



'MARVEL' LOUS DREAM

Actor Taapsee Pannu says she has only one dream now and that is to play a superhero in Marvel movies

LEISURE P2



PUTIN TO VISIT IRAN

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Iran next week to attend a meeting, the Kremlin said

INTERNATIONAL P10



BUMRAH STEALS SHOW

Jasprit Bumrah produces his career-best ODI figures of 6/19 as India trounce England by 10 wickets at the Oval

SPORTS P12

NEWS IN BREIF

LOC issued against Chinese fraudster

BHUBANESWAR: The Immigration Bureau issued Tuesday a look-out circular (LOC) against Chinese national Liu Yi for his alleged involvement in duping people through digital fake loan apps at the request of Economic Offences Wing, Bhubaneswar, police said. Yi is the main accused in a case lodged in EOW police station April 21, 2022, under various sections of the IPC and IT Act. The EOW has already arrested five accused accomplices of Yi and is in touch with various state police on his illegal activities. **P3**

Rupee's downward plunge continues

MUMBAI: The rupee declined 15 paise to close at a new lifetime low of 79.60 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday as a strong greenback overseas and weakness in domestic equities continued to weigh on investor sentiments. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 79.55 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 79.53 and a low of 79.66. It finally settled at 79.60 (provisional), down 15 paise over its previous close of 79.45. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE sensx ended on 508.62 points.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We're working on a solution to potholed roads. We'll soon have flying cars

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	53886.61 ↓ 508.62
NIFTY	16058.30 ↓ 157.70
DOLLAR	79.59 ↑ ₹0.16
EURO	79.99 ↑ ₹0.27
GOLD	₹50,604 ↓ ₹40
SILVER	₹56650 ↓ ₹275

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.2°C	32.2°C
MIN	25.8°C	25.2°C
Humidity	96%	98%
Rainfall	4.6mm	3.8mm
Forecast	Light rain likely	

PLETHORA OF COLOURS



Youngsters show off their dancing skills Tuesday during a cultural programme organised by Bharat Scouts and Guides in its campus at Unit-III in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

Home building loan hiked for govt staff

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The Odisha government said Tuesday that the home loan amount for its employees has been increased to ₹40 lakh from the previous sum of ₹25 lakh. It will certainly bring a huge relief for the government staff looking to build their own residences. The decision to increase the amount was taken by the government on the recommendation of the VIIth Pay Commission.

Not only has the loan amount been increased, the state government has also decided to slash the interest rates on the allowance from 11.5 per cent to eight per cent. This will again be a good relief for the government employees.

The loan amount will be disbursed in two installments of 60:40 proportions, the government said. As per an announcement by the Odisha CMO's office, government employees under the National Pension Scheme will also benefit from the scheme.

Earlier in 2010, the maximum housing loan amount for the government employees was fixed at ₹25 lakh with 11.5% interest rate. However, now the recent development will be a huge boon for Odisha government staff.

Lady cop's MUV kills 3

The driver of the vehicle was allegedly moving on the wrong side of the road before ramming into an auto-rickshaw and two-wheeler

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, July 12: When protectors of law break it, then danger looms large. Rash driving and brazenly ignoring the law by moving on the wrong side of the road by the driver of a cop's vehicle turned fatal and claimed three lives and injured five others on NH-57 near Badabahal Chhak early Monday morning in Subranapur district. The 'Maruti Ertiga' MUV going at high speed on the wrong side of the road first hit an auto-rickshaw and then a two-wheeler leading to the death of three persons including a woman.

Later in the evening, police informed that the driver of the vehicle and Ajit Jethi and inspector Snigdharani Suna, who was present in the vehicle when the accident occurred have been arrested from Bolangir. They had both fled the spot after the accident. Police were bringing the arrested duo to Sonepur for questioning.

Earlier in the day, Sonepur SP Amaresh Panda blamed the MUV driver for the mishap. He informed that the vehicle bearing registration number OD16J 1355 belonged to Suna. She was returning to Bolangir on completion of her Rath Yatra duty in Puri when the mishap occurred.

Sources said that Suna being a



Two women injured in the NH-57 accident undergoing treatment at a hospital; (Inset): Inspector Snigdharani Suna



cop herself should not have allowed the driver to flout the law by driving on the wrong side of the road. Had she done so, accident could have been averted.

"The woman inspector was travelling in the car. They fled the spot after the mishap. We have already informed her posting authorities—SP Rourkela and DIG Rourkela. We will nab the driver soon," Panda had assured after the mishap.

The three deceased have been identified as Guabati Jai (40), Satya Pradhan (45) and Pranath Biswal (45). The injured were rushed to a hospital nearby for treatment. All of them were vegetable vendors going to weekly market nearby.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death of the three persons and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured ones. He announced ₹2 lakh ex-

gratia to the next of kin of the deceased and free treatment for the injured persons.

The mishap sparked tension with local residents blocking the road demanding compensation and arrest of the woman cop. Panda, who held discussion with the protestors, said, "The district administration will ensure that the families of the deceased get compensation at the earliest and the culprits will be booked."

No ragging proof found in Ruchika case: DCP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Commissionerate Police sprang a surprise Tuesday as they claimed that they have still not found any evidence of ragging in the Ruchika Mohanty suicide case. The first year student of BJB Autonomous College had died by suicide July 2 and in her alleged death note she had stated that she was taking the drastic step due to ragging by three of her seniors.

Speaking to the media here, DCP Prateek Singh said that the cops have till date interrogated 198 students, close relatives, friends, batch mates, seniors and juniors of Ruchika, and college hostel staffers. However, none of them have given any information to support the ragging allegations. The cops have also interrogated all the students in the hostel but they haven't confirmed anything on allegations of ragging. They have also not come out with any statement regarding the victim suffering from mental depression.

Singh informed that the police will continue interrogation of students. A psychiatrist has been roped in to ensure that students do not face any mental agony.

Singh also revealed that a 'confidential' phone number has been given to the students in case they want to provide any vital information. He also claimed that Ruchika's room has also been searched thoroughly by the officials of scientific team.



"We are trying to retrieve data from the mobile phone recovered from Ruchika's room. However, we have not been successful in doing so. Now we are sending the phone to Singapore to retrieve data stored in it. We do not want to lose any crucial information," Singh said. Sources said later in the day that an official has already left for Singapore via Mumbai with the victim's phone.

Meanwhile the parents of the victim continued Tuesday with their demonstration at PMG Square here seeking justice for the victim.

Ruchika's father informed that some of the students are being pressurised not to say anything. "Some of them have told us that the warden and the superintendent are threatening them not to disclose anything. These officials have to be removed, otherwise a proper probe cannot take place," he said. On the other hand, Ruchika's mother said that she has no faith in police investigation.

Balasore may get RBI's 5th currency printing press

The unit will produce currency notes like the 4 other facilities that are currently run by the central bank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 12: A three-member team of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) visited Tuesday a couple of places in Balasore district to take stock of availability of suitable land for establishment of a press required for printing currency notes and paper, sources said.

The team members upon their arrival met District Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde and held discussions regarding the project. Reports said that over 100 acres of land is required in two places for establishment of the printing press.

Later, the RBI team left for

Padabadaega locality under Remuna block to carry out a land survey for the project Remuna tehsildar Chhabirani Sahu and IDCO officials from here and Bhubaneswar accompanied the team.

The RBI team surveyed the government land at Padabadaega and examined the communication facilities available in the area. Later, the team visited Baunsamuhan and Naraharipur areas under Remuna block and examined the various government and private lands available in the locality. Sources said that work will start on the project after the team identifies the two plots of land.

Contd... P4

'Menacing' lions spark emblem row

Some Opposition parties took a swipe at Modi stating that the new symbol conveys the true nature of a human

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: Opposition members and activists among others accused Tuesday the government of distorting the national emblem by replacing the 'graceful and regally confident' Ashokan lions with those having menacing and aggressive posture and sought immediate change.

"Narendra Modi Ji, please observe the face of the Lion, whether it is representing the statue of Great Sarnath or a distorted version of GIR lion. Please check it and if it needs, mend the same," Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said on Twitter.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had Monday unveiled the cast of

the national emblem atop the new Parliament building. The Opposition had hit out at Modi for flouting constitutional norms and not inviting opposition leaders for the event.

"Insult to our national symbol, the majestic Ashokan Lions. Original is on the left, graceful, regally confident. The one on the right is Modi's version, put above the new Parliament building - snarling, unnecessarily aggressive and disproportionate. Shame! Change it immediately," TMC Rajya Sabha member Jawahar Sircar said on Twitter sharing two different images of the national emblem.

Historian S Irfan Habib also objected to the new lions. "Meddling with our national emblem was totally unnecessary and avoidable. Why should our lions look fero-



OLD EMBLEM



NEW EMBLEM

cious and full of angst? These are Ashoka's lions adapted by independent India in 1950," Habib said.

Senior lawyer and activist Prashant Bhusan also joined in the chorus of protests. "From Gandhi

to Godse; From our national emblem with lions sitting majestically & peacefully; to the new national emblem unveiled for the top of the new Parliament building under construction at Central Vista; Angry

lions with bared fangs. This is Modi's new India," Bhusan said.

Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) tweeted that the lions in the national emblem are known to have a mild expression, but those on the new sculpture appear to have a 'man-eater tendency'. The RJD's official handle tweeted in Hindi, "The original emblem has a mild expression, but those built during 'Amrit Kaal' show a man-eater's tendency to consume everything in the country. Symbols convey the true nature of a human."

The designers of the massive sculpture Sunil Deore and Romiel Moses, however, claimed that there is 'no deviation'. "We've paid attention to detail. The character of lions is same," they said. **P9**

leisure



R KELLY'S VICTIM SAYS SHE'S ENGAGED TO HIM

Singer-songwriter R Kelly, who is undergoing a sex trafficking trial, is reportedly engaged to one of his victims -- Joycelyn Savage. In a letter to a judge Savage shared that she and Kelly are engaged and asked the court to hand down a more lenient prison sentence in his case.

JEN SHAH PLEADS GUILTY TO CRIMINAL FRAUD CHARGES

American television star Jen Shah, who is known for her work in the reality TV series, has pleaded guilty on criminal fraud charges. The charges are linked to an alleged telemarketing scheme, according to court documents obtained by *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Decisions about career and finance will keep you preoccupied today. After a hectic day, all you may want to do is relax. In that case, Ganesh may send a short but pleasurable trip your way, which is sure to rejuvenate you. Group activity suggests you will make more friends, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
You must learn to get to the root of a routine to keep things fresh today, feels Ganesh. Just learn the basic psychology of people and analyse the facts. All action and decision has a motive, you will need to understand the chain to get the most out of things, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
Along with your house, family and business matters, you will also be busy with your social obligations today. You will be afforded the co-operation of those around you. New ways of thinking will flourish within you. Make full use of the opportunities you get today, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh says that this will be a unique and auspicious day for you. You will get clue and hints of this from morning itself. A religious ceremony in the house, and thereby invitation to guests is indicated. The chance of shifting to a new house is indicated.

LEO
You will have to bear more responsibilities in the office. You need to carefully weigh your alternatives before making a decision. On the personal front, you will need to watch against minor conflicts with your partner cropping up.

VIRGO
Today is a mixed bag of values and pragmatism, says Ganesh, and if there were to be a competition for the most humanitarian person, you would be likely to win hands down. You would do well to make plans to increase your productivity. Ganesh advises you to look at the big picture, which should not be so difficult for you as you already have a broad perspective.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you shall be immersed in successfully completing all your remaining work today. Whatever work you undertake today you shall be able to do it to your best capability and successfully and your work ability will be praiseworthy. Ganesh showers his blessings on you.

SCORPIO
It seems, the book, 'How to win friends and influence people' has left a great impact on your mind, bringing about a lot of change in your practical life too. As you switch to a new business venture, your efforts will be appreciated. In short, you are a personality that every one would take a note of.

SAGITTARIUS
The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. A small party at home may see a group of friends and relatives dine together. This may find you in a chatty mood. Ganesh says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN
Unless you be calm and patient, your tendency to act impulsively will get you into hot water, warns Ganesh. Your image on the minds of your colleagues and bosses will remain intact, though. You will keep on climbing up the ladder and come closer to success, but don't get too excited if everything is turning out as per the plan.

AQUARIUS
Do you wish to have a new car or any other property? Make the bookings today, as it is favourable day to make such purchases. You will prioritise your needs and consider available finances so that you can have your dream car or house. In the evening, you will find solace in temple or any other religious places, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You will have frequent mood swings today but you will still manage to fix a work related goal. Your mood will be better if you focus on work. You might feel stressed about some personal matter, but Ganesh says it is not a matter to worry.

Taapsee's 'Marvel'lous dream

New Delhi: From *Soorma*, *Saad Ki Aankh* to *Rashmi Rocket*, Taapsee Pannu has some incredible sports films to her credit and now she is all set for another one, *Shabaash Mithu*, a biopic on Mithali Raj, former captain of women's cricket team.

"It was a biggest challenge and especially for someone who has not played cricket ever before to portray a living legend like her-the first woman whose name comes to mind when you talk about women's cricket," said the *Pink* actress. Even while Taapsee is busy with the promotions in an exclusive conversation with a portal, the actress elaborated on her wish to play a superhero. "Please ask Marvel na. I am telling you, this is the

only wish list I have. People keep asking me what is your dream role, who do you want to work with," shares the *Mulk* actress. Taapsee further adds, "I have only one dream role, and one dream right now where my work is concerned - I want to be a part of Avengers, I want to play a superhero of Indian origin. That's all I am trying to manifest. So if anyone tells me a way to go about it, I will follow it." **ANS**

Ananya speaks about self-love

Mumbai: Ananya Panday is an actress who is known for wearing her heart on her sleeves. *The Student of The Year 2* actress, who is quite active on social media, is often seen sharing her journey to stardom and enjoys a massive fan following. And now, Ananya is once again making headlines as she has spoken about self love and called it a constant learning process. During her recent interaction with a portal, the *Pati Patni Aur Woh* actress stated that there are days when she feels she isn't good enough. Explaining it, Ananya stated that self-love is all about being comfortable in one's skin.

Ananya stated, "I still feel very unconfident many days when I wake up in the morning I don't feel like I look good enough. I don't feel like my hair looks tight. Sometimes I don't feel like something is fitting me right. So, I have those moments all the time because I feel like self-love is a journey. It is a kind of learning where you realise things about yourself every single day".

Furthermore, Ananya also asserted that self love is about realising that it is the internal beauty that matters the most. "And I think it's about getting a little better, growing a little better, each day," the actress was quoted as saying.



Sara wants to date Vijay

Mumbai: *Koffee With Karan* Season 7 premiered July 7 featuring Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh. Now, Karan Johar has shared a new promo from the upcoming episode and revealed that the second guests to grace the couch will be Janhvi Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan.

In the promo shared by KJo, Janhvi is seen talking about her friendship with Sara. She is heard saying, "So many people have actually told us that y'all bring out like an obscene side to each other." To which, the *Love Aaj Kal* actress hilariously says, "Watch out."

Later, Karan asks Sara, "Give me a name of a boy you feel like dating." At first, Sara denies to reveal and then blurts out: "Vijay Deverakonda" (Telugu star, who featured in *Arjun Reddy* and will star in the upcoming film, *Liger*). In an earlier *KWK* season, Janhvi Kapoor had confessed that she had a crush on Vijay Deverakonda. Learning about the revelation, Sara asks Janhvi, "Do you like Vijay?"

Karan asked Sara to list "one reason why your ex is your ex," and Sara replied, "Because he's everyone's ex," to which Janhvi almost falls off the couch.



Ranveer roasted for kissing Grylls

Mumbai: Ranveer Singh, who recently appeared on the show *Ranveer Vs Wild with Bear Grylls* to brave the Serbian wilderness in search of a rare flower, is being roasted by the netizens after a clip of Ranveer kissing Grylls went viral.

clip, one can see Ranveer saying, "Arre mere mowgli (oh my mowgli), arre mere Tarzan (oh my Tarzan)" as he lands pecks on a visibly awkward Bear Grylls' cheeks and neck.

