



UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE

Actress Neetu Chandra reveals how she got an 'indecent proposal' from a businessman when she had no work in hand

LEISURE P2



FRESH COVID WAVE IN ASIA

A new Covid wave is rapidly spreading through Asia, prompting warnings for residents to take precautions

INTERNATIONAL P10



SAINA BEATS WORLD NO. 9

Saina Nehwal scripts her biggest victory in 2 years by beating World No. 9 He Bing Jiao

SPORTS P12

Kerala reports India's 1st case of monkeypox



- The symptoms of monkeypox include fever along with formation of blisters
- Monkeypox cases have been reported in 57 countries, infecting over 8000 people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 14: A person who returned to Kerala from abroad and was hospitalised after showing signs of monkeypox tested positive for the disease, state Health Minister Veena George said Thursday.

It is the first reported case of the virus in India.

Earlier in the day, the minister told reporters that samples of the symptomatic person have been collected and sent to the National Institute of Virology for testing.

George said that the person showed symptoms of monkeypox and he was in close contact with a monkeypox patient abroad.

In the evening, she confirmed that he tested positive for the virus.

"One case of monkeypox has been confirmed. We are taking steps to ensure it does not spread to others. But he (patient) has 2-3 close contacts which include his parents. There are 11 primary contacts which include his parents, those who sat next to him in the

plane, the taxi driver who took him from Thiruvananthapuram to Kollam, the auto driver who took him to the hospital and the cabin crew of the flight. We are informing all of them," the minister told reporters here. The minister also told media that there was no need for concern.

The Health department had said the same in a release issued by it in the evening before the first case of monkeypox was confirmed. The department, however, had advised everyone to be cautious and vigilant.

Meanwhile, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is sending a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Kerala to collaborate with the State Health Authorities in instituting public health measures in view of the confirmed case of monkeypox in Kollam district, a Press Information Bureau release said.

The central team to Kerala will comprise experts drawn from the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi and a senior official from the Ministry of Health along with experts from the Regional Office of Health and Family Welfare, Kerala, the release said.

"The team shall work closely with the State Health department and take stock of on-ground situations and recommend necessary public health interventions. The Government of India is taking proactive steps by monitoring the situation carefully and coordinating with states in case of any such possibility of outbreak," it said.



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel conduct a rescue operation to save stranded locals from the flood-hit Chikhli town in Navsari of Gujarat following heavy monsoon rains, Thursday

RAIN PAIN

Uproar in House over remarks on Murmu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: State Assembly Thursday witnessed loud protests over Congress spokesperson Ajoy Kumar's alleged remarks against NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu and was adjourned till 4pm.

The issue was raised in the Assembly as soon as the House assembled for the question hour at 10:30am. The opposition BJP members raised anti-Congress slogans and trooped into the well of the House demanding apology from the Congress and passing of a censure motion against it for the alleged 'defamatory' remarks against Murmu, a tribal woman leader from Odisha.

The Congress members too rushed to the well and strongly opposed the BJP members for stalling the House proceedings over an issue not connected with the state.

Speaker BK Arukha asked the BJP members to express their opinions during the Zero Hour and allow the Question Hour to take place but the agitating members refused to comply.

With members of both the opposition parties in the well and protesting vociferously, Arukha first adjourned the House till 11:30am. When the House re-assembled, a similar situation continued which led him to adjourn the proceedings till 4pm.

The agitation erupted over the remarks of Ajoy Kumar, a former Lok Sabha MP from Jharkhand, who reportedly said Wednesday that Murmu, though a decent person herself, represents the 'evil philosophy of India' and she should not be made the symbol of adivasis.

Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi of BJP said outside the House, "Ajoy Kumar's remarks are unfortunate. This is not his personal opinion, but the views of Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi. We demand an unconditional apology from Congress and passing of a censure motion against the party in Odisha Assembly."

Congress whip Taraprasad Bahinipati blamed the saffron party for creating disturbance in the Assembly for the sake of publicity.

Contd...P4

Now, Cov vaccination drive in colleges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Amid an uptick in Covid cases, the state government Thursday asked all district Collectors and municipal commissioners to intensify vaccination of the 18-59 age group from Friday.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra has given the instruction to the officers while holding a high-level review meeting on Covid-19 situation in the state through virtual mode Thursday evening.

Mahapatra asked the officials to increase the number of daily Covid testing, ensure functioning of the call centre on a 24x7 basis and intensify the awareness and enforcement activities like wearing of masks, avoiding crowd, and maintenance of social distance.

He also instructed the officials

DAILY CASES GO PAST 800

Bhubaneswar: Odisha reported 804 fresh Covid-19 cases Thursday, the highest in nearly five months, the Health department said. The positivity rate jumped to 4.18 per cent as the cases were detected after testing 19,218 samples. Seventy-one children were among the new patients, it said. Khurda, where the capital



Bhubaneswar is located, reported the highest number of 307 cases, followed by 119 cases in Cuttack. On February 17, the state reported 886 cases. The toll remained at 9,127 as there were no new deaths. The active cases climbed to 4,262, out of which 1,694 patients are in Khurda. As many as 420 more people recovered from the virus, taking the total recoveries to 12,82,690. The state has so far reported 12,96,132 cases. P4

to conduct vaccination of eligible students in various engineering

colleges, hostels, higher educational institutes as well as in urban

areas in a massive way. Further, he asked the Collector and municipal commissioners to sensitize people on location of vaccination centres and facilities for treatment.

