



BRUTAL HONESTY

Actor Radhika Apte takes a dig at some of her fellow colleagues for their double standards on body positivity

LEISURE P2



FLOODS WORSEN

Thousands leave their homes in Sydney as torrential rains worsen the flood crisis in the city

INTERNATIONAL P10



ENGLAND'S DAY OUT

Unbeaten tons by Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow help England achieve a historic win against India in the 5th Test

SPORTS P12

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blow for Boris as Sunak, Javid resign

LONDON: UK finance minister Rishi Sunak and health secretary Sajid Javid submitted their resignations Tuesday, as dissent continues to mount against Prime Minister Boris Johnson. "I recognise this may be my last ministerial job, but I believe these standards are worth fighting for and that is why I am resigning," Sunak said. Javid, while sharing his resignation letter on Twitter, said he "can no longer continue in good conscience". The resignations were announced amid Johnson being forced into a humiliating apology over his handling of the Chris Pincher row, as it emerged that he had forgotten about being told of the past allegations of "inappropriate" conduct.

Rupee plunges to all-time low

MUMBAI: The rupee fell by 41 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 79.36 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday amid a strong greenback overseas and unrelenting foreign fund outflows. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.04 against the greenback and witnessed an intraday high of 79.02 and a low of 79.38. It finally settled at 79.36 (provisional), down 41 paise over its previous close. "Rupee is expected to trade on a negative note on a firm tone in the US dollar and elevated oil prices, said financial analyst Anuj Choudhary. MORE P11

Oppn corners govt over unemployment

BHUBANESWAR: The BJP and the Congress targeted the Odisha government while raising the unemployment issue in the Assembly here Tuesday. Opposition members said even after 22 years of BJD rule, the government has failed to provide jobs and check the migration of youths to other states. They further said although 22.5 lakh government posts are lying vacant no efforts are being made to fill those up on a permanent basis. Instead the government is appointing retired employees on a contractual basis and youths are migrating to other states. MORE P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



See, it's banned now. Put all these plastic bags into this one jute bag!

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	53134.35 ↓ 100.42
NIFTY	15810.85 ↓ 24.50
DOLLAR	79.37 ↑ ₹0.42
EURO	81.34 ↓ ₹0.89
GOLD	₹51,425 ↓ ₹697
SILVER	₹56,944 ↓ ₹1544

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	29.4°C
TEMP MIN	25.5°C
Humidity	88%
Rainfall	5.4mm
TEMP MAX	28.2°C
TEMP MIN	26.0°C
Humidity	97%
Rainfall	15.6mm

Forecast: Light rain likely



DEMANDING SEPARATE IDENTITY: Activists of various groups wanting a separate Koshal state gathered Tuesday at the PMG Square in Bhubaneswar to voice their demand

784 jumbo deaths in 10 yrs

Keeping in mind the high number of elephant deaths in the last decade, the government is taking proactive measures to ensure the safety of the animals

Bhubaneswar, July 5: A total of 784 elephants have died in the state during the last 10 years, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat informed Tuesday the Assembly.



- Highest number of elephant deaths (35) in the last 3 years reported from Dhenkanal division
- Railway level crossings to come up at 12 new locations to prevent accidents
- In 2021-22, deaths of 86 pachyderms registered, the highest in the decade

Replied to a question of Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Amat said 36 jumbos died in accidents while 34 were killed by poachers and others from 2012-13 to 2021-22. Out of 36 accidental deaths, 30 died in train accidents, six in road mishaps, Amat said. Out of the total elephant deaths in the last decade, at least 245 jumbos died from 2019-20 to 2021-22, as per another written reply submitted by the Minister in the House. While 82 elephants died in the year 2019-20, the toll decreased to 77 (2020-21). Then in 2021-22, a total of 86 pachyderms died. The highest among these jumbo deaths were reported in the Dhenkanal forest division (35), followed by Keonjhar division (21) and Angul (12). In the last three years, Deogarh and Athamallik forest divisions have reported 11 elephant deaths each whereas 10 each have been

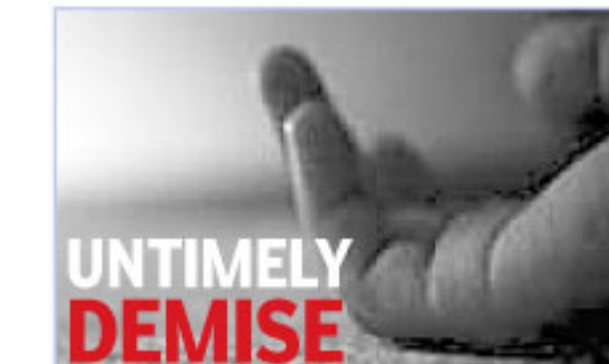
reported from Balasore wildlife, Kalahandi (south) and Khurda divisions. However, in the reply, Amat also said that despite the high number of deaths, the elephant population has increased to 1,976 in 2017 from 1,827 detected during the census conducted in 1999. The minister also talked about various steps taken by the state government for the conservation and protection of wild elephants. He said the government has formed three elephant conservation projects at Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Mahanadi to check the deaths

three years, Amat said. The minister said villagers residing close to forests are being informed about the movement of elephants through monitoring apps to prevent man-animal conflict and casualties. Coordination meetings with the officials of the Energy department, Railways, State Works department and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) are being held frequently and preventive steps are being taken to prevent accidental death of elephants, Amat informed. The Minister further said 343 anti-poaching squads comprising 1,715 personnel have been deployed in strategic places to prevent poaching of elephants. Drone and watch towers are being used to keep a strict vigil on the elephant habitats, their movements and on the movement of poachers, he stated. The Minister said a cell under the Special Task Force (STF) of the Odisha Crime Branch has been constituted to investigate and take action on important elephant death cases where foulplay is suspected. However, some experts pointed out that the fatality rate 'is high' keeping in mind the steps taken.

Another student dies allegedly by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Even before the uproar and mystery surrounding the shock demise of BJB student Ruchika Mohanty has subsided, another alleged student suicide death came to the fore Tuesday. The body of 22-year-old Ashrita Senapati, pursuing MCA at a private engineering college here, was found hanging in her room at Acharya Vihar under Saheed Nagar police limits. The deceased was a resident of Tihidi locality in Bhadrak district. Sources said that Senapati was staying alone at a rental accommodation in Acharya Vihar area for the last five months. When her family failed to contact her over the phone Monday evening and night, they got in touch with the landlord Tuesday. He went and knocked on Senapati's room a number of times, but did not get any response. Contd...P4



- **UNTIMELY DEMISE**
- **JULY 2:** BJB college student Ruchika Mohanty hangs self
- **JUNE 1:** Ravenshaw University's 3rd year student, Amit Kumar dies after consuming poison
- **MAY 10:** Abinash Pradhan, a Plus-II final year student dies by hanging
- **APRIL 30:** Rudraprakash Bhoi and Sonali Barik, both Plus-II first year students die by suicide after families refuse to accept their relationship
- **APRIL 22:** Nishant Kumar, a fifth year MBBS student of Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir jumps off the roof of the hospital
- **APRIL 4:** Suravi Panchpal, a 2nd year student at NLUU dies by suicide after dispute with her parents

GIRL GOES MISSING FROM CITY HOSTEL

Bhubaneswar: Amid cases of students dying by suicide, another student of a music school-cum-educational institution in the city has reportedly gone missing. Subhasini Mallick, a Plus-III first year student of Odissi department of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, is allegedly missing since Friday. The girl's father has lodged a complaint at the Capital police station in this regard. In it he has blamed the superintendent of the hostel where Subhasini was staying.

BJD MLA slams minister

Bhubaneswar, July 5: In what can be termed as an unexpected development, BJD MLA from Anandpur, Bhagirathi Sethi criticised Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das over the impoverished condition of health affairs in Keonjhar district. Sethi lamented that despite pointing this out to the health minister on a number of occasions, the situation has not improved. Sethi informed that the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital lacks staff in many departments. He informed that health centres in Keonjhar do not have doctors and even pharmacists. The situation has reached such a state that now peons are administering health check-up to patients, the MLA informed. He also rued the fact that Anandpur

Twitter takes Centre to court over 'blocking'

■ In its plea Twitter said account-level blocking is a 'principally disproportionate measure' and 'violates rights of users under Constitution'

AGENCIES

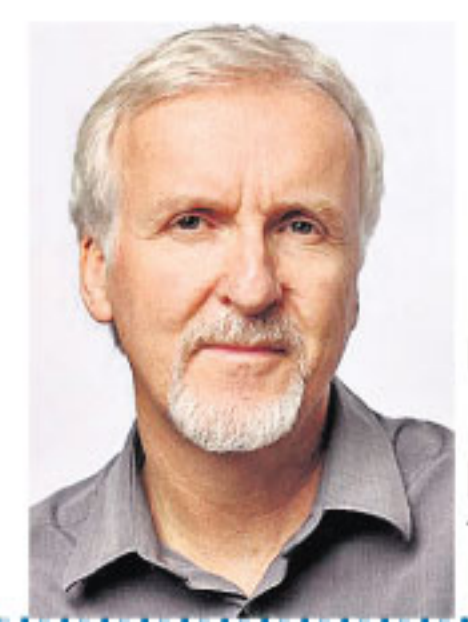
New Delhi, July 5: Twitter has moved the Karnataka High Court against the Indian government's order to take down some content on its platform, on the grounds that the content blocking orders from the IT Ministry do not pass 'the test of the grounds provided under Section 69A of the IT Act', reliable sources said Tuesday. Twitter has alleged in its writ petition that multiple accounts and content included in the blocking orders are either 'overbroad and arbitrary', fail to provide notice to the 'originators' of the content, and are 'disproportionate' in several cases, sources told this agency. The social media platform alleged in the court petition that several blocking orders that were issued to Twitter only 'cite' the grounds of Section 69A but fail to demonstrate how the content falls within those grounds or how the said content is 'violative' of Section 69A, the sources added. In a June letter, the IT Ministry had warned Twitter of strict action if it does not comply with some content takedown orders. According to sources, Twitter has now sought judicial review of some of the content that forms a part of various blocking orders, requesting relief from the court to set aside these blocking orders. The IT Ministry is yet to react to Twitter's move. Earlier this month, Delhi Police sent a notice to Twitter seeking details of the account that led to the arrest of fact-checking website Alt News' co-founder Mohammed Zubair. Twitter was also involved in a legal battle in the Delhi High Court last year with the Centre over not complying with the new IT Rules, 2021.



ODIA IN GOOGLE'S TRAINING COURSE

New Delhi: Tech giant Google expanded Tuesday its 'News Initiative Training Network' and in the process added five new languages including Odia. The four other languages are Punjabi, Assamese, Gujarati and Malayalam. About 100 new trainers have been inducted to help newsrooms and journalists build capacity to tackle climate misinformation and verify misleading data. The programme was launched in 2018 and it has 39,000+ journalists, media educators, fact-checkers and journalism students from over 2,300 newsrooms and media colleges in 10 languages.

leisure



CAMERON TO LEAVE AVATAR FRANCHISE AFTER THIRD SEQUEL

Filmmaker James Cameron, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming fantasy epic *Avatar: The Way of the Water*, has shared that he might possibly stop directing the films in the franchise after the third sequel, reports *Variety*.

ADELE SLAMS LOVER IN LYRICS OF LEAKED SONG

English singer-songwriter Adele appears to have slammed a former lover in the lyrics of a song which has been leaked online. The 34-year-old singer is said to have used anonymous ex-boyfriends as some of the inspiration for her upcoming song titled *But I Want To*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today ideas will flood your mind, but it is good that you will be able to carry them out efficiently. However, Ganesha warns you not to take rash decisions. Wise people will help you along the way. Pay heed to the advice of experienced people.

TAURUS
The stars are very auspiciously disposed towards you, announces Ganesha. You have an exceptionally bright and enjoyable day ahead of you. All events and situations will work in your favour. If you are pursuing higher studies you will perform brilliantly.

GEMINI
It is a day filled with joy and happiness on the home front. You will spend a lot of time with children. You will complete long pending household projects as well as take an interest in ironing out differences between family members, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Ganesha advises you to be careful before signing any document. A hard time for share brokers and traders. So be on the guard during deals and transactions. Average time for business. Ganesha tells you to be self-confidence.

LEO
You will pay serious attention to your work. You will feel that you have no option but to work hard. You will not be in the mood for socialising. This is only a temporary phase, hence there is no need to worry.

VIRGO
You will enchant people with your adaptability and your desire to get with your surroundings. For those who are in love, something unexpected may take place, but there is no need to panic as by and by things will turn out to be in your interest. You will spend quality time with your family.

LIBRA
Ganesha says your nature of spending wisely is highly appreciated as it is a good thing to save money for the future. This nature of yours will not allow you to spend money on useless things. You will be able to buy a home or a vehicle in the near future with these savings of yours.

SCORPIO
Add a pinch of innovation and inventiveness to your daily working style. There shall be order in the chaotic way you perform your tasks - though not apparent to others. Revitalise yourself and plunge into work with new-found zest and vigour, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
You are a social butterfly as you attend a series of parties and events today, says Ganesha. You may even bump into old pals and relive good 'ol' days. Also, you meet your extended family! It's time for soiree and merry-making.

CAPRICORN
Whatever field you are in, your career matters will top your priority list. You will put your personal life on the back burner for a while. This change of places will surely bring you great rewards as your performance will drastically improve and everyone will appreciate your efforts. Credit goes to your family members and well-wishers for believing in you in the toughest of times and supporting you along the way, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
You will feel deeply inclined towards development and research, today. Actions speak louder than words, and your efforts and overall growth will speak plenty about your character. Your romantic side will come to the fore today. You will be willing to do anything and everything to bring a bright smile on the face of sweetheart, feels Ganesha, all of it will get noticed. Enjoy the good timesta

PISCES
For those who are salaried, today day for you. Important meetings at the work-place will benefit from your presence and the suggestions you have to make. This should enhance your relationship with your superiors.

BODY POSITIVITY

Radhika calls out actors for their double standards

Mumbai: Radhika Apte recently took a dig at some of her fellow colleagues for their double standards on body positivity. While talking to a news portal, Radhika said, "I did feel very let down. I think it's a stupid thing to be because it's quite naive of me. There are exceptions definitely. There are some actresses who are fantastic. They truly embody body positivity or authenticity and they are phenomenal. But a lot of them don't and we know that as audiences, filmmakers, and directors. But we accept it. Nobody says anything about it." She also added, "I feel it's taking jobs away is one thing but I can't be surrounded by people who hate growing old. I can't be surrounded by people constantly wanting to change their bodies because it makes me wonder whether I should do that. I will never do that but I don't want to be with people who don't like themselves so much. It's such a demoralising and negative energy. And nobody speaks about it." AGENCIES



TAMANNAAH SHARES HER BIGGEST FEAR

Chennai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, whose recent Telugu film, *F3* has gone on to become a hit, has disclosed that her biggest fear in life is losing her memory. The actress, who is now shooting in Mumbai, chose to answer questions posed by fans and admirers on Twitter while waiting to get to her shooting spot Tuesday. One of the questions posed to her during this interaction was on what her biggest fear was. Tamannaah replied, "Losing my memory ... damn, sounds scary." The actress also picked Shubhashini from the Tamil film *Dharmadurai* and Avantika from *Baahubali* as two of the most special characters she has played until now. To a question on which fictional character she would be most excited to meet in real life, Tamannaah replied, "Sherlock Holmes". The actress also said that trusting one's gut and living life to the fullest was the one thing she would want to share with others. To a query on whether she had any hidden talents that people don't know about yet, the actress said, "I make up my own words like 'chichi matchi' which means navel, 'kitkittayi' meaning to tickle, 'Ja La Ling' which means envy." AGENCIES



Akshay denies joining politics

Mumbai: Akshay Kumar is a name that doesn't need an introduction. He is one of the busiest actors in Hindi film industry and has an interesting line-up of films ahead. The actor has been ruling the industry for several decades now and he has delivered several blockbuster movies. The Sooryavanshi actor, who was recently seen in *Samrat Prithviraj* alongside Manushi Chhillar, is currently gearing up for his next film *Raksha Bandhan*, which is directed by Aanand L Rai and is slated to hit theatres August 11, 2022.