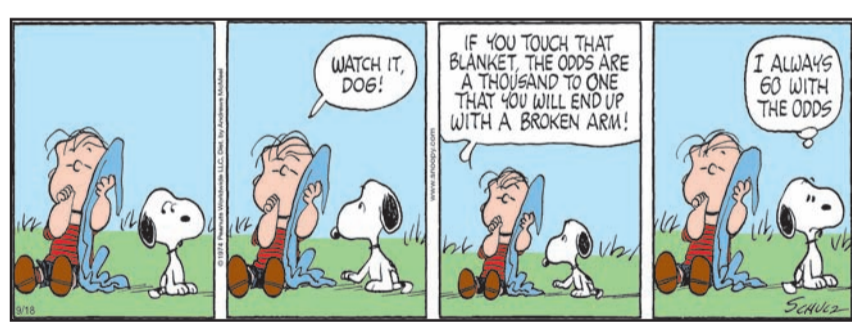
Many users on the Internet, expressed how Ranveer's over-exciting persona made Bear Grylls feel uncomfortable in front of the camera. In the viral

Pointing out the Bajirao Mastani star's behaviour, many people on the Internet called the act, "borderline assault". Sharing the clip, one user wrote in their tweet, "There's a term called "personal space. I can

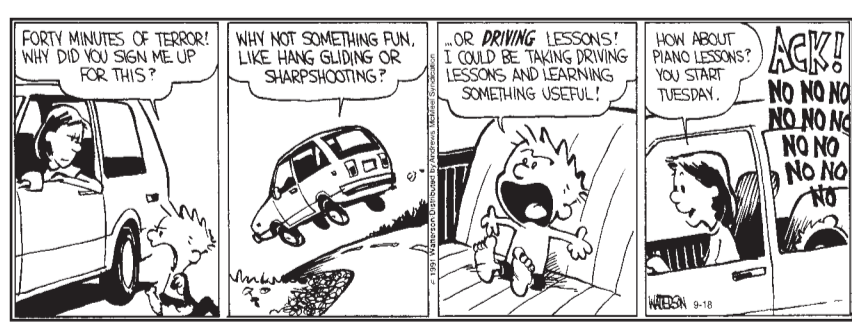


see how much it's infringed." While the clip is quite weird in its content, it has also sparked a meme fest with creators having a field day on the Internet courtesy Ranveer's antics. **ANS**

PEANUTS



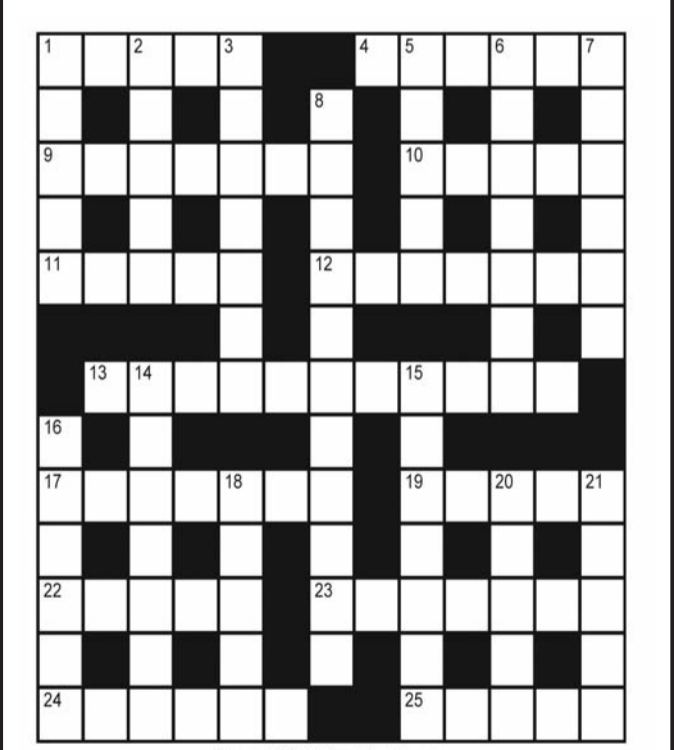
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



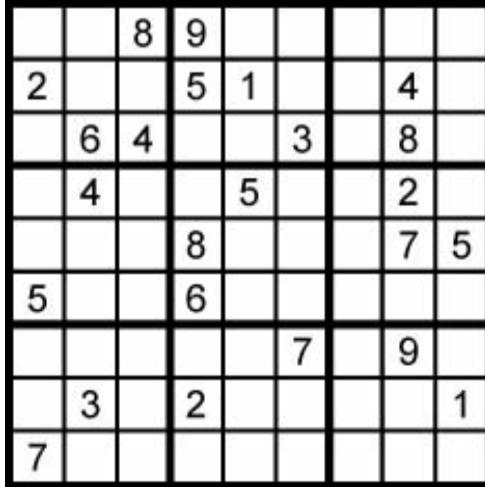
FUN post CROSSWORD



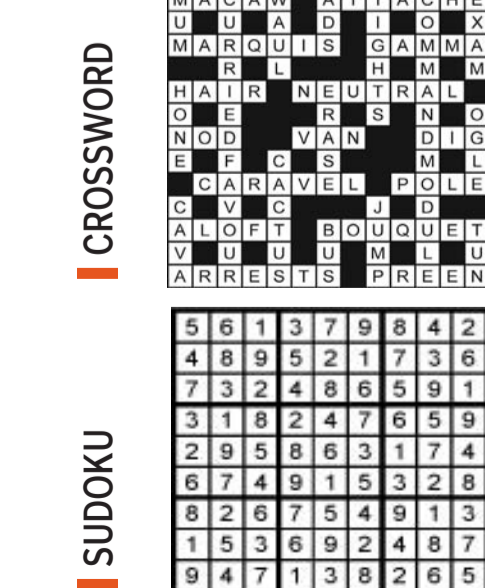
- Across**
- 1 Fable writer
 - 4 Stringed instruments
 - 9 Kettledrum
 - 10 Pear variety
 - 11 Fancy tie
 - 12 Big cat
 - 13 Sweet roll (3,5,3)
 - 17 Inane
 - 19 Like thick smoke
 - 22 Cover story?
 - 23 Citrous fruit
 - 24 Do a slow burn
 - 25 Flightless birds
 - 5 Flabbergast
 - 6 Martial art
 - 7 Looked for (5,2,4)
 - 8 Duck soup
 - 14 Make airy
 - 15 Speech defect
 - 16 Signs of life
 - 18 Chicken order
 - 20 Awaken
 - 21 Takes out
- Down**
- 1 Bone cavities
 - 2 Poison plant
 - 3 Charge card

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



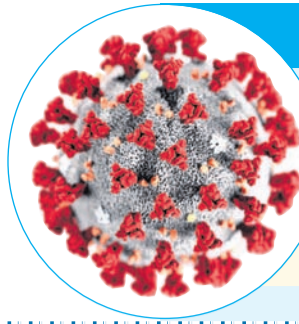
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



EVICION IN CITY

Civic authorities demolish an illegal building near Patia Passenger Halt, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	56,21,30,605	53,49,32,002	63,75,233
India	4,36,52,944	4,29,96,427	5,25,474
Odisha	12,94,585	12,82,270	9,127

FAKE LOAN APP CASE

Lookout circular against Chinese national

The EOW has so far received over 100 complaints from Odisha related to Liu Yi's illegal and abusive activities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The Bureau of Immigration has issued a lookout circular against Chinese national Liu Yi for his alleged involvement in duping people through fake loan applications at the request of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Bhubaneswar, a police official said Tuesday.

Yi is the prime accused in a case lodged in EOW police station here April 21, 2022, under various Sections of the IPC and IT Act.

The EOW has already arrested five accomplices of Yi and is in touch with various state police on his illegal activities. It has conducted raids in Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi and has frozen more than Rs 6.57 crore.

A lookout circular is generally issued to alert immigration check posts at airports and seaports to alert law enforcement agencies if the wanted person tries to leave the country or arrive in it from a foreign place.

According to the EOW, Yi used to run many illegal digital loan apps in India like KOKO Loan,

MODUS OPERANDI

Once the fake loan apps are downloaded in a customer's mobile, a small amount ranging between Rs 3,000 and Rs 10,000 was credited to his/her bank account. Within a week, the borrower is asked to repay the amount at an excessive rate of interest

The loan recovery process is so overbearing and humiliating that there are numerous instances of customers committing suicide

If the borrower refused to pay the high rate of interest, s/he is humiliated and bullied in many ways

Obscene messages and indecent pictures along with abusive texts are sent to his/her WhatsApp number and as well as to his/her contact list as a coercive measure to recover the loan amount with interest

Thailand, it said.

Once the fake loan apps are downloaded in a customer's mobile play store, a small amount ranging from Rs 3,000 to Rs 10,000 was credited to his/her bank account. Within a week the customer or borrower is asked to repay the amount at an excessive rate of interest.

If the person refused to pay the high rate of interest he/she is humiliated and bullied in many ways, the EOW said.

Obscene messages and indecent pictures along with abusive texts in filthy languages are sent to his/her WhatsApp number and as well as to his/her contact list as a coercive measure to recover the loan amount with interest.

"This process of recovery is so overbearing and humiliating that there are some instances of customers committing suicide," the EOW release said.

There have been already more than 1.5 lakh downloads of KOKO and JOJO loan apps and the EOW has received more than 100 complaints from Odisha related to Yi's illegal and abusive activities.

The EOW has issued advisory on the illegal loan apps to contain them and to create awareness among the public about using them. If someone has already downloaded or used the illegal loan apps they should not tolerate any harassing behaviour, but report the matter to the police.

It is suspected that they are running such illegal loan apps in other countries too, especially in

JOJO Loan Golden, Lightening Loan, Silver Kredit Loan, Gold Cash loan, Little Borrow, Loan Tap, Credit Loan, Kredit Bear Loan, Speedy Rupee Loan, Xpress Credit Loan, Kredit Plan Loan and Rupee Day Loan among others.

The EOW said that there are more than 1.5 lakh downloads in one of the apps and it is suspected that lakhs of people across the country, particularly those from the lower middle class in need of small loans, especially during difficult times of Covid, have been cheated or extorted of their money.

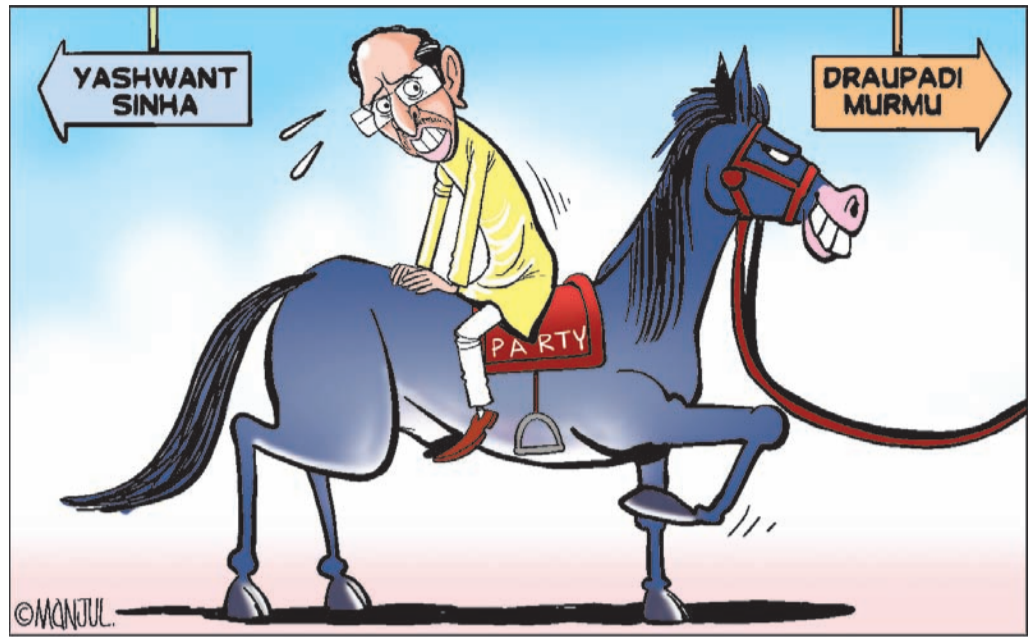
It said Yi, whose parent company Jianbing Technology was at Hangzhou in China, had started

his illegal business in India in 2019 from Bangalore. He is the director of Omlette Technology Private Limited and indirectly controls and owns other shell companies.

The release said that there are at least two more Chinese persons who assisted Yi in the scam. They used to make Yi's employees or any vulnerable and needy person directors of the shell companies but actually used to control and operate the companies and bank accounts. They also used many call centres to make abusive and threatening calls to the loanees.

It is suspected that they are running such illegal loan apps in other countries too, especially in

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BMC thrust on vaccination of school kids

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has put emphasis upon the vaccination of children from 12 to 14 years in the wake of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in the capital city here.

The civic body Tuesday convened a meeting to discuss various measures to expedite vaccination in schools. BMC Additional Commissioner Suryawanshi Mayur Vikash chaired the meeting while around seventy representatives



from several government and private schools participated in it. It was decided in the meeting that the school principals will deposit data on the status of vaccination of their students to BMC through Block Education Officer (BEO) for its reconciliation with the figure

available in the dedicated portal. After receiving the data from the BEO, either the Health department or the Office of the Additional District Urban Public Health Officer (ADUPHO) will plan vaccination camps for the school children.

The representatives of the schools were told to inform and motivate parents for vaccination of children against the deadly virus. "The schools have been asked to deposit the data within three days. The data will be analyzed and camps will be organised accordingly," said an official.

State celebrates Rasagola Dibasa as deities enter Srimandir



Servitors offer Rasagola to Srimandir deities, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Puri, July 12: Odisha Tuesday celebrated Rasagola Dibasa marking the return of the divine Trinity- Lord

Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra and Lord Jagannath along with Sudarshana, to Srimandir after their 9-day sojourn at aunt Gundicha's abode, in a ritual called "Niladri Bije."

Taking to Twitter on this occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "It is a unique tradition in the Jagannath culture where Mahaprabhu offers Rasagola to Goddess Lakshmi in order to

convince her. Rasagola has a special place in Odia dishes." Tagging a picture, Patnaik greeted the people of Odisha on the occasion of Rasagola Dibasa.

On Niladri Bije, according to legends, Maha Lakshmi, the consort of Lord Jagannath, gets angry as she was left in the Srimandir alone and was not taken on Rath Yatra to the Shri Gundicha temple. An angry Maha Lakshmi though allows elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister-in-law Devi Subhadra and Lord Sudarshana into the temple, she closes the main gate, the 'Singhadwara' for Lord Jagannath.

"In order to convince Maha Lakshmi, Lord Jagannath offers Rasagola (sweet dish made of cottage cheese) and requests her to forgive him for not taking her in the Ratha Yatra," said Amit Mohanty, a researcher in the Jagannath culture.

Mohaty, who was also instrumental in collecting evidence supporting Rasogola's origin in the Srimandir as the sweet dish is offered to the deities as part of "Mahaprasada" since centuries.

He said, "In earlier days, the dish was known as 'Khira Mohan' in the temple which is same as Rasagola." Asked about West Bengal's claim on the origin of Rasagola, Mohanty said, "Our Rasagola is totally different from that of Bengal. The Rasagola in Bengal came into existence in 1868 while the same sweet dish dates back to about 500 years ago. There is mention of Rasagola in 'Dandi Ramayan' written by Balaram Das."

"Rasagola is there in Odisha as long as Rath Yatra is there. Lakhs of people have seen on television channels devotees offering Rasagola to Lord Jagannath on his return from Rath Yatra. There should not be a debate on the origin of Rasagola. Let Bengal enjoy its Rasagola and we ours," Mohanty said.

The Rasagola Dibasa is, however, being celebrated in the state since 2015, the year when Lord Jagannath's Nabakalebara festival was held. Internationally acclaimed artist and Padma Shri awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik also took to Twitter and shared the pictures of his beautiful creations on the occasion of Niladri Bije.

Govt withdraws order banning entry of journalists in schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The state government has withdrawn its order restricting journalists from entering the premises of schools in some areas following a statewide outrage against the move.

The government instruction has been sent to the block education officers withdrawing the July 8 order.

The block education officer of Kankadahad in Dhenkanal district in a fresh notification issued Monday to all headmasters of government schools in the area said "... As per the instruction of the District Magistrate-cum-Collector, Dhenkanal dated 11.07.2022 in the joint public grievance redressal held at Panchayat Samitee Office, Kankadahad regarding unauthorised entry of media persons in the school premises, this office letter No 1066 dated 08.07.2022 which was issued earlier is hereby withdrawn," the letter said. In the face of statewide protest against the government's decision to prohibit the entry of journalists in schools, Dhenkanal collector Saroj Kumar

Sethi has clarified that scribes had not been completely barred. They were allowed to enter the premises after school hours to collect information.

"Media persons can enter the school premises and discuss matters with the managing committee after the school hours as the visits disturb students when their classes are on. Disturbance during class hours will psychologically impact the minds of the students," he said.

The state's ban on the entry of journalists to schools in some areas came after some TV news channels showed how students were poor in mathematics and triggered a political row.

The Dhenkanal district education officer had Saturday directed block education officers and headmasters not to allow unauthorised entry of journalists into schools and classrooms and to report such matters to the police.

A similar directive was also issued in the Kendrapara district. Many political leaders and journalists associations had strongly opposed the government's action.

CPET application date extended till July 17

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The Higher Education department Tuesday extended the last date to apply for the Common PG Entrance Test (CPET) and PG e-admission for the 2022-23 academic session.

The hall tickets will be available for downloading by July 25. The test will commence August 1 and continue till August 13

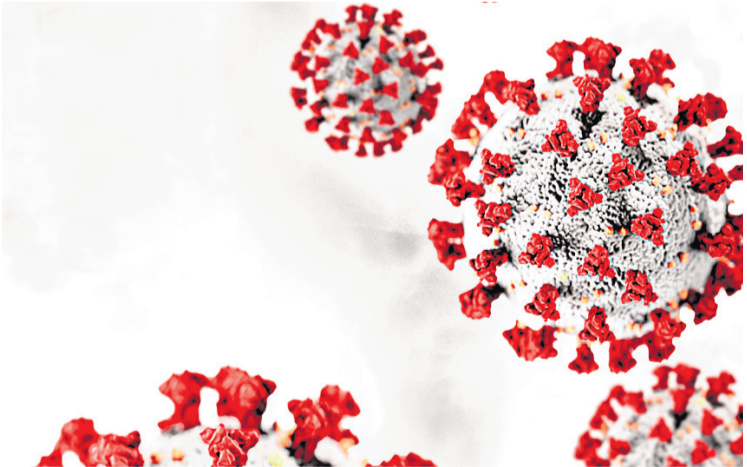
Now, the last date to fill up the common admission form (CAF) for CPET through website www.samsodisha.gov.in is July 17. The hall tickets will be available for downloading by July 25.

Earlier, the last date for applying online for CPET through the website is July 12. The department had released the schedule for CPET-2022 for admission into state public universities and colleges for post graduation courses.

According to the notification, the CPET-2022 will commence August 1 and continue till August 13.

In the entrance test, there will be three sessions—Session-1 (from 10 am to 11.30 am), Session-2 (from 12.30 pm to 2 pm) and Session-3 (from 3 pm to 4.30 pm). However, differently-abled students will be given additional 30 minutes to write the examination.

Covid virus may survive for 30 days on refrigerated, frozen meat: Study



The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, may survive on meat and fish products in the refrigerator or the freezer for up to 30 days, a study suggests.

The research, recently published in the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology, was conducted using chicken, beef, pork, and salmon, and surrogate viruses with spikes similar to those on SARS-CoV-2.

The researchers stored the meat and fish products at both refrigeration (4 degrees Celsius) and freezer temperatures (minus 20 degrees C).

"Although you might not store meat in the fridge for 30 days, you might store it in the freezer for that long," said

study first author Emily S. Bailey, an assistant professor at Campbell University in the US.

"We even found that the viruses could be cultured after (being frozen for) that length of time," Bailey said in a statement.

The researchers undertook the study after learning that Covid-19 outbreaks were occurring in Southeast Asia prior community transmission.

"Reports from those communities suggested that packaged meat products, produced in areas where SARS-CoV-2 was circulating, could have been the source of the virus," said Bailey.

"Our goal was to investigate whether or not similar viruses could survive in

The researchers stored the meat and fish products at both refrigeration (4 degrees Celsius) and freezer temperatures (minus 20 degrees C)

The researchers undertook the study after learning that Covid-19 outbreaks were occurring in Southeast Asia prior community transmission

this environment," she said.

The research is important because SARS-CoV-2 can replicate within the gut, as well as in the respiratory tract, said Bailey.

In the study, the researchers used one RNA virus with a lipid envelope, and two animal coronaviruses, murine hepatitis virus, and transmissible gastroenteritis virus as surrogates.

All three viruses have previously been used as surrogates for SARS-CoV-2, generally with greater reductions in their numbers observed at refrigeration than at freezing temperatures.

The reduction in numbers also varied according to the food item used.

"Continued efforts are needed to prevent contamination of foods and food processing surfaces, worker hands, and food processing utensils such as knives," the researchers noted.

"The lack of, or inadequate, disinfection of these foods prior to packaging needs to be addressed," they added.

