



VACAY TIME

Gorgeous Pooja Hegde treats herself to a one-month vacation across three continents and four cities

LEISURE P2



WILDFIRE WOES

Yosemite National Park's famous grove of giant sequoias threatened by a wildfire

INTERNATIONAL P10



RYBAKINA TRIUMPHS

Elena Rybakina clinches her maiden Grand Slam title after beating Ons Jabeur in the women's singles final at Wimbledon

SPORTS P12

Musk quits Twitter deal; faces sue threat

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk has announced that he will abandon his tumultuous \$44 billion offer to buy Twitter after the company failed to provide enough information about the number of fake accounts. Twitter immediately fired back, saying it would sue the Tesla CEO to uphold the deal. The likely unraveling of the acquisition was just the latest twist in a saga between the world's richest man and one of the most influential social media platforms, and it may portend a titanic legal battle ahead. Twitter could have pushed for a \$1 billion breakup fee that Musk agreed to pay under these circumstances. Instead, it looks ready to fight to complete the purchase, which the company's board has approved and CEO Parag Agrawal has insisted he wants to consummate. **MORE P11**

3 siblings drown, 1 missing in Koel

ROURKELA: Three brothers drowned and another went missing while bathing in Koel river in Rourkela city Saturday, police said. According to police, the four minor children all brothers - Rishi Sahu, Ayush Sahu, Kunal Sahu and Kaushal Sahu - of Jharkhand had come with their parents to one of their relatives staying at Jhiripani in Rourkela. The incident took place Saturday afternoon while they were taking bath in Koel river ghat near the Pump House. The three siblings were declared dead by doctors at Rourkela Government Hospital while search operation was launched to trace the missing boy, police said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



People don't invite us for rituals. They think we don't know religion. Instead, they invite news anchors!

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 33.3°C	32.8°C
	MIN 25.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	84%	92%
Rainfall	12.4mm	16.4mm
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	

DEITIES' HOMECOMING



Chariots of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra reach the Lions' Gate of Srimandir in Puri, Saturday

OP PHOTO

'Bahuda' pulls 7L devotees to Puri

AGENCIES

Puri, July 9: Around 7 lakh devotees gathered in Puri Saturday to witness the 'Bahuda Yatra' (return car festival) of the deities.

The Trinity - Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath - along with Chakraraj Sudarshan, were taken to their respective chariots in a ceremonial procession called 'Pahandi Bij' with 'Tahia' (flower crowns) on their heads.

As the chariots - Tajadwaja (Balabhadra), Darpadalan (Subhadra and Sudarshan) and Nandighosh (Jagannath) - started their three-km journey from Gundicha temple to the 12th century Srimandir, devotees danced, cried, fell on the ground, invoking the blessings of the Trinity

by raising their hands.

Lord Balabhadra's chariot began its return journey around 1:40pm and reached the Lions' Gate of Srimandir around 4:20pm. Pulling of Devi Subhadra's chariot started at 2:15pm and that of Lord Jagannath at 2:35pm.

"Darpadalan chariot reached the Lions' Gate at 4:50 pm and Nandighosa at 7:20pm," said an official of Srimandir.

Devotees are being allowed to participate in the Rath Yatra rituals after two years. The seaside town is brimming with people from across the country as Covid-related restrictions were lifted.

On Rath Yatra, the Trinity is taken to the Gundicha temple, their birthplace, while on 'Bahuda Yatra', they are brought back to the Srimandir after a week.

Contd...P4

Lanka protesters torch PM's house

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's whereabouts were unknown while PM Ranil Wickremesinghe offers to resign to make way for all-party govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 9: A group of protesters Saturday entered the private residence of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and set it on fire, hours after he offered to resign to make way for an all-party government amid unprecedented protests in the country for the resignation of the government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The protesters entered 73-year-old Wickremesinghe's house on 5th Lane in Colombo and set the place on fire after a tense situation erupted between the protesters and security forces on the ground. It wasn't immediately clear if he was inside at the time of the attack.

Despite tear gas being fired on the protesters to disperse, they entered his house and set the house on fire, authorities said.

Videos posted online showed protesters rejoicing after setting the house on fire.

Earlier in the day, thousands of anti-government protesters entered the

Thousands of anti-govt protesters storm the Presidential House in Colombo

39 people were injured during protests



RAJAPAKSA TO RESIGN JULY 13

Sri Lanka's embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa would resign July 13, Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said Saturday night. Rajapaksa told the speaker about this decision after Abeywardena wrote to him asking for his resignation following the all-party leaders meeting held Saturday.

Presidential House in Colombo. The President's whereabouts were unknown and it is believed the 73-year-old leader left the house before the massive mob arrived.

Meanwhile, Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) fire brigade said they were informed that the Prime Minister's private residence in Colombo was set on fire and its teams were unable to reach the location due to the unrest.

The incident came hours after Wickremesinghe offered to resign. The Prime Minister's Media Division said that Wickremesinghe will resign after an all-party government is established and the majority is secured in Parliament. His office said that Wickremesinghe will continue as Prime Minister until then.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, crippled by an acute shortage of foreign exchange that has left it struggling to pay for essential imports of fuel, and other essentials. Protesters blame Rajapaksa for the country's economic malaise, the worst since independence in 1948.

Last week, Wickremesinghe announced in Parliament that Sri Lanka would present a debt restructuring programme to the IMF by August.

STUDENT'S BODY FOUND HANGING IN CAPITAL CITY

The family members of the deceased see foul play in the incident and term it as a case of murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 9: The Capital city witnessed death of another student who was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in his room near New Forest Park area under Airport police limits here Saturday afternoon. The deceased identified as Jyoti Ranjan Sahoo, 21, was a resident of Sarapari village under Jankia police station of Khurda.



Deceased Jyoti Ranjan Sahoo

Police claimed that Sahoo was pursuing Plus III through correspondence. However, some other sources revealed that he was studying in Nirakarapur College in Khurda. The deceased was working as an office assistant at a private firm here. The owner of the firm, Samir Mishra, had provided Sahoo a room in New

Forest Park area.

Mishra asked some of the staffers of a private firm situated near his residence about the absence of Sahoo when the latter did not turn up till 12:30pm Saturday. He told some of the workers to visit Sahoo's room and see why the latter was not answering his phone calls. One of the office staffers went there and saw Sahoo hanging from the ceiling through a window.

Later, Mishra rushed to the spot after informing the Airport police about the incident. Police reached the place immediately and broke into the room. Sahoo was found hanging with the hand bracelets cuffed and mouth tied by a kerchief.

Sahoo's family members alleged that someone had hanged the body after killing him. However, the family members didn't file any police complaint till the last report came in.

The body was recovered and sent to Capital Hospital for post-mortem. The autopsy is scheduled to be held Sunday. Police have started investigation by registering an unnatural death case.

As per reports, altogether 379 students had ended their lives in 2019, 501 in 2018, 361 in 2017 and 390 in 2016.

'Smokeless' LPG brings tears as prices rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Already battered by rising prices of essentials ranging from fruits and vegetables to edible oil and electricity, record high rates of cooking gas LPG have added to the woes of the common man, especially the lower strata.

LPG rates this week were hiked by ₹50 per 14.2-kg cylinder, taking the total increase in last one year to ₹244 or 30 per cent.

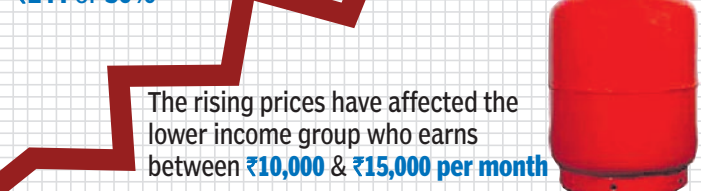
Non-subsidised LPG - the price that all households except the poor women beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme pay - is now at ₹1,053 per 14.2 kg cylinder. Ujjwala beneficiaries have to pay ₹853.

"LPG is smokeless but still it is bringing us tears," rued M Mallika, a 38-year-old homemaker in Tenali town of Andhra Pradesh.

"In three months, the price has in-

BURNING HOLES IN POCKETS

LPG rates this week were hiked by ₹50 per 14.2-kg cylinder, taking the total increase in last one year to ₹244 or 30%



creased by ₹150 per cylinder without taxes and overall it is about ₹160. A cylinder is now ₹1,075 (in Andhra Pradesh). It is certainly a heavy burden," she said.

Fuel rates vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local

taxes such as VAT.

The increase in prices has particularly affected the lower income group such as housemaids, drivers, security guards, daily wagers, salesmen and waiters who earn between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000 per month. The cooking

fuel bill alone is around 10 per cent of their earnings.

"It's quite difficult for us to afford cooking gas cylinders these days. Every month the price of domestic gas cylinders is hiked, making our home budget bill even more difficult to balance... We are looking at alternate ways of cooking... Maybe solar, maybe something else," said Nupur Dasgupta, an SBI employee and resident of Kolkata's Golpark area.

Swarna Mukherjee, a homemaker in Dum Dum in Kolkata, said she was thinking of using a kerosene stove alongside cooking gas stoves to keep a check on her monthly expenses.

"Our monthly expenses have gone up drastically and it is becoming tough. We require two gas cylinders in one month, but I think we will surrender one connection and start using kerosene again," she said.

Contd...P4

The Original & Authentic Handloom Fabrics

Cottonfab-2022

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Saree : Dressmaterial : Kurties : Salwar-Kameez : Home Furnishing

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UTTAR PRADESH FABRICS Chikan work, Banarasi Silk, Apic Work, Block Print, **RAJASTHAN FABRICS** Block Print, Dhabu, Sanganeri, Bandhej, Kota Doria. **GUJRAT FABRICS** Traditional Bandhani, Kutch Embroidery **MADHYA PRADESH FABRICS** Light weight Chanderi, Traditional Maheshwari, Batik Print. **BIHAR FABRICS** Kosa, Kora, Tussar. **JAMMU & KASHMIR FABRICS** Embroidered Silk, Pashmina Shawls. **WEST BENGAL FABRICS** Kantha, Baluchari, Dhakai Jamdani, Tangail. **ANDHRA PRADESH** Kalamkari Vegetable Dye, Zari Border. Mangalgi, Pochampalli, Gadwal, Venkatgiri, Udappa. **TAMILNADU FABRICS** Madurai & Kanjeevaram, Coimbatore, Erode Cotton. **HARYANA FABRICS** Handlooms & Embroidery.

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Exhibition Ground, Unit - III,
Kharvel Nagar, Bhubaneswar
2nd July to 3rd August 2022,
Time: 10.30 AM To 9.00 PM

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leisure



THOR: LOVE AND THUNDER THUNDERS AT BOX OFFICE

Marvel Cinematic Universe's latest big-ticket adventure Thor: Love and Thunder is minting money at the box office. The Chris Hemsworth-starrer film released in India and has already earned 30 crore, while crossing the \$100-million mark worldwide

SHADOW OVER DEPP-AMBER VERDICT DUE TO WRONG JUROR

The drama surrounding Johnny Depp's multimillion-dollar defamation lawsuit against Amber Heard, refuses to die. Things have turned judicially weird, as a wrong juror took the chair during the legal proceedings, reports 'Deadline'



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesha says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

TAURUS
This day, you will be able to express and communicate your ideas and feelings very convincingly, assures Ganesha. All those to who come in contact with you today will be clear, and appreciative about whatever you tell them. At work your superiors are likely to be responsive and helpful.

GEMINI
You will be surrounded by conflicts today. However, you will come to realise within a short while the solutions required to troubleshoot your way out of your difficult circumstances. You will desire solitude and peace so much so that you will not find even your family members welcome company, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Your way of talk today will be such that it can cause misunderstanding. In a fit of emotion, you will take a hasty decision. You will regret the same in future, but you will also get a chance to rectify the same. So, says Ganesha, do not take a any ad hoc or temporary decision but a firm decision.

LEO
You will try to finish your tasks as per schedule and will also be able to earn well. You will benefit from the influence of high ranking officials. They will appreciate your dedication. A promotion may come your way. You will reap the rewards of your hard work, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Ganesha advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work.

LIBRA
Ganesha says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen will be praiseworthy today. Towards evening you will reap the benefits of all those good deeds that you may have done in the near past.

SCORPIO
For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems. Instead focus on your creative energies, and find fun in life's simple pleasures.

SAGITTARIUS
You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesha. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

CAPRICORN
If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesha. Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when something goes wrong.

AQUARIUS
One way or the other, money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesha.

PISCES
To get away from your daily tasks you will concentrate on entertainment, fun and rest today. You will feel like a free bird today. In all this also some important task will need your attention today. Ganesha says you feel nice as things around you change.



Jacqueline proud of her next movie

Mumbai: Jacqueline Fernandez is overwhelmed to be a part of 'Tell it like a Woman'. Taking to her Instagram handle, the actress shared the first poster from her next movie, an anthology feature film directed by eight female directors from different parts of the world.

The actress penned a long note and said that she is proud of being part of the project.

In the caption, the actor wrote, "So proud to be part of this extraordinary effort by the entire team of 'Tell it like a Woman'. An anthology directed by 8 Female directors from different parts of the world." Jacqueline's segment in the anthology has been directed by Leena Yadav.

She added in her post, "Thank you for making me a part of this really special journey. And thank you so much to my producers @wditogether which is the engine behind this incredible film! Can't wait for you all to see it." AGENCIES



Sonu Sood donates 1,000 raincoats to Mumbai Police

Mumbai: Actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood, who is seen as a host on the show MTV 'Roadies Journey to South Africa', is known for going out of the way to help others.

Recently, he has given support to the team of MTV 'Roadies' in donating 1000 raincoats to the Mumbai Police on the anvil of monsoons. Sood said: "I have the utmost respect for our Mumbai Police and thank them for their extraordinary hard work, which makes our ordinary lives safe."

The raincoats provided by MTV and created by Yashlok Welfare Foundation, are created by marginalised sections of society such as the unemployed youth, women, rural population, and differently-abled individuals.

The production of these reflective jackets for the Mumbai Police also offers a sustainable mode of employment to this community. IANS

1 month, 3 continents, 4 cities

Pooja's vacation plan

Hyderabad: Pooja Hegde, who was last seen in 'Radhe Shyam' and 'Beast', took to social media to share her delight about her impending one-month vacation. Her followers were quick to reply and wish her a nice journey when she tweeted a cheerful image of her boarding a flight to Bangkok.

Pooja is taking a month off from work to travel across three continents and four cities, flowing with the joy of travel. Sharing the picture, she wrote: "1 month, 3 continents, 4 cities. Let's go. #gypsiegirl". The 'Ala Vaikunthapuramu Loo' actress, who was also seen in a special song in 'F3', will soon appear in the pan-India film 'Jana Gana Mana' alongside 'Liger' actor Vijay Dverakonda.

In addition, Pooja Hegde will be the female protagonist in Mahesh Babu's 'SSMB28', which is the working title for the film being helmed by Trivikram Srinivas. Pooja will also be seen in 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali' with Salman Khan and in 'Cirkus' with Ranveer Singh. IANS

Alia's happy selfie with 'Wonder Woman'

New Delhi: Mom-to-be Alia Bhatt has wrapped up 'Heart of Stone' also starring Gal Gadot. The Brahmastra actress shared a string of images from the sets of the film along with the cast and crew on Instagram.

I can't wait for you all to see the film!!!! But for now ..I'm coming home babyyyyyyy." IANS

Alia also received a shout out from Wonder Woman star Gal Gadot. Taking to the comments section, Gal wrote that she is already missing her co-star.

In the caption, Alia thanked her co-stars and the director for an "unforgettable experience" and revealed she's coming "back home." "Heart of Stone - you have my wholehearted heart. Thank you to the beautiful Gal Gadot .. my director Tom Harper ... Jamie Dornan missed you today ... and WHOLE team for the unforgettable experience. I will be forever grateful for the love and care I received and



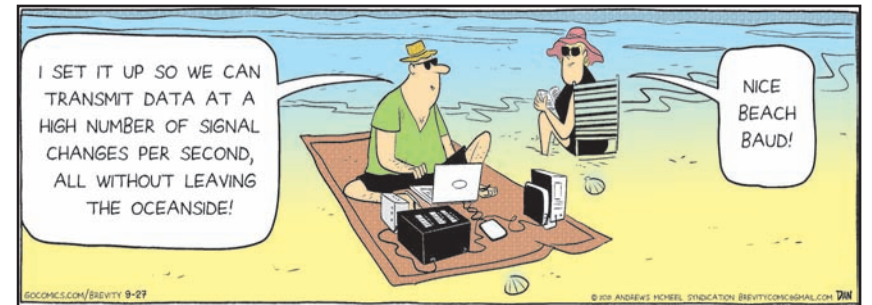
PEANUTS



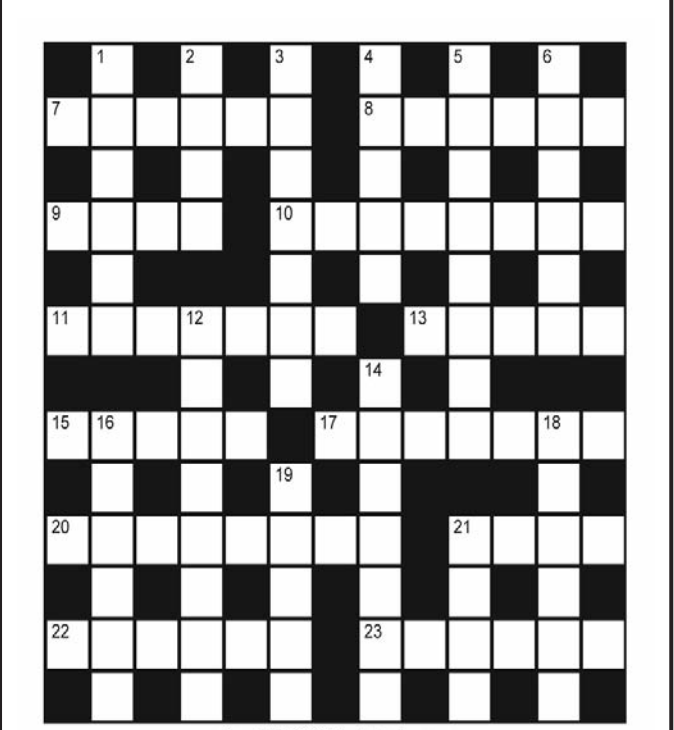
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Vietnam river
 - 8 Arrival
 - 9 Menial
 - 10 Pale purple colour
 - 11 Hairdresser
 - 13 Oyster's prize
 - 15 British biscuit
 - 17 Protest
 - 20 Rationalised
 - 21 Fishing item
 - 22 Seafood entree
 - 23 Cheesy snacks
- Down
- 1 Forlorn
 - 2 Succotash ingredient
 - 3 Eternal ointment
 - 4 Soothing
 - 5 Uma Thurman flick, with The
 - 6 Ingratiate
 - 12 Wanting company
 - 14 Like some roads
 - 16 Strong-arm or escape
 - 18 Type of victory
 - 19 Blacksmith's block
 - 21 Delicate decorative fabric

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

T	F	B	A	B	E								
B	I	L	L	I	A	R	D	T	A	B	L	E	
D	U	N	I	M	D								
M	Y	S	T	I	Q	U	E	B	O	O	N		
E	U	U	O	R									
T	W	I	S	T	E	R	F	O	R	A	Y		
I	D	L	E	R	P	A	S	S	I	O	N		
G	A	T	L	I									
E	W	E	R	I	N	S	U	L	A	T	E		
O	T	A	I	V	E								
M	O	D	E	R	O	F	E	A	P	E	A	R	L
D	Y	A	Y	R	M								

SUDOKU

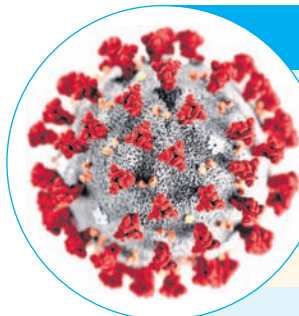
9	2	3	5	8	1	6	4	7
8	1	6	7	2	4	5	9	3
7	4	5	3	6	9	1	8	2
5	3	1	9	7	8	2	6	4
2	6	7	1	4	3	9	5	8
4	8	9	2	5	6	7	3	1
6	9	4	8	1	2	3	7	5
1	5	8	6	3	7	4	2	9
3	7	2	4	9	5	8	1	6

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DEVOTION IN THE AIR

Devotees congregated to witness the Bahuda Yatra of Chandini Chowk Jagannath temple in Cuttack, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	56,00,03,298	53,29,71,448	63,71,943
India	4,36,04,394	4,29,53,980	5,25,386
Odisha	12,92,928	12,81,298	9,126

HOMeward JOURNEY



Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath being taken to their respective chariots from Srigundicha temple through Pahandi procession on the occasion of Bahuda Yatra in Puri



Chariots being pulled towards Srimandir amid a sea of devotees



Priests ready to offer 'Podapitha' to the deities



Artists perform during the festival

SUNA BESHA RITUAL

Deities to flaunt golden attire today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 9: Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra would be adorned with Suna Besha (golden attire) on their respective chariots at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir here Sunday.