Recently, the actor was in London for the book launch of *Hindujas* and Bollywood, where he spoke at the Institute of Directors at Pall Mall. Akshay was asked if he wishes to join politics, to which, he denied it and said: "I am very happy making films... As an actor, I do whatever possible to take up social issues. I have produced 150 films, the one nearest to my heart is *Raksha Bandhan*," reported PTI. Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor will star next in the action-adventure film, *Ram Setu* which will fea-

ture Jacqueline Fernandez and Nushratt Bharuccha in the lead roles. It is scheduled for a theatrical release October 24, 2022. He also has the comedy-drama film, *Oh My God! 2* co-starring Pankaj Tripathi, Yami Gautam, and Arun Govil in pivotal roles. Akshay also has *Selfie* with Emraan Hashmi and the yet-to-be-titled Soorari Potru remake. IANS



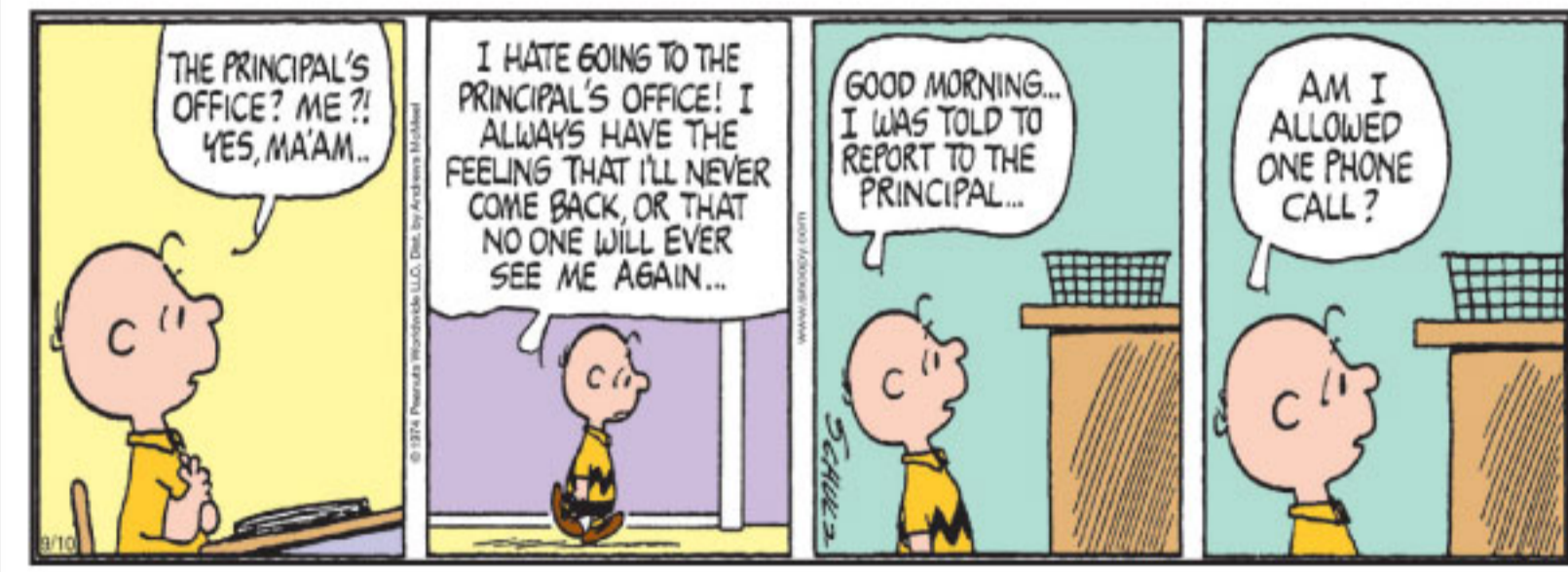
SEXISM IN HIS ALMA MATER Sona draws Twitter CEO's attention

Mumbai: Playback singer Sona Mohapatra, who has crooned hit numbers such as *Bedardi Raja*, *Ambarariya* and *Rangabati*, has addressed a lengthy

tweet to Parag Agrawal, CEO of the microblogging site, slamming the practice of not inviting women as headliners for cultural events at his alma mater IIT Bombay. In her tweet, Sona wrote, "Dear @paraga, Ur alma-mater has for decades, mostly never hosted women as headliners in their cultural festival. IITB alumni, even CEOs slammed me on fb for writing this letter." Sona urged Agrawal to watch her film *Shut*

Up Sona to get a glimpse of what female artistes have to go through to get equal respect, representation, and remuneration. She added: "I hope U watch my film #ShutUpSona to see what our reality as female artists in the 21st century is. Love & Light." The tweet serves as a reminder to what even the most successful women have to face when they come up against systemic sexism. IANS

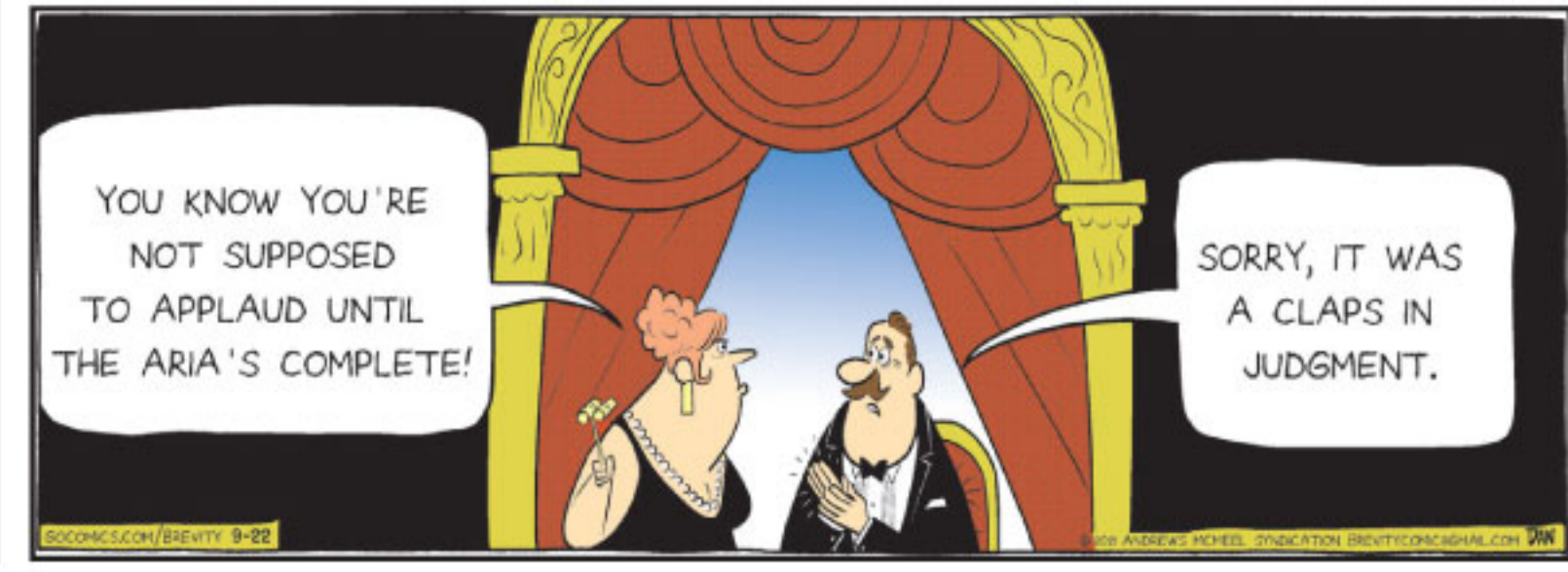
PEANUTS



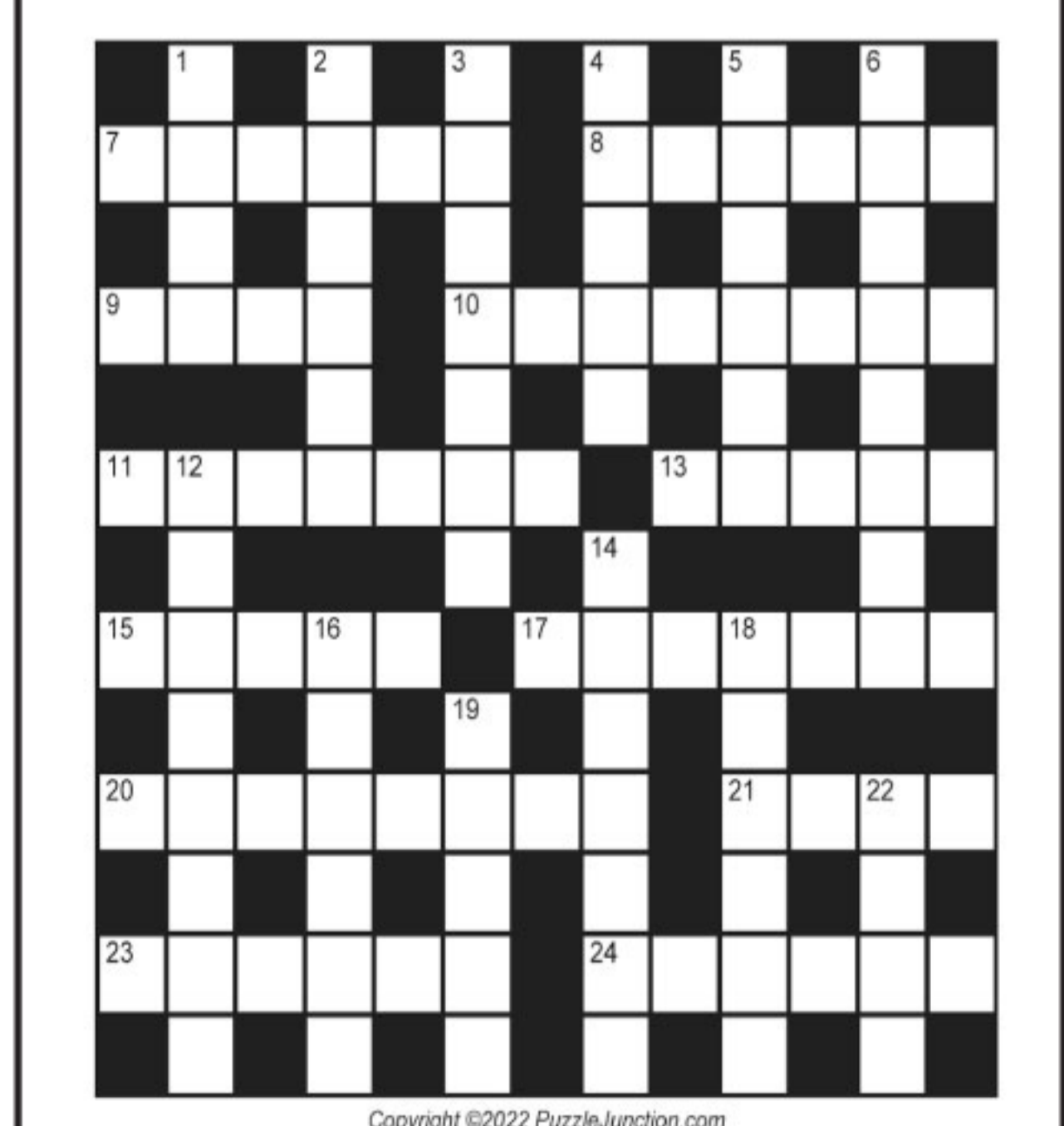
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



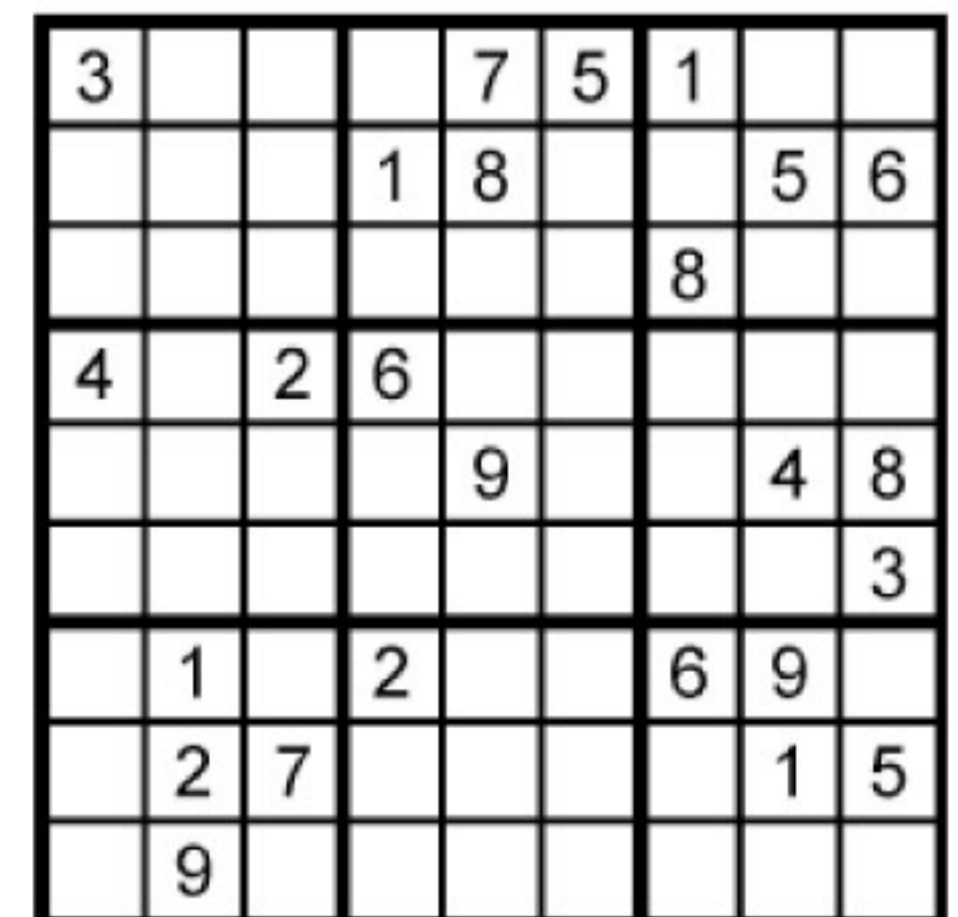
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Basketball scores
 - 8 Anxiety disorder
 - 9 Effrontery
 - 10 Like some telephone calls
 - 11 Contempt
 - 13 Logger's leftover
 - 15 Piquant
 - 17 *Just So Stories* author
 - 20 Folksy
 - 21 Work party
 - 23 Chickpea, e.g.
 - 24 Artificial
- Down**
- 1 Scintilla
 - 2 Went fishing
 - 3 Headache reliever
 - 4 "The final frontier"
 - 5 Humorous remark (3,3)
 - 6 Aromatic bark
 - 12 Unseemly
 - 14 Bride-to-be
 - 16 Bank draft
 - 18 Migratory grasshopper
 - 19 Fling
 - 22 Young newts

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



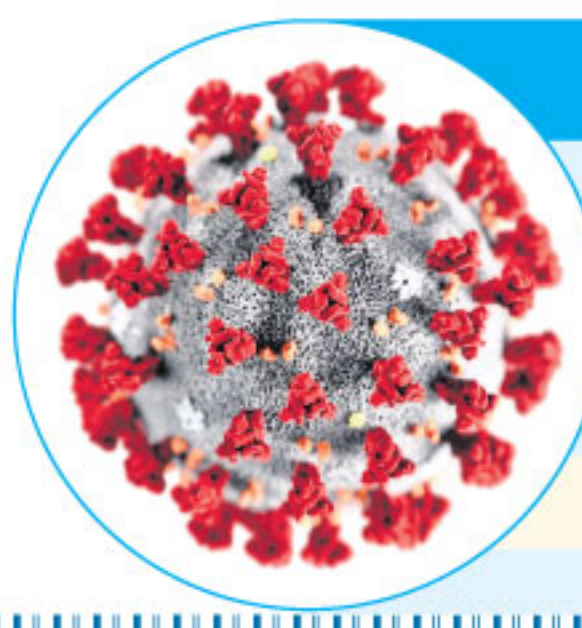
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



RAIN PAIN
Stalls at Pallishree Mela in Puri look empty as heavy rain lashed the Holy City, Tuesday

COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	55,54,16,223	53,01,34,177	63,62,746
India	4,35,31,650	4,28,91,933	5,25,242
Odisha	12,91,117	12,80,382	9,126



Job racket: Lookout circular against two

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: The Bureau of Immigration has issued a lookout circular against two persons accused of running a fake job racket and are suspected to have fled to Malaysia after non-bailable warrants were issued in their names, an official said Tuesday.

The lookout circular was issued in the names of Bhiku Bisoi and Manikandan, who are directors of Kinney Infotech Private Limited, for duping jobseekers of more than Rs 1 crore, an official said.

The circular was issued after requests by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police. The EOW has already registered a case against the company and its directors April 27, 2022 under Sections of the IPC and IT Act, 2000.

Lookout circular is generally issued to alert immigration check posts at airports and seaports to alert law enforcement agency if a wanted person tries to leave the country or arrive in the country from abroad.

The case was registered by taking over the investigation by Bhanjanagar police in Ganjam district into allegations of collecting huge amounts of money from a large number of job seekers allegedly by Kinney Infotech Pvt Ltd through its office bearers for providing them jobs, the EOW said

OVER 100 JOBSEEKERS LOSE ₹1 CRORE



It is suspected that the accused are hiding or absconding in Malaysia. So far, more than 100 investors, who have been cheated of more than Rs 1 crore, have been identified

In 2021, Bhiku Bisoi of Ganjam and Manikandan, who hails from Chennai, had opened the office of Kinney Infotech Pvt Ltd at Bhanjanagar and employed some agents to persuade the common people to invest in their company with false assurances of providing the job

Allured by the offer, a large number of youth invested large sums of money with the company and the accused, who are directors of some other companies also, allegedly misappropriated the money, closed the office and fled

in a release.

In 2021, Bisoi, a native of Ganjam district and Manikandan, who hails from Chennai, had opened the office of Kinney Infotech Pvt Ltd at Bhanjanagar and employed some agents to persuade the common people to invest in their company with false assurances of providing the job, mostly on work-from-home basis, it said.

Allured by the offer, a large number of unemployed men had invested large sums of money with the company and the accused, who are directors of some other companies also, allegedly misappropriated the money, closed the office and fled. "It is suspected that the accused persons

are hiding or absconding in Malaysia. So far, more than 100 investors, who have been cheated of more than Rs 1 crore, have been identified," an EOW official said.

The NBW has been issued against Bisoi and Manikandan, while four office bearers of the company who were engaged in unauthorized collection of public deposits have been arrested and sent to jail. The EOW has announced reward to anybody who provides information leading to the arrest of the accused persons and assured that the name and details of the informer will be kept a secret, the EOW release said.

₹29.36cr sanctioned for 55 new cyclone shelters in state

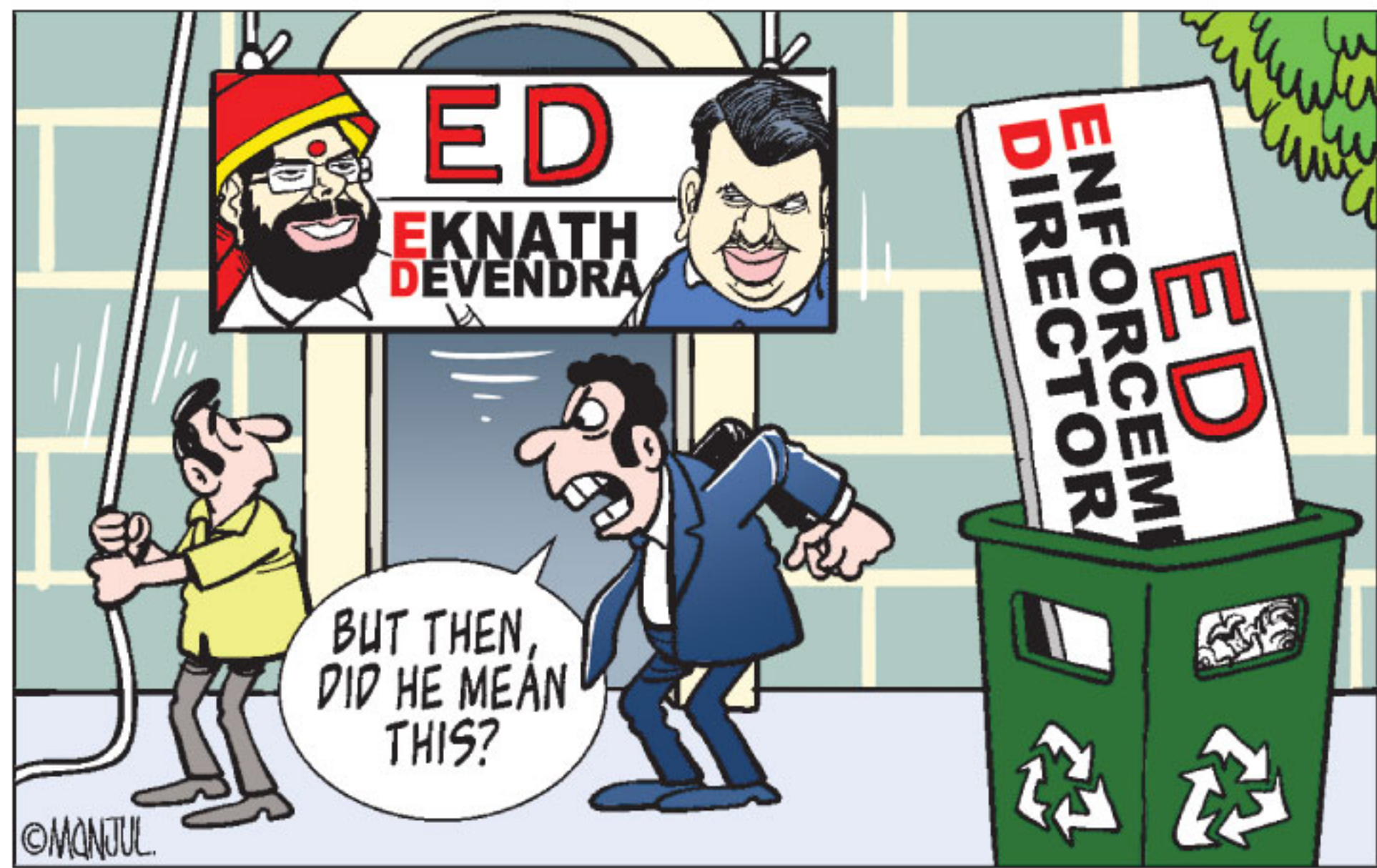
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday sanctioned Rs 29.36 crore in the second phase for the construction of 55 new cyclone and flood shelters.