यूनियन बँक Union Bank of India	UNION BANK OF INDIA REGIONAL OFFICE: CUTTACK M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003	POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES-2002]		
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, below mentioned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act. No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors in loan Account mentioned 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 Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, below mentioned Branches for an amount mentioned below with interest 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 the Borrower to redeem the Secured Assets.		
BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrowers & Guarantors	Liabilities due as per notice (in Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
PARADIPGARH BRANCH Borrower: M/s Sarathi Construction and Supplier, Prop.: Sri Malaya Kumar Swain, At/PO.: Jhimani, Via: Kujanga, Paradeep-754141.	Rs.17,42,947/- as on 31.05.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	11.04.2022 / 08.07.2022
43, Mutation Khata No. 403/265, Mouza: Badabaranga, Thana/Dist: Kendrapara, Boundary: North: Road, South: Kangali Charan Behera, East: Debaki Mohanty, West: Kangali Charan Behera.		
DHENKANAL UBI BRANCH Borrower: Mr Abhaya Kumar Mohanty, S/o: Rabi Narayan Mohanty, At: Raikia, P.O.: Guneibil, Via: Marhapur, Dist: Dhenkanal, Pin- 759023. Guarantor: Mr Monaranjan Mohanty, S/o: Nimai Charan Mohanty, At: Sai Nimai Complex, C/o: CM Cortech Services Pvt Ltd, Dhenkanal-759001.	Rs.19,91,610.58 as on 01.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	28.04.2022 / 11.07.2022
Flat No. A-1, 1 st Floor of Block A, in apartment called SAI NIMAI RESIDENCY built on Plot No. 1428/2102/7058 and Plot No. 1631/2103/7057 in Khata No. 738/2721 in Mouza- Badasathiabata, Dhenkanal in the name of Sri Abhaya Kumar Mohanty.		
DHENKANAL UBI BRANCH Borrower: Mrs Asharani Dhall, W/o: Mr Srikanta Dhall, Guarantor: Mr Srikanta Dhall, both are resident of At: Meena Bazar, Jagannath Road, Dhenkanal, Dist: Dhenkanal, Pin- 759001.	Rs.16,87,551.59 as on 30.11.2021 with further interest, cost & expenses	24.02.2022 / 11.07.2022
Land and Building at Plot No.- 2038/2970/4543, Khata No.- 535/1526, Area: Ac. 0.080 Dec. At- Mouza: Banmali Prasad, P.S. /Tahsil: Dhenkanal, in the name of Mr Srikanta Dhall.		
DHENKANAL UBI BRANCH Borrower: Mr Mahadev Mohapatra, S/o: Gatikrushna Mohapatra, At: Balabhadrapur, P.O.: Korian, P.S.: Dhenkanal Sadar, Dist: Dhenkanal, Dhenkanal-759013.	Rs.17,81,543.43 as on 31.03.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses	28.04.2022 / 11.07.2022
Land and Building at Plot No.- 585/1323, Khata No.- 245/388, Mouza: Balabhadrapur, P.O.- Korian, P.S.: Dhenkanal Sadar, Dist: Dhenkanal in the name of Mr Mahadev Mahapatra.		
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 12.07.2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India		

Nabard contributed ₹31k cr for Odisha's development



ing the stakeholders for their support which resulted in fabulous performance of Nabard in the state. Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari, who graced the event as chief guest, congratulated Nabard on the occasion.

Pujari appreciated Nabard's initiatives like Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) which have been complementing the developmental initiatives of the Odisha government.

On the occasion, awards were given to individuals and institutions in various categories such as best performing tribal farmer, SHG, FPO, watershed management committee and farmers under 'Beyond Paddy'.

A coffee table book 'Reflections 2021-22', highlighting major achievements of Nabard in Odisha during 2021-22, and a video showcasing '40 years of Nabard in Odisha' were released on the occasion.

velopment of rural Odisha.

"Nabard's financial assistance to the state government, banks and corporations in Odisha has touched ₹31,786 crore in 2021-22. The thrust areas for 2022-23 include remunerative activities beyond paddy cultivation, developing micro entrepreneurs of successful women self-help groups (SHGs), doubling bank credit to the SHGs, doubling farmers' income and promotion of handloom and handicraft," Udayabhaskar said thank-

STUDENTS' PLEA



Students take out a rally at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, seeking promotion of Odia language in education and employment OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has provided financial assistance of Rs 31,786 crore to Odisha during 2021-22, its Chief General Manager C Udayabhaskar said Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering during the 41st foundation day celebration of Nabard here, Udayabhaskar highlighted Nabard's contribution to the de-

Drug peddler's house demolished

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Following the request of Commissionerate Police, the officials of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday reduced a dreaded drug peddler's house to rubble in Kalarahanga area in City. The Mancheswar police had earlier sent a letter to the Additional Commissioner, Enforcement section of BMC for the demolition of the building which was situated on a government plot.

Tuesday morning, a team of BMC along with bulldozer reached near the plot and demolished the house of the drug peddler, Krishna Chandra Nath alias Kahna in the presence of senior police officials

Tuesday morning, a team of BMC along with bulldozer reached near the plot and demolished the house of the drug peddler, Krishna Chandra Nath alias Kahna in the presence of senior police officials.

As per the letter, Kahna has been arrested several times in the past for involvement in drug peddling. However, he again engaged in illegal trade after coming out of the jail on interim bail each time. Nath along with his associates has been selling drugs to innocent students and others in various parts of the city. There are six cases pending against Nath at different police stations of the city.

Puri-Nuagaon Road-Puri train to run from July 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 12: As announced by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during his last visit to state regarding introduction of Puri-Nuagaon Road train, East Coast Railway (ECOR) has decided to run the Passenger Special Train from July 20.

As per the information by ECOR, 08423/08424 Puri-Nuagaon Road-Puri Passenger Special will leave Puri at 1950hrs (07.50 pm) w.e.f. July 20 and from Nuagaon Road will



leave at 0810hrs (08.10 am) w.e.f. July 21.

This train has five second class seating and two guard-cum-lug-

gage vans in its composition. It will have stoppages at Malatipatapur, Janakideipur, Sakhipogal, Birpurusottampur, Jenapur PH, Delang, Kanas Road, Motari, Hariapur Gram, Khurda Road, Khurda Town, Begunia, Rajsunakhala, Bolagarh Town, Bolagarh Road, Nayagarh Town and Mahipur between Puri and Nuagaon Road.

Consequent upon the introduction of Puri-Nuagaon Road Passenger Special, it has also been decided to revise the timings of

08429 Bhubaneswar-Nuagaon Road Passenger Special w.e.f. July 21. This train will leave from Bhubaneswar at 1020hrs (10.20 am) instead of 0925hrs (09.25 am) and will arrive at Nuagaon Road at 1300hrs (01.00 pm) instead of 1215hrs (12.15 pm). Timings for this train at scheduled stations have also been revised.

However, in the return direction, the timings of 08430 Nuagaon Road-Bhubaneswar Passenger Special train will remain unchanged.

Open drains death trap for Balimela residents



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 12: Pedestrians of Balimela in Malkangiri district face a constant threat of falling into open drains, thanks to a number of drains left uncovered in the area. At least 80% of the drains are uncovered in Balimela area alone, thereby putting the lives of many including the elderly, kids and domestic animals in risk.

On many roads, drains as deep as 5 feet remain open as slabs are either absent or damaged. It is alleged that pedestrians and cattle often fall into the drains and get injured, but the civic body does not consider it an issue serious enough to merit its attention. The authorities seem to be waiting for some tragic accident to occur before looking into the matter.

Things worsen during the rainy season as the drains are filled with rainwater. This causes serious accidents as the invisible drains are along the main road. Heavy rains swell the water level on the roads and sewerage blocking in the drains. It becomes difficult for commuters to identify manholes or big ditches on the waterlogged areas.

Despite the state government spending crores of rupees for development works, the grim condition of the drains in Balimela is worrisome.

"Recently, a child fell in a drain and got injured. Luckily, a few passers-by saw him and pulled him out immediately. Otherwise, the accident could have been fatal," a local said on condition of anonymity.

"We fear to send our children for tuitions and to school. A little carelessness and they might end up losing their lives," a guardian said. Furthermore, residents are worried about the stagnant water in the drains spreading vector-borne diseases. Residents have alleged that filth from these drains litter the surrounding areas.

"Sometimes, the drain water enters into our compounds during heavy rain. The choked drains are also the breeding ground for mosquitoes," another local alleged.

When contacted, Balimela executive engineer refused to comment over the issue.

"Steps will be taken soon to resolve the matter," said newly elected Balimela NAC chairperson Pradeep Nayak.



Artistes of Jeevan Rekha stage play Benatak at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

RBI team inspects land in Balasore for printing press

Continued from P1

When contacted, the Collector said that to pave way for establishment of industries in the district the administration is working with IDCO to identify land and establish a land bank.

Kedar Sahu, sarpanch of Chasakhanda panchayat said that establishment of the currency printing press will place Balasore district in the national map.

If the press is ultimately set up it will be the fifth RBI printing facility in the country that produces currency note. Currently there are four such facilities. They are in Nasik (Maharashtra), Dewas (Madhya Pradesh), Mysore (Karnataka) and Shalboni (West Bengal).

Centre proposes to decriminalise some sections of Indian Forest Act

THE INDIAN FOREST ACT, 1927 PROVIDES A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS, TRANSIT OF FOREST PRODUCE AND TIMBER AND THE DUTY LEVIABLE ON FOREST PRODUCE AND TIMBER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 12: Continuing the spree of public notices for amendments to its various acts at a pre-draft stage, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has now proposed decriminalisation of certain sections of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

During last 10 days, the Ministry has issued similar notices seeking input/feedback from public and experts for decriminalisation of environment, water, and air acts.

It has also brought out notification for changes in Forest (Conservation) Act that has become a bone of contention between the opposition Congress and the government.

Now, the Ministry said it is



undertaking a review of the Act to decriminalise certain sections of the law, including carrying timber out of the reserved forest, trespassing by cattle, and felling

a tree. The Indian Forest Act, 1927 provides a legal framework for the protection and management of forests, transit of forest produce

and timber and the duty leviable on forest produce and timber.

As per the public notice, a person who kindles, keeps or carries any fire, permits cattle to

pasture or trespass, or causes damage by felling of a tree or dragging timber through the forest was earlier penalised with six months imprisonment or a fine upto Rs 500 or both. Now, the penalty proposed is simply a fine of Rs 500.

Explaining its reasoning, a senior Ministry official said that at times there are difficulties in differentiating between major and minor offenses and because of that punishments are often not distinct and that this abets habitual offenders to commit more crimes as there is the same level of punishment for both first time and repeat offenders.

The notice, issued Saturday, seeks comments, feedback and objections etc from common public and experts by July 31, a mere three weeks.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-977662449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Anti-ragging undertaking mandatory for students



CAMPUS BLUES

Regional director of education, Berhampur LK Tripathy has written to all government and private college authorities to collect such undertakings from each fresh student to ensure ragging-free college campus

Principals have been asked to form anti-ragging squads, committees in each institute and sensitise the students, including freshers and seniors about the anti-ragging provisions

College heads have been asked to ensure that each hostel has a full-time warden who resides within or near the hostel

medical college ending his life. Keeping the rising trend of ragging in higher educational institutions, Tripathy in the letter said: "Each student will be asked to give written undertaking not to indulge or abet ragging."

At the same time he also asked the principals to form anti-ragging squads, committees in each institute and sensitise the students, including freshers and seniors about the anti-ragging provisions. Leaflets or brochures on anti-ragging provisions should be distributed to each student of the colleges, he said.

The official also urged the parents and guardians of the fresher or junior students to promptly bring to the notice of the head of the institution if any such instance of the ragging comes to their notice.

Tripathy also asked college heads to ensure that each hostel has a full-time warden who resides within or near the hostel.

The anti-ragging movement should be taken from the beginning of the admission in the colleges to ensure ragging-free campus, said Tripathy, adding that no act of ragging, major or minor, should go unnoticed. "No ragger, male or female student or non-student, should go unpunished," he said.

Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida July 7 had also held a meeting of the heads of the major institutes, basically technical institutions and asked them to take strict anti-ragging measures from the beginning of the sessions. The Collector also asked them to create awareness among the students about the anti-ragging provisions.

Action was taken against a house surgeon in MKCG Medical College and Hospital here in May for allegedly indulging in ragging of a junior medical student in the college.



RAINING WOES

Communication between Junagarh and Dharmagarh in Kalahandi district was disrupted Tuesday after an approach road near Bondakuta to an under-construction bridge over a creek washed away in the floodwater due to heavy rainfall. The road on National Highway-130C connects Debhog in Chhattisgarh

Clamour for med college, varsity in Bhadrak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 12: The demand for establishment of a medical college and hospital and a university gained momentum here with several organisations placing their grievances before the state government to this effect recently.

They warned of mass demonstrations if their demands were not conceded.

"Establishment of a medical college at Bhadrak is a longstanding demand. People of Bhadrak have

been deprived of availing quality healthcare for long. Demonstrations have been held several times against the lackadaisical attitude of the government in creating a quality healthcare facility. People belonging to rural and urban areas of the district had participated in the agitations. Despite all these, the government has not taken any action yet," said former MLA Naren Palei. A group of protesters led by Palei submitted a memorandum to the sub-collector addressed to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.



The protesters criticised the government for not considering the proposal for establishing a medical college at Bhadrak despite repeated demands from the people and different organisations.

"Several road mishaps do occur on a daily basis. There are also mishaps reported from Dhamra port. It becomes almost impossible to save lives due to absence of a medical college in the district," a local ruerd. "Similarly, all the colleges in the district are under Balasore-based Fakir Mohan University. So, we want a separate university in our district," he added. A protester said, "It is disappointing that the government has announced medical colleges for neighbouring districts but not one for Bhadrak."

Jumbo calf from Jharkhand rescued

Baripada: Forest officials rescued an elephant calf which was roaming around after being separated from its herd under Betanoti forest range and Baripada forest division in Mayurbhanj district, late Monday night. The calf was brought to Betanoti forest range office and provided shelter. Later, it was taken to Pithabata forest range office under Simlipal Tiger Conservation Project. Veterinarians conducted its health check-up. The calf got separated from its herd from neighbouring Jharkhand, after people drove away its mother at Punasia under Bangiriposhi forest range. Later, it strayed into Kosti jungle under Deuli forest range.

170 BPGY houses for Kotia panchayat

Koraput: Amid Andhra Pradesh's unrelenting attempts to woo people of Kotia panchayat in Koraput, the state government has turned its focus on building houses for the residents. Nearly 170 houses will be built under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY), said additional project officer (MGNREGS) Soumendran Kumar Nayak here Tuesday. The district administration has decided to build some pucca houses in Harmading, a fringe village in Kotia panchayat. Many beneficiaries have started pulling down their old houses. Construction of 10 houses is in full swing while work of 14 others will be started soon, it was said.

Bridge over Jamuganda creek soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 12: The Ganjam district administration has swung into action following media reports about school students crossing a flooded Jamuganda nullah (creek) in Patrapur block with the help of a rope to reach their homes while returning from school last Friday. The administration has planned to construct a steel bridge over the stream.

As per reports, the Ganjam Collector has sought a report from Patrapur block administration on the issue. A team of Patrapur block administration Tuesday visited the spot, inspected the area and discussed the issue with the villagers. It will submit its report to the district administration soon.

A steel bridge has been planned over the creek, and till its completion, men will be deployed to ensure safe transit of the school students. A proposal for construction of the steel bridge over the rivulet has been submitted to the Rural Development department, said sources.

Notably, media reports highlighted how children from Buratal gram panchayat had a harrowing time last Friday when they were forced to cross the flooded creek



The panchayat remains cut off from the outer world during the monsoon every year as there is no bridge over Jamuganda creek

Around 10 to 11 villages in the panchayat get totally cut off from the outer world for months together

A steel bridge has been planned over the nullah, and till its completion, men will be deployed to ensure safe transit of the school students

with the help of a rope in the absence of a bridge to reach their homes. "Crossing the rivulet during monsoon is fraught with life risks," locals said.

Sources said the panchayat gets

disconnected from the outer world during the rains every year as there is no bridge on Jamuganda nullah. Around 10 to 11 villages in the panchayat get totally cut off from the outer world for months together.

While returning from the school Friday, the students found the creek in spate due to heavy rains on the upstream. They raised an alarm and called their parents and elders seeking help. The villagers rushed to the spot and tied a rope connecting both sides of the creek and rescued them.

The locals had in September last year lodged a complaint with the Patrapur BDO demanding construction of a bridge. Their demand will come true.

Landslide: 5 bikes buried

R Udaygiri: Nuapalli village under R Udaygiri block in Gajapati district witnessed landslide due to torrential rains in which five bikes got buried under piles of earth and stones, Tuesday. However, no casualties were reported. Police, tehsil and block officials rushed to the village to take stock of the situation. Tehsildar Bimalendu Mohanty said the block administration has cleared the mess and provided cooked food to the villagers. A team of doctors also visited the village and conducted health check-up of the villagers.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 to Tender Notice No. ETCECON/IBBS2022058, Dtd.: 22.06.2022
The following modification has been made against above tender which may please be noted.
Completion period of work: As published - 12 Months, Now to be read as - 18 Months.
All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.
For details, the intending tenderer(s) are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ PR-51/CF/22-23
Bhubaneswar

NOTIFICATION
This is for the information of all concerned that M/s Alishan Realcon Pvt. Ltd., At Mouza- Nuahata, Dist.-Cuttack, Odisha has accorded Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha for construction of proposed (S+5) Storied Residential Apartment Building with built up area 39,288.93 Sqm. at Mouza- Nuahata, Dist.-Cuttack, Odisha.
A copy of the said clearance Identification No. EC22B038OR132961 and File No.237947/59-MIS/11-2021, Dated 04th July 2022 is available with the website of the SEIAA at http://www.orissaseiaa.gov.in/
Alishan Realcon Pvt. Ltd.

