I just buy the watch and we forget



about this?" The manager agreed and wrote up the sales slip. The crook looked at the slip and said, "This is a little more than I intended to spend. Can you show me something less expensive?"



Jagdish Rattanan

FOR UDDHAV THACKERAY AND THE SHIV SENA, THIS IS A CHALLENGING TIME

The BJP and the Shiv Sena have been running a mini, local area version of competitive Hindutva politics for some time now. As the Sena leader Sanjay Raut told the treasury benches in Parliament once: "We do not need certificates on being strong Hindus from anyone. We are the headmasters of the Hindutva school you study in." That comment, and many others that have been exchanged in the last two-and-a-half-years, were part of a vicious political war that brought the two "natural allies" virtually at each other's throats. For those who paid careful attention to the state, it offered a fascinating account of how power was the prize and everything else a tool. This is of course understood to be the case in the charged political climate of today but in Maharashtra it was a game played out in the open. If Hindutva politics is characterised as hatred of the other, here was Hindutva that showed hatred in the family as it were, hatred of one version of itself.

It is against this backdrop that the BJP had vowed to pull down the government of Uddhav Thackeray whose sin, after all, only was to ask to keep the position of the Chief Minister for the Shiv Sena, so that the two parties work as equal partners in their long-standing alliance. He claimed this was agreed; the BJP said there was no such deal and the bigger partner in terms of MLAs (which is the BJP) would keep the prize. It was the BJP's refusal to play on that equal footing that forced Uddhav Thackeray to form an alliance with the Congress and Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). In return, the BJP launched relentless attacks on Thackeray and his team, with the heavyweight support of the Centre.

The BJP's Maharashtra project has now succeeded at last. Uddhav, son of the founder of the Shiv Sena, Bal Thackeray, is out and

SPECTRUM TALIBAN



Asad Mirza

THE TALIBAN ARE UNDER INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE AS THEY STRUGGLE WITH AFGHANISTAN'S HUMANITARIAN CRISES

The manner in which the Taliban have been able to retain power in Afghanistan and their latest decisions show that to save millions of Afghans from impoverishment and death, the international community will have to adopt a new approach. While the nearly one-year-old Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government trundles on in the absence of international recognition and financial support and faces international backlash on its mostly anti-women and anti-minorities decisions, reminding one of its earlier harsh tenure, the IEA government has not given up on efforts to cajole the international community whilst trying to engage with its neighbours and regional powers at an equal level.

Last week, a three-day assembly of Islamic clerics and tribal elders, called Loya Jirga, was held in Kabul. The assembly pledged support for the Taliban and called on the international community to recognise the country's government. It is reported that some 70 personalities representing Afghan refugees in Pakistan and 30 others from Iran participated in the Jirga. Participants of the Jirga were expected to discuss a series of issues, including reopening schools for girls from 7th grade to 12th grade, the type of government, national flag and national anthem. However, the indications are that the overwhelming majority of at-

FOCUS SHIV SENA

TIGERS & TRAITORS



The Shiv Sena was built as a one-man party under the complete control of the Sena pramukh. It would be unimaginable for MLAs to revolt against Bal Thackeray

a rebel Sena member Eknath Shinde has become the 20th Chief Minister of Maharashtra, with the BJP's support. The BJP, half-a-term gone, still could not grab the Chief Minister's position. But with a government it controls, there is a lot that can be done to change the narrative and build the base. The problem: as the elderly and astute Sharad Pawar has pointed out, the one issue before the new government will be of gaining credibility with the people of Maharashtra. The manner in which the split in the Sena was engineered, the offer of the Chief Minister's position to the breakaway faction and the sudden inclusion of BJP's former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as the Deputy Chief Minister to balance power equations clearly laid bare the fears of the Shiv Sena since the last elections — that the one aim of the BJP has been to weaken the Shiv Sena, to turn it into a junior, even insignificant, partner; and to grow the BJP's own base in the state. Right now, the Shiv Sena is a party that was bested — the tiger that was beaten by what it calls traitors. It was the underdog that put up a fight but then went down under the weight of the BJP giant.

It strengthens the image of totalitarian control by BJP today — and the uneasy and growing realisation that the party can get away with anything. While the ED summons and investigations Shiv Sena members, no questions are asked on who paid for the five-star bills and chartered flights that secured the breakaway MLAs in BJP-ruled states. Politically, the Shiv Sena will have to come to terms with how so many of its MLAs rebelled, sitting within a party that itself was known for complete control, now not catching even a hint of the drama that was underway right under its nose, and ongoing for sometime at least. This is clearly weak political control. The Shiv Sena was built as a one-man party under the complete control of the Sena pramukh. It would be unimaginable for MLAs to revolt against Bal Thackeray. This writer has travelled with the senior Thackeray and sat with him while he interviewed candidates for party tickets — he could mock, dismiss, chuckle, question — and still would be revered. Nobody dared question Balasaheb. That kind of control has clearly not come to the son, who has been more in the nature of a gentle-

manly politician, often seen speaking in a measured tone and noted for decisions that have made him and his son Aaditya Thackeray a darling of progressives and important environmental groups. This happened particularly after Mumbai's lungs, as the Aarey forest region in the Western suburbs is known, was spared the concretisation that was coming with a metro rail project pushed by the BJP but stopped by the Shiv Sena. Surprisingly, this is the very first decision that the new government has revoked, even before it had settled down. Soon, bulldozers will be uprooting trees in Aarey and the first fight of civil society with the BJP government will likely begin here.

For Uddhav Thackeray and the Shiv Sena, this is a challenging time. Yet, the BJP has given him material. It is for him to turn it into political dynamite. As the new government works on its credibility, the Sena will only have to hammer away the point that a Maharashtra government was broken on orders from New Delhi, by MLAs who went into hiding in Gujarat. Shinde will find it challenging to convince the people of the state that this is what Thackeray would have wished — the story that he has peddled soon after he rebelled. In his words, what has happened is a "victory for the Hindutva ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray." He should know that Balasaheb would never have stood for this, but equally he would know that Hindutva is a label to be used, power is the ideology and Uddhav Thackeray is now the enemy. Uddhav Thackeray will have to take his case to the people very fast, and take on the role of Maharashtra's wounded warrior who would fight to the last.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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Under pressure, yet adamant

The manner in which the Taliban have been able to retain power in Afghanistan and their latest decisions show that to save millions of Afghans from impoverishment and death, the international community will have to adopt a new approach. While the nearly one-year-old Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) government trundles on in the absence of international recognition and financial support and faces international backlash on its mostly anti-women and anti-minorities decisions, reminding one of its earlier harsh tenure, the IEA government has not given up on efforts to cajole the international community whilst trying to engage with its neighbours and regional powers at an equal level.

ried by state radio, Akhundzada called the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan a "victory for the Muslim world." Meanwhile, there are reports that the Taliban have increased the price of Afghan coal from \$90 per tonne to \$200 per tonne, and set custom duties at 30%, hours after Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif announced import plans for the same. The move is also aimed at rejecting allegations that it's becoming a "puppet" of Pakistan. But now, members of the regime are seeking to alter the image of the Taliban's relationship with the Pakistani government. June 29, the spokesperson for Afghanistan's Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals, Mufti Ismatullah Burhan, told The Independent Urdu that no coal trade agreement exists between the two countries, and that the Taliban will use coal as a "pressure point" for Pakistan. Since it took over Afghanistan last year and the subsequent economic crisis, the Taliban government has been attempting to rely on natural resources for revenue as an answer to the country's economic crisis. The Jirga opened in the absence of women representatives and concluded without hinting at reopening schools for girls above grade six and women's right to work outside home. In its reaction to the Jirga, Human Rights Watch has said that a decision-making body, such as a Jirga that excludes women and other groups is

not legitimate. While human rights advocates claim they do not anticipate and expect significant improvements from the Taliban Jirga in Kabul, Heather Barr, co-director of the Women's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch, said no one in the Taliban's Jirga could speak up and that the assembly did not reflect ethnic diversity. Overall, it appears that Taliban are desperate for the international community to recognise the new Islamic Emirate at the earliest and unfreeze its assets, enabling it to plan for the future. In its first budget presented this May, the IEA government announced a deficit of \$501 million. The authorities didn't elaborate or clarified how the gap between expected revenues and planned spending will be met. The Taliban are under international pressure to be more inclusive as they struggle with Afghanistan's humanitarian crises. The international community is determined to set its terms while the Taliban are adamant to dictate their own terms for any compromise, as they have been able to control the country for almost a year. It remains to be seen how it all will pan out as the Taliban are a stubborn lot and instead of pressure, to find a common ground cajoling and being empathetic will be in favour of both the Afghan people and international community. The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi. ©IANS

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

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

Securing fuel

Sir, This refers to "Windfall tax to recoup lost revenue," Orissa POST, July 4. The Centre's decision to slap new taxes on fuel exports had a measure of inevitability about it. The move serves the dual purpose of fetching more revenue by tapping the phenomenal gains made as a result of the surging global prices amid the Ukraine war, and to discourage the export of petrol and diesel in order to ease the fuel situation in the domestic market. Windfall tax, as the name suggests, is imposed on companies showing massive gains because of favourable market conditions and not owing to any efficiency or innovation or clever investment. The sudden shortage of fuel at retail outlets across the country last month was attributed to a boost in exports for higher overseas margins, and the reluctance to sell fuel at a loss in the domestic market since retail prices had not increased despite international crude getting costlier and a depreciating rupee. Hence, the Finance Minister's assertion that the stiff tax measures should be seen in the context of the extraordinary times and not merely as disapproval of or any grudge over profit-making by exporting fuel. The message makes it clear that the national interest of securing fuel supplies and avoiding artificial scarcity in the domestic market overrides any other consideration.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Glorious Centre Court

Sir, The 100th anniversary of the iconic Centre Court is a significant milestone in the history of Wimbledon tennis. Its lush green grass, trimmed with precision, snipped to perfection, and orderly and organised — all conjure up the image of the pristine beauty of the most popular and prestigious tennis court of the four Grand Slams. Perhaps, of all the unfolding images of the Centre Court, Jana Novotna's famous cry on the shoulders of the Duchess of Kent after she lost to Steffi Graf in the 1993 Wimbledon final when she looked all set to create history, can arguably be counted as the best. The Czech champion, who later died after a long fight with cancer, found a place in every sports lover's heart even as the royal family at the Centre Court showed its human side, and the moving images of which are indelibly ingrained in our memory. With the Centre Court being the most storied venue in tennis, commemorating 100 years of it is akin to commemorating the game itself.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

of the day quote

Tourism sector in Kerala is on the threshold of a turnaround and the high air fares are a serious dampener to the revival of this sector

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

The city government will request the Centre to reduce GST on raw materials for production of alternatives to single-use plastic items

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Proper security arrangements are in place for this year's Amarnath Yatra

MANOJ SINHA | JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Mann expands Punjab Cabinet

Chandigarh: Five AAP MLAs were inducted as ministers in the Punjab government Monday as Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann expanded his Cabinet. It was the first Cabinet expansion of the Mann-led government after AAP stormed to power in the state during the Assembly elections earlier this year. Arora was the first one to take oath, followed by Dr Inderbir Singh Nijjar, who is the MLA from Amritsar South seat. Later, Fauja Singh Sarari, who represents Guru Har Sahai, Chetan Singh Jourmajra, MLA from Samana, and Kharar legislator Anmol Gagan Mann were administered oath as Cabinet ministers.