Official sources said 55 more cyclone shelters are being constructed with an expenditure of Rs 98 crore from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF).

In April this year, the Chief Minister had sanctioned Rs 29.36 crore in the first phase for the purpose. The cyclone and flood shelters are being constructed through the Odisha Disaster Mitigation authority. Chief Minister directed the officials to complete the work at the earliest.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



CM seeks Cong MLAs' support for Murmu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday sought the support of Congress MLAs in favour of NDA Presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu.

Patnaik spoke to Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra over phone and requested him to support Murmu, who is a daughter of Odisha.

"Spoke to Odisha Congress Legislature Party Leader Shri @NarasinghMishra seeking support for Smt #DroupadiMurmu. It is matter of great pride for Odisha. Appealed him to ensure win of the daughter of #Odisha to the highest office of the country," Patnaik said in a tweet.

BJD organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das said the Chief Minister has instructed all senior vice presidents of the ruling party and ministers to meet the Congress

MLAs, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president and CPI (M) MLA Laxman Munda for seeking support for Murmu.

In a related development, lone independent MLA at Odisha Assembly, Makaranda Muduli, met the Chief Minister to convey his support for the NDA Presidential nominee.

"Independent MLA Shri Makaranda Muduli met me today. Requested his support for the daughter of #Odisha, Smt

#DroupadiMurmu, in the #PresidentialElection which he agreed. She is pride of #Odisha," Patnaik said in another tweet.

Patnaik has also appealed to all members in the state Assembly to cast their votes in favour of Murmu.

Notably, the BJD has 114 MLAs (including two expelled members) in Odisha Assembly while the BJP has 22. The Congress party has nine MLAs and the CPI (M) has one.

MLAs not provided with documents of Bills: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Opposition Congress Tuesday alleged in the Assembly that lawmakers are denied their Constitutional rights and not being provided with documents of bills before they are discussed or passed in the House.

The allegation was made by Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra during the Zero Hour. He said legislators are now informed on the guidelines meant for private universities.

Mishra also alleged that the Book Circular-47, which has provisions to respond the peoples' representatives, is clearly violated in the state. "Starting from Chief Minister to government servants no one is acknowledging our queries

even after writing to them in the Assembly," he said.

The CLP leader sought a ruling from the Speaker. He said as per the law, the ministers and CM are bound to answer to our queries within 15 days of asking questions which is not happening in Odisha.

This apart, legislators are often informed that data are being collected in regard to their question.

The Speaker asked the Assembly secretary to provide required documents to Congress MLAs. The Speaker said, "Chief Secretary and Parliamentary Affairs Secretary would ascertain the reasons behind not executing the Book Circular 47 in a week."

Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholkia said that the government will soon sort out the issues raised by CLP leader.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress Tuesday targeted the state government in the Assembly over high unemployment in Odisha.

They said even after 22 years of rule, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government has failed to provide jobs to the youths and check the migration of Odia people to other states in search of employment opportunities. Although lakhs of posts are lying vacant, the state government is not taking any steps to fill those. Instead, the government is appointing retired employees on contractual basis, they alleged.

Participating in a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion on the acute unem-

ployment problem, Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said at a time when a whopping 22.5 per cent of the total government posts are lying vacant, Odia youths are going to other states in search for work.

"In its 2014 election manifesto, the ruling BJD had promised to provide employment opportunities to 150 people in each panchayat and generate 2 lakh jobs every year. Where are the jobs that the party had promised?" Bahinipati questioned.

The Congress legislator said in the last three years, the government has opened ITIs to train the unemployed youth. However, most of those institutes were shut due to teacher crunch. On the other hand, liquor stores are being set up in the villages, he added.



Although lakhs of posts are lying vacant, the state government is not taking any steps to fill those. Instead, the government is appointing retired employees on contractual basis, alleged the BJP and Congress MLAs

The government has not given priority to employment. Between 1999 and 2008, 45,513 primary posts were removed and according to a reply by the Finance Minister, as many as 2,26,513 posts are lying vacant, said opposition chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi.

There has been widespread corruption in employment and the government has a key role in the matter, he alleged.

Majhi said unemployment has risen sharply in the past 22 years due to incompetence of the state government.

Replying to the adjournment motion, Skill Development Minister Pritiranjana Gharai said training programmes are being held regularly to make youth employment ready.

As many as 1,00,564 youth have been imparted training between

2011-12 and 2021-22, of which 27,611 have landed jobs, he stated.

As many as 82 skill development centres have been set up and 296 job fairs have been organised in 30 districts between 2008-09 and 2021-22 in which as many as 5,60,045 job aspirants took part. Of them, 1,48,645 have been recruited, he added.

"Also, as many as 240 young men and women are being trained at World Skill Center and 5,06,965 youth have been trained and self-employed in the last three years," said the minister.

Employment and training are also being provided at model career centres that have been set up in Sambalpur, Cuttack, Rourkela, Dhenkanal, Berhampur, Keonjhar and Koraput with the help of the Centre, he added.

CHARIOT REPAIR



Mechanics repairing a chariot at Saradhahabi in Puri ahead of the Bahuda Yatra, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Hera Panchami ritual held in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 5: Hundreds of devotees Tuesday gathered near Srīgundicha temple here to witness the Hera Panchami ritual of Srimandir deities.

The devotees could not witness the ritual for the last two years due to the restrictions imposed by the state government to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

As per the tradition, Goddess Laxmi, the consort of Lord Jagannath, was carried to Srīgundicha temple from Srimandir in a procession for performance of Hera Panchami ritual.

"Hera Panchami is a unique ritual of annual Rath Yatra. Lord Jagannath embarks on his nine-day sojourn to Srīgundicha temple without informing Goddess Laxmi. Miffed over this, the Goddess vis-



Devotees visiting Srīgundicha temple in Puri

OP PHOTO

its Srīgundicha temple to urge her master to return Srimandir. She damages a portion of Lord's chariot after he refuses to accompany her," said a servitor.

Pati Mahapatra servitors offered puja to the Goddess near Srīgundicha temple. Goddess Laxmi was placed at the Jagamohan of the shrine for performance of the ritual.

The goddess was carried back to

Srimandir through Heragouri Sahi after the performance of Hera Panchami ritual.

"The Hera Panchami ritual was conducted smoothly at Srīgundicha temple. The servitors would turn the three chariots towards Srimandir Wednesday as part of the preparation for Bahuda Yatra," said an official of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration.

RUCHIKA DIED OF ASPHYXIATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: The post mortem report of Ruchika Mohanty revealed that she had died of asphyxiation due to hanging by rope. The Commissionerate Police also informed about sending the viscera of the deceased for scientific examination.



FILE PHOTO OF RUCHIKA

DCP Prateek Singh Tuesday told the media that the investigating teams have already questioned more than 100 girls residing in the hostel regarding the suicide of Ruchika.

A team of Commissionerate Police has also recorded the statements of Ruchika's relatives and friends in her native village.

Singh also revealed that the college staffers related to the case have been interrogated. However, police have not yet succeeded in identifying the three seniors who were accused by the victim of mentally harassing her.

Mohanty, a Plus III student of BJB Autonomous College, was recently found dead in her hostel room. She alleged in her note that she committed suicide due to ragging by the seniors.

Explained: How soil pollution raises heart disease risk

Pesticides and heavy metals in soil may have detrimental effects on the cardiovascular system, according to a study. Pollution of air, water and soil is responsible for at least nine million deaths each year. More than 60 per cent of pollution-related disease and death is due to cardiovascular disease such as chronic ischaemic heart disease, heart attack, stroke and heart rhythm disorders (arrhythmias).
"Soil contamination is a less visible danger to human health than dirty air," said author Professor Thomas Munzel of the University Medical Center Mainz (Germany).

"But evidence is mounting that pollutants in soil may damage cardiovascular health through a number of mechanisms including inflammation and disrupting the body's natural clock."
In the paper, published in Cardiovascular Research, the team states that contaminated soil may lead to cardiovascular disease by increasing oxidative stress in the blood vessels (with more 'bad' free radicals and fewer 'good' antioxidants), by causing inflammation, and by disturbing the body clock (circadian rhythm).

Dirty soil may enter the body by inhaling desert dust, fertiliser crystals, or plastic particles. Heavy



metals such as cadmium and lead, plastics, and organic toxicants (for example in pesticides) can also be consumed orally. Soil pollutants wash into rivers and create dirty water which may be consumed.

Pesticides have been linked with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease. While employees in the agricultural and chemical industries face the greatest exposure, the general public may in-

gest pesticides from contaminated food, soil and water.

Cadmium is a heavy metal that occurs naturally in small amounts in air, water, soil and food, and also comes from industrial and agricultural sources. Food is the main source of cadmium in non-smokers.

Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal with environmental contamination through mining, smelting, manufacturing and recycling. Exposure to arsenic, a naturally occurring metalloid, is linked to higher risk of death from cardiovascular disease. Levels of arsenic can increase due to industrial processes and using contaminated water to ir-

rigate crops.

The potential hazards of contaminated airborne dust are also noted in the study. Desert dust can travel long distances, and research has shown that particles from soil in China and Mongolia were related to an increased odds of heart attacks in Japan.

While there are no population studies on the cardiovascular health effects of nano- and microplastics in humans, research has shown that these particles can reach the bloodstream, making it plausible that they could travel to the organs and cause systemic inflammation and cardiometabolic disease, the team said.

Experts: Expanding greenery best environmental solution



serve the forests and biodiversity, Patro added.

When the world is experiencing diverse environmental challenges as the result of various detrimental human activities, the best option at hand is to bring about expansion of greenery through massive plantation programmes, opined experts attending the event.

Priority needs to be given to cities which are experiencing the brunt of the changing environmental scenario. Enhancing tree cover by undertaking massive plantation of saplings will go a long way in contributing to pollution reduction, thermoregulation, carbon reduction, water cycle and storm regulation, soil conservation, and enriching biodiversity by providing shelter to animals and birds, they said.

At the event, 200 saplings provided by the Mancheswar Range of the City Forest Division, Bhubaneswar, were planted. OES members and teachers and students of the college participated in the plantation drive.

City Forest Division DFO Ajit Satapathy highlighted the significance of the forests and natural ecosystems, and dependence of human beings on them for their sustenance and survival.

OES Secretary Jaya Krushna Panigrahi suggested that careful and appropriate planting holds the key to the plantation programmes' success.

At the event, 200 saplings provided by the Mancheswar Range of the City Forest Division, Bhubaneswar, were planted and OES members along with teachers and students of the college participated in the plantation drive

of landscape degradation, enhanced pollution, global warming and climate change. Therefore, mankind has to apply its wisdom for planting a large number of saplings and protecting them to enhance the greenery, and to pre-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and the Raajdhani Engineering College (REC) jointly organised a Van Mahotsav programme in the college campus in the Capital city, Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering, OES president SN Patro said that greenery offers aesthetic pleasure and soothing effects on mental and physical health of communities while enriching landscapes. Besides, it provides fruits, flowers, wood and other benefits.

Although tree plantation can't execute the role played by the natural forests, the ecological functions performed by trees, most importantly in deteriorating urban environments, remain remarkable in the circumstances



A man displays his skills with a sword as Goddess Lakshmi is taken from Chandini Chowk Jagannath temple to Kafa Bazar Srigundicha temple in Cuttack, Tuesday

53 children among 334 new Cov cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Odisha Tuesday recorded 334 fresh Covid-19 cases, 89 more than the previous day's figure, taking the tally to 12,91,117, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) jumped to 2.91 per cent from 1.92 the previous day as the cases were detected out of 11,451 samples.

Khurda district, where state Capital Bhubaneswar is located,

reported the highest number of 187 infections, followed by 70 in Cuttack. Of the new cases, 53 were children, the Health bulletin said.

Odisha now has 1,695 active cases, while 129 more people recovered from the disease, taking the total number of cured people to 12,80,243.

The toll remained unchanged at 9,126 as there were no fresh fatalities in the last 24 hours. Fifty-three other Covid patients have died in state due to comorbidities so far, it added.

Cuttack DM awarded PhD in Business Administration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 5: Cuttack district Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani has been awarded PhD by the Department of Business Administration of Utkal University here for his doctoral thesis namely 'Role of Political Leaders in Economic Development: A Study of MLAs of Odisha'.

Chayani has prepared this thesis under the supervision of Pravat Kumar Mohanty, professor at Department of Business Administration. This thesis has been examined by Sarmistha Banerjee, professor at Department of Business Management, Calcutta University and Manju Bhagat, professor at Department of Management, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi.

Both examiners highly praised Chayani's thesis for its quality of research and recommended the university to award PhD in his favour. Accordingly, Utkal University has declared Chayani qualified for PhD in Business Administration.

In his thesis, Chayani studied nine political leaders of Odisha who functioned as MLAs during 2014-19. This study was based on analysis of responses received from 4,518 voters through a structured questionnaire containing 95 questions on different leadership attributes and roles of these political leaders. Further, the amount of MLA LAD, MP LAD and SDP Funds used by these leaders in 45 wards of their constituencies and the subsequent effect on their voting pattern were also analysed.

Chayani, who passed BA (Hons) and MA from the prestigious St



Empirical data for this research have been analysed by application of leadership models of US and UK as well as advanced statistical packages. The findings of this thesis will be helpful for our political leaders to gain sustained electoral success with reduced cost of election

BHABANI SHANKAR CHAYANI | DISTRICT COLLECTOR, CUTTACK

Stephen's College in Delhi, acquired MPhil from Delhi University and MBA from XIMB. He was the topper of the Orissa Administrative Service of 1989 batch. He has used both his academic and practical experience to prepare this thesis, it was learnt.

"Empirical data for this research have been analysed by application of leadership models of US and UK as well as advanced statistical packages. The findings of this thesis will be helpful for our political leaders to gain sustained electoral success with reduced cost of election," Chayani said.

CMC to revamp 3 ponds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 5: The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has decided to rejuvenate three ponds in the Silver City here under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, an official said Tuesday.

In the first phase of AMRUT 2.0, the ponds near Ganga temple, on the premises of Utkal Balashram and near Nilakantheswar temple will be revamped, said the official.

"The ponds will be desilted and trees will be planted on their banks ensuring a healthy environment. Boating facility will be introduced at the pond near Ganga temple," said the official, adding that they have sent a detailed report in this regard to the government.

According to sources, the Silver City has more than 200 ponds and many of them are wallowing in neglect. State government's multiple plans for rejuvenation of these water bodies could not materialise for reasons best known to the authorities.

In 2010-11, the state had provided ₹5 crore to CMC for revamp and maintenance of ponds. Although CMC revamped a few water bodies, the work could not proceed further owing to the lack of transparency over fixation of responsibility.

HYMN FOR THE LORD



A Bhajan Samaroh was organised by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre at Bharjakala Mandap, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Ocean tourism needs to sustainably build resilience of communities

Drawing on 32 case studies and examples from 23 countries to identify a set of priorities designed to help catalyse systemic change in destination-wide management through strategic investment and intervention by governments to support sustainable recovery from the pandemic, the report provides a holistic assessment of the current state of coastal and marine tourism

A latest report on ocean and tourism across the world proposes a framework that encourages action to reduce the negative impact on the local environment and build resilience to threats and future shocks in view of climate change.

Coastal and marine tourism constitutes approximately 50 per cent of all global tourism, equal to \$4.6 trillion or 5.2 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP). Tourism constitutes the largest economic sector for most Small

Island Developing States (SIDS) and many coastal states.

In a business-as-usual scenario, coastal and marine tourism is expected to represent the largest ocean economy sector by 2030 (measured by GDP) and employ approximately 8.5 million people, second only to small-scale fisheries in terms of employment.

"(However), the health and beauty of these ecosystems, the very thing that draws people to coastal and marine destinations, continue to be threatened by tourism itself," pointed out the re-



port titled 'Opportunities for transforming coastal and marine tourism: Towards sustainability, regeneration and resilience'.

Coastal and marine tourism is highly dependent on the quality of coastal and marine ecosystems to attract visitors, but the continued depletion and degradation of these natural assets is

putting the sustainability and viability of the industry, along with the local communities that rely on it, at risk, said the report released coinciding with the UN Ocean Conference with more than 150 countries collectively agreeing to scale up science-based and innovative actions to address the ocean emergency.

Pointing out that the current model of coastal and marine tourism is inherently unsustainable, characterised by high levels of economic leakage, seasonality and vulnerability to natural and economic shocks, the authors of the report said, "Mass tourism in and around coastal cities leads to higher costs of living and relatively lower purchasing power for many locals.

"This situation is exacerbated by the seasonal nature of coastal and marine tourism, in particular in islands, contributing to job insecurity, low wages and high workload, affecting the wellbeing of locals and their access to resources."