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RAIRANGPUR (R&B), DIVISION
e-mail: - eerairangpur@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice No.B-356: Bid Identification No.SE 12 of 2022-23
1. Nature of Work :- Building Works
2. Number of Works :- 13 (Thirteen)
3. Amount put to Tender :- Rs. 27,06,400.00 to Rs. 13,10,800.00
4. Class of Contractor :- "C" & "B" for SI No 1 & 2 "D" & "C" for SI No.3 to 13
5. Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal :- Dt.18.07.2022 at 10:00 AM
6. Last Date/Time of receipt of Bid in the Portal :- Dt. 26.07.2022 upto 04:00 PM
7. Date of opening of Bid :- Dt.27.07.2022 at 11:00 AM
8. Name & Address of the Office inviting Bid :- Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur (R&B) Division
9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tendersodisha.gov.in . All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
Sd./-Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur (R&B) Division OIPR-34041/11/0007/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
"e" - PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. S.E. GTN(R&B) - 07/2022-23
E-mail address- eeghatagaon2015@gmail.com Letter No. 3598 dt. 07.07.2022
No.B-359:1. The Superintending Engineer, Ghatagaon (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate Bids in single cover system in online mode from the Authorized dealer / Manufacturers for procurement of electrical goods as mentioned below.
2. Nature of the work :- Electrical Works
3. Numbers of work :- 02 (Two) Nos.
4. Estimated cost :- Rs.20.68 Lakhs - 24.64 Lakhs (Approx.)
5. Period of completion :- 15 (Fifteen) Days.
6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal :- From 11.30 A.M of dt.15.07.2022 to 05.00 P.M of dt.25.07.2022
7. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 05.00 P.M of dt.25.07.2022
8. Date of opening of Bid :- 11.00 A.M of dt.26.07.2022
9. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the same website only.
Sd./-D.K.Rout, Dt.07.07.2022
Superintending Engineer, Ghatagaon(R&B) Division OIPR-34140/11/0007/2223

DEMO FOR REHAB



Residents displaced by the Samalei project at Ghunghutpada in Sambalpur town staged a demonstration under the banner of Rajya Bahujan Milita Mancha outside the Collectorate, Tuesday, demanding rehabilitation

SPECIAL OBSERVATION HOME SHOCKER

7 months on, 5 juvenile inmates untraceable

POST NEW NETWORK

Berhampur, July 12: Although more than seven months have passed since five juvenile inmates escaped from the state government-run Special Observation Home for Boys at Jarada Bungalow Road here, the police are clueless regarding their whereabouts.

A special team led by district child protection officer (DCPO) has submitted a 4-page report to the Collector on the basis of which the latter is expected to take next course of action. Moreover, security aspect of the observation home is being monitored. Over 100 inmates are housed at the special observation home, but only four security guards have been deployed there.

The inmates were suspected to have taken advantage of possible laxity in security arrangements.

Hence, the administration has initiated efforts to tighten the security around the observation home. It may be noted here that on the night of November 21, 2021, six inmates of a ward reportedly broke open the grille, reached the main gate and escaped.

The matter came to the fore at 2am when the observation home staffers



IT WAS SURPRISING AS TO HOW THE INMATES MANAGED TO FLEE WHEN BUSES AND TRAINS IN THE AREA WERE NOT IN OPERATION THEN

IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THE ESCAPEES MIGHT HAVE WALKED TOO FAR UNDER DARKNESS FROM THE BERHAMPUR CITY LIMITS

checked the rooms. Six inmates were found missing. Superintendent of the special observation home P Ramesh Rao had informed the police about the inmates' escape. A special police team was formed to track down the escapees.

It was surprising as to how they managed to flee when buses and

trains in the area were not in operation then. It is suspected that the escapees might have walked too far under darkness from the Berhampur city limits.

The inmates were natives of Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Kandhamal and Ganjam districts. They had been sent to the observation home by the Juvenile Justice Board because of their involvement in criminal activities.

In December last year, Gajapati police had rescued one of the six inmates and handed him over to the authorities of the observation home. The authorities of the observation home are in touch with the families of the missing inmates.

FOCUS DIGITAL REVOLUTION

AIDING FINANCIAL INCLUSION



Expanding people's access to finance, reducing the cost of digital transactions, and channeling wage payments and social transfers through financial accounts will be vital to mitigating recent economic setbacks in developing countries. Governments and the private sector can help further this transformation in several ways

data for 2021 show that 865 million account owners in developing economies opened their first account at a bank or similar institution in order to receive money from the government. This helped households directly and also helped build the digital financial ecosystem, because people who received payments into an account were more likely to use their account to make payments and access other services. Digital payments by governments thus serve as a foundation for assembling credible social registers and identifying gaps and overlaps.

As digital payments become more widespread and less costly, many private businesses will be able to pay their workers and suppliers electronically – and should. The digital revolution offers a chance to increase formal-sector employment without making compliance excessively burdensome. At a time of tighter government budget constraints, digital payments can help broaden the revenue base by reducing tax avoidance and evasion.

Finally, policymakers will need to make additional efforts to include underserved groups. The gender gap in financial access has narrowed, but it still exists. Women, along with the poor, are more likely to lack a form of personal identification or a mobile phone, to live far from a bank branch, and to need support to open and use a financial account. Financial-education programmes, especially those that involve peer-to-peer learning (such as through women's self-help groups) are essential as well.

The World Bank is firmly committed to expanding financial inclusion through digitalisation. We will continue to support countries as they enhance mobile-phone networks, rework regulations to foster access to finance, adopt e-government platforms, and modernise social-protection systems. For the many millions of people who still lack an account, we need to redouble our efforts and find creative ways to connect them to the financial system, build economic resilience, and reap the benefits of inclusion.

The writer is President of the World Bank Group.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Around the world, high inflation, slow economic growth, and food shortages are hurting the poor the most. Coming on top of the unequal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, today's multiple crises have already caused dramatic reversals in development and led to a substantial increase in global poverty.

On the positive side, the COVID-19 crisis spurred unprecedented change, especially in industries with a large digital component. This digital revolution has catalyzed increases in access to and use of financial services in developing economies, transforming how people make and receive payments, borrow, and save.

These changes are strikingly evident in the latest edition of the Global Findex database, compiled from a survey of more than 125,000 adults in 123 economies, covering use of financial services throughout 2021. The survey found that 71 per cent of adults in developing economies now have a formal financial account – whether with a bank, another regulated institution such as a credit union or micro-finance lender, or a mobile money service provider – compared to 42 per cent when the first edition of the database was published a decade ago. In addition, the difference in the share of men and women in developing economies who own an account has fallen for the first time, from nine percentage points to six.

This digital transformation makes it easier, cheaper, and safer for people to receive wages from employers, send remittances to family members, and pay for goods and services. Mobile money accounts can better handle high-volume, small-denomination transactions, which help users to access financial services and save in order to cope better with crises. Individual accounts also give women more privacy, security, and control over their money.

The share of adults in developing economies who make or receive digital payments grew from 35 per cent in 2014 to 57 per cent in 2021. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 39 per cent of mobile money account holders now use their accounts to save. And more than one-third

of people in low- and middle-income countries who paid a utility bill from an account did so for the first time after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Importantly, the digital revolution also serves as a powerful anti-corruption tool, because it helps to increase transparency as money flows from a government's budget to public agencies to citizens. Government social programmes can now reduce delays and leakage by channeling transfers directly to their beneficiaries' mobile phones. Millions of people in developing countries received payments in this way during the pandemic, helping to cushion the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods.

Building on these encouraging trends is crucial, especially given the current economic headwinds. Expanding people's access to finance, reducing the cost of digital transactions, and channeling wage payments and social transfers through financial accounts will be vital to mitigating development setbacks resulting from the ongoing turbulence.

Governments and the private sector can help further this transformation in several critical areas. First, they need to create a favourable operating and policy environment. For example, en-

abling the interoperability of systems allows for payments across different types of financial institutions and between mobile money service providers. Improving access to finance depends much more on the mobile-phone system than on the physical banking system. Cheap and functional mobile phones and affordable internet access are prerequisites for expanding digital finance. Consumer protections and stable regulations are also needed to foster safe and fair practices that bolster trust in the financial system.

Establishing digital-identification systems also is essential, because lack of verifiable identity is one of the main reasons why some adults remain excluded from financial services. We know from the experiences of countries such as India and the Philippines that government identification programmes and financial-inclusion programmes can work in tandem to equip hard-to-reach populations with official identification documents and financial accounts. India, for example, has pioneered a successful biometric universal ID system that pays due attention to safety and privacy.

Another high priority should be to promote the digitalisation of payments. The Global Findex



David Malpass

MOBILE MONEY ACCOUNTS CAN BETTER HANDLE HIGH-VOLUME, SMALL-DENOMINATION TRANSACTIONS, WHICH HELP USERS TO ACCESS FINANCIAL SERVICES AND SAVE IN ORDER TO COPE BETTER WITH CRISES



Dante Alighieri Disparte

While mobile and electronic banking have been around for a while, the emergence of crypto is enabling new levels of user control and access with little more than a personal digital wallet

There is nothing small in God's eyes; let there be nothing small in thine.

SRI AUROBINDO



Crypto Still Matters

Without Uber, would many taxi services have developed their own ride-hailing apps or started accepting credit cards when they did? In static industries with little competition, it takes new competitors and technologies to drive change. And, if managed well, this change need not even threaten incumbents, because they can adopt the new technologies and business models to keep pace with what consumers have come to expect from the new entrants.

These same forces are confronting banking and financial services. Just as Uber and Lyft built a new model for on-demand consumer mobility, the emerging world of blockchain-based financial services has propelled mobile device-centric banking and payments as well as software-powered capital markets. While mobile and electronic banking have been around for a while, the emergence of crypto is enabling new levels of user control and access with little more than a personal digital wallet.

Ultimately, consumers win where there is more choice. When traditional taxis had a monopoly, they often drove right past ride-hailers of a certain complexion, or would refuse to drive into areas "on the wrong side of the tracks." If new challengers had not expanded access to mobility and financial services, these practices would have remained the norm.

Similarly, banking deserts long existed in areas that either lacked the population density or sufficiently high household incomes to be served with traditional brick-and-mortar bank branches. For many people, even the mundane activity of cashing a check would still incur costs if not for the advent of mobile-deposit apps, showing how over time emerging technologies and established business models eventually converge.

As fast-growing fintech companies have blurred the lines between brick-and-mortar ends and financial services begins, many commentators have framed this convergence as a zero-sum game, wherein even central banks are vulnerable to being dethroned by new forms of digital money. Yet the Cambrian explosion in cryptocurrencies, blockchain-based transactions, and fintech should be seen as more of an opportunity than a threat.

Right now, at least 105 central banks, representing 95% of global GDP, are reviewing the merits and risks of creating central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). But the global digital-currency race that matters is not about the values that are being transferred; it is about the rails that will convey those values between parties, especially across borders. To introduce a CBDC without contemplating these rails would be like designing a high-speed train without building the tracks or station network.

Even in an era of widespread smartphone connectivity, payments and interbank transfers (the train) will still have to make regular stops to account for counterparty risk, to confirm settlement of the transaction, and so forth. Without planning for these intermediary roles, CBDCs would merely accelerate the elimination of mid-size banks (which would become wholly redundant), while doing nothing to close the world's yawning financial-inclusion gap. This is where blockchain-based banking could leave its mark.

As matters stand, banks are often subjected to vendor capture at the hands of a small number of "cleared" technology providers that run back-, middle-, and front-office operations. Many banks thus operate at the mercy of systemically important institutions hiding in plain sight (in the United States, payroll providers fall into this category). It is small- and mid-size banks' reliance on these proprietary, analog, and vulnerable technologies that puts them in a losing position vis-à-vis the largest banks, making their business models look like unevolved taxis after the arrival of ride-hailing apps.

JPMorgan Chase, by contrast, has a digital-transformation budget of \$12 billion and a highly capable blockchain team (Onyx) that has already processed earth-to-satellite payments using smart-contract technology – a feat that highlights the importance of the underlying transfer rails. Once one of crypto's biggest detractors, JPMorgan recognised how perilous it would be to eschew a potentially transformative new technology.

But many questions remain. Can less financially and technologically well-endowed institutions keep up? How will banks and banking adapt to a future of instantaneous cross-border transfers, all facilitated by trusted code? Will the emergence of open-source financial-market infrastructure be an all-consuming source of disruption and disintermediation, or will these technologies simply level the playing field?

Undoubtedly, crypto and blockchain have a branding problem, not least because they are associated with a highly technical lexicon and inscrutable jargon. But someday soon, the underlying technology will fade to the background, where it will power a system-wide upgrade of the rails that move value around the world. The change will be about payment and banking system optionality, not substitution.

Personal checks did not replace paper money. Rather, they added value by giving people the ability to set an expiry date for payments with greater security than carrying around cash. Perhaps even more importantly, they are also improving interoperability in the financial system through routing- and account-number standards.

Likewise, future routing and account numbers will reside on digital wallets with near ubiquitous global access to well-regulated, always-on financial services. Some call this an internet of value; others are referring to it as the third generation of the internet, or Web3. Whatever the moniker, and the ups and downs in the market, the breakthrough innovation is here to stay.

Such innovation should be encouraged, developed, and harnessed, including by the world's traditional financial-services firms and governments, lest they find themselves consigned to history when the Amazons of Web3 emerge.

The writer serves on the World Economic Forum's Digital Currency Governance Consortium. PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

It might be time for a new phone helpline

Every month or so, my teenaged daughter, Divya, screams for my help while she's in her bedroom or bathroom. "Come quickly!" she yells, and I know exactly what I need to do: grab a weapon.

This weapon is usually a fly swatter, broom or rolled-up magazine – anything to take care of an uninvited guest. It could be a centipede, spider, ant or other insect.

I don't mind being the resident exterminator, but I can't help wondering what my daughter will do when she's all grown up and living by herself. Will she call the emergency number?

That's what a woman in the UK did recently. She called the British emergency number, 999, after encountering a spider in her home.

"Hiya, you're probably gonna go mad at me right but I've literally tried ringing everyone and you're my last hope," the woman said, according to a recording of the call released by the West Yorkshire Police. "I need someone to come and get this spider out of my house. It's absolutely massive and I'm not

even joking!"

Unfortunately the call operator told the woman that there are some intruders that the police are not keen on arresting. In fact, the West Yorkshire Police used the woman's call as an example of the frivolous calls that are made to the emergency number; calls that don't qualify as life-or-death emergencies.

But while many people ripped the woman for calling the emergency line, I'm sympathetic with her for two reasons:

(1) Many people suffer from arachnophobia – fear of spiders and other arachnids. I don't like spiders myself. While some people have pet spiders and allow them to crawl on their arms, I make it a point to stay away from such people.

(2) Some spiders are truly dangerous. If you are bitten by a widow spider or recluse spider, for example, you'll want to seek medical attention as soon as you are done screaming.

You: "Help! I've been bitten by a widow."
Operator: "A widow? Are you

sure?"

You: "I'm pretty sure, but maybe it's a recluse – or even a recluse widow. Is there such a thing?"

Operator: "Yes, my mother-in-law is a recluse widow. She never leaves her home."

If you're skeptical about spider bites, just ask Jo Kenyon, a radio producer in West Yorkshire. The 34-year-old woman shared her experience with the Daily Mail last November, describing how she was hospitalised three times in one week and needed months to fully recover. It all began when she felt a strange burning sensation while using the toilet. She jumped up and looked under the seat, where she spotted a huge spider.

"I screamed instantly at the sight, managed to knock it into the bowl and flushed it straight away," she told the Daily Mail. "It was so huge, it was a real big bugger! It completely freaked me out."

When the bite marks started stinging, she decided to call the British non-emergency number, 111.
"The doctors said that if I had-

n't come in straight away, then the bite could have led to sepsis and possibly killed me," she said.

Kenyon has some advice that we all might want to heed: "I'd just tell everyone to always check under the toilet seat – you never know what could be hiding there!"

Yes, you never know. That's why it's important to have a special phone helpline. Many countries have helplines for specific concerns, including domestic abuse, suicide prevention and missing children. It might be time to introduce a "scary creature helpline." There are so many creatures, not just spiders, that cause people to scream for help. These include snakes, lizards, rats and even alligators. My daughter might one day be truly grateful to have a number to call.

Divya: "Please send help. There's a scary spider on my bedroom wall."

Operator: "I'll send the insect squad right away. Can you tell me your exact location?"

Divya: "I'm under the bed right now."

WISDOM CORNER

A man can be himself only so long as he is alone, and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom, for it is only when he is alone that he is really free. ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes. CARL JUNG

What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lives within us. HENRY DAVID THOREAU

WORDSWORTH

Turloughs

Flat-bottomed sinkholes in limestone areas, in particular in that barren limestone pavement landscape in western Ireland called the Burren, can become flooded in wet weather as underground systems fill up and the water table rises. The resulting lakes, called turloughs, can appear quite quickly after a spell of wet weather, vanishing again within a few days of the rain stopping. Some are seasonal, water-filled in winter but reliably dry enough in summer to be used for pasture.

It's time for metaverse

Sir, Banks are already at our fingertips via smart phones. Even though present digital banking services are functionally inclusive, they are usually seen as detached from customers. As the banking world is moving swiftly in adopting advanced technologies our national banks should also follow suit. Now it's time for metaverse (highly interactive three-dimensional virtual world) which is the next leap in technology which promises to bring a human touch to the digital experience of virtual interactions. Government banks are getting slowly into metaverse (Union Bank of India did this last week). With the assistance of metaverse customers can access the bank without actually going to the bank. Also they can get into digital avatar, enter the bank lounge and access the available banking services along with information on social security services, loans and other banking products without any hassle using laptops or desktops from their homes. All banks across the nation should get into metaverse as soon as possible to plug in the gaps which are present in the current digital banking system.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR (KARNATAKA)

Incalculable loss

Sir, The assassination of former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe in broad daylight has sent shock waves to the political world as well as distressed the minds of the civilians. Designated as a peaceful nation where the people hardly resort to any violence and being known for its stringent gun control laws at the same time, it must have been unexpected for Abe that his life would be brought to such a painful end by an eccentric. Ample credits may be given to Abe for his role of a nurturer in India-Japan relationship which gained new heights under his long tenure. One would like to remind that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Or QUAD which has now taken a center stage in geopolitics has also been a brainchild of him. Bullet kills persons, not their ideologies. The legacy left behind by Shinzo Abe will keep pulsating in the minds of every leader who aspires for a free and open Indo-Pacific region. While mourning an incalculable loss of a great leader, the QUAD members need to double their efforts for achieving the aim of the grouping to pay an unfeigned tribute to its founder.

Tushar Anand, PATNA

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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of the day quote

As Assam is situated on the foothills of Bhutan, floods and erosion caused by water gushing in from the upper reaches will be a recurring problem for us

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The CPWD is making a significant contribution to governance through the ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project which includes construction of a new parliament building, Vice President Enclave and Common Central Secretariat

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

BJP and other organisations should not disturb the peace by raking up the K'taka Idgah Maidan row

DK SHIVAKUMAR | MEMBER OF THE K'TAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SHORT TAKES

ASI killed in terrorist attack

Srinagar: A Jammu and Kashmir Police officer was killed and two constables were injured when terrorists attacked a police team in the outskirts of the city Tuesday, officials said. The incident happened around 7:15 pm when the terrorists fired upon the police naka at the Lal Bazar area, the officials said. They said an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Mushtaq Ahmad was killed while the two constables, Fayaz Ahmad and Abu Bakar, were injured in the attack. The injured cops were rushed to a hospital.

Tuna fish scam: NCP MP booked

New Delhi: The CBI has booked Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal under corruption charges for alleged irregularities in the export of Tuna fish to a Sri Lankan company represented by his nephew, officials said Tuesday. The NCP MP's nephew Abdul Razik Thangal and the Colombo-based company SRT General Merchants that he represented have also been named in the FIR as accused, officials said.