Sushant's flatmate granted bail

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court Monday granted bail to Siddharth Pithani, the former flatmate of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, arrested in a drugs case related to the actor's death. Rajput's former girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, who is already out on bail, is also an accused in the case. A single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre granted bail to Pithani on a bond of Rs 50,000. Pithani was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in May 2021 from Hyderabad. He is currently in judicial custody.

Landslide toll rises

Imphal: With four more bodies recovered Monday, the death toll in the Thursday landslide at a railway construction site in Manipur's Noney district increased to 46, including 30 Territorial Army soldiers, while search operations were underway in inclement weather to locate the 17 still missing, officials said.

Delhi Assembly clears MLAs' salary hike bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: The Delhi Assembly Monday passed bills pertaining to over 66 per cent hike in salaries and allowances of its members, the first raise in last 11 years for the legislators who are considered the lowest-paid lawmakers in the country.

Five different bills were tabled for the hike in salaries of ministers, MLAs, chief whip, Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, which were passed by the members. These bills will now be sent for president's approval.

The latest hike has come after 11 years. BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri also supported the pay hike.

In Delhi, a member of legislative assembly (MLA) gets Rs 54,000 per month as salary and allowances, which will be hiked to Rs 90,000

13 killed, 2 hurt in HP accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla/Manali, July 4: Thirteen passengers were killed and two others injured after a private bus carrying them fell into a 200-foot deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district Monday, officials said.

The bus was on its way to Kullu from Shainsher when it fell into the gorge at a hairpin bend near Jangla village around 8.30 am, the officials said. Initial reports had put the death toll at 16. A relative of Jhablu Devi, who died in the accident, alleged callous attitude on the part of the authorities in rescuing the victims.

"It took almost three hours to take Jhablu Devi from the accident site to the hospital. Had the administration acted swiftly, some lives could have been saved," said Jhablu's brother-in-law Tej Prakash.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur visited the accident site near Shainsher in Sainj Valley of Kullu where he consoled the family members of the victims and assured every possible assistance to them.

Talking to the media, he admitted that the rescue work started a bit late as the accident site was located in the remote area.

Sidhu Moosewala shooter, aide arrested with guns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Two more people, including the one who shot popular Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala from a close range, have been arrested by Delhi Police's Special Cell, officials said Monday.

With this, the city police has so far arrested five people in connection with the case, they said. The Delhi Police arrested Ankit and Sachin Bhiwani Sunday night. The two wanted criminals belong to Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar gang alliance, they said.

According to police, Ankit was one of the shooters involved in the killing of Moosewala, while Bhiwani was responsible for harbouring four of the shooters. A senior police officer said Bhiwani, a native of Haryana, handles the operations of Lawrence Bishnoi gang in Rajasthan. He is also wanted in a case at Churu in Rajasthan.

Addressing a press conference, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) H G S Dhaliwal said after the initial arrests made in the case, multiple teams were working extensively to nab those involved in providing logistical support, weapons and hideout facilities to them.

"Our teams conducted raids in six states, including Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi. Our teams continued to work on the leads received and developed them diligently." On Sunday, at around 11 pm, our team apprehended Ankit



I will become a dictator and take action if indiscipline and irregularity rear their heads

M K STALIN | TN CHIEF MINISTER

BATTLE AGAINST PANDEMIC

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Monday informed that 90 per cent of India's adult population has been fully vaccinated with both vaccine doses against Covid-19



KIND GESTURE



A child feeds a peacock at a farm in Surat

PTI PHOTO

Smooth sailing for Shinde in trust vote

As many as 263 MLAs cast their vote. Three MLAs abstained, while 20 legislators, most of them from Congress and the NCP, including Congress's Ashok Chavan and Vijay Wadettiwar, both former ministers, were absent during the trust vote



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 4: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Monday comfortably won a crucial confidence vote in the state Assembly, cementing his grip on power five days after assuming office with the BJP support following a revolt in the Shiv Sena.

In his maiden speech in the Assembly after winning the trust vote, an emotional Shinde, without naming the Shiv Sena, said he had been "suppressed" for a long time and spoke about how he almost became Chief Minister of the erstwhile Sena-NCP-Congress alliance government.

He said the rebellion led by him last month was fallout of the "unfair treatment" meted out to him, an apparent reference to his decade old association with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena. In the 288-member Assembly (effective strength 287), 164 MLAs voted for the motion of confidence moved by the Shinde-led government, way above the simple majority mark of 144, while 99 voted against it on the last day of the two-day special session of the House.

As many as 263 MLAs cast their vote. Three MLAs abstained, while 20 legislators, most of them from Congress and the NCP, including Congress's Ashok Chavan and Vijay Wadettiwar, both former ministers, were absent during the trust vote. Speaker Rahul Narvekar, who presided over the proceedings, did not cast his vote.

Narvekar announced that the trust vote was carried by a majority vote. This was the second major victory for the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government in as many days after its candidate for the Assembly Speaker's post, Narvekar, was elected on Sunday.

Narvekar, the BJP MLA from Colaba in South Mumbai, had polled 164 votes, while his rival Rajan Salvi, of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, got 107. Last month, Shinde (58) launched a rebellion against the Shiv Sena leadership and managed to get support of nearly 40 MLAs of the party, enough to escape provisions of the anti-defection law, leading to the collapse of the two-and-a-half-year old Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Shinde, a Shiv Sena MLA from adjoining Thane city, was sworn in as the chief minister on June 30, a day after Thackeray quit the post. BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the deputy CM. Speaking after winning the trust vote, Shinde said "The happenings of today (events leading to trust vote) didn't happen in just one day."

"When I came for election here, there are people in this House who witnessed how I was treated. I have been suppressed for a long time. Sunil Prabhu (Shiv Sena MLA from the Uddhav Thackeray faction) is also a witness," he said without elaborating.

NCW SEEKS ACTION AGAINST AKHILESH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 4: The National Commission of Women (NCW) has written a letter to the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh seeking action against Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav for his tweet against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

Taking suo moto cognisance of Akhilesh's tweet on July 1, the NCW has asked the state government to initiate action against the SP leader under the relevant provisions of law.

The NCW has also asked the state government to inform it of the action taken within three days.

Akhilesh had tweeted that "not only the face but body should also apologise and punitive action should be taken for attempting to disturb harmony and peace in the country".



Delhi Police Special Cell officers display items recovered after the arrest of Ankit Siroa and Sachin Bhiwani, accused in the Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala murder case, at PHQ in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

According to police, Ankit was one of the shooters involved in the killing of Moosewala, while Bhiwani was responsible for harbouring four of the shooters

A 9 mm pistol along with 10 live cartridges, a 30 mm pistol with nine live cartridges, three police uniforms of Punjab Police and two mobile handsets along with a dongle and SIM card have been seized from their possession, police said

Rajasthan.

A 9 mm pistol along with 10 live cartridges, a 30 mm pistol with nine live cartridges, three police uniforms of Punjab Police and two mobile handsets along with a dongle and SIM card have been seized from their possession, police said. Last month, the Special Cell arrested three people, including two shooters, in connection with the killing of Moosewala.

The accused were identified as Priyavrat alias Fauji (26), a resident of Sonapat in Haryana; Kashish (24), also from the state's Hajarjar district; and Keshav Kumar (29), a resident of Bhatinda in Punjab. Shubdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29.

who shot at Moosewala from close range. His associate Sachin Bhiwani was also arrested," he said.

Bhiwani provided the shooters all support before and after the incident, the officer said.

He also said that Ankit, a resident of Sersa village in Haryana, is also named in two other cases of attempt to murder in

Nomination process starts today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: The process of filing nominations for the August 6 Vice-Presidential polls will start from Tuesday and go on till July 19.

The term of incumbent Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu ends August 10. The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be done July 20 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is July 22. The process of filing nominations begins when the Election Commission (EC) issues a notification, calling upon the electors to elect the next vice president.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has a clear edge in the

AJIT PAWAR NEW OPPN LEADER

Mumbai: NCP leader Ajit Pawar was Monday named the leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly. He succeeds BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, who was sworn in as Deputy CM June 30. Speaker Rahul Narvekar announced that Pawar will take over as Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, adding NCP has emerged as the single largest opposition party in the 288-member House.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has a clear edge in the election, in which the members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, including the nominated ones, are eligible to vote

The Electoral College in the Vice-Presidential polls comprises a total of 788 members of both houses of Parliament

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Parliament. Since all the electors are members of Parliament, the value of the vote of each MP would be the same - one - the EC said in a statement issued on June 29.

The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote and the voting is held by secret ballot.

MOB FURY ON RAIL PREMISES

RPF to be trained in crowd control, mob psychology

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Hit by huge losses due to mob fury during recent agitations, the railways has approached Meerut-based Rapid Action Force (RAF) Academy for Public Order (RAPO) to train the Railway Protection Force in crowd control, public order management and mob psychology.

This is the first time the Railway Protection Force (RPF), which is responsible for protecting railway property, will be trained to control mobs - a task officials say has fallen on the force which has had to deal with large protesting crowds on several occasions over the last year.

The training for the first batch of 182 personnel began at the academy on Monday, officials said.

At RAPO, we have trained state police and BSF jawans deployed for United Nations mission, and we train personnel after we receive request from their organisations. We received a request from the railways and have started training their men. We primarily focus on training personnel on how to maintain public order and the use of non-lethal weapons. We discuss global and domestic case studies and also analyse mob psychology, a



senior official of the institute said. At the institute, focus is given on how to manage a mob in railway premises and prevent damage, he said. In recent years, the national transporter has suffered huge losses during the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests, farmers' protests, protests by students against

anomalies in railway recruitment board exams. Barely a month ago, trains were set on fire in protest against the Centre's Agnipath scheme. During the schedule of the course, the personnel will be trained in crowd control, public order management, mob psychology police vs

public behaviour, communal harmony, fire fighting equipment, new age weapons, special vehicles like Vajra, Varun and fire tender, riot control drill, human rights, use of less lethal weapons, equipment, ammunitions and new trends in public order management.

In addition, all the trainees will also be taken to the firing range for giving practical firing exposure of less lethal weapons and munitions. These trainees have been specifically selected from various zones and divisions of railways, mainly from Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Tinsukia, Howrah, Hyderabad, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Mumbai.

RAPO is an institute under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is the only riot control and public order management institute in the country, headed by Akhilesh Kumar Singh, Deputy Inspector General of Police.

Don't nudge us to seek separate country: DMK MP

RAJA'S REMARK INVITED SHARP CRITICISMS IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA WITH SEVERAL HITTING OUT AT HIM FOR 'SEPARATIST' COMMENT WHILE OTHERS BACKED HIM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 4: DMK leader A Raja has implored Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to provide 'state autonomy' to Tamil Nadu, and not push them to seek an independent country.

