



CANDID CONFESSION

Actor Sara Ali Khan reveals how she keeps surprising herself with her own duality

LEISURE P2



EARLY EDGE FOR SUNAK

Rishi Sunak leads in UK's prime ministerial race in the first round of voting by Conservative Party MPs

INTERNATIONAL P10



SECOND ODI TODAY

After winning the 1st ODI in an emphatic manner, India look to seal the 3-match series when they face England in the 2nd ODI

SPORTS P12

Free booster for all adults from July 15

Jabs will be available at all government vaccination centres under a 75-day special drive as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 13: People in the 18-59 age group can get free precaution doses of the Covid vaccine at government vaccination centres under a 75-day special drive likely to begin from July 15, the government said Wednesday.

The drive, aimed at boosting the administration of Covid precaution doses, will be held as part of the government's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, it said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

In a tweet, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, "As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, free COVID-19 precaution doses will be administered to all the citizens above the age of 18 years at government vaccination centres from July 15 for the next 75 days." This will provide protection to all adults from the virus, the minister asserted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government's decision to administer free precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all citizens aged above 18 will further India's vaccination coverage and create a healthier country.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Modi said, "Vaccination is an effective means to fight COVID-19. Today's Cabinet decision will further India's vaccination coverage and create a healthier nation."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister

DAILY CASES AT 5-MONTH HIGH

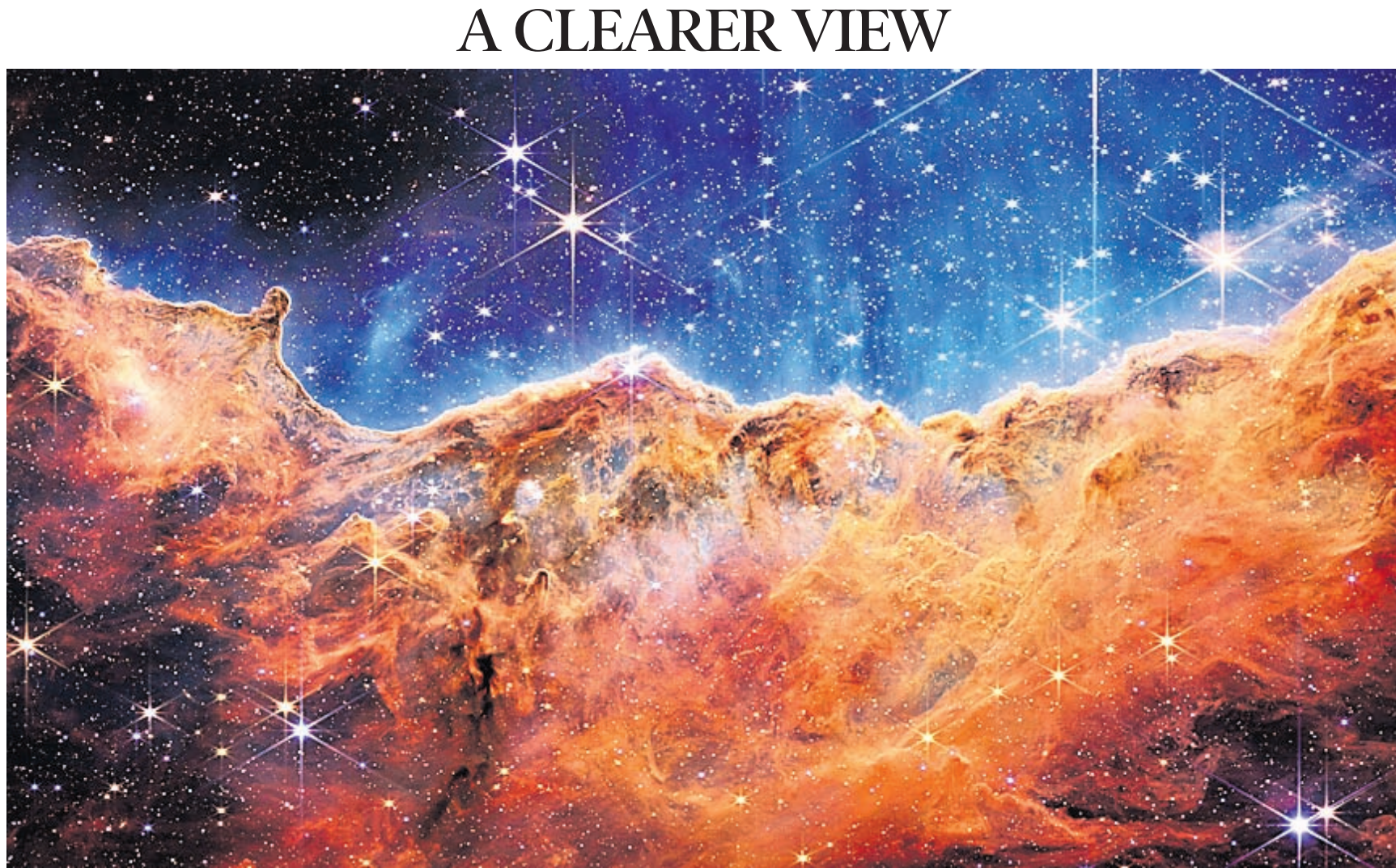
State recorded 743 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, the highest in nearly five months, pushing the tally to 12,95,328, the Health department said. The test positivity rate jumped to 4.03 per cent from 3.48 per cent as the cases were detected out of 18,442 samples. Eighty-seven children were among those afflicted with the disease, according to a bulletin. Khurda district of which the capital Bhubaneswar is a part reported the highest number of 303 infections, followed by 115 in Cuttack. On February 17, there were 886 infections. However, the toll remained at 9,127 as there were no more deaths.

Naveen Patnaik welcomed the move through a tweet that read, "Welcome the decision of Government of India to launch a special drive to provide free precaution doses of #COVID19 vaccines to 18-59 age group of people. Appeal all eligible people to come forward and get vaccinated for a #CovidFreeOdisha".

Responding to a question, Mandaviya said people would have to pay if they visit a private facility to get the precaution dose.

Noting that some people had created doubts over the efficacy of vaccines developed in the country, he said there is a need for a booster dose for everyone and "no one will have to pay for it."

He did not share details on how much the exercise will cost the government. Mandaviya thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the decision. **Contd...P4**



STAR BIRTH: Captured by the James Webb Space Telescope, this image released by NASA shows the edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula revealing previously obscured areas of star birth

A CLEARER VIEW

Ruckus in House; govt orders CB probe

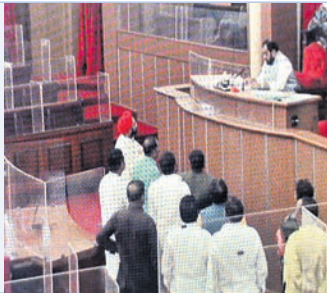
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 13: The first day of second phase of the Monsoon session in state Assembly witnessed a ruckus over the assault on tribal women by Chittrakonda SDPO in Malkangiri district last month.

As Opposition BJP and Congress created uproar in the House over the issue, Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha adjourned the House for several times. Later, the state government ordered a Crime Branch probe into the incident.

During Zero Hour, the issue was raised by Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati and later supported by his party colleagues—Narasingha Mishra and Santosh Singh Saluja and

- June 7 midnight, Chittrakonda SDPO had illegally entered the houses of tribals in RAC village 13 and conducted a raid without any lady police suspecting illegal ganja trade over a wrong tip-off
- A pregnant woman, an 80-year-old and a minor girl were among the four women hospitalised after being severely beaten by the officials during the raid



wrong information that the people were engaged in illegal ganja trade. During the raid, the SDPO, Bahinipati said, had severely beaten a pregnant woman, an 80-year old woman and a minor girl.

He said although four women were admitted to the hospital with

serious injuries following the police action, the doctor under police pressure gave a false certificate that there was no injury.

Bahinipati also showed the photographs of the injuries in the House and demanded action against the doctor.

He said a four-member fact-finding team of Congress visited the area and interacted with the victims and requested the Malkangiri SP to take action on this case. However, no action has been taken yet, he said.

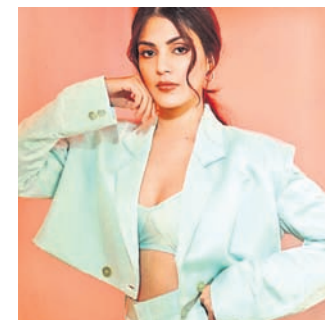
Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra demanded the House be adjourned and an all-party meeting be convened to discuss the issue and find a solution. **Contd...P4**

Rhea Chakraborty charged by NCB in drugs case linked to Sushant Rajput

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 13: In a startling development, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has claimed that actress Rhea Chakraborty and others were allegedly involved in a major criminal conspiracy to run a drugs racket, for Bollywood and other high society people.

In its draft charges filed before a Mumbai Special NDPS Court Tuesday, the NCB has detailed how between March-December 2020, Rhea, her brother Showik and 34 others accused in the death case of the late Sushant Singh Rajput, were part of a plot to finance, procure, sell, transport and distribute drugs like Ganja, Charas, Cocaine, LSD to the high-profile end-users.



As part of the plot, from January-August 2020, Siddharth Pithani -- a friend of Rajput, found dead in his rented Bandra home June 14, 2020 -- was in regular touch with the actor (Rajput) and his girlfriend Rhea, her brother Showik, domestic aides like Samuel Miranda, Dipesh Sawant and others to procure Ganja, as per the NCB draft charges.

The probe agency revealed how Pithani had used a private bank app of Rajput to source Ganja and other drugs from his bank account, describing them as 'puja samagri' (prayer materials) and accordingly abetted Rajput's extreme addiction to drugs.

The NCB contended that the actress' brother Showik Chakraborty was also allegedly linked with drug peddlers from whom he received packets on behalf of Rajput.

While Rhea was arrested in September 2020 and released on bail after almost a month in October 2020, Pithani was nabbed in May 2021 and released on bail last week, as part of the NCB's avowed probe to uproot what it termed as the drugs citadel in Mumbai, especially in Bollywood.

Lankan Prez flees to Maldives

AGENCIES

Colombo, July 13: Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives Wednesday, bringing to an apparent end his family's near two-decade dominance of the country after a massive popular uprising brought on by an economic collapse.

But his decision to leave his ally Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in charge as acting president triggered more demonstrations, with protesters storming the premier's office demanding that he go too.

Wickremesinghe's office initially declared a state of emergency and a curfew with immediate effect, then cancelled them but



said the measures would be announced again later.

Police stationed outside the prime minister's office fired several rounds of tear gas and a military helicopter briefly circled overhead, but protesters appeared

undeterred and finally surged into the compound. Wickremesinghe's team declined to reveal his whereabouts. In a statement, Wickremesinghe said the protesters have no reason to storm the prime minister's office. **MORE P10**

NEWS IN BRIEF

ACID HURLED ON CUTTACK WOMAN

Cuttack: A woman was seriously injured after some unidentified miscreants allegedly hurled acid on her in Cuttack district Wednesday, police said. The incident took place at Nuapatana village under Tigiria PS area at around 4am when the 36-year-old was on her morning walk. After verification of the CCTV footage, the police said that the woman was found running on the streets alone. It was not ascertained how many people were involved in the attack. She was admitted to a local hospital with severe burn injuries and later shifted to SCB Medical College Hospital. Approximately 50 per cent of her body is assumed to have been burnt.

STF SEIZES FAKE CURRENCY NOTES

Sambalpur: The Special Task Force seized fake currency notes with a face value of more than Rs 15 lakh in Sambalpur district and arrested two interstate criminals in this connection, police said Wednesday. The seizure of the Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) was made from Nua Adhapa village under Jujumara Police Station of Sambalpur district Tuesday following a raid based on intelligence input. The STF personnel seized FICN with a face value of Rs 15,12,500, two laptops and one colour printer from the possession of the miscreants. A case was registered against the two under different sections of the IPC.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Do not dare to call them andolanjevis. They are Sri Lankans and not fellow Indians

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	53514.15 ↓ 372.46
NIFTY	15966.70 ↓ 91.60
DOLLAR	80.36 ↑ ₹0.04
EURO	79.75 ↓ ₹0.50
GOLD	₹50,847 ↑ ₹390
SILVER	₹57,131 ↑ ₹665

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	32.8°C
TEMP MIN	26.2°C	25.6°C
Humidity	97%	97%
Rainfall	24.2mm	10.4mm
Forecast	Light rain likely	

India ranks 135th globally in gender parity

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 13: India was Wednesday ranked low at 135th place in terms of gender parity, despite an improvement of five places since last year on better performance in areas of economic participation and opportunity.

Iceland retained its place as the world's most gender-equal country, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden, as per the annual Gender Gap Report 2022 of the World Economic Forum (WEF) released in Geneva.

Only 11 countries are ranked below India on the index of 146

ENTRENCHED INEQUALITY

Iceland retained its place as the world's most gender-equal country, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden

Only 11 countries are ranked below India on the index of 146 nations, with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Iran and Chad being the worst-five

It will take another 132 years (compared to 136 in 2021) to close the gender gap, the World Economic Forum (WEF) report says

nations, with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Iran and Chad being the worst-five.

The WEF warned that the cost of living crisis is expected to hit women hardest globally with a widening gender gap in the labour

force and it will take another 132 years (compared to 136 in 2021) to close the gender gap. The report further said that Covid-19 has set gender parity back by a generation and a weak recovery was making it worse globally.

On India, the WEF said its gender gap score recorded its seventh-highest level in the last 16 years, but it continues to rank among the worst performers on various parameters.

With a female population of approximately 662 million, India's level of attainment weighs heavily on regional rankings, it said.

Recovering ground since 2021, India registered the most significant and positive change to its performance on Economic Participation and Opportunity. But, labour-force participation shrank for both men and women since 2021.

The share of women legislators,

senior officials and managers increased from 14.6 per cent to 17.6 per cent, and the share of women as professional and technical workers grew from 29.2 per cent to 32.9 per cent. The gender parity score for estimated earned income improved, while values for both men and women diminished, they declined more for men.

However, in the area of political empowerment, the subindex where India ranks relatively higher at 48th place, showed a declining score due to the diminishing share of years women have served as head of state for the past 50 years. **Contd...P4**

leisure



RYAN GOSLING RULES OUT STARRING AS MARVEL'S NOVA

Hollywood star Ryan Gosling's name was brought up as a possible strong contender to play Marvel's Nova, who is said to be getting a live-action movie. However, he ruled out the possibility of him playing the member of the Nova Corps, though he revealed his interest in playing another superhero.

BRITNEY'S EX-HUBBY PLEADED NOT GUILTY

Britney Spears' ex-husband, Jason Alexander officially pleaded not guilty after attempting to crash the singer's wedding last month with Sam Asghari at her residence. Reports say, Alexander was arraigned Tuesday on the criminal complaint in Ventura County Superior Court via Zoom.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
At times it is a good thing to be under pressure, because it brings out your potential to the fullest. You will outsmart all your colleagues in the work you do. However, results may not match your expectations. Ganesh advises patience as results don't come overnight.

TAURUS
This is a great day for expressions your ideas and feelings. Ganesh urges you to open up and share hopes and concerns, dreams and aspirations with your others. Romance is in the air. You could be flying deliciously high on the wings of love, in the company of your sweetheart.

GEMINI
You will meet all kinds of people in matters related to work. You will need to understand their demands and needs and will have to strive to fulfill them. Your courteous nature will endear you to people. You will receive praise for your intelligence as well, says Ganesh.

CANCER
People will surround you. You will entertain them with your hilarity. Social contacts will benefit you. Students will excel and concentrate on their work. It will be a good day, says Ganesh.

LEO
You are businesslike and practical in your approach, however, you have a tendency to lose your temper. You will be able to channelise your aggression into business today. It is a good thing, since you need an outlet for your energy. The advice of your elders will help you.

VIRGO
You will find your banal day-to-day routine work to be very irritating today, says Ganesh. Avoid the tendency to exaggerate things out of proportion. You will not, however, let anything impact on your enthusiasm to work. You will do something novel to win the appreciation of people.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will behave unlike your nature and take a more serious attitude towards life. This is unlike you but your seriousness will give you the opportunity to take up further responsibilities that will prove to people that you can be responsible too. Ganesh says that towards evening you may visit an art gallery or a heritage or cultural place.

SCORPIO
Blood is thicker than water, and you will experience this in true sense today, says Ganesh. Dedicate this day to your family and friends, enjoy and make merry. Feel as if you are on the top of this world when you set out on a secret date with your beloved. Life is beautiful, indeed!

SAGITTARIUS
Your temper is as hot as a fireball today, foresees Ganesh. Not for nothing they say that anger may destroy the world. Don't axe your own feet by your aggressive behaviour. Cool down and think before you act. There are chances that you may experience financial crunch, handle it carefully, advises Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You are witty and wise. With your extraordinary vision and intelligence you will help many their career and later, thanks to you, they will be near to their goals. Whenever some dark clouds of reality hover above your head, you know how to find the silver lining and get out of a problem.

AQUARIUS
The monotony of your routine will get little bit of colour with the help of your wit and humour. Your jovial nature will lighten the burden of work from the shoulders of one all, says Ganesh. People love to be in your company and that is the reason why you are on the top of every guest list.

PISCES
Organized and sorted as you are, you will still find yourself clouded with emotions today. Those you are thoughtful and calculative as a person, you will discover the joy of emotions and the warmth that accompanies them.