J&K, Sikkim join hands

Srinagar: In a move to boost the growth of the agriculture and horticulture sector, the J&K Agriculture Department, the Sikkim government, and the Sikkim University Tuesday signed a tripartite agreement for collaboration on training, technology, capacity building and extension activities for saffron and other temperate crops. The agreement was signed in the presence of J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad.

Stalin tests Covid positive

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has isolated himself after testing Covid-19 positive. In a statement Tuesday, the Chief Minister's office said Stalin tested positive after he complained of tiredness and fever. Stalin has appealed to the people of the state to wear masks and get vaccinated and stay safe. It may be noted that there was an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases for the past few days and the presence of Omicron and its sub-variants.

Rahul leaves for abroad

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday left for a short personal visit abroad. Sources said the former Congress president left this morning and is likely to return by Sunday, ahead of the Presidential election and the Monsoon session of Parliament July 18.



With the pressing need to encourage the switchover to alternatives to SUP items, it is crucial that GST rates on alternatives to SUP items and their raw material be reduced

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

MAMATA PREPARES GOLGAPPA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sprang a surprise Tuesday during her visit to Darjeeling in North Bengal, when she stopped by a roadside stall and served 'golgappas' to children



OUT OF GEAR



Traffic jam on a road after monsoon rains in Noida

PTI PHOTO

AIADMK battle shifts to EC, banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 12: The fight between ousted AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam and party interim head Edappadi K Palaniswami is now with the Election Commission and banks, with both sides determined to establish their rights.

While interim General Secretary Palaniswami has apprised the EC about the July 11 General Council meeting and the changes effected, Panneerselvam has written to the poll panel arguing that the proceedings and its decisions were null and void. Palaniswami was elevated to his present position of interim chief and Panneerselvam and two of his supporters were expelled in the party's highest decision-making body Monday.

Besides urging the Tamil Nadu Assembly Secretariat to not accept or effect any changes in the AIADMK's legislative party's current composition, Panneerselvam has also written to banks. In the

Assembly, Palaniswami is the leader of opposition and Panneerselvam is the deputy leader. Panneerselvam has informed banks that he is the AIADMK's 'coordinator and treasurer' and that no transactions could be made without his authorisation, party sources said. The party has various accounts including Fixed Deposits with at least 2 banks.

EPS and ousted party leader OPS moved the Madras High Court against the sealing of the party headquarters by the Tamil Nadu government following violence there July 11

Palaniswami has written to banks that party veteran and former Minister, Dindigul C Srinivasan is the new AIADMK treasurer. Srinivasan is also the party's organising secretary and Dindigul (West) district secretary. Panneerselvam loyalist Vaithilingam told reporters: "Coordinator O Panneerselvam and Joint Coordinator K Palaniswami were elected by primary party members through a single vote as per norms and this cannot be nullified by the General Council. Their tenure is for 5 years. Not a single resolution passed in the (July 11) General Council is valid."



MP: Lightning kills 47 in a week

Heavy rainfall since Sunday has thrown normal life out of gear in several parts of Madhya Pradesh, particularly Bhopal, and Chhindwara district

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, July 12: At least 47 people in Madhya Pradesh have been killed due to lightning strikes in a span of just a week, while 111 others lost lives in the last one-and-a-half months, officials said Tuesday. State capital Bhopal has alone reported around 7,000 lightning strikes, according to scientists at Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhopal. Heavy rainfall since Sunday



has thrown normal life out of gear in several parts of Madhya Pradesh, particularly Bhopal, and Chhindwara district.

Sausar in Chhindwara reported heavy rainfall, causing flash floods in low-lying areas, forcing closure of traffic on the main highway linking the town to Nagpur for around an hour.

Bhopal recorded 92 mm rain since Monday night, which was 133 per cent more than the same period last year. According to data re-

leased by the Met department on Monday, out of 52 districts of Madhya Pradesh, 27, including Bhopal had reported excess rain and seven districts reported normal rainfall. The state Health Department has issued guidelines for preventive measures and emergency services for people hit by lightning, storm and weather related disasters.

Deputy director (disaster management) of the state directorate of health services, Pragya Tiwari, came out with the guidelines for chief medical and health officers and civil surgeons of the all the districts, detailing the steps to be taken to prop up emergency services and the precautionary measures that could be disseminated to the public.

Sena urges Guv to avoid Shinde Cabinet expansion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 12: In a major preemptive move, the Shiv Sena Tuesday shot off a letter to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, cautioning him over appointing MLAs as ministers or in any other remunerative posts till their status is pending before the Supreme Court.

Shiv Sena spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut said that the party has sent a letter to the Raj Bhavan on this count.

In the communication to the Governor, ex-minister and Sena General Secretary Subhash Desai has drawn attention to the party's writ petitions pending before the apex court.

Desai pointed out that even "the question of legality of the decision to appoint Eknath Shinde as the Chief Minister is also sub-judice" before the top court.

UDAIPUR TAILOR'S MURDER

3 SENT TO POLICE, 4 TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 13: An NIA court here Tuesday sent three of the accused in Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal's murder case to police custody till July 16 while the other four were remanded in judicial custody till August 1.

All of them were produced in the court separately. The court had earlier remanded the accused into the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody until July 12. Special Public Prosecutor T P Sharma said. The court sent three of them-Riaz Akhtari, Ghouse Mohammad and Farhad Mohammad Sheikh-to police custody till July 16, Sharma said.

The four others, identified as Mohamad Mohsin, Wasim Ali, Asif and Mohsin were sent to ju-



Kanahaiya Lal murder case accused after being produced in NIA court in Jaipur

PTI PHOTO

9TH INCIDENT IN 24 DAYS SPICEJET FLIGHT'S NOSE WHEEL MALFUNCTIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: SpiceJet's Dubai-Madurai flight was delayed Monday after the Boeing B737 Max aircraft's nose wheel malfunctioned, Directorate General of Civil Aviation officials said.

Monday's incident is at least the ninth incident of technical malfunction in a SpiceJet aircraft in 24 days. On July 6, the DGCA issued a show-cause notice to SpiceJet following eight incidents of technical malfunction in its aircraft since June 19. The aviation regulator said the budget carrier had "failed" to establish safe, efficient and reliable air services.

On Monday, the Boeing B737 Max aircraft with registration number VT-SZK operated the Mangaluru-Dubai flight, DGCA officials noted. After the aircraft landed, an engineer did a walk around inspection and found the nose wheel strut was compressed more than usual, they said. The engineer therefore decided to ground the aircraft, the officials noted.

The airline sent another aircraft from Mumbai to Dubai to operate the return Dubai-Madurai flight, they stated.

Asked about the matter, a SpiceJet spokesperson said, "On July 11, 2022, SpiceJet flight SG23 operating from Dubai to Madurai was delayed due to a last minute technical issue. Alternate aircraft was arranged immediately which brought passengers back to India."

"Flight delays can happen with any airline. There has been no incident or a safety scare on this flight," the spokesperson added.



Killing of chicks gone up alarmingly: PETA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 12: An investigation carried out by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has found that the gruesome and killing of chicks has gone up by thousands at a time.

Hatcheries are where chicks are born before they are sent to farms. The footage shows day-old chicks being dumped into drums, pits, rubbish bins, and ponds and left to die; buried alive using earthmovers; drowned, crushed, suffocated, and burned alive; fed alive or ground up alive to be fed to fish; and abandoned to be eaten by dogs or eagles.

Some are coloured with chemicals and sold to children, which means they are ultimately mishandled and commonly starved to death. "Newborn chicks are

being drowned, burned alive, and killed in other violent and horrific ways at hatcheries across the country, all for the fleeting taste of meat or eggs," said PETA India Senior Advocacy Officer Harshil Maheshwari.

PETA India has called on people, rightfully appalled by these practices, to go vegan today, without any delay. Today, chickens used for meat are bred to have heavy, fleshy upper bodies, while those used for eggs are bred for abnormally high egg production.

Male chicks are considered useless by egg hatcheries because they don't lay eggs and, thus, they are usually killed.

Meanwhile, in both the meat and egg industries, many chicks are rejected because of size or health issues and also killed.



Representational image

PETA India is urging the Indian government to follow in the steps of France and Germany by mandating that the Indian poultry sector adopt in ovo-sexing technology, which allows male embryos

to be identified at an early stage of development so that an egg, rather than a live bird, can be destroyed.

PETA India has also asked the sector to seek guidance from the Animal Welfare Board of India on

the humane handling of chicks who are sick and weak.

This investigation marks the second time that PETA India has revealed haphazard, atrocious chick-killing practices in the country.

MATTER OF CONCERN

■ (PETA) India shared the findings of its latest undercover investigation into numerous hatcheries across major egg- and/or chicken meat-producing states—Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh

■ The latest probe proves that the poultry sector continues handling chicks in cruel ways and that a government policy on the matter is an urgent need

■ Previously, PETA India had publicised video footage taken by Animals Now (previously Anonymous for Animal Rights) of unwanted chicks in India being drowned, burned, ground up, crushed, and fed alive to fish by the lakhs in 2016

Deora back in game, Cong makes Gehlot sr observer in Gujarat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 12: Ahead of the Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the Congress has appointed senior observers for both states, and a surprise inclusion is that of Milind Deora, who had been sidelined for a long time.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has been appointed a senior observer in Gujarat and Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, will look after Himachal Pradesh.

Gehlot will be assisted by T S Singh Deo, a Minister in Chhattisgarh and Milind Deora former Mumbai chief. Baghel will be helped by former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot and Punjab Congress legislative party leader Partap Singh Bajwa. Both the states go to polls this year.

Milind Deora, who was sidelined since his resignation from the post of Mumbai Congress chief, has made a comeback in the election management of the crucial state of Gujarat where the Congress has been out of power for more than two decades.

Deora, a former Union Minister, was once considered to be very close to Rahul Gandhi, but was out of mainstream Congress in Mumbai and also had been ignored for the Rajya Sabha polls after he lost Lok Sabha elections.

NATURE AT PLAY



A cow moves past a burning car that, according to fire officials, caught fire by an electrical short circuit after it was stuck in a waterlogged road following heavy rains in Ahmedabad, Tuesday

Covid in 'endemic stage': Telangana public health dir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 12: Covid-19 has reached an endemic stage though it has not fully come to an end yet and citizens should continue to wear masks for protection against coronavirus and other infectious diseases, a Health official in Telangana said Tuesday.

State Director of Public Health G Srinivasa Rao said there was no need to fear coronavirus and added that it could be said it has become like a seasonal disease.

"What we appeal to people through you is that we need not fear about corona in the days to come. Though it has not fully disappeared, it has already reached an endemic stage. It can be said that it has become like a seasonal disease," he added.

Rao, who spoke to reporters here on Covid-19 and seasonal diseases during the ongoing rainy season, said coronavirus cases have been on the rise in Telangana and other states in the country like Maharashtra and Kerala since the last six weeks.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently changed some of the guidelines concerning Covid-19, he said.

Those having symptoms should be in quarantine for five days and they can carry on with their routine once the symptoms subside, he said. Extensive contact tracing and tracking are not needed now.

Heroin worth ₹376.5cr seized from Mundra port

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, July 12: The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has seized 75.3 kg of heroin estimated to be worth ₹376.5 crore from a container near the Mundra port in Kutch district, an official said Tuesday.

The contraband, hidden inside fabric rolls to dodge the authorities, was sent from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was meant to be transported to Punjab, Gujarat Director General of Police Ashish Bhatia said.

The Punjab police recently gave a tip off to the Gujarat ATS that a shipping container which arrived at Mundra port about two and half months back might be containing drugs and the cargo was meant to be delivered in Punjab, Bhatia told reporters in Gandhinagar.

Bhatia added, "There was specific intelligence input that a few containers imported from Dubai carrying 'clothes' were lying at the Mundra container freight station for some time. Since India is a leading textile exporter, the police got suspicious as to why should somebody import clothes in large quantity from Dubai. On inspection, the ATS personnel unearthed the large quantity of drugs from the containers."

"After getting the basic information, a Gujarat ATS team along with a Punjab police sub-inspector reached Mundra and located the suspected container kept at a Container Freight Station near the port. It had arrived at the Mundra port May 13 from Ajman Free Zone in the UAE," he said.



During a close inspection of 540 fabric rolls kept in the container, the heroin powder was found inside 64 of them, he said. "A cloth was wrapped on long cylindrical pipes made of cardboard. Drug dealers had created a cavity by putting a plastic pipe of a larger diameter on the cardboard pipe. Heroin was filled in the cavity and then sealed tightly using carbon tapes so that it goes undetected in X-ray check," the official said.

"We got suspicious as the containers were filled only one third, which seldom happens. There were 540 textile rolls, out of which 64 carried heroin. To bypass the X-ray machine, plastic rappers were used to conceal the drugs, while cello tapes were used to cover the plastic layer," he added.

The ATS recovered 75.3 kg of heroin of high purity estimated to be worth ₹376.5 crore in the international market, Bhatia said.

"The container was meant to be transported to Punjab," he said adding that no arrests have been made yet. The investigating team is on the lookout for the persons who booked the containers and made the payment.

The container was sent by one Green Forest General Trading in the UAE and it was received by Jovial Container Lines, a West Bengal-based delivery agent having its office at Gandhidham in Kutch, he said.

Asked why no action was taken against the Mundra port authorities, Bhatia said it was wrong to pinpoint only one port.

"Drug peddlers will use what-

ever channel they find suitable to send drugs to India. Not just Mundra, we had seized drugs from other Gujarat ports like Kandla and Pipavav in the recent past. Drugs had also been seized from the Nhava Sheva port in Maharashtra, in Chennai and in West Bengal too," he said.

The official said most of the

There was specific intelligence input that a few containers imported from Dubai carrying 'clothes' were lying at the Mundra container freight station for some time. Since India is a leading textile exporter, the police got suspicious as to why should somebody import clothes in large quantity from Dubai. On inspection, the ATS personnel unearthed the large quantity of drugs from the containers

ASHISH BHATIA | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, GUJARAT

drugs sent to the Gujarat ports had been seized, thanks to the alertness of the state police and other agencies.

Various state and central agencies, including the ATS and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), have in the recent past seized drugs worth crores of rupees from shipping containers arriving at Gujarat ports from other countries.

The DRI in September last year seized nearly 3,000 kg of heroin, believed to have originated in Afghanistan and worth about ₹21,000 crore in global markets, from two containers at the Mundra port.

In May this year, the DRI seized 56 kg of cocaine, estimated to be worth around ₹500 crore, from a container near the Mundra port. In April, the DRI seized 205.6 kg heroin worth ₹1,439 crore from a container near the Kandla port in Kutch.

Around the same period, the Gujarat ATS and DRI in a joint operation recovered nearly 90 kg of heroin worth ₹450 crore from a shipping container which arrived from Iran at the Pipavav port in Amreli district.

Downpour claims 6 in Gujarat; 27K shifted



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 12: Heavy downpour continued in various parts of Gujarat Tuesday and six people died in rain-related incidents in the last 24 hours, raising the toll to 69 since June 1, out of which 33 due to lightning strikes, officials said.

A total of 27,896 people were evacuated from flood-affected areas and 18,225 of them remained in shelters while the others have returned home, state Disaster Management Minister Rajendra Trivedi said.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited the rain-hit Bodeli town in Chhota Udepur district and also conducted an aerial inspection of some flood-affected areas, his office said.

While heavy rains continue to lash districts in south Gujarat since the last few days, parts of Kutch and Rajkot in the Saurashtra region also witnessed heavy showers since Monday night, officials said.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Anjar taluka in Kutch received 167 mm rainfall in six hours since 6 am on Tuesday, while Gandhidham taluka in the district got 145 mm rainfall.

Narmada, Surat, Dang, Valsad and Tapi districts of south Gujarat, and Panchmahal and Chhota Udepur in central part of the state witnessed heavy rains over the last one day.

The India Meteorological Department has issued a 'red alert' for heavy to very heavy rains in Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Tapi, Dang, Narmada, Chhota Udepur districts, as well as Kutch, Rajkot, Jammagar, Devbhumi Dwarka and Morbi in the Saurashtra region till Wednesday morning.

A total of 9,500 people have so far been evacuated from the affected areas in Navsari district, an official said. In Navsari city, fire department personnel rescued around 20 people, including a five days old child, from a residential society affected by flooding, he said.

Besides, 21 people stranded on the Karjan river bank near Rajpipla in Narmada district after a sudden water surge were rescued Monday night in a joint operation by the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force. They carried out the rescue operation in the night without waiting for helicopters.

Farmers in Gujarat livestream fake IPL, dupe Russian betters

"PROs" & CONS

The fake games happened on a farm in a village, with 21 farm labourers and unemployed teens who were each paid ₹400 for impersonating "pro" cricket players from well-known Indian IPL teams

They wore jerseys belonging to Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans IPL teams, while an "umpire" was present on the field with walkie-talkies

The farmers used new-age technology with fake sound effects and a professional-sounding fake of commentator Harsha Bhogle

The farmers used new-age technology with fake sound effects and a professional-sounding fake of famous commentator Harsha Bhogle for the IPL league, according to reports.

"Can't stop laughing. Must hear this commentator," Bhogle said in a tweet, posting a report from The Times of India.

The farm labourers managed to dupe its Russian audience by setting up five HD cameras and halogen lights around the field, as well as added sound effects that mimicked the noise from a real crowd.

They live-streamed the tournament on YouTube for two weeks and even set up a Telegram channel. Here, they took bets from Russian gamblers located in Tver, Voronezh, and Moscow.

The police busted the gang during the quarterfinals when they were taking ₹3 lakh from Russian bettors before the shutdown.

No respite from rain; Hussain Sagar almost full

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, July 12: Hyderabad and suburbs continued to receive rain for the fifth consecutive day Tuesday, affecting the normal life and almost filling Hussain Sagar lake in the heart of the city.

Continued rains have led to overflowing of drains and inundation of roads, throwing vehicular traffic out of gear in some areas.

Schools and colleges remain closed for the second day as the state government has declared a three-day holiday for all educational institutions across the state in view of the heavy rain.

Meanwhile, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has alerted people in view of the possibility of strong gusty winds.

Director of Enforcement, Vigilance & Disaster Management, GHMC stated Monday morning that moderate rainfall coupled with strong gusty winds may be present across the city for the next 12 hours. "Tree falls may be expected. Citizens may plan their commute accord-



ingly," he said. Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams are on high alert and attending to emergency calls. For DRF assistance citizens can dial 040-29555500.

Due to incessant rainfall in its catchment area, Hussain Sagar lake in the heart of the city has reached near a full capacity. The lake was receiving copious inflows through various storm water drains which join it.