Though the icon of the Dravidian movement, Thanthai Periyar stood for an independent Tamil Nadu, the DMK moved away from it, Raja said Sunday addressing a party meet of representatives of urban local bodies. The conference was held in Namakkal in western Tamil Nadu. The party, though accepted Periyar, backed integrity and democracy and said, 'long live India' and the party continues to stick to that line.

"I am telling Amit Shah and the Prime Minister with utmost humility, I implore you in the presence of (our) leaders on the dais, our Chief Minister is journeying on the path of Anna (CN Annadurai, former Chief Minister and DMK founder), do not push us on the path of Periyar. Do not make us seek



a separate country, give state autonomy and we will not rest till then," he said.

Raja's remark invited sharp criticisms in the social media with several hitting out at him for 'separatist' comment while others backed him.

BJP national general secretary CT Ravi termed the DMK leader's statement regarding demand for an independent country of Tamil Nadu, as the regional party's acceptance of failure of its Dravidian politics.

Ravi, who is the JP Nadda-led party's in-charge of Tamil Nadu, said the BJP's growth in the state

has turned the heat on the ruling DMK there.

"If they (DMK) are talking such things in Tamil Nadu after doing five decades of politics, it is clear that BJP's growth is turning the heat on them. Realising that their ideology has failed, they are talking about such things," Ravi said in Bangalore.

Tamil Nadu BJP vice-president Narayanan Tirupathi condemned Raja's remark as 'blatantly divisive'. However, it was not a matter of surprise as the DMK is known for its 'divisive' attitude. "But what is shocking and surprising is that Chief Minister MK Stalin remained

I am telling Amit Shah and the Prime Minister with utmost humility, I implore you in the presence of (our) leaders on the dais, our Chief Minister is journeying on the path of Anna (CN Annadurai, former Chief Minister and DMK founder), do not push us on the path of Periyar. Do not make us seek a separate country, give state autonomy and we will not rest till then

A RAJA | DMK LEADER

If they (DMK) are talking such things in Tamil Nadu after doing five decades of politics, it is clear that BJP's growth is turning the heat on them. Realising that their ideology has failed, they are talking about such things

CT RAVI | BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

a mute spectator. I condemn his silence. He has taken oath of office, affirming allegiance to the Constitution." Tamil Nadu's ruling party should understand that "India has created states for its administrative purposes and that is precisely what the Constitution says," Narayanan told PTI.

Rejecting criticism against the remark, DMK spokesperson Constantine Ravindran said Raja has made it amply clear that the party travelled on the path of Anna, fully supporting India's integrity and the principles of democracy.

The message sought to be conveyed by Raja was that Tamil Nadu should be given autonomy to work towards development and uphold its rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has not given his assent to several Bills passed by the state Assembly, he said and wanted to know if hampering development was the idea of the Union government. Under the BJP-led dispensation, the state

government does not have any rights whatsoever, he told PTI.

It may be recalled that Raja's comment comes against the background of DMK sticking to the term 'Ondriya Arasu' (Union government) in Tamil to refer to the Centre ever since it assumed office in May 2021 in the state. Though 'Mathiya Arasu' (Central government) is a relatively more common usage, the DMK has stuck to 'Ondriya Arasu' to underscore 'federalism' principles and to push 'state autonomy.' The DMK had also said that India is a union of states according to the Constitution.

Be it the BJP or Right wing activists, they have time and again claimed that harping on 'Ondriya Arasu' usage had traces of divisive tendencies. Such a mindset looked at the country as an artificial structure, put together by the British. India is however, culturally and spiritually a single entity though it might have had various rulers through the ages.

SC to hear plea on row over AIADMK leadership



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 4: The Supreme Court Monday agreed to examine a plea moved by AIADMK leader and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami (EPS) against the Madras High Court order, which stayed the passing of resolutions in AIADMK General Council meeting last month.

Senior advocate C. S. Vaidyanathan mentioned the plea before a vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari and urged the court for an urgent hearing in the matter. He contended the high court held an extraordinary sitting at midnight at the residence of one of the judges on the bench and an order was passed restraining the General Council from passing any resolutions.

Counsel, representing M. Shanmugham of the opposing O. Panneerselvam group on caveat, said there was no urgency to list the matter during the court's vacation.

Counsel contended that contempt petitions were filed due to breach of court's directions.

Vaidyanathan submitted before the top court that this is judicial interference with a political party's internal functioning. He added, contempt petitions, alleging violation of the interim order, have been filed and were scheduled for consideration before a division bench of the high court Monday.

After briefly hearing arguments advanced by counsel, the top court agreed to list the matter July 6, subject to the approval of the Chief Justice.

Last month, a division bench of the high court passed an order restraining the AIADMK General Council from passing any resolutions. The high court's order was passed in an intra-court appeal filed by AIADMK General Council member Shanmugham, challenging a single judge-bench's order, declining to restrain the party from making any amendments to its bye-laws.

Tomato emerges as major off-season cash crop in HP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, July 4: Tomato is emerging as one of the major off-season cash crops in lower and mid-hills of Himachal Pradesh. Solan, Sirmour and Kullu districts harvests 86 per cent of the state's overall production.

Off-seasonal tomato cultivation peaks during monsoon in the hills when the crop is not harvesting in plains of north India. The state annually produces 320,700 tonnes of tomato and aims to increase its production by 498,000 tonnes.

Agriculture Minister Virender Kanwar told IANS for some farmers off-seasonal tomato cultivation is the main source of income.

About 46 per cent of the state's total plantation is in Solan district with more than 90 per cent of the produce going to markets in neighbouring states mainly Delhi.

The other tomato growing belts are Sirmour (30 per cent) and Kullu (10 per cent), while the remaining is in Shimla, Mandi and Bilaspur districts. Most of the farmers prefer to sell their produce through local agriculture produce market committees, while AAAAA some send directly to Agricultural Produce Market Committee



(APMCs) of other states.

A group of farmers from Salogra have a market linkage with online retail stores like BigBasket. A sell the tomato produce through e-marketplace. At present, 22,753 farmers, many of them with small landholdings, are engaged in tomato production with an annual turnover of Rs 203 crore.

Polyhouses are also being used to produce off-season vegetables, said Kanwar. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University in Palampur has developed disease-resistant high-yielding tomato varieties. They are Palam Pink, Palam Pride, Him Pragati, Him Palam, Cherry Yellow and Palam Tomato Hybrid 1.

To promote its cultivation, the university is regularly organizing capacity building programmes,

benefitting over 25,000 farmers.

The Minister said the government is also extending irrigation facilities and promoting rainwater harvesting.

For systematic diversification of crops, the Agriculture Department has chalked out a plan for the introduction of high-yielding hybrids of vegetables, popularization of a micro-irrigation system and protected cultivation. For improvement of quality, organic and natural farming is also being promoted across the state.

Subsidy to the tune of 50 per cent is being provided to the farmers for diversification of cereal crops to vegetables under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, wherein the tomato crop cultivation is also being promoted, added Kanwar.

With Oppn divided, DMK faces no challenge

THE BJP WHICH IS IN A HURRY TO BECOME A MAJOR FORCE IN THE STATE IS TRYING TO WIDEN THE DIVISION BETWEEN O. PANNEERSELVAM AND EDAPPADI K. PALANISWAMI OF THE AIADMK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 4: With the main opposition in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK facing tough times with an intense power struggle taking place, the ruling DMK is cruising along without much problem at the ground level.

Since the 2019 general elections, the ruling DMK has been winning back to back elections - the rural local body polls, then the 2021 Assembly elections and the urban local body polls of 2022.

The AIADMK stands vanquished after ruling the state from 2011 to 2021. The larger than life persona and shrewd political moves by the late J. Jayalalitha had ensured that the AIADMK won back to back elections. However after the passing away of Jayalalitha in December 2016, an intense power struggle commenced in the AIADMK with the former aide of Jayalalitha, VK Sasikala and her family trying to take over the party. Sasikala was announced as the interim general secretary of the party and was on her way to assume the Chief Minister's post.

A revolt broke out in the party with O. Panneerselvam, who is a fellow Thevar, opposing her move and sitting on a dharna near



Jayalalitha's memorial. Then, in a money laundering and disproportionate assets case, Sasikala was sentenced to four years in prison and the AIADMK got divided into two factions, one led by O. Panneerselvam and the other by Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

Political moves at the highest level by the BJP bridged the differences between the two AIADMK leaders and Palaniswami became the chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

Later with the AIADMK out of power and the party having a joint leadership of O. Panneerselvam and Palaniswami, the rift has widened between the two leaders.

The BJP which is in a hurry to become a major force in the state is trying to widen the division between the two leaders. AIADMK organising secretary and former minister D. Jayakumar who is close to Palaniswami openly said that the BJP was trying to divide the party.

Political analyst Mayulvahanan R told IANS: "This is the best period for the ruling DMK as the opposition in Tamil Nadu is totally divided. The BJP is trying to emerge as the main force in the state and is trying to cut the AIADMK to size. If the AIADMK does not stay together under a single leader, then it is almost certain that the opposition space will go to the BJP in Tamil Nadu even though it is not an easy proposition."

Secure release of fishermen held in SL, Stalin urges Centre



AGENCIES

Chennai, July 4: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has written to Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to immediately intervene and secure the release of the 12 fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy Sunday.

Of the 12 fishermen arrested, seven were from Tamil Nadu, while the remaining five hailed from Pondicherry.

Stalin, in his letter, mentioned that the innocent Indian fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy along with their mechanised boat. The fishermen had resumed fishing after the 60-day ban June 15 and their arrest has

led to a sense of insecurity and fear in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, he said.

"I wish to draw your immediate and personal attention to the instance of arrest of 12 innocent Indian fishermen (seven fishermen from Tamil Nadu and five from Pondicherry) by the Sri Lankan Navy along with a fishing boat," Stalin said in the letter.

"This arrest intimidates the fisherfolk of Tamil Nadu and is also likely to create a sense of insecurity and fear in the coastal areas of the state," the Chief Minister said.

He also requested the minister to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan government through proper diplomatic channels.

Tap water reaches India's highest village in Himachal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, July 4: Tashigang, a hamlet located at an altitude of 15,256 feet in the picturesque Spiti Valley and close to the Indo-China border, has been provided with functional domestic tap connections, officials said Sunday.

This village in Lahaul-Spiti district is situated at the highest altitude in India.

The state government has achieved cent per cent target of providing functional household tap connections (FHTC) in four districts - Una, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti under the Jal Jeevan Mission and achieved 93.05 per cent target, an official statement of the state government said.

So far, 24 blocks, 2,331 gram panchayats and 14,661 villages have been fully covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission, it said.

During the last two and a half years, 8.44 lakh households were provided tap connections, while in the past 72 years only 7.63 lakh households were provided connections, as per the statement.

Under the mission, Rs 4,418.37 crore has been allocated by the



government of India to the state, including an incentive of Rs 1,028.43 crore, it said.

Water supply has been provided to 411 habitations having 22,763 houses in remote Kinnaur district. Under the mission, 219 schemes were approved in the district, out of which 155 schemes completed.