After a gap of two years, the devotees would have an opportunity to witness the unique ritual, said an official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Saturday. The devotees were deprived of witnessing the ritual during the Rath Yatra of 2020 and 2021 due to the restrictions imposed by the state government to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

As per the legend, Suna Besha ritual of the deities was introduced during the reign of Gajapati king Kapilendra Deb. This unique ritual is also called as 'Bada Tadhau Besha' and 'Rajarajeswar Besha' of Lord Jagannath, said a researcher.

As per the tradition, the three deities are adorned with gold and silver ornaments as part of the Suna Besha ritual, he added.

SJTA sources said servitors would collect gold and silver ornaments from the outer chamber of Ratna Bhandar, temple treasury room, amid tight security Sunday morning. The ornaments would be spruced up in the presence of Bhandar Mekap and skilled goldsmiths.

The deities would be decorated with ornaments after the completion of rituals like Mangala Alati, Mailam, Tadaplagi, Abaksha, Gopalballav, Sakala

AS PER THE LEGEND, SUNA BESHA RITUAL OF THE DEITIES WAS INTRODUCED DURING THE REIGN OF GAJAPATI KING KAPILENDRA DEB

THIS UNIQUE RITUAL IS ALSO CALLED AS 'BADA TADHAU BESHA' AND 'RAJARAJESWAR BESHA' OF LORD JAGANNATH, SAID A RESEARCHER

AS PER THE TRADITION, THE THREE DEITIES ARE ADORNED WITH GOLD AND SILVER ORNAMENTS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE CHARIOTS AS PART OF THE SUNA BESHA RITUAL

Dhoopa, added the official.

"The servitors have been asked to decorate the deities with ornaments by 6 pm. The devotees will have the opportunity to have a glimpse of the golden attire of Lord Jagannath and his siblings till midnight. We are expecting the congregation of around 10 lakh devotees on the occasion," said the official.

Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Banshal, meanwhile, said adequate police force has been deployed in the Holy City for smooth conduct of the Suna Besha ritual.

Srimandir Daitapati Niyog president Jagannath Das Mahapatra said no servitor would be allowed to click photos of the deities on the chariots during Suna Besha ritual. Similarly, servitors have been asked not to sit or loiter on the chariots unauthorisedly during the ritual, he added.

BSCL to launch master plan for waterlogging in Nayapalli area



File photo of waterlogging in Nayapalli area of Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 9: In view of the constant waterlogging in Nayapalli area, the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) has decided to develop a storm water master plan including mapping of potential rainwater harvesting locations under its climate-friendly solutions.

In a discussion with German-based Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), BSCL chief managing director and Vice-Chairman of Bhubaneswar

Development Authority (BDA), Sanjay Kumar Singh said that the ongoing climate-relevant interventions under the Climate Smart Cities project and potential future opportunities for collaboration is need of the hour.

GIZ is a development agency that provides services in the field of international development cooperation and international education work. The organization's goal is to deliver effective solutions that offer people better prospects to improve their living conditions.

"The goal of this project is to provide climate-friendly solutions for urban infrastructure projects and area-based development, in the design and implementation of projects, under the government of India's Smart City initiative," Singh said.

As part of the collaboration with the BSCL, the GIZ will conduct a pre-feasibility study based on urban design thinking methodology including a topographical survey, and will develop a detailed stormwater masterplan for the pilot area of Nayapalli, Iskon temple location and other ward 4 areas.

Moreover, under the Climate Smart Cities initiative, the BSCL will also work with the GIZ to expand the 'Mu City' saviour app throughout the entire city, which will assist in reporting the waterlogging problem in Bhubaneswar and taking safeguards.

"A final gap analysis report and implementation roadmap will be provided. Depending on the field conditions, we would endeavour to adopt GIZ's suggestions. The app will also be designed soon and will be launched for the citizens under a common platform," Singh added.

'Ayurvedic drug can help kidney recovery'

Patients suffering from ascites - a condition in which fluid collects in spaces within the abdomen - can be treated by Ayurvedic poly-herbal drug that has potential not only to slow down the progression of chronic kidney disease but also restore normalcy in functional parameters of the vital organ, a team of researchers has claimed.

In a study published in latest issue of Journal of Ayurveda and Integrated Medical Sciences, Assistant Professor Komala A, Siddesh Aradhyamath and researcher Mallinath IT from JSS Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital in Karnataka gave a range of Ayurvedic formulations along with AIMIL Pharmaceutical's innovation Neeri KFT for impaired kidneys.



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Ayurvedic formulation daily -morning and evening - was given for a month," the researchers said, adding the outcome was positive.

The herbal drug not only helped protecting the kidneys of the patients from further damage due to the condition but also helped excreting the collected fluid from their abdomen.

The NEERI-KFT, a herbal medicine extracted from plants, is composed of herbs such as Punarnava, Varun, Sigru, Sariva, Makoi and Sirish, also known for their diuretic properties. Sanchit Sharma from AIMIL Pharmaceuticals told IANS that in the past few years Neeri KFT has proven to be effective in strengthening the kidney as well as

clearing toxic fluids from the body.

Ascites usually occurs when the liver stops working properly or it malfunctions, leading to a build-up of fluid in the space between the abdominal lining and the organs. Ascites is the most common complication of cirrhosis (scarring of the liver). It affects around 60 per cent of people with cirrhosis within 10 years of their diagnosis, and the two-year survival rate is 50 per cent.

Patients suffering with ascites may have the symptoms like painless swelling in the abdomen that worsens rather than going away; abdominal discomfort; weight gain; feeling full after eating a little, shortness of breath as pressure increases in the abdomen, pushing up on the diaphragm and reduction in the space for the lungs to expand. IANS

DSPL-100



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ରଥଯାତ୍ରା-୨୦୨୨ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶିକା

- ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ଶରଦ୍ଧ, ଥଣ୍ଡାକାଶ ଆଦି ହେଉଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଆଦୌ ଜନଗହଳି ମଧ୍ୟକୁ ନ ଯାଇ ଘରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ନାଥମରେ ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଦେଖନ୍ତୁ ।
- କୋଭିଡ୍ ନିୟମ ଯଥା : ସଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ ମାସ୍କ ପିନ୍ଧିବା, ହାତକୁ ଭଲଭାବେ ସାବୁନରେ ଧୋଇବା/ସାନିଟାଇଜରରେ ସଫା କରିବା ଆଦି ନିଷ୍ଠାର ସହ ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବିଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପାଣି (ପାଇପ୍ ପାଣି, ସିଧା ପାଣି କିମ୍ବା ହାଲୋଜେନ୍ ବଟିକା ପଡ଼ିଥିବା ପାଣି) ପିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବାହାରେ ଖୋଲା ବିକ୍ରି ହେଉଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ରଜା ଦିଆ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ବାସି ଓ ଦୁର୍ଗନ୍ଧ ହେଉଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ମାଛି ବସୁଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ କିମ୍ବା ପଚାସଡ଼ା ଫଳ ଖାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ସମୁଦ୍ର ସ୍ନାନ ସମୟରେ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ସତର୍କତା ଅବଲମ୍ବନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବଡ଼ଦାଣ୍ଡ, ଶରଧା ବାଲି, ବସ୍ ଷ୍ଟାଣ୍ଡ, ରେଳ ଷ୍ଟେସନ ଓ ସମୁଦ୍ର କୂଳ ଆଦି ସ୍ଥାନରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ତରଫରୁ ଆଣ୍ଟି ଚିକିତ୍ସା କେନ୍ଦ୍ରମାନ ଖୋଲା ଯାଇଛି । ଦରକାର ହେଲେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- କୌଣସି ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ସମୟରେ ଜରୁରୀ ଖବର ଦେବା ପାଇଁ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ନିକଟ ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟଙ୍କ ଫୋନ୍ ନମ୍ବର ପାଖରେ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।



ଜରୁରୀ ସେବା ଫୋନ୍ ନମ୍ବର :

ପୁରୀ ସଦର ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ କଣ୍ଟୋଲ ରୁମ୍ : ୦୬୭୫୨-୨୨୨୧୭୫
ରାଜ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ସେବା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ୍ : ୧୦୪

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ସମସ୍ତ ନିୟମ ପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଘୋଷ ଯାତ୍ରାକୁ ମନଭରି ଉପଭୋଗ କରିବା ।



ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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OIPR-10003/13/0028/2223

Maoist hideout busted at Odisha-Chhattisgarh border

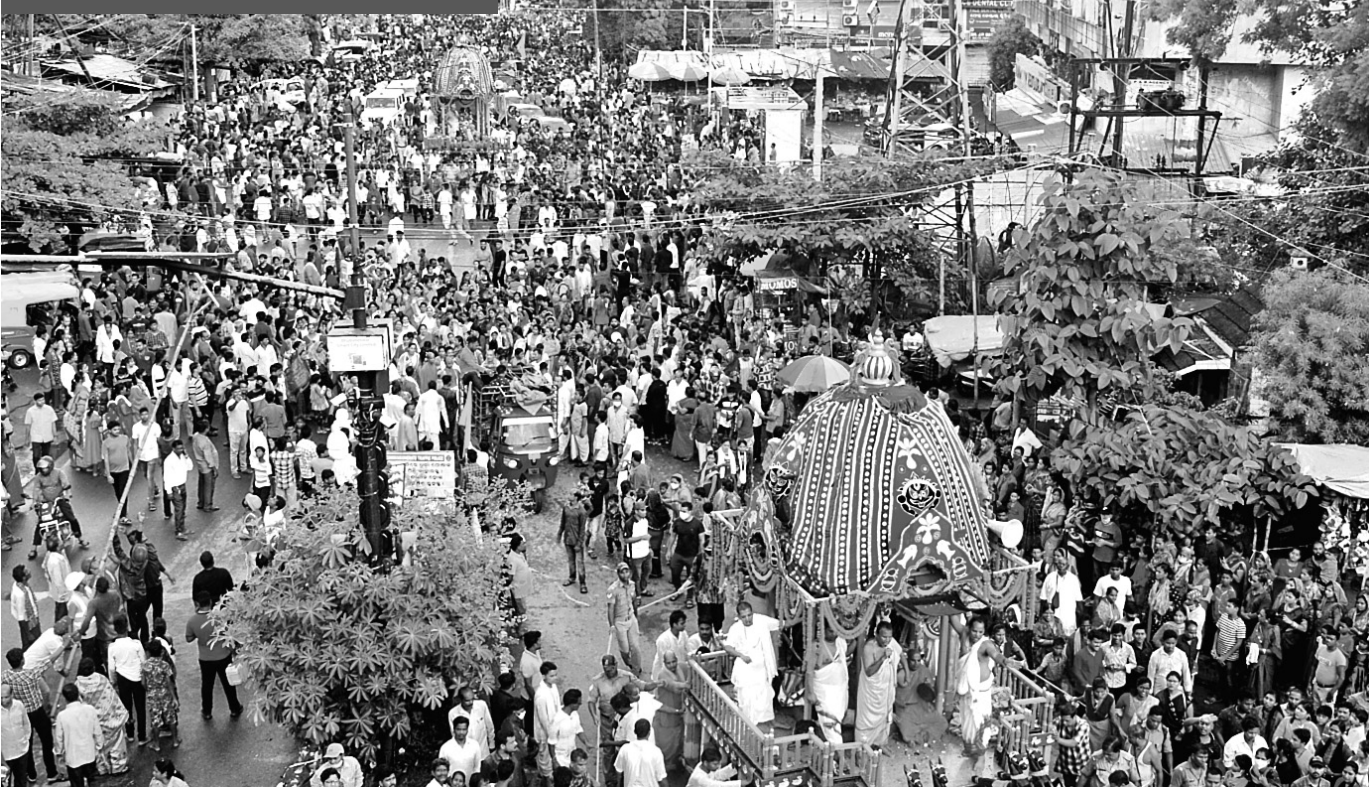
THE FORCE STUCK BACK, BUT THE MAOISTS COULD FLEE INTO THE FOREST AFTER A GUNFIGHT THAT LASTED FOR AN HOUR



Bhubaneswar, July 9: A Maoist hideout at the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border was busted following a gunfight with the security forces, police said Saturday. However, over 60 Maoists including some female cadres could manage to flee the camp at Patdhara Reserve Forest in Boden police station area of Nuapada district, they said. Acting on a tip-off about the presence of Maoists, the District Voluntary Force (DVF), Special Operation Group (SOG) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) raided the area Thursday, they said. "Around 10.10 am Friday, 60-80

Maoists opened fire, targeting the forces," a police officer said. The force stuck back, but the Maoists could flee into the forest after a gunfight that lasted for an hour, he said. "The combing operations are still going on," the officer said Saturday afternoon. No security personnel were injured in the gunfight, and it was not immediately known if any Maoists were injured, he said. Among the Maoists present there were Murlu alias Sangram Reddy, Debji, Jayaram alias Chhalpati and Kartik alias Dashru, he informed. The forces found packets of condoms, contraceptive pills and pregnancy test kits at the camp, he said. Besides, an air gun, five batteries, a wireless set, four radios, a power bank and a bluetooth speaker were among those recovered.

HOLY HOMECOMING



ISKCON Bhubaneswar celebrated Bahuda Yatra of the Holy Trinity by pulling chariots amidst devotees, Saturday

Daily cases in state cross 500 mark, TPR at 3.35%



Bhubaneswar, July 9: Odisha recorded 512 Covid-19 cases Saturday, the highest in more than four months, taking the tally to 12,92,928, the state Health department said in a bulletin. The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) jumped to 3.35 per cent from 2.77 per cent as the cases were detected out of 15,265 samples. Fifty-nine children were among those afflicted with the disease, according to the Health bulletin.

Sundargarh steps up countermeasures

Sundargarh: In view of the prevailing Covid situation, the Sundargarh district administration ramped up necessary preparations to contain spread and ramped up the health care system. Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO) Saroj Kumar Mishra said the primary focus of the Covid countermeasures in the district has been Testing, Tracking, Treatment (3T) and Vaccination. Moreover, steps are being taken to sensitise people about proper adherence to Covid

Appropriate Behaviour (CAB). "It is observed that Covid infections have been on the rise in the state. At present, the rate of infection in the district has been around 5-6 percent. Therefore, people should not panic and follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB). They should use face masks, wash their hands frequently and maintain social distancing," Mishra said. He said testing has been scaled up in the district in order to identify the infected people. At present, 400 Rapid Antigen and 450 RTPCR

testing is being carried out every day and efforts are being made to enhance the existing capacity. "Moreover, 30 beds at the Sundargarh Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) and 20 at the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) have been kept ready for Covid treatment. Provision of Ventilator and Oxygen has been made at these facilities. The administration has asked private hospitals in Rourkela to make necessary arrangements for Covid patients," he added. coveries to 12,80,954, the Health department said. The Covid-19 death toll remained at 9,126 as there were no more deaths. Fifty-three more Covid patients have died in state due to comorbidities so far, the department added.