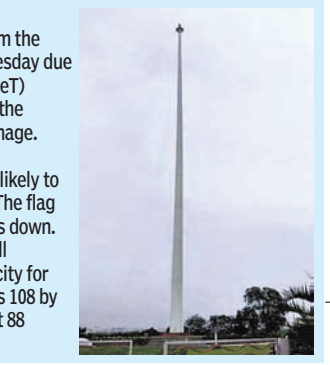
With the water level reaching close to full tank level of 514.75 meters, the authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation. The

water level in the lake stood at 513.41 meters. If the inflows continue, water will have to be released through outer channels.

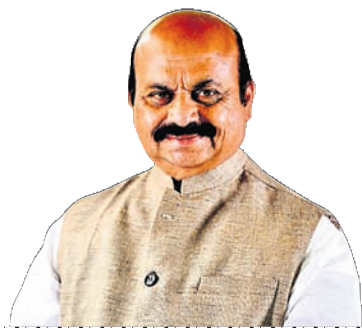
Meanwhile, release of water from Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs was continuing. Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) have kept open two doors reach of the reservoirs up to one foot to let out water into the Musi River.

Tricolour temporarily removed from tallest post

Hyderabad: Authorities in Hyderabad have temporarily taken down the national flag from the tallest flag post in the heart of the city on Tuesday due to strong winds. With the Meteorological (MeT) department forecasting strong gusty winds, the officials removed the flag to prevent any damage.



Arvind Kumar, special chief secretary, urban development said that the National flag was likely to be damaged due to very high wind velocity. The flag will be put up as soon as wind velocity comes down. The MeT office has forecast moderate rainfall coupled with strong gusty winds across the city for the next 12 hours. The gigantic flag measures 108 by 72 feet. Hoisted in 2016, the flag stands tall at 88 metres on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake.



The Karnataka government is with the people at this hour of crisis when many parts of the state are reeling under floods

SKM TO HOLD PANCHAYAT

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha Tuesday said it will hold a panchayat August 22 to protest against the government over the issues of MSP, Agnipath scheme and Lakhimpur violence



of the day quote

Many of the Delhi government school students wanted to prepare for the entrance, but were not in a situation to afford high coaching fees

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

The people of Delhi who are getting free electricity will continue to get free electricity in future. The charge of electricity from 201 to 400 units is subsidised to half the rates, that too will continue

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

In last two to three years due to climate change, recent rain pattern and other issues floods are taking place, however, we are taking measures

SUBHASH SHIRODKAR | GOA WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Three kids drown in water-filled pit

Pune: Three minor siblings drowned in a water-filled pit in Chakan area of Maharashtra's Pune district Tuesday, police said. The children, in the age group of four to eight years, drowned while bathing in the pit at a farm in Ambethan village near Chakan, an official from Mhalunge police station said. Rakesh Kishor Das (5), his brother Rohit (8) and sister Shweta (4) had ventured into the pit, which was dug by a farmer near their house and water had collected in it due to rains.

Over 7,100 pilgrims leave for Amarnath

Srinagar: Amarnath Yatra, which was resumed Monday after a two-day suspension following flash flood near the cave shrine, continued Tuesday as another batch of 7,107 pilgrims moved from Jammu base camp towards the Valley. Flash flood near the cave shrine Friday killed 16 people and injured 37 while 15,000 were rescued. Reports that 40 pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh are missing have been denied by the Andhra Pradesh government saying that only two pilgrims from that state are still missing while all others are safe.

Godavari flood surges in Andhra

Amaravati: Over 9,600 villagers from tens of habitations have been evacuated to safety in different districts of Andhra Pradesh Tuesday as river Godavari received a flood of over 14.50 lakh, inundating several villages along its course. The second warning signal has been continuing at the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowaleswaram near Rajamahendravaram as the water level touched 44.75 ft by Tuesday evening.

4 of a family electrocuted

Hyderabad: Four members of a family were electrocuted in Kamareddy district of Telangana Tuesday, the police said. The incident occurred in the Beedi workers' colony in Kamareddy district headquarters, about 120 km from Hyderabad.

Bombs hurled at RSS office

Thiruvananthapuram: Bombs were hurled at the RSS office in Payyanur, North Kerala early Tuesday with the RSS accusing the CPI-M of being behind the attack. Police said that they are probing the attack and are verifying the CCTV visuals from the nearby shops and buildings. Payyanur police have registered an FIR under the explosives Act.

Prez polls: Sena to support Murmu



Mumbai/Amaravati(AP), July 12: Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray Tuesday announced his party's support to NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu in growing backing for the tribal leader and sparking fresh divisions within the opposition which has fielded Yashwant Sinha. The announcement that came as a setback for the opposition camp was made by Thackeray at a news conference in Mumbai.

With this, the vote share of parties who have extended support to Murmu for the July 18 Presidential elections has crossed 60 per cent. The Shiv Sena is virtually split into two factions, one led by Uddhav Thackeray, a former Chief Minister, and another by Eknath Shinde who became the CM last month with BJP support after his revolt against the former. The Shinde faction has already ex-

tended support to Murmu Thackeray said the Sena is announcing support for Murmu without any pressure.

"Actually going by the present political atmosphere, I should not have backed her (Murmu) because she is a candidate of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). But we are not narrow-minded," he said while acknowledging that this is the first occasion wherein a tribal woman is getting the opportunity to become the President.

"Nobody pressured me in the meeting of Sena MPs," Thackeray said, referring to the meeting of Sena MPs held at his residence in Mumbai a day earlier.

Thackeray's ally Congress said the Sena decision was "unfathomable". After getting the support of some regional parties like the BJD, YSR Congress, BSP, AIADMK, TDP, JDS, Shiromani Akali Dal and now Shiv Sena, the vote share of Murmu has already

ADR: 44% criminal lawmakers to vote

Lucknow: In a shocking revelation, it has been found that nearly 44 per cent of MPs/MLAs who will be voting for the upcoming Presidential election have declared criminal cases against them. The ADR and National Election Watch have analysed 4,759 out of 4,809 affidavits of all sitting MPs and MLAs. It includes 768 out of 776 affidavits of MPs and 3,991 out of 4,033 MLAs from all the states of India.

crossed 60 per cent. It was around 50 per cent at the time of her nomination June 24.

Major non-BJP parties like the Congress, TMC and NCP have named Yashwant Sinha, a former union minister, as the joint nominee for the presidential elections. Murmu and Sinha travelled to some more state Tuesday seeking the support of legislators for their candidature.

Murmu, who was in Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh, said her candidature for the post of President was the "manifestation of social justice and women empowerment". Sinha, who was in Chandigarh, said the country does not need a "silent president" but the one who uses his or her moral authority and discretion.

Sinha said this at a news conference in Chandigarh as he accused the BJP-led Union government of misusing central agencies against its political rivals.

BHIMA KOREGAON CASE Top court extends Varavara Rao's interim protection



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday extended the interim protection from surrender to activist P Varavara Rao in the Bhima Koregaon case till July 19. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta requested an adjournment in the matter before a bench headed by Justice UU Lalit.

Mehta submitted before the bench that the matter should be kept for either Wednesday or Thursday and added that protection may continue till then. Senior advocate Anand Grover, representing Rao, said he would not come in the way of Mehta's request. The bench said it would extend Rao's protection, as it did not want him to be arrested for the reason that the matter was not heard. It passed the order for extension of temporary bail granted by the Bombay High Court.

Rao had moved the top court challenging the Bombay High Court's order of April 13, which declined his request to stay at his home in Telangana. However, the high court extended the period of temporary bail for three months against the backdrop of medical reasons.

New Parl emblem exact replica of Sarnath: Govt

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: The BJP Tuesday asserted that the national emblem unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Parliament's new building was an exact replica of the one in Sarnath and accused the Opposition of deliberately trying to create one controversy after another for political reasons.

Opposition members and activists have accused the government of distorting the national emblem by replacing the "graceful and regally confident" Ashoka lions with those having menacing and aggressive posture and sought immediate change.

BJP chief spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni said the real reason behind the Opposition's allegation is its frustration over India creating its own Parliament building under Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, replacing the one created by the British over 150 years back.

"The opposition is totally due to political reasons. Opposition parties want to target Modi for one reason or another. It is just a conspiracy to vitiate the atmosphere by misleading people," he said.

Critics are comparing the national emblem inaugurated on Monday with the one in Sarnath, considered the inspiration behind the national insignia, by producing pictures taken from different angles, Baluni said. This also must be noted that the emblem over the Parliament building is 6.5 metre high, almost three times the one in Sarnath, he said. The state emblem of India is an adaptation from



the Sarnath Lion Capital of Emperor Ashoka which is preserved in the Sarnath Museum. The Lion Capital has four lions mounted back to back on a circular abacus.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had Monday unveiled the cast of the national emblem atop the new Parliament building in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

Over 100 artisans from various parts of the country worked on the design, crafting and casting of the emblem for over six months to bring out the quality that could be seen in the final installation. The installation itself was a challenge as it was 32 meters above the upper ground level.

NRHM scam to haunt BSP again



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 12: The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) scam that rocked the Mayawati government has returned to haunt the BSP.

The court of special judge, CBI, here has termed prima facie death of former deputy CMO Dr YS Sachan as murder. On June 26, 2011, Sachan had died under mysterious circumstances in Lucknow jail where he was lodged in a case related to the NRHM scam.

The state government had gone overboard to term it as a case of suicide. Samridhi Mishra, special judicial magistrate, CBI court, passed the order on the plea of Malti Sachan, wife of late Dr Sachan.

The then DGP Karamveer Singh, additional DGP V.K. Gupta and IG, Lucknow zone, Subesh Kumar Singh, have been summoned by the court August 8.

The court also summoned the then jailor of Lucknow prison B.S. Mukund, deputy jailor Sunil Kumar Singh, chief prisoner warden (bandi rakshak) Babu Ram Dubey and Bandi Rakshak Pahindra Singh as accused in the case August 8 to present their view.

A judicial probe July 11, 2011, had termed Sachan's death as murder. On July 14, 2011, Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court handed over the case to the CBI.

The CBI September 27, 2012, had filed the closure report in the case terming Dr Sachan's death as suicide. Malti Sachan challenged the CBI's closure report. The special CBI court accepted Malti Sachan's application and directed the CBI to further probe the case.

However, the CBI again submitted the closure report in the case August 9, 2017 but the special CBI court rejected the closure report November 19, 2019.



A man riding a motorcycle wades through the waterlogged Ring Road after monsoon rains in Rajkot, Gujarat

PTI PHOTO

When ballot boxes 'fly' as passengers!

Separate tickets are booked for the ballot boxes in the name of "Mr Ballot Box" and 'he' is seated in the front row of aircraft beside the seat of the officer transporting the poll material such as ballot papers and special pens to mark votes

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: Ballot boxes for the presidential election are 'flying' as passengers and have been allotted an aircraft seat each as they make their way to most state capitals where they will be used for the July 18 poll.

Separate tickets are booked for the ballot boxes in the name of "Mr Ballot Box" and 'he' is seated in the front row of aircraft beside the seat of the officer transporting the poll material such as ballot papers and special pens to mark votes.

While 14 ballot boxes will be dispatched Tuesday, 16 will be sent out Wednesday.

The ballot box meant for Parliament House and Delhi Legislative Assembly are likely to be dispatched Wednesday. The ballot box meant for Himachal Pradesh would travel by road, officials said. Assistant returning officer from the state and one of-



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey inspect election materials for the 16th Presidential elections before their dispatch and distribution, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

official from the office of the state chief electoral officer come to

Nirvachan Sadan, the EC headquarters here, to collect the poll material. They are mandated to return to the state capital the same day. Once the ballot boxes and ballot papers reach the state capitals, these are stored in previously sanitised and properly sealed strong rooms and the process is videographed.

After the poll is over, the polled and sealed ballot boxes and other election material have to be transported back to the office of returning officer - this time it is the Rajya Sabha secretary general -- by the next available flight.

The boxes and other documents are carried personally in the aircraft cabins - never out of sight of accompanying officers.

Voting is held in Parliament House and state legislative assemblies and elected MPs and MLAs - not the nominated - are entitled to vote in presidential poll. While speaking to the assistant

returning officers, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar emphasised that strict adherence to procedures by the EC teams has become its hallmark in delivering error free elections time and again.

He said a set of well-defined instructions and standard operating procedures that are required to be followed thoroughly to complete every electoral process account for EC's robustness for conducting elections.

He asked the officials to be vigilant and ensure strict adherence to protocols and guidelines for transportation and storage of election materials, including ballot boxes and ballot papers, the poll panel said in a statement.

In a two-day exercise, the poll materials will sent to the state Assemblies where polling will be held.

Apart from the state Assemblies, voting will also be held in Parliament House.

Zubair's interim bail extended by Supreme Court in UP case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday extended the interim bail granted to Ali News co-founder Mohammad Zubair by the top court in the case registered against him at Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh.

A bench comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna listed the matter for final disposal September 7.

The bench noted that the state government seeks time to file a counter affidavit and allowed the government to file a reply within four weeks and rejoiner within two weeks thereafter.

"Interim bail in Sitapur FIR case shall continue till further orders. List for final disposal September 7, 2022," said the bench.

The top court's order came on a plea by Zubair seeking quashing of the FIR registered against him at Sitapur.

On July 8, the Supreme Court granted an interim bail for five days to Zubair in connection with a case registered against him by the



Uttar Pradesh Police for a tweet, where he allegedly called Hindu seers 'hatemongers'.

A vacation bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and J.K. Maheshwari said: "The petitioner shall be granted interim bail in connection with FIR... June 1, 2022 lodged at PS Khairabad, District Sitapur; Uttar Pradesh for a period of five days from today or until further orders of the Regular Bench on terms and conditions to be imposed by the Judicial Magistrate-I, Sitapur; which shall include the conditions that the petitioner shall not post any tweets and shall not tamper with any evidence, electronic or otherwise in Bangalore or anywhere else."

international



National security and our security in the Indo-Pacific is about more than just defence spending. And I'll be travelling to the Pacific Islands Forum, where our neighbours in the Pacific understand that climate change is a national security issue
ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

FIRST MONKEYPOX CASE IN RUSSIA

Russia has registered its first confirmed case of monkeypox, Rospotrebnadzor, the country's consumer rights and human well-being watchdog, said in a statement Tuesday



of the day quote

Zardari siphoning money of Karachi and Sindh via hawala, hundi to Dubai

IMRAN KHAN | PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAF CHAIRMAN

We are a law-abiding place, the government will of course abide by the law. Any measures meant for tackling the epidemic will not be used for other purposes, it is not going to happen

JOHN LEE | HONG KONG LEADER

Because we've lost a great leader, undeniably we could be affected in many ways

FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPAN PM

SHORT TAKES

US kills IS group leader in Syria

Washington: The Pentagon said Tuesday that it killed a leader of the Islamic State group in Syria in a drone strike. US Central Command said in a news release that Maher al-Agal was killed Tuesday and an unidentified senior official in the Islamic State group was seriously injured. The Pentagon said there were no civilian casualties, though it wasn't possible to immediately confirm that information. The US carried out the strike outside Jindaris, a town in northwest Syria close to the Turkish border.

11 tourists killed in northwest Pak

Peshawar: At least 11 tourists were killed and two injured after the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off a mountainous road and fell into a ravine in northwest Pakistan Tuesday, authorities here said. The incident took place in the scenic Lalko valley, near Gabin Jabba in the Swat valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province as the vehicle carrying the tourists skidded and fell into a deep ravine, police said. The 11 people who were dead were identified as residents of Matta tehsil of Swat valley, who were on their way back home after an excursion trip, rescue authorities said.

34 found dead

Kiev: On July 12 morning, 34 people were found dead under the rubble of a five-storey residential building in Ukraine's Chasiv Yar which suffered a Russian attack July 9. Nine civilians sustained injuries in the attack, said Pavlo Kyrilenko, Head of the Donetsk Oblast Military Administration, on Telegram. Rescue workers have pulled out 34 people who were killed and nine who sustained injuries from under the rubble of the destroyed multi-storey building in Chasiv Yar.

Jill apologises

Washington: Jill Biden apologised Tuesday for saying Latinos are "as unique" as San Antonio breakfast tacos during a speech to the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organisation. "The first lady apologises that her words conveyed anything but pure admiration and love for the Latino community," tweeted Jill Biden's spokesperson, Michael LaRosa. The first lady flew to San Antonio on Monday to address the annual conference of UnidosUS, a Latino civil rights and advocacy group formerly known as the National Council of La Raza. But her attempt to compliment Latino diversity didn't go over very well when she said that the community is "as distinct as the bodegas of the Bronx, as beautiful as the blossoms of Miami and as unique as the breakfast tacos here in San Antonio."

WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS

Basil's Dubai move blocked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 12: Sri Lankans were on the edge Tuesday as they waited whether embattled Gotabaya Rajapaksa will honour his offer to resign as President, amid signs that key members of the erstwhile powerful ruling family were attempting to flee in the face of massive public anger against them for mishandling the economy that has bankrupt the country.

Rajapaksa, whose whereabouts are not known since Friday, has informed both Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that he will resign July 13, days after protesters stormed his official residence in rage over the island nation's worst economic crisis.

Speaker Abeywardena is expected to publicly announce President Rajapaksa's resignation to the nation Wednesday. President Rajapaksa signed Monday his resignation letter, dated for July 13, and it was later handed over to a senior government official who will give it to the Parliament Speaker, according to local media reports.

Ahead of Rajapaksa's resignation, his younger brother and ex-finance minister Basil Rajapaksa tried to leave Sri Lanka but was stopped by immigration officials at the Colombo airport. Basil, the 71-year-old leader who is being widely held responsible for the country's worst economic crisis which has heaped misery on the people, tried to leave the country Monday night through the VIP terminal of Colombo airport. The Sri Lanka Immigration and Emigration Officers Association said the immigration officials objected to serving him at the VIP clearance line and even the passengers of the Emirates flight to Dubai had objected to his leaving.

Basil, a US passport holder, re-



People queue up to enter the official residence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa three days after it was stormed by anti government protesters in Colombo

SRI LANKANS ON THE EDGE

Speaker Abeywardena is expected to publicly announce President Rajapaksa's resignation to the nation Wednesday

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking an interim order restraining former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and other influential officials of the Rajapaksa regime from fleeing the country without the prior approval of the apex court

signed as finance minister in early April as street protests intensified against shortages of fuel, food and other necessities and quit his seat in Parliament in June.

Hours later, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking an interim order restraining former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and other influential officials of the Rajapaksa regime from fleeing the country without the prior approval of the apex court.

The petitioners also sought an order to take legal action against those responsible for financial irregularities and mismanagement of the Lankan economy, news portal dailymirror.lk reported. Besides Mahinda, the petition urged travel restrictions on Basil, former Central Bank governors Ajith Nivard Cabraal and WD Lakshman, and former

finance secretary S R Atygalle.