In another remote district of Lahaul-Spiti, water supply has been given to 364 habitations hav-

ON TARGET
Tashigang in Lahaul-Spiti district is situated at the highest altitude in India
The state government has achieved cent per cent target of providing functional household tap connections in four districts - Una, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti under the Jal Jeevan Mission

ing 7,284 houses. Seven schemes are being implemented in the district. The total estimated cost of the works being executed is Rs 122 crore.

Chamba district has been selected as an aspirational district by NITI Aayog. In this district, including tribal sub-divisions of Pangi and Bharmour, work is being done on schemes of Rs 420 crore. The target of 100 per cent cov-

erage has been achieved by providing functional tap connections to all 121,752 households in the district, said the statement.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, women's participation has been ensured in the district in resource selection, execution of schemes and field water testing for which the district has been appreciated by the government of India.

In Una district, 15 schemes costing Rs 196 crore are being implemented. The cent per cent target of providing functional tap connections to all 115,949 houses in the district has been achieved.

"In the assessment done by the government of India in 2020-21, Himachal Pradesh has been rated as the best in overall efficiency in quantity and quality of potable water available at the consumer level," the statement claimed.

"The availability of quality water supply at consumer level has improved the standard of living and health conditions. The dependence of water from natural sources has reduced, which has saved people's time and they are now using their time to earn their livelihood," it said.

of the day quote

The BJP should clarify its stand on its alleged links with the accused in the murder of a tailor in Rajasthan

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

There is no more need of cutting down trees. The trees that the state wanted to chop down, have already been cut.

With all due respect to the green activists, we will discuss the issues with them. But Metro train service is the right of Mumbai's citizens

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

If at all Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to any school for education, it was built by the Congress

KAMAL NATH | MP CONGRESS CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Robbery in Alwar bank, six flee

Jaipur: In a daring daylight robbery, around six armed robbers looted cash and gold worth around Rs one crore from a branch of Axis bank in Rajasthan's Alwar Monday. Officials said that the miscreants came with weapons, carried the robbery within 30 minutes and escaped from there on bikes. "The Axis Bank branch located at the Rico Chowk, Bhiwadi was robbed," said Shantanu Kumar, Bhiwadi Superintendent of Police (SP), adding that the six miscreants had come on three bikes. They made the bank employees as hostages. The police are scanning the CCTVs.

PM to visit Varanasi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi Thursday during which he will inaugurate and lay foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth over Rs 1,800 crore focussed on improving infrastructure and enhancing ease of living. At around 2 pm, the prime minister will inaugurate the 'Akshay Patra Mid Day Meal Kitchen' at LT College, Varanasi, which has a capacity of cooking mid-day meals for around one lakh students. At around 2:45 pm, Prime Minister Modi will visit the International Cooperation and Convention Centre -- Rudraksh -- where he will inaugurate 'Akshil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam' on the implementation of the National Education Policy, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

2 drown in Bihar

Patna: Two persons of a marriage party drowned after their SUV fell into the Ganga while being ferried on a boat to the other side of the river. According to an official of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), at the time of the incident, the boat was carrying 3 four-wheelers across the Ganga in Patna's Jethuli ghat. Eight persons, who were part of a marriage procession, were seated in the SUV to reach the other side of the river under Raghupur police station under Vaishali district for the marriage function.

Quake strikes J&K

Srinagar: A light intensity earthquake measuring 3.2 on the Richter scale struck Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, although there were no immediate reports of any casualty or damage to property. According to a Met Department official, the epicentre of the tremor which occurred at 12.12 p.m. was in Doda region and at a depth of 5 km inside the earth. Earthquakes have wrought havoc in Kashmir in the past as the region is located in a seismic zone.



Congress exists only on paper in Gujarat, while AAP's organisation has become much bigger than the main opposition party with lakhs of people joining the AAP in a short time
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

LALU HOSPITALISED

Rashtriya Janata Dal president and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad was admitted to Patna's Paras hospital Monday morning after his condition worsened following a fall from the stairs



Balloons in PM's flight path, Cong workers held

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada, July 4: Andhra Pradesh Police Monday arrested three Congress leaders for releasing black balloons at Gannavaram airport during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.

Some Congress leaders released the balloons as a mark of protest during Modi's brief visit to Andhra Pradesh over the Centre not granting special status to the state. The balloons were released near the airport when the helicopter carrying the Prime Minister had taken off for Bhimavaram.

After landing of his special aircraft at Gannavaram airport, the Prime Minister left for Bhimavaram in West Godavari district by a helicopter to launch 125th birth anniversary celebrations of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju.



Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who were at the airport to receive Modi, also left for Bhimavaram by another helicopter.

Taking serious note of the incident, police launched an investigation. They found that Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) secretary Rajiv Ratan released the balloons.

absconding. A police team was on the lookout for him. Meanwhile, police have arrested three Congress leaders for releasing the balloons.

State Congress leader Sunkara Padmasri was also detained by the police when she reached the airport raising slogans of 'Modi go back'. Holding a placard and raising slogans, she tried to move towards

passenger terminal but was stopped and whisked away by police.

She alleged that both Modi and Jagan Reddy betrayed Andhra Pradesh over the issue of special status.

After the incident, police further stepped up security around the airport when Modi returned from Bhimavaram.

Some Congress leaders released the balloons as a mark of protest during Modi's brief visit to Andhra Pradesh over the Centre not granting special status to the state

GUJ COPS RAID BJP LEADER'S LIQUOR PARTY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Valsad (Gujarat), July 4: The Crime Branch team of Valsad Police Sunday night raided a BJP leader's liquor party and arrested 41 persons including a minor. All have undergone medical examination and investigation is going on.

According to police sources, the crime branch team had received specific information about liquor party being thrown in a farmhouse in Karanjveri village of Dharampur Taluka of Valsad district.

Police seized 25 Indian made foreign liquor bottles worth Rs 15,000 and goods to manufacture country liquor valued at Rs 64,000. Along with vehicles a total Rs 36 lakh worth muddamal was seized. The case is being investigated by Police Inspector D.M. Dhol.

Those arrested include Vinod Patel, Sarpanch of Nanakvada village, deputy sarpanch of the village and others associated with the ruling party. "Not only Vinod Patel, but more than one lakh party workers were there in Valsad assembly constituency. I know Vinod personally, but don't know about other persons arrested by the police. I have no idea about booze party," said Bharat Patel, BJP sitting MLA from Valsad assembly constituency.

Police raided the party in the Dharampur assembly constituency area. Dharampur's BJP MLA Arvind Patel proudly said, "Such parties are not new, only those arrested are called culprits. I don't rule out the possibility of settling political scores - within the party or outside. Vinod Patel's political opponent must have tipped of Valsad police about the liquor party."

Sources from the party said all those arrested are close to Valsad MLA Bharat Patel. If his close confidants are arrested drinking liquor in the state, his image will be tarnished, someone within the party is trying to clip Patel's wings, who wishes to contest assembly election for the third consecutive term. Gujarat is a dry state and has a law in force that proscribes the manufacture, storage, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Tribal woman paraded with garland of shoes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, July 4: In a shameful incident, a tribal woman was thrashed and forced to carry her husband on her shoulders wearing a garland of shoes in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district. The incident came to light after a video went viral on social media, where a group of men were seen thrashing the woman.

As per the police, the woman's husband was seen thrashing her brutally in front of villagers and later the woman was forced to carry her husband on her shoulders. The villagers were also seen putting a garland of shoes on her.

The woman (30) was punished for her alleged relationship with another man. The police said that the woman was missing for three-four days and later she was found with one of her male friends. This made her husband and community members furious and they decided to punish the woman.

As many as nine persons, including the victim's husband were arrested and they have been booked for assaulting, rioting, outraging the modesty of a woman and criminal intimidation, the police said on Monday. The incident was reported on Sunday but came to light on Monday.

Dewas additional superintendent of police Suryakant Sharma said, "The woman went missing a week ago. Her husband filed a missing complaint at Uday Nagar police station. Recently, he came to know that the woman was living in the house of a man who is stated to be her close friend. The husband of the woman reached the house and dragged her out in front of the villagers. Later, she was thrashed brutally."

"The villagers forced her to wear a garland of shoes and forced her to carry her husband. Four villagers helped the woman in carrying the husband and walking in the village", Sharma added.

Later, the woman's friend filed a complaint with the police. The woman informed the police that she got married at the age of 15 and her husband used to harass her so she ran away.

Police are investigating the matter after registering a case against 11 named and 15 unnamed people under section 147 (punishment for rioting), 354 (assault or criminal force to women with intent to outrage her modesty), 294 (using obscene language), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 452 (house trespassing), 509 (insult the modesty of woman) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

RAIN COVER



People buy umbrellas from a roadside stall during monsoon in Bhopal

PTI PHOTO

KARNATAKA SHOCKER

Mother throws baby in dustbin

The mother appeared before the police and claimed that she is alone as her husband had left her and she doesn't have any means of income

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chamarajanagar (Karnataka), July 4: In a heart wrenching incident, the mother abandoned her baby and threw it in a dustbin, in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka on Monday. She later came to police saying that she is helpless and can't raise the child.

The locals found the two-day-old baby abandoned in a dustbin in Mattipura bus stop near Kollegal, early in the morning. They informed the police who rushed to the spot and handed over the baby to health department officials.

The incident triggered a public outrage and people condemned the mother for abandoning her newborn baby in a dustbin. Luckily, the presence of baby was noticed by passersby before street dogs could maul it.

The mother appeared before the police later and claimed that she is alone as her husband had left her



and she doesn't have any means of income.

The mother further said that she is not willing to keep the baby as she can't afford to bring up the child. After confirming about her claims, the local police handed over the baby to her.

The police warned her not to harm the baby until an adoptee is found. The police are coordinating with other departments in this regard. Kollegal Rural police are handling the case.

Agnipath scheme: SC to hear pleas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: The Supreme Court Monday said that it would hear next week pleas challenging the Centre's Agnipath' scheme for recruitment in the armed forces.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari said that petitions will be listed next week before an appropriate bench upon reopening of the apex court after summer vacation.

A counsel, who filed a plea against the scheme, said Indian Air Force aspirants have undergone training and were waiting for appointment letters but now their career will be cut short from 20 years to four years. "This is an urgent matter, kindly list it. The careers of several aspirants are at stake", the counsel said.

Advocate ML Sharma, who has also filed a PIL challenging the scheme, said he seeks cancellation of the government's notification pertaining to the scheme as more than 70,000 aspirants who have undergone training were waiting for their appointment letters before the pandemic and now their career has been shortened by scheme.



The bench said that when you (Sharma) have waited for more than two years then why you are coming before the vacation bench. It listed Sharma's plea before the appropriate bench along with other matters.

In the PIL, Sharma has alleged that the government has quashed the century-old selection process for the Armed forces which is con-

trary to the constitutional provisions. The Agnipath scheme, announced on June 14, provides for the recruitment of youths between the age of 17-and-a-half and 21 for only four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years. Protests have erupted in several states against the scheme.

Later, the government extended the upper age limit to 23 years for recruitment in 2022. The plea also referred to protest all over the country against the scheme. Earlier, several petitions have been filed in the top court seeking a direction to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the damage to public properties, including that of Railways, during violent protests against the scheme.