CONTINUED FROM P1

'Smokeless' LPG brings tears as prices rise 30% in one year

Parki Mehra, 40, a private school teacher from Ambala in Haryana, said the price hike of domestic LPG cylinders has impacted middle-class families like hers. The mother of two school-going children says her family has cut down on expenses on other non-essential items to manage the household budget. Sandeep Kumar, 38, from Hisar, who is employed in the private sector, said prices of fuel, cooking oil and other essential items were already high, and the increase in LPG rates has further added to the problems of the common people. The father of two school-going girls said the government should reduce LPG cylinder and fuel prices to provide some relief to people. Ajay Kumar, 45, a Chandigarh resident who lost his private job last year amid the pandemic, says inflation has badly impacted the public. According to Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies department's statistics, there are 1.43 crore LPG consumers in the state. The price per cylinder has gone up to ₹1,103 in some places in Andhra Pradesh (based on local taxes). Consumers point out that the price of a 14.5-kg cylinder went up from ₹614 in June 2020 to ₹857 in June 2021 and ₹1,089 now. Just a week back, domestic LPG cylinder was priced at ₹1,055 and now the government has hiked the rate again. After slashing the fuel prices slightly, the central government has increased the LPG prices, said S Vandana, a housewife. She also wondered as to why

the commercial gas cylinder prices were being decreased. Cooking gas prices have risen on eight occasions in the last one year. International oil and gas prices have soared on fears of supply disruptions after Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Rates have fallen in recent days on talks of recession in the world's largest oil consumer, the US. In May, the government cut excise duty on petrol by ₹8 per litre and diesel by Rs ₹per litre to cool soaring inflation. At that time, the government also stated that ₹200 per cylinder subsidy on cooking gas will be limited to only 9 crore poor women and other beneficiaries who got free connections under the Ujjwala scheme. The remaining users, including households, will pay the market price (also known as non-subsidised rate). Originally, non-subsidised cooking gas was the one that consumers used to buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates. However, the government stopped paying subsidy on LPG to most households in mid-2020. India relies on overseas purchases to meet about 85 per cent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices. While India has surplus oil refining capacity, it does not manufacture enough LPG to meet domestic demand and imports significant quantities from nations such as Saudi Arabia.

CP urges people to install CCTVs

Bhubaneswar, July 9: The Commissioner of Police (CP) Saturday requested residents of Capital city to install CCTV cameras at their houses and business establishments to check the rising incidents of theft, loot and snatchings. The city police, in a press release, urged the residents to share information regarding theft, snatching, loot and other street crimes with the police through the WhatsApp number 7077798111. The city police often find no CCTVs in the nearby residential as well as business establishments during the course of investigation. This makes it hard for the cops to identify and track the criminals in the absence of adequate evidence.

Technical glitches reported during day one of NET

New Delhi, July 9: Technical glitches were reported from various centres across the country on the first day of the National Eligibility Test (NET) Saturday, with candidates taking to social media to narrate their ordeal. According to National Testing Agency (NTA) officials, the candidates writing the exam from centres that witnessed a server issue will get another chance.

"In an act of sheer irresponsible management of exams, on the first day first shift of UGC NET, December 2021 and June 2022 merged cycle, candidates had to undergo a long haul of waiting of 2 hrs for the server to get started (scheduled at 9 am started at 11 am)," Kabalyapati Mishra, a candidate, wrote on Twitter. Another candidate, Arham Ali Khan, tweeted: "The @ugc_india NET/JRF examination that was scheduled for today did not happen

due to some server issue of the @DG_NTA. Students kept on waiting for 3 hours at JSS Institute sec 62 Noida and then left. When will it be rescheduled?" The states from where such complaints were received include Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The NTA officials said they are investigating the reason behind the glitches. "The candidates from the affected centres will get another chance to appear in the exam. We are also investigating the reason behind the glitches," a senior NTA official said.

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25 YEARS OF BJD



BJD arranged a mega blood donation camp at its party office in Bhubaneswar, Saturday marking 25 years of the party

'Bahuda Yatra' pulls 7 lakh devotees

The return journey of the deities is held on the ninth day of the Shukla Paksha in Ashadha month, as per the Hindu almanac. "Having 'darshan' of the Trinity on their chariots is considered auspicious, and it ensures no re-birth," said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher of Jagannath culture. Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, the titular king of Puri, swept the chariots with a gold broom in a ritual known as 'Chhera Pahanra'. The ritual delivers the message that all, be it a king or a common man, are equal before the lord, Mishra said. During the return journey, the chariots stopped for a while near the Mausima or Ardhansani temple, the maternal aunt of Lord Jagannath. There, 'Poda Pitha', a sweet cake made of coconut, rice jaggery and lentils, was offered to the trinity.

The chariots then rolled towards the main temple. Nadighosh, the chariot of Jagannath, stopped near the King's Palace where Goddess Lakshmi had a glimpse of the lord. Heavy security was deployed at the temple town during the day-long rituals. The district administration ensured facilities such as drinking water for the devotees, while the Health Department arranged ambulances. More than 200 buses were put into service to ferry devotees to Puri, while 230 trains helped people reach the beach town. The deities would be placed on the 'Ratna Simhasana', the jewelled throne, following a ceremony called 'Neeladribije' July 12. Ahead of 'Neeladribije', the deities would be decorated with 'Suna Beshra' or golden attire Sunday, a ritual that attracts a large number of devotees.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bargarh, I, Radhika Patra, W/o-Deepak Kumar Patra, Ward No. -3, Hatpada, Bargarh, PO/PS/Dist.-Bargarh, Odisha declare that my actual name is RADHIKA PATRA but some documents my name has reflected as PATNALA RADHIKA SUBUDHI. RADHIKA PATRA & PATNALA RADHIKA SUBUDHI belongs to same and one person. Henceforth, I shall be known as RADHIKA PATRA for all purposes.

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₹133cr irrigation project in limbo



THE MEGA LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT ENVISAGES LIFTING THE WATER FROM VAMSADHARA RIVER TO IRRIGATE FARMLANDS IN KASHINAGAR BLOCK

THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO OTHER LIFT IRRIGATION POINTS NEAR KIDIGAON(1) AND KIDIGAON(2) HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED

IT WAS SAID THAT AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, 8,300 FARMERS WOULD AVAIL IRRIGATIONAL BENEFITS. THE FARMER LEADERS DEMANDED EXPEDITIOUS STEPS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kashinagar, July 9: The state government has emphasised on expanding the irrigation coverage to boost farming, but the work of a mega lift irrigation project to be built at a cost of ₹133 crore in Kashinagar block of Gajapati district has been moving at snail's pace. This has left the farmers in the area fuming.

Reports said, the state government sanctioned ₹133 crore for the mega lift irrigation project that envisages lifting the water from Vamsadhara river to irrigate farmlands in the block. The project once completed will be able to irrigate 13,200 hectare of land.

Farmers alleged that a construction agency from outside the

state was awarded the project work, but it has failed to carry out the work expeditiously.

As part of this project, two lift irrigation points were set up near Sara and Bathaba villages, but the two points are unable to meet the water requirement of the farmers in the area, it was alleged.

The construction of two other lift irrigation points near Kidigaon(1) and Kidigaon(2) has not been completed. "As a result, we are unable to irrigate our farmlands at a time when scanty rainfall has made our situation worse. As the project gets delayed, our farmlands remain deprived of water at the time of drought," lamented some farmers.

Farmers, officials of the lift irrigation department and the con-

tractor held a meeting to discuss the issue recently.

The officials assured that a lift irrigation point near Kidigaon will be made operational in a week.

It was said that after completion of the project, 8,300 farmers would avail irrigational benefits. The farmer leaders demanded expeditious steps to complete the project.

Condemning the official apathy for the delay, the farmers said the tardy pace of the project would lead to cost overrun, only to benefit the contractor.



Devotees and local people along with their bikes and bicycles were ferried on a rickety boat in Chilika through Satapada-Janhikuda route to Puri, Saturday

NON-PAYMENT OF CROP INSURANCE DUES

Bargarh farmers smell fund embezzlement

WITH INSURANCE CLAIMS PENDING OVER YEARS, A STRONG SENSE OF RESENTMENT IS BREWING AMONG THE FARMERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, July 9: Owing to scanty rainfall, crops in hectares of farmland had been affected in Bargarh district in 2018-19 fiscal, but scores of affected farmers have not yet received insurance dues for their damaged crops.

Some farmers have received their dues while the insurance money of many others has been misappropriated, farmers alleged Friday.

With insurance claims pending over years, a strong sense of resentment is brewing among them for being deprived of their damages under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).



Farmers of six panchayats -- Dunguri, Bungapali, Uttam, Lakhanpur, Khola and Karla -- under Ambabhona block awaiting their insurance dues have taken up the issue with Collector Monisha Banerjee, Friday.

Submitting a memorandum to the Collector, the farmer leaders sought her intervention in the issue.

In the memorandum, they said that during loan disbursal for Rabi and Kharif seasons, they usually give two blank cheques each with their signatures to the secretaries of Lakhanpur cooperative society and Sambalpur district central cooperative society.

In 2018-19, crops were battered by drought due to insufficient rainfall. However, only some of the farmers have been paid their insurance compensation dues under PMFBY while many others have not received theirs.

The farmers have alleged that they are being forced to pay premium under the scheme even as they have to wait for years to receive compensation for crop loss.

They have been running from pillar to post over years to settle insurance claims, but nobody hears their plight, they rued.

Due to Covid-induced restrictions, they could not go to coopera-

tive societies to know of their claims.

After restrictions were eased, some farmers met the secretary of Lakhanpur cooperative society over their insurance claims. They were told by the secretary that insurance claims of ₹70 lakh had come for 128 affected farmers, but the fund had been returned to Sambalpur district central cooperative bank.

They suspected that their insurance claims have been embezzled through fraudulent means. They have intimated the issue with the Collector.

They lamented that due to the callousness and apathy of the officials, they have been waiting for compensation for the crop loss over years. Acres of cultivated lands were damaged by the drought and despite the knowledge of authorities; no step has been taken for providing relief to the farmers who are waiting for compensation for three years.

The delay in claim settlement and crop assessment has led to resentment among the farmers in five panchayats of this district.

Huge cache of cough syrup bottles seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, July 9: The Sadar police seized a huge cache of cough syrup bottles and arrested one youth in this connection from Banabaspali in Bargarh district Saturday. The cough syrups contain the banned narcotic drug codeine, reports said.

The arrested youth was identified as Dayasagar Bag of Banabaspali. Acting on an input, police intercepted him with a bag and seized around 730 cough syrup bottles from his possession.

"The accused could not produce any document or authority for possession of such prohibited manufactured drugs, for which a case has been registered and he has been forwarded to court," said Bargarh SDPO Deepak Gochhayat. The consignment was meant to be supplied for intoxication and non-prescribed sale purposes in parts of Bargarh town, the official added.

RDC stresses streamlining AWCs' functioning in Kotia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, July 9: Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC), Southern range, T Ao has underscored the need for streamlining the operation of 26 Aganwadi centres in Kotia panchayat under this block in Koraput. During his visit to the district RDC reviewed various developmental activities being implemented in the fringe panchayat where neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has been continuously making bids to entrap people with its sops and welfare activities.

He held a review meeting with ADM Rameswar Pradhan, sub-collector Lalit Kahanr, district education officer Tamachandra Nahak, chief district veterinary officer Dr Nilamani Deep, tehsildar Debendra Bahadur Singh Dharua and the local BDO at the circuit house of the district headquarters.

He laid stress on expeditious ex-



ecution of various developmental works in the panchayat.

Kotia sector supervisor Sunarimani Mandangi said that the woman and child welfare department has taken up steps to open mini Anganwadi centres at Suliamari, Talasembi, Arjubalsa and Salapuguda villages of the panchayat.

On the other hand, people of the panchayat and sarpanch Liu Gemel had been waiting outside the panchayat office to apprise the RDC about various problems of the panchayat, but they could not meet the RDC. This has raised many an eyebrow.

Man on mission to plant trees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, July 9: Until recently, he was not able to stand up without support after he lost his right leg in a tragic road mishap. Confined to his bed, he was considered a burden.

Nevertheless, his passion for planting trees has given him a new purpose in life. According to him, it is the symbol of belonging and giving back to the land. He is Rajendra Jena, 50, a green crusader on a scooter.

Hailing from Ghatagarsahi under Nilagiri NAC in Balasore district, Jena only has his ailing bed-ridden mother as his family. Being the lone caretaker of his mother, he worked day and night to make a living.

However, a tragic road mishap in 2014 changed his life forever. Jena lost his right leg in the accident and was bed-ridden. However, his love for nature and determination to give back to the society has added a new meaning to his life.

GREEN CRUSADER ON SCOOTY



Now, his only aim is to nurture Mother Nature, create forests teeming with lakhs of valuable medicinal plants, tree-bearing trees, and protect hundreds of birds and wildlife species.

"It is very important to protect the land for our future generations. What shall we leave for our children?"

Only thing that can save our children is Mother Nature," Jena asserts.

"I have spent my childhood around trees, birds and animals, and formed a deep bond with the flora and fauna. It is due to my passion and love for nature from an early age that I want to have trees around me. It is my aim to generate forests for the future generation," he quips.

He travels from place to place on his two-wheeler and plants trees. Starting from roadside to school premises and hospital premises, he plants saplings in any barren land that comes in front of his eyes.

Having planted over 500 saplings in the last few years, he wants the younger generation to take out time from their daily schedule and plant as many trees as possible.

"Rajendra bhai is a passionate nature lover and is devoting his life to creating a forest, especially without any support from the government or private individuals. Such efforts need to be replicated," a local said praising Rajendra.

Man murders wife for not cooking mutton

Baripada: In a shocking incident, a man thrashed his wife to death after she refused to cook mutton curry for him. The incident was reported from Saleibeda village under Thakurmunda police limits in Mayurbhanj district late Friday night. The accused has been identified as Girish Dehury, husband of the deceased Bhuli Dehury. Sources said Girish reached the house late at night with mutton and asked his wife to cook it for him. However, the woman refused to cook, which led to an altercation between the couple. In a fit of rage, Girish picked up an iron pipe and went on beating his wife, killing her on the spot. Saturday morning, some locals got to know about the incident and alerted the cops. A police team reached the spot and began an investigation into the incident. Bhuli is now survived by two minor children -- a son and a daughter.

Youth hangs self

Sundargarh: In a tragic incident, a youth reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself in the Town police station area here in the district. The deceased has been identified as Arun Bhoi. The incident came to the fore after a few neighbours of the deceased suspected suicide when he did not come out of the house Saturday morning and alerted the cops. On getting the information, police arrived at the spot and broke into the house to find the youth hanging from the ceiling of the house. Thereafter, the body was brought down and sent for post-mortem to a nearby hospital. It is suspected that Bhoi committed suicide as his door was locked from inside. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the matter.

MAMITA MURDER CASE

Gobinda walks out of jail on bail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, July 9: Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the sensational murder of teacher Mamita Meher Saturday walked out of Kantabanji jail in Bolangir district as he had been granted conditional bail by the High Court June 29 for a period of two weeks.

Sahu had requested the HC for bail citing the treatment of his wife and son. On July 22, he would again surrender at the ADJ court in Kantabanji. It may be noted here that

The prime accused was granted 2-week conditional bail by the High Court June 29

Mamita Meher, the lady teacher of Jharni village under Turekela block in Bolangir district, used to work at Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling. She went missing on October 8, 2021.

Later, police detained Gobinda Sahu on the basis of her family members' complaint and

kept him at Titlagarh police barrack. Taking all by surprise, he had managed to escape from the police custody October 17.

October 19, the missing teacher's body parts were found buried at an under-construction stadium at Mahaling. Subsequently, Bolangir police had announced a cash award of ₹1,00,000 for the person who would share information about Gobinda's whereabouts.

He was later arrested from a sugarcane field at Budhipadar village under Bangomunda block in Bolangir district.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, BHADRAK
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Bid Identification No. Online Tender 3 of 2022-23
No. O-611: 1. Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total No. of Works : 1 No. 3. Estimated Cost: Rs. 45.45 Lakh. 4. Class of Contractor: As per Annexure. 5. Period of Completion : Two Months. 6. Type of Tender : Single Cover. 7. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	4
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Bhadrak	Online-3 of 2022-23	15.07.22 At 11.00 A.M.	25.07.22 At 5.00 P.M.	26.07.22 At 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersorissa.gov.in"
Sd./Er. Santanu Kumar Naik
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhadrak
OIPR-25060/11/0004/2223

MARAUDING JUMBO



A tusker went on a damaging spree for last several days in Raibania area of Balasore before crossing Subarnarekha river to enter Jaleswar, Saturday

Blood-soaked body recovered

Sonepur: A youth's blood-soaked body was recovered Saturday morning from Arigaon village under Binika police limits in Sonepur district. Prima facie it is a case of murder. The matter came to the fore after locals spotted the young man's blood-soaked body. A bike was spotted nearby. On getting the information, the local police and firefighters arrived at the spot and recovered the body. The body was sent for autopsy and the identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained when the last report came in. From the preliminary investigation, it is suspected that the youth has been brutally killed and thrown away. The cops have seized the bike and initiated a probe into the matter.

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BHUBANESWAR BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: M/s. Sabitri Enterprises, Prop.: Mr. Nihar Ranjan Swain, S/o.: Dharanidhar Swain, At: Plot No.: H/12/2, Panchasakha Nagar, Dumduma, P.S.: Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar	₹ 20,07,846/- + interest & expenses thereon	29.10.2021 / 08.07.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building situated over Khata No.: 432/3424, Plot No.: 737/5545, Mouza: Dumduma, Thana No.: 04, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, within the registration Sub-District: Khandagiri & District: Khurda, standing in the name of Mr. Nihar Ranjan Swain, Bounded by North: Swamalata Khandai, South: Jharana Samal, East: Purna Chandra Sundaray, West: 13ft wide Road

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.07.2022
Authorised Officer, Bank of India



We must march on with the quiet certitude that what has to be done will be done.

THE MOTHER



A Lot To Do

The average Gross Domestic Product per person of the world is US dollars 12,200 per year. This is about Rs 9.6 lakh per year or Rs 80 thousand per person per month. Meaning that if we take the entire world's GDP, all goods and services and divide it by the world's population we get the numbers above.

In 2013, Bangladesh's GDP per person was US dollars 981 and India's was USD 1449. This lead has always been present and India has always been ahead of Bangladesh. When after the war of 1971 Bangladesh was born it was seen by many as an unviable state, meaning that it would never be economically productive enough to sustain itself.

The famous American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is said to have referred to Bangladesh as a 'basket case'.

After 2014, Bangladesh began to catch up with India. In 2016 the numbers were almost even (Bangladesh USD 1679, India USD 1732). Then we were even and then Bangladesh went ahead. In 2021, according to the World Bank's data Bangladesh was at USD 2503 while India is at USD 2277. Today the average person in Bangladesh makes about Rs 2 lakh per year (Rs 16 thousand per month) while the average Indian makes Rs 1.8 lakh a month. The International Monetary Fund says that for the foreseeable future Bangladesh is expected to be ahead of India.