The employees of SriLankan Airlines withdrew from their duties from noon in a bid to prevent responsible officials involved in the country's present crisis from leaving, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's political parties have stepped up efforts to form an all-party government and subsequently elect a new President on July 20 to prevent the bankrupt nation sliding further into anarchy. A meeting was held between the main opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) and former president Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). Parties have begun campaigning for the support of possible candidates. The SJB said they will campaign for the appointment of Sajith Premadasa as the interim President.

Pope reveals retirement plans

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, July 12: Pope Francis said he would not live in the Vatican or return to his native Argentina if and when he ever retires, but would instead like to find a church in Rome where he could continue hearing confessions.

"I'm the bishop of Rome, in this case the emeritus bishop of Rome," Francis said in an interview segment with Spanish-language broadcaster TelevisaUnivision that aired Tuesday. Francis, 85, denied he was planning to retire any time soon but repeated that "the door is open" after Pope Benedict XVI in 2013 became the first pope in 600 years to step down.

While having a retired pope on hand has gone well, the Vatican needs to better regulate the figure of an emeritus pope, Francis said in the interview. Some cardinals and canon lawyers have long questioned Benedict's decisions in retirement, including his continuing to wear the white cassock of the papacy and keeping his papal name, Benedict, rather than reverting back to his birth name, Joseph Ratzinger.



They say those choices and Benedict's continued presence in the Vatican created confusion among the faithful and enabled Francis' traditionalist critics to use Benedict as a conservative point of reference, threatening the unity of the Catholic Church.

Putin to visit Iran



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, July 12: Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Iran next week, the Kremlin said Tuesday, a day after the US warned that Tehran could provide Moscow with drones for its action in Ukraine.

During a trip to Tehran next Tuesday, Putin will attend a trilateral meeting with the leaders of Iran and Turkey, the so-called Astana format of meetings for Syria-related talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Putin's visit to Iran will follow US President Joe Biden's trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia this week, where Iran's nuclear programme and malign activities in the region will be a key subject of discussion.

Iranian Foreign Minister Nasser Kanaani did not deny the US claim in comments on Tuesday. "Iran's cooperation with Russia in some sophisticated technologies dates to before the Russia-Ukraine war," he said. "There has not been any special development in this regard recently."

Iran long has worked on the development of drones, including so-called loitering munitions, the "kamikaze" drones like the Switchblade that the US has delivered to Ukraine.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said it was unclear whether Iran had already provided any of the vehicles to Russia, but

TRILATERAL MEET

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that on the visit to Tehran, Putin will also have a separate meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Putin's visit to Iran will follow US President Joe Biden's trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia this week, where Iran's nuclear programme and malign activities in the region will be a key subject of discussion

said the US has "information" that indicates Iran is preparing to train Russian forces to use them as soon as this month.

"Our information indicates that the Iranian government is preparing to provide Russia with up to several hundred UAVs, including weapons-capable UAVs on an expedited timeline," Sullivan said Monday, referring to drones by the acronym for unmanned aerial vehicles.

Iranian Foreign Minister Nasser Kanaani did not deny the US claim in comments on Tuesday. "Iran's cooperation with Russia in some sophisticated technologies dates to before the Russia-Ukraine war," he said. "There has not been any special development in this regard recently."

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SHOCKING DEATH



A man and his 3-year-old granddaughter pray as they mourn former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe outside his residence in Tokyo

US warns China if it breaks sea ruling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, July 12: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and warned that Washington is obligated to defend treaty ally Philippines if its forces, vessels or aircraft come under attack in the disputed waters.

Blinken's statement, issued by the US Embassy in Manila Tuesday, was released on the sixth anniversary of the 2016 decision by an arbitration tribunal set up in The Hague under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea after the Philippine government complained in 2013 about China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters.

China did not participate in the arbitration, rejected its ruling as a sham and continues to defy it, bringing it into territorial spats with the Philippines and other Southeast Asian claimant states in recent years.

Won't demonise Boris: Sunak

The new leader of the UK's ruling Conservative Party who will succeed Boris Johnson as the British Prime Minister will be announced September 5, the body responsible for the Tory leadership elections has said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 12: Former UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak Tuesday marked the official launch of his Conservative Party leadership bid with a speech in which he pledged a "positive campaign", which will not participate in demonising outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The 42-year-old UK-born Indian-origin politician, who is married to Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murty, admitted he had disagreements with his former boss but also

UK CAMPAIGN LAUNCH



Boris Johnson is one of the most remarkable people I've ever met. And, whatever some commentators may say, he has a good heart

RISHI SUNAK | EX-UK CHANCELLOR
REUTERS PHOTO

praised him as someone who has a good heart. "Boris Johnson is one of the most remarkable people I've ever met. And, whatever some commentators may say, he has a good heart," Sunak said in his campaign launch speech in London.

Johnson resigned as the Conservative Party leader Thursday following an unprecedented mutiny from within his Cabinet in the wake of a series of scandals that rocked his government, triggering a leadership election for a new Tory leader who will go on to become his successor in September.

In an indirect reference to some reports over the weekend of dam-

aging briefings and an alleged "dirty dossier" doing the rounds of the Tory groups, Sunak said. "I am running a positive campaign focused on what my leadership can offer our party and our country. I will not engage in the negativity that some of you may have seen and read in the media. If others wish to do that, then let them. That's not who we are, we can be better."

On the issue that is seen as central to the leadership race, Sunak reiterated that as a former finance minister he is determined to steer the economy in the right direction but would not be making fairy tale promises on lowering taxes.

NASA unveils Webb space telescope's first full-colour images

A partnership between NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency, the Webb was launched on Christmas Day, 2021, and reached its destination in solar orbit nearly 1 million miles from Earth a month later

REUTERS

Greenbelt, Md., July 12: Following a presidential sneak peek of a galaxy-studded image from deep in the cosmos, NASA officials gathered Tuesday to unveil more of their initial showcase from the James Webb Space Telescope, the largest and most powerful orbital observatory ever launched.

The first batch of full-colour, high-resolution pictures, which took weeks to render from raw telescope data, were selected by NASA to provide compelling early im-

ages from Webb's major areas of inquiry and a preview of science missions ahead. The \$9 billion infrared telescope, built for NASA by aerospace giant Northrop Grumman Corp, is expected to revolutionise astronomy by allowing scientists to peer farther than before and with greater clarity into the cosmos, to the dawn of the known universe.

A partnership between NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency, the Webb was launched on Christmas Day, 2021, and reached its destination in solar orbit nearly 1 million miles from Earth a month later. Once there, the telescope underwent a months-long process to unfurl all of its components including a sun shield the size of a tennis court, and to align its mirrors and calibrate its instruments.

With Webb now finely tuned and fully focused, astronomers will embark on a competitively selected list of science projects exploring the evolution of galaxies, the life cycles



REUTERS PHOTO

of stars, the atmospheres of distant exoplanets and the moons of our outer solar system.

The introductory assortment of pictures had been a closely guarded secret until Friday, when the space agency posted a list of five celestial subjects chosen for its big reveal Tuesday at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. Whoops and hollers from a spritely James Webb "cheer team" welcomed some 300 scien-

tists, telescope engineers, politicians and senior officials from NASA and its international partners into a packed and lively auditorium ahead of the opening remarks.

"I didn't know I was coming to a pep rally today," NASA Administrator James Nelson said from the stage, enthusing that Webb's every image is a discovery.

PRESIDENTIAL PEEK

US President Joe Biden got a

jump on the unveiling with his own White House briefing on Monday to release the very first photo - an image of a galaxy cluster dubbed SMACS 0723, revealing the most detailed glimpse of the early universe recorded to date. Among the four other Webb targets getting their close-ups Tuesday are two enormous clouds of gas and dust blasted into space by stellar explosions to form incubators for new stars - the Carina Nebula and the Southern Ring Nebula, each thousands of light years away from Earth.

The debut collection includes another galaxy cluster known as Stephan's Quintet, which was first discovered in 1877 and encompasses several galaxies described by NASA as locked in a cosmic dance of repeated close encounters. NASA will also present Webb's first spectrographic analysis of an exoplanet - one roughly half the mass of Jupiter that lies more than 1,100 light years away - revealing the molecular signatures of filtered light

passing through its atmosphere. Built to view its subjects chiefly in the infrared spectrum, Webb is about 100 times more sensitive than its 30-year-old predecessor, the Hubble Space Telescope, which operates mainly at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths. The much larger light-collecting surface of Webb's primary mirror - an array of 18 hexagonal segments of gold-coated beryllium metal - enables it to observe objects at greater distances, thus further back in time, than Hubble or any other telescope.

All five of Webb's introductory targets were previously known to scientists, but NASA officials promise Webb's imagery captures its subjects in an entirely new light, literally. The SMACS 0723 image Biden released Monday showed a 4.6 billion-year-old galaxy cluster whose combined mass acts as a gravitational lens, distorting space to greatly magnify the light coming from more distant galaxies behind it.

of the day quote

Although the future is full of uncertainty and challenges, the outlook is one of cautious optimism. Recovery might get 'delayed' but not 'derailed'. However, companies will have to remain on guard concerning the geopolitical situation and the pandemic-related uncertainties

Prakash A Mody | UNICHEM LABORATORIES LTD CHAIRMAN AND MD

At Piaggio, we are thrilled to launch another three-wheeler passenger vehicle with CNG, LPG and Petrol fuel variants. The rising demand for alternative fuel options and the need to control pollution is giving an impetus to CNG-powered vehicles

Diego Graffi | CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR AT PVPL

A cell is the heart of the EV revolution. Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research center that will enable us to scale and innovate faster, and build the most advanced and affordable EV products in the world with speed

Bhavish Aggarwal | OLA ELECTRIC FOUNDER AND CEO

SHORT TAKES

Debasish Nanda first CIL Dir, BD

New Delhi: Coal India Ltd Tuesday said Debasish Nanda has taken over as its first Director, Business Development. Before joining CIL, Nanda was working as Executive Director (Gas) in Indian Oil, the company said in a statement. Nanda is a graduate in mechanical engineering from UCE Burla, Sambalpur University, a post-graduate in production engineering from REC Rourkela and a Masters in International Business from IIFT, New Delhi. He joined Indian Oil in 1988 as a management trainee in the marketing division and spent 11 years in marketing of Servo lubricants. Thereafter, he moved to business development group in 1999.

HCL Tech Q1 net profit up 2.4%

New Delhi: IT services company HCL Technologies Tuesday reported a 2.4 per cent year-on-year increase in its net profit for the three months ended June 2022 at ₹3,283 crore. The revenue came in at ₹23,464 crore, which was nearly 17 per cent higher than the year-ago period. In its FY23 guidance, the company said revenue is expected to grow between 12-14 per cent in constant currency terms. "As technology becomes central to lives and businesses, HCL is accelerating the digital transformation journeys of its clients. We continue to pursue our growth strategy with a sense of purpose and responsibility toward our stakeholders and communities," Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies Ltd, said in a statement.

2-digit revenue growth for PepsiCo

New Delhi: Global food and beverages major PepsiCo Tuesday reported a 'double-digit' organic revenue growth in Indian market in second quarter. "Our developing and emerging markets remained resilient and delivered double-digit organic revenue growth in the quarter, including double-digit organic revenue growth in Mexico, Brazil, China, South Africa, India..." said PepsiCo in an earnings statement. PepsiCo's net revenue in the second quarter of 2022 from the Africa, Middle East, South Asia division, under which India comes, was up 5.86 per cent to USD 1.69 billion as against USD 1.60 billion, it said.



We will have to be mindful and watchful how the price movement is
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER

TATA MOTORS DRIVES IN NEXON EV PRIME

Tata Motors Tuesday launched Nexon EV Prime priced between ₹14.99 lakh and ₹17.5 lakh (ex-showroom). The model range replaces the older version and now comes with various additional features like multi-mode regen, cruise control, indirect Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (ITPMS), smartwatch integrated connectivity feature, and enhanced charging timeout of 110 seconds.



Retail inflation above 7% in June; more rate hikes likely

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BASED INFLATION REMAINS ABOVE RBI'S COMFORT LEVEL FOR SIXTH MONTH IN A ROW

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: Retail inflation dropped marginally to 7.01 per cent in June mainly due to slight easing in prices of vegetables and pulses, though it still remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level for the sixth month in a row. The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation stood at 7.04 per cent in the preceding month of May and 6.26 per cent in June 2021.

Inflation in the food basket in June 2022 was 7.75 per cent, compared to 7.97 per cent in the previous month, as per the National Statistical Office (NSO) data released Tuesday.

The RBI has the mandate to ensure that inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. However, retail inflation is ruling above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent since January 2022.

As per the data, the inflation print in vegetables eased to 17.37 per cent during the month from 18.26 per cent in May, while for pulses and products it slowed to (-) 1.02 per cent against (-) 0.42 per cent.

However, the rate of price rise in 'cereals and products' moved up to 5.66 per cent, from 5.33 per cent in the preceding month. Inflation in the 'fuel and light' category rose



to 10.39 per cent as against 9.54 per cent, while that for fruits increased to 3.10 per cent from 2.33 per cent.

Last month, the Reserve Bank in its bi-monthly monetary policy review raised the benchmark repo rate - at which it lends short-term money to banks - by a sharp 0.50 per cent to 4.90 per cent to rein in spiralling prices. It followed an off-cycle meeting on May 4, when the central bank hiked the repo rate by 0.40 per cent.

Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the global geopolitical situation remains fluid and commodity markets remain on the edge, rendering heightened uncertainty to the domestic inflation outlook.

However, certain positive developments such as expectations of a normal south-west monsoon and kharif agricultural season, recent supply side measures taken by the

government as well as lifting of palm oil export ban by Indonesia may help ease the acute price pressures to some extent, he had said.

The RBI also raised its retail inflation forecast for the current financial year to 6.7 per cent from its previous estimate of 5.7 per cent.

Saturday the RBI Governor while speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave exuded confidence that the price situation will gradually improve in the second half of the current fiscal. He also said the central bank would continue to take monetary measures to anchor inflation with a view to achieving strong and sustainable growth.

The Governor said price stability is key to maintaining macro-economic and financial stability and the central bank will undertake necessary measures for the same.

Industrial production grows at a year-high of 19.6 per cent in May

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: India's industrial production grew the highest in a year at 19.6 per cent in May 2022, mainly due to strong performance by manufacturing, power and mining sectors, according to the government data released Tuesday.

Factory output, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had recorded a growth of 27.6 per cent in May 2021 due to low base effect, the data showed. As per the data released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation, the manufacturing sector expanded by 20.6 per cent compared to a year-ago period.

Power sector showed a growth of 23.5 per cent as against 7.5 per cent a year ago, while the mining sector witnessed an expansion of 10.9 per cent in May 2022 compared to a growth of 23.6 per cent last year. During April-May this year, IIP grew 12.9 per cent as against 67.3 per cent growth in the same period a year ago. Capital goods output, which is a barometer of investment, showed a growth of 54 per cent in May 2022 against a jump of 74.9 per cent in the year-ago month. The consumer durables segment grew by 58.5 per cent against a growth of 80.4 per cent a year ago.

The primary goods segment, which accounts for nearly 34 per cent of the index, expanded by 17.7 per cent in May compared to 15.8 per cent growth a year ago.

Consumer non-durable segment grew by 0.9 per cent in May compared to a growth of 0.2 per cent in same month a year ago.

Govt will tap capital markets to fund road projects, says Gadkari

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari Tuesday said the government will raise funds from capital markets for road projects.

The minister further said despite fears of global recession, there is no problem in funding infrastructure sector projects.

"Now I am going to the capital market. I don't have financial resources problems. But, I don't want to use the finances of rich people. I am going to share market, and there I am going to take investments from small people - ₹1 lakh, ₹2 lakh, where I am giving them a guaranteed return of 8 per cent," Gadkari said while addressing an event here.

Thus, I will get tremendous money from the market, he added.

The minister said the construction equipment industry's size is ₹50,000 crore, but due to the rise in crude oil prices, the sector is facing a problem.

"Because of high diesel prices, we are facing an economic viable problem...As early as, get rid of diesel, it is a hazardous fuel," he urged the construction equipment manufacturers. The minister pointed out that the government's policy is to encourage alternative fuels like methanol, ethanol and green hydrogen. Noting that electric mobility is the future, he said the market share of Indian auto-



mobile companies has increased and the share of foreign automobile companies has decreased because some Indian firms have started making electric vehicles.

Pointing out that despite having sufficient coal reserves, India is importing coal, Gadkari said the government has decided to privatise 60 coal mines to increase productivity.

Asked whether the elevated crude price will be a threat to NHAI's capex funds as it may increase the chances of cess reduction on petrol this fiscal, Gadkari said, "The finance ministry will look into it."

A large chunk of the budget outlay for NHAI is estimated to come from the central road and infrastructure fund (CRIF) into which petrol and diesel cess flows.

Gadkari also said that without economic viability technology is not useful and asked construction equipment manufacturers to concentrate on fuel efficiency.

The minister also emphasised skilled manpower, appropriate training and road safety for long-term planning.

Sensex tumbles for 2nd day as tech selloff deepens

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 12: Equity indices nursed losses for the second consecutive session Tuesday as investors continued to dump IT, banking and FMCG stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets.

Unabated foreign fund outflows and the rupee dropping to another record low against the US dollar added to the woes, traders said. Participants were also in wait-and-watch mode ahead of release of retail inflation and factory output data. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note and fell 508.62 points or 0.94 per cent to end at 53,886.61. The broader NSE Nifty declined 157.70 points or 0.97 per cent to settle at 16,058.30.

Infosys was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.33 per cent, followed by Nestle India, PowerGrid, HUL, M&M, HCL Tech and Kotak Mahindra Bank. Only three counters closed in the green - NTPC, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance, ris-

ing up to 1.87 per cent. "Rate hike fears are back in focus in the global markets ahead of the release of CPI numbers. Inflationary pressures along with strong US jobs data would keep the Fed on the path of aggressive rate hikes...Demand concerns amid the rebound of virus cases in China compelled crude to trade lower," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among BSE sectoral indices, IT fell by 1.29 per cent, followed by tech (1.21 per cent), metal (1.16 per cent), auto (1.13 per cent), FMCG (1.03 per cent), bank (0.94 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (0.93 per cent) and capital goods (0.91 per cent). Telecom, utilities, power and realty ended higher.

World stocks were under pressure on renewed concerns over policy tightening by central banks and its impact on global growth.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Shanghai, Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong ended in the red.

Housing prices rise in 41 cities in FY22

The annual change varied widely across the cities, ranging from an increase of 13.8 per cent in Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar to a decline of 5.9 per cent in Navi Mumbai

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 12: Housing prices increased in 41 cities during 2021-22, while the rates of residential units fell in five cities and remained stable in four cities, according to price index RESIDEX released by National Housing Bank.