The report also warned that systemic change will not occur without significant long term policies and regulatory commitments from governments to attract and support investments targeting sustainable and regenerative forms of tourism and provide the stability required by the private sector to confidently pursue new business models.

Drawing on 32 case studies and examples from 23 countries to iden-

tify a set of priorities designed to help catalyse systemic change in destination-wide management through strategic investment and intervention by governments to support sustainable recovery from the Covid pandemic, the report provides a holistic assessment of the current state of coastal and marine tourism.

Most importantly, it proposes a framework that encourages action simultaneously across three pillars: Reducing the negative impacts of tourism on the local environment, economy and community; regenerating ecosystems, local markets and communities, and building resilience to threats and future shocks and crises.

The lead author of the report is Eliza Northop, who led a team of 23 experts from across the globe. It had two Indian experts, Joyashree Roy and Shreya Some, one a professor and another a researcher at the Jadavpur University in Kolkata. Both are currently working with the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.

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1,972 villages grapple with high iron content in water



UNSAFE TO DRINK

There is resentment among people of 41 villages who consume water with fluoride content
Groundwater in 26 villages is very salty while water in six villages contains nitrate
The RWSS has issued an order to make provision of piped drinking water in these villages

villages of Jagatsinghpur contains fluoride and iron; water in 13 villages of Kalahandi has fluoride, iron and nitrate content and 404 villages in Kandhamal are affected by fluoride and iron contents in water. In Malkangiri, there are 299 villages where groundwater contains fluoride, iron and nitrate while groundwater in 110 villages of Rayagada has contents of fluoride and iron.
However, the report denied presence of harmful contents in groundwater under RWSS divisions of Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Anandapur and Nuapada.
But the report prepared by the member secretary of the SPCB May 23 said that the groundwater in the areas around Joda east iron ore mines; Tata Steel Joda West mines; Sirajuddin iron ore mines in Balda; KN Ram and Core Roida-2 iron ore mines and KP Enterprises Thakurani iron ore mines has high iron content.
Besides, groundwater in Angul Township and Banrpal areas contains nitrate while the groundwater in Kuanpur in Balasore contains high level of fluoride.
Similarly, iron content remains high in the groundwater of Kamarda mining area in Jajpur; Angul Nalco Township and Kulad; Nuapada government hospital area and Court Chhahk in Kendrapara.
As per RWSS report, Bolangir has 11 villages where groundwater contains fluoride and iron; water in 106

ful, the RWSS has issued an order to make provision of piped drinking water in these villages.
On the other hand, the RWSS and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) have prepared reports about the status of the groundwater, but there are discrepancies in the two reports.
The engineer-in-chief of the RWSS department has June 30 sought reports from the superintending engineers and executive engineers of all the divisions about provision of piped drinking water to all these villages. They were told to update the IMIS portal with suggested modalities.
Under the 23 divisions of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department in the state, groundwater in 2,045 villages contains fluoride, high iron content and salt, reports said.
There is resentment among people of 41 villages over consumption of water with fluoride content. Likewise, groundwater in 26 villages is very salty and water in six villages contains nitrate. As groundwater in all these villages is harmful, the RWSS has issued an order to make provision of piped drinking water in these villages.
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POURING WOES



The premises of Larambha High School transformed under 5T scheme in Attabira block of Bargarh district was waterlogged due to heavy rain, Tuesday OP/PHOTO

Mao leader Sabyasachi undergoes surgery

POST NEWS NETWORK
Berhampur, July 5: Dreaded Mao leader Sabyasachi Panda, who is currently lodged in Berhampur Circle Jail, was Tuesday hospitalised for a surgery in his ears at Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati (MKCG) Medical College & Hospital here in Ganjam district.
The Mao leader was taken to the hospital amid tight security. Panda's lawyer said he was admitted to the ENT department of the hospital.
According to sources, Panda, currently serving life sentence, had complained of pain in his ears



and teeth a few days back. After a brief consultation and a checkup in the jail hospital, the doctor advised him to undergo a surgery.
A team led by ENT assistant professor Mamata Sahu conducted the surgery on Panda. While his condition is stated to be stable, he is still

150 students of Bonai Ashram School taken ill

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bonai, July 5: More than 150 girl students of Phatatanga Ashram School under Koida block in Sundargarh district were hospitalised due to suspected food poisoning after taking lunch at the hostel, Tuesday.
While the exact reason behind the food poisoning is yet to be known, the students complained of stomachache and vomiting soon after eating the food served during the lunch. Initially, the Ashram authorities carried out treatment of the ill students at the hostel. But when their condition worsened, they were admitted to K Balanga hospital.
Later, they were referred to sub-divisional hospital in Bonai. Of them, five have been shifted to the Rourkela Government Hospital after their condition worsened.
As many as 200 girl students have been studying in the Ashram school, reports said.

112 missing Ganjam girls rescued since Jan

Many children were rescued from shops and hotels where they started working, while some were even found at their relatives' places

POST NEWS NETWORK
Berhampur, July 5: As many as 115 missing children from Ganjam district were rescued since January, police said Tuesday. Among those rescued were 112 girls, they said.
While 23 girls were rescued from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, 14 others were found from different parts of the district during the special drive, Superintendent of Police Brijesh Rai said. Many children were rescued from shops and hotels where they started working, while some were even found at their relatives' places, he said.
Several girls were also rescued from their boyfriends, he said.
Several teenaged girls ran away with their boyfriends, following which missing complaints were lodged by their parents, the SP

Rickety infra bane of Baliapal Girls' High School; admin mute



POST NEWS NETWORK
Baliapal, July 5: Although the state government is taking up a slew of measures to ensure quality education for girls, there are several areas where the developmental initiatives fail to reach. Over 300 girls of Baliapal Government Girls' High School under this block in Balasore district studying in a dilapidated school building is a case in point.
In the absence of opportunities, these girls have to risk their lives and study in a dilapidated asbestos roofed building of their school which developed cracks during the last cyclonic storm.
The situation is so worse that studies get hampered even during a brief spell of rain as rainwater enters the classrooms. Students are also deprived of playing in the playground which often remains flooded with drain water and effluents discharged from various shops in the area.
The guardians have warned of an agitation if new classrooms are not constructed and the playground is not developed.
The school has never caught the attention of the state government and is dying a slow death because of neglect and administrative apathy. The school has 17 teaching and non-teaching staffs.
Sources said the school was established way back in 1968 but it never received the attention it deserved as an old school. No one from the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department or from the district administration or any public representative has ever spared a thought for improvement of the school.
Every year hundreds of girls enrol themselves in this school, but the school grappling with poor infrastructure hardly fulfils their dreams.
Kali Charan Jena, the school managing committee chairman, said he has informed the local MLA and BEO about the plight of the school.
Headmistress Sulata Patra said they have submitted written complaints to the departmental officials, the S&ME minister, local MLA and MP but the problems are yet to be resolved.

15 injured as bus overturns in Buguda

Buguda: At least 15 passengers were injured after a Bhanjanagar-bound bus from Buguda overturned at Panigidi in Ganjam district, Tuesday. Fire personnel rescued the injured passengers and admitted them to Buguda hospital. Buguda police reached the spot and launched an investigation. The driver, who was allegedly driving the vehicle under the influence of alcohol, is absconding. Eyewitnesses claimed that the mishap occurred due to overspeeding.

Villagers risk life wading through Nagavali

POST NEWS NETWORK
Rayagada, July 5: The residents in the tribal-dominated Khilmsguda village under Sadar block of this district have to risk their lives while crossing the Nagavali river to avail healthcare and education services at Jemadipentha, as there is no bridge across the river, a report said.
In fact, they remain disconnected from the outer world for days together during the monsoon in the absence of a bridge across the river. In case of emergency, they do not mind risking their lives to cross the river and avail the services which are essential for their daily survival.
Reports said the state government has been taking a host of measures for the development of the tribal-dominated regions of the state. However, these developmental initiatives are still a far cry in many remote pockets, locals rued.
The plight of Khilmsguda village under Kereda panchayat of Sadar block is a case in point.
The state government had given its approval for construction of a



State government approved a bridge project across Nagavali river March 8, 2019
Construction of the bridge is only halfway with the contractor having built only two roofs of the bridge. Meanwhile, the contractor has abandoned the project
The project implemented by Rural Development department was scheduled to be completed by March 7, 2021
bridge across Nagavali by signing an agreement with a contractor March 8, 2019. The high-level bridge was planned at an outlay of ₹12 crore for a 0.7-km stretch from Sheshkhal to Khilmsguda. A tender was floated for the purpose and contractor Seemanchal Nimalpuri was awarded the contract.
The project implemented by the Rural Development department was scheduled to be completed by March 7, 2021. However, the construction of the bridge is only halfway with the contractor having built only two roofs of the bridge. Meanwhile, the contractor has abandoned the project.
While students are finding it difficult to attend their schools, people are seen carrying patients and pregnant women on slings and

wade through the river to reach the hospitals on the other side of the river. "The situation is frightful as well as painful when someone falls sick or if a pregnant woman experiences labour pain at night," said villagers Kamala Chandra and Manoj Kumar Tadingi.
They alleged that there is no one to listen to their plights when the state government is insisting on completion of every developmental project within the deadline under 5T initiative.
When contacted, chief executive officer, rural works division, Pradipta Kumar Mohanty said the contractor is delaying the work for which a proposal has been given to the state government to assign the work to some other agency by floating a fresh tender.
It is alleged that the villagers are paying a heavy price as the project work has been affected by apathy of the rural works division and the contractor's whimsical way of working.
In this situation, nobody here knows when the fresh tender will be floated and the bridge completed, the report added.

3 labourers critical in crusher unit blast

POST NEWS NETWORK
Deogaon, July 5: At least three labourers sustained critical injuries when a nitrogen gas cylinder exploded at a stone crusher unit near Bhutiabahal village under Deogaon police limits in Bolangir district Tuesday.
The victims were identified as Debashis Bagdi, Rajan Bagdi and Bikash Bagdi of Bankura district in neighbouring West Bengal. The injured were rushed to Bhima

Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir from where Debashis was shifted to a private hospital in Bargarh. Locals alleged that the stone crusher units use explosives without precautions. But the district administration and police have remained mute spectators to this.
Factories and boiler director Bibekananda Patel began an investigation and revealed that these labourers were engaged here without official registration.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
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PUBLIC NOTICE
KHANDBANDH IRON ORE MINES OF M/s. SREE METALIKS LTD., KHANDBANDH, KEONJHAR, ODISHA
It is informed to all concerned that Khandbandh Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Sree Metaliks Ltd., located in village(s) Khandbandh, Tahasil-Barbil, Dist.-Keonjhar, Odisha has obtained the Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha under Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India vide EC identification No. EC22B001OR133726 dt. 30.06.2022 for enhanced iron ore production capacity of iron ore from 0.702 Million TPA to 1.50 Million TPA over mining lease area of 35.774 Ha in village-Khandbandh, Tahasil-Barbil, Dist.-Keonjhar, Odisha. The details of the above, related to Environmental Clearance are available at the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha and the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India. (https://parivesh.nic.in/ or http://environmentclearance.nic.in/)
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ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA), Orissa)
To, The Director SREE METALIKS LTD. SML House, Main Road, Barbil, Keonjhar, Odisha - 758035
Subject: Grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Project Activity under the provision of EIA Notification 2006-regarding
Sir/Madam, This is in reference to your application for Environmental Clearance (EC) in respect of project submitted to the SEIAA vide proposal number SIA/OR/MINE/1542/2007 dated 08/Mar/2022. The particulars of the environmental clearance granted to the project are as follows:
1. EC Identification No. EC22B001OR133726
2. File No. 22242/S&M/1103/2022
3. Project Type. Exploitation
4. Category. B (i) Mining of minerals
5. Project/Activity including Schedule No. Mining of minerals
6. Name of Project. Khandbandh Iron Ore Mines of Sree Metaliks Ltd.
7. Name of Company/Organization. SREE METALIKS LTD. Keonjhar
8. Location of Project. Barbil, Keonjhar, Odisha
9. TOR Date. 25 Jun 2008
The project details along with terms and conditions are appended herewith from page no 2 onwards.
Date: 30/06/2022
(e-signed) Smt Susanta Nanda Member Secretary SEIAA - (Orissa)
Note: A valid environmental clearance shall be one that has EC identification number & E-Sign generated from PARIVESH. Please quote identification number in all future correspondence. This is a computer generated cover page.

EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
No. MCS/Stores/E-Procure/Tender Notice/211, Dtd : 27.06.2022
The following tenders have been uploaded on website www ireps.gov.in
TENDER NO. 92225551
DESCRIPTION : ROOF MOUNTED AC PACKAGE UNIT (1 NO.) MEANS ONE RMPU PACKAGE UNIT WITHOUT MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLER UNIT WHICH INCLUDES RESILIENT MOUNTING, FLEXIBLE DUCT (BELLOWS), CONNECTORS COMPLETE WITH PLUGS AND SOCKETS FOR ELECTRICAL CONNECTION, SWITCH PANEL AND ACCESSORIES AS PER CLAUSE 2.2 OF RDSO SPEC NO. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0061-2005 (REV-1) OR LATEST FOR LHB VARIANT AC COACHES WITH R-407-C REFRIGERANT & CONFORMING TO CANVAS DUCT SPEC. NO. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0136 (REV-0) 2009 OR LATEST DRG. NO. RDSO/PE/SK/AC/0069-2004 (REV-3) OR LATEST EARTHING LUG ARRANGEMENT ON RMPU SHALL BE AS PER DRG. NO. ICF/SK-3-7-6-035. NOTE: PACKING INSTRUCTION AS FOLLOWS: SPECIAL CONDITIONS : 1-ROOF MOUNTED AC PACKAGE UNIT SHALL BE PACKED WITH CORRUGATED PAPER WITH WATER PROOF JUTE FABRIC AND SUPPLIED AND STAGED IN PALLETS. THE PALLETS SHOULD BE PAINTED AND HAVE FIRM'S LOGO FOR IDENTIFICATION, QTY.:17 NOS.
Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of 20.07.2022.
By, Chief Materials Manager/CRW/PR-25/22/23 Mancheswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ETCECONIBBS 2022058, Dated : 24.06.2022
NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF MISCELLANEOUS WORKS LIKE PLATFORM SHELTERS, HIGH LEVEL CROSSING WORKS, ROAD DIVERSION WORKS, STATION CIRCULATING AREA DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH 3RD & 4TH LINE BETWEEN MERAMANDALI STATION TO BUDHAPANK STATION IN EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1368.33 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 8,34,200/-, Completion Period of the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months.
Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 hrs. of 26.07.2022.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : http://www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signatory Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.
The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.
Chief Administrative Officer (Cony) PR-39/CF/22-23 Bhubaneswar

FOCUS STATE BUDGET

CRIPPLING RESOURCE CRUNCH



The finance minister has tried to present a pro-people budget with limited resources, but could not address the sufferings of the pandemic victims, especially families that have lost earning members

On July 2, 2022, Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari, presented the full state budget for fiscal 2022-23 with a total outlay of ₹2 lakh crore. On March 30, he had presented an interim budget for ₹2 lakh crore having a provision of a maximum of ₹1.06 lakh crore for the first four months of the current fiscal. Like previous years, this year also the budget was presented in two parts – ‘agriculture budget’ and ‘general budget’ along with statements on gender budget, SDG budget, child budget, climate budget, and nutrition budget.

Further fiscal risk statements, fiscal strategy reports, and status papers on public debt have been presented. A “Budget Stabilization Fund” worth ₹10,000 crore has been created – for the first time in India – to mitigate any revenue shock in future. According to Pujari, the budget is in line with the government’s transformational agenda under “5T” and “Mo Sarkar” and will meet the aspirations of the people of the state. The budget has evoked mixed reactions. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik described it as progressive and pro-people, while the Opposition dubbed it as disappointing, outmoded and lacklustre.

Normally, the budgetary outlay is decided in tandem with an expected rise in nominal GDP growth. The interim budget assumed a nominal GDP growth of 12.7 per cent and a real GDP of 9.9 per cent for the current fiscal. Thus, for working out all fiscal indicators, the nominal GDP is estimated to be ₹7.19 lakh crore for 2022-23. However, in the present budget, probably in view of inflation and recessionary tendencies, the finance minister has trimmed down the real GDP forecast to 8 to 8.5 per cent for the current fiscal.

Budget outlay for 2021-22 which was estimated to be ₹1.70 lakh crore has shrunk to ₹1.65 lakh crore in a revised estimate. It may be noted that in addition to ₹1.70 lakh crore, Pujari had presented a supplementary budget of ₹19,380 crore December 1, 2021, which proved redundant and a routine affair. Since the budgetary outlay is about 17.6 per cent more than the previous annual budget, the present budget seems to be expansionary.

The finance minister says that in the last 22 years, the size of the

budget has increased by 17 per cent. Actually, in the nominal value, everything - GDP debt, taxes, and expenditure – usually increases. However, in 1999-2000 as a percentage of nominal GDP, the budget size was 16 per cent. It had increased to 19.92 per cent in 2012-13, and further to 25.8 per cent in 2021-22 and is estimated to be 27.8 per cent in 2022-23. This is a welcome feature.

Total Programme Expenditure outlay for the financial year 2022-23 has increased to ₹1,00,000 crore, from ₹75,000 crore in the previous fiscal. This constitutes 50 per cent of the budget size. The administrative expenditure has increased marginally to ₹89,500 crore from ₹85,000 crore in the previous fiscal. Administrative expenditure comprises salary, pension, interest payments. It means the government is not going to create more employment which will dampen the spirit of youths.

In line with the Centre, capital expenditure has increased by 56 per cent to be estimated at ₹38,732 crore equivalent to 5.4 per cent of GDP. This is welcome, but due to the incompleteness of various projects in due time, cost-overflow is increasing.

The finance minister said that the allocation in the first agriculture budget presented in 2013-14 was ₹7166 crore. In the current fiscal, it is estimated to be ₹21,166 crore which is 21 per cent more than the previous fiscal. This increase is welcome, though in nominal terms. However, never a discussion has been held on the extra benefit of presenting a special agricultural budget. Still, there is no substantial increase in irri-

gated land. Many cold storages are out of order. Further, we are still depending on other states for potatoes, onions, fish.

The state’s revenue receipts comprise its own tax revenue, non-tax revenue, the state’s share in the central tax, and the grant-in-aid from the Centre. According to the Fifteenth Finance Commission, states bear more than 62 per cent of expenditure responsibilities but are given only 37 per cent of revenue-raising power, while the Union government owns 63 per cent of revenue-raising power to spend on 38 per cent of its expenditure responsibilities.