Now, a few things need to be addressed. First while all of us here must be disappointed with our own performance we should acknowledge and applaud what Bangladesh has achieved. From being seen as a basket case to going on to become a global champion in garments exports would not have been easy but they have achieved it.

The next thing to do is to ask where we have gone wrong. This is not easy to do. India does not acknowledge that it is doing badly when it comes to economic growth. If one listens to the speeches of the prime minister or looks at the narrative in the media it is not one that is reflective of the numbers we have seen above. India is the "fastest growing major economy" and that is the end of that. We have no problems and therefore there is neither the need to reflect on our position and certainly there is no cause to see what needs to be corrected.

If we don't talk about the fact that Bangladesh has overtaken us then the problem doesn't exist. And yet it does. A short time ago the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers put out some numbers on domestic sales of their goods for the five years leading up to March 2020. The society concluded that their sector was in a "structural, long term and deep slowdown" and that more research needed to be conducted to find out what was going on. More research by whom? That was not said but we can assume they meant by the government or by its think tank Niti Aayog. The automobile sector is half of India's total manufacturing sector. In 2014, manufacturing was 16% of GDP meaning that the automobile sector contributed to 8% of GDP.

Because of the slowdown in the sales of automobiles the share of manufacturing in GDP slipped to 13% in 2021 and is probably lower today. Manufacturing is the place where most developing nations compete for jobs. India's inability to provide meaningful jobs to its people can in many ways be explained by its inability to boost manufacturing. Not just not able to boost it, as the numbers tell us, but not even able to hold on to what we had.

We refer to ourselves as Vishwaguru and there is no doubt that India has many things to teach the world just as it has many things to learn from the world. However, the average Indian produces less than a fifth of what the average global citizen produces. China (USD 12556) is today even with the world, meaning that the average Chinese person produces what the average world person produces. This means that today we have one-fifth the economic power of China. It will interest readers to know that India and China were even in 1991 when we launched what is called the economic reforms. Both nations were at about USD 300 per person in that year. Today the world does not see us as peers. China is a Great Power which in international relations means that it can effectively project its power outside its borders. It is the primary strategic threat to the United States' dominance or influence over the world. It is expected to catch up with the US in terms of overall GDP (though not per person) in the next few years. It has according to some experts almost caught up with the US in military power.

When our prime minister attends BRICS or G20 or another forum the assumption is that he goes there in a group of peers. Of course this is true in so far as we accept that all nations are equal. But in a room where those gathered are aware of their power and of the power of others the dynamics will not be the same as that of the group photo.

India will need to do a lot of hard work to be able to influence the world, to be able to lift its people out of poverty and into prosperity. We will need in fact to do a lot of work even to catch up with Bangladesh. Can this happen in a nation where the daily news cycle is filled with glee at activists being locked up because of their tweets? In my opinion it is not possible but we do not have to wait a long time to find out. The world is changing at a faster rate than it has in history and our place in the world and our future will be obvious to all before the current decade is over.

WISDOM CORNER

- It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop. **CONFUCIUS**
- Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old. **FRANZ KAFKA**
- For success, attitude is equally as important as ability. **WALTER SCOTT**

WORDSWORTH

Tsunami

When news of the earthquake and flooding in Japan broke 11 March 2011 nobody in Britain needed to be told what a tsunami was. The devastation one can cause had been burned into our minds since the Indian Ocean earthquake of Christmas 2004. It was that catastrophe that brought the Japanese word into the British vocabulary. Before then, it had largely been restricted to oceanographers and seismologists and to a relatively small literate group that had come across it and been intrigued by it (including the Manic Street Preachers, with their song of that title in 1999). In the 1970s, Science magazine declared the Food and Drug Administration was "swimming through a tsunami of comments" on its drug strategy. In 1978, the New Yorker described a "tsunami of applause". In 2002, William Safire combined Japanese with Yiddish in the New York Times to generate a "tsunami of tsoris", a sea of troubles. Tsunami is made up from two Japanese words, tsu, harbour and nami, wave. Out at sea the energy of a tsunami is dispersed through a tall column of water and the wave may be small enough to be missed. As it approaches land the shoaling water slows the wave but increases its height until it powers ashore. Japanese fishermen at sea wouldn't notice a tsunami passing them until they returned home and found their harbours destroyed by a wave that seemed to come from nowhere. The word first entered English through reports of the Meiji-Sanriku earthquake and consequent tsunami in June 1896 which caused many thousands of deaths across the same region as the one of March 2011. But the term was used too rarely in reports to become widely known. Most people continued inaccurately to call such events tidal waves — tsunamis have no connection with tides — as they had since Charles Lyell called them that in his Principles of Geology in 1830.



Vidyadhar Date

THE BJP AND METRO RAIL AUTHORITIES ARE BUSY DENYING THAT AAREY IS A FOREST

The BJP exploits Indian history, sings its glory but has no real understanding of Indian culture. As Rabindranath Tagore once said, India's culture is rooted in its forests. Ours is an 'Aranyasanskriti'. But the BJP has no respect for this culture. So, the first thing it did on the first day of coming to power in Maharashtra through an unholy alliance with Shiv Sena dissidents was to take over parts of the Aarey forest on the outskirts of Mumbai for the metro rail project. This is in total defiance of a strong movement of citizens. Aarey has now become a rallying point for all, not just citizen-activists but common people as well.

The decision reversed the one taken by the Uddhav Thackeray government to protect the forest region of Aarey which essentially is Mumbai's green lungs. The decision came on a particularly inappropriate day for another reason. It was the first day of the month of Ashadh, the Kalidasa Day which honours the Sanskrit poet-dramatist Kalidasa. He wrote about the beauty of nature and environment and forests as few others have, through his immortal works like Meghaduta, the classic poem, and the play Shakuntala.

India's best ideas have come where man was in communion with trees and rivers and lakes, away from the crowds. The peace of the forest has helped the intellectual evolution of man. The culture of the forest has fuelled the culture of Indian society. Not being caged in brick, wood and iron, Indian thinkers were surrounded by and linked to the life of the forest. The living forest was for them their shelter, their source of food. The intimate relationship between human life and living nature became the source of knowledge. Nature was not dead and inert in this knowledge system. The experience of life in the forest made it adequately clear that living nature was the source of light and air, of food and water.

The BJP and metro rail au-

FOCUS ECOLOGY

TREACHERY IN AAREY



India's best ideas have come where man was in communion with trees and rivers and lakes, away from the crowds. The peace of the forest has helped the intellectual evolution of man

thorities are busy denying that Aarey is a forest. It is just a grass-land come up on the land of the Aarey milk dairy in the 1950s to feed the cattle, they say. A recent video also makes such a claim but unwittingly it mentions there are lakhs of trees on the land which will not be touched by the Metro car shed sought to be constructed there.

But the real fear is that the authorities with their nexus with the builders will gradually convert the forest into a real estate bonanza, sooner or later. The Metro rail connection will be a real boon for this land grab.

We should have no doubt that Aarey in Mumbai was and is a forest. Here is something Homi Taleyarkhan, a former Maharashtra minister and a nature lover, wrote about Aarey way back in the 1950s: "One could hardly believe that there could be so much forest so near Bombay, so wealthy in its variety, in its sights and sounds."

Taleyarkhan who was also a former Governor of Sikkim wrote this and much more in his book 'Escape from the City' published by Popular Book Depot in 1954. If

you are looking for something off the beaten track, then make this delectable trip from Aarey to Kanheri national park through the woods, he says. The road winds and twists through the thick forest. Interestingly, Taleyarkhan gives the credit for discovering the track to "our nature-loving and aesthetic minded minister for education and parks, Dinkarrao Desai." Till then nobody knew of the sheer beauties that lay hidden in these thick woods.

This is a four-page chapter. He also gives directions about approaching the trek. You should get off at Goergaon station and then take an "anna bus" (an anna, earlier in use, was the small currency, one-sixteenth of a rupee) to Aarey and then start walking. The road was then not fit enough for a car; it was ok for a jeep. He writes about the tall trees, wild flowers, bushes and shrubs, birds singing and colourful and numerous little surprises.

This is a fascinating book, my copy is a bit moth eaten but I now realise it is a bit of a treasure because the writer is not a tourist-type but a real traveller. He says

rightly that the real delight of an outing lies in a good walk at the end of your vehicular journey.

The new CM Eknath Shinde should have a better sense of the environment as he comes from Satara district with its lovely Koyna dam and the forest area. And what is the use of the new Metro and the Aarey shed to the CM's assembly constituency of Thane, the Mumbai suburb? It will take years for the Metro project to reach Thane and other areas. He was the urban development minister in the last ministry but public bus transport remains inadequate in his own constituency. It takes a minimum of one half hour of waiting at Thane railway station to get a bus.

Satara has a rich tradition. It was in this district that Kramtisimha (the revolutionary lion) Nana Patil formed a parallel government during the British rule. The honorific title was given to Patil out of love by the people for his revolutionary fervour. As against his revolution, what Shinde has done can be termed by some as a counter revolution.

Maratha history is full of incidents of treachery so the word 'Fitur', treachery, constantly figures in writing on the period in Marathi. People from Satara district are generally thought to be simple and hardy. As coincidence would have it, I was talking with a lawyer representing a company in a labour dispute raised by Mathadi workers (loaders) who hail from Satara. Though he represents the management, he was full of praise for the Mathadis; they are absolutely honest, and will not take a scrap from the factory.

Shinde has one common physical feature with these men. He is broad shouldered. He must have been a simple man once but politics can change one completely. Otherwise, you cannot build two helipads in your village which lacks basic amenities.

The writer is a senior journalist and culture critic.

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SPECTRUM OBITUARY

How Abe changed Japan

Former Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's assassination at an election campaign event in Nara, Japan, is both shocking and puzzling. It is shocking because Japan has known almost no political violence for at least a half-century, and because gun ownership in the country is tightly controlled. It is puzzling because Abe, having stepped down as prime minister in 2020, had no formal government role; yet the killing was plainly a political act.

Abe's death is unlikely to have any impact on the July 10 elections for Japan's House of Councillors (the upper and therefore junior legislative chamber), which the ruling Liberal Democratic Party was already expected to win comfortably. The tragic loss of the LDP's former leader and prime minister may add some sympathy votes by increasing turnout, but it has primarily astonished and bewildered a country that is completely unaccustomed to such violence.

Abe's legacy from his record-setting tenure as prime minister — which was divided between an unsuccessful year in 2006-07, followed by a triumphal return for seven years from 2012 to 2020 — is more notable for its effects on Japanese foreign and security policy than on domestic affairs. To be sure, Abe was a good salesman for his economic-policy agenda, which he



successfully promoted under the banner of "Abenomics"; but, in the end, it was his foreign policy, not his economic programme, that was transformative.

Abe brought clarity, strength of purpose, and — by dint of his longevity in office — credibility to Japanese foreign policy. The fact that the term "Indo-Pacific" is now commonly used to describe security and diplomatic strategy in Asia is largely owing to Abe, who took a pre-existing Japanese effort to build a stronger relationship with India and used it to reframe and extend his country's position both regionally and globally.

That stance was dictated by China's rise and its increasingly assertive rhetoric and actions in and around the South and East China Seas. Under Abe, Japan committed itself to defining a strategic and diplomatic arena that would be harder for China to dominate. Deepening ties with India was part of that strategy, as were Abe's ef-

forts to strengthen Japan's military. He was a leading proponent of proposals to amend the country's constitution so that its military could play a bigger role alongside that of its key ally, the United States.

Abe was undeniably a nationalist. He originally courted controversy with somewhat revisionist views about Japan's wartime history, especially regarding the hot-button issue of "comfort women" whom the Imperial Japanese Army forced into sexual slavery in occupied countries. Once in office, however, he largely played down his earlier views. Moreover, he built closer and deeper diplomatic relationships across Southeast Asia, improving ties even with the country's prickliest neighbour and former colony, South Korea. While relations with China were often tense — especially when Abe visited Japan's controversial Yasukuni Shrine for its war dead — Sino-Japanese dialogue was nevertheless maintained.

It is always difficult to guess the motives of a lone assassin. The man arrested for Abe's murder, 41-year-old Tetsuya Yamagami, appears to have used a large, homemade shotgun. Given that Japan is one of the world's safest countries, security at political events tends to be light, even for a former prime minister, which presumably explains how the gunman was able to pull it off. According to news reports,

Yamagami served for three years in Japan's navy, the Maritime Self-Defense Force, until 2005. That background — combined with Abe's advocacy of a stronger Japanese military and efforts to eliminate the constitution's pacifist clause (Article 9) — makes it reasonable to speculate that the killing was committed in protest against the country's military posture.

Although Abe was no longer in office, he was undoubtedly still the country's most prominent and well-known advocate of a stronger military capability. In that capacity, he often expressed a determination to complete the work started by his grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who, as prime minister in 1960, shepherded through a revision to the country's security treaty with the US, with a view to reinforcing Japanese defense.

Sadly, it is perhaps not coincidental that the last Japanese prime minister to fall victim to a violent attack was Kishi, who was stabbed by an assailant six times shortly after the revised security treaty was approved. Unlike Abe, however, his grandfather survived.

The writer, a former editor-in-chief of The Economist, is Co-Director of the Global Commission for Post-Pandemic Policy.

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Bill Emmott

THE FACT THAT THE TERM INDO-PACIFIC IS NOW COMMONLY USED TO DESCRIBE SECURITY AND DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY IN ASIA IS LARGELY OWING TO ABE

Airline safety

Sir, Even a frequent flier is not totally free of anxiety in air. Aerophobia or aviophobia is more frequent than imagined. There are many triggers for a person to go into a state of phobia, including other associated phobias like fear of isolation, but frequent air scares should definitely top the list. Though air accidents are less as compared to other modes of transportation like road and rail, the panic attack that goes with air travel far exceeds that connected with the other two. When the airline happens to be SpiceJet, an exaggerated fear of flying is but natural. Six scares in the air over the last two months, and fifteen over the last ten, is a damning indictment of the private low cost airline's safety record. The concerned low cost airline has a fleet of nearly 100 planes with 214 daily passenger flights on 250 routes, and 145 cargo planes. Its public relations record, too, is not exemplary as per reports. The methods of training pilots by the said airline have come under a scanner. It put a 'faulty simulator' to train them, and the authorities had come down heavily on it. Excessive cost cutting by the airline is definitely a major reason for the ills plaguing its operations. Its financial woes have reportedly resulted in a massive overdue at several airports. Adopting a 'cash and carry' system to pay suppliers and vendors has not helped it. The mechanical aspects of the airline are also in the dock. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) should do much more than impose routine fines on the said airline. These 'fines' are peanuts for them. Regular inspection of the entire fleet of the airline should be undertaken by the DGCA without fail. Audit reports have to be perused with care. There cannot be any compromise on the issue because it involves the safety and security of passengers.

Shining legacy

Sir, The assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has cast a pall of gloom. The incident occurred during an election campaign speech Friday that stunned the nation with some of the strictest gun control laws anywhere. Abe, who became Japan's youngest Prime Minister in 2006 at age 52, was also its longest-serving leader when he resigned in 2020. He valued his friendship with India and will always remain special. Abe leaves behind a shining legacy.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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

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Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

of the day quote

Constitutional values and democratic institutions are facing a threat in the country, and a rubber stamp President would never try to save the Constitution

YASHWANT SINHA | OPPOSITION'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

All I can say is the mafia government in Maharashtra has ended. It was the feeling of many people from Maharashtra and I merely expressed it

KIRIT SOMAIYA | BJP LEADER

The Delhi government will implement a weekly action plan under which city roads will be repaired by the MCD, PWD and other civic agencies every week to make them neat and clean

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

SHORT TAKES

Driver arrested

Bangalore: Karnataka police have arrested a person for allegedly crushing a stray dog under his car in Indiranagar locality of Bengaluru, police said Saturday. The arrested person has been identified as Amul Raj, a resident of Jakkur. The accused had run over his car deliberately over the dog named "Brownie". Sneha Nandihal, a local resident, had lodged a complaint in this regard and sought action against the accused. The arrest was based on the CCTV footage.

Two held for theft

Panaji: Goa Police Saturday arrested two persons for allegedly stealing a church bell of brass, weighing 250 kg, worth Rs 4.50 lakh. Agacaim Police Inspector Tulshidas Naik said that accused persons were nabbed within two hours, after a complaint was registered. "There are two more persons involved in this robbery. We will nab them soon," Naik said. The arrested individuals have been identified as Ajmer Alam, 18, a native of Basti, Uttar Pradesh and Chunna Muhamad Ismail Khan, 36, a native of Bhagalpur, Bihar.

Five children flee

Guwahati: Five Rohingya children have fled from an observation home at Silchar in Assam, officials said Saturday. The five, said to be in their teens, have been identified as Md. Hussain, Md. Hassan, Mofijur Rahman, Jamal Hussain and Harul Amin. They are have been missing since July 1. The incident came to light Friday. Silchar was reeling under unprecedented flood when the Rohingya children escaped.

CBI searches Karti's house

New Delhi: In a latest development in the Chinese visa case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted searches at the residence of Congress MP Karti Chidambaram in Chennai and recovered some incriminating documents from there. A CBI source said that when the probe agency conducted searches at the residence of Karti Chidambaram in May, a portion of the house had to be sealed as the keys were with the Congress MP's wife, who was reportedly out of the country then. "Today, Karti Chidambaram's wife joined the probe and we opened this portion of the house. We have recovered some incriminating evidences and documents," said the source.



Maharashtra aims to be the first state in the country where all public transport buses run on clean fuels

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

BIG RELIEF

Bringing a major relief for the people of Kolkata and the West Bengal health department, the youth who was admitted to a city-based hospital Friday as a monkeypox virus victim suspect, has tested negative



Nearly five crore cases pending in courts: Rijju

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad (Maharashtra), July 9: Nearly five crore cases are pending in Indian courts and the number will go up further if no action was taken, Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijju said here Saturday.

Speaking at the first convocation of Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU) in Aurangabad, the minister also expressed concern about the unaffordability of legal professionals for the common people.

"The quality of the Indian judiciary is well-known across the

world. Two days ago, I was in London where I met people connected to the judiciary there. They all have similar thoughts and high regard for the Indian judiciary. The judgments of the Supreme Court are referred to quite often in the UK," the minister said.

Expressing concern over the pendency of cases in the country, Rijju said, "The pendency of cases when I took over as law minister was slightly less than four crore. Today, it is close to five crore. It is a matter of great worry for all of us." This situation did not come about because of any deficiency in the delivery of justice or lack of



support from the government, but "the pendency is bound to increase if some drastic action is not taken," the law minister said.