Medical colleges and district administrations were asked to set up separate Covid wards. They were also directed to be in all readiness for enhancing the number of beds as per requirement. Health Secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal emphasized on proper execution of village and panchayat-wise vaccination programmes in rural areas and every ward in urban areas.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena suggested that health workers, Anganwadi workers, public representatives, voluntary organizations and women's self-help groups be included in the vaccination drive.

Plus III exam cancelled after paper leak

SAMBALPUR: Authorities of Sambalpur University here Thursday cancelled the Plus III third year Education (Honours) examination after reported leak of the question paper, an official said.

After learning about the paper leak, all the affiliated colleges have been ordered to cancel the examination, SU's controller of examinations Rabintra Panigrahi said. The cancelled examination will be conducted afresh and the results will be announced for which the date will be notified later, Panigrahi said. A three-member committee has started probe into the incident. The incident has sparked resentment among over 5,000 students of 205 colleges affiliated to the university.

32-yr-old Keonjhar man shot dead

ANANDAPUR: A 32-year-old man was shot dead over suspected political rivalry at Khala village under Ramchandrapur police limits in Keonjhar Thursday, an official said.

Another man, 23, was critically injured in the shooting, said the official. The deceased was identified as Sunanda Sethi and the injured Chandan Behera. Sources said the incident took place in the afternoon when Sethi and Behera had gone to Sainkula weekly market. A group of youths opened fire at the two, leaving them critically injured. On being informed, police reached the spot and rushed the duo to Sainkula CHC. Later, they were shifted to SCBMCH in Cuttack where Sethi was declared 'dead on arrival'.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We used these unparliamentary words all the time. Good that we are not in opposition anymore

Donations to nat'l parties plunged 41.49% in 2020-21: ADR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The donations that recognised national parties received during financial year 2020-21 decreased by over ₹420 crore, a sharp fall of 41.49 per cent from the previous fiscal, a poll reform advocacy group said Thursday.

The fall in donations could apparently be due to the Covid-19 pandemic which had triggered a lockdown. The first wave of Covid started around the end of March 2020, just before the start of the financial year, triggering a nationwide lockdown.

Donations to the BJP decreased from ₹785.77 crore during FY 2019-20 to ₹477.54 crore during FY 2020-21 -- a fall of 39.23 per cent. The

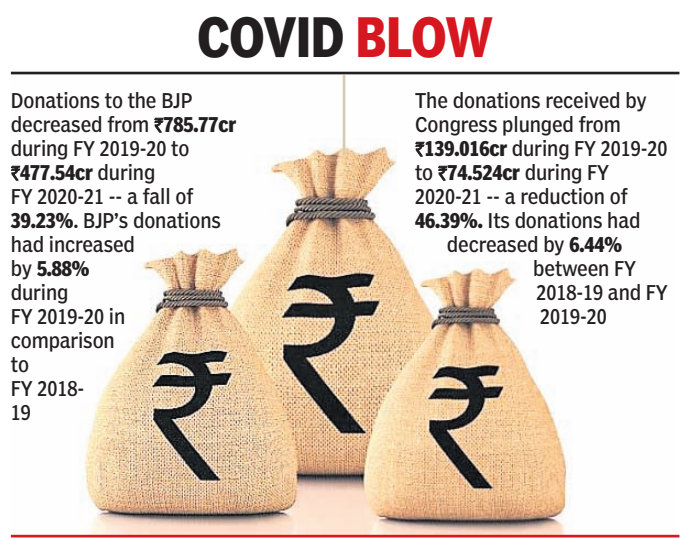
party's donations had increased by 5.88 per cent during FY 2019-20 in comparison to FY 2018-19, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in a statement.

The donations received by Congress plunged from ₹139.016 crore during FY 2019-20 to ₹74.524 crore during FY 2020-21 -- a reduction of 46.39 per cent.

Its donations had decreased by 6.44 per cent between FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20, the statement said.

A total of over ₹246 crore was donated to the national parties from Delhi, followed by ₹71.68 crore from Maharashtra and over ₹47 crore from Gujarat.

Donations totalling ₹37.912 crore (6.39 per cent of the aggregate received by the national parties in FY



2020-21) could not be attributed to any state or union territory due to incomplete or undeclared information provided by the parties, it said.

BJP, BSP, Congress, CPI, CPI-M, TMC, NCP and National People's Party are the eight recognised national parties.

The corporate and the business sector made 1,398 donations to the national parties amounting to ₹480.655 crore -- over 80 per cent of the total donations -- while 2,258 individual donors contributed ₹111.65 crore or 18.804 per cent of the total to these parties during FY 2020-21.

Over 1,100 donations from corporate and business sector were made to the BJP (Rs 416.794 crore),

while 1,071 individual donors gave ₹60.37 crore to the party during FY 2020-21.

Congress received a total of ₹35.89 crore through 146 donations from the corporate sector and ₹38.634 crore via 931 individual donors during FY 2020-21.

BSP declared that it did not receive any donations above ₹20,000 during FY 2020-21, as it has been declaring for the past 15 years.