The states should, therefore, get more from the Central fund, but the disconcerting news is that the state’s share of the Central tax is declining. Over the years, the Union government has made use of cesses and surcharges an additional revenue mobilisation measures in which states have no share. The levy on account of cesses and surcharges is very high at ₹3,72,971 crore during 2020-21 and is increasing every year. The state’s dependence on Central transfers has reduced with the state’s own revenue contributing about 57.45 per cent to the total revenue pool.

In its total revenue receipts, Odisha’s share from Central tax was 38.12 per cent in 2017-18, but it has declined to 23.83 per cent in 2021-22. In 2022-23, it is estimated to decline further to 22.55 per cent. Similarly, in its total revenue receipts, Odisha’s share from the Centre’s grant-in-aid was 20.73 per cent in 2016-17. But gradually it has declined to 15.31 per cent in 2021-

22, though estimated to be 20 per cent in the current fiscal.

The state’s own tax/GSDP ratio is estimated at 6.40 per cent in 2021-22 and has increased by 6.50 per cent in the revised estimate. However, it is estimated to be 6.40 per cent in 2022-23. It should touch 6.75 per cent as per the Thirteenth Finance Commission. Many states have a lower tax-GSDP ratio than Odisha. But Odisha is witnessing a massive increase in non-tax revenue due to a rise in mining royalties. But this is not sustainable as mineral resources are not unlimited. The state government should explore other avenues to raise resources.

The state has adhered to fiscal discipline as all fiscal parameters are within the prescribed limits. The revenue receipt for 2022-23 is estimated at ₹1,63,966.52 crore and the revenue expenditure is at ₹1,45,727.29 crore. The revenue surplus is of the order of ₹18,239 crore, which would be 2.5 per cent of GSDP. The estimated fiscal deficit of ₹21,588 crore amounts to 3 per cent of the GSDP. The total debt is estimated to be ₹1,12,400 crore by the end of the current fiscal which is equivalent to 15.6 per cent of GSDP.

There was tremendous pressure from the Centre on state governments to stop welfare schemes as the Centre wants to squeeze the power of states. However, the finance minister has not succumbed to such pressure. According to budget, the social sector accounts for 34 per cent of the total outlay. The finance minister has tried to present a pro-people budget with limited resources, but could not address the sufferings of the pandemic victims, especially families that have lost earning members. No attempt was made to revive sick industries.

The major problems of today are unemployment, inflation, and costlier health and education. Hence a huge revenue surplus is unwarranted when the economy is plagued by stagflation. Money should have been spent more on creating jobs and providing financial assistance to those who have lost jobs and livelihoods during the pandemic. The impediment may be a resource crunch. The Finance minister should make a special effort to raise resources.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.



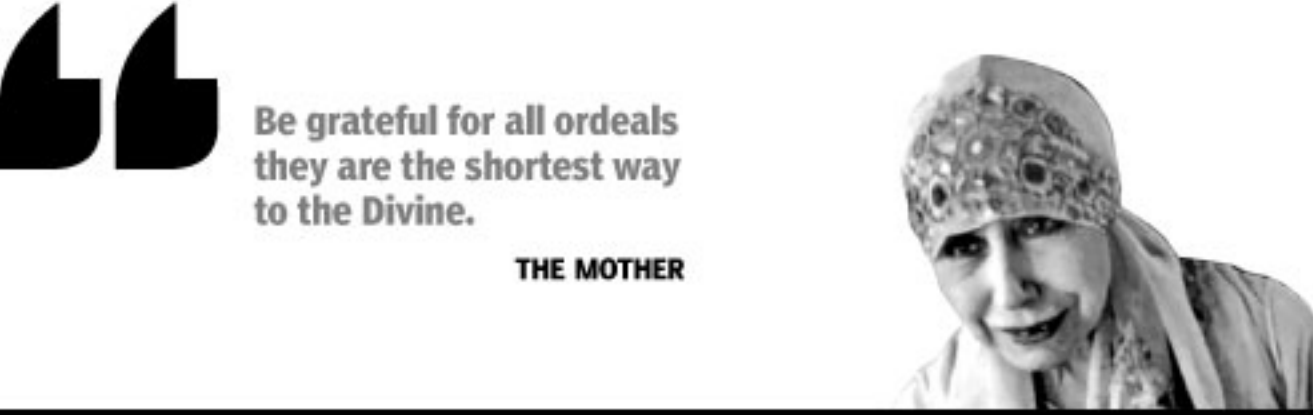
Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

THE STATE HAS ADHERED TO FISCAL DISCIPLINE AS ALL FISCAL PARAMETERS ARE WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED LIMITS



Ian Buruma

The danger of injecting a religious agenda into politics or law goes further than eroding the autonomy of secular institutions. It makes reasoned political debate impossible



Be grateful for all ordeals they are the shortest way to the Divine.

THE MOTHER

Religion & State

According to a Pew Research Center survey in March of this year, 61% of Americans believe that abortion should be legal in most cases. Even so, the US Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion established in its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

No wonder the reaction has been fierce. One Democratic congresswoman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, called for two Supreme Court justices to be impeached for lying under oath during their Senate confirmation hearings. Panicked commentators warn of the end of democracy in the United States. Others blame misogyny and “theatrical masculinity.”

Less attention is paid to one important element in America’s abortion debate: the steady ascendancy in American public life of a deeply reactionary strain of Catholicism. Of course, Catholics are no less divided than anyone else on many issues, including the right to abortion. Liberal Catholics, such as President Joe Biden and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, as well as many of the roughly 50% of Catholics who voted for Democrats, support a constitutional right to abortion. The same is true of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, one of the three liberals on the Supreme Court. But five of the nine Supreme Court justices adhere to an ultra-conservative brand of Catholicism which holds that even an embryo has a soul and thus is sacrosanct.

Samuel Alito, who wrote the majority opinion overturning Roe, cited the seventeenth-century English jurist, Matthew Hale, who considered abortion to be murder (he also believed in witches). Such views are far from the mainstream of contemporary American life. But radical Catholics – for that is what they are – have been a driving force behind the anti-abortion cause for nearly a half-century.

Even conservative Protestants supported the Roe outcome at the time. The Southern Baptist Convention stated in 1973 that “religious liberty, human equality, and justice are advanced by the Supreme Court abortion decision.” And yet, a decade later, evangelical conservatives, fearful that a wave of progressive secularism would threaten such cherished institutions as racially segregated Christian colleges, began to make common cause with radical Catholics. Roe became their rallying point. Their common goal was to break down the wall separating church and state, so carefully erected by the Constitution’s framers.

Some radicals now even claim that the separation of church and state was never actually intended. In the words of Far-right Republican congresswoman Lauren Boebert: “I’m tired of this separation of church and state junk that’s not in the Constitution.”

But things are moving fast. Just days after overturning Roe, the Supreme Court decided that a football coach in Washington state should have the right to conduct post-game prayer meetings at his public high school. This, too, is a break with precedent barring religious expression, as a private matter, from public institutions like schools.

The radicals appeal to “religious freedom.” If a football coach wants to pray at football games, surrounded by players who might not wish to invite his disapproval, he is only exercising his right to free speech and religious belief.

But the separation between church and state, at least in mostly Protestant democracies, such as the US, was meant precisely to defend religious freedom. Whereas the French notion of laïcité was intended to keep the Catholic clergy from interfering in public affairs, the US Constitution was devised to protect religious authority from state intervention, as well as vice versa.

One reason why the Protestant elites in the US were suspicious of Catholics until not so long ago, apart from snobbish anti-Irish or anti-Italian sentiment, was the fear that Catholics would be more loyal to their faith, and thus to the authority of the Vatican, than to the US Constitution. That is why in 1960, as he campaigned for president, John F. Kennedy had to stress his belief “in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute, where no Catholic prelate would tell the president (should he be Catholic) how to act...”

What those Protestant elites feared is now a real threat. Catholic radicals and Protestant zealots are actively trying to impose their religious beliefs onto the public realm. Alito, as well as other Catholics, such as former Attorney General William Barr, see secularism as a threat (in Barr’s words) to “the traditional moral order.” That is to say, a strict interpretation of the Christian moral order. Marriage, according to Alito, is a “sacred institution between one man and one woman.” One day – and possibly soon – he may decide to overturn the Court’s seven-year-old decision recognising a federal right to same-sex marriage.

The danger of injecting a religious agenda into politics or law goes further than eroding the autonomy of secular institutions. It makes reasoned political debate impossible. Politics is not value-free, of course. There is nothing wrong with a politician, or indeed a jurist, who believes that religious values matter. But there is a serious problem when religious orthodoxy trumps all other considerations.

The Israeli philosopher Avishai Margalit described this succinctly in his book On Compromise and Rotten Compromises. In “politics as economics,” material interests are “subject to bargaining, everything is negotiable, whereas in the religious picture, centered on the idea of the holy, the holy is non-negotiable.”

This, then, is why politics in the US is now in such a perilous state. More and more, the secular Left and the religious Right are engaged in a culture war, revolving around sexuality, gender, and race, where politics is no longer negotiable. When that happens, institutions start breaking down, and the stage is set for charismatic demagogues and the politics of violence.

The writer is an editor and author.
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IN JEST THIS

When you love someone, does age matter?

If you’re in your mid-twenties and looking for a life partner, you probably have a long list of requirements, pertaining to variables such as religion, education, occupation, height and age. But perhaps you’ve met someone who seems perfect or close-to-perfect in all respects, except one. You’re willing to compromise, but need to find a way to keep your father from suffering a heart attack when you bring home someone who witnessed the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

You’re rehearsing what to say to your father and imagining how he’ll respond:

You: “Age is just a number, Dad.”

Father: “Have you seen his birth record? Was it etched in stone?”

You: “He is young at heart, Dad.”

Father: “What about his other organs? Is he young at lungs? Young at kidneys?”

You: “He’s in good shape, Dad. He plays tennis weekly.”

Father: “How weakly? Can he get the ball over the net?”

An age difference of more than

four decades may seem unfathomable, but it certainly happens now and then. The Guinness World Record for age difference between married partners is 63 years. Gertrude Grubb Janeway was only 18 when she married John Janeway, a veteran of the American Civil War, on June 9, 1927. And Gertrude undoubtedly said to her parents: “We’re perfect for each other. After all, 18 and 81 are almost the same number.”

Compared to them, the age difference between actress Priyanka Chopra and singer Nick Jonas seems insignificant. They were 36 and he was 26 when they got married in 2019. But the relationship raised some eyebrows because Priyanka was just the right age to marry a Hollywood actor old enough to be Nick’s dad.

Hollywood actors in their 50s and 60s don’t generally marry women in their 20s and 30s who make them feel young. Alec Baldwin was 53 when he married 27-year-old Hilaria Thomas. George Clooney

was also 53 when he married 36-year-old Amal Alamuddin. And Clint Eastwood was 66 when he married 31-year-old Dina Ruiz.

By marrying an older woman, Nick Jonas broke the rules of celebritydom. And he may have received some angry texts from fellow celebrities.

Tom Cruise: “Nick, you’re setting a bad example. Just the other day, an old woman propositioned me. I think she was 60-something!”

Nick: “How old are you, Tom?”

Tom: “I just turned 60. What’s your point?”

Nick, of course, is not the only male celebrity to have an older spouse, but in 99 per cent of marriages with large age differences, it’s the man who’s considerably older. The same lopsidedness is evident among ordinary people. If you’re a waiter in a restaurant and an older woman walks in with a young man, you can safely assume that they aren’t a couple. But if an older man walks in with a young woman, don’t take the man’s order and then say, “And what can I get

for your daughter?”

The safe approach is to make no assumptions whatsoever. They could be husband and wife, father and daughter or even coach and athlete. Anything is possible.

When it comes to age differences, perhaps it’s better to allow people to make their own choices, as long as they’re consenting adults who aren’t victims of undue influence. After all, they are the ones who will spend their lives with a spouse who’s 25 years older.

If 25 years seems too large a gap, then where do you draw the line? 20? 10? Wherever you draw the line, it’s quite arbitrary. One person may say, “I won’t marry someone more than 10 years older than me,” while another person might say, “I won’t marry someone more than 5 years older than my parents.”

When choosing a partner, age shouldn’t be a make-or-break yardstick. That’s how I feel, but if one of my daughters brings home a man who is my age, you can bet I’ll be taking out the yardstick – and not for any measuring.



Melvin Durai

WHEN CHOOSING A PARTNER, AGE SHOULDN'T BE A MAKE-OR-BREAK YARDSTICK

Shun violence

Sir, Renowned Irish novelist Oliver Goldsmith has said: “Where wealth accumulates, men decay.” It is a statement of everlasting importance. Mindless killing of innocent civilians during Independence Day celebrations has once again exposed the perils of gun culture in the United States of America. Killing is not heroism. It is an act of cowardice. Killing of innocent school children by deviants has become a recurring event in America. What has happened to the most powerful country in the world! It is shocking and shameful. Money making is not vicious, but it is a matter of concern, when it snatches away our peace of mind and tranquility. It is not a sin to make money, but it is unethical to forget one’s divinity and core values. Gun culture is not in sync with ethics and moral propriety. Mahatma Gandhi’s eternal principle of truth and non-violence can erase violence and bloodshed in the world. Ahimsa is the farthest limit of humility. Truth and non-violence are as old as hills. Let us walk on Mahatma Gandhi’s path to create a society sans violence and hatred.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Food gets costlier

Sir, By bringing many items of food and everyday use under the tax net, the GST Council ultimately gave a big blow to the common people. By deferring the increase of the tax bracket to twenty-eight per cent on casinos, horse racing, online gaming and lottery; the central government has lost the big source of revenue generation. The food items like canned meat-fish, curd, buttermilk, cheese, honey, papad, wheat, soybean, coarse grains, jaggery, puffed rice are now brought under the bracket of five per cent GST. Bringing these essential items under the tax net, as recommended by a Group of Ministers from the committee itself, means that the common people will now have to spend a lot on food. When inflation has already broken the back of the common man how can the imposition of five per cent GST on things like curd, buttermilk, wheat be justified? Even items like atlas, maps, which are useful in the education of children, have also been brought under 12 per cent taxes. GST has also been increased to 12 per cent on hotel rooms renting less than ₹1,000 per day. In the last five years post implementation of GST; most of the states have expressed their dissatisfaction on the tax rates and compensation system.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

WORDSWORTH

Tru Penny

Though it appeared earlier, this word is best remembered because it features in Hamlet, in the scene in which his father’s ghost tells Hamlet of his murder and asks him to avenge it. When Marcellus and Horatio enter, the ghost cries from the cellar below for them to swear that they will never divulge what Hamlet is about to tell them. Hamlet shouts to his father, “Art thou there, tru’penny?” It was a term of affection, comparing an honest or trustworthy man to a genuine coin. This may strike us today as not being important, when pennies are mere tokens made of base metal, but in Shakespeare’s day, pennies were silver and were comparatively valuable. Counterfeiting was rife. The word has never been common. Sometimes it appears as a direct quote of Hamlet’s words, as a humorous way of asking “who’s there?” At one time, attempts were made to derive it from Greek *trupanon*, a borer, from which we derive the name of the surgical instrument *trepan*.

LOL

WEARING GLASSES

A policeman stops a lady and asks for her license. He says: “Lady, it says here that you should be wearing glasses.”



The woman answered “Well, I have contacts.” The policeman replied: “I don’t care who you know! You’re getting a ticket!”

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, Rasulgarg Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

Autorickshaw outpaced Mercedes (car). Because this is a government of the common man

Now goodwill is at all time low Prime Minister, sir. Your goodwill is at all time low and everyday it is crossing a new bench mark

I have also been apprised that the big hospitals located in Lucknow and other districts of the state where there is a dire need of specialist doctors, a large number of them have been removed but no replacement has been given in their place

SHORT TAKES

Droupadi Murmu visits Patna

Patna: A rousing welcome was given to NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu when she arrived in Patna Tuesday to seek support for the July 18 election.

EAM to visit Indonesia July 7

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is set to join his counterparts from China, Russia, the US and other member nations of the G20 grouping at a meeting in Indonesia this week which is set to discuss the Ukraine conflict that has fuelled a global food and energy crisis.

India, Iran discuss Chabahar port

New Delhi: India's Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra Tuesday spoke to Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani and discussed various bilateral issues, according to a Ministry of External Affairs statement.

Do farmers go for crop diversification or not?

New Delhi, July 5: A conference of state food ministers on 'Food and Nutrition Security in India' Tuesday may have sent contrasting signals to the states when it comes to crop diversification.

Ex-judges criticise SC's Nupur remarks

The group, comprising 15 high court judges, 77 ex-all India services officers and 25 veterans, alleged that the "unfortunate" comments are not in sync with the judicial ethos and have sent "shockwaves" in the country and outside

New Delhi, July 5: The legal fraternity Tuesday appeared cleaved over the inculpatory observations made by the Supreme Court against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, with a group of former judges alleging the bench crossed the "Laxman Rekha" but a top lawyers' body finding no fault with the oral observations made by the court in the course of a hearing.