Sara reveals how she surprises herself



Mumbai: *Atangi Re* actor Sara Ali Khan explains how she keeps surprising herself with her own duality. In a recent interview with a portal, the actress spoke about how she is "constantly evolving", "surprising herself" and that there are multiple sides to her personality but in the end, she is still the same person within.

"It is hard to tell because Sara Ali Khan is constantly evolving," the actress said. "The girl going to a temple is the same girl wearing bikinis at the beach is the same girl who hates living away from her mother for 45 days while shooting. She will keep surprising you, because she is still surprising herself."

She shared that while many would know that she was a history major at Columbia University, she specialised in Russian history. She credited her father, actor Saif Ali Khan, for contributing to her love for the subject as a child.

"Growing up, I realised that my father was extremely interested in history. We are both always curious and that's really all it takes—you should want to know," she said.

AGENCIES



Elnaaz makes her singing debut

Mumbai: Actress Elnaaz Norouzi, who won millions of hearts as Zoya in OTT series *Sacred Games*, is turning a singer with her debut track which is yet to be titled.

Talking about development, the actress said: "I cannot contain my excitement now that the news is out. I've been working and holding onto this song for more than 2 years. It's a big deal for me as it's all so new to me but I've worked extremely hard on it and now I can show it to the world. It'll be out this month and I hope everyone supports me in my journey as a singer."

Asked about her foray into singing, she added, "The journey to this song started with me taking vocal training because I wanted to work on my voice for my acting. That's when my vocal trainer pursued me into learning music. In Germany, stuck during Covid, I met a music manager who also liked my voice and offered me to sing. That's how it all started."

The song will hit the airwaves on July 27, and will be available on YouTube and across all audio streaming platforms.

AGENCIES

Never used parents' name to get job: Shruti

Chennai: Actress Shruti Haasan recently revealed that she never used her actor parents' name to get a job. Talking about nepotism in the film industry, Shruti revealed in a recent interview, "I have never denied and I don't think you should when you have a surname. I know it opened a door for me. But I also know, with my hand on my heart and God as my witness, that I have never used my parents' name or connections to get a job."

Further, she added, "I have worked through this business like any other person and I am proud of that but I never take away from the fact that my surname opened doors."

"When I came there was a buzz around the surname, but the truth of the matter is staying was really hard and challenging for me. I was pretty much written off after my first film. But to come back and keep staying because I love doing what I do, was a wonderful learning experience for me on a human level," she concluded.

On the work front, she will next be seen in *Salaar* co-starring Prabhas in the lead role.

AGENCIES

Pooja impressed with new-gen's dating rules

Mumbai: Actress and filmmaker Pooja Bhatt says she is quite impressed with the new generation on how they set their own rules in dating and feel very unapologetic about it.

The actress was part of the show *Swipe Ride* in which she interacted with youngsters. Sharing her experience, Pooja said that "Dating in India has certainly evolved over the years and it is refreshing to see this generation date on their own terms, unapologetically. Having platforms like this normalises women discussing love and relationships, and stating their preferences openly."

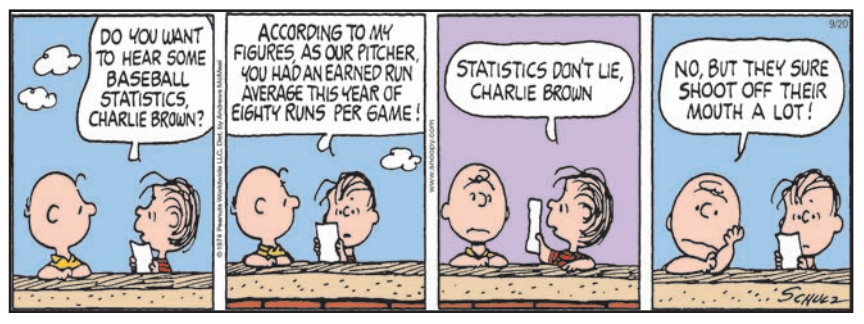
The show is hosted by digital content creator Kusha Kapila and it invites members of Tinder dating app and it takes the members to meet their dates.

Co-created with film director Debbie Rao along with writer - Sukanya Subramaniyan, *Swipe Ride* series is available on the YouTube channel of Tinder India.

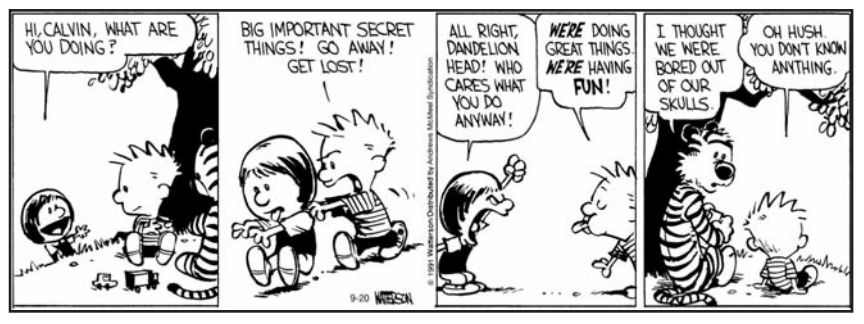
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

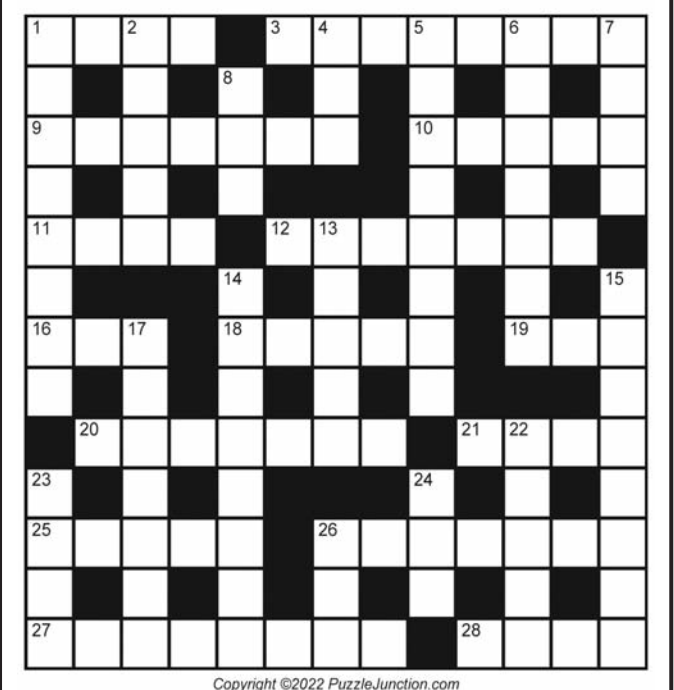


BREVITY



FUN post

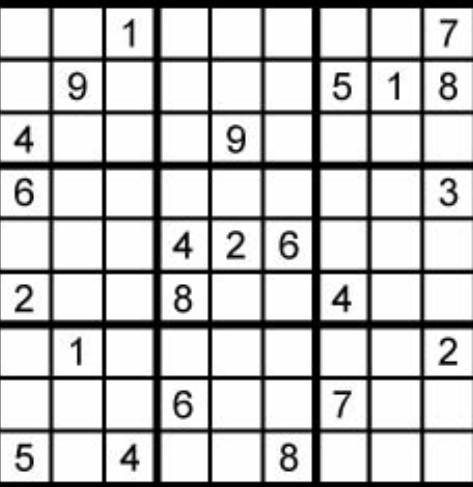
CROSSWORD



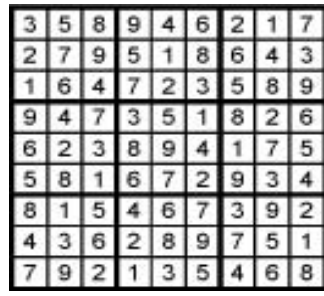
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Broad valley
 - 3 Move hurriedly
 - 9 Sarcastic
 - 10 Kind of test
 - 11 Wedding item
 - 12 Tartness
 - 16 Squealer
 - 18 Small extra-terrestrial body
 - 19 Luau fare
 - 20 Poem parts
 - 21 Solo
 - 25 Manner of speaking
 - 26 "Ta-ta!"
 - 27 Inflexible
 - 28 Chinese dynasty
 - Down**
 - 1 Diplomatic maneuver
 - 2 "Two Women" star
 - 4 Mouse catcher
 - 5 Come before
 - 6 Passenger pick-up place (3,4)
 - 7 Water carrier
 - 8 Inexperienced
 - 13 Punctuation mark
 - 14 Type of aid
 - 15 Table game (4-4)
 - 17 More courageous
 - 22 Trunk
 - 23 Desire
 - 24 Drops on blades
 - 26 Garage contents

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

CM asks people to wear masks as Covid cases surge in state



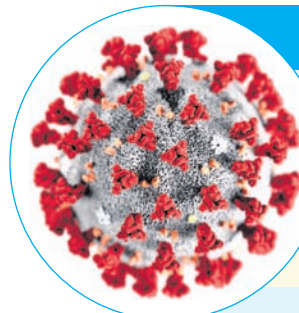
Bhubaneswar, July 13: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday asked people to wear masks as the Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet. "The danger of Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet. You must wear mask to keep yourself and others safe," Patnaik said in Twitter post. The state, meanwhile, recorded 743 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, the highest in nearly five months, pushing the tally to 12,95,328, the Health department said. The test positivity rate jumped to 4.03 per cent from 3.48 per cent

as the cases were detected out of 18,442 samples. Eighty-seven children were among those afflicted with the disease, according to a bulletin. Khurda district of which the capital Bhubaneswar is a part reported the highest number of 303 infections, followed by 115 in Cuttack. On Tuesday, the state had logged 509 cases. On February 17, there were 886 infections. The Covid-19 toll remained at 9,127 as there were no more deaths. Fifty-three more Covid patients had died due to comorbidities so far, it said. The active COVID-19 cases



AGE-OLD TRADITION

People seek the blessings of Puri Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati on the occasion of Guru Purnima, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	56,33,09,868	53,57,47,105	63,77,273
India	4,36,69,850	4,30,11,874	5,25,519
Odisha	12,95,328	12,82,690	9,127

BNPM plans bank note paper mill in Balasore

Bhubaneswar, July 13: The Bank Note Paper Mill (BNPM) India Private Limited is planning to set up a bank note paper mill in Balasore district with an investment of Rs 2,500 crore, officials said Wednesday. BNPM India Managing Director Thalikerappa S. Wednesday met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here and briefed him about the proposed project in Balasore district. Patnaik assured him of all possible support for setting up of the bank note paper mill, said the Chief Minister's office (CMO). BNPM India, a joint venture of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (BRBNMPL) and Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India (SPMCIL), is planning to invest Rs 2,500 crore for the project, it added.



BNPM India Managing Director Thalikerappa S. meets Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Notably, SPMCIL is a wholly owned public sector undertaking of the government of India under Ministry of Finance while BRBNMPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). A delegation of RBI and BNPM India officials Tuesday visited a few sites in Balasore for the project. Around 100 acres of land is required for the project, sources said.

BNPM India Managing Director Thalikerappa S. Wednesday met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here and briefed him about the proposed project in Balasore district

BNPM India, a joint venture of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (BRBNMPL) and Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India (SPMCIL), is planning to invest Rs 2,500 crore for the project

NMPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). A delegation of RBI and BNPM India officials Tuesday visited a few sites in Balasore for the project. Around 100 acres of land is required for the project, sources said.

Opposition targets govt over black marketing of fertilizer in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, July 13: The opposition Congress Wednesday targeted the state government over the irregular supply and black marketing of fertilizer in the state during the Monsoon Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly. There is widespread black marketing of fertilizer. The dealers are also not abiding by the rules but the government has turned mute spectator, alleged Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja. "Utkal Urea is being sold at Rs 285 per bag and Nagarjuna Urea at Rs 287 per bag, but these are sold over Rs 400 in the market with approximate Rs 165 hike," Saluja alleged. Saluja accused the government of not taking appropriate action against the dealers which is giving them encouragement to sell the manures and fertilizers at price they want. On the other hand, Pipili MLA Rudra Pratap Maharathy said that the seeds which the farmers are getting are not yielding properly. "Around fifty percent of the seeds which were given during Kharif season by the government is not germinating properly, due to which the poor farmers are forced to buy the seed from the market at a high price," Maharathy said. He added, "Even if the supply is there as per the demand, it is not reaching to the farmers in time. Till now only 25 per cent of fertilizers allotted for the farmers have been supplied." Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Ranendra Pratap Swain answered the issues raised by the political leaders and assured proper action will be taken. He said, "As per the requirement and supply of the fertilizers to Odisha, we gave requirement of 3.90 metric tonnes for the period of April 1 to June 30, but got 3.64 metric tonnes only."

2k high schools have dilapidated classrooms

Odisha has 37,067 classrooms in 5,080 government high schools. Of which, 5,874 classrooms in 2,098 high schools are in a dilapidated state and 377 high schools do not have boundary walls



Bhubaneswar, July 13: The buildings of as many as 2,098 out of 5,080 state-run high schools are in a dilapidated condition, School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Wednesday. Replying to a query of BJP MLA Nauri Nayak in the Assembly the S&ME Minister said according to

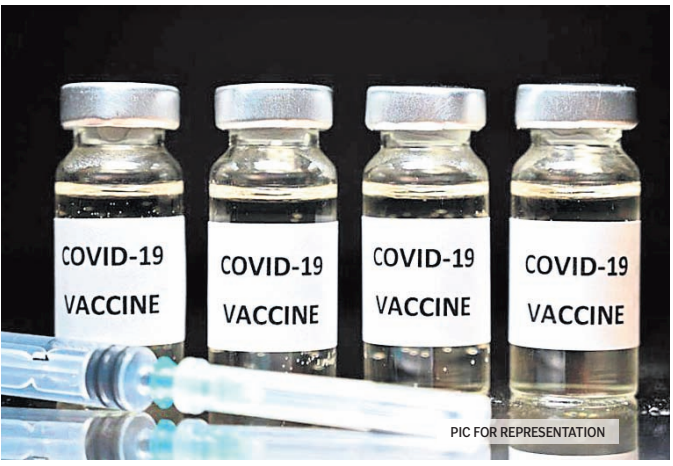
the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2020-21, Odisha has 37,067 classrooms in 5,080 government high schools. Of which, 5,874 classrooms in 2,098 high schools are in a dilapidated state and 377 high schools do not have boundary walls, he said. Ganjam tops the list with 148 such schools, while Mayurbhanj has 133 high schools in bad condition. As many as 131 high schools are in poor condition in Balasore while the number is 116 in Cuttack and 110 in Jajpur, Dash said. The S&ME Minister said around Rs 1,005 crore is required to construct new classrooms and boundary walls. "The state government will make a detailed estimation of fund required for repair of dilapidated classrooms and construction of new ones. It will also

submit the annual work plan and budget for 2023-24 under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to the Centre," Dash said. After approval, the state government will take necessary measures, Dash said, adding that the school repair and renovation work has been given to the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department. The state government, he said, has submitted a proposal to the Centre for construction of additional 5,306 classrooms during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. The Centre, however, has not approved any additional classroom during the current year, added the minister. In another reply, the Dash informed the House that 436 panchayats in the state have no high school. The upper primary schools in these panchayats are being upgraded into high schools.

1.1 billion Covid vaccine doses wasted globally: Report

The governments across the globe have wasted more than a billion doses of the Covid vaccines, even as many people, including health workers, particularly in the low-income countries are yet to get at least a single shot, according to a report. The report, by science and data analytics company Airfinity, assumed a 10 per cent wastage rate from June 2021 when global dose sharing began. Public reports of vaccine waste and expirations from around the world showed that some 158 million doses have been discarded throughout the world. Pointing out to a significant under-reporting of vaccine wastage, the report highlighted few drug-makers.

With 25 million doses, Russia's Sputnik V has the highest wastage figures, followed by AstraZeneca, with claims of 19 million wasted jabs, the report said. The company noted that of the 14 billion vaccine doses supplied globally to date, 1.1 billion have been wasted and gone unused. Further, the new estimate shows that around 8 per cent of the 1.1 billion doses reportedly disbursed until now have gone unused. These are within the recommended range of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which assumed the wastage rate for Covid vaccines could be as high as 10 per cent, the report said. At the same time, the estimates also reflect a certain level of uncertainty toward the under-reporting of vaccine wastage in terms



of individual reports from nations' public health systems. "Despite countries' best efforts to avoid wastage, some degree is inevitable," said Dr Matt Linley, analytics director of Airfinity.

The report, by science and data analytics company Airfinity, assumed a 10 per cent wastage rate from June 2021 when global dose sharing began. The company noted that of the 14 billion vaccine doses supplied globally to date, 1.1 billion have been wasted and gone unused. "Large multi-dose vials can make efficiencies more challenging, as well as cold chain storage and predicting daily demand or simply a vial being dropped or left out too long. Vaccines in single-dose vials with a longer shelf life, which can be transported and stored more easily, will reduce

wastage over time," he added. Various organisations, including the WHO and UNICEF had called out countries to share vaccines equitably during the pandemic. Several rich countries also dumped about 100 million Covid-19 vaccines that were near expiry to the third world nations. "The vaccines were developed with unprecedented public funding and should be global public goods. But instead, vaccine monopolies have concentrated manufacturing and distribution in a handful of countries. And the needs of developing countries have been treated as an afterthought," said Julia Kosgei, policy advisor to global health campaigners the People's Vaccine Alliance.