The ADR said the due date for submission of contribution reports by the parties was September 30, 2021. Only BSP submitted its contribution report on time while NCP, TMC, CPI-M, NPP, Congress, BJP and CPI submitted theirs after a delay of 10, 117, 136, 137, 161, 164 and 178 days, respectively.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	53416.15	↓ 98.00
NIFTY	15938.70	↓ 28.00
DOLLAR	80.56	↑ ₹0.20
EURO	80.10	↓ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹50,180	↓ ₹622
SILVER	₹54,953	↓ ₹2174

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.9°C	31.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.4°C	25.2°C
Humidity	95%	97%
Rainfall	4.3mm	28.8mm
Forecast	Light rain likely	

leisure



LEFT LA AFTER SPLIT FROM BEN AFFLECK: ANA DE ARMAS

Cuban-Spanish actress Ana de Armas has said her relationship with Ben Affleck helped her realise that Los Angeles isn't where she belongs. Being the subject of a media storm when she was involved in a romance with the Affleck, the *Blonde* star admitted that she found the experience "horrible".

KALUUYA NOT RETURNING FOR BLACK PANTHER 2

British actor Daniel Kaluuya will not reprise his role in Marvel and Disney's *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. According to *Variety*, Kaluuya played W'Kabi in *Black Panther* (2018), the best friend and confidant of T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman), and the head of security for the Border Tribe.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
One more hectic day! Today you will be busy trying to figure out solutions to your problems, both at home and office. Your superiors give you some leeway and it will be quite a consolation, says Ganesh. Experienced people will give you highly esteemed advise.

TAURUS
This is a great day for showcasing your administrative and organizing abilities, says Ganesh. Go all out and put in all you have, at your workplace or in your business. You can be sure of impressing your colleagues and superiors, partners and competitors and gaining their admiration and support. Just one thing. Do not over do anything.

GEMINI
Analysing other people's minds and thoughts will be your favourite pastime today. You will find yourself thinking about your family life, security and financial issues. Your sensitivity and emotional nature will endear you to many, and they will bestow their love and affection upon you, says Ganesh.

CANCER
The mundane will bring contentment to you today, and you will rather spend the day doing routine stuff. It looks set to be an ordinary day, but then you can always find thrill even in routine activities. Work will keep you on your toes through the day, but then as the day drags ahead, you may feel a tad bored.

LEO
You will accomplish all your tasks with courage today. As a result of which, the efforts you have made in the last few months will now bear fruit. You need to make a schedule of the tasks you need to tackle today. You need to guard against over-stressing yourself, otherwise your health could suffer, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Today you will find yourself overflowing with ideas. You have a soothing touch, the hands of a healer, and so you will be able to help many people, says Ganesh. You will be very considerate, and your mind-reading abilities will work wonders both for you and your loved ones.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will stay in accordance with your prestige or social status. Your innovative ideas will help you progress in your work field. Now is a good time to put into completion those ideas, which had taken a back seat. Ganesh wishes you a day full of joy and happiness ahead.

SCORPIO
It's business time and shock your competitors with the launch of the new product. However, stars are not aligned in a favourable way, which indicates that you may come across some hurdles. Take your time, sort out the troubles and go ahead with your launch with much fanfare and celebrations.

SAGITTARIUS
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

CAPRICORN
For you everything is fair in love and war, and you utilise every possible means to achieve your targets. You have a strong sixth sense and it will direct you while making the right decisions, feels Ganesh. You are a soft hearted person and it makes you sad to see others in sadness and trouble. Instinctively, you will help those in need.

AQUARIUS
You are loaded with work, but you will be able to complete the pending assignments. It is, however, necessary that you keep on marching ahead otherwise your growth may become stagnant, advises Ganesh.

PISCES
You will delay taking important decisions in the office or regarding business. You will take you time to come to a conclusion and put in all the required thought and this will grant you clarity on all the issues at hand. While this will be great for you, Ganesh advises you not to make hasty decisions regarding your personal life.

When Neetu got an 'indecent proposal'

Mumbai: Life in show-biz is not always a bed of roses, discovered Neetu Chandra who made her debut in Hindi film industry with Priyadarshan's 2015 comedy film, *Garam Masala*. Recently, the actress opened up how she got an 'indecent proposal' from a business man and having suicidal thoughts when she had no work.

The *Traffic Signal* actress revealed that she was once told by a big businessman that he will give her Rs 25 lakh per month and that she will have to become his salaried wife. "I neither had money nor work at that time. I became worried and felt unwanted here after doing so much work," Neetu recalled. She also talked about how Sushant Singh Rajput passed away and asked why an artist gets recognition posthumously. She said, "Should I suffocate myself to death? Kya logon ke jaane ke baad hi unke kaam ko saraha jaata hai? Jo Sushant ne step uthaya, bahut logon ko aise khayaal aate hai." Further, when asked if she has been having suicidal thoughts, Neetu agreed.

Meanwhile, Neetu made her Hollywood debut in the 2021 film, *Never Back Down: Revolt*. AGENCIES



Irira teams up with Randeep for her Hindi debut

Chennai: Irira Mor, who is already an established name in south film industries, will be seen playing a pivotal part in the upcoming Hindi web series, *Inspector Avinash* featuring Randeep Hooda. The series is based on the life and times of a super cop from Uttar Pradesh in the 1990s.