The plea has also sought directions to the Centre and Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Haryana, and Rajasthan governments to submit a status report on the violent protests.

It has sought a direction to set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of a retired apex court judge to examine the scheme and its impact on national security and the Army.

POLITICS NOW MORE EXPENSIVE THAN EVER

It is often said that politics has become so expensive that it takes a lot of money even to be defeated.

Huge sums are spent in holding elections and then the popular mandate is subverted by 'cheating' political parties. For an unfolding 'drama' look Maharashtra towards, for back issues Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and for potentially emerging scenarios watch out for Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh where elections are due later this year. By last count, seven states have seen such power play ever since the BJP government

took charge at the Centre in 2014.

Power comes through elections and this exercise involves colossal financial resources and thus commences a vicious cycle that vitiates the entire system. The 2019 general elections, termed the most expensive ever; anywhere, are a case in point.

According to the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), a not-for-profit research think tank, a sum of Rs 55,000 to 60,000 crores was spent in the Lok Sabha elections, 2019.

The report named "Poll Expenditure: The 2019 Elections",



terms it as the most expensive ever, anywhere, with an estimated Rs 100 crore spent in each constituency which comes to about Rs 700 per vote.

The BJP spent about 45 per cent of the total amount as against just 20 per cent it had done in 1998. The Congress which had spent 40 per cent of the total expenditure

in 2009 when it was in power, spent between 15-20 per cent in 2019.

While the Modi government came to power promising greater transparency in election funding, the actual fact is that it is more opaque now than ever before. Subsequent disclosures brought out that both the Election Commission and the Reserve Bank of India had voiced their reservations about the electoral bonds scheme but the objections were overruled and the scheme was passed in the Lok Sabha as part of the Finance Bill thus doing away with the need to get it passed by the

Rajya Sabha.

The Opposition parties have been vocal on the issue and former Union Minister P Chidambaram had termed electoral bonds the "biggest scam of the decade".

Eminent citizens had in December last year written to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court seeking early listing of some important cases including the one relating to electoral bonds which remains pending for four years though numerous elections have taken place.

Meanwhile a request for urgent hearing on the matter before a

Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana by advocate Prashant Bhushan in April this year has elicited an acknowledging response that the issue was critical and needed an urgent hearing leading to hopes of early resolution.

The massive monetary exercise - a fair share of it clandestine - surrounding the elections in India and the back-door subversion of popular mandates is a fire raging in our backyard. If we turn our back to it and burn our behinds, we will only end up sitting on our own painful blisters.

international

of the day quote

The US has failed to be constructive in the latest round of the talks in Doha aimed at reviving the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal

HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The (power) plants, which are not in operation these days, must be operated with immediate effect in a bid to end loadshedding and give relief to the public at large

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

Our region continues to be the target of indiscriminate and barbaric terrorist attacks, resulting in the massacre of many innocent victims and the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the targeted countries

NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFU-ADDO | GHANAIAAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

NASA satellite heads to Moon

Wellington: A satellite the size of a microwave oven successfully broke free from its orbit around Earth Monday and is headed toward the Moon, the latest step in NASA's plan to land astronauts on the lunar surface again. It's been an unusual journey already for the Capstone satellite. It was launched six days ago from New Zealand's Mahia Peninsula by the company Rocket Lab in one of their smaller Electron rockets. It will take another four months for the satellite to reach the moon, as it cruises along using minimal energy. Rocket Lab founder Peter Beck told The Associated Press it was hard to put his excitement into words.

Woman raped by conductor on bus

Islamabad: A woman was raped by the conductor of a private bus during her travel from Bhakkar to Karachi, media reports said. Jampur police have registered a rape case and arrested the suspect, Dawn reported. According to the FIR registered on a complaint by the woman, a resident of Punjgraen in Bhakkar district, she was travelling to Karachi by a bus of Adil Shah Company when the vehicle stopped at a hotel for passengers' refreshments.

12 bodies recovered after crane sinks

Beijing: A total of 12 bodies, believed to be of the people who went missing after a floating crane sank off the coast of China's Guangdong Province, were found Monday, the provincial maritime search and rescue centre said. The floating crane of an offshore wind-farm project was found via a monitoring system to be in danger after its mooring chain broke while it was taking shelter from typhoon Chaba in waters near the city of Yangjiang Saturday. The crane later sank about 300 kilometers southwest of Hong Kong with 27 people going missing.

Akron police kill Black man

Akron: A Black man was unarmed when Akron police chased him on foot and killed him in a hail of gunfire, but officers believed he had shot at them earlier from a vehicle and feared he was preparing to fire again, authorities said Sunday at a news conference. Akron police released video of the shooting of Jayland Walker, 25, who was killed June 27 in a pursuit that had started with an attempted traffic stop. The mayor called the shooting "heartbreaking" while asking for patience from the community.



Lebanon believes that any actions outside the state's framework and diplomatic context while negotiations are taking place is unacceptable and exposes it to unnecessary risks
NAJIB MIKATI | LEBANON PM

POPE DENIES RESIGNATION RUMOURS
Pope Francis has dismissed rumours about his plans to resign anytime soon and that he hopes to visit Moscow and Kyiv after travelling to Canada later this month. Francis said in an interview that the idea 'never entered my mind' to announce a planned retirement at the end of the summer, though he repeated he might step down some day as Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI did in 2013



Ukrainians take up new positions

AGENCIES

Kyiv, July 4: Ukrainian forces were taking up new defensive lines in the east Monday, preparing for a hard new phase in the war as President Vladimir Putin proclaimed Russia's victory in the months-long battle of Luhansk.

Russia's capture of the city of Lysychansk Sunday brought an end to one of the biggest battles in Europe for generations, which saw Moscow bring the full might of its ground forces to bear on a small pocket of the front line for two months.

The battle completes Russia's conquest of Luhansk province, one of two regions it has demanded Ukraine cede to separatists in the Donbas region.

During a brief televised meeting with his defence minister, Putin congratulated Russian forces on their "victories in the Luhansk direction". Those who participated in the combat should "absolutely rest and recover their military preparedness", while other units continue fighting in other areas, he said.

The battle is the closest Moscow has come to achieving one of its stated objectives since its forces were defeated trying to capture Kyiv



Ukrainians shift to holding line from Bakhmut to Sloviansk
Battle of Luhansk was one of Europe's bloodiest in generations
Putin congratulates troops on victory

in March, and marks Russia's biggest victory since it captured the southern port of Mariupol in late May.

Both sides suffered thousands dead and wounded, while claiming to have inflicted far greater losses on their enemy, along a loop of the Siverskiy Donets river that winds through Luhansk and

Ukraine lost 5,500 troops in two weeks

Moscow: In just two weeks, Ukraine has lost almost 5,500 troops, including over 2,000 killed, Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu said Monday while delivering an update on the conflict with Ukraine to President Vladimir Putin. The minister made his second report to the Russian leader in as many days. On Sunday, he confirmed that Russian and allied forces had assumed full control of the territory that the government of the Lugansk People's Republic claims as its own after the capture of the city of Lisichansk. The Monday in-person report provided additional details of the outcome of the operation, RT reported.

round the Ukrainians, eventually opting to blast them out instead with the brute force of its artillery.

Military experts say the battle could prove to be a turning point in the war - not because of the strategic value of the ruined cities themselves, which is limited - but because of the impact of the losses on both sides' ability to fight on.

Bajwa tells military, ISI to stay away from politics

These directions have been given in the wake of Imran Khan-led PTI propaganda against the military establishment alleging certain ISI officials of having been involved in political engineering to manipulate the upcoming by-polls in Punjab to the disadvantage of PTI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, July 4: Pakistan Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has issued fresh directions to all his commanders and key officers, including those associated with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), to stay away from politics and avoid interacting with politicians.

Defence sources lament over these allegations and disclosed that the ISI sector commander, Lahore, who is being maligned by the PTI leaders, is not even in Lahore for over a fortnight in connection with some of his professional work in Islamabad.

PTI leader and former Health Minister of Punjab, Yasmin Rashid recently named the sector commander and alleged him of having been involved in politics to engineer the by-elections in the province.

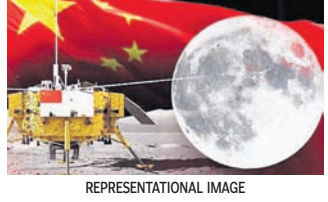
Before Rashid, it was former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood



Qureshi who had alleged that some invisible forces are active to influence the by-elections in the province against the PTI. The News reported. Of late, the PTI Chairman Imran Khan also alleged that some of his candidates have complained to him of receiving telephone calls from unknown numbers.

He also said that his party leaders and workers were being pressurised to engineer the by-elections. Defence sources insist that the PTI, instead of maligning the security establishment, should share the evidence. These sources claimed that even if an iota of evidence is provided, strict action would be initiated against responsible.

China rejects NASA claim that it will take over the Moon



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

REUTERS

Beijing, July 4: China Monday rejected as an irresponsible smear a warning from the chief of NASA that China might "take over" the moon as part of a military programme, saying it has always called for the building of a community of nations in outer space.

China has stepped up the pace of its space programme in the past decade, with exploration of the moon a focus.

China made its first lunar uncrewed landing in 2013 and expects to launch rockets powerful enough to send astronauts to the moon towards the end of this decade. "We must be very concerned that China is landing on the moon and saying:

"It's ours now and you stay out," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson told German newspaper Bild in an interview published on Saturday. The U.S. space agency chief said China's space programme was a military one and that China had stolen ideas and technology from others. "This is not the first time that the head of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration has ignored the facts and spoken irresponsibly about China," said Zhao Lijian, a spokesman at the Chinese foreign ministry.

"The US side has constantly constructed a smear campaign against China's normal and reasonable outer space endeavours, and China firmly opposes such irresponsible remarks." China has always promoted the building of a shared future for humanity in outer space and opposed its weaponisation and any arms race in space, he said. NASA, under its Artemis programme, plans to send a crewed mission to orbit the moon in 2024 and make a crewed landing near the lunar south pole by 2025.

Israeli fire likely killed reporter: US

Washington: US officials said Monday the bullet that killed veteran Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh was likely fired from an Israeli position. But they said it was too badly damaged to reach an absolute determination, and that there is "no reason to believe" she was deliberately targeted. State Department spokesman Ned Price, announcing the results of the probe, said "independent, third-party examiners" had undertaken an "extremely detailed forensic analysis" of the bullet that killed her after the Palestinian Authority handed it over to them. The results, announced ahead of President Joe Biden's visit to the region next week, were unlikely to lay the matter to rest.



A New South Wales State Emergency Service (SES) crew is seen in a rescue boat as roads are submerged under floodwater from the swollen Hawkesbury River in Windsor, northwest of Sydney, Monday. More than 30,000 residents of Sydney and its surrounds have been told to evacuate or prepare to abandon their homes Monday as Australia's largest city braces for what could be its worst flooding in 18 months

5 killed in shooting at July 4 parade

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago, July 4: At least five people are dead and 19 were taken to hospitals after a shooting at a July Fourth parade in a Chicago suburb, and officers are searching for a suspect, police said Monday.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that the parade began around 10 am but it was suddenly halted 10 minutes later after shots were fired. A Sun-Times reporter saw blankets placed over three bloodied bodies. Several witnesses told the newspaper that they heard gunfire. Hundreds of parade-goers - some visibly bloodied - fled the parade route, leaving behind chairs, baby strollers and blankets. Police



told people: "Everybody disperse, please. It is not safe to be here."