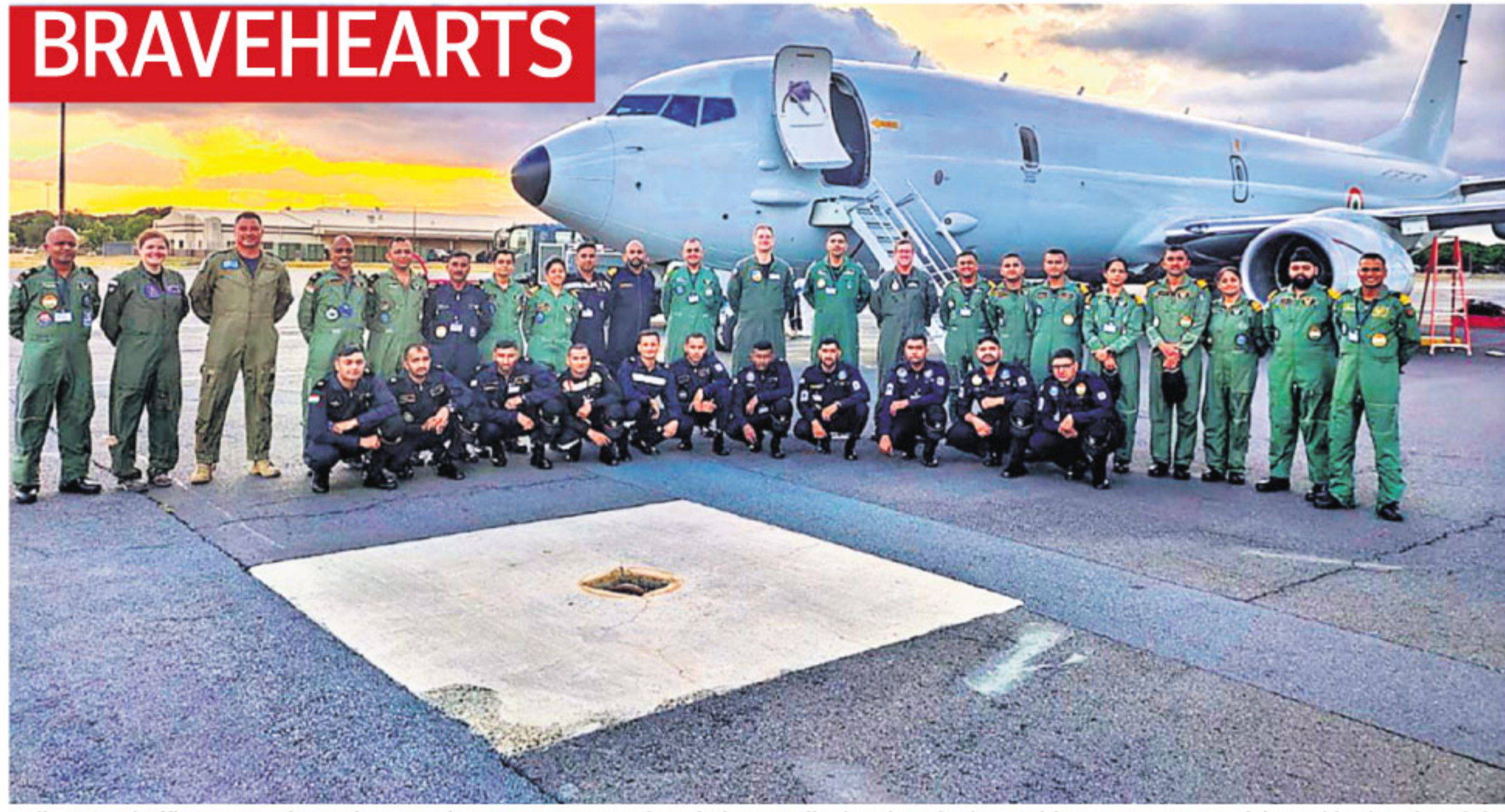
scar on the justice system of the largest democracy. Urgent rectification steps are called for as these have potentially serious consequences on democratic values and security of the country," they said in a signed statement.

chairperson and senior advocate Adish C Aggarwala, said, "During the course of hearing of any matter, the judges engage with the counsels. They don't maintain sphinx-like silence."

marks, the bench had said they were made either for cheap publicity, political agenda, or some nefarious activities.

Fresh plea in SC challenging Agnipath scheme

New Delhi, July 5: A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces.



Indian Naval officers pose for a photograph near Navy's P8I aircraft, in Hawaii. The aircraft along with INS Satpura participated in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 exercise

5 candidates file papers on day-one

New Delhi, July 5: Five people, including one who goes by the alias "Ramayani Chaiwala", filed papers Tuesday, the first day of the nomination process for the August 6 vice-presidential election.

Pradesh have filed their nominations for the vice-presidential polls. Anand Singh Khushwaha from Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, who goes by the alias "Ramayani Chaiwala", was also among those who filed nomination papers at the returning officer's office in Parliament.

submit the security deposit of Rs 15,000. The papers of Srimukhalingam were rejected as he failed to submit a certified copy of the entry

Anchor detained amid high drama

Ghaziabad/Raipur, July 5: A police team from Chhattisgarh reached Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad town Tuesday to arrest a TV news anchor from his home for playing a doctored clip of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi but he was taken into custody by the Noida police instead, officials said.



the case. Chhattisgarh police was not able to arrest him and a member of the team led by a DSP-rank officer later alleged obstruction by the local police.



biscuits made of ragi at the venue - was lauded for encouraging millets. And then, while taking feedback from the states about the time consuming audit processes and their submission to the Centre etc, Goyal suddenly donned his avatar as the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry.

quired, we will increase our procurement also." He also exhorted states to increase wheat sowing in October. "The other day, Madhya Pradesh chief minister was telling me, Uttar Pradesh was also telling me, Punjab should also consider. You should increase the sowing of all the crops and look at higher productivity too."

The Chhattisgarh police landed around 5.30 am, while the local Ghaziabad police reached an hour later and the Noida police got there after 8 am, officials said.

by the Noida police. "We have registered a criminal case against Rohit Ranjan at Civil Lines police station in Raipur. We had the arrest warrant and the court order. We came here regarding that in the morning but even after 12 hours the police here (Ghaziabad and Noida) are not informing us about Rohit Ranjan's whereabouts," the official told PTI.



Society should be sensitive about different sexual orientations: HC



“Certain things might appear different in the current social structure and if that difference is evident in any individual the society should be sensitive and get adapted to those changes”
CALCUTTA HC BENCH

Kolkata, July 5: A division bench of the Calcutta High Court without making a direct reference has observed that the society at large should be sensitive about people with different sexual orientation. “Certain things might appear different in the current social structure and if that difference is evident in any individual the society should be sensitive and get adapted to those changes,” Calcutta High Court’s division bench Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Raja Basu Chowdhury observed in a ‘habeas corpus’ case relating to a woman with different sexual

orientation and her parents. The woman concerned, a college student having inclination to same-sex relationship, became a medium of ridicule for her relatives, following which her parents faced questions from different sections of the society, including neighbours and blood relations. Unable to bear these questions and apparent social stigma, the parents arranged for her marriage. With a feeling that the marriage would be another disaster for her as well as her would-be spouse, the woman left home and started residing at an NGO-run home in South Kolkata. The parents reached that home

with the police. However, the woman refused to go with her parents. Instead, she gave a written declaration to the police that she, being an adult, voluntarily decided to stay at the NGO-run home and no one had put pressure on her to do so. She also mentioned in the written declaration that she voluntarily decided to stay away from her ancestral residence, unable to bear the pressure of ridicules from neighbours and blood-relations. The parents approached the division bench of the Calcutta High Court. In the court also the woman clearly said that she did not want to stay with her parents. After examining all related documents as well as the police report, the division bench dismissed the habeas corpus case filed in this connection by the parents. At the same time, the division bench observed that the society should be sensitive about the feelings of the person concerned in such cases. The division bench also observed it is unjust for anyone to totally get isolated from the parents who had faced immense hardship in his or her upbringing and that behaviour too goes against the social values. Speaking to IANS, the counsel for the petitioner and senior counsel of the Calcutta High Court, Kaushik Gupta said that he is extremely happy that the division bench has upheld individual rights as regards to gender identity or sexual preference.



A mahout gives bath to elephants in a river during a hot day at Kohora near Kaziranga National Park in Golaghat district of Assam

Recruitment process of ‘Agniveer’ begins in NE



Imphal/Shillong, July 5: The process of recruitment of ‘Agniveer’ from the northeastern states in the armed forces under the newly launched Agnipath scheme began in the northeastern states, officials

said Tuesday. Defence Spokesman Lt Col Mohit Vaishnava said that Army recruitment rally under the Agnipath Scheme would be held for all districts of Manipur at Bhagat Stadium, Rangapahar Military Station in Dimapur from September 7 to 23. The mandatory online registrations for the candidates

would be open from July 5 and it would continue till August 3. For the current recruiting year, the government has given a relaxation in age by two years. The scheme also allows bonus marks for candidates, who have qualification from government recognised Industrial Training Institutes, the spokesman said.

The Shillong-based Indian Air Force station also invites applications from unmarried male (Indian and Nepalese) candidates for selection test for the Agniveer Vayu Intake under Agnipath scheme. Online examinations would commence from July 24 onwards, another defence spokesman said.

Indian Oil delivers LPG via boats in flood-hit Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 5: In flood-hit Assam, LPG delivery vans of PSU major Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have been replaced by boats for the seamless supply of the fuel to keep the burner flames on, a senior official said Tuesday. At least 180 people have died and more than 89.13 lakh people suffered cumulatively across 34 districts since April 6 in one of the worst floods Assam witnessed in recent times. The challenge increased manifold with severe landslides in several neighbouring states such as Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, Indian Oil Corp Executive Director (IndianOil-AOD) G Ramesh told PTI here. “Indian Oil rose magnificently to the occasion and ensured an uninterrupted supply of LPG as well as petrol and diesel to affected areas. Our dealers and distributor network rolled up their sleeves and also made food and water available to stranded people,” he added. The IOC official particularly praised the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder delivery channels, which never stopped working despite immense difficulties in reaching households that were completely submerged by floodwaters. “The LPG door-to-door delivery continued through boats. Boats replaced delivery vans. This resulted in achieving an enviable LPG cylinder backlog in Assam of only 1.03 days during the peak of floods last week,” he said. Currently, the backlog period for delivery of LPG cylinders has improved to 0.7 day for the entire state, the official said. Ramesh claimed that the waiting period for LPG cylinders in Silchar town and other places of

At least 180 people have died and more than 89.13 lakh people suffered cumulatively across 34 districts since April 6

Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts of Barak valley, which saw unprecedented flooding this time, is just 1.88 days at present. He said that the retail outlets were instructed to prioritise the supply of diesel to mobile tower operators to keep the communication channels alive in the face of continuous power cuts during the massive deluge. The government deployed NDRF, Army and Air Force, besides various state organisations, which required an uninterrupted communication network for relief and rescue operations. “During this crisis, the efforts of the entire team of Indian Oil, primarily our frontline workers, comprising the location staff, contract workers, tank truck crew, security guards, LPG delivery boys, have been unprecedented. These people ensured an uninterrupted supply of essential petroleum products in the region. We are really proud of them and I am happy to be a part of this fabulous team,” Ramesh said. In Silchar, which was under water for more than 10 days, the official said the rail link was cut off for more than a month since the landslides in Dima Hasao. “Landslides in Meghalaya further severed the connectivity of Silchar by road. However, our newly commissioned Moinarbond depot near the city proved to be a saviour. It fulfilled all the local fuel demand,” he said.



Arunachal a living museum of culture



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, July 5: Arunachal Pradesh known for its rich cultural heritage and age-old traditions, is a living museum, state Education, Indigenous Faith and Culture Minister Taba Tedir said here Tuesday. “We do not need to search for culture and traditions unlike in advanced western countries where people visit museums to learn about their lost cultures,” he said while gracing the Dree Festival of the Apatani community here. “Despite diversity in food, dress, language, religion, and regions, we Arunachalees reflect ‘Team Arunachal’ spirit as reiterated by Chief Minister Pema Khandu-led government, which created Indigenous Faith department for documentation, preservation and promotion of ethnic cultures of 26 major tribes and over 100 minor tribes without any distinction,” Tedir said. The Indigenous Faith department has been allocating ₹8.3 lakh annually for last two years to each Assembly constituency for cele-

bration of respective festival after the Centre stopped funding under this head, he said. Terming Apatanis as most educationally advanced, Tedir called upon the elders to pass on the cultures and traditions, being the indigenous identity, to younger generations for preservation for posterity. “The elders and parents being living treasure house of knowledge and that is why Dree celebrated first in 1967 is alive today. They should be respected lest we lose everything,” he cautioned. The present government has also respected the powerful priests (nyibus), the custodians of cultures and traditions, by paying them honorarium; he said and urged the priests not to misuse their power. All festivals of the state, including of Adi, Aka, Apatani, Nyishi, Tagin, Galo, Khampti, Mishmi and Monpa, which unite the people, are related to Mother Earth and agriculture and Arunachalees worship for the humanity, he said and wished the Apatani to live in peace and march for a better tomorrow.

Dumporijo MLA Rodo Bui speaking on the occasion said that history is witness to the fact that Arunachalees have been deep rooted to their cultures and traditions. “There is no place for any violence in this tribal society nor wealth will sustain for long,” he said and appealed to all to live in peace maintaining communal harmony. Highlighting the speedy development of the state capital, Itanagar MLA and chief patron of the celebration committee Techi Kaso said there was time when people used to wait for hours to travel from Naharlagun to Itanagar for only one passenger bus was plying then. Despite tremendous development, the present traffic congestion is due to haphazard parking and lack of positive attitude of the people; he said and advocated to have proper understanding of issues confronting the state capital. “If we remain united toeing ‘pan-Arunachal’ spirit, no force on earth can divide us,” he added. The dignitaries also released the Dree souvenir titled ‘Journey of Capital Complex’.

Murmu in Tripura to muster support

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, July 5: NDA presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu arrived here Tuesday to seek support for the July 18 election and will meet MPs and legislators of ruling BJP and its ally IPFT, Tripura Assembly Speaker Ratan Chakraborty said. Murmu, a former Governor of Jharkhand, was accorded a rousing welcome at Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport here as artistes performed traditional dance. Chief Minister Manik Saha, Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Verma and Union Minister Pratima Bhoomik welcomed Murmu at the airport. Droupadi Murmu, the NDA presidential candidate, arrived here as part of her campaign for the election. She will have a meeting with MPs and MLAs belonging to the BJP and the IPFT in

a city hotel to seek votes for her, the Speaker said. The BJP has 36 MLAs in the 60-member state Assembly, while the Indigenous People’s Front of Tripura has a strength of eight legislators, including Brishketu Debarma who has tendered his resignation that has not been accepted by the Speaker till now. The opposition CPI (M) has 15 MLAs and the Congress has only one legislator. The saffron party has two Lok Sabha MPs, while Rajya Sabha seat from the northeastern state fell vacant after Chief Minister Manik Saha had Monday tendered his resignation from the Upper House of Parliament. Several major opposition parties, including the Congress, the NCP and the TMC, fielded former Union minister Yashwant Sinha as their candidate for the upcoming presidential poll.



Masks disappear in Kolkata Metro, doctors worried

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 5: Metro Railway seems to have dropped its guard even as the number of Covid-19 cases continues to show a rise in Kolkata and the suburbs. While passengers are no longer being asked to wear masks – a precaution prescribed by medical practitioners and supported by the West Bengal government – even officials and medical staff are appearing without them at events that are being publicised, photographs reveal. One of the photographs circulated by the Kolkata Metro is of a medical check-up camp organised at the Belgachia station to celebrate Doctor’s Day Friday. While the lady commuter undergoing the check-up is masked, two health workers sitting close to her have their masks pulled



down to their chins. The second photograph is even more telling. This is during the inauguration of an escalator at the Sovabazar-Sutanuti station Saturday: None of those present, including the child who is cutting the ribbon, is seen wearing masks. “The Metro used to be very strict till a few months ago. Why have they dropped their guard at a time when the number of cases is rising? Even

Saturday, more than 1,400 fresh cases and three deaths were reported. The positivity rate is around 14 per cent. The state government has appealed to people to take all precautions and wear masks,” a doctor associated with the state Health department said. Commuters spend a lot of time in an air-conditioned environment while travelling by Metro. In such confined spaces, even one affected person – even if he is asymptomatic – can spread the infection to several others. People with co-morbidities are at greater risk and many of them have had to be admitted to hospitals with severe complications. Another doctor from the RN Tagore hospital said how several patients with Covid-19 are now getting admitted to the special ward. Some of them are youngsters without known co-morbidities. The

severity of the virus may have reduced but Covid-19 still remains, he reminded. “A few days ago, I returned from Mumbai. They were strict about masks at the airport and on-board the flight, even threatening to offload passengers who do not comply. Several establishments in Kolkata, including shopping malls, have now reimposed the mask rule. This is necessary Metro authorities should take note. After all, it’s not only passengers but their own staff who are at risk,” the doctor said. A Metro Railway official admitted that there has been a bit of laxity in recent times. The problem is the absence of any circular or notice from the Railway Board. Without such a notice, enforcing a rule becomes difficult, as the state government has not yet made masks mandatory in public places.

of the day quote

They (centre) are using force, hooliganism in not allowing MCD elections. We will have to approach the court to get MCD polls conducted on time and we will do it

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Can we expand ONDC to make it the next UPI? I request all of you to have a serious look at it. We believe that ONDC can be the next UPI. Just look how you can leverage it for your business

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION IT MINISTER

We do not need to search for culture and traditions unlike in advanced western countries where people visit museums to learn about their lost cultures

TABA TEDIR | EDUCATION MINISTER OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

ED files chargesheet against Pooja Singhal

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday filed a 5000-page charge sheet in connection with MGNREGA fund scam involving suspended IAS officer Pooja Singhal and others before a special Jharkhand court. Based on documentary evidence, statements, bank transactions and few digital evidence, the ED has named Singhal, mining officials and others as accused in the charge sheet. This is the first charge sheet running over 5000 pages in the matter.

Man stabbed to death in Delhi

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man was stabbed to death by two people, including a juvenile, in the national capital, an official said Tuesday. The accused, identified as Harsh alias Deepanshu alias Kachori (21), and the juvenile, were apprehended in the case. Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Priyanka Kashyap said the incident took place in the intervening night of July 4-5.

Rain continues to lash Karnataka

Bangalore: Heavy and incessant rainfall Tuesday disrupted normal life in several regions of Karnataka with holidays announced for educational institutions. Meanwhile, search for a schoolgirl, who was washed away by floods while returning home from school in Thogarihankal Gram Panchayat limits in Chikkamagalur district on Monday, resumed.

Juvenile held for raping minor

New Delhi: A 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped in the national capital by her 16-year-old juvenile relative, an official said Tuesday, adding that the accused has been apprehended. Deputy Commissioner of Police (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the mother of the victim recently lodged a complaint against the accused stating that her daughter was raped.

Three dead in road accident

Patna: Three persons of a family were killed after a speeding Scorpio rammed a bike in Bihar's Bettiah city of West Champaran district Tuesday. The accident occurred at Bettiah-Lauria main road near Parsa Madhia Chowk. After the accident, the alleged driver left the vehicle on the spot and fled. The deceased are identified as Shiv Mukhiya, Dashrath Mukhiya and Nutan Mukhiya.



THE SAMAJWADI PARTY DOES NOT NEED ADVICE FROM ANYONE

AKHILESH YADAV | PRESIDENT OF SAMAJWADI PARTY

VASTU EXPERT BRUTALLY MURDERED

The police in Karnataka have arrested two persons in connection with the murder of 'Sarala Vastu' fame Chandrashekar Guruji at a hotel in Unakal near Hubballi earlier Tuesday. The police managed to arrest Manjunath Dummavada and Mahantesh Shirur -- within four hours after Guruji was stabbed to death, from Ramdurg town in Belagavi district



DOUBLE TROUBLE
SpiceJet plane lands with cracked outer windshield

This is at least the 7th incident of technical malfunction happening on SpiceJet aircraft in the last 17 days

New Delhi, July 5: A Q400 plane of SpiceJet Tuesday conducted a priority landing at the Mumbai airport after its windshield cracked at 23,000 feet altitude, according to officials of aviation regulator DGCA.