"In the UK, every judge delivers judgments in maximum of three to four cases in a day. But in Indian courts, every judge on an average presides over 40 to 50 cases every day. Now I realise that they sit extra time...People expect quality judgment. Judges are also human beings," Rijju said.

Referring to comments about judges in the media, the minister said, "Sometimes, I see comments on social media and print media about judges. If you really see the amount of work a judge has to put in, it is unimaginable and unthinkable for all other countries."

"In the age of social media,

everyone has an opinion without going into the depth of the issue. People jump to conclusions and pass personal judgments on judges," he said. He also expressed concern about the fees charged by lawyers.

Poor people find it difficult to afford good lawyers, and that should not be the reason for denial of justice to anyone, he said. "I know many lawyers in Delhi who are unaffordable for the common man. Just because somebody has a better access to the system, his fees should not go up. The playground should be open and equal for everyone," Rijju said.

MP residents enjoy on pothole-filled road

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, July 6: In an effort to draw the attention of the authorities towards the poor condition of roads ridden with potholes, the residents in Anuppur district in Madhya Pradesh have found a unique way of protest.

In a viral video filmed to highlight the poor condition of a road connecting Anuppur with Bijuri Manendragarh, the residents of the area could be seen sitting on chairs on a big crater on the road, dipping their legs in the muddy water that has accumulated after the rains to "chill".



To add to the ambience, they also put up some disco lights with dance music playing in the background along with beach balls to play. Setting the mood with party music, the residents could be seen having a blast, enjoying drinks and snacks.

The video also shows saplings planted in the smaller potholes around the crater as decoration. In a similar symbolic protest last year, the residents of Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district planted paddy on the muddy road leading up to their village in order to highlight the poor condition of the road.

Warrant issued against Zubair

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), July 9: A court in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri has summoned Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair on July 11 in a case registered in November last year on the charge of promoting enmity, a senior official said Saturday.

Shortly after Zubair got an interim bail from Supreme Court on Friday in a case registered in Sitapur for hurting religious sentiments, Lakhimpur Kheri Police served him a warrant to appear in court.

The Supreme Court Friday granted five-day interim bail to Zubair in connection with an FIR lodged against him in Sitapur district but he will remain in custody as per the order of a Delhi court in another case.

"The court of additional chief judicial magistrate (ACJM) Mohammadi in Kheri district issued the warrant against Mohd Zubair, which was served by Kheri police on Friday," Additional superintendent of police (ASP) Arun Kumar Singh said Saturday.

Mohammadi Police station in charge Ambar Singh said that "a case against Mohd Zubair had been lodged by Ashish Katiyar, reporter for a private news channel on Nov 25, 2021 by an order by a Kheri court." "In his complaint, Katiyar had alleged Zubair of misleading people through his tweet about his channel," he said.

Amarnath tragedy: Toll rises to 16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 9: Drones and helicopters were pressed into service and mountain rescue teams and lookout patrols with high-tech equipment and sniffer dogs deployed as operations continued Saturday to look for survivors in the cloudburst incident near the Amarnath cave shrine that snuffed out 16 lives.

Officials said the operations continued without a break amid fears that many are still trapped under the debris, which is yet to be totally cleared. They said 15,000 stranded pilgrims were shifted to the lower base camp of Panjtarni and 25 injured people to hospitals after the flash flood and landslides rummaged through tents and community kitchens on Friday afternoon.

However, undeterred by the incident, many devotees were thronged the Amarnath Yatra base camp in Jammu with a "high degree of enthusiasm and devotion" for their onward journey to the cave shrine situated at a height of 3,880 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

They said they have no fear and have full faith in Lord Shiva, adding that it would be a great privilege for



them if they die in the abode of the god. Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha chaired a review meeting to take stock of the progress of rescue work.

Meanwhile, many states have set up helplines for information about people who went for the yatra. A control room in West Bengal has also been opened at the state secretariat. According to an Army official, mountain rescue teams and lookout patrols with high-tech equipment and sniffer dogs were deployed for the search and rescue operation.

"Air rescue operations started Saturday morning and six pilgrims were evacuated by Army helicopters. The military medical teams are receiving patients and casualties at the Nilgaur helipad for onward evacuation," the official said.

An Mi-17 chopper of the BSF's air wing was pressed into service. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has also deployed advanced light helicopters for rescue operations.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesperson in Delhi said, "Sixteen bodies have been shifted to Baltal." The ITBP expanded its route opening and protection parties from the lower part of the holy cave up to Panjtarni, a spokesperson of the force said.

Additional Director General of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Vijay Kumar, who holds charge of the Kashmir range, reached the holy cave shrine on Saturday morning to supervise the rescue operations being conducted by security forces and the National Disaster Response Force.

Govt will complete tenure, says Shinde

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Saturday said he would expand his council of ministers after discussions with his deputy Devendra Fadnavis next week and exuded confidence that he would complete his tenure in office.

Addressing a press conference during a whirlwind tour of the national capital, Shinde also dismissed his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray's call for mid-term polls in Maharashtra and asserted that his government is strong and stable with the support of 164 MLAs, while the opposition has only 99.

After their arrival here Friday evening, Shinde and Fadnavis met President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J P Nadda.

Friday night, the duo had a long meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during which the broad contours of the power-sharing arrangement in the new



Maharashtra government were learnt to have been finalised.

Shinde and Fadnavis left for Pune Saturday evening en route Pandharpur, where the chief minister will worship Lord Vitthal on the occasion of Ashadi Ekadashi. Shinde and Fadnavis assumed office on June 30, after Thackeray resigned as the chief minister facing a massive rebellion in the Shiv Sena that brought down the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government.

Asked whether he was disappointed at the "demotion" to the post of deputy chief minister, Fadnavis said he had merely followed the directives of his party.

LeT HYBRID TERRORIST ARRESTED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 9: A hybrid terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT was arrested by a joint security team from Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla Saturday and arms and ammunition recovered from his possession, police said.

"On specific information regarding movement of terrorists in Kreeeri area, police, along with army 29RR established a joint checkpoint in the said area.

During checking, hybrid terrorist, identified as Mohd Iqbal Bhat, son of Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, resident of Tilgam Payeen, linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT, was arrested," police said. On his personal search, arms and ammunition including a pistol, a pistol magazine, and seven pistol rounds was recovered from his possession.



MARK OF RESPECT

The Indian national flag flies half-mast at the National War Memorial to mourn the death of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in New Delhi

Congress holds pressers in 23 cities to 'expose' BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Accusing the BJP of having links with terrorists and playing a "disgusting game" to hollow out the country under the garb of nationalism, the Congress Saturday asked the saffron party to introspect as to how such elements were finding their way into its fold and provide an explanation for it.

In an all-out attack on the BJP, the Congress held press conferences in 23 cities across the country to counter what it said was the BJP's "fake nationalism claims" and to take the message to the grassroots level that the ruling party has "connections" with individuals who have indulged in heinous crimes and terror acts.

In a tweet in Hindi, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The BJP has links with terrorists, what is this relationship



called?" "Today 23 of our leaders and spokespersons exposed BJP's links with terrorists by holding press conferences in different cities of the country," Ramesh said, using the hashtag #TerroristBJPbhaiBhai.

Hitting back at the Congress, the BJP cited various past incidents to allege the Congress can join hands with even terrorists to be in

power. Slamming the Congress, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra cited the reported remarks of, then Union minister Salman Khurshid that Congress president Sonia Gandhi was in tears on seeing the pictures of the Batla House encounter and the party's attack on the Gujarat government headed by then chief minister Narendra

Modi over the police killing of suspected terrorist Ishrat Jahan.

At a press conference in Raipur, Congress leader Pawan Khera said the Congress has never favoured doing politics on the issue of terrorism, but the way the "links of terrorists and criminals with the BJP are coming to light one after another, it has become necessary to ask questions and put facts before people".

"In the garb of nationalism, the BJP is playing a disgusting game to hollow out the country," said Khera, head of the Congress' media department. The brutal killing of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Rajasthan's Udaipur was a "terrorist incident", he said, alleging that Riyaz Attari, one of the main accused, was a BJP member since 2019.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, villager apprehended two terrorists who were planning to attack Amarnath Yatra. One of them is

Talib Hussain Shah who was an office-bearer of the BJP's minority cell in Jammu and Kashmir. Even Irfan Khan, alleged mastermind of chemist Umesh Kolhe's murder in Maharashtra's Amravati, had campaigned for Independent MP Navneet Rana whose links with the BJP are better known to the media than to me, Khera alleged.

Rana earlier this week denied that she or her husband and MLA Ravi Rana had any connection with the main accused in the Kolhe murder. Khera also cited other examples of terror accused who allegedly had connections with the BJP.

At a press conference in Ahmedabad, Congress's Rajya Sabha member Depender Hooda said the reports about "terrorists and criminals" having links with the BJP a matter of concern for the country.

He said the saffron party needs to introspect as to how such ele-

ments were finding their way into the party fold. Citing media reports, he claimed that Attari was linked to the BJP.

Hooda asked the ruling party to "form an internal probe committee and also call a national executive meeting to introspect". "We feel sorry that the people who conspire to damage the country are getting a place in the BJP. It is a national party and is in power in the country. For the BJP, it should be a matter of deep introspection," he told reporters.

Citing the cases of terrorist Talib Hussain, who was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir; Tariq Ahmed Mir, a sarpanch from Jammu and Kashmir arrested on terror charge, one Dhruv Saxena held in Madhya Pradesh for allegedly spying for ISI, Hooda alleged that all of them were found to have links with the BJP, with some of them even being the party's office-bearers.

No report of Kannadigas affected so far: CM

AMARNATH FLASHFLOOD



A chopper brings injured victims from cloudburst-affected areas near the Amarnath cave shrine, at Baltal in Ganderbal district, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 9: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Saturday said there has been no report of any untoward incidents related to Kannadigas so far, following the flashflood triggered by a cloudburst near the cave shrine of Amarnath in Jammu and Kashmir where the death toll

has risen to 16.

He said the Karnataka government has taken steps to rescue people from the state stranded in Amarnath.

According to the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), as of now, there are details of around 350 yatrins in groups hailing from Karnataka spread in various lo-

cations of the yatra route.

"As per initial reports, there are, presently, over 100 Kannadigas there, and most of them are safe. There is no report of any untoward incidents related to Kannadigas. We are in contact with the Jammu and Kashmir government and the Union government," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters here, he



Already, about 15-20 people have contacted and shared details of their location. We will do all that is necessary to rescue them. Officials of the Union government, BSF and ITBP are engaged in the rescue operations. The Karnataka Chief Secretary is in direct contact with the Union government. Those in trouble could contact the helpline so that they could be rescued immediately

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

said the Karnataka government has launched a helpline to assist those in need of help.

"Already, about 15-20 people have contacted and shared details of their location. We will do all that is necessary to rescue them. Officials of the Union government, BSF and ITBP are engaged in the rescue operations. The Karnataka Chief Secretary is in direct contact with the Union government. Those in trouble could contact the helpline so that they could be rescued immediately," he added.

Later KSDMA in a statement said the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) has received 48 calls from the relatives of yatrins, mainly because of mobile connectivity and the

fact that only mobiles with prepaid SIMs can be used to communicate compounded the communication problem.

It said the details of yatrins received at SEOC have been shared with NDRF control room and integrated command and control centre under the Divisional Commissioner's Office, Kashmir, and Amarnath Shrine Board to provide any assistance on priority.

According to officials, the cloudburst that occurred at around 5.30PM Friday caused copious rain and streams of sludge rolled down the mountain slopes into the valley. The gushing waters hit the base camp outside the shrine in south Kashmir, damaging 25 tents and three community kitchens where the pilgrims are served food.

IDGAH MAIDAN ROW

Hindu activists to move ahead with bandh July 12

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 9: Hindu activists have decided to go ahead with the bandh plan demanding celebration of Hindu festivals at Idgah Maidan in Chamarajpet area of Bangalore. The decision was taken even as Congress MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan has assured that the Maidan will be preserved as a playground.

The convenor of the Citizen's Forum Rukmangada at a press conference reiterated the earlier stand of observing bandh July 12. "MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan seems to have lost his mind. He earlier claimed that if BS Yediyurappa became the Chief Minister, he would turn into a watchman. He never kept his word. There is no question of withdrawing the bandh," he said.

"None from our organisation attended the meeting where MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan said that Idgah Maidan would be used as a playground," he said. However, when media asked him whether the celebration of Hindu festivals would be allowed in the Idgah Maidan, Zameer Ahmad Khan did not answer the

Chamarajpet is home to sizable number of Muslim population represented by Congress MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan

Hindu activists have warned that he is not an MLA for only one religion

With BBMP elections round the corner and the state entering the election year, the authorities are concerned about the development

question and left the place.

At least 25 Hindu organisations as well as local groups have joined hands to wage legal battle over the claims of the Wakf Board that Idgah Maidan is its property and it will only allow celebrations of national festivals. The organisations are carrying out door to door campaign in Chamarajpet to create awareness for the need to retain the Idgah Maidan as a playground.

They have also slammed the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for its dual stand over the property. Initially, BBMP claimed that Idgah Maidan is its property; later the civic agency denied it.

Floods damaged 30k to 40k houses, says CM Himanta

The Centre had released ₹324.40 crore as the state share of the SDRF for 2022-23 as immediate assistance to the Assam government to combat the current floods



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: As many as 30,000 to 40,000 houses were damaged in Assam due to the recent massive floods, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said while seeking an advance fund from the NDRF to help the affected people.

Sarma conveyed this to Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting here on Friday evening and sought central help.

The Chief Minister briefed the Home Minister that around 30,000

to 40,000 houses were damaged by the deluge, an official statement said on Saturday.

Sarma requested Shah to release an advance amount from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for the rehabilitation of the flood-hit people whose houses were severely or fully damaged.

Later, talking to journalists, Sarma said since Assam's flood has been labelled severe by a central team, which made an assessment of the situation, he sought an advance fund from the NDRF to enable the

state to help the people whose houses were damaged by the deluge.

The Centre's door is always open. There is no dearth of funds. Whatever we present legally and logically we will get the required funds, he said.

The Chief Minister said the Home Minister assured him that the Union Home Ministry would actively consider his request for immediate release of the advance fund from the NDRF.

Sarma said the state government will give an actual picture of the extent of damage caused by the floods so that it gets the exact funds instead of asking for packages.

He said the target of the government will be to make full utilisation of the State Disaster Response Fund, so that the state gets the NDRF as well as additional funds.

It may be mentioned that the Centre had released ₹324.40 crore as the state share of the SDRF for 2022-23 as immediate assistance to the Assam government to combat the current floods, the statement said.

TOUGH DAY AT WORK



Street vendors sell cotton candies outside the Vidhana Soudha in Bangalore, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Secularism is safe in India: Vice President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 9: Asserting that India is the most tolerant country in the world, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Saturday said secularism is safe in this country, not because of any government or party, but because it is in the blood and veins of every individual living here.

He also stressed that the basic primary education must be in mother tongue.

"Ours is a great country, fortunately India is again on the move, world is now recognising and respecting India once again, nobody can ignore us. Though some people might write here and there small things, don't worry about it. Some people are not able to digest India's progress, they are suffering from indigestion, we can't help it," Naidu said.

Addressing the platinum jubilee celebrations of Mount Carmel Institutions here, he accused the western media of carrying lots of negative stories about India, forgetting the great achievements being made by the country and its people in various fields.

Acknowledging that there are certain challenges before the nation like social inequality, poverty, gender disparity, which need to be addressed, the Vice President said India doesn't believe in colonial rule or doesn't want to impose itself on other countries, and has never attacked any country in its long history.

"India is the most tolerant country in the world. People discuss secularism. Secularism is safe, not because of this government or that government, this party or that

party, secularism is in the blood and veins of every individual, this has to be understood by one and all. In India, anybody can reach the top posts of the nation," he said.

There should be no place for violence, Naidu said adding that peace is the prerequisite for progress, he added.

Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, former Governor of Rajasthan Margaret Alva, who is also the alumni of the institution and Metropolitan Archbishop of Bangalore Peter Machado were among those present times.

The Vice President advised to take pride in one's own language, religion, but not to denigrate others.

"We are seeing here and there some people have the weakness of denigrating others and deriving

vicarious satisfaction, it is not good. Every religion is great in its own way. What we have to focus is not religion. Religion is a personal way of worship. We should focus more on our culture and heritage, which are way of life," he said.

Noting that he feels happy talking about mother tongue, Naidu said the basic primary education must be in mother tongue, as it will be easy to understand, grasp and to communicate

"Mother tongue is like mother. I'm happy that we are again back to roots. The primary basic education must be in mother tongue, afterword you can go to brother tongue or other tongue, I have no problem. Mother tongue is like your eyesight, other languages are like spectacles. If you have eyesight, spectacles will

work," he said.

Expressing happiness that the new education policy is giving importance to mother tongue, Naidu further said he was not against other languages.

"Learn as many languages possible, but first learn the mother tongue. There is a wrong perception in the minds of the people that unless you have English education, you cannot go up. It is not true. Learning English is an additional strength," he said, as he pointed out that the President, Vice President and the Prime Minister of India studied in village school and did not get convent education.

Calling on the students to encourage, learn, propagate and feel proud of mother tongue, he advised them not to denigrate or neglect other languages.



We are seeing here and there some people have the weakness of denigrating others and deriving vicarious satisfaction, it is not good. Every religion is great in its own way. What we have to focus is not religion. Religion is a personal way of worship. We should focus more on our culture and heritage, which are way of life

VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT, INDIA

Stressing upon women's education, Naidu said 50 per cent of the population are women, they should be given equal respect, equal place and opportunity, and provide them empowerment.

Highlighting the importance of character, caliber, capacity and conduct, he said, "Unfortunately in the present trend, here and there some people replace these 4Cs with cast, community, cash and criminality. It may give only temporary gains.

Observing that he has been in the thick of public life all these years and amid the boundaries of protocol which he has to abide by being the Vice President, Naidu who is at the verge of ending his term said on a jovial note, "I'm going to retire August 11. The country is going celebrate freedom August 15. I'm getting freedom before that."

Need to promote indigenous sports: Biswajit Daimary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 9: Assam Legislative Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary Saturday called for promotion of indigenous sports so that these may receive recognition in the international arena.