Highland Park Police said in a statement early Monday afternoon that five people had been killed and 19 people were taken to hospitals. It was unclear if the five dead were among the 19 hospitalized. The police said authorities are still searching for the suspect. Video shot by a Sun-Times journalist after the gunfire rang out

shows a band on a float continuing to play as people run past, screaming. A photo posted to social media appeared to show pools of blood near overturned chairs in downtown Highland Park. Gina Troiani and her son were lined up with his daycare class ready to walk onto the parade route when she heard a loud sound that she believed was fireworks - until she heard people yell about a shooter.

Illinois Gov JB Pritzker said in a tweet that he is "closely monitoring the situation in Highland Park" and that Illinois State Police are assisting. The ISP said in an email that it was assisting in the response to an active shooter reported around 10:24 am.

Danish mall shooting not an 'act of terror'



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen, July 4: A gunman who killed three people when he opened fire in a crowded shopping mall acted alone and apparently selected his victims at random, Danish police said on Monday, all but ruling out that the attack was an "act of terrorism." Authorities filed preliminary charges of murder and attempted murder against a 22-year-old Danish man, who will be held for 24 days in a secure mental health facility while authorities investigate the crime, prosecutor Soren Harbo told reporters. Police have said the man was known to mental health service without elaborating. Police have not identified a motive for Sunday's attack inside one of Scandinavia's biggest shopping centers. The suspect, carrying a rifle and knife, was quickly arrested, and Copenhagen chief police inspector Soren Thomassen said the man also had access to another gun. He said the firearms were obtained illegally but gave no further details.

Four more people were hospitalized with gunshot wounds and were in critical but stable condition. In all 30 people were hurt, most in the panicked stampede after the shots rang out at the Field's shopping center, on the outskirts of the Danish capital. Gun violence is relatively rare in Denmark. The last shooting on this scale was in February 2015, when a 22-year-old man was killed in a shootout with police after an attack in the capital that left two people dead and five police officers wounded.

Woman given months to live told she is cancer free

Jasmin David, 51, from Fallowfield in Manchester is now looking forward to celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary in September after the successful breast cancer drug trial

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 4: A 51-year-old Indian-origin woman who was given just months to live a few years ago is celebrating Monday after doctors say she is showing no evidence of breast cancer following a clinical trial at a UK hospital.

Jasmin David from Fallowfield in Manchester is now looking forward to celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary in September after the successful National Health Service (NHS) trial. David's two-year trial at the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Manchester Clinical Research Facility (CRF) at Christie NHS Foundation Trust involved an ex-

perimental medicine combined with Atezolizumab, an immunotherapy drug administered intravenously which she continues to have every three weeks.

"I was 15 months down the line after my initial cancer treatment and had almost forgotten about it, but then the cancer returned," recalls David. "When I was offered the trial, I didn't know if it would work for me, but I thought that at least I could do something to help others and use my body for the next generation. At first, I had many horrible side effects including headaches and spiking temperatures, so I was in hospital over Christmas and quite poorly. Then thankfully I started to respond well to the treat-



JASMIN DAVID(L) WITH HER FAMILY

ment," she said. The previously fit and healthy mother of two grown-up children, worked as a clinical lead at a care home for the elderly.

She discovered she had an aggressive triple negative form of breast cancer in November 2017, when she found a lump above the nipple. She underwent six months of chemotherapy and a mastectomy in April 2018, followed by 15 cycles of radiotherapy which

cleared her body of cancer. Then in October 2019 the cancer returned, and scans showed multiple lesions throughout her body meaning she had a poor prognosis. The cancer had spread to the lungs, lymph nodes and chest bone and she was given the devastating news that she had less than a year to live. Two months later, and with no other options left, David was offered the opportunity to be part of research by participating in a

Phase I clinical trial. "I celebrated my 50th birthday in February 2020 while still in the middle of treatment and not knowing what the future held. Two and a half years ago I thought it was the end and I now feel like I've been reborn," said David. "There is a change in my life after returning from India to see family in April and I have decided to take early retirement and to live my life in gratitude to God and to medical science. My family have been very supportive of this decision. I will be celebrating my 25th wedding anniversary in September. I have so much to look forward to," she said. "My Christian faith helped me a lot on this journey and the prayers and support from family and friends gave me strength to face the challenge," she added. By June 2021, scans showed no measurable cancer cells in her body and she was deemed cancer free. She will remain on treatment until December 2023 but continues to show no evidence of the disease.



In the next decade, we will convert all vehicles. There will be no pure petrol vehicles. They will either be electrified, or driven by CNG or bio-fuels

CV RAMAN | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, MARUTI SUZUKI

TURKEY INFLATION HITS 24-YR HIGH

Annual inflation in Turkey hit 78.62 per cent in June, the highest rate since 1998, according to official data released Monday. The Turkish Statistical Institute, or TurkStat, released the monthly figures as Turkey is experiencing a deepening cost-of-living crisis. Consumer prices rose by 4.95 per cent on a monthly basis, the institute reported



of the day quote

With this decision of the council, pre-packaged and pre-labelled retail packs will now attract GST tax and will cause huge damage to the business of foodgrain traders in more than 6,500 grain markets across the country

PRAVEEN KHANDEWAL | SECRETARY GENERAL, CAIT

The overall supply situation, including that of semiconductors, is gradually improving and commodity prices are stabilising. Accordingly, expect performance to progressively improve through the year with the second half of FY23 being notably better than the first half

N CHANDRASEKARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA MOTORS

India is an important market for Amadeus and we have our second largest R&D centre located there. This will enable close innovation with Air India

CYRIL TETAZ | EXECUTIVE VP, ALTEA, AMADEUS

India to drop windfall tax if oil prices fall \$40/barrel

THE GOVERNMENT JULY 1 IMPOSED A ₹6 PER LITRE TAX ON THE EXPORT OF PETROL AND ATF AND A ₹13 PER LITRE TAX ON THE EXPORT OF DIESEL

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 4: India will only withdraw its windfall tax introduced last week for oil producers and refiners if global prices of crude fall as much as \$40 a barrel from present levels, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said Monday.

The tax on firms that have increased product exports to gain from higher overseas margins took effect July 1, as the government moves to boost domestic supply and revenue.

"The taxation would be reviewed every 15 days," Bajaj said, adding that it would depend on international crude prices. "If crude prices fall, then windfall gains will cease and windfall taxes would also be removed." The government believes such windfall gains will cease once prices fall \$40 from existing levels, Bajaj said.

CBIC Chairman Vivek Johri too said there was no cap decided yet for review of the windfall tax.

"No, we haven't thought of that," he said when asked about the level for reviewing the windfall tax. "The rates will be reviewed every 15 days depending on how the prices of crude and refined products behave in the international market."

On the \$40 per barrel decline cap for a review, he asked if oil prices are expected to fall to the \$40 level in the near future.

"You expect it to fall by \$40?" he



Brent was trading at \$112.03 per barrel Monday

Rupee dropped to 78.95 against the US dollar

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its crude oil needs and a weaker rupee makes imports costlier

said. "There isn't such thinking yet. It is a very dynamic thing, so we have to wait and watch."

The taxes, and some accompanying export curbs, will hit the

earnings of companies such as Reliance Industries, Nayara Energy, which is partly owned by Russia's Rosneft, the Oil and Natural Gas Corp, Oil India Ltd and Vedanta Ltd.

\$12 margin hit for RIL; Govt rakes in ₹1.3trn

New Delhi: The windfall taxes imposed by the government on domestic crude oil production and fuel exports will hit ONGC's earnings severely while shaving off up to \$12 per barrel in refining margins for Reliance Industries Ltd. The new levies will give the government up to ₹1.3 lakh crore additional revenue, brokerages said. Kotak Institutional Equities said the taxes will result in additional tax revenues of ₹1.3 lakh crore on an annualized basis and ₹1 lakh crore for the rest of FY2023 assuming the government retains the taxes for the entire year. UBS estimated that the government can raise ₹1.38 lakh crore annually from additional taxes. "Based on diesel and gasoline export volumes in past year and estimate for FY23, we estimate additional revenues of ₹68,000 crore on three transportation fuels. Similarly, windfall taxes on crude can raise ₹70,000 crore in additional revenues." Nomura said the windfall taxes could potentially impact RIL's GRM by \$12 per barrel (Rs 47,000 crore on an annualised basis). Goldman Sachs said it saw limited earnings risk for RIL (despite wide scenarios of \$1.5-12.7 risk to gross refining margins or GRMs from new taxes) as the spot implied GRM run rate is over \$27 per barrel. HSBC said while the new tax will lower ONGC earnings by ₹30 per share, its impact on RIL would be ₹36 a share.

OIL AND GAS PRICES SKYROCKET

Europe at risk of recession

INFLATION IN THE EUROZONE HIT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 8.6% IN JUNE, THE HIGHEST SINCE THE BLOC WAS CREATED IN 1999

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 4: Europe faces a rising risk of recession because of rising oil and gas prices amid concerns that Russia could turn off supplies completely, economists have said, as per media reports.

Europe's economy will be hit by a variety of factors including falling demand in the US its biggest export market, the continued fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and related increases in food and energy prices, according to Nomura, a Japanese investment bank with significant operations in London, The Guardian reported.

Nomura said it expected the European economy to start contracting over the course of the second half of 2022 and for the recession to continue until the summer of 2023, with a total decline of 1.7 per cent of GDP, it reported.



Energy prices had already surged in the second half of 2021 as leading economies lifted coronavirus pandemic lockdowns, but Russia's invasion of Ukraine has added an extra layer of difficulty, as the EU, the US, and the UK have sought to isolate Russia economically.

Europe is struggling with "conditions that are very much global in nature (surging energy prices and inflation, rising geopolitical risks and uncertainty), which leads us to believe that European economies will suffer the same fate as the US", wrote George Buckley, a Nomura economist.

Analysts at JP Morgan Chase, the US investment bank, said last week that Russia could also cause "stratospheric" oil price increases if it used output cuts to retaliate against efforts to cap prices by the G7 group of large economies.

Analysts including Natasha Kaneva wrote that prices could more than triple to \$380 a barrel if Russia cut production by 5 mn barrels a day. One barrel of Brent crude oil for September delivery was worth \$111 at the end of last week on futures markets.

"It is likely that the (Russian) government could retaliate by cutting output as a way to inflict pain on the west," wrote JP Morgan's analysts. "The tightness of the global oil market is on Russia's side."