FAKE DISABILITY CERTIFICATES

Admission of 11 SCS students cancelled



Bhubaneswar, July 13: The Higher Education department Wednesday cancelled the admission of 11 students of Samanta Chandra Sekhar (SCS) Autonomous College in Puri for submission of fake persons with disability (PwD) certificates. Higher Education department Deputy Director Rajesh Kumar Sahoo said the admission of 11 students of SCS Autonomous College has been cancelled due to submission of fake PwD certificates during the time of admission. The department has directed the Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) to update the same in the Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal, Sahoo added. The students whose admission has been cancelled are Priyanka Priyadarshini Barik, Nibedita Panigrahi, Satyajit Baral, Biswajit Dash, Papu Mohanty, Prasad Sahoo, Manu Palai, Ritan Das, Monalisa Sahoo, Sandhya Rani Mohanty and Anil Kumar Maharana. Earlier, the Higher Education department had cancelled the admission of 28 students of Bhadrak College for producing fake PwD certificates for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic sessions.

Earlier, the Higher Education department had cancelled the admission of 28 students of Bhadrak College for producing fake PwD certificates for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic sessions. In April this year, the authorities of BJB Autonomous College had filed a police complaint against eight students for submitting fake disability certificates, following which the Higher Education department cancelled their admission. In April this year, the authorities of BJB Autonomous College had filed a complaint with Badagada police against eight students for submitting fake disability certificates, following which the Higher Education department cancelled their admission. On January 24, the state government had asked all 1,054 degree colleges under the Higher Education department for conducting verification and authentication of disability certificates of students who have taken admission during the academic sessions of 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Free booster for all adults from July 15

Continued from P1
“The decision will further strengthen India’s fight against COVID-19 and add an extra layer of safety! I urge all those eligible to get their precaution dose at the earliest,” he added.

So far, less than 1 per cent of the target population of 77.10 crore in the 18-59 age group has been administered the precaution dose. However, 25.84 per cent of the 16.80 crore eligible population aged 60 and above as well as health care and frontline workers have received the booster dose, an official source said.

“A majority of the Indian population got their second dose over nine months ago. Studies at ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) and other international research institutions have suggested that antibody levels wane around six months after the primary vaccination with both doses... Giving a booster increases the immune response,” the official said.

The Union Health Ministry last week reduced the gap between the second and precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccine for all beneficiaries from nine to six months following a recommendation by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI).

To accelerate the pace of vaccination and encourage booster shots, the government initiated the second round of the ‘Har Ghar Dastak campaign 2.0’ across states and union territories June 1. The two-month programme is currently underway.

According to government data, 96 per cent of India’s population has been administered the first dose of Covid vaccine, while 87 per cent of people have taken both doses.

On April 10 this year, India began administering precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years.

Currently, all those aged 60 years and above, and health care and frontline workers are being administered precaution doses free of cost at government vaccination centres. The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out January 16 last year with health care workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2 last year.

India ranks 135th in gender parity

Continued from P1
On the health and survival subindex, India ranked the lowest at 146th place and figured among the five countries with gender gaps larger than 5 per cent - the other four being Qatar, Pakistan, Azerbaijan and China.

However, India was ranked the top globally in terms of gender parity for primary education enrolment and tertiary education enrolment and at the eighth place for the position of head of state.

Within South Asia, India was ranked the sixth best on overall score after Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan. Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan scored worse than India.

Can flu virus affect SARS-CoV-2 severity?

Coinfection of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A virus changes neither the trajectory, nor the severity of influenza A virus, regardless of timing. But if a person contracts influenza A virus first, the response to that infection can significantly suppress SARS-CoV-2, according to research.

“The research is important, because the human population now has two circulating respiratory RNA viruses with high pandemic potential: SARS-CoV-2 and influenza A,” said researchers from the New York University, Langone.

“As both viruses infect the airways, and can result in significant morbidity and mortality, it is imperative that we also understand the consequences of coinfection,” they added.

Several clinical studies had previously reported on co-infection of SARS-CoV-2 with other viruses. These viruses infect the same

Asst engineer held for amassing 333 pc DA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 13: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday arrested an assistant engineer of the Rural Works division in Nimapara for possessing disproportionate assets (DA), which is 333 per cent more than his known sources of income.

Searches were conducted at seven places in Khurda, Puri and Dhenkanal districts Tuesday by the Vigilance sleuths, following inputs that Dushmantha Dehury was possessing assets that were amassed illegally, the Vigilance sleuths said.

Movable and immovable assets worth Rs 3.54 crore were unearthed in the raids at the properties of Dehury, they added.

The assets include seven plots of land in Bhubaneswar and 21 plots in Dhenkanal. The registered sale deed value of these plots is around Rs 1.45 crore. However, the actual market price will be more, said the officials.

A triple-storey building in Bhubaneswar (Rs 92 lakh), three sin-

gle-storey buildings in Dhenkanal (Rs 32.77 lakh), two outhouses on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar (Rs 12.34 lakh), bank and insurance deposits (Rs 47.65 lakh) and Rs 1.62 lakh in cash were detected in his possession.

A four-wheeler worth Rs 11 lakh and two two-wheelers, gold and household articles worth Rs 12.18 lakh were also found by the Vigilance sleuths.

A case (40/13) has been registered against Dehury and his wife under the Prevention of Corruption Act and an investigation is on, they said.

SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED AT SEVEN PLACES IN KHURDA, PURI AND DHENKANAL DISTRICTS TUESDAY BY THE VIGILANCE SLEUTHS, FOLLOWING INPUTS THAT DUSHMANTA DEHURY WAS POSSESSING ASSETS THAT WERE AMASSED ILLEGALLY

MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE ASSETS WORTH RS 3.54 CRORE WERE UNEARTHED IN THE RAIDS

Govt orders CB probe into ‘atrocities’ on tribal women

Continued from P1

The Speaker should direct the government to order a Crime Branch inquiry or a judicial inquiry and constitute a House Committee to inquire into the incident so that no officer in future would dare to assault a woman, he demanded.

Describing the matter as serious and unfortunate, Majhi urged the Speaker to give a ruling for an inquiry into the incident.

“We demand a judiciary inquiry into the incident. We also demand a probe by a House Committee. The BJP will not rest until necessary action is taken in this regard,” said Majhi.

The Congress members trooped into the well and shouted slogans in support of their demand. The

BJP members later joined the congress and disrupted the proceedings of the house.

As the House plunged into a chaotic situation, the Speaker adjourned the house first at 12pm for 10 minutes and called an all-party meeting.

Subsequently, the proceedings were adjourned twice for 15 minutes each and finally till 4pm as the all-party meeting failed to reach a consensus.

In the post-lunch session, the House witnessed an adjournment for 15 minutes on this issue. Speaker asked MoS Home, Tusharkanti Behera to make a statement on this issue before ending of today’s businesses.

Accordingly, Behera informed the House that a Crime Branch IG will investigate the case.

PLEA TO SECURE FUTURE



Ukraine returnee medical students stage a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Ukraine returnee medicos seek admission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 13: Hundreds of Ukraine returnee medical students along with their parents Wednesday staged a demonstration at Lower PMG here seeking admission in Indian medical colleges.

They submitted a memorandum to state Health Minister in this regard.

Pratik Dhal, a second year student of Kharkiv National Medical university, Ukraine said that March 6, 2022, Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik had written a letter to Prime Minister of India requesting him to take up the matter with the National Medical Commission (NMC) and the Ministries concerned to facilitate continuance of studies of Ukraine Returned Students in Indian medical colleges.

Further, the CM had assured that the state government will fully support the government of India



Around 18,000 medical students, including around 470 from Odisha, were evacuated from Ukraine after the start of the war between the two neighbouring countries

for implementing workable solution for this purpose.

Since then, almost five months have passed but no decision has been taken for accommodation of students to complete their medical degree, said Soumya Prasad Sahoo a medical student.

There are around 470 Odia students who were pursuing their medical course in Ukraine but due to Russia-Ukraine war they had to return to Odisha. Uncertainty has gripped the students as their future

hangs in balance in view of incomplete studies.

Satya Narayan Samal, a parent, said there are approximately 18,000 medical students in different years of their studies that were evacuated from war-torn Ukraine. Out of which around 4,000 students are in the final year of their degree. NMC has permitted them to complete their internship in India.

Now this leaves 14,000 students to be accommodated from 1-5th year. In India, there are 606 medical

Odisha bandh July 19 over Ruchika suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 13: The student wing of the Naba Nirman Krushak Sanghathan (NNKS) has called for Odisha Bandh on July 19 demanding proper probe into the death of Ruchika Mohanty, who was a student of BJB Autonomous College here. NNKS Convenor Akshaya Kumar informed about the state-wide shutdown at a presser here Wednesday.

Mohanty committed suicide July 2 in a hostel room in BJB College campus, allegedly due to ragging. Kumar has called upon people to make the ‘Odisha Bandh’ successful.

He said, “Naba Nirman Krushak Sanghathan has called upon political outfits and every responsible citizen of the state to come forward and raise voice against state government’s failure to give justice to the victim.”

The farmer leader said that activists of the outfit will also stage a peaceful protest in front of the Police Headquarters in Cuttack July 17 over the issue. He has urged leaders cutting across party lines to extend support by joining the protest.

NGT LENS ON RIVERBED ENCROACHMENT



A team from the National Green Tribunal inspects Mahanadi near Hadia Patha in Cuttack, Wednesday, in connection with allegations of encroachment on the riverbed

OP PHOTO

Bolangir SC, ST students fail to reap Anwesha scheme benefits

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, July 13: The state government has launched Anwesha scheme to provide quality education to the students of scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) community by helping them study in selected English medium public schools in urban areas, a report said.

However, it has come as a poser for scores of guardians and students in Bolangir: Guardians are admitting their children on the basis of guidelines of Anwesha scheme but many of the students have failed to reap the benefit due to lack of proper implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, the admitted students were provided with financial assistance for a period of two years. However, hardship started pinching after the government stopped providing financial assistance to the students.

This infuriated the guardians as they staged a sit-in outside the office of the district welfare officer before the Covid pandemic. They relented after the district Collector and the district welfare officer assured them to look into their demands. However, the problem continues to remain unresolved.

The matter came to the fore after a delegation of district guardians association led by Drona Kumbhar submitted a memorandum to the Collector and demanded his intervention into the matter, Monday. They have warned to intensify their agitation if their demands are not met, Kumbhar said.

The state government launched the scheme in 17 districts from ed-



Under the scheme, the admitted students were provided with financial assistance for a period of two years

ucational session 2015-16. The scheme aims at providing the SC and ST students an opportunity to study in selected public schools in urban areas of their respective districts. The programme is currently being implemented in Angul, Bargarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nowrangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundergarh.

Since the scheme was new to the districts, many of the students were admitted in Odia medium schools like Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir and Vishwatma Vidya Mandir in Bolangir town.

Many students from these two communities are interested to study in public schools but often they do not get the chance. The scheme

was launched with an aim to help the SC and ST students get admission in public schools under the Anwesha scheme.

The guardians have been demanding that those students admitted in Odia Medium schools under the Anwesha scheme should be allowed to continue their study till Class-X. The students should also be provided with financial assistance and other benefits by the state government.

The students of the SC and ST communities studying in various other schools should be shifted to the schools listed under Anwesha scheme. Hostels should be constructed for them and government should ensure free supply of text books and uniforms, they said.

District welfare officer Alekh Biswal said some of the students were admitted to the Odia medium schools under the scheme despite guidelines directing them for admission only in public schools. The guardians have to admit their wards only in public schools to receive the benefit of the scheme, he said.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Daya 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-Cookiemana-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-9777682449, 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.

Dengue spreads in Bhadrak dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 13: Dengue is reportedly spreading its tentacles in Bhadrak district with six cases having been detected so far. The health officials have expressed concern over the issue and advised people to take precautionary measures, as per a report.

One person each has been detected with dengue in Agarpada, Dhamnagar and Tihidi areas while two cases were reported from



A special dengue ward with four beds was opened at the DHH while the civic authorities have started awareness campaigns in the areas

Bhadrak municipality area.

It was learnt that all the dengue patients have carried the vector-borne disease from other states.

Meanwhile, a special dengue ward with four beds has been set up at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) while the civic body authorities have started awareness campaign in the areas.

Now, after a few spells of rain, many drains in Bhadrak town have been choked, creating an atmosphere conducive to breeding of mosquitoes.

The authorities of the community health centres have been alerted about the rise in disease load.

CDMO Santosh Kumar Patra has directed ASHA workers to make door-to-door visits to sensitise people against the disease.

Villagers have demanded intensive drive by the health department to contain the spread of the disease. It was found that most of the people, particularly who go outside the state in search of jobs, come infected with dengue.

Contractor rapes minor tribal girl, absconding

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 13: A minor girl from Khadia community was allegedly raped and impregnated by a contractor under Betanoti police limits in Mayurbhanj district, police said Wednesday.

The survivor is now eight months pregnant out of the relationship while the accused is absconding. The matter came to the fore after the family members of the survivor lodged a complaint at Betanoti police station. The survivor narrated her ordeal before her family after being threatened by the accused. "A manhunt has been launched and the accused will be arrested soon," Betanoti IIC Balam Moharana said.

Police registered a case (208) under POCSO Act and started an investigation. Police also conducted

The survivor is now eight months pregnant out of the relationship with the accused

a medical check-up of the survivor and rehabilitated her at one stop centre in Baripada. The survivor also recorded her statement in the court after she underwent medical examination.

According to the FIR, the survivor was working as domestic help at the contractor's residence after the death of her father. There the accused coerced her into physical relationship after luring her with various offerings. After coming to know about her pregnancy, the minor informed the contractor. The accused, however, threatened her if she discloses the matter before others.



Santhal community members of Uparbeda village under Kusumi block in Mayurbhanj district performed rituals before their deity at Jaheragol shrine, Wednesday, praying for the victory of NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu

Landslide-hit families shifted to safety

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 13: At least 39 families affected by landslide in Nuapalli village under R Udayagiri block in Gajapati district were shifted by the administration to safer places. Debris removal work is underway with help of fire services personnel and ODRAF team.

Reports from R Udayagiri in Gajapati said seven houses in Nuapalli village were damaged after piles of earth and boulders smashed the structures. The situation in the village is likely to worsen if rains lash the area July 15 and 16 as predicted by weathermen.

At least 10 houses were damaged due to landslide in Gajapati district while major roads in Malkangiri and Kalahandi districts had been inundated and damaged due to overnight downpour even as the IMD forecast heavy to very rainfall in nine southern Odisha districts in next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, a man identified as Ganga Saura, 65, died after a wall of his house collapsed on him at



SEVEN HOUSES IN NUAPALLI VILLAGE UNDER R. UDAYAGIRI IN GAJAPATI DISTRICT WERE DAMAGED AFTER PILE OF EARTH AND BOULDERS SMASHED ON THE STRUCTURES

Dhandara village under Nandahandi block in Nabarangpur district late Tuesday night.

This apart, many areas in Odisha were battered by heavy to very heavy rain, leading to waterlogging in many places, the Met office said, explaining that this was due to a low pressure system (Lopar) forming Monday.

Heavy rainfall has thrown life out

of gear in Motu area of Malkangiri district bordering Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Communication between Malkangiri to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has been disrupted as rainwater up to a height of 6-8 ft was flowing on the road, an official said.

The rainwater was also seen flowing over major roads in Kalahandi district.

The Met advised fisher folk not to venture into the sea off Odisha coast's adjoining areas of west-central and northwest Bay of Bengal till Saturday.

Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district received 171.6 mm of rain over the past 24 hours till 8:30am, followed by 155mm in Ambadola in Rayagada, the met office said.

Meanwhile, the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) in a letter to all district Collectors said that the districts under orange and yellow warning are to remain in readiness to meet any eventuality particularly on waterlogging, landslide in hilly areas.

The SRC said that the Collectors should remain alert on waterlogging in low-lying areas and undertake dewatering wherever required both in the urban and rural areas.

"Situation may be closely monitored. Advice for fishermen should be strictly implemented and state emergency center to remain open. Report on the damage due to heavy rainfall should be intimated to the government," the SRC letter mentioned.

Illegal mining slur on construction firm



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 13: Illegal extraction of minor minerals by a consultancy firm beyond permissible limits has proved detrimental to the residents apart from causing huge revenue loss to the state government under Jujumura tehsil in this district, a report said.

Reports said Punj Lloyd Ltd, a construction major, is involved in the construction of National Highway-53 connecting Sambalpur and Tilebani in this district for which it has been permitted to extract stones from Niladunguri hill under Jujumura tehsil and establish a crusher unit in the area. Meanwhile, Punj Lloyd has sublet the work to DV agency in Chhattisgarh.

However, people are having a harrowing time after work started in the area. Illegal blasting at the crusher unit has taken a heavy toll on the people who alleged that portions of their houses have collapsed, walls cracked and trees felled after the firm started the road construction works in the area.

They have been protesting against this highhandedness for the last four years, but the agency is trying to silence them with the help of police. The firm officials are even threatening to lodge false police cases against locals. The

firm officials are also trying to placate some residents stating that the people have to bear with them for the development of the area.