Apart from *Inspector Avinash*, which will mark her debut in web series, the young actor will also be seen playing the lead in another web series titled *Kasba Singhai*

Kheri based on the themes of revenge and vengeance, directed by Sandeep Sharma. Sharing her excitement about starting a new chapter in her career, Mor says: "The south film industries have given me a lot of love in three years and many interesting projects in

the pipeline. And now that I'm starting my journey in the Hindi web space, I hope that the audiences keep showering their blessings on me. As an actor, I'm always on the lookout for content and characters that allow me to push the envelope and challenge myself. *Inspector Avinash* has helped me explore a whole new side of myself. And working with an actor of Randeep Hooda's caliber was a dream come true for me." AGENCIES



Taapsee slams gender bias in film industry

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu is on a promotional spree for her upcoming movie *Shabaash Mithu*. In a recent interview, the *Pink* actress spoke a lot many about equality or equal opportunities for both the genders in cinema, when asked what are some of the questions that she faces daily. Listing a few, she said, "Why is it important to know the gender of the hero of the film and the basis that the budget is decided of a film? Why is it

that an audience has to go for an advance booking of a male hero-driven film but when it comes to a female protagonist film, they have to wait for the reviews? There are a lot of whys that I keep questioning and wait for them to convert into why not." For the uninitiated, *Shabaash Mithu* is the biopic of ace Indian cricketer Mithali Raj and Taapsee will be seen playing the role of a cricketer for the first time on the big screen. IANS



Lalit Modi to tie knot with Sushmita Sen

New Delhi: Former IPL Chairman Lalit Modi Thursday announced that he is dating actress Sushmita Sen and intends to tie the knot with her soon. Earlier, Lalit Modi had shared a series of pictures of the two on Twitter, calling the actress his 'better half' and describing it as a 'new beginning'. "Just back in London after a whirlwind global tour #maldives #sardinia with the families - not to mention my #betterhalf @sushmitasen47 - a new beginning a new life finally

Over the moon," he wrote. Calling Sen his better half, Modi sent their fans into a frenzy with several discussing if the two were already married. However, he cleared the air with another tweet, saying, "Just for clarity. Not married - just dating each other. That too it will happen one day." Modi has been in London since 2010, when he left India amid investigation into his alleged role in tax evasion and money-laundering. Sushmita, who has two daughters, made her film debut with the 1996 film *Dastak*. IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

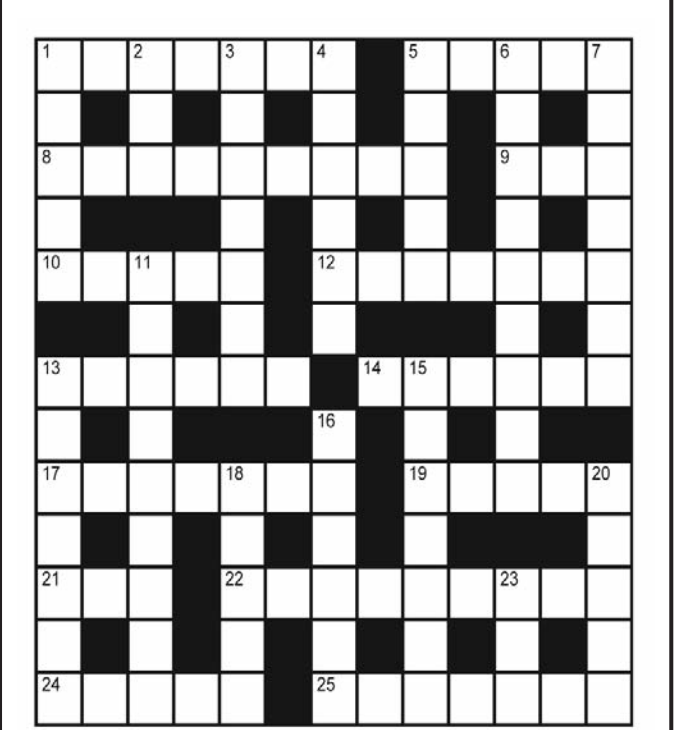


BREVITY



FUN post

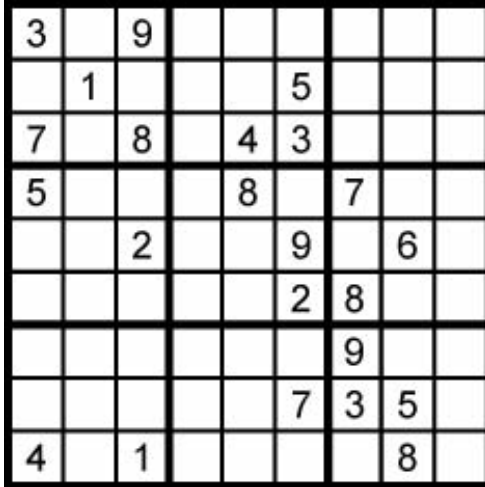
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Temporary stay
 - 5 Shocking weapon
 - 8 Good neighbor, maybe
 - 9 Egyptian cobra
 - 10 Frosting
 - 12 Polygonal shape
 - 13 Egotism
 - 14 Wide-ranging
 - 17 Excess
 - 19 Stigma
 - 21 Easily tamed bird
 - 22 Theatre section
 - 24 Sordid
 - 25 Shellfish
 - 5 Dogma
 - 6 Nirvana (7-2)
 - 7 Matured
 - 11 Bike shop item (5,4)
 - 13 Evensong
 - 15 Tooth problem
 - 16 Building material
 - 18 Jet black
 - 20 Draws nigh
 - 23 Casual attire
- Down**
- 1 Kind of bar
 - 2 Traffic problem
 - 3 Vertical
 - 4 Political entity

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



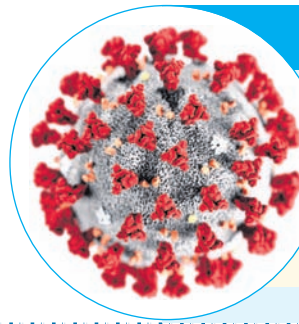
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PREP FOR FESTIVALS

The district administration Thursday convened a meeting to make arrangements for various festivals at Lokanath temple in Puri



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	56,43,40,789	53,63,58,127	63,79,956
India	4,36,89,989	4,30,28,356	5,25,557
Odisha	12,96,132	12,83,169	9,127

Govt ties up with pvt hospital for paediatric liver transplant



The MoU was signed in the presence of Health Minister Naba Kishore Das and other dignitaries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: The state government Thursday signed an MoU with Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore, to provide paediatric liver transplant service at a subsidised rate.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das, departmental secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) Rama Raman Mohanty, Additional Director of Medical Education and Training Umakant Satapathy and Aster CMI Hospital CEO Ramesh Kumar.