He also underscored the role of media in popularising indigenous sports as well as in promoting sportspersons so that they can avail proper training facilities and other benefits from the authorities, clubs or other organisations.

Speaking at the inauguration of year-long celebration of centenary year of sports journalism in the state, Daimary said, "The indigenous sports are rooted and linked with the people of a particular area. There is a greater need to promote and popularise these."

He maintained that with proper thrust, many such disciplines have the potential of not only getting international recognition but also being included in Olympic games.

Daimary cited the example of the traditional sport of the Bodo tribe, Khomlainai (wrestling), which has drawn interest from several countries.

"There are about 10-12 countries already competing in this sport and international tournaments are being held. Kokrajhar had also hosted an international championship a few years back," he said.

The Bodo leader added that it was only sporting event where Bodo language is used on ground during

matches at the international level.

"There are so many indigenous sports that can draw international participation. We just need more publicity for these and sports journalists play a crucial role in it," the Speaker said.

Daimary also highlighted the role of sports journalists in bringing to fore talented players and ensuring that deserving players can benefit from facilities meant for them.

He said, "Very often, our players are left with limited or no means to continue their training and pursuing their sport due to lack of facilities. There are now government schemes also for deserving and upcoming sportspersons and the media can play a vital role in creating awareness of these."

Several sports journalists of the state were felicitated and a souvenir was released at the inaugural ceremony, which was also attended by Monalisa Barua Mehta, the first woman athlete to receive the Arjuna Award from North East region, Olympian Anuradha Biswal and former national table tennis champion Kamlesh Mehta, among others.

Sports journalism in the state stepped into its 100th year on July one and the programme kickstarted the year-long celebrations planned by Assam Sports Journalists Association.

The first sports news in the state had appeared in a newspaper named 'Asomiya' July 1, 1923, regarding a three-day soccer competition in Sivasagar district.

of the day quote

Is right growth possible without inclusion? Can inclusion be thought of without growth? The gist of my experiences of 20 years as the head of government is that without inclusion, real growth is not possible. And, without growth the goal of inclusion too cannot be accomplished... We adopted the way of growth through inclusivity and tried for everyone's inclusion

NARENDRA MODI | PM

I will not learn ethics or decency from murderer TMC which has taken the lives of scores of our party leaders and grassroots level workers since last year's assembly elections. I won't learn anything from corrupt people who siphon off government funds and divert aid meant for poor people to their kin

DILIP GHOSH | BJP LEADER

I think I acted as a mature politician. For long, we had avoided the issue of BJP imposing its own version of Hinduism, which is based on established norms of North India. The party should desist from imposing it on people of other parts of the country such as West Bengal where Hindus follow their well-established rituals for centuries. Who is the BJP to teach us how to conduct puja of Goddess Kali in a particular way

MAHUA MOITRA | TRINAMOL CONGRESS MP

SHORT TAKES

Tribal woman dies

Bhopal: A tribal woman who was set ablaze by a group of men over a land dispute, succumbed to her injuries in Hamidia hospital here, police said Saturday. She had received 80 per cent burn injuries. Rampyari Bai, a resident of Dhaneria village under Guna district, was set on fire by a group of villagers for resisting encroachment on her land. Enraged over her constant resistance, the group of villagers allegedly set her afire at the village on July 2. Medical superintendent of Hamidia hospital, Dr Ashish Gohiya confirmed that the woman passed away on Friday night. He said that the body has been handed over to her family for last rites.

Body found

New Delhi: The body of a minor boy, who was suspected to be drowned earlier, was fished out of Yamuna river in north Delhi's Burari on Saturday, police here said. The boy was identified as Sameer, 17, a resident of Loni in Ghaziabad, they said. Sameer was a part of the group of four boys, who had come to Delhi to bathe in Yamuna on Thursday. He, and his three friends, were allegedly drowned when the water level rose in the river.

Two killed in AP

Visakhapatnam: Two persons were killed and three others injured when the wall of a house collapsed in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district Saturday. The incident occurred in Kumaram village when five members of a family were asleep. Locals removed the bodies from under the rubble. Three injured were admitted to government hospital in Cheepurupalli.

Miscranted dead

New Delhi: A 23-year-old miscranted involved in several criminal cases died after he was shot during an encounter with the Delhi Police in the northeast area of the national capital, an official said Saturday. The deceased, identified as Aakash alias Thalau alias Illu, was a bad character of the New Usmanpur police station area.



The primary task is to isolate and defeat the BJP
SITARAM YECHURY | CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

AMARTYA SEN TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID

Renowned economist Amartya Sen, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, has tested positive for Covid. He is currently 89 years old



Shivpal ditches Akhilesh on President poll

Shivpal Yadav, along with SP ally Om Prakash Rajbhar, attended a dinner hosted by Adityanath in honour of Droupadi Murmu Friday, indicating cracks in the opposition alliance led by Akhilesh Yadav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 9: Socialist leader Shivpal Yadav Saturday said he has "decided" to vote for the NDA candidate in the presidential polls, Droupadi Murmu, and blamed Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav's "political immaturity" for allies leaving him. Talking to reporters here, the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) president recalled that he had earlier said he would vote for the candidate who seeks his support in the July 18 presidential polls and since Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sought his vote, he has pledged his support to the NDA nominee for the top constitutional post. "Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath has sought my vote and I have decided that I will vote for Murmu," Shivpal Yadav said. "I had already



said the person who will seek my vote will get it. (President) Ram Nath Kovind had twice sought my vote (during the previous presidential polls) and I had supported him," he added. Shivpal Yadav, along with SP ally Om Prakash Rajbhar, attended a dinner hosted by Adityanath in honour of Murmu Friday, indicating cracks in the opposition alliance led by Akhilesh Yadav. Shivpal Yadav won the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls earlier in the year from his traditional Jaswant Nagar seat in Etawah on an SP ticket. But "chacha" and "bhatija" fell out with each other after the opposi-

Keshav Dev Maurya of the Mahan Dal, which had fought the February-March Uttar Pradesh election as a partner of the opposition alliance, has already left the grouping.

The Janvadi Party (Socialist) of Sanjay Chauhan has also left the SP-led coalition. Besides, Shivpal Yadav and Rajbhar, who heads the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Jansatta Dal Loktantrik chief Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya and the lone Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Uma Shankar Singh, attended the chief minister's dinner at his official residence, along with NDA leaders.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said, "We thank those who have come forward to support Droupadi Murmu in the presidential election and those who have not come forward, be it Akhilesh Yadav or anyone else, we appeal that they should support a tribal woman who is contesting the presidential polls for the first time."

Rajbhar, who was not invited by Yadav to the opposition leaders' meeting with Sinha, has already said he will take a call on the presidential polls on his own. On Friday, Rajbhar had said in Mau, where his party held a meeting, that the SBSP will make public its decision on the presidential polls on July 12.

But his presence at the dinner hosted by Adityanath indicates his inclination towards the NDA nominee. Rajbhar's party has six MLAs in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. He had fought the Uttar Pradesh polls as a partner of the SP-led opposition grouping.

Former Mumbai top cop grilled by CBI



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 9: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has questioned former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey for allegedly tapping phones of employees of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) between 2009 and 2017.

On the directives of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the CBI registered a new case against former NSE Chief Chitra Ramkrishna. The statement of Pandey was recorded at CBI's Mumbai headquarters. He was let off after questioning on Friday. However, he was asked, as per CBI sources, that he can be called again to join the investigation. The CBI Friday had conducted raids in Mumbai, Pune and several other parts of the country in

connection with the NSE case. The CBI source said that between 2009 and 2017, the phones of employees of NSE were illegally tapped by Ramkrishna and Pandey.

"Pandey ran iSec Securities Private Ltd. It has been alleged that Ramkrishna used this firm to tap the phone of NSE employees. The phone calls made by NSE employees between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. were tapped and recorded by iSec Securities Pvt Ltd. It has been alleged that Pandey helped in tapping the phone calls illegally," the source added.

The source said that they would record the statements of the persons involved in the case. The source added that this fresh case was recently lodged by the CBI. Further investigation in the matter is underway.

THE CBI FRIDAY HAD CONDUCTED RAIDS IN MUMBAI, PUNE AND SEVERAL OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NSE CASE

THE STATEMENT OF FORMER MUMBAI POLICE COMMISSIONER SANJAY PANDEY WAS RECORDED AT CBI'S MUMBAI HEADQUARTERS

Mulayam's wife dies



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, July 9: Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's wife Sadhana Gupta Yadav has died here Saturday, according to reports.

As per reports, she was suffering from lung disease and was admitted to Medanta Medicity hospital here four days ago after she complained of difficulty in breathing. After her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU). Earlier, she was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Lucknow, but when her condition started deteriorating, she was brought to Gurugram by air ambulance. Sources said Mulayam Singh Yadav had come to see her in the hospital a few days back.

Sadhna Gupta was Mulayam Singh Yadav's second wife who was 20 years younger than him. Her son's name is Prateek Yadav while Bharatiya Janata Party leader Aparna Yadav is her daughter-in-law.

Jagan elected YSRCP president for lifetime

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guntur, July 9: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been elected the lifetime president of the ruling Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP).

An announcement in this regard was made on the second and final day of the party plenary here on Saturday. YSRCP general secretary V. Vijaysai Reddy, who was the returning officer for the election of the party president, announced the unanimous election of Jagan Mohan Reddy as the lifetime president of the party.

A total of 22 sets of nominations were filed on behalf of Jagan Mohan Reddy by YSRCP leaders on Friday. No other leader filed nomination for the post. YSRCP leaders on the dais congratulated Jagan Reddy on his election.

The participants in the plenary hailed the announcement with loud cheers and slogans.

The YSRCP will now move the Election Commission of India (ECI) to convey that it has modified its con-

stitution for Jagan Reddy's election as the YSRCP president for his lifetime. The party leaders are confident of getting ECI's nod. They cited the case of DMK, which was allowed by the Election Commission to name M. Karunanidhi as the party chief for life.

Jagan Mohan Reddy had floated YSRCP in 2011 after resigning from Congress party to carry forward the ideals of his late father and former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR).

After the death of YSR in a helicopter crash in September 2009, Jagan Reddy had raised the banner of revolt against Congress party by embarking on a yatra to console the families of those who died of shock following his father's death.

Jagan Reddy and his mother Y.S. Vijayamma had resigned from Congress and quit Kadapa Lok Sabha and Pulivendula Assembly seats respectively to float YSRCP.



A security personnel looks through binoculars at the Taj Mahal complex in Agra

PTI PHOTO

Police inspector accused of rape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 9: A case has been registered against a police inspector here for alleged rape and criminal trespass, police said Saturday.

Friday, the woman lodged a complaint with the police that a case was registered against her husband in 2018 which was investigated into by CI Nageshwar Rao, the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate said in a release here. Later, the same accused (complainant's husband) was hired by the inspector to work

at his farmhouse as a monthly paid employee till February 2021.

One day, while the complainant's husband was working at the inspector's farmhouse, the complainant was forcibly brought to his agricultural land without the knowledge of her husband and the complainant informed the same to her husband.

Immediately her husband called the inspector over phone and warned him not to disturb his family and that he would inform his (inspector's) wife about his

behaviour, it said. Then, the inspector requested him to let go off the matter, it said.

Later, few policemen came to the complainant's house and took her husband to Taskforce office of police, beat him up and took pictures and videos of the complainant's husband and placed ganja packets in his hands. He was threatened that a case would be registered against him if he tried to inform the inspector's family members about his advances towards the complainant.

Trinamool mouthpiece links Agnipath, Shinzo Abe killing

Trinamool Congress's state general secretary and party spokesman, Kunal Ghosh said that it is clear that the assassin of Shinzo Abe, who was a contractual security person, was suffering from depression, being deprived of pension-like retirement benefits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 9: The assassination of former Japanese premier, Shinzo Abe has created political ripples here in West Bengal as the state's ruling party, Trinamool Congress has identified a remote link between that unfortunate death and union government's Agnipath Scheme, entry to short services in the Indian defence forces.

The latest edition of the party mouthpiece in Bengal, Jago Bangla, published on Saturday, has the lead article titled Shinzor Khune Agnipath Chhaya (Shadow of Agnipath in Shinzo's murder). According to the article, Shinzo's

assassin, Tetsuya Yamagami, was a former associate of Japan's maritime self-defence, where he worked for three years without being entitled for any pension. "He lost his job after three years and since then he was unable to get himself employed anywhere. It is learnt that a feeling of insecurity and frustration due to joblessness gave birth to grievances in his mind. Incidentally, the union government is planning similar recruitment in defence services under the Agnipath scheme. The grievances of the common people about Agnipath scheme have a shadow in Shinzo's death," the article read. Trinamool Congress's state gen-



eral secretary and the party spokesman, Kunal Ghosh said that it is clear that the assassin of Shinzo

Abe, who was a contractual security person, was suffering from depression, being deprived of pension-

like retirement benefits.

"Similarly, the Agniveers, who would be chucked out of job with any post-retirement benefits after four years of service, can suffer from similar depression. This Agnipath scheme will drive youths with military-training in the wrong direction," Ghosh said.

Giving his counter-reaction, BJP's state spokesman in West Bengal, Shamik Bhattacharya said that by resorting to such baseless conclusions, Trinamool Congress leaders are actually insulting the defence personnel of the country. "Have we ever heard any retired army-man in India resorting to killing of any common man? These are all base-

less allegations," he said.

Meanwhile, in her condolence message, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has recollected Shinzo Abe's connections with West Bengal. "I am deeply shocked by the tragic demise of the former PM of Japan, Shinzo Abe. His dastardly assassination brings us immense pain. He not only cemented the relation between India & Japan but also had a special connection with Bengal. May the noble soul rest in peace," her message read.

To recall, Shinzo Abe was in Kolkata in 2007, when he visited the ancestral residence of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Elgin Road in South Kolkata.



You need to search for a way to leave, because our armed forces are coming to de-occupy. There will be a massive fight. I don't want to scare anyone. Everyone understands all of this anyway

IRYNA VERESHCHUK | DY PRIME MINISTER, UKRAINE

IN A FIRST

Nepal has started exporting cement to India, with the initial consignment of 3,000 bags entering the neighbouring country through a check post bordering Uttar Pradesh. Nepal's cement industries are facing problems due to the lack of market despite its huge potential



of the day quote

We are concerned about the PRC's alignment with Russia. I don't believe China is acting in a way that is neutral



ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

In the wake of this senseless act, he prays that Japanese society will be strengthened in its historic commitment to peace and nonviolence



PIETRO PAROLIN | SECRETARY OF STATE, VATICAN CITY

Many people believe that the United States is suffering from a China-phobia. If such threat-expansion is allowed to grow, US policy toward China will be a dead end with no way out



WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER, CHINA

Wildfire threatens Yosemite's famed grove of giant sequoias

Lightning-sparked wildfires over the past two years have killed up to a fifth of all sequoias, which are the largest trees by volume

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yosemite National Park (US), July 9: The largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park was closed Friday as a wildfire burning through dense forest became the latest in recent years to threaten the world's largest trees.

A team was being sent to the Mariposa Grove to wrap some of the massive trunks in fire-resistant foil to protect them as the blaze burned out of control, said Nancy Phillippe, a Yosemite fire information spokesperson.

More than 500 mature sequoias were threatened but there were

no reports of severe damage to any named trees, such as the 3,000-year-old Grizzly Giant.

The cause of the fire was under investigation and the rest of the park remained open as nearly 300 firefighters tried to control the flames with the help of two water-dropping helicopters and an air tanker dumping flame retardant, Phillippe said.

The giant sequoias, native only to the western slope of California's Sierra Nevada range, were once considered impervious to flames but have become increasingly vulnerable as wildfires fueled by a buildup of undergrowth from a century of fire



suppression and drought exacerbated by climate change have become more intense and destructive.

Lightning-sparked wildfires over the past two years have killed up to a fifth of all sequoias, which

are the largest trees by volume.

There was no obvious natural spark for the fire that broke out Thursday next to the park's Washburn Trail, Phillippe said. Smoke was reported by visitors walking in the grove that re-

■ A fierce windstorm ripped through the grove a year and a half ago and toppled 15 giant sequoias, along with countless other trees

■ The downed trees, along with massive numbers of pines killed by bark beetles, provided ample fuel for the flames, but winds Friday were calm and the fire was not spreading rapidly

■ The park has used prescribed burns to clear brush around the sequoias, which helps protect them if flames spread farther into the grove

opened in 2018 after a \$40 million renovation that took three years.

The grove, which is inside the park's southern entrance, was evacuated and no one was injured.

Man threatens S'pore PM on facebook, held

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Singapore, July 9: Authorities in Singapore have arrested a 45-year-old man for inciting violence by posting a comment on Facebook against Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, media reports said Saturday.

The threat was found in the comments section of web portal Channel News Asia's Facebook page on a post regarding the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Police said they received a report at 3.10pm Friday, regarding a threat of inciting violence against Prime Minister Lee, the Straits Times newspaper reported.

After investigations, police were able to establish the identity of the Facebook user and was arrested, police said. A laptop, a tablet and four mobile phones were seized.



Police investigations are ongoing, according to a Channel News Asia report.

Anyone convicted of the offence of making or communicating any electronic record containing any incitement to violence faces up to five years' jail, a fine, or both, the report said.

Prime Minister Lee Friday slammed Abe's assassination as a "senseless act of violence".

"Mr Abe is a good friend of Singapore. I had just hosted him for lunch in May, on my visit to Tokyo. My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Abe and his family," Lee said on Facebook.

Abe, 67, was assassinated Friday on a street in western Japan by a gunman who opened fire on him from behind as he delivered a campaign speech.

Abe's body arrives in Tokyo amid mourning

The killer jury-rigged the weapon from parts bought online, spending months plotting the attack. He even attended other Abe campaign events including one a day earlier some 200 km away, media said

AGENCIES

Tokyo, July 9: The body of Japan's former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was returned to Tokyo Saturday after he was fatally shot during a campaign speech in western Japan a day earlier.

Abe was attacked in the city of Nara and airlifted to a local hospital but died of blood loss despite emergency treatment including massive blood transfusions.

Police arrested the attacker, a former member of Japan's navy, at the scene on suspicion of murder.

Police confiscated the homemade gun he used, and several others were later found at his apartment. The attacker told investigators



People pray at a makeshift memorial near the scene where the former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot while delivering his speech in Nara, Saturday

he plotted the shooting because he believed rumours that Abe was connected to an organisation that he resents, according to police.