The firm which is working in the area without considering the interest of the locals has also contributed to revenue loss for the state government.

It is alleged that the firm was given provisional permission for stone mining but it has extracted

more stones than the prescribed limits in connivance with the revenue officials, who, instead of taking action, are trying to shield the firm officials by imposing paltry sums as penalties.

According to an official of Jujumura tehsil, the firm has extracted 1.5 lakh cubic metre of stones in this stone quarry which is more than the prescribed limits and worth ₹2 crore on the basis of government rate. People have lodged several complaints against the highhandedness of the firm in various forums but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

NHAI project director S Venkateswar Rao said that it is for the district administration and Revenue department to see if any violation has been committed during stone mining.

When contacted, Jujumura tehsildar Mamata Nanda said she would conduct a probe to ascertain the veracity of the claims and take action if the charges are proved true.

Pension eludes 700 retired teachers

Litigations in some cases and the departmental negligence in some others are stated to be the reasons behind the delay in granting pension to the retired teachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 13: As many as 700 teachers retired several years ago are still deprived of pension allegedly due to negligence of the School and Mass Education department and litigation against some teachers, a report said.

According to the report, 700 teachers in 30 districts have not received their pension from 2015 to 2022. Sundargarh and Cuttack districts have the highest number of 98 such teachers.

This was revealed in a letter issued by the deputy director of the directorate of elementary education (DEE) in response to an order



Sundargarh and Cuttack districts have the highest number of 98 teachers each who are yet to receive pension

issued by the additional secretary of the School and Mass Education department. MLA Sanjib Kumar Mallick had raised a question in this regard in the Assembly.

As per the report, 15 teachers were retired in 2015; 37 in 2016; 75 in 2017; 115 in 2018; 174 in 2019 and 284 in 2020. But their full pension

has not been sanctioned.

During the six-year period, seven teachers in Angul, eight in Balasore, 28 in Bargarh, four in Bhadrak, 11 in Bolangir, five in Boudh, 98 in Cuttack, six in Deogarh, five in Dhenkanal, 22 in Gajapati, 69 in Ganjam, four in Jagatsinghpur, 41 in Jajpur, 38 in Jharsuguda, 34 in

Kalahandi, 13 in Kandhamal, 22 in Kendrapara, 37 in Keonjhar, 19 in Khurda, one in Koraput, four in Malkangiri, 21 in Mayurbhanj, 34 in Nabarangpur, 17 in Nayagarh, 22 in Nuapada, 12 in Puri, nine in Rayagada, eight in Sambalpur, two in Subarnapur and 98 in Sundargarh have been waiting for their pension.

Litigation in some cases and the departmental negligence in some others are stated to be the reasons behind the delay.

However, the DEE has directed the teachers concerned to communicate with respective block education officers (BEOs) to sort out their issues.

Students' dharna for teacher appointment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 13: Students of Keutiberna UP School under Naktideula block in this district staged a sit-in outside the Collectorate Wednesday, demanding immediate appointment of teachers.

The agitating students also had their midday meals outside the Collectorate as part of the protest against absence of teachers in the school for a fortnight.

ADM Umakanta Raj talked to the agitating students and guardians and announced the appointment of a teacher in their school four hours after their protest.

The ADM directed the Naktideula block education officer (BEO) to immediately appoint a teacher in the school.

Tourism tag for Ramchandi awaits govt nod



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 13: A proposal to accord a tourism destination tag to Ramchandi temple at Ramnagar under Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district has been pending for years with the government for approval.

Devotees and locals alleged that the proposal has been pushed into cold store due to the apathy of the state government.

Reports said, the district tourism department has submitted a detailed report about the shrine to the state Tourism department in 2017.

"However, the proposal to include

the place in the list of tourist spots has not yet been considered by the government. Managing temple affairs has become difficult for those looking after it," locals said.

Subash Swain, a member of Ramchandi Sena, a local outfit working for development of the shrine, said that one of the kings of erstwhile Kujang kingdom had donated several acres of land at Ramnagar, Petachella, Bhopal and Bardang mouzas to meet the expenses of the daily rituals and temple management, but most of the land has been grabbed by people.

The term of the temple trust came to

Former Collector Samarth Verma had ordered the administration to list out the problems, but no step was taken to resolve them

an end in 2017 but it has not been renewed. Several other problems of the temple are yet to be sorted out. Former Collector Samarth Verma was apprised of multiple problems of the temple. The Collector had ordered the administration to list out the problems, but no step was taken to resolve them.

Thousands of tourists while visiting Hukitola island and the Light House also set their foot on the shrine. In view of the tourist inflow, a pantha nivas was set up at the shrine in 1997-98. Thousands of devotees throng the place during Jhamu Yatra every year.

"If the place is accorded tourism spot status, various development works will be undertaken and tourist footfall will increase. This will create employment opportunities for the locals," observed Harekrushna Patra of Mahakalpara.

Safety of the temple is another issue. In the past, ornaments of the deities had been stolen twice. There is need for police patrolling in the area, locals said. Sub-collector Niranjan Behera said that the issues of the temple will be looked into during a field visit.

UCO Bank

Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, : C-2, Ashok Nagar, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar-751009, Ph.: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, Under the Securitization and Reconstruction Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the read said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the poroerties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on specified date	Date of Demand/ Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
1.	DELANG BRANCH Borrowers: 1) Tapan Kumar Mallick, S/O- Prahald Mallick, At- Benupada, P.O/P.S.- Delang, Dist- Puri./ Guarantor: Narendra Kumar Behera, S/O- Gajendra Behera, At- Patanpur, Post- Delang, Dist-Puri.	Rs. 6,03,389.40 as on 06.02.2016 + Interest and other expenses thereon.	19.01.2021 / 08.07.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.80, Plot No 565, Area-Ac 0.16 & 571, Area-Ac 0.02 Name of Sri Chandra Mallick, S/O- Dhobi Mallick, Mz-Benupada, Ps-Delang, Dist-Puri.
2.	DELANG BRANCH M/S- Mousumi General Store, Prop, Sauramya Ranjan Pradhan, S/O- Bhimsen Pradhan, At- Panchupalla, Post- Gualipada, Dist- Puri Guarantor: 1. Mr. Niranjan Pradhan, At- Panchupalla, Post- Gualipada, Dist- Puri. 2. Mr. Bhimsen Pradhan, At- Panchupalla, Post- Gualipada, Dist- Puri.	Rs. 6,04,537.97 as on 31.12.2015+ Interest and other expenses thereon.	12.02.2020 / 08.07.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.347, Plot No 166, Area-Ac 0.34, Name of Mr. Niranjan Pradhan and Mr. Bhimsen Pradhan, Mz-Panchupalli, Ps-Delang, Dist-Puri.
3.	DELANG BRANCH Mrs. Jayanti Rout,Dakapada, Delang ,Guarantor:1)Mr. Dama Rout S/o- Mr. Balakrushna Rout,Guarantor:2)Mr. Amin Rout S/o- Mr. Dama Rout,Delang,Puri.	Rs. 8,56,429.53 as on 30.11.2019 + Interest and other expenses thereon.	19.01.2021 / 08.07.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.55, Plot No 271,281,285, Area-Ac 0.120dec,Khata No-56,plot No-187 134 Area-Ac 1.260 and Khata No-184,Plot No-168 Area-ACO.790 Dec Name of Mr. Dama Rout .
4.	DELANG BRANCH Mr.Umakanta Nayak S/o- Mr.Dayanidhi Nayak Guarantor : Mr.Nalin Kanta Nayak,At-Delang Kothabada, Po-Delang, Dist-Puri.	Rs. 2,96,069.00 as on 31.12.2015 + Interest and other expenses thereon.	12.02.2020 / 08.07.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.241,Plot No-860,Area-Ac 0.17 Name of Mr.Nalin Kanta Nayak & Mr.Uma Kanta Nayak S/o-Mr. Dayanidhi Nayak MZ-Delang,Kothabada Ps-Delang, Dist-Puri.
5.	DELANG BRANCH M/S.Singh Auto Parts: Prop. Prasant Kumar Singh S/o- Bramahanand Singh,At-Ramchandrapur, Po-Delang Dist-Puri-752015.	Rs. 4,81,994.00 as on 30.06.2014 + Interest and other expenses thereon.	12.01.2021 / 08.07.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable property situated over Khata No.284/32,Plot No-314,567,580,Area-Ac 1.43,Dec,Area-Ac-0.06,Dec Area-Ac.0.14,Dec Name of Mr. Sukanta Kumar Singh Mz-Rama Chandrapur, Sro-Pipli, Bounded by E-Rajkishore Jena, W-Narendra Kumar, N-Govt. Pond, S-Purna Chandra Behera.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 14.07.2022

Authorised Officer, UCO Bank.

FOCUS IDEOLOGY

BETRAYAL OF THE LEFT



There is a common thread that unites many sitting and aspiring political leaders around the world, from Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping to Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans. All want to secure power and exercise it in arbitrary, unaccountable ways – precisely the threat that used to unite the international Left

While the Belarusian protests of 2020-21 were brutally crushed, the demonstrators can be reproached only for being too naive in their pro-Europeanism.

By contrast, the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol most certainly was not an “American Maidan.” There is growing evidence to show that it was largely orchestrated ahead of time, and that Trump – the most powerful man in the country – more or less knew what was in store for that day Still, immediately following the insurrection, before all the details were known, some of my Leftist friends channelled a sense of loss. “The wrong people are taking over the seat of power,” they lamented. “We should be doing it!”

Putin’s logic is clear: since Ukraine was (supposedly) a Communist creation, true decommunization requires that Ukraine be eliminated. But “decommunization” also conjures an agenda that aims to erase the last traces of the welfare state – a central pillar of the Left’s legacy. We therefore must pity all the Western “Leftists” who have emerged as apologists for Putin. They are like the “anti-imperialist” pacifists who claimed, in 1940, that the Nazi blitz across Europe should not be resisted.

For years, Russian and Chinese leaders have panicked whenever a popular rebellion has exploded somewhere in their sphere of influence. As a rule, they interpret such events as plots – their term for them is “colour revolutions” – instigated by the West. China’s regime is now at least honest enough to admit that there is deep dissatisfaction around the world. Its answer is to appeal to the shared sense of insecurity that many in positions of power feel. The Left’s response, by contrast, should be to maintain solidarity with those who resist aggressive, arbitrary power; whether in Ukraine or elsewhere. Otherwise, well, we all know how that movie ends.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School.
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

amounts to a rejection of America’s democratic system.

Consider this fact alongside the American public’s growing fatigue over the Ukraine war, and a dark prospect emerges: What if Biden’s predecessor, Donald Trump, wins the 2024 presidential election? In addition to cracking down on dissent and political opposition at home, he might also enter a pact with Russia, abandoning the Ukrainians in the same way that he did the Kurds in Syria. After all, Trump has never been reluctant to stand in solidarity with the world’s autocrats.

During Ukraine’s 2014 Maidan uprising, a leaked recording of a telephone call captured a senior US State Department official, Victoria Nuland, saying to the US ambassador to Ukraine, “F*ck the EU.” Since then, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been pursuing precisely that objective, supporting Brexit, Catalan separatism, and Far-right figures such as Marine Le Pen in France and Matteo Salvini in Italy.

The anti-European axis that unites Putin with certain trends in the US is one of the most dangerous elements in today’s politics. If African, Asian, and Latin American governments follow their old anti-European instincts and lean to-

ward Russia, we will have entered a sad new world in which those in power stand in lockstep solidarity with each other. In this world, what would happen to the marginalised and oppressed victims of unaccountable power whom the Left traditionally has defended?

Sadly, some Western Leftists, such as film director Oliver Stone, have long parroted the Kremlin’s claim that Maidan was a US-orchestrated putsch against a democratically elected government. This is plainly false. The protests that began on November 21, 2013, in Kyiv’s Maidan Nezalezhnosti may have been chaotic, featuring a variety of political tendencies and foreign interference; but there is no doubt that they were an authentic popular revolt.

During the uprising, Maidan became a huge protest camp, occupied by thousands of demonstrators and protected by makeshift barricades. It had kitchens, first-aid posts, and broadcasting facilities, as well as stages for speeches, lectures, debates, and performances. It was the furthest thing from a “Nazi” putsch that one can imagine. Indeed, the events in Maidan were of a piece with the Arab Spring and similar uprisings in Hong Kong, Istanbul, and Belarus.



Slavoj Žižek

FOR YEARS, RUSSIAN AND CHINESE LEADERS HAVE PANICKED WHENEVER A POPULAR REBELLION HAS EXPLODED SOMEWHERE IN THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE



Jayati Ghosh

Global food systems are clearly broken. They currently create unhealthy and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, as well as enormous waste, and must be upgraded accordingly

Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.

THE MOTHER



Earth for All

In 1972, the United Nations held its first-ever environmental summit in Stockholm. In the run-up to the event, a group of scientists wrote The Limits to Growth, a report for the Club of Rome that became an unlikely best-seller. The authors argued that Earth’s finite natural resources could not support ever-increasing consumption, and warned of likely ecological overshoot and societal collapse if the world did not recognise the environmental costs of human activity. Failure to change course would mean declines in per capita food and energy supplies, increasing pollution, lower standards of living, and the possibility of dramatic population collapses by the middle of the twenty-first century.

In the decades that followed, the report’s startling conclusions were probably more criticised than commended. Many brushed them aside as a Domsday scenario that human ingenuity and technological progress would render moot. But The Limits to Growth did not provide a single forecast. Rather, the authors explored several alternative paths based on different human strategies, and recent research by Gaya Herrington has shown that three of the four scenarios they outlined align quite closely with empirical data.

This is deeply worrying, because two of these three scenarios suggest a major collapse by mid-century while the third entails a smaller decline. Herrington argues that “humanity is on a path to having limits to growth imposed on itself rather than consciously choosing its own.”

But all is not lost: The fourth scenario, which involved significant economic and social transformations, allows for widespread increases in human welfare within Earth’s natural boundaries. This is the motivation behind Earth for All, a new report produced by the Club of Rome’s Transformational Economics Commission (of which I am a member) and a team of computer modelers.

The report’s authors argue that achieving well-being for all on a (relatively) stable planet is still possible, but will require major changes in economic organisation. In particular, it calls for five major initiatives to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, empower women, transform food systems, and overhaul energy systems by “electrifying everything.”

To flesh out these aspirations, the report advocates specific and interlinked strategies for achieving each one. Of course, this will require significant new investments, led by massive increases in public spending. Higher taxation, especially of the extremely wealthy and of large firms, must therefore be an important part of the agenda. Restricting the wealth and consumption of the super-rich is also important for limiting carbon dioxide emissions and unnecessarily wasteful consumption.

In addition, creating global liquidity (such as by issuing more special drawing rights, the International Monetary Fund’s reserve asset) and dealing with the sovereign-debt overhang would give developing-country governments more fiscal space.

Global food systems are clearly broken. They currently create unhealthy and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, as well as enormous waste, and must be upgraded accordingly. Regulation of markets for the public good will be critical in this process. More systematic and effective regulation is necessary not only with respect to food, but also in markets for goods and services, finance, labour, and land, and to those connected to nature and the environment.

The regulation we need demands democratisation of knowledge and wider access to new technologies, as well as recognition and dissemination of traditional knowledge. Giving women and workers more power is essential, not only for making societies happier, healthier, and more just, but also for stabilising population numbers.

Furthermore, the Earth for All report contains the results of a global modeling exercise that focuses specifically on two scenarios. The first, “Too Little Too Late,” is our current trajectory, in which governments and international institutions talk a lot about sustainability and climate change, but produce little transformative action.

This scenario points to growing inequalities and declining social trust, as people and countries turn against one another in competing for resources. Without sufficient collective action to limit the immense pressure on nature, Earth’s life-supporting systems (such as climate, water, soil, and forests) will keep deteriorating, and some regions will come close to or even cross irreversible tipping points. For many people already living in poverty and for many other species, what is effectively hell on Earth awaits.

But in the second scenario – “The Giant Leap” – policymakers seek to implement the five major shifts and do a much better job of increasing well-being. That means ensuring dignity (so that everyone has the means to live in security, health, and safety); nature (a restored and safe environment for all forms of life); and connection (a sense of belonging and institutions that serve the common good). It also means ensuring fairness (providing justice in all its dimensions, with much-reduced gaps between richest and poorest) and participation (actively engaged citizens in rooted communities and economies).

Achieving all this will not be easy, of course. Widespread, sustainable gains in well-being necessarily require active governments that are willing to reshape markets and pursue long-term visions for societies. This in turn requires both political will and a sea change in governments’ perceptions – and the latter is unlikely without significant public pressure and mass mobilisation. But, given our proximity to so many tipping points, the default option is terrifying: environmental devastation, extreme economic disparities and fragilities, and potentially unbearable social and political tensions.

So, Earth for All is not just a report – it is a call to action. Because the necessary changes are so big, they require determined social movements with broad participation. History shows that inertia and defeatism can become self-fulfilling. But it also shows that governments ultimately must respond to popular pressure or be replaced by it.