Under this agreement, Aster CMI Hospital will set up a paediatric liver transplant unit at SCB Medical College Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack. Aster CMI Hospital will also train doctors, nurses and other health staff through capacity building training programmes, establish organ sharing registries and assist in the implementation of best practices in liver transplant, sources said.

Doctors from Aster CMI will screen children at SCBMCH and refer the needy for liver transplants at the Bangalore-based hospital.

Under this agreement, Aster CMI Hospital will set up a paediatric liver transplant unit at SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack

Doctors from Aster CMI will screen children at SCBMCH and refer the needy for liver transplants at the Bangalore-based hospital

The state government will bear the cost and patients with BPL cards are eligible for free transplants under this scheme

The state government will bear the cost and patients with BPL cards are eligible for free transplants under this scheme, sources added.

"After several rounds of discussion with the various experts and agencies this arrangement has been finalised to functionalise a liver transplant unit at SCBMCH. The MoU was signed for paediatric liver transplant. The state government is also taking steps for arranging facilities for liver transplants in adult people," said the Additional Director of Medical Education and Training.

Explaining details regarding the MoU, Aster CMI Hospital CEO said, "Over the last two years, we have been discussing with the state government on the possibility of providing clinical medical services directly in the form of an MoU with our hospital. The mandate of the MoU is to set up a unit and develop each aspect, care and service that is required in liver transplants. We will be providing training to doctors and nurses at SCBMCH for pre and post-transplant care for the patients. Under this MoU, we will be able to provide pediatric liver transplantation to the children who meet the criteria and are referred by the state government. Our doctors will conduct monthly clinics to help identify and manage advanced paediatric liver diseases."

Every year, more than 2,000 children in India require life-saving liver transplants, but only 10 per cent of them undergo that surgery, said Sonal Asthana, lead consultant of hepatobiliary and transplant surgery at Aster CMI.

With this MoU, children will undergo liver transplants at an affordable rate, much less than the actual cost, Asthana added.

Odisha overcomes rain deficit: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Torrential downpour in several parts of Odisha due to a low pressure area over its coast has helped the state overcome the deficit in rainfall during this monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The seasonal cumulative rainfall between June 1 to July 14 was 341 mm against the average value of 345.5 mm, the Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar said

During the period, six districts received excess showers, while 17 others received normal rainfall.

"Now we can say that rainfall across the state is normal and there is no deficit. Rainfall will continue till July 17," H R Biswas, Director of the Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Two new eco-retreat sites by Nov

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: The Department of Tourism (DoT) has decided to expedite work at two new sites for its eco-retreat projects in state's Ganjam and Koraput districts by November.

Inviting applications from agencies, the DoT has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the setup, operation and management of eco-retreat events for four years (2022-26) at two sites. These sites include Putsil in Koraput and Sonapur Beach in Ganjam district. While annual project duration is for 90 days the tentative beginning of the eco-retreats is by November this year.

"Concerted efforts are being put in place by DoT to position the state prominently in the domestic and international tourist markets. To capitalise on the encouraging response and success of the first, second and third editions of eco retreat events, DoT has



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

UNTIL NOW, ECO-RETREAT PROJECTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED AT SEVEN SITES IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

WITH THE INCLUSION OF TWO NEW SITES, THE PROJECT WILL BE EXTENDED TO NINE LOCATIONS IN ODISHA

IN THE ECO-RETREAT, A LOT OF FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED SUCH AS LUXURY COTTAGES, RESTAURANTS, CONFERENCE ROOMS, LAND/WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES AMONG OTHERS

decided to organise eco-retreats in two more beautiful destinations for the period 2022-26," a notification from DoT read.

It can be mentioned that DoT had introduced the eco-retreat project in the state during 2019-20. The first eco-retreat was organised at Ramchandri Beach in

Konark between Dec 2019 and Feb 2020. The second edition was organised at multiple locations between December 2020 and Feb 2021 and the third edition was organised between December 2021 and March 2022.

Until now, eco-retreat projects have been introduced at seven sites

in different districts of the state. With the inclusion of two new sites, the project will be extended to nine locations across the state. In the eco-retreat, a lot of facilities are provided such as luxury tented cottages, restaurant and bar, conferencing, land/water sports activities among others.

Prohibit disclosure of child victims' identity by media: OSCPCR to govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) has written to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra seeking strict implementation of the laws prohibiting disclosure of identity of child victims by media.

In the letter to the Chief Secretary, OSCPCR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said media as the fourth pillar of democracy has the onus of highlighting and bringing forth any violation of rights of children. From exposing the plight of children in difficult circumstances to reporting day-to-day incidents of abuse and exploitation, media has a big responsibility in safeguarding the rights of our children, she said.

Simultaneously, it is also important of the media to be informed about various measures and mechanisms including legislations, treaties, schemes and programmes for protection of children especially on disclosure of identity, she added.