This is at least the seventh incident of technical malfunction happening on SpiceJet aircraft in the last 17 days. Earlier in the day, SpiceJet's Delhi-Dubai flight was diverted to Karachi as the fuel indicator started malfunctioning.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating the two incidents which took place Tuesday, along with the previous five incidents, the officials noted. Officials said the Kandla-Mumbai flight of SpiceJet was at 23,000 feet altitude when the windshield's outer pane cracked. The pilots then con-

ducted priority landing at the Mumbai airport, they said. Reacting on the latest incident, SpiceJet said, "On 5th July, 2022, SpiceJet Q400 aircraft was operating SG 3324 (Kandla - Mumbai). During cruise at FL230, P2 side windshield outer pane cracked. Pressurization was observed to be normal. The aircraft landed safely in Mumbai."

Emergency landing in Pakistan

New Delhi/Karachi: SpiceJet's Delhi-Dubai flight was Tuesday diverted to Karachi as the fuel indicator started malfunctioning, officials of the aviation regulator DGCA said. This is at least the sixth incident of technical malfunction happening on SpiceJet aircraft in the last 17 days. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating the Tuesday's incident, along with the previous five incidents, the officials noted.



Sadhus wait to get themselves registered for the Amarnath Yatra 2022, at Ram Mandir base camp, in Jammu. Amid tight security, the sixth batch of over 6,300 Amarnath pilgrims Tuesday left for the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir, officials said

Heavy rains batter parts of Mumbai

Torrential rains pounded the country's commercial capital Mumbai, coastal Konkan and other parts of Maharashtra since last night, inundating many towns, and villages in different areas, hitting road and rail traffic, and forcing evacuation of around 3,500 people to safer areas



Monsoon in active phase, says IMD

New Delhi: Aided by a low-pressure area over central India, the southwest monsoon has picked up pace, bringing bountiful showers to the region in time for the sowing of Kharif crops. The weather office Tuesday said central India and the west coast would experience active monsoon conditions for the next five days while the north-western parts of the country are expected to receive seasonal showers from Wednesday.

Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials said. The local train services, considered as the lifeline of Mumbai, were affected mainly on the main and harbour corridors of the Central Railway due to water-logging on tracks near Kurla, slowing down train movement, rail sources said.

There was also bunching of trains heading towards the Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai

on the main line, they said. There was inundation on tracks in Sion, Kurla, Tilak Nagar and Wadala areas of the Central Railway's chief public relations officer Shivaji Sutar said. "There is water in tracks at some locations...Trains are being run at a cautious speed and we are continuously monitoring the situation," he said.

Some commuters also complained about heavy-water logging in some subways in Panvel, Khandeshwar and Mansarovar stations on the Harbour line in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, forcing them to wade through ankle-deep water.

Over 75 lakh commuters from Mumbai and neighbouring districts travel in local trains every day. The BEST undertaking, which provides public bus services in Mumbai and neighbouring cities, was forced to divert its buses via alternate routes, due to inundation in Sion, Chembur, Bandra, Air India Colony, Kurla and few other locations, an official said.

ED raids 40 locations linked to Vivo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 5: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided at least 44 places across the country Tuesday in a money-laundering investigation against Chinese smartphone manufacturer Vivo and related firms, officials said.

The searches were carried out under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at locations in several states including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Maharashtra.

A Vivo India spokesperson said they are cooperating with authorities. "Vivo is cooperating with the authorities to provide them with all



required information. As a responsible corporate, we are committed to be fully compliant with laws," the spokesperson said.

The federal agency filed a money laundering case after taking cognisance of a recent Delhi Police (economic offences wing) FIR against a distributor of the agency based in Jammu and Kashmir

where it was alleged that a few Chinese shareholders in that company forged their identity documents. The ED suspects this alleged forgery was done to launder illegally generated funds using shell or paper companies and some of these "proceeds of crime" were diverted to stay under the radar of Indian tax and enforcement agencies.

The action is being seen as part of the Union government's steps to tighten checks on Chinese entities and the continued crackdown on such firms and their linked Indian operatives that are allegedly indulging in serious financial crimes like money laundering and tax evasion while operating here.

Dairy farmers to stage protest



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 5: The Dairy Farmers' Federation of India (DFFI) Tuesday called upon the dairy farmers across the country to protest imposition of GST on dairy products, machineries and milking machines July 27.

The organising committee of the DFFI appealed to all the farmers' organisations and the joint platforms including Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) to join the protest demonstrations and ensure the Union Government repeals "this anti-farmer decision through protracted struggles if required."

The GST Council at its 47th meet-

ing held on June 28 and 29 had recommended imposition of 5 per cent GST on dairy items such as "pre-packed, pre-labeled curd, lassi and butter milk" as well as to increase GST on dairy machinery and milking machines from 12 per cent to 18 per cent.

India is the world's largest milk producer, and the sector is characterised by the concentration of petty producers with 75 per cent of the rural households owning 2-4 cows. Women and peasants from the lowest social strata are highly dependent on the dairy sector.

The DFFI, affiliated with All India Kisan Sabha, said, the price of milk in the open market will skyrocket and millions of consumers would be forced to pay higher price for milk and other dairy products.

The recommendation to increase GST on the dairy machinery and milking machines will have consequences on the cooperatives and small dairy entrepreneurs operating in production and value addition.

DISPUTE OVER OTP; TAXI DRIVER BEATS TECHIE TO DEATH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 5: A software developer from Coimbatore, who was in Chennai for weekend holiday along with his family, was beaten to death by an Ola cab driver following a dispute over delay in entering the one-time password (OTP) on the Old Mahabalipuram Road here Sunday.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Greater Chennai Police Commissioner, Shankar Jwal, told IANS that the police have now directed all the cab operators to monitor the antecedents of the drivers they employ for ferrying passengers.

Jwal also called upon the cab operators to submit Aadhaar and other identification records of the drivers with the local police stations for background check.

On Sunday, H. Umendar (34), a software developer, visited a mall to watch a movie along with his wife Bhavya, their two children, Bhavya's sister Divyapriya and her two children. Bhavya booked an Ola cab at around 3.30 pm and on seeing the registration number of the vehicle, all seven hopped into it.

The driver of the vehicle, Ravi (41) from Salem, was furious that the customers entered the vehicle without verifying the OTP and asked them to get out of the car.

This led to an altercation between Ravi and Umendar and in a fit of rage, Ravi showered blows on the software developer. The driver also smashed his mobile phone on the forehead of Umendar, besides hitting him on the nose repeatedly.

Umendar was rushed to the hospital, where he was declared brought dead. Ravi tried to flee from the scene but was apprehended by the local police and handed over to the police.

Congress' Gujarat strategy: Not to target Modi

After racking their brains for about five hours Monday, the Congress task force called Gujarat leaders and asked them to prepare unitedly for the Assembly polls to dethrone the BJP which is ruling the state for the past 27 years

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 5: The Central Congress leadership has asked its Gujarat unit to refrain from making personal attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi but to raise people's issues and target BJP policies in run-up to the Assembly polls, slated for later this year, sources said.

After racking their brains for about five hours Monday, the Congress task force called Gujarat leaders and asked them to prepare unitedly for the Assembly polls to dethrone the BJP which is ruling the state for the past 27 years.

As part of the strategy, the party will highlight the state government's failure particularly during Covid and post-Covid.

Notably, the Congress has witnessed some high profile exits in recent past besides suffering a blow in local body elections. Hardik Patel, who spearheaded the Patidar protest, has also changed his loyalty and joined the BJP.

Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K.C. Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Maken, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Congress' poll strategist Sunil Kanugolu were present in the meeting of the task force.

In the last Assembly polls, the party won 77 seats but many MLAs have switched sides since then.

The Gujarat Congress had won a record breaking 149 seats with a 55.55 per cent vote share in the 1985 Assembly elections, while the



BJP could bag only 11 seats with a 14.96 per cent vote share. In the 2012 elections, the

Aam Aadmi Party's threat to the Congress also figured in the discussion as Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday talked about his government in Delhi and governance in Gujarat.

Citing BJP's 17-member delegation's two-day visit to Delhi for a reality check of schools and Mohalla Clinics, Kejriwal said: "Even after two-days' visit, they could not find any shortcomings. This shows the performance of the AAP government in Delhi."

Kejriwal further said: "The AAP government always welcomes constructive suggestions and criticism if it is good for the people at large. If any lapses are brought to our knowledge, we act at the earliest."

Congress's vote share declined to 38.93 per cent, whereas the BJP vote share jumped to 47.85 per cent.

international



Despite the tireless effort to secure the future of the nation, some people at home and abroad have been trying to oust the Awami League led government
SHEIKH HASINA | BANGLADESH PM

LOYALTY TEST

Researchers in the eastern Chinese province of Anhui say they have developed a device that can determine loyalty to the ruling Chinese Communist Party using facial scans



of the day quote

Imran Khan's politics and narrative based on hate against all those who are against him has inflicted a great damage
KHAJAWA ASIF | PAKISTAN DEFENCE MINISTER

Will work on easing restrictions for travellers while balancing the risks of a coronavirus outbreak overwhelming the healthcare system
JOHN LEE | HONG KONG LEADER

One of the main objectives of meeting with Macron is to convey Israel's position concerning the Iranian nuclear deal currently being negotiated between world powers and Iran
YAIR LAPID | ISRAEL'S CARETAKER PM

Finland, Sweden sign protocol to join NATO

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, July 5: The 30 NATO allies signed off on the accession protocols for Sweden and Finland Tuesday, sending the membership bids of the two nations to the alliance capitals for legislative approvals — and possible political trouble in Turkey.

The move further increases Russia's strategic isolation in the wake of its invasion of neighbouring Ukraine in February and military struggles there since. "This is truly a historic moment for Finland, for Sweden and for NATO," the head of the alliance, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, said.

The 30 ambassadors and permanent representatives formally approved decisions made at a NATO summit in Madrid last week, when the leaders of member nations invited Russia's neighbour Finland and Scandinavian partner Sweden to join the military club.

Securing parliamentary approval for the new members in Turkey, however, could still pose a problem even though Sweden, Finland and Turkey reached a memorandum of understanding at the Madrid summit.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that Ankara could block the process if the two countries failed to grant Turkey's demands for the extradition of people it views as terror suspects.

The people wanted in Turkey have links to outlawed Kurdish groups or the network of an exiled cleric accused of a failed 2016 coup



Sweden's Foreign Minister Ann Linde and Finland's Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto attend a news conference with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, after signing their countries' accession protocols at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels, Belgium

NATO hopes for quick ratification
Turkey has lifted veto but still wary
Moscow has warned against NATO expansion

in Turkey. He said Turkey's Parliament could refuse to ratify the deal. It is a potent threat since NATO accession must be formally approved by all 30 member states, which gives each a blocking right. Stoltenberg said he expected no change of heart. "There were security concerns that needed to be addressed. And we did what we always do at NATO. We found common ground," he said.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has given the process added urgency. It will ensconce the two nations in

the Western military alliance and give NATO more clout, especially in the face of Moscow's military threat. "We will be even stronger and our people will be even safer as we face the biggest security crisis in decades," Stoltenberg said.

At a news conference, the foreign ministers of Sweden and Finland were asked whether the memorandum specified people who would have to be extradited to Turkey. Both ministers said no such list was part of the agreement.

"We will honor the memorandum fully. There is, of course, no lists or anything like that in the memorandum, but what we will do is to have better cooperation when it comes to terrorists," Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde said. Finnish Foreign

Russia shells Donetsk

Kyiv: Russian forces struck targets across Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region on Tuesday to prepare the path for an expected armoured thrust to try to take more territory as the five-month-old war entered a new phase. The strikes, reported by the region's local governor and the Russian military, followed Moscow's capture of the Ukrainian city of Lysychansk on Sunday, a move that handed it total control of the Luhansk region, one of its main war aims. Taking full control of Donetsk, the other region in Donbas, the industrialised eastern part of Ukraine that has become the stage of the biggest battle in Europe in generations, is another goal of what Moscow calls its "special military operation."

Minister Pekka Haavisto was equally adamant.

"Everything that was agreed in Madrid is stated in the document. There are no hidden documents behind that or any agreements behind that," Haavisto said.

Every alliance nation has different legislative challenges and procedures to deal with, and it could take several more months for the two Nordic nations to take their place as official NATO members.

Germany's parliament is set to ratify the membership bids Friday, according to the Free Democrats, a partner party in the country's coalition government.

CHINA'S LARGEST DATA LEAK

Hackers claim theft of police info

The data purportedly includes information from the Shanghai National Police database including names, addresses, national identification numbers and mobile phone numbers as well as case details



Associated Press listed names, birthdates, ages and mobile numbers. One person was listed as having been born in "2020," with their age listed as "1," suggesting that information on minors was included in the data obtained in the breach.

Hong Kong, July 5: Hackers claim to have obtained a trove of data on 1 billion Chinese from a Shanghai police database in a leak that, if confirmed, could be one of the largest data breaches in history.

In a post on the online hacking forum Breach Forums last week, someone using the handle "ChinaDan" offered to sell nearly 24 terabytes (24 TB) of data including what they claimed was information on 1 billion people and "several billion case records" for 10 Bitcoin, worth about USD 200,000.

The data purportedly includes information from the Shanghai National Police database including names, addresses, national identification numbers and mobile phone numbers as well as case details.

A sample of data seen by The

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the authenticity of the data samples. Shanghai police did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The data leak initially sparked discussion on Chinese social media platforms such as Weibo, but censors have since moved to block keyword searches for "Shanghai data leak."

One person said they were skeptical until they managed to verify some of the personal data leaked online by attempting to search for people on Alipay using their personal information.

"Everyone, please be careful in case there are more phone scams in the future!" they said in a Weibo post.

SHORT TAKES

Mathematician Maryna awarded

Berlin: Ukrainian mathematician Maryna Viazovska was named Tuesday as one of four recipients of the prestigious Fields Medal, which is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics. The International Mathematical Union said Viazovska, who holds the chair in number theory at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, was being honored for her work on the densest packing of identical spheres in eight dimensions. Viazovska said Russia's attack on Ukraine in February had profoundly changed her life and those of all Ukrainians.

France brings 51 citizens home

Paris: French authorities Tuesday repatriated 51 women and children from the former Islamic State group-controlled areas in Syria, according to a statement from the national counterterrorism prosecutor's office. It's the single largest return of women and children to France from camps in northeastern Syria since the territorial defeat of IS in March 2019. France saw more of its citizens leave to join the group than any other country in Europe. Tuesday's group was made up of 16 women, ages 22 to 39, and 35 minors, seven of whom are coming to France unaccompanied by adults.

13 killed in Nepal road accident

Kathmandu: At least 13 people were killed and 24 others injured Tuesday in a bus accident in eastern Nepal's Ramechhap district, police said. The passenger bus was on its way to Kathmandu from Sunapati when the accident occurred at around 10 am, they said. As many as 24 people sustained injuries in the accident, according to the police. Those injured are undergoing treatment at Dhulikhel Hospital.

China opens up to air travel

Beijing: China has started permitting international flights after a two-year ban due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is no word yet on the resumption of air services to India even after Beijing lifted a visa ban for Indian professionals and their families last month. China is further streamlining procedures for those arriving into the country after reducing the quarantine time to 7 days in designated hotels followed by 3-day isolation at home from the previous 2-day isolation for inbound travellers, official media here reported Tuesday.

Australia floods worsen

REUTERS

Sydney, July 5: Torrential rains kept battering Australia's east coast Tuesday, intensifying the flood crisis in Sydney as thousands more residents were ordered to leave their homes after rivers swiftly rose past danger levels.

About 50,000 residents in New South Wales, most in Sydney's western suburbs, have been told to either evacuate or warned they might receive evacuation orders, up from Monday's 30,000, authorities said.

"This event is far from over," New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrotte told reporters. "Wherever you are, please be careful when you're driving on our roads. There are still substantial risks for flash flooding."

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who returned to Australia Tuesday after a week-long trip to Europe, said he would tour the affected regions on Wednesday along with Perrotte. The federal government has declared the floods a natural disaster, helping flood-hit residents receive emergency funding support. The latest wild storm cell - which brought a year's worth

Rains likely to ease in Sydney soon, move north
50,000 NSW residents face evacuation
Some places get a year's rainfall in three days

of rain in three days to some areas - is likely to ease in Sydney from Tuesday as the coastal trough moves north, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) said.