Exports up 16.78% in June; trade deficit at record high

The trade deficit during the first three months of this fiscal widened to \$70.25 billion from \$31.42 billion in the year-ago period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

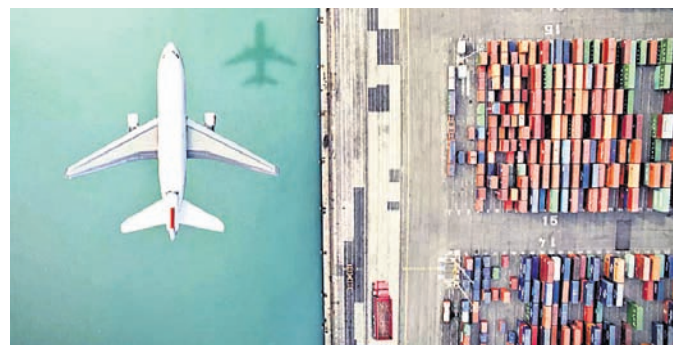
New Delhi, July 4: India's merchandise exports in June rose by 16.78 per cent year-on-year to \$37.94 billion while the trade deficit ballooned to a record \$25.63 billion on account of a steep increase in gold and crude oil imports, according to the government's preliminary data released Monday.

The export growth in June moderated from 20.55 per cent in May and 48.34 per cent in June 2021.

During the month under review, exports of engineering, pharmaceutical and plastic products recorded negative growth. Imports expanded by 51 per cent to \$63.58 billion in June compared to the year-ago month, the data showed. The trade deficit stood at \$9.61 billion in June 2021.

Cumulative exports in April-June 2022-23 rose by about 22.22 per cent to \$116.77 billion while imports increased 47.31 per cent to \$187.02 billion during the period.

Crude oil imports in June soared 94 per cent to \$20.73 billion. Coal and coke imports surged to \$6.41 billion in June 2022 as against \$1.88 billion in June 2021. Gold imports during the month rose sharply by 169.5



per cent to \$2.61 billion.

On the exports front, outbound shipments of petroleum products rose by 98 per cent to \$7.82 billion. Gems and jewellery shipments increased by 19.41 per cent to \$3.37 billion.

Commenting on the numbers, ICRA Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that despite an expected fall in gold imports, the merchandise trade deficit widened further to a "worrying" level in June, with a sequential dip in exports.

"With a steady uptick in the size of the merchandise trade deficit over the course of the quarter, we expect the current account deficit to more than double to \$30 billion in Q1 FY'2023, from the modest \$13 billion in the previous quarter," she said.

The export growth was constrained by the base effect as well as the contraction posted by engineering goods, drugs and pharma, cotton yarn, she added.

"We expect the merchandise trade deficit to remain in excess of

WEAKENING RUPEE

The depreciating rupee is pushing the trade deficit further since a lower domestic currency makes imports costlier. The rupee traded at 78.95 against the dollar, a steep fall since January 1, when it traded at 74.50. The rupee has seen a steep decline fallen in 2022 as foreign portfolio investors pulled out money from the stock and bond markets amid global headwinds caused by the Russian war in Ukraine. While imports are set to get dearer, the cascading effect of a fast-falling currency is set to result in higher prices of imported gems and jewellery, fertilisers and capital goods, Ind-Ra said. However, the government hopes the weak rupee will also raise the competitiveness of India's exports and spur outbound shipments.

\$20 billion in the remainder of 2022. However, robust services surpluses will partly absorb the shock. We expect the current account deficit to print in the range of \$100-105 billion in FY'2023," Nayar said.

SHORT TAKES

HDFC logs 21.5% loan growth in Q1

New Delhi: Private sector HDFC Bank Monday said the bank has registered a 21.5 per cent rise in loans to ₹13,95,000 crore in the first quarter this fiscal. Gross transfers through inter-bank participation certificates and bills rediscounted, the bank's advances grew by around 22.5 per cent over June 30, 2021, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank's deposits aggregated to approximately ₹16,05,000 crore as of June 30, 2022, a growth of around 19.3 per cent over ₹13,45,800 crore as of June 30, 2021, it added.

RBI penalises Kotak, IndusInd

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank Monday said it has imposed penalties of about ₹1 crore each on Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. Besides, the RBI has also imposed penalties on four co-operative banks. Penalties have also been imposed on Nav Jeevan Co-operative Bank; Balangir District Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Balangir; Dhakuria Cooperative Bank Ltd, Kolkata; and The Palani Co-operative Urban Bank Limited (No.A.331), Palani.

Muthoot to open 150 new branches

Mumbai: Gold loan-focussed Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Muthoot Finance Monday said it has received an approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open additional 150 branches across the country. "As the economy gradually recovers, the gold loan demand remains steady and the RBI's nod for branch expansion reinforces our optimism about a growth of 12-15 per cent in gold loan for FY23," the company's MD George Alexander Muthoot said.

RBI nod to HDFC, HDFC Bank merger

New Delhi: HDFC Bank Monday said it has got banking sector regulator RBI's nod for the merger proposal of its parent HDFC Ltd with itself. Touted as the biggest transaction in India's corporate history, HDFC Bank April 4 agreed to take over the biggest domestic mortgage lender in a deal valued at about \$40 billion, creating a financial services titan. RBI has accorded 'no objection' for the Scheme," the bank said.

Leading firms like Parle Agro, Dabur, Amul and Mother Dairy have replaced integrated plastic straws in their tetra packs with alternative sustainable solutions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

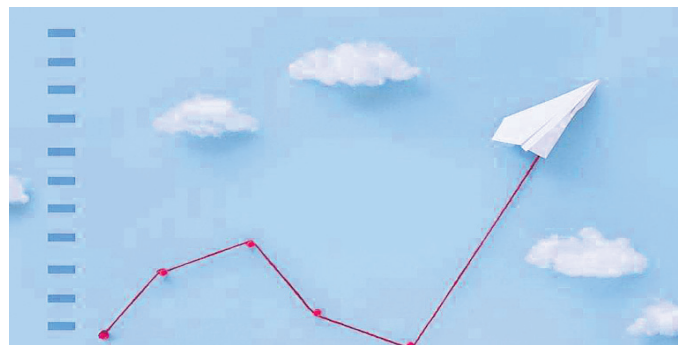
New Delhi, July 4: Stocks of companies related to paper industry have gained amid a ban on certain Single-Use Plastic (SUP) items that kicked in from Friday.

Since June 30, shares of Seshasayee Paper and Boards jumped 7 per cent, Andhra Paper gained 6.21 per cent, Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers climbed 4.62 per cent and Satia Industries advanced 4.62 per cent on the BSE.

Among others, Star Paper Mills went higher by 4.14 per cent, Emami Paper Mills gained 3.92 per cent, West Coast Paper Mills (3.83 per cent), Orient Paper & Industries (3.10 per cent), JK Paper (2.93 per cent) and Astron Paper & Board Mill (2.64 per cent).

The identified SUP items include earbuds, plastic sticks for balloons, flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool), plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweets boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners of less than 100 microns, and stirrers.

"Finally, the ban on single-use plastic has fructified now. Although the benefit of this move on listed paper stocks is limited,



it is pertinent to note that leading paper producers are seeing good traction in demand," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said.

According to a report by Kotak Institutional Equities, India's ban

While theoretically, paper companies should benefit out of this ban, most paper companies do not manufacture any of these items and may not want to venture into these in the near term

DEEPAK JASANI | HEAD OF RETAIL RESEARCH, HDFC SECURITIES

on identified single-use plastic items wef July 2022 is a step in the right direction. "The current ban will have a minimal impact on the financials of listed entities. However, a potential extension of this ban to other SUP items such as sachets/pouches/ wrappers/laminated tubes in the medium-term could impact the volumes or profitability of many consumer good categories," it added.

The report further said the current ban covers items which have a low utility and high littering potential. These are not widely used by large consumer companies and hence will have a limited impact for now.

Byju's clears \$950mn payment to Aakash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Edtech firm Byju's said Monday that it has completed payment that was due for the acquisition of Aakash Educational Service and received majority of \$800 million fund which it announced in March.

The company is estimated to have acquired Aakash Educational Services Ltd for around \$950 million.

"Our fundraising efforts are on track and the majority of the \$800 million has been already received. The balance is also expected soon. Our payments to Aakash are closed and the audited financial results are going to be announced in the next 10 days," Byju's said in a statement.

Byju's founder and CEO Byju Raveendran has made a personal investment of \$400 million of the total \$800 million raised in the latest funding round by the company. The fresh round of funding has been conducted valuing the company at \$22 billion.

Talking about lay-offs at the company, the statement said that the decision has been made to improve business efficiencies throughout the Byju's and its group companies.

"In order to reduce redundancies across our organisation after multiple acquisitions, we had to let go of nearly one per cent of our over 50,000 strong workforce. This retrenchment was a result of a strategic decision to improve business efficiencies throughout Byju's and its group companies. Byju's remains a net hirer," the edtech firm said.

Sacked employees of Byju's group, however, claimed the number of laid-off staff was higher than that cited by the company.

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ROOT, BAIRSTOW PROP ENGLAND

Openers, Renuka seal India win



JOE ROOT



JONNY BAIRSTOW



(From L): Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana during their partnership



RENUKA SINGH

2/43 lost to India Women 174/0 (Smriti Mandhana 94 n o, Shafali Verma 71 n o) by 10 wickets.

We have been talking about long partnerships and thankfully we got it today. I am happy with the way we batted, it was outstanding to watch. Also I am very happy that the bowlers are giving breakthroughs whenever need

HARMANPREET KAUR

I've been working on my strength, practicing my hard lengths and variations. We read the wicket well, that's why we bowled first. The weather was to our advantage as well

RENUKA SINGH

The current team members share their own experiences and that's why, despite the absence of someone like Jhulan Goswami, who has done so much for the team, we are able to perform brilliantly in the bowling department

MEGHNA SINGH

Birmingham, July 4: Joe Root (76 batting, 110b, 9x4) and Jonny Bairstow (73 batting, 89b, 8x4, 1x6) put England on course for a ground-breaking run chase against India despite Jasprit Bumrah's brilliance (2/54) on day four of the rescheduled fifth Test, setting up a fitting series finale here Monday.

Skipper Bumrah brought India back in the game with wickets on either side of the lunch break after England openers Alex Lees (56, 65b, 8x4) and Zak Crawley (46, 76b, 7x4) finally found form and shared a 107-run stand chasing a record 378-run target.

From 107 for no loss, it soon became 109/3 before the dangerous duo of Root and Bairstow frustrated the Indians with a commanding 150-run partnership off just 197 balls. England were 259/3 at stumps on day four, needing a very gettable 119 runs for a series levelling victory.

Though the wicket did not offer much help, Indian bowlers were unable to maintain pressure on

the English batters who played with the aggression that has become hallmark of the Ben Stokes-Brendon McCullum's school of cricket.

It also helped that India deployed very defensive spread out field, letting England batters rotated the strike with elan. Bairstow, who is in the form of his life, was dropped on 14 by Hanuma Vihari and he made India pay dearly for it.

With Ben Stokes and Sam Billings still to come, India will need something special to pull off a win from here. India's bowling performance in the second innings was reminiscent of their struggles in South Africa where they failed to defend target twice after winning the series opener.

India could have made England chase in excess of 400 on day five if it was not for some poor shot selection. After starting the day at 125/3, India were all out for 245 in the second innings.

India had very little going for themselves in the final session barring with the first two overs. Bumrah had Ollie Pope caught be-

hind before Lees was run out after Root went for a single that was not for the taking. After that, it was Root and Bairstow show as they scored runs at will.