The writer, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM FOOD SECURITY

Malnutrition amid food self-sufficiency



Jitmitra Behera & Binod Kumar Behera

FOOD INSECURITY IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF NOT MERE UNCERTAINTY OF PRODUCTION BUT UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION AND PREVALENCE OF HIGH INFLATION

“Malnutrition is the single largest contributor to disease in the world,” stated the Food and Agriculture Organization, observing the negative effect of food insecurity and undernourishment issues around the globe. Research indicates that food insecurity is linked with higher risks of infection and illness such as anaemia, cognitive problems, anxiety and aggression. It is also allied with higher risks of vulnerability and poor general health, including depression and suicide ideation. Several studies on food security in the USA found that food-insecure children are no less than 1.4 times more exposed to asthma. Statistics from the UN show that, on average, one in three people (approximately 2.37 billion) did not have access to the minimum nutritional level of food in 2020. Unfortunately, a developing country like India is more prone to malnutrition, stunting, and wasting issues. In addition, India is passing through the dichotomy of a severe undernourishment problem and a self-sufficient food production.

On the one hand, the country is one of the largest farm producing nations with total food grain production of 308.65 million tonnes in 2020-21 (Economic survey); on the other hand, it accounts for 195 mil-

lion undernourished people (United Nations). Notably, in a poor state like Odisha, again, the problem of malnutrition and food insecurity is more serious. As per the NFHS-5, 64.2% of the children below 5 years and 61.8% of pregnant women between 14-49 years are anaemic. Specifically, Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Koraput districts (KKB) have been experiencing persistent poverty and malnutrition problems which distinguished the region as one of the most backward in the country and the world. However, Odisha scored 23.80 on the Indian State Hunger Index (ISHI), higher than the national level.

Here the question arises: What are the possible reasons behind such deprivation and insecurity despite having self-reliant food production? And what are the efficacies and inefficiencies of the policy measures undertaken to fight food insecurity? The first answer is that food insecurity is the consequence of not mere uncertainty of production but unequal distribution and prevalence of high food inflation. In other words, improper management is largely responsible, resulting in inaccessibility and unaffordability of food though it is available in certain cases.

Before discussing the management concern, we can have a glance

at the implemented policy measures. To get relief from these conundrums, policymakers have been adopting programmes to ensure food security at the state and the national levels. The government of India initiated a comprehensive programme called the Public Distribution System (PDS) to distribute rice, wheat, and kerosene to the deprived sections at subsidized rate. But because of its urban bias, the government restructured another programme – the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) – in 1997 to focus on BPL people in both urban and rural areas. To focus on the vulnerable sections, Antyodaya Anna Yojana was pioneered in December 2000. Again, under the Food Security Act 2013, the government introduced a ration card system to distribute essential staple foods. Several research studies suggest that MGNREGA plays a prominent role in assuring food security among the poor by providing purchasing power through employment creation and food for work. Besides, the mid-day-meal programme is added to secure the nutritional condition of children. Despite all the measures, food insecurity and undernourishment issues have been the core afflictions in the region.

It has been mentioned earlier

that the prominent reason is the system’s mismanagement. We must have observed the uncertainty and irregularity in ration supply at the ground level. It is generally due to lack of transport facilities, insufficient stock, and other issues. The inclusion of ineligible people and exclusion of the eligible are also significant causes in several cases. Because of this, in certain cases, BPL beneficiaries are forced to pay bribes to avail ration cards. At the same time, it is also observed the suppliers supply poor quality grains at ration shops to get a better margin. Another concern is that the government subsidy is limited to only rice and wheat and sometimes dal, which cannot be sufficient for nutritional value.

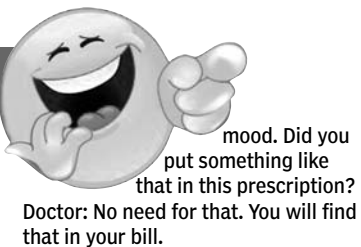
Moreover, a worry for the present generation is the excessive use of fertiliser, pesticides, and herbicides to enhance food grain production which lowers its nutritional value. It is the need of the hour to take care of such issues as they seem not merely a concern but instead appear like an infection affecting a sustainable healthy life.

Jitmitra Behera is a Ph.D. research scholar, IIT Indore and Binod Kumar Behera is a Ph.D. research scholar, CDS Trivandrum. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

- When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace. JIMI HENDRIX
- If your heart is a volcano, how shall you expect flowers to bloom? KAHLIL GIBRAN
- Unless one is able to live fully in the present, the future is a hoax. ALAN WATTS

LOL In a fighting mood



Patient: Doctor, what I need is something to stir me up; something to put me in a fighting mood. Did you put something like that in this prescription? Doctor: No need for that. You will find that in your bill.

Secrets of the universe

Sir, The US space agency NASA has released images from the James Web Space Telescope. These are the highest-resolution colour photographs in the universe. On this great success, the chief of NASA Bill Nelson said: “We look back 13 billion years. The light you see in these tiny particles travels for 13 billion years.” The NASA James Web Space Telescope was launched December 25 last year from a launcher base in French Guiana. The telescope was developed by NASA, the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency. It is the most powerful telescope in the world. The event is the largest international space science project in US history. NASA has added a number of advanced knowledge techniques to the telescope over time. It can reveal many secrets of the universe. The James Web Space Telescope is 100 times more powerful than the Hubble Telescope sent in 1990. Through it galaxies, meteorites and planets created in the early stages of the universe can be identified. This telescope will reveal the mysteries of the universe. *Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR*

Depravity in Indian politics

Sir, Frequent defections in politics bring into sharp focus the absolute depravity that exists in Indian politics. In Goa, the Congress narrowly managed to save itself another defection. The mass defection led by Eknath Shinde led to the toppling of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra. Similar cases of defections in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh had caused political turmoil. It is ironic that even when the political treachery called defection sabotages people’s mandate and damages the democratic system, the Supreme Court fails to pronounce radical judgements against this political betrayal. The Supreme Court’s judgements related to defection have always been inconsistent and unconvincing. While the Supreme Court is aware of the harm caused by defections in a democracy, it is faced with legal constraints. It is up to the Parliament to enact a strong anti-defection law. Even though the Parliament session is summing in a few days, the issue of defection is unlikely to be discussed seriously. Neither the government nor the Opposition seems to be concerned over the menace. Delay in finding a remedy for this evil will exacerbate the damage it causes to democracy. The sanctity of people’s mandate and the significance of democracy must be preserved. Any attempt to make a mockery of democracy and trivialise people’s mandate must not be tolerated. *Venu GS, KOLLAM*

Letters TO THE EDITOR Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com OrissaPOST B-15, Rissagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

Vaccination is an effective means to fight Covid-19. Today's Cabinet decision to administer free precaution doses to all citizens will further India's vaccination coverage and create a healthier nation



NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

We have heard of tall talks of investments in the state for the past three years. But in reality, no such investment has materialised as yet. Unless we open up against the system the future generation will never forgive us



JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | WB GOVERNOR

Citizenship is a major issue for Assam, and the government wanted to bring in the Act across the country but have not been able to do so yet



YASHWANT SINHA | OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

SHORT TAKES

Ten Maoist leaders held

Patna: A total of 10 Maoist leaders, including one who was found to be Covid positive, were arrested in raids at different places in Bihar's Aurangabad district in the last three days, police said Wednesday. Superintendent of Police, Aurangabad, Kantesh Kumar Mishra, said that these Maoist leaders were involved in many incidents and were wanted in several districts of Bihar. The police also recovered huge cache of arms and ammunition as well.

Elderly couple murdered in UP

Gonda: An elderly couple was found dead in their house in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district Wednesday. Additional Superintendent of Police Shiv Raj said that Zakir Mohammad, 75, and his wife Nanka, 70, were attacked by unidentified persons early in the morning when they were asleep. Their bodies were found in a room with heads crushed with a heavy object. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

Flood situation improves in Assam

Guwahati: The Assam flood situation improved Wednesday although one more person died and over 2.5 lakh people remained affected in five districts, a bulletin said. One person drowned in Kamrup area of Nagaon district, taking the total number of people killed in floods and landslides in Assam this year to 193. A total of 2,50,300 people remained hit by the floods in Cachar, Chirang, Morigaon, Nagaon and Tamulpur districts, the bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said.



The BJP made the Amarnath Yatra a political issue, instead of letting it stay a religious one

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

STRICT ACTION

The Army has initiated a series of measures to ensure that its new combat uniform is not misused, people familiar with the matter said Wednesday. They said the steps included preventing unauthorised sale of new uniforms and seeking a design patent for it. The new uniform was unveiled on Army Day January 15



MONSOON MISERY



High tidal waves hit food stalls during the monsoon season at Dadar beach in Mumbai, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

Cabinet approves new rail line project



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 13: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a new rail line project to connect more regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat, aimed at providing connectivity and improve mobility to the people of those areas. The alignment of the proposed doubling will traverse through Sirohi district of Rajasthan and Banaskantha and Mahesana districts of Gujarat. According to a statement, Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road new rail line would provide connectivity and improve mobility to people of the region. This line will facilitate faster movement of agricultural and local products and also provide improved mobility of the people in the region within the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan and also to other parts of the country. Ambaji is a famous important pilgrimage destination and is one of the 51 Shaktipeeths in India and attracts millions of devotees from Gujarat as well as other parts of the country and abroad every year.

RAINS BATTER VARIOUS PARTS OF INDIA

17 dead, thousands moved to safety

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 13: Incessant showers caused landslides and floods in various parts of the country leaving at least 17 people dead Wednesday while thousands more were forced to move to safety as rivers swelled and water reservoirs filled up fast. The Telangana government has announced education institutes in the state will remain closed till Saturday because of continuous rain that inundated low-lying areas and damaged road links in several places. Also, in Maharashtra's Palghar, Pune city and the neighbouring Pimpri Chinchwad area schools and colleges will remain shut Thursday due to a heavy rain forecast.



NDRF and fire services personnel carry out rescue and relief work following a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Vasai near Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

CHOLERA OUTBREAK KILLS 5 IN AMRAVATI

In a major public health concern, cholera outbreak has been reported from Maharashtra's Amravati district, affecting 181 people and claiming five lives in four villages in the past one week, health officials said here Wednesday. Besides, the state's second case of the vector-borne Zika virus has been reported in a minor girl in an Ashram School at Jhai village of Talasari block of Palghar district.

rainfall. In the Saurashtra region, Rajkot, Gir Somnath, Amreli and Jamnagar were among the districts that received heavy downpours. Rains have wreaked havoc in Maharashtra, causing a landslide in the Palghar district that killed a man and his daughter while four people were swept away in overflowing streams in the Gonda district. Both Palghar and Gonda districts have been witnessing very heavy rains since Tuesday night that inundated low-lying areas. Following the landslide in Palghar, at least 40 families in the neighbourhood of Waghralpada have been shifted to safety.

have also led to a rise in the water levels of various reservoirs in the state, with 30 of them being filled up to 70 per cent or more of their total storage capacity. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a 'red alert', predicting heavy rains till Thursday in Saurashtra and south Gujarat districts. Several parts of Kutch, Bharuch, Dang, Navsari and Tapi districts in south Gujarat received very heavy

With the monsoon trough active and continuing to be at a position south of its normal, very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is likely over Gujarat, the Western Ghat areas of Maharashtra, Konkan, and Goa Thursday and over Saurashtra and Kutch till Friday.

GOVT CALLS ALL-PARTY MEET

The Monsoon session of Parliament begins July 18 and will continue till August 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: Seeking a smooth functioning of the Monsoon session of Parliament beginning July 18, the government has called an all-party meeting on Sunday morning, while the presiding officers of the two Houses will also meet the floor leaders of various parties.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has convened the meeting of floor leaders on Saturday, while Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu will meet the floor leaders of various parties on Sunday evening. According to sources, the customary meeting of all parties has been called by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi on Sunday morning to discuss the agenda and seek their support for the smooth functioning of the Parliament session. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be

MONSOON PARL SESSION



present. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may attend the meeting as he has done so in the past. They said that Birla has invited floor leaders of various parties for a meeting Saturday evening at 4 pm. Naidu has convened the meeting July 17 at 6 pm. This will also be the last session for Naidu in his current term which is ending August 10. The notification for holding the election to the vice president's post has been made and the last date for filing nominations is July 19. Both the ruling BJP and the opposition are yet to name their candidates.

Court allows Aryan to get back his passport



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 13: A special court for Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases here Wednesday allowed Aryan Khan's plea seeking his passport back. The court also cancelled his bail bond.

Aryan, the son of Hindi film actor Shah Rukh Khan, got a clean chit from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in a drugs-on-cruise case in May this year. When he got bail after his arrest for alleged drug use in October 2021 during a raid on a cruise ship here, Aryan had deposited his passport with the court. The NCB, which filed the charge sheet in the case in May, did not name him and five others as accused, citing "lack of sufficient evidence." Following the 'clean chit' from the anti-drugs agency, Aryan's lawyers Amit Desai and Rahul Agarwal moved the trial court seeking his passport back.

SC to hear pleas challenging Agnipath scheme tomorrow



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 13: The Supreme Court will hear on Friday a group of petitions, challenging the newly-launched Agnipath recruitment scheme for defence forces. The batch of pleas will be heard by a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna. These include a plea by armed forces aspirants seeking an urgent hearing in the matter stating the scheme should not be made applicable to those who are already undergoing the selection process. It further contended that the matter was urgent, as the career of several aspirants was at stake, and pointed out that implementation of the scheme will cut short the tenure of the aspirants to 4 years from 20 years. Advocate ML Sharma also mentioned his plea seeking direction from the top court to quash the notification by the Ministry of Defence on June 14 announcing the scheme. Sharma said the government can bring out any scheme but it is about right and wrong. He added that more than 70,000 are still awaiting appointment letters.

New policy to fight air pollution in Delhi-NCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Wednesday unveiled a new policy which lists sector-wise action plans to curb air pollution in Delhi-NCR in the next five years. Only Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and electric autos will be registered in NCR from January 1, 2023. Fuels pumps in Delhi-NCR will not give fuel to vehicles not having a valid pollution-under-check certificate from January 1, 2023, it said. State governments have been asked to implement scrapping policy for the end-of-life vehicles that cannot be used any more. Delhi and all NCR states will

have to develop a plan to create a CNG and LNG fuelling network in NCR and on highways to shift long-haul trucking and other commercial vehicles to gas. "In view of much higher and escalating prices of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) as compared to conventional fuels, there is a case for uniform and affordable pricing structure to make operations economically viable while also maintaining the imperatives of protecting the air quality. PNG could be considered under the ambit of lower slabs under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime," the policy document read. The use of coal in industrial application will be banned from January 1, 2023. To prevent stub-

- According to the policy, all thermal power plants located within 300km radius of Delhi will have to ensure compliance with emission standards as per the deadline set by the Union environment ministry
- The policy talks about phasing out diesel-run auto-rickshaws in Gurugram, Faridabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad by Dec 31, 2024 and the remaining districts in NCR by Dec 31, 2026



ble burning, Punjab and Haryana will have to utilise 6 million tonnes and 2 million tonnes of paddy straw industrially applications, respectively as well as thermal power plants, biomass power and pro-

duction of bio-fuels by December 31, 2026. The policy also stressed the need to upscale the application of bio-decomposer solution, which decomposes paddy straw, in the harvest season this year. For ef-

fective traffic management, the policy mandates the development of early warning systems to inform commuters and plan route diversions in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar

and Ghaziabad districts. It also focuses on strengthening the quality of air pollution data and filling gaps through sensor-based monitoring to cover rural and peri-urban areas. Uninterrupted use of diesel generators will be allowed only for emergency purposes during the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) period. There will be no restrictions on diesel generator (DG) sets fully running on PNG, LPG, biogas, propane or butane. The policy was framed after the Supreme Court in December last year directed the CAQM to invite suggestions from general public and experts in the field to "find permanent solution to the air pollution menace" in Delhi-NCR.

Heavy rain claims 32 in Karnataka

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai says a sum of ₹500 crore will be released as an immediate assistance to restore basic amenities and infrastructure damaged during the recent heavy downpour in the state

AGENCIES

Udupi, July 13: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Wednesday said that 32 people have been killed in rain-related incidents in the recent past in the state. He said the state government will release Rs 500 crore to restore public infrastructure damaged in heavy rainfall and floods across Karnataka.

"Five persons are still missing and more than 300 persons have been evacuated to safe places against the backdrop of landslides and floods," he added.

Talking to reporters after holding a meeting with officials in Udupi, Chief Minister Bommai said 34 persons sustained injuries in the rain-related incidents.

Fourteen relief camps have been set up and eggs are being distributed to people to ensure nutritional food to them.

He said that coastal districts have borne the brunt of incessant rainfall in July. The three coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Kodagu districts have received additional rainfall this year in July. North Karnataka districts have also received more rainfall.

Four teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been pressed into service in



The government has ordered studies by agencies regarding earthquakes in Kodagu and Dakshina Kannada, landslides in coastal and Kodagu districts and sea erosion

Kodagu, Belagavi, Raichur districts and as many State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) teams are working in Belagavi, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts, he said.

He stated that the state government has ordered studies by agencies regarding earthquakes in Kodagu and Dakshina Kannada, landslides in coastal and Kodagu districts and sea erosion.

To study repeated earthquakes in Kodagu and coastal region, the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the National Geophysical Research

Institute (NGRI) and Universities of Bengaluru and Mysuru have been asked to conduct studies and find out solutions.

"Amrutha University has experts in the field of studying landslides and they have taken up the research in Kodagu district. The order will be given to conduct the study of Western Ghats region," he said.