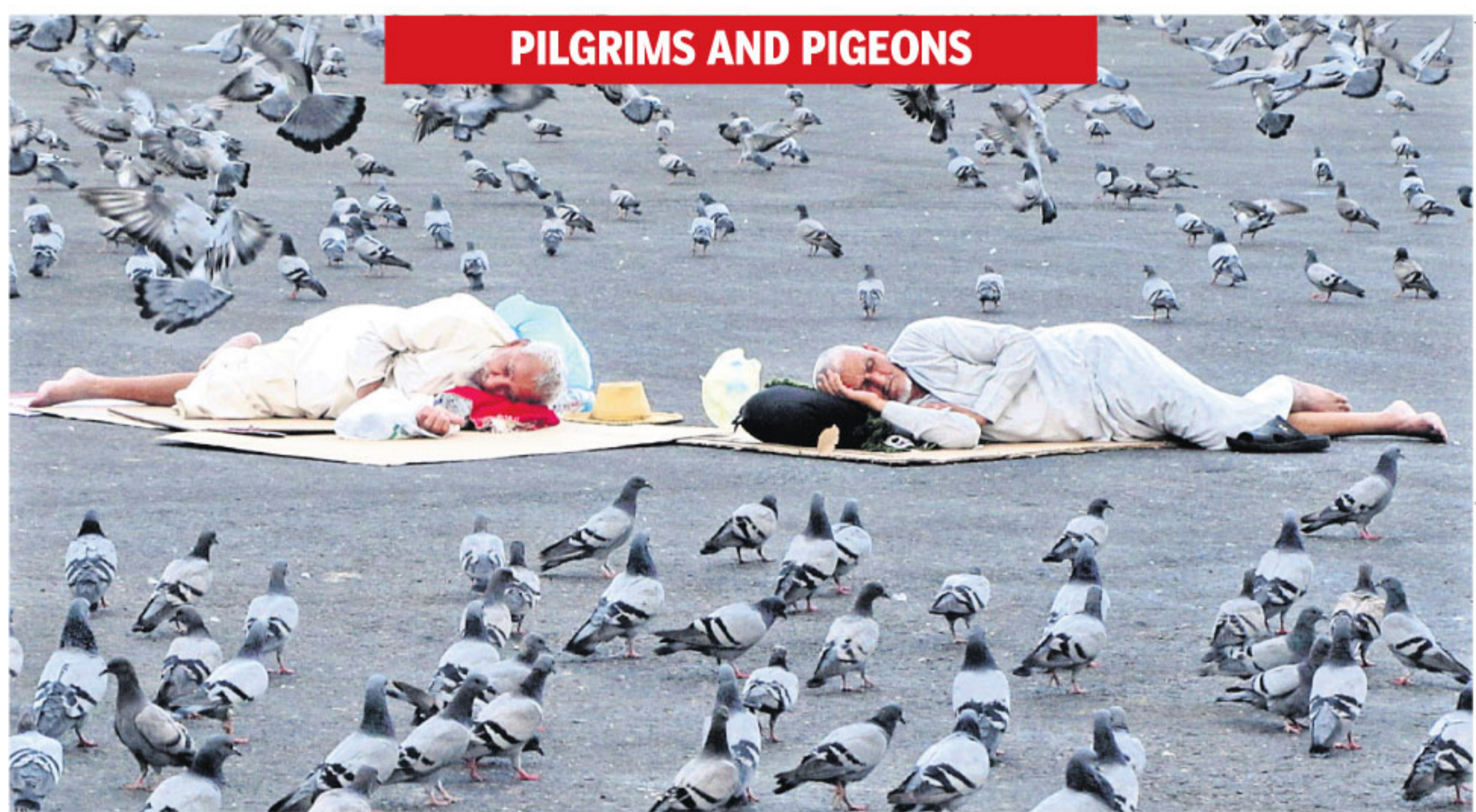
But the risk of flooding could remain through the week with most river catchments already near capacity even before the latest deluge. Some regions have received 800mm (31.5 inches) of rain since Saturday, eclipsing Australia's annual average rainfall of around 500mm (20 inches).

About 90mm (3.5 inches) of rain could fall over six hours in the state's mid-north coast from Tuesday, reaching up to 125mm (5 inches) in some places, BoM said.

Winds up to 90 km per hour (56 miles per hour) are also forecast in several flood-hit places, raising the risk of falling trees and power lines.



REUTERS



Pigeons surround pilgrims outside the Grand Mosque in the Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca. Saudi Arabia is expected to receive one million Muslims to attend Hajj pilgrimage, which will begin July 7, after two years of limiting the numbers because of the pandemic

Gunman fired over 70 rounds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Highland Park (US), July 5: The gunman who attacked an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago fired more than 70 rounds with an AR-15-style gun that killed at least six people, then evaded initial capture by dressing as a woman and blending into the fleeing crowd, police said Tuesday.

Lake County Major Crime Task Force spokesman Christopher Covelli told a news conference that the suspected shooter, who was arrested late Monday, used a high-



REUTERS

powered rifle "similar to an AR-15" to spray bullets from atop a commercial building into a crowd that had gathered for a parade in Highland Park, a close-knit community on the shores of Lake Michigan that has long drawn the rich and sometimes famous. More

than 30 people were also wounded.

Investigators who have interrogated the suspect and reviewed his social media posts have not determined a motive for the attack, Covelli said. They have also not found any indication that the shooter targeted anyone by race, religion or other protected status. Authorities have not filed criminal charges.

Earlier in the day, FBI agents peeked into trash cans and under picnic blankets as they searched for more evidence at the site where the assailant opened fire.

Stay away from politics: ISI chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 5: The chief of Pakistan's spy agency ISI has issued strict orders to all commanders to stay away from politics following directives from Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa to offset a smear campaign against the military by ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, according to a media report Tuesday.

Lieutenant General Nadeem Anjum, Director General of Pakistan's ISI, personally issued the instructions to his subordinates, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. "They have been told in the strictest terms to stay away from politics and avoid any such activity," the report quoted a source as saying.

The spymaster further said that there would be zero-tolerance for violations and any intelligence official found violating the directives would have no place in the premier agency. The development came a day after Army chief Bajwa directed his top commanders and key officers - including those from the Inter-Services Intelligence - to stay away from politics after leaders of ousted prime minister Khan-led party alleged that some officials of the country's intelligence agency were trying to "manipulate" the by-elections in Punjab. Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 73-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Body parts, gear found on Italian glacier after avalanche

Officials initially feared 13 hikers were still missing, but the province of Trento Tuesday reduced the number of people unaccounted-for to five, after eight others checked in with authorities

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canazei (Italy), July 5: Rescuers found body parts and equipment as they searched Tuesday for hikers missing following a powerful avalanche that killed at least seven people and is being blamed in large part on rising temperatures that are melting glaciers.

Officials initially feared 13 hikers were still missing, but the province of Trento on Tuesday reduced the number of people unaccounted-for to five, after eight others checked in with authorities. Rain hampered the search Monday, but sunny weather Tuesday allowed helicopters to bring more rescue teams up to the site on the Marmolada glacier, east of Bolzano in the Dolomite mountains, even as hopes dimmed of finding anyone alive.

A huge chunk of the glacier cleaved off Sunday, sparking an avalanche that sent torrents of ice, rock and debris plowing down the mountainside onto unsuspecting hikers below. At least seven people were killed, officials said.

"We have to be clear, finding



REUTERS

someone alive with this type of event is a very remote possibility, very remote, because the mechanical action of this type of avalanche has a very big impact on people," said Alex Barattin of the Alpine Rescue Service.

Nicola Casagli, a geologist and avalanche expert at Florence University, said the impact of the glacier collapse on the hikers was greater than a mere snow avalanche and would have taken them completely by surprise.

IT'S HISTORY, BUT AN ENGLISH ONE

INDIA FAIL TO SEAL TEST SERIES WIN IN ENGLAND AS ROOT, BAIRSTOW GUIDE HOSTS TO LANDMARK WIN HELPING THEIR SIDE TO DRAW 5-MATCH SERIES

RACIAL ABUSE CHARGE TO BE INVESTIGATED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 5: An investigation has been launched into allegations of racist abuse aimed at Indian fans during the fourth day of the fifth Test between India and England at Edgbaston, the ECB and Warwickshire County Cricket Club said.

Several Indian fans took to Twitter to report the racist behaviour they endured during the fourth day's play Monday night. They claimed that some British fans hurled racial taunts at them.

The official Edgbaston Twitter account responded to Rafiq's tweet saying: "We're incredibly sorry to read this and do not condone this behaviour in anyway. We'll be investigating this ASAP"

Warwickshire later released a statement, stating they are investigating the incident. "I'm gutted by these reports as we're working hard to make Edgbaston a safe, welcoming environment for all," Stuart Cain, Chief Executive at Edgbaston said.

"Having seen the initial tweets, I've spoken personally to the gentleman who raised them and we're now speaking to the stewards in this area to establish what happened. Nobody should be subject to any form of abuse at Edgbaston. So, once we've got all the facts, we will make sure this issue is addressed swiftly," the statement added.

One spectator, who was in the Hollies Stand, alleged that the stewards refused to take any action despite several complaints. "Racist behaviour at @Edgbaston towards Indian fans in block 22 Eric Hollies. People calling us Curry C**** and paki b*****. We reported it to the stewards and showed them the culprits at least 10 times but no response and all we were told is to sit in our seats. @ECB_cricket."

"We were also fearful of our safety for women and children but no assistance when we left. This is unacceptable in today's society @BCCI #ENGvIND," a spectator said in a series of tweets.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 5: Jonny Bairstow (114 n o, 145b, 15x4, 1x6) and Joe Root (142 n o, 173b, 19x4, 1x6), who have made chasing tricky targets in Test matches fashionable, put famed Indian pace attack to sword with imposing hundreds as England recorded their highest ever chase of 378 runs with minimum fuss to level the five-match series 2-2.

It is fourth straight successful chase for England, having accomplished tricky fourth innings targets of 278, 299 and 296 against New Zealand in the previous series. For India, the ignominy was of not being able to defend their highest fourth innings target. When England were rattled on the fourth afternoon by stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah (2/74), the two star batters didn't waver from their game plan. The entire Indian attack, except Bumrah, looked pedestrian. All England needed was just under 20 overs to knock off the remaining 119 runs on fifth morning.

What was more embarrassing was England knocking off the runs in 76.4 overs, which isn't even a full day's play and at a run-rate of nearly five runs per over (4.93).

Root, who has been in even more sublime form since relinquishing captaincy, scored his 28th century and was involved in an unbroken 269-run stand with Bairstow, whose ton count reached a dozen after

the completion of this game.

Bairstow, who is in the form of his life, topped up his first innings of 106 with an even more graceful century as Brendon McCullum's philosophy of deflating teams on flat decks is currently working wonders.

A cursory look at a statistical nugget reveals the impact Bairstow and Root have made in England's last four victories. Both have played significant role in three chases in the last four games.

This is India's third straight Test match defeat in a 'SENA' country (SA, England, NZ, Australia) after back-to-back defeats against South Africa but this will hurt more as they had a sizeable first innings lead of 132 runs.

The defeat would also significantly dent India's chances of finishing in top-two in the World Test

Championship (WTC) table.

Bumrah in his first tryst as captain was very impressive despite the disappointing outcome but what would hurt India badly is the tactics employed by the team that had so many senior players.

A team that has set a target of 378 couldn't have possibly started with a spread out field, logic of which would need some explaining from head coach Rahul Dravid. Since he has taken over, India have lost three out of four overseas Tests and for a man, who relies heavily on method and process, that's not a great piece of stat. The gaping holes in the field were a testimony of a hollow strategy.

Ravindra Jadeja (18.4-3-62-0), a classical left-arm spinner, bowled over the wicket throughout, negating any chance of trapping the batters in front of the wicket. Not

for once did he come round the wicket to pin the batters.

And to make matters worse, India's third and fourth pacers - Mohammed Siraj (15-0-98-0) and Shardul Thakur (11-0-65-0) - hardly made an impact.

Virat Kohli's presence in the field is imposing but perhaps time has come to ask if his aggressive on-field demeanour and rubbing the opposition in wrong way is proving to be counter-productive as it happened in this Test match.

He hurled harsh words at Bairstow without any provocation and the result was there for everyone to see. Ian Bishop termed it akin to poking a bear while Virender Sehwag in his inimitable style tweeted that before Kohli's sledges, Bairstow was "battering like Pujara" and post his unsavoury engagement, the Englishman turned into "Pant".

The 'Fab Four' (Joe Root, Kane Williamson, Steve Smith and Kohli) is in danger of losing one member as Kohli's diminishing returns with the bat for the last three years continues to be a huge cause of concern.

Root hitting the winning run with an audacious reverse sweep was symbolic than ever, rubbing it on Kohli's wounds.

BRIEF SCORES

India 416 & 245 lost to England 284 & 378/3 (Joe Root 142 n o, Jonny Bairstow 114 n o) by 7 wickets.

WHAT THEY SAY...

JASPRIT BUMRAH

MATCH RESULT: That's the beauty of Test cricket, even if you have three good days. We fell short with the bat yesterday and that is where we let the opposition in to let the match slip away from us. Ifs and butts can always be there. If you go back, if there was no rain in the first match, we could have won the series. But England played really well.

ON CAPTAINCY: The captaincy is not what I decide. I like responsibility. It was a good challenge, a new challenge. It was an honour to lead the team and a great experience.

BEN STOKES

Attacking gameplay: When the lads play like this, it makes my job easier. When you have clarity like we have in the dressing room, it makes chasing totals like this easier. 378 would have been scary five weeks ago, but now it's all good.

Approach to Test cricket: We are trying to rewrite how Test cricket is played in England. All our plans from the last four-five weeks are what we want to take ahead. Bowling on the top of off isn't important, it is all about taking 10 wicket. We want to give some new life to Test cricket. Inspiring the next generation is what we want to do. We want to bring in new fans and want to leave a mark on Test cricket.

JONNY BAIRSTOW

Finding joy: It is great fun at the moment. I am stripping it back to the basics. The last few years have been tough on me but the last few months have been fantastic. Day five was over in 90 minutes. I just have an enjoyment factor now. I am not afraid of failing and just want to put the pressure on the opposition. We are going to lose games with the approach we have, but it is a positive fun brand of cricket to play.

VIKRAM RATHOUR (Indian batting coach)

Disappointing batting: I'll agree that we had a pretty ordinary day as far as batting is concerned. We were ahead, we were in a position where we could have batted them out of the game. Unfortunately, it didn't happen. A lot of them got starts but couldn't convert them. We were expecting one of them to play a big knock and have a big partnership but unfortunately it didn't happen like that.

RAVI SHASTRI

Batting strategy: I think (it was) disappointing, to say the least, because they (India) could have batted England out of this contest. They needed to bat two sessions and I thought they were defensive, they were timid (on Day 4), especially after lunch. Even after they had lost those wickets, they could have taken some chances. Runs were important at that stage of the game and I thought they just went into a shell, lost those wickets too quickly, and gave enough time for England to bat.



Maria in Wimbledon semifinals



TATJANA MARIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon, July 5: The first semifinalist at this year's Wimbledon is the oldest woman remaining in the draw. Tatjana Maria, a 34-year-old German who returned to the tour less than a year ago following the birth of her second daughter, advanced to the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in her 35th appearance. She beat another German, 22-year-old Jule Niemeier 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, Tuesday on No.1 Court. Maria is making her 10th appearance at the All England Club and has become only the sixth woman in the Open era to reach the

Wimbledon semifinals after turning 34. Her best previous performance was reaching the third round in 2015. She never even made it that far at the other three major tennis tournaments.

It hasn't all come easy this year. Maria is ranked 103rd in the world and was outside the top 250 as recently as March. Since returning from maternity leave, she lost in the first round at the US Open, the Australian Open and the French Open.

That changed on the grass courts of Wimbledon. Maria beat three seeded players in a row in her run to the quarterfinals, including fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari in the third round and 12th-seeded Jelena

Sania-Pavic pair cruises to semis

WIMBLEDON: Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Croatian partner Mate Pavic advanced to the Wimbledon mixed doubles semifinals with a hard-fought win over fourth seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and John Peers. Sania and Pavic, seeded sixth, eked out a thrilling 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 win over Canadian-Australian duo in one hour 41 minutes on Court 3 Monday night. The Indo-Croatian pair will take on the winners of the quarterfinal between Robert Farah and Jelena Ostapenko, the seventh seeds, and second seeds Neil Skupski and Desirae Krawczyk. This is Sania's best mixed doubles performance at the All England Club. She had previously reached the quarterfinals in 2011, 2013 and 2015. A Wimbledon title is the only mixed doubles Grand Slam missing from her trophy cabinet. Mirza, a six-time Grand Slam winner, has already announced her retirement at the end of this season.

Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion, in the fourth round. She will next face either third-seeded Ons Jabeur or Marie Bouzkova. Those two will play for a spot in the semifinals after the match between Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner on Centre Court. In the other notable match on the day, World No.1 Novak Djokovic came from two sets down to beat Italian 10th seed Jannik Sinner 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to make into the semifinals.

PAY PARITY IN KIWICRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Christchurch, July 5: In a first in world cricket, New Zealand men and women will receive the same match fees across formats and competitions, according to a ground-breaking five-year deal between the sports' governing body in the country and the players' association.

"I want to thank and congratulate the players and the Major Associations for their part in reaching such a significant agreement," NZC chief executive David White said in a statement. "This is the most important agreement in our sport, as it binds NZC, the Major Associations, and our players at the hip, and sets the foundation to fund, grow and develop cricket."

According to the landmark agreement struck between NZC, the six major associations, and the New Zealand Cricket Players Association, White Ferns and domestic women's players will receive the same match fees as the men across the formats.

"Translated, this means the highest-ranked WHITE FERN would be able to receive a maximum of NZD 163,246 a year (up from NZD 83,432), the ninth-ranked, NZD 148,946 (NZD 66,266), and the 17th-ranked NZD 142,346 (NZD 62,833)," the statement said.

The top-ranked women's domestic players in each Major Association would be able to receive a maximum of NZD 19,146 (up from NZD 3,423), the sixth-ranked NZD 18,646 (NZD 3,423), and the 12th-ranked NZD 18,146 (NZD 3,423)."

2nd draw on trot for eves at WC



INTENSE BATTLE: India's Vandana Katariya vies for the ball with a couple of Chinese players during the match, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amstelveen, July 5: India were held to a 1-1 draw by China, their second consecutive identical result in Pool B, at the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup here Tuesday. India will play New Zealand in their final pool match Thursday.

Jiali Zheng gave China the lead in the 26th minute before Vandana Katariya equalised for India in the 45th minute. India drew 1-1 against Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist England in their tournament opener.

The Indians had the better share of possession in the first two quar-

ters and had more chances but their efforts didn't result into goals. The Chinese, on the other hand, waited for counter-attacks to breach the Indian defence.

In the ninth minute, Navneet Kaur had the first shot at goal after combining well with Vandana Katariya but her effort was saved by Chinese goalkeeper Liu Ping.

In the 23rd minute, India came close to scoring but the goalpost came to China's rescue. From the resultant rebound, Jyotika seemed to have found the net but the goal was disallowed after a referral.

India secured their first penalty corner soon after that but failed to

capitalise on it. China took the lead against the run of play through Jiali Zheng who shot past Savita Punia after receiving a pass from Xindan Zhang.

Two minutes later, India earned another penalty corner but Monika's try was saved by Ping as China went into the half-time break with a slender one goal lead.

China came out on an aggressive note after the change of ends and secured their first penalty corner in the 33rd minute but Bingfeng Gu's flick went wide. In the 42nd minute, India secured back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both.

Seconds from the end of the third quarter, Vandana deflected in Gurjit's flick as India drew level from a perfectly executed penalty corner.

The fourth quarter was dominated by India as they went on the offensive in search of the winner but failed to find the back of the net. China made a late surge and secured another penalty corner in the 54th minute but India defended well as both the teams registered their second consecutive draw in the tournament.

Both teams contested for the ball in the dying minutes of the game, bringing the viewers to the edge of their seats. But with seconds ticking away, neither could successfully score despite China calling for a video referral asking for a PC on the hooter. With this match too ending in a stalemate, India will hunt for a win in their last round robin league match Thursday.