All of the eight major metros of the country viz., Ahmedabad (13.8

per cent), Bengaluru (2.5 per cent), Chennai (7.7 per cent), Delhi (3.2 per cent), Hyderabad (11 per cent), Kolkata (2.6 per cent), Mumbai (1.9 per cent) and Pune (0.9 per cent) recorded increase in the index on an annual basis, NHB RESIDEX said.

The annual change varied widely across the cities, ranging from an increase of 13.8 per cent (Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar) to a decline of 5.9 per cent (Navi Mumbai), it said. On a sequential (quarter-on-quarter) basis, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 2.6 per cent in January-March 2022 as against 1.7 per cent in the previous quarter.

The index shows an increasing trend on Quarter-on-Quarter (Q-o-Q) basis since June 2021, suggesting revival of housing market post Covid-induced lockdown, it said.

The NHB, which launched hous-



ing price index 'NHB RESIDEX' in 2007 to track the movement in housing prices on quarterly basis, has revamped the system by changing the base year to 2017-18.

The market price for under-construction properties, computed using the quoted prices for under-con-

struction and ready-to-move unsold properties, also recorded an annual increase of 4.8 per cent in quarter ended March 2022 as against 1 per cent a year ago. The variation in market price ranged from an increase of 23.9 per cent (Bhubaneswar) to a contraction of 10.8 per cent (Indore).

JSW celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, July 12: As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the country's leading steel producer, JSW Steel, organised a plantation drive at its office premises and mining areas.

The company planted over 12 saplings at the Bhadrashahi office with a pledge to properly nurture the saplings till they grow into full-fledged trees. Sapling plantation was also carried out in Bhadrashahi office, Nuagaon mine area and in Bhubaneswar office.

Moreover, the company also conducted swachata mission at its



Jajang colony and its premises.

In a bid to create awareness among children regarding Independence Day, JSW Steel also organised a drawing competition for the students of Jajang High

School. The theme for the competition was Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. At the end, the winners were felicitated with prizes.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle, a series of sanitation drives and how

to prevent COVID infection activities were also part of the celebration of the Mahotsav.

Notably, a discourse on 'mindful & deliberate utilization vis a vis mindless & destructive consumption' was organized at Bhubaneswar office for instilling a conscious lifestyle among employees. The employees were also advised set resolution to adopt a sustainable life.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has been celebrating across the country to commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

RBI's int'l trade settlement move to reduce pressure on rupee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 12: RBI's move to allow cross border trade transactions in rupee will reduce the demand for foreign currency for settlement of trade and help curb the fall in the domestic currency, experts say.

According to them, it is also a step towards liberalisation of capital account convertibility.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday asked banks to put in place additional arrangements for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/ imports in the domestic currency in order to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of the global

trading community in rupee. "With this, there will be less pressure on rupee as dollar demand for imports will not be there," Bank of Baroda's Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis said.

In a report, Bank of America Merrill Lynch said the measure should arguably take off immediate pressure on the demand for dollars.

Amid ongoing rupee weakness, the steps appear to be aimed at reducing demand for foreign exchange by promoting rupee settlement of trade flows, Barclays MD & Chief India Economist Rahul Bajaria said.

For settlement of trade transactions, the banks concerned will require Special Rupee Vostro Accounts of correspondent bank/s



of the partner trading country, according to RBI.

Indian importers undertaking imports through this mechanism shall make payment in

or services from the overseas seller/ supplier, RBI said.

Indian exporters, undertaking exports of goods and services through this mechanism, shall be paid the export proceeds in rupee from the balances in the designated special vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country.

CR Forex Advisors Managing Director Amit Pabari said allowing payments for cross-border trade in rupee through the vostro account is a step taken specially to benefit trade with Russia.

"In a bid to ease the pressure on the country's import bill after sharp depreciation in the rupee, RBI is forced to come up with an alternative payment mechanism where the bank seems to be aiming for an explicit rupee-rouble trade

arrangement between India and Russia to settle oil dues in rupees instead of dollars," Pabari said.

According to India Ratings and Research's Soumyati Niyogi, RBI announcement is part of the measures towards liberalisation of capital account convertibility.

"If the capital account gets fully convertible and there are no restrictions on bringing money and taking out money from India, then the requirement of the foreign exchange reserves will not be that much for trade transactions," he said.

However, volatility of overseas flows and their impact on the domestic economy will be critical to watch for, given low absorption capacity of the economy and banking system as a whole, Niyogi added.

BOOM BOOM SHOW

BUMRAH PRODUCES CAREER-BEST FIGURES IN ODIs BEFORE SKIPPER ROHIT, ALONG WITH DHAWAN, GUIDES INDIA HOME FOR A COMFORTABLE 10-WICKET WIN IN THE FIRST MATCH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 12: Jasprit Bumrah produced a devastating display of fast bowling on way to career best six-wicket haul to set up India's 10-wicket hammering of England in the first ODI here Tuesday.

Bumrah ended with envious figures of 6/19 in 7.2 overs as India skittled out England for 110, their lowest against the visitors, after opting to bowl in overcast conditions.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (76 n o, 58b, 7x4, 5x6) and Shikhar Dhawan (31 n o, 54b, 4x4), who was playing his first competitive game since the IPL, steered India home with an unbeaten 114-run partnership off 18.4 overs.

While Dhawan understandably took time get into rhythm, Rohit regaled the crowd with some sublime shots, including the two front foot pulls off Craig Overton that went for a six and four.

Dhawan, who struggled to 2 off 17 balls, got going with back to back boundaries off Reece Topley. India had all the time to breeze to victory, allowing the southpaw to take it easy.

Rohit reached the 50-run mark with his third six of the innings, an effortless hook off Brydon Chase over fine leg. He pulled Chase towards the end of the innings for his fifth maximum before Dhawan hitting the winning boundary.

6/19

JASPRIT BUMRAH BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN PACER TO TAKE FIVE OR MORE WICKETS IN AN ODI IN ENGLAND

Earlier, considering the overcast conditions and grass on the pitch, India decided to put the opposition in and the pacers exploited the conditions perfectly. The ball was swinging and seaming around at good pace, making Bumrah and Mohammed Shami (3/31) all the more lethal.

Jason Roy's (0) struggle continued as he played on while attempting an expansive drive from a full and wide ball off Bumrah. Roy had little idea about the booming inswingers Bumrah unleashed before getting his number.

Two balls later, the in-form Joe Root (0) was expecting another fast inswinger but Bumrah got one to rise outside the off-stump that took an edge on way to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant for a double wicket maiden over. Shami too got into the act from the other end and got rid of Ben Stokes (0). It turned out to be a busy day for the India wicketkeeper who took his second one handed catch to get rid of the dangerous Jonny Bairstow (7), giving Bumrah his third wicket.

Bumrah soon made it 26/5 as Liam Livingstone (0) charged down the track to upset the bowler's rhythm but ended playing around a fast and swinging yorker on the leg stump.

England skipper Jos Buttler (30) showed positive intent to get his team out of the hole but played one too many considering the game situation. Brought back into the attack, Shami went for a short ball and Buttler mistimed the pull to be caught at deep square leg, leaving England tottering at 59/7.

India playing four pacers including Hardik Pandya and Prasad Krishna also helped the visitors maintain the pressure. A ninth wicket partnership for 35 runs between David Willey (21) and Bryson Carse (15) allowed England get past their lowest total, 86, made against Australia back in 2001.

Bumrah came back into the attack to pick his second five-wicket haul in ODI cricket. It was not surprise that he got to the milestone with a yorker that was too good for Carse.

BRIEF SCORES

England 110 (Jos Buttler 30, David Willey 21; Jasprit Bumrah 6/19, Mohammed Shami 3/31, Prasad Krishna 1/26) **lost to India 114/0** (Rohit Sharma 76 n o, Shikhar Dhawan 31 n o) **by 10 wickets.**

SAVITA HEROICS LIFT INDIA



Skipper Savita Punia denies Canada a chance to score during the shootout, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Terassa (Spain), July 12: Skipper Savita Punia started in front of the goal as India defeated Canada 3-2 in the shootout after both teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time in their classification match of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup here Tuesday.

Madeline Secco (11th) handed Canada the lead before Salima Tete (58th) left it late to equalise for India. But it was Savita's heroics in front of the goal that gave India their first win of the tournament.

The Indian captain led from the front and pulled off as many as six saves in the shootout, while Navneet Kaur, Sonika and Neha converted their chances in the ninth to 16th place classification match.

Smarting from their disappointing loss to Spain, India started the match on an attacking note. After soaking up the initial pressure from the Indians, Canada managed to put the ball into the India net, but it was disallowed as the referee awarded a penalty corner and Natalie Sourisseau's attempt was off target.

Canada went one better a few minutes later as they won another penalty corner. This time the variation created confusion in the India defence, and Kathleen Leahy passed it to Secco for the final touch to stun the Indians.

India once again came out stronger in the second quarter and penetrated the Canadian defence on numerous occasions. Monika, in particular, used her array of 3D skills to get past the Canada defence as goalkeeper Rowan Harris urged her team to maintain focus.

As the game moved towards half-time, India upped the ante. Navneet Kaur, Sonika and Neha converted their chances in the ninth to 16th place classification match.

In the 25th minute, Navneet and Vandana combined to create a fine chance but the shot was kept out by Canadian goalie Harris, as India trailed by a goal at half-time.

After the change of ends, India continued to pile on the pressure, with Lalremsiami making some speedy forays into the Canada circle. But Canada held firm, with

Sara McManus and Hannah Haugh displaying stellar performance at the backline to break down the India attacks. India had a glorious opportunity to level the score just minutes into the third quarter but Navjot Kaur's shot from inside the circle went over the bar.

Minutes later, Savita was called to the action as she made a brilliant save from a penalty corner to deny a second goal to the Canadians. As has been the case in the tournament so far, India yet again cut a sorry figure with penalty corners.

In the final minute of the third quarter, Lalremsiami's diving attempt off Salima Tete's pass from the right flank missed the target by a whisker. The Indians created numerous chances in the form of penalty corners but Gurjit Kaur failed to convert a series of set pieces. India's persistence finally paid off when Salima Tete punched home a rebound after Gurjit's flick from a penalty corner was saved by the Canadian goalie.

India will play Japan in the ninth-12th place playoff match Wednesday.

14-yr-old Anahat in CWG squash squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: Anahat Singh, 14, was Tuesday included in India's squash squad for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, beginning July 28.

The Delhi-based teenager has been rewarded for her sensational run at the U-15 level. She had recently won a tournament in Germany and also won the Asian title in the U-15 category in June.

Others who will be making their CWG debut, include Velavan Senthilkumar and Abhay Singh, who will feature in the men's doubles event. Barring powerhouse Egypt, play-



ers from world's top squash playing nations take part in the CWG, including Australia and England. Harinder Pal Sandhu, who had suffered career threatening back injury in 2018, is back in action and

will be playing doubles alongside Ramit Tandon.

THE SQUAD

Men Singles: Saurav Ghosal, Ramit Tandon, Abhay Singh; **Women Singles:** Joshana Chinappa, Sunyana Kuruvilla, Anahat Singh; **Women's Doubles:** Dipika Pallikal-Joshana Chinappa; **Mixed Doubles:** Saurav Ghosal-Dipika Pallikal, Ramit Tandon-Joshana Chinappa; **Men's Doubles:** Ramit Tandon-Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, Velavan Senthilkumar-Abhay Singh; **Team Officials:** Christopher Walker (foreign coach), Cyrus Poncha (team manager), Graeme Everard (physio).

Sunny slams seniors for frequent breaks



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: Batting great Sunil Gavaskar has questioned the commitment of the senior India players, saying he "doesn't agree" with cricketers skipping international series but playing the IPL without a break.

Gavaskar's remarks came after senior players Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Rishabh Pant were rested for the upcoming ODI series against the West Indies.

"See, I do not agree with this concept of players resting. Not at

all. 'You don't take rest during IPL, then why ask for it while playing for India? I don't agree with it. You will have to play for India. Don't talk about rest,' Gavaskar said on 'Sports Tak'.

"There are only 20 overs in an innings in T20. That does not take any toll on your body. In Test matches, the mind and the body take a toll, I get that. But I don't think there is much problem in T20 cricket," he added.

The former captain said the BCCI will be better off intervening into this "rest policy". "I honestly feel that the BCCI needs to look into this concept of rest. All the Grade A cricketers have received very good contracts. They receive payment for every match. Tell me if there is any company whose CEO, or MDs get so much time off?" "I feel that if Indian cricket is to become more professional, a line needs to be drawn. If you want to be rested, you need to reduce your guarantees. Then you take rest, because you don't want to play. But how can anyone say that I don't want to play for the Indian team. Which is why I do not agree to the concept," Gavaskar said.

Mehuli-Tushar pair ensures medal



MEHULI GHOSH



SHAHU TUSHAR MANE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Changwon, July 12: The mixed team pair of Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar Mane sealed India's second medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup, here Tuesday, by setting up the gold medal match against Hungary.

In-form Mehuli and Shahu topped the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team qualifiers with a score of 634.4 after 60 shots to finish well ahead of the strong Hungarian pair of Istvan Peni and Eszter Meszaros, who finished second

with 630.3. India and Hungary will lock horns Wednesday to decide the winner.

Meanwhile, in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event, Shiva and Palak shot 574 and qualified for the bronze medal match. Shiva and Palak finished behind the Greek pairing of Anna Korakaki and Dionysios Korakakis, who scored 579.

The top spot was claimed by Olympic champion Zorana Arunovic and Damir Mikec of Serbia, who shot 584. India will take Kazakhstan's in the bronze playoff.

Two other Indian pairs - Naveen and Rhythm Sangwan in 10m air pistol mixed team and Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan in the corresponding rifle competition - could not make the grade after both the teams scored 570 and 627.8 respectively to finish in the eighth position.

Earlier in the day, India missed out on about five medals as none of the top qualifiers in men's and women's 10m Air Pistol as well as in the men's trap, could make their opportunities count.

In the men's 10m Air Pistol discipline, India had three qualifiers in the top eight ranking round but Naveen finished fourth with an effort of 250.7. Shiva Narwal was fifth with 199.7 and was followed by Sagar Dangi (199.2).

In the women's 10m Air Pistol event, India's lone ranking round qualifier Yuvika Tomar ended seventh with 147.1 points. In the men's trap event, young Vivaan Kapoor shot a brilliant 122 out of 125 to qualify third among eight qualifiers but ended fourth in his match to miss out on the medals.

India has won one gold through Arjun Babuta (10m Air Rifle) so far in the tournament and is currently placed fourth on the medal tally.

I DID NOT GET CARRIED AWAY BY LUCAS: ARJUN



Arjun Babuta (C) poses his gold medal with Lucas Kozeniesky (L) and Israel's Sergey Richter on the podium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Changwon, July 12: Up against an Olympic silver medalist in a World Cup final, young Indian shooter Arjun Babuta had his task cut out. But neither the occasion nor the opponent could affect him.

Instead, Babuta came up with a stunning performance against Tokyo Olympics silver winner Lucas Kozeniesky to win the men's

10m air rifle event in the ongoing ISSF World Cup here Monday.

"Ideally, I should have felt the pressure of facing Lucas and could have got carried away by the occasion but I stayed calm and did not let any burden upon me which helped in winning the gold," Arjun told Sportsflashes Radio.

While a strong 32-member Indian squad is currently taking part in the World Cup, the sport, however, will not be part of the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The 23-year-old shooter from Punjab expressed his disappointment and said that the sport's exclusion from the CWG will rob many Indian shooters of a chance to win medals.

"I am very heartbroken due to the shooting's omission from CWG. As a budding shooter, I thought CWG experience would be very useful to me and I could have ended up on the podium as well. But this is part of the destiny and I hope they include shooting next time," Arjun said.

"I have now let go of the disappointment and looking forward to the World Championship in October which will give us quota places for the Olympics," he added.

DUTEE TO 'MARRY' AFTER 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Dutee Chand who had earlier proclaimed she is gay is planning to 'marry' her partner after the 2024 Paris Olympics, the ace sprinter said during an interview with a national news website.

Dutee had made her same-sex relationship public in May 2019. The 26-year-old had to "face a lot of backlash" for a few months from many including some of her family members. However, the athlete from Jajpur, didn't back down on who she is and who she

wanted to be. It's been three years and Dutee has come a long way since then.

Same-sex marriage hasn't yet been legalised in India. The case is still pending in the court of law. Hence, same-sex couples in India can't enter into a registered marriage by law. In 2018, the Supreme Court of India decriminalised homosexuality. However, there are recent instances where gay couples have got married in India including the one in Hyderabad and the other in Kolkata.

Probably inspired by the tying of the nuptial knot of gay couples,

Dutee is planning to marry her partner after the 2024 Paris Games.

"There is a plan to make my relationship permanent (with marriage), but I am still playing. I am not at home most of the time. I am either in camps or travelling to compete," Dutee said.

"So I have told her that our relationship will continue and after the 2024 Olympics, we will see what we want to do in life. She is just 22, and I am 26. So I hope to play well for the next 2-3 years and then take a call," the Odia sprinter added.

Dutee, however, said that they have no plans as of now to set-

tle abroad, when asked about her next step to legalise the same-sex marriage. Dutee has also consulted her lawyers regarding the issues surrounding her marriage.

"When I checked with my lawyers, they said you can't do a court marriage (register it under law), but you can get married like it normally happens at our villages and temples. You won't get a marriage certificate from the court. But if the two families are okay and supportive, you can get married," the website quoted Dutee as saying.

Farah reveals his true identity in documentary

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 12: Four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah has disclosed he was brought into Britain illegally from Djibouti under the name of another child. "The truth is I'm not who you think I am," the 39-year-old Farah told the BBC in a documentary called "The Real Mo Farah."

Farah, who became the first British track and field athlete to win four Olympic golds, said his children have motivated him to be truthful about his past. "The real story is I was born in Somaliland, north of Somalia, as Hussein Abdi Kahin," he told the BBC.

"Despite what I've said in the past, my parents never lived in the UK. When I was four my dad was killed in the civil war, you know as a family we were torn apart. I was separated from my mother; and I was brought into the UK illegally under the name of another child called Mohamed Farah."

During the documentary, Farah said he thought he was going to Europe to live with relatives and recalled going through a British passport check under the guise of Mohamed at the age of nine after traveling with a woman he didn't previously know. "I had all the contact details for my relative and once we got to her house,

the lady took it off me and right in front of me ripped them up and put it in the bin and at that moment I knew I was in trouble," he said.

The athlete travelled back to his childhood home in west London, recalling "not great memories" where he was not treated as part of the family. Farah eventually told teacher Alan Watkinson the truth and moved to live with his friend's mum who took care of him and he ended up staying for seven years.

It was Watkinson who applied for Farah's British citizenship which he described as a "long process." Farah was recognized as a British citizen in 2000.