Karnataka has 330 km of sea shore. Though Rs 300 crore have been spent for prevention of sea erosion here, the problem still persists.

"Our state will implement modern wave breaker technology implemented by the Kerala government. It will be implemented on a trial basis for 1 km and later will be extended to the whole stretch," Chief Minister Bommai said.

Bommai maintained that he will visit Karwar, Belagavi and other north Karnataka districts next week.

Five people were killed in Dakshina Kannada district while three in Uttara Kannada districts in rain-related incidents.

Crops in 214 hectare of Dakshina Kannada and 129 hectare in Udupi were damaged. Rainfall has damaged 355 hectares of agricultural and horticultural lands.

As many as 429 houses in Dakshina Kannada, 437 houses in Uttara Kannada and 196 in Udupi have been damaged. In total, 1,062 houses were damaged in three districts, in which 55 were damaged fully and 26 houses suffered major damages, the chief minister said.

He said that 727 km road in Dakshina Kannada, 500 km in Uttara Kannada and 960 km in Udupi are damaged. In total, 2,187 km of road has been washed away.

Around 5,595 electric poles, 427 transformers, 168 bridge, culverts have been destroyed by floods triggered by heavy rain in three districts.

Centre's draft notification on Western Ghats opposed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bengaluru, July 13: Legislators from Malnad region will meet under the leadership of Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra July 18, during which they are likely to adopt a resolution opposing the Centre re-issuing a draft notification on Western Ghats ecologically sensitive area.

Several public representatives from the Western Ghats area are of the opinion that the Centre's move is detrimental to people living there.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had recently re-issued the draft notification of the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in Western Ghats, of which 20,668 sq km is in Karnataka.

With the lapsing of the earlier notifications, the MoEF&CC has reissued the same. Karnataka Forest Minister Umesh Katti too has recently said he will hold a meeting with the department officials, legislators and stakeholders from the region to decide on the next course of action.

"If this notification is implemented, it will lead to gloominess to the lives of people living in the Malnad region, developmental works will get affected and it will cause severe economic distress,"



Several public representatives from the Western Ghats area are of the opinion that the Centre's move is detrimental to the people living there

Jnanendra was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his office.

He noted that the Karnataka government has already rejected the Kasturirangan committee report and has repeatedly made its stand clear.

"It is the strong opinion of the legislators from the region that there should be no change in that

stand taken by the state, and a resolution will be adopted by legislators at the Monday meeting opposing the draft notification," the minister said.

The Kasturirangan report of 2013 had also recommended 20,668 sq km of ESA in Karnataka.

The Centre has notified a total 46,832 sq km spread across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. The draft notification has been rejected multiple times by the states concerned, including Karnataka.

Declaring Western Ghats as ESA would regulate certain human activities including mining and constructions among others that many say pose a threat to fragile ecosystems.

Kannada actor shot at, escapes unhurt



AGENCIES

Belagavi, July 13: Kannada actor Shivaranjan Bolannavar escaped unhurt when unknown assailants fired three rounds at him near his residence in Bailhongal and fled, police said Wednesday.

"The actor was the target, but he is safe. A hunt is on for the assailants," a police officer told PTI. He said the 50-year-old actor had gone to visit his parents in Bailhongal Tuesday night. "When he was knocking on the door, the motorcycle borne assailants appeared outside and opened fire at him, but none of the bullets hit him..." the officer said.

Shivaranjan has acted in several movies including Veera Bhadra, Bisi Rakta, Aata Hudugaata, Amrutha Sindhu and Raja Rani. He earned recognition for his work in Amrutha Sindhu, in which his co-star was actress Shruthi.

GURU PURNIMA FERVOUR



Buddhist monks perform rituals on the occasion of Guru Purnima at Maha Bodhi Society in Bengaluru, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

'Cong sees politics in emblem on Parl roof'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mangaluru, July 13: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Wednesday said the Centre has already issued clarifications on the controversy over national emblem installed atop the new Parliament building.

Answering queries from reporters at Manipal in Udupi on the allegation that the emblem does not resemble the statue in Sarnath, he said it depends on the eyes of the beholder.

He said the emblem designed is similar to that at Sarnath and the face of the lion is also the same.

The Opposition's charge of fierceness in the new emblem is reflection of their way of thinking, he said.

"Its fierceness shows our way of thinking. The angle from which the Congress looks at it is different as they are trying to see politics in it." A fresh row erupted Tuesday over the national emblem atop the new Parliament building, with the opposition accusing the central government of giving a "ferocious" look to the sculpture and insulting the symbol, while the BJP dismissed it as yet another "conspiracy" to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



84 prisoners to be released on I-Day

The Karnataka government has decided to release 84 prisoners lodged in different jails across the state on the occasion of celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on the basis of good conduct, sources said Wednesday. It has been a tradition in the state to release prisoners during the celebration of Independence Day every year.

They will also benefit the helicopter services for the pilgrims, he added.

Schoolkids' trip to mosque takes communal turn



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chamarajnagar, (Karnataka) July 13: Hindu bodies across Karnataka have come down heavily on the management of a school for taking students on a trip to dargah and mosque on the eve of Bakrid in Gundlupet city of the district.

Strongly objecting to it, the Hindu Jagarana Vedike has raised the issue with the education department and submitted a complaint in this regard.

Authorities of Young Scholar School had taken UKG students on a trip to dargah and the mosque of Terakanambi town July 8.

Local people allege that the students were made to offer prayers

at the mosque and given preaching at dargah by a religious leader leading to a public outrage against the school management.

Despite the school management apologising for it and assuring action against the teachers concerned, the issue has taken a communal turn and is being discussed largely on social media.

According to the education department officials, the teachers had informed parents about the trip. The school management had apologised for the incident and has been instructed not to take children without informing the department. Apparently, the school in question is owned by a BJP leader and the trip was a part of introducing new places to children.

4 pilgrims feared drowned in Ganga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, July 13: Four pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh were feared drowned after their car fell into Ganga river in Uttarakhand's Tehri district Wednesday morning, police said.

A search operation has been launched despite the river overflowing following heavy rainfall but the victims could not be found yet, they said.

A State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team, which was leading the rescue efforts, crossed a gorge

with the help of ropes to reach the river bank, police said.

The number plate of the car, some bags, an Aadhar card of a person named Pankaj Sharma (52) and a mobile phone have been recovered from the river so far, they said. A team of divers is also at the spot, police said.

Sharma's relatives said he, along with Gulveer Jain, 40, Nitin, 25, and Harsh Gurjar, 19, had left for Kedarnath from Meerut July 10.

The four were returning from the Himalayan temple Wednesday when their car fell into the river, they said.

Automatic weather station in Kedarnath

AGENCIES

Rudraprayag, July 13: Authorities in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand have set up an automatic weather station at Kedarnath for getting round the clock precise weather updates from the Himalayan temple town, officials said Wednesday.

The weather station was established with the help of scientists from IIT-Kanpur, they said.

Weather conditions in Kedarnath, which was the epicentre of the 2013 deluge in which



hundreds of people died, are precariously changing every minute.

The automatic weather station will help keep devotees visiting the temple during the Char Dham yatra updated with the weather

conditions of the area, the officials said.

The weather station has been developed by IIT Kanpur Prof Indrasen at the request of Rudraprayag district administration, they said.

Rudraprayag district magistrate Mayur Dikshit said apart from making the pilgrimage to Kedarnath smooth for devotees, the weather station will also help in improving the reconstruction work going on there.

It will also benefit the helicopter services for the pilgrims, he added.

Gang of drug peddlers posing as nomads busted

AGENCIES

Bengaluru, July 13: Karnataka Police Wednesday said that it has busted an inter-state gang of drug peddlers who posed as nomads.

The Central Crime Branch (CCB)'s Anti-Narcotics Wing arrested four persons, including two women and seized 5 kg hashish oil worth Rs 4 crore and 6 kg ganja from them, an official statement said.

According to the police, the inter-state gang ran a full-fledged network in the country. They resided in remote villages located in Araku and Senthipalli forest regions of Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh. They had connections with drug peddlers of Bengaluru, Kochi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities. The accused called the drug peddlers from

various cities to Nellore, Guntur, Vijayawada, Puttaparthi railway stations and Hyderabad city bus stand and took orders from them. They received advance money in cash at the same time, police said.

The accused would hoodwink forest and excise checkpoints personnel in Araku and Senthipalli forest areas and travel as nomads. They would walk a distance of 25 to 30 kms inside the forests.

They would manufacture hashish oil using the ganja grown in the forests as per the orders and take the same route on the return journey. They would travel in buses and trains and the women would hide the drugs in bags containing fruits, vegetables, rice and wheat, the police said.

The accused would put up makeshift tents beside the railway



stations. The peddlers would come to the stipulated places and take delivery of the drugs. The accused never used mobile phones and identity cards and they never stayed at

one place and lived as nomads to escape from coming on the radar of the authorities.

Joint Commissioner (Crime) Raman Gupta stated that the ac-

MODUS OPERANDI

- The accused would hoodwink forest and excise checkpoints personnel in Araku and Senthipalli forest areas and travel as nomads
- They would put up makeshift tents beside the railway stations
- The peddlers would come to the stipulated places and take delivery of the drugs
- The accused never used mobile phones and identity cards and they never stayed at one place and lived as nomads to escape from coming on the radar of the authorities

cusped have been remanded to judicial custody and appreciated the efforts of Deputy Commissioner of Police BS Angadi, investigation officer BS Ashok and other staffers.

of the day quote

My government is committed to all round development of the state

India is witnessing a transitional phase towards self-reliance in defence sector and active and collective efforts are central to realise the dream of Aatmanirbhar Bharat

The caravan of militancy will not end. Their (BJP) ministers and other leaders issue statements that it has ended, but I want to tell them that this will not end till you do not try to win the hearts of the people of Kashmir and seek its solution after talking to our neighbouring country

SHORT TAKES

Over 600 IEDs seized by CoBRA

New Delhi: An assortment of more than 600 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and around 500 detonators have been recovered by CoBRA commandos during a recent anti-Naxal operation in Bihar, officials said Wednesday.

LoC: Army foils infiltration bid

Jammu: Alert troops of the army Wednesday foiled an infiltration bid by terrorists along the line of control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district.

UP: Teacher dies in school

Lucknow: A 64-year-old teacher of a prominent school on Vidhan Sabha Marg died after sustaining grievous injuries under mysterious circumstances in the school.

2 dead, 22 injured in UP road mishap

Bulandshahr: Two men were killed and 22 others were injured in a road accident on the Bulandshahr-Anupshahr Road Wednesday, police said.

45 hand guns seized at IGI

New Delhi: The Customs department has seized as many as 45 hand guns from two passengers -- both Indian nationals, here at the Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, an official said Wednesday.



Happy Guru Purnima! Gurus play an invaluable role in our lives from imparting knowledge to moulding character to enlightening us with wisdom and leading us to a brighter future

HUGE LOSS

Heavy rainfall in South and Central Gujarat has caused huge damage to standing crops, power supply network, district and state highways, government and private properties



MY VOTE, MY RIGHT



A woman shows her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote for the second and last phase of Madhya Pradesh local bodies elections in Katni district, Madhya Pradesh

SC to hear pleas against K'taka HC's ban on hijab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to hear next week a batch of pleas challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state.



The high court had dismissed the petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi, seeking permission to wear hijab inside the classroom.

No stay on demolitions: SC

The apex court wondered how it could pass an omnibus order on demolitions if there is an illegal construction and the corporation or the council is authorised to take action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to pass an interim direction staying demolition of properties of accused involved in violent protests across various states.



violence is carried out. At the outset, senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, said this matter is "extraordinarily" serious and submitted that he came across a report in a newspaper where someone was accused of murder in Assam and his house was demolished.



submitted there is no material to show that other unauthorised houses were acted against and there is a "pick and choose" against other communities.

Senior advocate C U Singh, also appearing for one of the petitioners, said despite the status quo order in Delhi's Jahangirpuri, the same modus operandi was followed in city after city.

Top court to hear 'Ram Sethu' plea July 26

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to hear July 26 the plea of BJP leader Subramanian Swamy seeking a direction to the Centre to declare the 'Ram Sethu' as a national heritage monument.

India, China likely to hold talks July 17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: India and China are likely to hold the 16th round of high-level military talks July 17 to resolve the issues in remaining friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

friction points besides seeking resolution of issues in Dopsang Bulge and Demchok. "The 16th round of Corps Commander-level talks are likely to take place on July 17," said a source.

The situation in eastern Ladakh figured prominently in last week's talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bali.

AIADMK INTRA-PARTY FIGHT Security provided to residences of OPS, EPS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 13: With both Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) and O Panneerselvam (OPS) claiming to operate the bank accounts of AIADMK, Tamil Nadu police have provided security to the residences of both the leaders.



He also said that he had already challenged the posting of Palaniswami as the interim general secretary before the Election Commission of India as well as in Madras High Court.

ICMR releases standard treatment for 54 common illnesses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released a set of new standard treatment guidelines for 54 common conditions across 11 specialities for use by physicians at all levels of public health care.

app on Tuesday, an ICMR statement said on Wednesday. On this occasion, Prof (Dr) Balram Bhargava, Secretary, DHR, and Director General, ICMR, said, "The burden of delivering healthcare at the peripheries predominantly rests on primary care physicians who have been doing a phenomenal job.



With growing new scientific evidence and rising healthcare costs, the healthcare providers regularly require simple standard treatment guidelines, workflows and reference manuals

egy, including international dissemination, involving various stakeholders needs to be planned, he added.

The ICMR released volume I with 53 conditions in 2019 and volume II with 18 conditions exclusively focused on tuberculosis in March this year.

as well as tertiary levels and help in optimal utilisation of resources," he said. Sharma said it will help towards attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as the Indian healthcare system is gearing up by initiating several schemes like National Health Protection Scheme, Ayushman Bharat, Nutrition Supplementation Scheme, Inderdhanush Scheme etc.

international



The hegemonic approach of Western governments during the past centuries and their unlimited encroachment on natural resources has been one of the main factors of environmental problems

IN A FIRST FOR VATICAN

Pope Francis has named three women, two nuns and a lay woman, to a previously all-male committee that advises him in selecting the world's bishops, the Vatican said Wednesday. The three women are sister Raffaella Petri, French nun Yvonne Reungoat and Italian lay woman Maria Lia Zervino



of the day quote

Add India to this new situation, where Israel is a bridge with Europe and India another big trading partner in the whole context - it will be a game changer

The United States is a proud Pacific nation and has an enduring commitment to the Pacific islands which is why President Joe Biden and I seek to strengthen our partnership with you

We have to make sure that we have enough diesel for the Brazilian agribusiness and, of course, for Brazilian drivers. So that's why we were looking for very reliable suppliers of diesel and Russia is one of them

Gotabaya: Civil war victor brought down by stirs

Gotabaya Rajapaksa was part of one of Sri Lanka's most powerful political families in the country's post-independence history. Unlike his elder brother Mahinda, who dominated Sri Lankan politics for nearly 20 years in stints as president and prime minister, Gotabaya did not set out for a life in government

REUTERS

Colombo, July 13: Sri Lanka's Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who oversaw a ruthless crushing of Tamil Tiger guerrillas to end a long-running civil war and went on to become president, had been due to step down Wednesday to appease a population angry over several tumultuous months of economic and political crisis.

He chose to do so by fleeing the country. An immigration official said Rajapaksa, his wife and two bodyguards left the country by a Sri Lankan air force plane in the early hours of Wednesday. A government source said he had gone to Male, the capital of the Maldives.

After the dramatic storming of the president's official residence by protesters Saturday, the speaker of parliament had said in a video statement that Rajapaksa had informed him that he would step down Wednesday.

Sri Lanka has been run by the powerful Rajapaksa family for the

better part of the last two decades. Gotabaya Rajapaksa was elected as the country's president in November 2019.

Instead he joined the army at the age of 21, serving for two decades and rising to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Taking early retirement he emigrated to the United States, where he worked in information technology.

Gotabaya's entry into politics came when Mahinda became Sri Lanka's president in 2005 and tapped him as defence secretary, putting him in charge of the war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a guerrilla group that was fighting for an independent state in the north and east of the country.

After 26 years of conflict, the Tigers eventually conceded defeat in 2009 following a ferocious government offensive in which the United Nations has estimated as many as 40,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final few months of the war alone. The government has countered that the rebels kept



thousands of civilians as human shields, exacerbating the death toll.

Though he stepped down in 2015 when Mahinda lost power, the Rajapaksas, perceived as tough on extremism, were able to step back into the political limelight after coordinated suicide bombings by Islamist militants that killed more than 250 Easter Sunday, 2019.

Hit hard by the pandemic and populist tax cuts, Sri Lanka fell into its worst economic crisis since the end of colonial rule in 1948. Shortages of essentials and rampant inflation brought thousands on to the streets in months of protests this year.

Do what is necessary to restore order: PM to army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo: Acting President of Wednesday said there was a fascist threat to democracy in the country and vowed to restore normalcy as well as stop the destruction of state property, hours after anti-government protesters stormed his office.

In his first televised address since being appointed to the post after embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives, Wickremesinghe said he had ordered military commanders and the

"police chief to do what is necessary to restore order".