Under-fire England openers Lees and Crawley had also displayed a lot of positive intent to take England to 107/1 at tea. India managed to get the breakthrough towards the end of session with Bumrah cleaning up Zak Crawley, who misjudged a leave, when a delivery darted in from length.

India could only consume 8.5 overs after lunch. The tail did not wag compared to first innings but specialist batters gifting their wickets away prevented India from getting a lead in excess of 400.

Earlier, India gifted easy wickets to England but Rishabh Pant's half century (57, 86b, 8x4) allowed them to extend their lead to 361 runs by lunch session. Overnight batters Cheteshwar Pujara (66, 168b, 8x4) and Pant made a confident start.

Pujara got going with a back-foot punch and a flick off James Anderson for consecutive bound-

aries. Pujara, who had reached the 50-run mark Sunday, was hardly troubled by the English pacers.

Pujara, however, contributed to his own downfall by cutting a short and wide ball off Stuart Broad straight to backward point. It is his pet shot but couldn't keep it down for a change.

Shreyas Iyer (19) joined Pant in the middle and after a playing a few shots, fell to the short ball yet again. England laid the trap for Iyer and he fell right into it by pulling a short ball straight to mid-wicket.

Pant completed his fifty with a tinkle off the pads, becoming the first Indian wicket-keeper to score a hundred and a half-century in an overseas Test. After sweeping Jack Leach for a boundary, Pant went for a reverse pull in the following over but was caught at first slip by Joe Root, leaving India at 198/6.

BRIEF SCORES: India 416 & 245 (Cheteshwar Pujara 66, Rishabh Pant 57, Ben Stokes 4/33); England 284 & 259/3 (Joe Root 76 batting, Jonny Bairstow 72 batting, Alex Lees 56, Zak Crawley 46; Jasprit Bumrah 2/53). Match to continue.

Jabeur in QF at SW19, sets 'very high' goals



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon, July 4: She headed the ball. She flicked it up with her feet. Ons Jabeur is having fun, and she's winning. The Tunisian, who at No.3 is the highest-remaining women's seed, advanced to her second straight Wimbledon quarterfinal with a 7-6(11-9), 6-4 victory over Elise Mertens on No.1 Court Sunday.

The 27-year-old Jabeur saved five set points in the tiebreaker — the closest she's come to dropping a set through four matches. She improved to 9-0 this season on grass, which includes winning the Berlin Open last month.

Just over a year ago, she became the first Arab woman to win a singles title on the elite women's tennis tour when she lifted the trophy in Birmingham — also a grass-court tournament.

"I love playing on grass, I love the connection between nature and me, so hopefully it will continue this way for me and maybe through the finals," Jabeur said.

Shaking off the disappointment of a first-round loss at the French Open, Jabeur's goals are "very high" at the All England Club. "No matter who's coming, I'm going to build the fight, I'm going to fight till the end because I really want the title," said Jabeur, who has never reached a Grand Slam semifinal.

Up next is unseeded Czech player Marie Bouzkova, who advanced to her first Grand Slam quarterfinal by beating Caroline Garcia of France 7-5, 6-2.

Simona Halep is the last Grand Slam champion standing on the women's side. The 16th-seeded Romanian won at Wimbledon in

Djoko had it tough

WIMBLEDON: Even knowing what an unusual Wimbledon this has been, what with so many unexpected results and new faces popping up, and so few top seeds — and major champions — remaining, surely Novak Djokovic would not lose to a wild-card entry making his Grand Slam debut, would he? Sunday night under the closed roof at Centre Court, when 25-year-old Dutchman Tim van Rijthoven — ranking 104th; lifetime tour-level victories: eight, all in the past month — had the temerity to smack a 133 mph ace past Djokovic and tie their fourth-round match at a set apiece. All of nine minutes later, the time it took Djokovic to grab 12 of the next 15 points, and the next three games, both plausibility and possibility took a hike. Soon enough, the third set was his, and not much later, so was the fourth, and the match, a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 result that gave the tournament's No.1 seed a 25th consecutive grass-court victory at the All England Club and a place in his 13th Wimbledon quarterfinal.

2019 and at the French Open the year before that. She faces fourth-seeded Paula Badosa in the fourth round Monday. Jabeur and Badosa are all that's left of the top 15 seeds.

Also Sunday, Tatjana Maria eliminated 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 5-7, 7-5, 7-5 to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal at the age of 34.

Maria will face 22-year-old Jule Niemeier, who is making her All England Club debut, in an all-German showdown for a place in the semifinals. The 97th-ranked Niemeier advanced by beating Heather Watson 6-2, 6-4 on Centre Court in just her second Grand Slam tournament.

Alfiya, Gitika clinch gold at boxing event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Reigning Youth World champions Alfiya Pathan and Gitika produced sensational performances to win gold medals at the inaugural edition of the Elorda Boxing Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan Monday.

Two other female boxers — Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro — signed off with silver medals. With the addition of two gold, two silver and 10 bronze on the final day, the Indian contingent concluded its campaign with a tally of 14 medals.

Alfiya did not have to break a sweat and got an unanimous 5-0 verdict against the 2016 World Champion Lazzat Kungeibayeva, in the women's 81kg final. Gitika, on the other hand, clinched a thrilling 4-1 victory over compatriot Kalaivani in an intense all-Indian women's 48kg final.

Both Alfiya and Gitika bagged prize money of USD 700 for their gold-winning feats on their debut at a senior international event. The silver and bronze winners were awarded USD 400 and USD 200 respectively.

Eves eye China scalp in FIH WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen (The Netherlands), July 4: Their defensive prowess on display in the 1-1 draw against Olympic bronze medallist England, India would look to plug holes in the attacking department and register their first win of the women's hockey World Cup in their second game against China here Tuesday.

The Indians produced a superlative defensive performance, spearheaded by skipper and goalkeeper Savita Punia, in the drawn game against England in their opening Pool B match Sunday.

The likes of vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Gurjit Kaur and Udita dished out an excellent performance, denying England a single penalty corner in the entire 60 minutes.

Their only blemish was the ninth minute goal they conceded when Isabella Petter neatly deflected a pass from outside the 'D'.

Barring that, it was a near perfect effort from the Indian backline against England, who fielded almost the same set of players from the Great Britain side that featured in Tokyo Olympics.



Savita, as usual, was brilliant at the goal, making a couple of fine saves with her quick reflexes. However, India were found wanting in the penalty corner conversion as they could score just once from the seven PCs they got, with Vandana Katariya getting the equaliser from a rebound in the 28th minute.

India also created a lot of chances against England but the forward-line failed to utilise most of them, barring the equaliser. In the 56th

minute, Sharmila Devi wasted a golden opportunity as he failed to get her stick on to a fine pass from a teammate.

The Indians would look to address their attacking woes and beat world number 13 China, who held New Zealand to a 2-2 draw in the other Pool B match Sunday.

Chief coach Janneke Schopman would be eyeing a more clinical performance from the forward-line, consisting of the likes of Vandana, Lalremsiami and

Shamila.

Going by form and rankings, world number eight India will definitely start as favourites against China but complacency is something the Savita-led side would look to avoid.

It was India who came out on top in the last two meetings between the two sides. India had thrashed China 7-1 in their first outing in the FIH Pro League tie before winning the second match of the double-header 2-1 in Muscat, Oman.

Zhou 'ok' after frightening crash at British GP

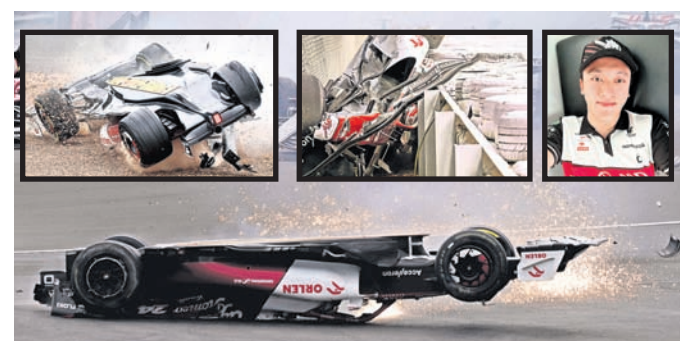
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Silverstone (England), July 4: Zhou Guanyu was involved in a frightening first-lap crash Sunday that brought the British Grand Prix to an immediate halt as safety crews attended to the only Chinese driver in Formula One.

Zhou's car slid upside-down across the gravel and his Alfa Romeo seemed to be wedged between fencing and a tire barrier at the first corner. The race was red-flagged and George Russell, one of the drivers involved in the crash, sprinted from his car to the tire barrier to check on Zhou.

Zhou was taken to the track's medical center for observation and credited the head-protecting "halo" device on the cars for protecting him. "I'm ok, all clear. Halo saved me today. Thanks everyone for your kind messages!" he wrote on Twitter.

Alex Albon of Williams was also taken to the medical center and then his team said he'd been trans-



ferred by helicopter to Coventry Hospital for a precautionary check. Albon had spun into the pit wall after being struck by Sebastian Vettel from behind as drivers tried to avoid the incident involving Zhou.

Russell appeared to be hit from behind at the start and was knocked into Zhou, whose car went flying across a gravel trap and over a tire wall into the retaining fence. The car was skidding on the "halo", then went airborne.

It was stuck between the tire wall

and the fence, delaying efforts to extricate Zhou. Russell, who ran from his car to help Zhou, called it "one of the scariest crashes I've ever seen."

Russell was declared out of the race by the FIA because his Mercedes was loaded onto a truck to be taken back to pit lane while he was checking on Zhou. Mercedes protested the call, but the FIA did not budge. The drivers returned to the pits to await a restart.

After the race was stopped, "several people attempted to enter the

track," F1 said in a statement. "These people were immediately removed and the matter is now being dealt with by the local authorities."

Local police had warned Friday spectators might enter the track as part of a protest. An environmental group called Just Stop Oil said that five of its activists had entered the track and sat down.

The group also tried to disrupt some Premier League football games in England in recent months. Just Stop Oil named one of those on the track at Silverstone on Sunday as a protestor who also attacked himself to a goal post at a game in March between Everton and Newcastle.

The "halo" device around the cockpit played a prominent role earlier Sunday in a Formula Two race at Silverstone when Dennis Hauger's car landed on top of rival Roy Nissany's car. The incident was reminiscent of a crash in F1 involving Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton at the Italian GP last year.

1st WIN FOR SAINZ

SILVERSTONE: Carlos Sainz Jr won his first career F1 race Sunday with a victory at the British GP — the most dramatic race so far this season. It began with a frightening first-lap crash and ended with intense wheel-to-wheel battles for the podium positions. Sainz was in the lead with Charles Leclerc, Ferrari then asked Sainz to let Leclerc past to avoid losing time to Lewis Hamilton. But a safety car came out and Ferrari brought Sainz into the pits for fresher, grippier soft tires. Leclerc was left on older, hard tires and Sainz soon passed his teammate to pull away for his first victory in his 150th F1 start. Sergio Pérez passed Hamilton and Leclerc after the restart and finished second behind Sainz. Hamilton then surged past Leclerc for third place.