In her letter, the OSCPCR chairperson cited Article 17 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC), Section 74 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Section 23 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 for prohibiting disclosure of identity of child victims by media.

The OSCPCR suggested that media houses should take necessary steps for making their correspondents aware of child rights and available legal provisions

The editor/publisher should take necessary precaution to ensure compliance of the legal provisions and shall be responsible for any violation, suggested the commission

She also highlighted the guidelines for media reporting on children, approved by the High Court of Delhi in 2012, in this regard.

The OSCPCR suggested that media houses should take necessary steps for making their correspondents aware of child rights and available legal provisions. Similarly, NCPDR's handbook for media professionals may be widely circulated among media houses.

The editor/publisher should take necessary precaution to ensure compliance of the legal provisions and shall be responsible for any violation, suggested the commission.

Similarly, children while studying in educational institutions, i.e. schools and Anganwadi centres should not be disturbed unnecessarily for the sake of media coverage. Stringent action should be taken against individual/institutions violating the above legal provisions protecting child rights, said the OSCPCR chairperson in her letter.



FIELD VISIT



Mayor Subhash Singh and senior officials of CMC inspect Badambadi bus stand in Cuttack, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Conman arrested for cheating lady of ₹1.5L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: The commissionerate police Thursday arrested a fraudster for duping a lady of around Rs1.50 lakh on the pretext of arranging a shop at BMC vending zone. The accused was identified as Bikash Swain, 36, of Sahid Nagar area.

Police sources revealed that the accused who has known complainant, Pratima Sahoo for the past several years assured her to help her get a shop in vending zone of BMC. Bikash had reportedly presented himself as the manager in the market section of the BMC.

He also told Sahoo that he is the right hand man of the Commissioner of BMC. Keeping in view the long acquaintance with the accused, Sahoo believed Bikash and reportedly gave him Rs 1.48 lakhs. The amount was given for various purposes including water and electricity connection between March 7 and 26 June, 2022. The accused used to give



Bikash Swain

Sahoo fake receipts with BMC logo and official letter pad after receiving the payment each time.

Recently, during an inquiry, Sahoo came to know that the bill receipts given by Bikash were fake. Meanwhile, Bikash impersonating as a senior official of BMC threatened Sahoo over phone to cancel her shop allotment order if she did not pay another Rs 24000.

Based on her complaint, police registered a case (321/22) and arrested the accused Thursday. He was later produced before the court that sent him to judicial custody.

Notably, the accused was a habitual offender who was arrested several times in the past on the charges of cheating people.

What is BA.5 variant and why is it reinfecting people?

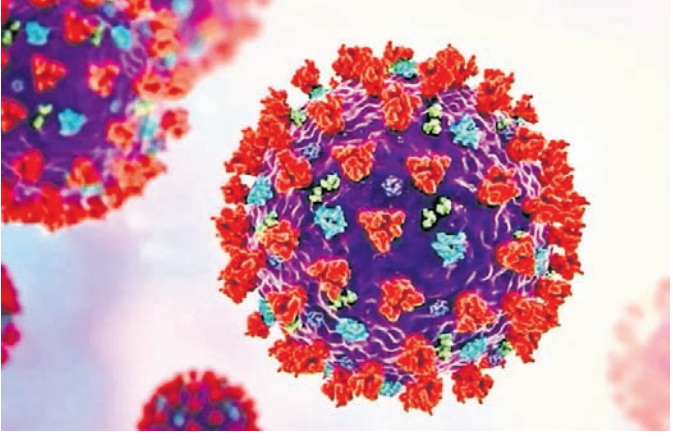
BA.5, part of the Omicron family, is the latest coronavirus variant to cause widespread waves of infection globally. According to the World Health Organisation's most recent report, it was behind 52 per cent of cases sequenced in late June, up from 37 per cent in one week. In the United States, it is estimated to be causing around 65 per cent of infections.

RISING CASE NUMBERS

BA.5 is not new. First identified in January, it has been tracked by the WHO since April.

It is a sister variant of the Omicron strain that has been dominant worldwide since the end of 2021, and has already caused spikes in case rates – even with reduced testing – in countries including South Africa, where it was first found, as well as the United Kingdom, parts of Europe, and Australia.

Coronavirus cases worldwide have now been rising for four weeks



in a row, WHO data showed.

WHY IT IS SPREADING?

Like its closely related sibling, BA.4, BA.5 is particularly good at evading the immune protection afforded either by vaccination or prior infection.

For this reason, "BA.5 has a growth advantage over the other sublineages of Omicron that are cir-

culating," Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, told a news briefing Tuesday.

For many people, this means that they are getting re-infected, often even a short time after having Covid-19. Van Kerkhove said the WHO is assessing reports of re-infections.

"We have ample evidence that

people who've been infected with Omicron are getting infected with BA.5. No question about it," said Gregory Poland, a virologist and vaccine researcher with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

If that seems particularly common now, it could be simply because so many people got Omicron, researchers have suggested.

NO MORE SEVERE

While rising cases have caused more hospitalisations in some countries, deaths have not gone up dramatically.

This is largely because vaccines continue to protect against severe illness and death, if not infection, and manufacturers and regulators are also looking at tweaked vaccines that directly target the newer Omicron variants.

There is also no evidence that BA.5 is more dangerous than any of the other Omicron variants, the WHO's Van Kerkhove stressed, although spikes in cases can put health services under

pressure and risk more people getting long Covid.