Japanese media reported that the man had developed hatred toward a religious group his mother was devoted to. The reports did not specify the group.

A black hearse carrying Abe's body and accompanied by his wife, Akie, arrived at his home in Tokyo's upscale residential area of Shibuya, where many mourners waited and lowered their heads as the vehicle passed.

Abe's assassination ahead of Sunday's parliamentary election

shocked the nation and raised questions over whether security for the former prime minister was adequate.

Police Saturday said autopsy results showed that a bullet that entered Abe's upper left arm damaged arteries beneath both collarbones, causing fatal mas-

sive bleeding. Some observers who watched videos of the assassination on social media and television noted a lack of attention in the open space behind Abe as he spoke.

A former Kyoto prefectural police investigator, Fumikazu Higuchi, said the footage suggested security was sparse at the event and insufficient for a former prime minister. "It is necessary to investigate why security allowed Yamagami to freely move and go behind Mr Abe," Higuchi told a Nippon TV talk show.

Experts also said Abe was more vulnerable standing on the ground level, instead of atop a campaign vehicle, which reportedly could not be arranged because his visit to Nara was hastily planned the day before.

According to the Asahi newspaper, Yamagami was a contract worker at a warehouse in Kyoto where he was a forklift operator and known as a quiet person who did not mingle with his colleagues.

A next-door neighbour at his apartment told Asahi he never met Yamagami, though he recalled hearing noises like a saw being used several times late at night over the past month.

SHORT TAKES

Italy: All 11 hikers killed in avalanche

Rome: Italian authorities Saturday put the final death toll of an avalanche in northern Italy at 11 and said all the victims had been identified nearly a week after a chunk of ice detached from a melting glacier and sent a torrent of ice, rock and debris on hikers below. Carabinieri Cmdr. Giampietro Lago, who headed a team of forensic experts identifying the remains, said the identity of the final hiker had been established and "there are no elements at this point to suggest the death toll would grow". A day of mourning was observed Saturday throughout the affected area, known as the Val di Fassa.

Senior Pakistani journo attacked

Islamabad: A senior Pakistani journalist was assaulted Saturday by unidentified persons outside his office here amidst rising cases of harassment of media persons critical of state institutions. Sami Ibrahim, an anchor on Bol TV, was standing outside his office in the Melody area of the capital Islamabad when attacked by about three persons. Ibrahim confirmed the incident in a video clip, saying that somebody came from behind to hit him. He said that the attackers filmed the incident before fleeing away in a car with a "green-coloured registration plate".

Massive network outage in Canada

Toronto: A widespread network outage left many Canadians without mobile and internet service for most of Friday, disrupting police, business and court services as crowds flocked to work at coffee shops with Wi-Fi. Rogers Communications Inc said it started restoring service late in the day and said its teams "are working hard to get everyone back online as quickly as possible." The outage began early in the morning and stretched into the evening, interrupting services across retailers and credit card processors, police and courts, airlines and train networks.

NHTSA to probe Tesla crash in US

Detroit: The US government's auto safety watchdog is sending investigators to another Tesla crash, this time one that killed two people along Interstate 75 in Florida. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration confirmed Friday that it sent a Special Crash Investigations team to probe the Wednesday crash into the back of a semi-trailer at a rest area near Gainesville.



A man throws back a tear gas shell after it was fired by police to disperse the protesters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Saturday

'Russia trying to raise true hell'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, July 9: Russian forces are managing to "raise true hell" in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland despite reports of them taking an operational pause, a regional governor said Saturday, while the government in Kyiv urged people in Russian-occupied southern areas to evacuate "by all possible means ahead of a Ukrainian offensive".

Deadly Russian shelling was reported in Ukraine's east and south.

The governor of Luhansk, Serhiy Haidai, said Russia launched over 20 artillery, mortar and rocket strikes in the province overnight and its forces were pressing toward the border with neighbouring Donetsk. "We are trying to contain the Russians' armed formations along the entire front line," Haidai wrote on Telegram.



Last week, Russia captured the last major stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk, the city of Lysychansk. Analysts predicted Moscow's troops likely would take time to rearm and regroup.

But "so far, there has been no operational pause announced by the enemy. He is still attacking and shelling our lands with the same intensity as before", Haidai said.

In a later post, he claimed the bombardment of Luhansk was

suspended because Ukrainian forces had destroyed ammunition depots and barracks used by the Russians.

Ukraine's deputy prime minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, appealed to residents of Russian-held territories in the south to evacuate so the occupying forces could not use them as human shields during a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

"You need to search for a way to leave, because our armed forces are coming to de-occupy, she said. "There will be a massive fight. I don't want to scare anyone. Everyone understands all of this anyway."

Speaking at a news conference late Friday, Vereshchuk said a civilian evacuation effort was underway for parts of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. She declined to give details, citing safety considerations.

AFTER US RULING

French women push to cement abortion rights

With women increasingly taking leadership positions in French politics, lawmakers in both houses of Parliament have proposed four bills to enshrine the right to abortion in the French Constitution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 9: The right to abortion in France hardly seems under threat — it's been inscribed in law for 47 years and enjoys broad support across the political spectrum. But more and more French women are asking, "Could what happened in the US happen here one day?"

The decision by the US Supreme Court to strip women of the right to abortion has reverberated across Europe's political landscape, forcing the issue back into public debate in France at a time of political upheaval.

With women increasingly taking leadership positions in French politics, lawmakers in both houses of parliament have proposed four bills to enshrine the right to abor-

tion in the French Constitution in order to defend it from future threats.

The most notable initiative comes from President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance.

His detractors on the left say Macron's party is being opportunistic, while far-right critics accuse it of using the issue to distract from more pressing matters.

Abortion in France was decriminalised under a 1975 law named for Simone Veil, a prominent legislator, former health minister and key feminist who championed it.

"This right was fought for and was inalienable," said Yaël Braun-Pivet, the first woman elected speaker of the National Assembly, France's most powerful house of parliament.



In her first address to the chamber last week, Braun-Pivet made the inscription of abortion rights into the French Constitution a top priority.

"It is my conviction as a woman today that we need to be the watch-

dog so that it stays in place forever," Braun-Pivet said.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne also expressed concerns over the potential effects of the US Supreme Court's decision on recent efforts to recriminalise abortion in Europe.

Borne, only the second woman in French history to have been appointed Prime Minister, called the reversal of abortion rights in the US a "historical turn in the wrong direction."

"It's a stark warning that women's rights should never be taken for granted," Borne said last week after meeting health care providers and reproductive health specialists in Paris.

She called for inscribing these rights into the French Constitution and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The European Union's parliament adopted a resolution Thursday condemning the US decision and urging the addition of a sentence reading, "Everyone has a right to safe and legal abor-

tion" to the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights. Abortion is legal and practiced without much political opposition in most EU nations, but is banned in Malta and sharply restricted in Poland. In France, a poll this week found a solid majority of respondents support the right to abortion, even including most voters who support Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally party and the conservative Republicans. The results were consistent with past surveys. However, the effort to inscribe abortion rights in the French Constitution may not succeed if Macron's political rivals decide they do not want to give him an easy win.

of the day quote

In any country's economic development, steel makes an important contribution. Today India is the second largest producer of steel in the world with 120 MT production. I am confident that the target that we have set to double it to 240 MT in next eight years will be done

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION STEEL MINISTER

Organisations should focus heavily on up-skilling and re-skilling their employees and hire people for attitude more than skills

CK RANGANATHAN | PRESIDENT OF ALL INDIA MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

There has been a very good recovery of overall sales. However, this quarter's performance is not comparable to the same period last year due to the second wave of Covid-19 during that time

NEVILLE NORONHA | AVENUE SUPERMARTS CEO & MD

SHORT TAKES

Jute Mark India logo launched

Kolkata: The government Saturday introduced certification of authenticity for jute products with the unveiling of "Jute Mark India" logo by the Union Textile Secretary U P Singh. It is an initiative to promote and protect Indian jute products, Singh said. "The Jute Mark India (JMI) scheme will provide the collective identity and assurance on origin and quality for traditional jute and jute products. The JMI would therefore be a hallmark of powerful creative work that defines the jute product with quality, distinguishes it from competition and connects it with customers," a National Jute Board statement said. The certification is expected to boost domestic market and exports of jute products from India.

States to be incentivised

New Delhi: State governments will be incentivised for successful auction and identification of minerals blocks during the National Conclave on Mines and Minerals to be held in the national capital next week, an official statement said Saturday. The day-long conclave July 12 will be inaugurated by Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi. "As part of the afternoon session, the award function includes presenting new mine blocks to state governments and the Ministry of Coal and providing incentive to state governments for successful auction and identification of blocks," the mines ministry statement said. CEOs of various mining companies will be brainstorming on important issues pertaining to the country's mining sector during the round table discussions. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be the chief guest of the conclave.

Rating upgrade for NBFC

Kochi: Muthoot Mini Financiers Ltd, one of the non-bank financial companies (NBFCs), has announced its ratings upgrade to A-Stable from BBB+Stable by CARE Ratings. The company said it has registered 25 per cent growth in financial year 21-22 and aims to close FY 22-23 with an Assets Under Management (AUM) of ₹4,000 crore through its aggressive expansion plans. "Muthoot Mini aims to have a total of 1,000 branches by the end of 2023, from its current 830-plus branch network," the company said in a release.



Globally, ESG investments have emerged as a subject of great interest and significance in recent years. It is no longer just a fad or a buzzword

AJAY TYAGI | FORMER SEBI CHIEF

GOOGLE OFFERS TO SPLIT ITS AD-TECH BIZ

Google reportedly offered the US government to split its ad-tech business, which allows companies to place ads on internet and apps, into a separate entity under the Alphabet umbrella, to avoid an antitrust lawsuit. The deal was part of multiple concessions the tech giant offered the US Department of Justice to avoid lawsuits



Adani to enter telecom spectrum race

This will pitch Gautam Adani's group directly against Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio and telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's Airtel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 9: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group Saturday confirmed its entry into the race to acquire telecom spectrum, which it said will be used to create a private network to support its businesses from airports to power as well as data centres.

"As India prepares to roll out the next generation of 5G services through this auction, we are one of the many applications participating in the open bidding process," the group said in a statement.

"We are participating in the 5G spectrum auction to provide private network solutions along with enhanced cyber security in the airport, ports and logistics, power generation, transmission, distribution, and various manufacturing operations," the statement said.

Adani Group plans to use the airwaves for its data centre as well as the super app it is building to support businesses from electricity distribution to airports, gas retailing to ports.

"As we build our own digital platform encompassing super apps, edge data centres, and industry command and control centres, we will need ultra high quality data streaming capabilities through a high frequency and low latency 5G network across all our businesses," it said.

Applications for participating in the July 26 auction of airwaves, in-



cluding those capable of providing fifth-generation or 5G telecom services such as ultra-high-speed internet connectivity, closed Friday with at least four applications.

Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea - the three private players in the telecom sector - applied.

The fourth applicant is Adani Group, which had recently obtained National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance (ILD) licences.

"If we are awarded 5G spectrum in the open bidding, it will also align with our recent announcement of significantly increasing the Adani Foundation's investments in education, healthcare and skill development in rural areas, each of which stands to benefit from 5G technology," Adani group said. "All of this is aligned with our nation building philosophy and supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat."

As per the auction timelines,

ownership details of applicants are to be published on July 12 and the bidders should be known then.

A total of 72,097.85 MHz of spectrum worth at least ₹4.3 lakh crore will be put on the block during the auction, set to commence July 26, 2022.

The auction will be held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

Ambani and Adani, who hail from Gujarat and went on to build mega business groups, had till recently not had a direct face-off. While the former expanded from the oil and petrochemicals business into telecom and retail, the latter diversified from the ports segment to coal, energy distribution and aviation.

But increasingly, their interests are overlapping, setting what some

THE ADANI GROUP, HAD RECENTLY OBTAINED NATIONAL LONG DISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL LONG DISTANCE LICENCES

say is the stage for a clash.

Adani has in recent months set up a subsidiary for a foray into petrochemicals - a business that Ambani's father Dhirubhai began with before its downstream and upstream operations.

Ambani too has announced multi-billion-dollar plans for new energy business, including Giga factories for solar panels, batteries, green hydrogen and fuel cells. Adani, who had previously announced plans to be the world's largest renewable energy producer by 2030, too has unveiled hydrogen ambitions.

And now, if the Adani group participates in the 5G auction on July 26, it will be the first direct competition with Ambani.

The Cabinet, last month, approved 5G auctions at reserve prices recommended by the sector regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The regulator had recommended an about 39 per cent cut in floor price for the sale of 5G spectrum for mobile services.

The validity of the right to use spectrum will be 20 years.

'EV sector witnessing employment growth'



AGENCIES

Chennai, July 9: A significant employment growth and an average growth in employee numbers was witnessing a 108 per cent increase in the last two years in the electric vehicle space, a study by CIEL Human Resources services said Saturday.

Engineering department has dominated the EV sector, followed by operation and sales, quality assurance, business development, information technology, human resources and marketing among others.

The survey Latest Employment Trends in EV sector 2022 was conducted among 15,200 employees over 52 companies by city-based CIEL HR services Ltd.

Bengaluru topped the list accounting for 62 per cent of electric vehicle talent, followed by New Delhi 12 per cent, 9 per cent Pune, Coimbatore 6 per cent and Chennai 3 per cent, the study said.

Electric vehicle players have hired 2,236 employees in the last six months and women established their presence in almost all sectors in the segment.

Quite a few companies like Kinetic Green, Mahindra Electric, Convergence Energy Services, OBEN Electric, Ampere Vehicles have women in top management positions, it said.

The e-scooter factory of Ola at Ranipet in Tamil Nadu was entirely run by women, it pointed out.

"India is investing highly in the electric mobility shift. If India sustains this green momentum, the Indian EV segment will be a USD 206 billion opportunity by 2030," CIEL HR Services, CEO, Aditya Narayan Mishra said.

"With this rapid growth, there is high scope for engineering domains in the industry. The insights from the study will help companies in strategic decision making related to the Talent Ecosystem," he said.

Tata Motors increases passenger vehicle prices

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 9: Tata Motors Saturday said it has increased prices of its passenger vehicle range with immediate effect to partially offset the impact of rising input costs.

A weighted average increase in price of 0.55 per cent will come into effect starting Saturday across the range, depending upon the variant and model, the homegrown auto major said in a statement.

The company has taken extensive measures to absorb a significant portion of the increased input costs, it said.

"However, to offset the residual impact of the accumulated increase in input costs, it is passing on a minimised price hike," it added.

The company sells a range of models including Punch, Nexon, Harrier and Safari in the domestic market.

Tata Motors has already hiked prices of its commercial vehicles range by 1.5 - 2.5 per cent from this month.

Meanwhile the automobile major's global wholesales including luxury car brand Jaguar Land Rover, increased by a whopping 48% in the quarter ending June 2022



(Q1FY23) period to 3,16,443 vehicles compared to the same quarter last year. According to the regulatory filing, global wholesales of all Tata Motors commercial vehicles and Tata Daewoo range in the first quarter of FY23 were at 1,03,529 units higher by 97%, over Q1 of FY22. In Q1FY23, global wholesale of all passenger vehicles stood at 2,12,914 units higher by 32% as compared to Q1 FY22.

Notably, in its quarter under review, global wholesales for Jaguar Land Rover were at 82,587 vehicles (JLR number for Q1FY23 includes CJLR volumes of 10,772 units). In terms of model-wise, Jaguar wholesales for the quarter were 14,596 vehicles, while Land Rover wholesales for the quarter were 67,991 vehicles.

Inflation may ease in second half of fiscal: Das

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

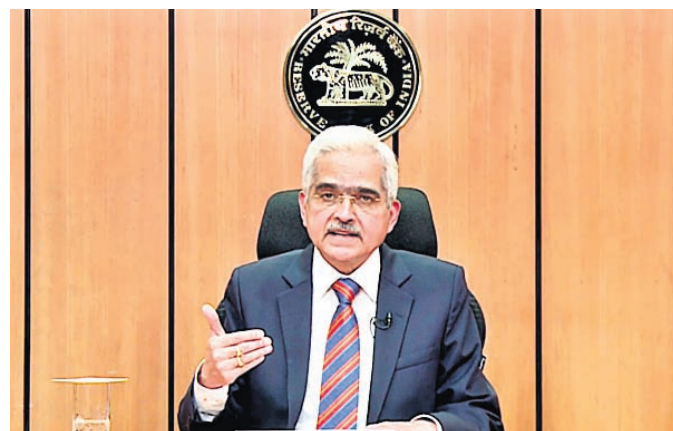
New Delhi, July 9: Exuding confidence that the price situation will gradually improve in the second half of the current fiscal, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Saturday said the central bank would continue to take monetary measures to anchor inflation with a view to achieving strong and sustainable growth.

Inflation is a measure of the trust and confidence that the public reposes in the economic institutions of the country, Das said while speaking at the inaugural Kautilya Economic Conclave.

"Overall, at this point of time, with the supply outlook appearing favourable and several high frequency indicators pointing to resilience of the recovery in the first quarter (April-June) of 2022-23, our current assessment is that inflation may ease gradually in the second half of 2022-23, precluding the chances of a hard landing in India," the Governor said.

Noting that price stability is key to maintaining macroeconomic and financial stability, he said the central bank will undertake measures for preserving and fostering macroeconomic stability.

"While factors beyond our control may affect inflation in the



short run, its trajectory over the medium-term is determined by monetary policy. Therefore, monetary policy must take timely actions to anchor inflation and inflation expectations so as to place the economy on a strong and sustainable growth pedestal. We will continue to calibrate our policies with the overarching goal of preserving and fostering macroeconomic stability," he said.

Das noted that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its April and June meetings revised the projection of inflation for 2022-23 in two stages to 6.7 per cent, taking stock of the evolving developments and with inflation pressures getting generalised.

About three-fourths of the revision in June was on account of geopolitical spillovers to food prices, he said, adding the MPC also decided to increase the policy repo rate by 40 bps and 50 bps in May and June, respectively.

This was on top of the 40 basis points (bps) effective rate hike through the introduction of the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) at 3.75 per cent.

During this period (April to June 2022), the MPC also changed its stance to withdrawal of accommodation.

Talking about prospects for global growth, Das said the sharply tightening financial conditions due to the ongoing monetary pol-

Noting that price stability is key to maintaining financial stability, Das said RBI will undertake measures for preserving and fostering macroeconomic stability

icy normalisation on the one hand and the persisting geopolitical tensions on the other pose significant downside risks to near-term.