"We must end this fascist threat to democracy. We can't allow the destruction of state property. The President's office, the President's Secretariat and the Prime Minister's official residence must be returned to proper custody," he said.

Wickremesinghe said he has ordered military commanders and the police chief to do what is necessary to restore order.

TIMELINE OF CRISIS

- April 1: State of emergency
- April 3: Cabinet resigns
- April 5: President loses majority
- April 5: Medicine shortages
- April 5: Foreign debt default
- April 10: Medicine shortages
- April 19: First casualty as police kill a protester
- May 9: Day of violence
- May 10: Shoot-to-kill orders
- June 10: Humanitarian emergency, says UN
- June 27: Fuel sales suspended
- July 1: New inflation record
- July 9: President's home breached
- July 13: President flees country

SHORT TAKES

Biden kicks off Mideast visit

Tel Aviv: President Joe Biden arrived in Israel Wednesday to open the first visit to the Middle East of his presidency, a whirlwind four-day trip in which he will hold talks with Israeli, Palestinian, and Saudi Arabian officials. Biden is spending two days in Jerusalem for talks with Israeli leaders before meeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas Friday in the West Bank. He will then fly directly from Israel to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia -- a first for a US president -- Friday for talks with Saudi officials and Gulf allies attending a summit in the port city.

Macron faces 1st defeat in Parl

Paris: France's government has suffered its first defeat in parliament after President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party lost its majority in elections last month. The National Assembly rejected a proposal Tuesday night to give the government powers to demand travellers show proof of vaccination or a negative Covid-19 test when entering France. The defeat by 219 votes to 195 saw all the major opposition parties -- the far-right National Rally (RN), the hard-left LFI, and rightwing Republicans (LR) -- unite against the minority government.

Pak likely to face economic crisis

Islamabad: Cash-starved Pakistan could face a serious economic problem as its foreign exchange reserves are depleting fast amid rising external debt servicing, according to a media report Wednesday. The country's external debt servicing rose to \$10.886 billion in the first three quarters of 2021-22 compared to \$13.38 billion in the entire FY21. It was just \$1.653 billion in 1QFY22 against \$3.51 billion in the first quarter of 2020-21, but it jumped to \$4.357 billion in 2QFY22 and to \$4.875 billion in 3QFY22.

Unseasonal floods claim 39 in Afghan

Islamabad: Unseasonal rains and flooding have killed at least 39 people -- including nine children -- in Afghanistan, the United Nations said Wednesday. Fourteen other people were wounded, according to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The rains have caused landslides, exposing unexploded ordnance from four decades of war and conflict.

State of emergency declared as massive protests engulfed Colombo after Prez flew to the Maldives

Tear gas shells were fired as thousands of people mobbed PM Ranil Wickremesinghe's office, took over his residence

Sri Lanka Prime Minister too has said he will step down once an all-party government is ready to take over

Political parties of Lanka have stepped up efforts to form an all-party govt and elect a new Prez

The Indian High Commission in SL denied reports that India had helped Prez and his brother Basil flee

Military calls for political resolution

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF GENERAL SHAVENDRA SILVA URGES PROTESTERS NOT TO VANDALISE STATE OR PRIVATE PROPERTY

Colombo: Sri Lanka's military and the police Wednesday requested the Speaker of Parliament to call an all-party leaders' meeting and inform them of the steps they will take to ensure a political resolution to the "current conflict" in the run up to the appointment of a new president.

In a statement, Chief of Defence Staff General Shavendra Silva made "a special appeal" to the people, especially the youth, to support the three forces -- Army, Navy and Air Force -- and the police to



maintain law and order in the country. "We, the tri-forces commanders and the Inspector General of police have requested the

Speaker (Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena) to call an all-party leaders meeting and inform us of the steps they will take to ensure a political resolution to current conflict in the run up to the appointment of a new president," Silva said in a televised address flanked by the heads of Air Force, Army, Navy and Police.

"Until these decisions are made and a new president is elected, we appeal to the public to support the military and police to maintain peace and law and order," he said.

Scorching heatwave ignites wildfires in European countries



Leiria, July 13: Over 20 wildfires raged across Portugal and several burned in western Spain Wednesday, menacing villages and disrupting tourists' holidays amid a heatwave that meteorologists expect to push temperatures into the high 40s Celsius.

In France too, about 800 firefighters, supported by six water-bomber aircraft, were battling two wildfires in the southwest, which have already prompted the evacuation of thousands of campers, Gironde prefect Fabienne Buccio said.

In Portugal's southern Algarve region, popular with tourists, authorities blocked access to the Quinta do Lago luxury resort and golf course as thick plumes of smoke rose from an area next to it.

In the central district of Leiria north of Lisbon, where temperatures soared to 45 degrees Celsius (113°F), authorities blocked a major motorway. Flames and thick smoke could be seen on both sides of the road, while helicopters and aircraft dropped water.

Nearly 800 firefighters were combating two active blazes in the area, while in the whole of mainland Portugal 2,124 firefighters, backed by 28 aircraft, were fighting 24 forest blazes.

UK PREMIERSHIP RACE

Sunak gains early edge

The next round of voting by the 358 Conservative members of Parliament to pick their favourites left on the ballot paper is scheduled for Thursday, when the field of candidates will be narrowed down even further to a shorter list of finalists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 13: Former Chancellor Rishi Sunak extended his lead in the UK prime ministerial race Wednesday with the highest number of votes at 88 in the first round of voting by Conservative Party MPs, which narrowed down the race from eight to six candidates on the shortlist.

Fellow Indian-origin candidate, Attorney General Suella Braverman, features last on the latest tally with 32 votes, behind Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt (67 votes), Foreign Secretary Liz Truss (50 votes), former minister Kemi Badenoch (40 votes) and backbencher Tom Tugendhat (37 votes).

Newly appointed Chancellor Nadhim Zahawi and former Cabinet minister Jeremy Hunt are out of the race after not being able to attract the requisite votes of at least 30 MPs, at 25 and 18 backers respectively.



While Sunak, 42, has maintained a steady lead among his Tory parliamentary colleagues since he declared his intention to run for party leadership last week, the Conservative Party membership base which will have the final say seems to be building momentum behind Penny Mordaunt.

Sunak, Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's son-in-law, told the BBC he feels "great" about the result of the first round of voting.

At this early stage of the contest, the race seems to be narrowing down into a three-way Sunak, Mordaunt and Liz Truss clash, but the field is still seen as wide open.

SUNAK GETS STRONGEST BACKING

MORDAUNT PICKS UP SECOND PLACE, TRUSS THIRD

NEW LEADER FACES DAUNTING INBOX

headquarters to organise a series of hustings in different parts of the UK for the final two to pitch their campaign pledges to the estimated 200,000 Conservative Party membership.

The candidate who receives the most votes will be elected the new Conservative Party and British Prime Minister leader September 5, taking over from Boris Johnson.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for Truss, said: "Now is the time for colleagues to unite behind the candidate who will cut taxes, deliver the real economic change we need from day one and ensure Putin loses in Ukraine. Liz has the experience to deliver the benefits of Brexit from day one, grow our economy and support working families."

Mordaunt, who got 67 votes, released a video in which she thanked "everyone who has supported my campaign". Tom Tugendhat said: "This is a fantastic result."

China says it 'drove' away US destroyer

Monday marked the sixth anniversary of a ruling by an international tribunal that invalidated China's sweeping claims to the South China Sea, a conduit for about \$3 trillion worth of ship-borne trade each year

REUTERS

Beijing, July 13: A US destroyer sailed near the disputed Parcel Islands in the South China Sea Wednesday, drawing an angry reaction from Beijing, which said its military had "driven away" the ship after it illegally entered territorial waters.

The United States regularly carries out what it calls Freedom of Navigation Operations in the South China Sea challenging what it says are restrictions on innocent passage imposed by China and other claimants.

The US Navy said the destroyer USS Benfold "asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Parcel Islands, consistent with international law".

China says it does not impede freedom of navigation or overflight, accusing the United States of deliberately provoking tensions. The People's Liberation Army's Southern Theatre Command said the US ship's actions seriously violated China's sovereignty and se-

curity by illegally entering China's territorial waters around the Paracels, which are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan.

"The PLA's Southern Theatre Command organised sea and air forces to follow, monitor, warn and drive away" the ship, it added, showing pictures of the Benfold taken from the deck of the Chinese frigate the Xianning.

"The facts once again show that the United States is nothing short of a 'security risk maker in the South China Sea' and a 'destroyer of regional peace and stability'."

The US Navy said the Chinese statement on the mission was "false" and the latest in a long string of Chinese actions to "misrepresent lawful US maritime operations and assert its excessive and illegitimate maritime claims at the expense of its Southeastern Asian neighbours in the South China Sea".

The United States is defending every country's right to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, and nothing China "says otherwise will deter us", it added.





The world has not seen an energy crisis as it is witnessing now, in terms of depth and complexity
FATH BIROL | IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHINA TRADE SURPLUS ZOOMS TO RECORD

China's monthly trade surplus soared to a record \$97.9 billion in June as export growth picked up after anti-virus controls that shut down Shanghai were lifted. Exports rose 17.9% over a year ago to \$331.2 billion, up from May's 16.9% growth. In a sign of Chinese economic weakness, imports rose just 1% to \$233.3 billion, pushing up the trade surplus by 90% from a year ago



of the day quote

Our exports and imports with Sri Lanka have come to a complete standstill. Exporters are very cautious because of the political crisis and payment issues



KHALID KHAN | VICE-CHAIRMAN, FIEO

The proposal to repeal archaic laws on tea, coffee, spices and rubber and introduce new legislations is aimed at promoting ease of doing business and helping small farmers



PIYUSH GOVAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

With the launch of Meri Trustline, we are supporting the Rati Foundation to take a lead in this industry-first initiative that will enable reporting online threats to children across the industry



ANTIGONE DAVIS | VP AND GLOBAL HEAD OF SAFETY, META

SHORT TAKES

Twitter sues Elon Musk

San Francisco: Twitter said Tuesday it has sued Elon Musk to force him to complete the \$44 billion acquisition of the social media company. Musk and Twitter have been bracing for a legal fight since the billionaire said Friday he was backing off of his April agreement to buy the company. The chair of Twitter's board, Bret Taylor, tweeted Tuesday that the board has filed a lawsuit in the Delaware Court of Chancery "to hold Elon Musk accountable to his contractual obligations."

Bajaj arm forays into opiate biz

New Delhi: Bajaj Healthcare Wednesday said it has forayed into the highly regulated opiate processing business. The company said it has received two orders from the central government to produce active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) from poppy capsules and other derivatives on an annual basis. It plans to execute both these tenders from its API manufacturing unit located at Savli, Gujarat.

MFIs' gross loan portfolio zooms

Mumbai: The Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) of microfinance industry grew by 10.2 per cent to nearly Rs 2.9 lakh crore at the end of March, says a report. The same stood at Rs 2.6 lakh crore in the year-ago period. On a sequential basis, the GLP rose by 8.6 per cent during the period ended March 2022. Banks continue to dominate the microfinance market with portfolio share of 37.7 per cent.

Signature Global files Rs 1K-cr IPO

New Delhi: Realty firm Signature Global (India) Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares worth up to Rs 750 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to Rs 250 crore, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed Tuesday. As a part of the OFS, promoter Sarvpriya Securities and investor International Finance Corporation will sell equity shares worth up to Rs 125 crore each.

NEW 40-YEAR HIGH

US inflation in June at 9.1%

Surging prices for gas, food and rent catapulted US inflation to a new four-decade peak in June, further pressuring households and likely sealing the case for another large interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve, with higher borrowing costs to follow



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

tic demand and bringing inflation down to its 2% target. "Despite the Fed's best intentions, the economy looks to be moving into a higher inflation regime," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS in New York. "The Fed is even further behind the curve after today's sizzling report."

The consumer price index increased 1.3% last month, the biggest monthly gain since September 2005, after advancing 1.0% in May. A 7.5% surge in energy prices accounted for nearly half of the increase in the CPI. Gasoline prices jumped 11.2% after rebounding by 4.1% in May.

Natural gas prices rose 8.2%, the most since October 2005, while the cost of electricity increased 1.7%. Food prices gained 1.0%. The cost of food consumed at home rose 1.0%, posting the sixth straight monthly increase of at least 1.0%.

In the 12 months through June, the CPI jumped 9.1%. That was the biggest gain since November

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX JUMPS 1.3% IN JUNE
YOY CPI SOARS 9.1%, LARGEST GAIN SINCE 1981
CORE CPI INCREASES 0.7%; UP 5.9% ON YOY BASIS

1981 and followed an 8.6% rise in May. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI would rise 1.1% and accelerating 8.8% year-on-year. Consumer prices are surging, driven by snarled global supply chains and massive fiscal stimulus from governments early in the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ongoing war in Ukraine, which has caused a spike in global food and fuel prices, has worsened the situation.

The Bank of Canada Wednesday announced a full-percentage-point increase in its policy rate, a super-sized hike last seen in 1998.

US gasoline prices hit record highs in June, averaging above \$5 per gallon, according to data from

Inflation cuts into chocolate demand

London: Consumers are cutting back on chocolate due to the cost of living crises in Europe and the United States, according to new data and comments from executives at the world's biggest chocolate companies. Overall US chocolate retail sales volumes have been "off and down" 2% to 3% over the last couple of months as prices have risen in the "high single-digit, low double-digit" range, said Hershey Co vice president of investor relations Melissa Poole in an interview with Reuters. Hershey's performance closely tracks the rest of the chocolate category. Chocolate sales, particularly in the United States, ballooned along with purchases of many consumer products in the later stages of the coronavirus pandemic, with shoppers buoyed by government stimulus payments and sticking with "homebody lifestyle" habits such as buying in bulk.

motorist advocacy group AAA. They have since declined from last month's peak and were averaging \$4.631 per gallon Wednesday, which could ease some of the pressure on consumers.

US stocks opened lower: The dollar rose against a basket of currencies. US Treasury prices fell.

Rupee slides to new low of 79.62 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 13: The rupee declined by 22 paise to close at a record low of 79.81 against the US currency Wednesday after the dollar surged to a 20-year high in overseas markets and foreign investors continued to withdraw funds from Indian stocks.

Fears of aggressive interest rate hikes by central banks to rein in surging inflation weighed on the local unit, forex dealers said. Crude oil prices trading near \$100 per barrel level, however, supported the rupee, they added.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 79.55 against the greenback and later touched a high of 79.53 amid early gains in stock markets.

The rupee slid in the latter half due to a stronger dollar and closed at the day's low of 79.81, down by 22 paise over the previous close of 79.59, which was all-time closing low.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced to a 20-year high of 108.59.

Benchmark 10-year US bond yields rose above the 3 per cent mark while two-year note yields raced to a three-week high after the inflation date.



High US bond yields make emerging market currencies like the rupee less appealing to investors, leading to capital outflows.

Foreign outflows from capital markets also weighed on the rupee. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market Wednesday, offloading shares worth Rs 2,839.52 crore, as per exchange data.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 372.46 points or 0.69 per cent lower at 53,514.15, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 91.65 points or 0.57 per cent to 15,966.65.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.21 per cent to \$100.69 per barrel.

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.

IMPORT DUTY EVASION

₹4,389cr notice to Oppo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: Chinese phone maker Oppo's India unit has been slapped with a notice for alleged Rs 4,389 crore import duty evasion, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday.

A show-cause notice (SCN) has been slapped on Oppo India July 8 after the recovery of documents during searches on its premises that indicated wilful misdeclaration in the description of some imports and remittance of royalty and license fees to various MNCs, including those based in China.

During an investigation of Oppo Mobiles India Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Guangdong Oppo Mobile Telecommunications Corporation Ltd, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has detected Customs duty evasion of around Rs 4,389 crore, the ministry said in a statement. Reacting to the development, Oppo India said it has a "different view" on the charges mentioned in the SCN and will take appropriate steps, including legal



remedies. Oppo India is engaged in the business of manufacturing, assembling, wholesale trading, distribution of mobile handsets and accessories thereof across India. It deals in various brands of mobile phones, including Oppo, OnePlus and Realme.

During the investigation, searches were conducted by the DRI at the office premises of Oppo India and residences of its key management employees, which led to the recovery of "incriminating evidence, indicating wilful misdeclaration in the description of certain items imported for use in the manufacture of mobile phones". This misdeclaration resulted in

wrongful availment of ineligible duty exemption benefits by Oppo India, amounting to Rs 2,981 crore.

Senior management employees and domestic suppliers of Oppo India questioned by the DRI officers accepted the submission of wrongful description before the customs authorities at the time of import, the ministry said.

The investigation also revealed that Oppo India had remitted/made provisions for payment of 'royalty' and 'licence fee' to various multinational companies, including those based in China, in lieu of the use of proprietary technology/brand/IPR license etc.

They said 'royalty' and 'licence fees' paid by Oppo India were not being added to the transaction value of the goods imported by them, in violation of provisions of the Customs Act. The alleged duty evasion by Oppo India on this account is Rs 1,408 crore.

The ministry further said that Oppo India has voluntarily deposited Rs 450 crore as partial differential customs duty short paid by them.