The WHO and other experts have also said that the ongoing pandemic - prolonged by vaccine inequity and the desire in many countries to 'move beyond' Covid-19 - would only lead to more new and unpredictable variants.

Scientists are already drawing attention to BA.2.75, first identified in India, which has a large number of mutations and is spreading fast.

The WHO said Tuesday that the pandemic remained a global health emergency, and countries should consider public health measures like masking and social distancing when cases surge, alongside vaccinations.

"What people fundamentally don't understand is that when there is this high level of community transmission, this will mutate," Poland said. "Who knows what's going to come next. We are playing with fire."

REUTERS

Basic Science recommended for Star College scheme

Bhubaneswar, July 14: The College of Basic Science and Humanities, a constituent of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar, has been recommended by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India to receive financial support under the prestigious Star College Scheme for the session 2021-22.

Considering good infrastructure, skilled faculties, achievement of students, externally funded research projects, and the vision and direction of the university authorities, the College of Basic Science and Humanities has been selected as a Star College by the department. Director C.S.K. Mishra has expressed his gratitude to DBT Star College coordinator, department coordinators, university authorities, heads of departments, faculty members, students and staff.

The college is the only educational institution in the state to be included under the scheme. To enhance the quality of undergraduate education, the DBT has been providing financial support to selected colleges and universities in India since 2006.

Half-burnt body of woman found

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharmasala, July 14: A half-burnt body of a woman was recovered from a bush in Sunari village under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district here Thursday morning.

The deceased was identified as Gitanjali Dash, 36, wife of Surendra Dash. According to reports the woman was missing from her home since Tuesday. A complaint in this regard was lodged by the deceased's brother Soumyaranjan Panigrahi with the Dharmasala police.

Locals spotted her body Thursday morning and informed the police. An empty bottle of kerosene found near the body has been seized. A case has been registered and further investigation is on. Prima facie it appears to be a case of suicide, sources said.

Gitanjali, daughter of Upendra Panigrahi of Sunari village, had married Surendra of Bankasahi village of Barabati. Following a dispute at her in-laws' home, she had been staying at her parental house with her 6-year-old daughter for the last five years. As a result, she was under constant mental pressure, sources revealed.

Uproar in House over remarks on Murmu

Continued from P1

"There is no point in disturbing the Assembly proceedings as it is run on the money of the people of Odisha. The BJP members are doing this only to get publicity," he said.

Bahinipati said that BJP members had failed to understand what Kumar had said and alleged that its lawmakers were enacting a drama over the issue and are wasting the time of the House proceedings by stalling the Question Hour.

After the House was adjourned, the BJP MLAs holding banners staged a dharna on the Assembly premises and waved placards against the Congress. They also held a rally outside and condemned the Congress for being 'anti-tribal, anti-woman and anti-Odia.'

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit Dt.14.07.2022, I Ayushman Biswal, S/o. Sailendra Ku. Biswal, W.N. 10, Bargarh declare that the name Ayushman Biswal and Ayusman Biswal belong to one and same person.

UNIONS UNITED



Members of several trade unions rallied together near the Mahatma Gandhi Marg in Bhubaneswar to press for their demands, Thursday

OP PHOTO

71 children among 804 new cases

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Odisha reported 804 new Covid-19 cases Thursday, the highest in nearly five months, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

Out of the new Covid cases, 71 were in the age group of 0-18 years. The state had recorded 87 children infected with the highly contagious virus the previous day.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) jumped to 4.18 per cent as the cases were detected after testing 19,218 samples. Seventy-one children were among the new patients, it said.

Khurda, where the Capital Bhubaneswar is located, reported the highest number of 307 cases, followed by 119 cases in Cuttack. The state had reported 886 cases February 17.

The toll remained at 9,127 as there were no new deaths. The active cases climbed to 4,262, out of which 1,694 patients are in Khurda alone.

As many as 420 people recovered from the virus, taking the total recoveries to 12,82,690. The state has so far reported 12,96,132 cases.



The coastal state contributes 3.01 per cent of India's total confirmed cases till date. Similarly, it so far shares 23.83 per cent of total active cases, 3.02 per cent of total recoveries and 1.75 per cent of total Covid toll of India.

The state has so far administered 6,88,67,730 doses of vaccines. A total of 3,49,57,057 people have taken the first dose and 3,20,91,055 individuals have taken the second dose. As many as 18,19,618 precaution doses have been administered so far in state.

Notably, the Union government declared Wednesday that people in the 18-59 age group can get the pre-

Khurda, where state Capital Bhubaneswar is located, reported the highest number of cases at 307, followed by 119 cases in Cuttack

caution doses of the Covid vaccine at government vaccination centres under a 75-day special drive likely to begin July 15. The drive, aimed at boosting the administration of Covid precaution doses, will be held as part of the government's Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

FutureCorn Meet

MSME dept interacts with startups in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: To bring all the startups in Odisha under one platform and to create an inclusive and robust startup ecosystem, the state MSME department recently organised a 'FutureCorn Meet' under its flagship initiative, Startup Odisha.

Startup Odisha Executive Chairman Omkar Rai shared with the crowd his vision of putting the startups on a more successful trajectory and helping them become the FutureCorn. He also highlighted the initiatives taken by state government like Funds of Funds, ease of doing businesses, financial assistance in form of Startup Seed Fund, and support to incubators, to fast-pace the startup ecosystem.

The interactive session focused on collecting inputs from the startups towards making the ecosystem more comprehensive, futuristic, in-

clusive, and growth-friendly with appropriate and timely government interventions. There, the founders asked for support in areas like market access, common laboratories and testing centres, and certification setups for various domains.