"They are also sparking stagflation concerns worldwide, with even talk of recession in some parts of the world," he said.

Observing that the benefits of globalisation come with certain risks and challenges, Das said shocks to prices of food, energy, commodities and critical inputs are transmitted across the world through complex supply chains.

In fact, he said, recent developments call for greater recognition of global factors in domestic inflation dynamics and macroeconomic developments which underscore the need for enhanced policy coordination and dialogue among countries to achieve better outcomes.

Twitter has legal edge in deal dispute with Musk

REUTERS

Wilmington, July 9: Twitter Inc has a strong legal case against Elon Musk walking away from his \$44 billion deal to acquire the U.S. social media company but could opt for a renegotiation or settlement instead of a long court fight, according to legal experts.

Delaware courts, where the dispute between the two sides is set to be litigated, have set a high bar for acquirers being allowed to abandon their deals. But target companies often choose the certainty of a renegotiated deal at a lower price or financial compensation rather than a messy court battle that can last for many months, three corporate law professors interviewed by Reuters said.

"The argument for settling at something lower is that litigation is expensive," said Adam Badawi, a law professor at UC Berkeley. "And this thing is so messy that it might not be worth it."

Twitter and Musk spokespeople did not immediately respond to

requests for comment.

Musk's main claim against Twitter is that the San Francisco-based company breached their deal because it will not share with him enough information to back up its claim that spam or fake accounts constitute less than 5% of its active users. Twitter has stood by this estimate but also said it's possible the number of these accounts is higher.

Musk also said in a letter to Twitter on Friday that the company's misrepresentation of the number of spam accounts might be a "material adverse effect (MAE)" that would allow him to walk away under the terms of the deal contract.

But legal experts said Delaware courts view MAEs as dramatic, unexpected events that cause long-term harm to a company's performance. Deal contracts such as the one between Musk and Twitter are so prescriptive that a judge has ruled that an MAE has validly been triggered only once in the history of such litigation - in the case of German healthcare group



Fresenius Kabi AG ending its deal for U.S. generic drugmaker's Akorn Inc in 2018.

In that case, a court ruled that Akorn's assurances to Fresenius that it was in compliance with its regulatory obligations were inaccurate. It also found that Akorn had withheld facts about its deteriorating performance that emerged in whistleblower allegations.

Legal experts were dismissive of the idea that inaccurate spam account numbers would amount to an

MAE for Twitter on the same level as the problems that plagued Akorn.

"If it goes to court, Musk has the burden to prove more likely than not, that the spam account numbers not only were false, but they were so false that it will have significant effect on Twitter's earnings going forward," said Ann Lipton, associate dean for faculty research at Tulane Law School.

Musk also claimed that Twitter breached their agreement by firing two key high-ranking employees,

its revenue product lead and general manager of consumer, without his consent as required by their contract.

"That's probably the only claim that has any purchase," said Brian Quinn, a professor at Boston College Law School, but he added he did not believe the firings were serious enough to affect Twitter's business.

In 2020, the Delaware court allowed Mirae Asset Capital Co of South Korea to walk away from a \$5.8 billion luxury hotel deal because the pandemic caused the seller, Anbang Insurance Group of China, to alter its ordinary course hotel operations.

Most of the times the courts find in favor of the target companies and order acquirers to complete their deals - a legal remedy known as "specific performance."

In 2001, for example, Tyson Foods, the largest U.S. chicken processor, decided it no longer wanted to buy the largest meatpacker, IBP Inc. A judge ordered that the deal be completed.

Many companies, however,

choose to settle with their acquirers to end uncertainty about their future that can weigh on their employees, customers and suppliers.

This happened more frequently when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020 and delivered a global economic shock. In one instance, French retailer LVMH threatened to walk away from a deal with Tiffany & Co. The U.S. jewelry retailer agreed to lower the acquisition price by \$425 million to \$15.8 billion.

Simon Property Group Inc, the biggest U.S. mall operator, managed to cut its purchase price of a controlling stake in rival Taubman Centers Inc by 18% to \$2.65 billion.

Other companies let the acquirers walk away in exchange for financial compensation. That includes medical technology firm Channel Medsystems Inc, which sued Boston Scientific Corp for trying to walk away from their \$275 million deal. In 2019, a judge ruled the deal should be completed and Boston Scientific paid Channel Medsystems an undisclosed settlement.

JADEJA, BHUVI LIFT INDIA



Bhuvneshwar Kumar signals for a DRS as Virat Kohli looks on, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 9: Rohit Sharma's inspirational leadership and an aggressive brand new approach saw India completely outclass England by 49 runs in the second T20I to seal the three-match series with an unassailable 2-0 lead here Saturday.

Batting first, India once again showed a start-to-finish aggressive intent while reaching 170/8 riding on new 'batting all-rounder' Ravindra Jadeja (46 n o, 29b, 5x4) after a sudden collapse during the middle-phase on a track full of pace and bounce.

With the ball, Bhuvneshwar Kumar's (3/15) new found rhythm in the powerplay overs was superbly complemented by the skilful duo of Jasprit Bumrah (2/10) and Yuzvendra Chahal (2/10) as England innings imploded for a meagre 121 in 17 overs.

If India's batting has been very good in both the games, the bowling has simply been outstanding with complete domination in the powerplays. With three months left for the World T20, the playing

Since Rohit Sharma has got full-time captaincy, India are yet to lose a match under him. There has been three clean sweeps - New Zealand (3-0), West Indies (3-0), Sri Lanka (3-0) and a fourth against England in the current one looks imminent

XI Saturday gave a glimpse of what could be the batting order and its philosophy going forward.

Rishabh Pant's (26) elevation as an opener alongside skipper Rohit (31) is a welcome move where the team at least wouldn't be erring in the side of caution in the powerplay overs.

In between the duo, they hit seven fours and three sixes in the first six overs, an approach that was missing during last T20 World Cup. The strategy is to not stop play-



RAVINDRA JADEJA

ing the shots even if wickets fall at one end and Virat Kohli (1) did feel the peer pressure and the mistimed skier showed his desperation.

But the most impressive aspect came to fore from 89/5, as India still managed to reach 170, courtesy Jadeja, who didn't have a great time in T20 cricket having had a torrid time in CSK during IPL, where he lost form and fractured relationships. A good Indian white ball team has always had Bhuvi as an important component in the set-up.

In the first game, it was a banana inswinger that castled rival captain Jos Buttler and Saturday, a classical outswinger first up saw Jason Roy edging it to the slip cordon.

The wily Bhuvneshwar then asked Pant to come up to the stumps to stop Buttler from giving the charge and the result was a lazy under-edge into keeper's gloves.

Liam Livingstone (15) with a helmet-cam was fooled by a Bumrah

slow off-cutter that took ages to jag back and knock the bails off. Harry Brook had a couple of bound-aries but when Chahal tossed one up, he took the bait but couldn't get the execution right.

Moeen Ali (35) did hit some shots but England lost wickets at regular intervals as Rohit brilliantly used his bowlers. With three wickets down, he unleashed Chahal and just when Moeen was trying to take the game away, he got in Hardik Pandya, who got him a breakthrough.

Team's weakest bowling link Harshal Patel (1/34) was brought towards the end when they were well course to win the game.

BRIEF SCORES: India 170/8 (Ravindra Jadeja 46 n o, Rohit Sharma 31, Rishabh Pant 26; Chris Jordan 4/27, Richard Gleeson 3/15) beat England 121 (Moeen Ali 35, David Willey 33 n o; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3/15, Jasprit Bumrah 2/10, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/10) by 49 runs.

Rybakina reigns supreme



THE 23-YEAR-OLD FROM KAZAKHSTAN, RANKED 23 IN THE WORLD, CLAIMS HER MAIDEN GRAND SLAM TITLE, BEATING WORLD NO.2 JABEUR IN SUMMIT CLASH

Happy that it finished, to be honest, because really, I never felt something like this. I ran today (Saturday) so much, so I don't think I need to do fitness more, honestly. (And) You (Jabeur) have an amazing game

ELENA RYBAKINA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon, July 9: Too nervous to wave, Elena Rybakina stepped into the Centre Court sunshine before the Wimbledon final Saturday and kept a firm double-grip on the black-and-red straps of the racket bag slung over her shoulders.

No wave. Not much of a look around. Her play early on betrayed some jitters, too, which makes sense considering it was her debut in a Grand Slam title match.

Nearly two hours of big swinging and plenty of sprinting later, she had won the championship at the All England Club with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Ons Jabeur — the first singles trophy at a major tournament for her adopted country of

Rybakina was born in Moscow and has represented Kazakhstan since 2018, when that country offered her funding to support her tennis career. The switch has been a topic of conversation during Wimbledon, because it barred all players who represent Russia or Belarus from entering the tournament due to the war in Ukraine

Since the WTA computer rankings began in 1975, just one woman ranked lower than the No. 23 Rybakina has won Wimbledon — Venus Williams in 2007 at No. 31, although she had been No.1 and already won three of her five career Wimbledon trophies

I love this tournament so much. I feel really sad. But it's tennis. There is only one winner. I'm really happy that I'm trying to inspire many generations from my country (Tunisia). I hope they're listening

ONS JABEUR

One squash-style forehand drew a forehand into the net to earn a break point, which Jabeur converted to lead 2-1 by putting a 120 mph serve into play then watching Rybakina sail a backhand long.

Jabeur turned toward her guest box, jumped and yelled. Rybakina's miscues mounted. A volley into the net tape with the full court wide open. A netted forehand after Jabeur barely got a short return. When another forehand went awry, Jabeur broke at love to take the opening set, yelled "Yalla!" — Arabic for 'Let's go!' — and threw an uppercut as she walked to the sideline.

Jabeur was trying to become the first Arab or African woman to win a Slam singles title in the professional era, which dates to 1968.

Jadeja removes posts related to CSK, hints at rift

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 9: India left-arm spin all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has removed posts related to his IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK) from the 2021 and 2022 seasons of the tournament, hinting that there is a rift going on between him and the franchise.

"Jadeja didn't wish Dhoni on his birthday this year. (He does it every year). He has also deleted all his CSK-related posts on Instagram. Something is definitely not right," pointed out a cricket fan on Twitter. Since then, social media has been abuzz with things not going fine between Jadeja and CSK.

Earlier this year, Jadeja, who was the first retention made by the franchise for INR 16 crores, was appointed as the CSK skipper with legendary wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni handing him the leadership duties ahead of the tournament opener against Kolkata Knight Riders.

But Jadeja stepped down as the skipper after being at the helm for eight matches, with Dhoni getting back to captaining the side. "Ravindra Jadeja has decided to relinquish captaincy to focus and concentrate more on his game and has requested MS Dhoni to lead CSK. MS Dhoni has accepted to lead CSK in the larger interest and to allow Jadeja to focus on his game," said a release from CSK that time.

After Chennai defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by 13 runs in Dhoni's first match as captain in IPL 2022, the ex-India skipper had explained how leadership duties affected Jadeja's game while revealing that the plan was there for the all-rounder to take up leadership duties from 2022.

"I think Jadeja knew last season he'd be captaining this year. He knew and got enough time to prepare, what is important is you want him to lead the side and I wanted that transition to happen. In the first 2 games there was information going to Jaddu and after that I left it to him to decide which angle to bowl and all that.

"Once you become captain, it means a lot of demands come in. But what I felt is it affected his mind as the tasks grew." Later on, Jadeja was ruled out of remainder of IPL 2022 due to a rib injury.

NICK FEELING NERVOUS AHEAD OF 1ST GS FINAL



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 9: Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios has conceded that he is feeling nervous after making it to his maiden grand slam final, adding that he had a "shocking sleep" the day he made it to the Wimbledon title round after Spanish stalwart Rafael Nadal pulled out due to an abdominal injury.

Prior to entering the Wimbledon final, the 27-year-old has never advanced beyond the quarterfinal stage in singles at a grand slam, though he was at one point in time ranked No.13 in the world.

Kyrgios admitted ahead of the Wimbledon singles final against Novak Djokovic that he had butterflies in the stomach as he waits for the clash against the Serbian,

the winner of 20 majors.

"I had a shocking sleep last night (Thursday), though, to be honest. I probably got an hour's sleep just with everything, like the excitement. I had so much anxiety, I was already feeling so nervous, and I don't feel nervous usually," Kyrgios was quoted as saying by atptour.com.

"I just know there's a lot of people that want me to do well and give my best. But I had a shocking sleep last night. Hopefully I can get some sleep tonight. I was just restless, so many thoughts in my head about a Wimbledon final. That's all I was thinking about. I was thinking just playing, obviously imagining myself winning, imagining myself losing, everything," added the mercurial player.

Djokovic ends Norrie run to reach final

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 8: Top seed Novak Djokovic overcame Britain's Cameron Norrie 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to reach the Wimbledon 2022 men's singles final, here Friday.

On a sun-baked Centre Court, the Serbian raised his level as the match went on, breaching the defences of Norrie with his aggressive and precise groundstrokes to advance to his eighth final at The Championships in two hours and 34 minutes. With this win, Djokovic moved closer to his fourth consecutive Wimbledon title and seventh overall.

The World No.3 is chasing his 21st Grand Slam title this fortnight as he looks to close the gap on 22-time major champion Rafael Nadal.

The 35-year-old will face Nick Kyrgios in the championship match Sunday after Spaniard Nadal was forced to withdraw ahead of his semifinal meeting with the Australian. The 27-year-old Kyrgios leads Djokovic 2-0 in their ATP head-to-head series.

Djokovic has now won 27 consecutive matches at Wimbledon, with his victory over the ninth



seed Norrie propelling him into his 32nd Grand Slam final, claiming sole ownership of the all-time major finals record ahead of Roger Federer (31). The Serbian also holds an 85-10 record at The All England Lawn Tennis Club, moving clear of Jimmy Connors (84-18) and into second in the all-time list.

In an impressive first set, Norrie showed little sign of nerves as he quickly found his range on Centre Court. The Briton hammered his topspin forehand with accuracy, while he forced Djokovic off balance and into errors with his flat backhand, breaking three times in the first set to lead.

However, Djokovic is used to the big occasion, with this his 11th semifinal at The Championships. The World No. 3 increased his intensity, demonstrated great touch from all areas and started to find his spots on serve as he turned the tables in the second set to level.

The experienced player continued to go on the attack in the third set, capitalising on the reduction in power and depth of Norrie's groundstrokes to

make further inroads. The 35-year-old fired nine winners and committed just four unforced errors in the set. The Serbian then gained a decisive break at the start of the fourth set, before he zoned in on serve to seal the victory.

Djokovic improved to 2-0 in his ATP head-to-head series against Norrie, who was competing in his maiden Grand Slam semifinal. The 26-year-old was the fourth British man to advance to the last four at SW19 in the Open Era, joining two-time champion Andy Murray, Tim Henman and Roger Taylor.

Former World No.1 Murray remains the only British player to defeat Djokovic at Wimbledon (2013 final), with the Serbian eliminating James Ward, Kyle Edmund, Jack Draper and Norrie in the past six years.

Four-time tour-level titlist Norrie had never been beyond the third round at a Grand Slam before this fortnight. However, the ninth seed produced a series of impressive performances to defeat Pablo Andujar, Jaume Munar, Steve Johnson, Tommy Paul and Goffin on the lawns in London.

Prannoy's loss ends India campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, July 9: Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy's rampaging run at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament hit a roadblock as he slipped to a narrow three-game loss against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus in a mistake-filled men's singles semifinal here Saturday.

It was heartbreak once again in the semifinals for the Indian as he squandered a one-game advantage to go down 21-17, 9-21, 17-21 against Ng Ka Long after battling for an hour and four minutes at the Axiata Arena here.

Heading into the match with a 4-4 career record, Prannoy, who had defeated Ng Ka Long in the last three meetings, picked the good side after winning the toss.

It seemed to come back to haunt him as he looked in firm control in the first game but struggled with his length and drowned in a pool of



unforced errors after changing ends.

After a nervy start in the opening game, Prannoy marched ahead to a 5-3 lead with two exquisite cross court jump smashes. The Indian didn't try to play at a breathtaking pace but rather focussed on constructing the rallies and punishing the weak returns with a pitch-perfect placement. He had

a four-point cushion at the break.

Ng Ka Long tried to use his smashes to gather points but he was guilty of missing some easy chances as Prannoy maintained his four-point lead till 17-13. Prannoy then gave two points away with a couple of miscued shots before prevailing in a parallel exchange and soon grabbed four game point

opportunities. He missed the first one before closing out the opening game with another perfect placement at the baseline.

However, after the change of sides, Prannoy struggled to control the shuttle in drifty conditions while Ng Ka Long showed better execution to keep a firm grip on the rallies and eventually sealed the game.

In the third game, Prannoy once again looked in control of the proceedings initially as he quickly established a 8-3 lead but the Hong Kong player then scripted a sensational recovery, winning eight of the next nine points, to enter the interval with a two-point lead.

After changing ends for the last time, Prannoy tried to instill pace in the rallies but Ng Ka Long managed to lead 16-12. Prannoy tried to narrow the lead but a relentless Ng Ka Long won a long rally and then grabbed three match points and jumped in celebration.

MAN ARRESTED FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS OF RACISM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 9: Birmingham Police have arrested a man for "racially aggravated public order offence", following allegations of racist abuse aimed at Indian fans during the rescheduled fifth Test between India and England at Edgbaston.

The man, who is in his early thirties, has been taken into custody for questioning. "#ARREST | A 32-year-old man has been arrested for a racially aggravated public order offence after reports of racist, abusive behaviour at the Test match in #Birmingham Monday. He remains in custody for questioning," Birmingham Police tweeted Friday.

Several Indian fans had taken to Twitter to report the racist behaviour they endured during the fourth day's play on Monday night. They had claimed that some British

fans hurled racial taunts at them. "We've launched a criminal investigation into reports of racist, abusive behaviour at the Test match in Birmingham," a West Midlands Police spokesperson told 'Sky Sports News'.

"We're liaising with Edgbaston officials to understand what's happened and would encourage anyone who heard any racist language or gestures, or has video footage that could help, to get in touch.

"We're aware of images circulating on social media showing an alleged offender. We're making enquiries to identify the person and would urge him to come forward and speak to us."

In a slew of measures, Warwickshire County Cricket Club has decided to deploy "undercover football crowd-style spotters" in the stadium at Edgbaston to listen and report abusive behaviour.