Nexus Esplanade celebrates 4th anniversary

BIZ BUZZ

Bhubaneswar: Nexus Esplanade Wednesday celebrated its fourth anniversary. On the occasion the mall welcomed management team from Head Office, Jayen Naik (COO), Rajesh Deo (CFO), Nilesh Singh (VP ESG & Business Excellence) and Anuradha Singh (VP Leasing) whose presence made the event more grand and special. The event was packed with various cultural performances ranging from dance by QBees, kids DJ while the main highlight of the evening was Vignaz Musical band. A huge appreciation and applause was shared by the Head Office for the Centre Director Parth Pratim Nayak and the entire team of Nexus Esplanade.



PASSENGER VEHICLE DESPATCHES RISE 19% IN JUNE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 13: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose by 19 per cent year-on-year in June on the back of improvement in semiconductor supplies, according to industry body SIAM.

As per the latest data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle (PV) despatches to dealers stood at 2,75,788 units last month against 2,31,633 units in June 2021.

Similarly, total two-wheeler wholesales increased to 13,08,764 units last month compared to 10,60,565 units in the year-ago period.

Total three-wheeler sales grew to 26,701 units last month against 9,404 units in June 2021. Sales across segments rose to 16,11,300 units in June from 13,01,602 units in the same month last year.

In the first quarter, PV despatches increased to 9,10,431 units, up 41 per cent from 6,46,272 units in the April-June period of the previous fiscal. Total commercial vehicle wholesales also rose to 2,24,512 units against 1,05,800 units a year ago.

Two-wheeler despatches jumped to 37,24,533 units as against 24,13,608 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, three-wheeler despatches grew to 76,293 units in the first quarter from 24,522 units in



the year-ago period. Total sales across categories rose to 49,35,870 units in the April-June quarter compared to 31,90,202 units in the first quarter of last fiscal.

SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said that in the first quarter, PV sales stood at 9.1 lakh units

while two-wheeler despatches were at 37.25 lakh units. Similarly, commercial vehicle sales stood at 2.25 lakh units.

"Recently, the government has taken significant measures to ease the inflationary pressure and help the common man by reducing cen-

tral excise duty on petrol and diesel and changing the duty structure to moderate prices of steel and plastic. Indian automobile industry appreciates and thanks the government for these efforts," Menon said.

The industry also keenly looks

forward to similar support on CNG prices, which have seen an exponential increase in the last seven months, he added.

"Support on CNG prices would help the common man, facilitate public transport and will enable a cleaner environment," Menon said.

JUNE AUTO SALES DATA

IN THE FIRST QUARTER, PV DISPATCHES INCREASED TO 9,10,431 UNITS, UP 41 PER CENT FROM 6,46,272 UNITS IN THE APRIL-JUNE PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS FISCAL

TWO-WHEELER DISPATCHES JUMPED TO 37,24,533 UNITS AS AGAINST 24,13,608 UNITS IN THE YEAR-AGO PERIOD

TOTAL COMMERCIAL VEHICLE WHOLESALLES ALSO ROSE TO 2,24,512 UNITS AGAINST 1,05,800 UNITS A YEAR AGO

India eye series win

Stunning wins for Mithun, Ashmita

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, July 13: Indian shuttlers Mithun Manjunath and Ashmita Chaliha notched up stunning wins over their illustrious rivals to hog the limelight on the second day of the Singapore Open Super 500 tournament here Wednesday.

While Mithun recorded a stunning 21-17, 21-18 win over compatriot and World championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth in men's singles, Ashmita shocked Thailand's World No.12 Busanan Ongbamrunphan 21-16, 21-11 in women's singles.

The World No.77 Mithun, a product of the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, will next take on Ireland's Nhat Nguyen, while Ashmita faces China's Han Yue.

For two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and man-in-form HS Prannoy, it was also a good day in office as the two also progressed to the second round with facile wins.

Sindhu looked in complete control as she prevailed 21-15, 21-11 over Belgium World No.36 Lianne Tan to set up a clash with Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen.

Prannoy, who had reached the semifinals at Malaysia Masters last week, saw off Thailand's Sittthikom Thammasin 21-13, 21-16 and will next meet third seeded Chou Tien Chen, whom he had beaten at Malaysia Open recently.

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal also avenged her India Open loss to compatriot Malvika Bansod with a 21-18, 21-14 win to make it to the second round.

Manjunath, who had reached the finals of Orleans Masters Super 100 in April this year, came out all guns blazing as he dominated the opening game after taking an early 6-2 lead. He kept Srikanth at bay to comfortably seal the opening game.

Srikanth, however, turned the tables after the change of ends as he enjoyed a 11-8 cushion at the break and kept extending his lead to come back into the contest. The decider turned into a roller-coaster ride with the two slugging it out but it was Manjunath, who showed better control as he ensured a slender one-point advantage at the breather.



MITHUN MANJUNATH



ASHMITA CHALIHA

Srikanth managed to take a 16-15 lead at one stage but Manjunath didn't let the opportunity slip and reeled off the last three points from 18-18 to notch up one of the biggest wins of his nascent international career.

Manjunath, 24, has been in fine fettle as he reached his maiden Super-100 final at Orleans Masters in France last April. He had claimed four All-India ranking titles, including the Senior Ranking Badminton tournament in

December last year.

Ashmita, World No.66, also dished out a superlative performance as he fought back from 5-10 down with an eight-point burst to zoom ahead and earn the bragging rights.

The 22-year-old from Assam kept up the tempo in the second game as well with an early 7-2 lead. Busanan cut it down to 6-7 but the Indian once again reeled off nine points on the trot to slam the door on her rival.

Earlier, Sindhu took time to get off the block, lagging 1-4 but she pulled away from 7-7 to never look back. After 11-8 lead at the mid-game interval, she kept moving ahead to pocket the opening game.

She continued the momentum in the second game with a 5-1 advantage. A three-point burst helped Tan to narrow the lead but a relentless Sindhu stepped up her game to seal the issue without much ado.

Among others, Pooja Dandu and Arathi Sara Sunil moved into women's doubles second round after Chinese Taipei duo of Hu Ling Fang and Lin Xiao Min withdrew from the tournament.

However, it was curtains for former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Parupalli Kashyap and World No.29 Sameer Verma. While Kashyap was no match for fifth seed Indonesian Jonatan Christie, losing 14-21, 15-21, Li Shi Feng of China ended Sameer Verma's campaign with a 21-10, 21-13 win in another lop-sided men's singles match.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 13: A confident Indian team look set to overpower England with yet another dominant show in the second ODI at the Lord's Thursday despite Virat Kohli's dodgy groin and dismal form.

The former India captain, who is enduring a prolonged bad patch, missed the first game due to groin strain and it is still not clear if he is fit for the second game.

Kohli's poor show, however, hasn't affected the team much as it is playing extremely well in the white-ball games. After clinching the T20 series 2-1, it cantered to a convincing 10-wicket victory in the opening ODI.

While the negative aspect of Kohli's absence is not getting a solid show from country's premier batter in pressure games, on the flip side, his poor form is an opportunity for others to show that they can win games on their own or at least own the big stage like Suryakumar Yadav did in final T20I at

Nottingham.

"I wasn't playing in the last T20 game and he (Kohli) didn't play today (Tuesday). I don't have an update on his injury," was all that first match's hero Jasprit Bumrah said when asked about former skipper's availability for the second game.

Groin strain can easily aggravate into a proper tear if the player rushes himself into the thick of things. A quick single or a swift turnaround during a double can unknowingly worsen a player's condition if he takes field without being hundred percent fit.

At times, some injuries are blessing in disguise for the team management in order to avoid a tough call and Kohli's groin strain could just be that.

Rohit Sharma and his men will hope that the pitch at the Lord's plays like Oval, where conditions helped them get lateral movement both in the air and off the track.

With Bumrah in the form of his life and the ever dependable

Mohammed Shami ready to torment the opposition with his bagful of tricks, skipper Rohit will focus more on Shreyas Iyer and his ever compounding problems facing the short ball.

The bowlers around the globe have sorted Iyer out with short-pitched stuff and his predictable trigger movement towards the leg-stump in an attempt to make room is no longer paying dividends.

A player of Deepak Hooda's calibre is being made to sit out in formats because of reputation of some players and hence Iyer will feel the heat.

The conditions in Oval would have been a great learning experience for the flamboyant Mumbaier but the skipper himself with a wide array of horizontal bat shots ensured that Iyer could just cool his heels in the confines of the Indian dressing room during the series-opener.

For Rohit, the 58-ball-76 is some kind of reassurance that his process has been spot-on and that he can

play the high-risk pull-shot with successful percentage.

A confident captain can make bold yet prudent decisions and runs under his belt will allow Rohit to be more adventurous with his decision at the Lord's.

A batting line-up comprising Jos Buttler, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Jonny Bairstow, Jason Roy and Liam Livingstone can scare the daylights out of any bowling attack but at the Oval, the tables turned 180 degree on a seamer-friendly conducive surface.

The Lord's has traditionally been a batting belt but when it comes to rookie bowlers like Prasadh Krishna, it will also be about adjusting to the famous slope of the Lord's ground.

There are bowlers, who prefer bowling up the slope and some the other way round. Managing the slope is key to success at Lord's but the current Indian team is on a roll and might just complete another series win with minimum fuss.

Wasn't thinking about break from ODI: Shami

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 13: Seasoned India pacer Mohammad Shami said he wasn't thinking about his long lay-off from ODI cricket and approached his comeback game with a clear mind as he is well-versed with the white-ball behaviour.

The first ODI against England Monday was Shami's first appearance in the format after almost a gap of two years. He last played in India's 51-run loss to Australia in November 2020.

"It wasn't a small break but of three years," Shami, who claimed 3 for 31 at the Oval on Tuesday, said during a chat with bowling coach Paras Mhambrey on 'bcci.tv'.

"Nothing was going on in my head regarding the gap. I've become very comfortable with the team. We travel together and have been playing together for like a decade now.

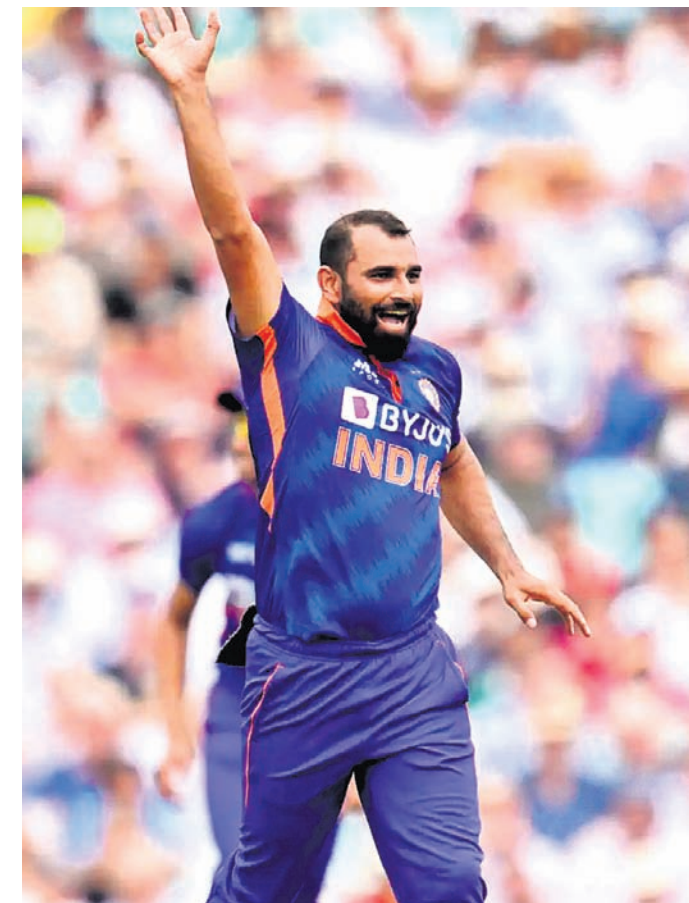
"Everyone knows their job and after playing so much of cricket, if you come with a question mark in

your mind, then I believe it's not good."

It was also a milestone match for Shami who became the fastest Indian and third fastest bowler overall to take 150 scalps in ODI cricket.

"It's extremely important to come with a clear mind as you already know what you need to do, where you need to pitch the ball, the variations in white-ball and everyone knows these basics. But you need to be courageous from heart and if you are that, then you can get set in any format at any given moment." While Shami claimed three wickets, fellow pacer Jasprit Bumrah finished with a career-best 6 for 19 to blow away hosts England in the first ODI.

"As soon as we started, the ball was stopping and seaming, it became important for us to pick our areas and keep line and length in control. We played our best performance (in first ODI); like, the way a series has to be started, it set an example."



Eves finish 9th in hockey World Cup



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Terassa (Spain), July 13: Navneet Kaur scored a brace as the Indian women's hockey team beat Japan 3-1 to finish a disappointing ninth in the FIH World Cup here Wednesday.

Navneet (30th, 45th minutes) scored two field goals, while Deep Grace Ekka (38th) sounded the board once from a set piece in the classification match. Japan's lone

goal came from the sticks of Yu Asai in the 20th minute.

It was close contest in the first five minutes of the opening quarter, but both the teams failed to score goals. Soon India got a massive chance to take the lead but Vandana Katariya's effort from close range was saved by Japan goalkeeper Eika Nakamura. Both teams fought hard for the rest of the first quarter but to no avail.

India made a good start in the second quarter and got a couple of chances within a span of two minutes but goals eluded the Savita-led side. Japan took the lead in the 20th minute through Yu Asai who converted a penalty corner.

India soon earned their first penalty corner but wasted the opportunity. They lifted their game in the final minutes of the second quarter with relentless attacks but Japan defended stoutly. India drew parity at the stroke of the half time

when Navneet found the board from a field effort.

India started on the front foot after the change of ends and earned their sixth penalty corner of the match but, as has been the case the entire tournament, they wasted the chance once again.

Lalremisami was threatening from the left flank but the Japanese defenders were up to the task. However, India won another penalty corner and this time Ekka scored to hand her side the lead eight minutes into the second half.

The Indians mounted attack after attack on the Japanese goal and on one occasion Vandana came tantalizingly close but her effort was saved by Japanese goalkeeper Nakamura.

The play was mostly surrounded inside the Japanese half after the change of ends as India attacked in numbers relentlessly. India came close to taking a two-goal lead in the third quarter but Sharmila Devi's goal was disallowed as the ball hit her body.

The third quarter completely belonged to India as they raised their game leaps and bounds to trouble the Japanese defence which resulted in Navneet's second goal towards the end.

India continued in the same vein in the fourth and final quarter with Vandana being denied again by the Japanese goalie. Japan tried hard in the final minutes but failed to breach the resolute Indian defence.

Aparajita selected in Fair Play Panel for Chess Olympiad

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 13: The World Chess Federation (FIDE) has nominated Odisha's Candidate Master and FIDE arbiter Aparajita Gochhikar as an expert in the Fair Play Panel for the forthcoming Chess Olympiad which will be played at Chennai July 28 to August 10. Incidentally she is among the two Indians who has been conferred with this honour and she is the only lady to have found a place in the panel.

The Chess Olympiad is the biggest event in the world calendar for the sport. Teams from 188 countries would be participating in the event. Eighteen fair play experts from different countries have been nominated by FIDE in the panel and Aparajita is one of them to have been given an important responsibility.

The 29-year-old Aparajita thanked FIDE, All India Chess Federation (AICF), the All Odisha Chess Association (AOCA) for being bestowed with the honour. "I am confident that I will be able to handle the responsibilities given to me," Aparajita said.

It should be stated here that Aparajita in the past has been the coach of the Indian team at the Asian Youth Championships at Tashkent in Uzbekistan in July 2017. The Indian team had bagged 26 medals in the tournament.

Stellar start for Ten Hag as Man United manager

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, July 13: New Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag oversaw a 4-0 win over archrival Liverpool in his first game in charge as European pre-season friendlies returned to Asia after a two-year break.

The Dutch coach was quick to downplay the significance of the result, however, against a Liverpool side that made a total of 21 substitutions. "I think our team played brave, played proactive. We have to work really hard to cut out the mistakes but of course we are happy with the first game. I know we have good players," Ten Hag told the club's in-house TV channel.

"They were not in their strongest so we have to not overestimate this result. But, still, I have seen some

really good things and I think what you see is we have a lot of creativity and speed up front, so we have potential."

More than 50,000 fans packed into Bangkok's iconic Rajamangala Stadium for a first chance to see Premier League stars since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Top European teams have been coming to Asia for pre-season tours for decades — this was Liverpool's seventh visit to Bangkok — but those trips were called off in 2020 and 2021.

Jadon Sancho, Fred and Anthony Martial scored in the first half for United, while Facundo Pellistri added a late fourth in reversal of last season's results when Liverpool beat its northwest rival 5-0 and 4-0 in the Premier League.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp wasn't bothered by the result, hav-



Manchester United's new manager Erik ten Hag holds the winners' trophy with skipper Bruno Fernandes after their win over Liverpool

ing left stars such as Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk on the bench at the start of the game. Ten Hag made 11 changes during the game as both coaches spread the minutes around.

While the Thai fans were happy to see the return of the Premier League giants, many were unhappy about the ticket prices. In a country where the annual GDP per capita in 2021 was USD 7,233, according to the World Bank, the cheapest tickets to the friendly game were USD 138.

United next head to Australia to face Melbourne Victory as well as English rivals Crystal Palace and Aston Villa. Crystal Palace is also the next opposition for Liverpool. The two teams meet in Singapore Friday with the cheapest tickets costing around USD 105.