As many as 27 startups and six incubators belonging to a diverse set of sectors such as agritech, edtech, healthtech, biotech, foodtech, online marketplace, solar and EV, and chemical participated in this session.

"Startup Odisha shall be conducting consultation programmes, facilitating startups, and hand-holding those to create an enabling environment which will pave a seamless functioning path for the startups. In line with Odisha's excellence, we aim to make Startup Odisha the most conducive and efficient startup ecosystem in the nation. We envision becoming the best startup hub in India by 2025," said Rai.

UN lauds India, NITI for remarkable SDG localisation

UN Deputy Chief Amina Mohammed commended the Indian government and NITI Aayog for the "remarkable degree" to which the Sustainable Development Goals have been localised in the country, saying that "as India leads and achieves" towards sustainable development, the region and the world will as well.

Beginning her remarks with a "Namaste", the top UN official Wednesday noted that the SDGs recognise that the world is inter-linked to an unprecedented degree. "The level to which this message of interconnectedness has been embraced in India, from the Center and the States down to the district and individual household level is truly impressive."

"I commend the government of India and NITI Aayog for the remarkable degree to which the SDGs have been localised. Indicators and targets embedded into planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks at all levels of government. The achievement of the SDGs will require multiple level government systems and policies that consider local realities and the role of local actors," UN Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed said.

She said at a special India side session at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on 'Indian model of SDG Localisation: Towards full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.'

"That is why the United Nations is further strengthening its sup-

It's really important to remember the importance of business and private sector alongside other stakeholders as a partner in India's vision for 2030 and transition from a whole-of-government to a whole-of-society approach to meet the SDG challenge

USHA RAO-MONARI | ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR AND UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL, UNDP



ported to local action and local leadership through the Local 2030 coalition - the UN wide initiative on localising the SDGs within the Decade of Action. The coalition provides the opportunity to bring lessons for the world of the Indian model that we are sharing here today."

She added that "We across the UN system are proud, committed partners of India along this journey to help chart the course because as India leads and achieves towards sustainable development, inclusive green recovery, the region and the world will as well."

The event organised Wednesday by NITI Aayog, Permanent Mission of India to the UN, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India, and UN in India, was also

addressed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP Usha Rao-Monari, UN Resident Coordinator in India Shombi Sharp and Resident Representative, UNDP India Shoko Noda.

Mohammed said that the world today is in turmoil facing multiple and overlapping crises from which no country and community is immune. "The pandemic and war come against the backdrop of the great existential threat of all - climate change. And cities, local governments and communities have been and still are at the center of the emergencies we face," she said. Rao-Monari said that NITI

Aayog's efforts to localise the SDGs have made the SDGs the common language that fosters collaboration and cooperation across stakeholders. She said India's "focussed efforts over the last six years have resulted in tangible and evidenced outcomes that frankly are staggering," as she cited the figure of 331 million people with improved access to sanitation.

UNDP is "extremely pleased" to see India has made a policy choice to put the spotlight on the institutionalisation of the SDGs - "not to look at sustainable development as a standalone or parallel framework, but really to make them an integral part of the national thinking about development. "India has chosen to do this not

₹8,970cr DMF funds unspent till May '22

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: District Mineral Foundations (DMF) funds to the tune of ₹8,970.88 crore remained unspent in different districts of the state till May this year. Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholakia told Assembly here Thursday.

Replying to a question from BJP member Mukesh Mahaling, Dholakia said the government has collected ₹18,730.27 crore as DMF funds from minor minerals and major minerals till May 2020, of which ₹9,759.38 crore has been utilised.

While ₹3,945.58 crore has been collected from coal/lignite mines, ₹14,469.28 crore has been received from other major minerals. Moreover, the government has collected ₹90.41 crore towards the DMF from minor mineral sources like sand and stone, he said.

Highest ₹8,191.04 crore DMF funds have been collected in Keonjhar district, of which ₹4,941.28 crore remained unutilised till May this year. Out of ₹4,843.63 crore DMF funds collected in Sundargarh district, ₹1,627.26 crore remain unspent.

Similarly, ₹952.34 crore of ₹1,574.14 crore DMF fund collected in Jajpur district has remained unutilised till May of 2022.

The DMF collection in Angul and Jharsuguda districts are ₹2,241.19 crore and ₹1,023.27 crore respectively. The unspent balance in Angul district was ₹832.22 crore while ₹194.33 crore remained unutilised in Jharsuguda.

The DMF fund is being spent as per the guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) and Odisha District Mineral Foundations Rules, 2015. High priority is being given to drinking water supply, protection of environment and pollution control, health services, education, women and child development, welfare of old and PwD, skill development, sanitation, housing, livelihood and road connectivity, said the Minister.

Under other priority sector, the fund is being utilised for infrastructure development, irrigation, power supply and plantation, he said.

As per DMF expenditure is concerned, Keonjhar district is on top position with utilization of ₹3,249.76 crore followed by Sundargarh (₹3,216.37 crore), Angul (₹1,408.97 crore), Jharsuguda (₹828.94 crore) and Jajpur (₹621.80 crore).

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Woman, daughter die in wall collapse; 2 hurt

MALKANGIRI LIKELY TO WITNESS FLOODS AS FOUR RIVERS FLOW ABOVE DANGER MARK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani/Malkangiri, July 14: A woman and her daughter died while her husband and son were critically injured after wall of their house collapsed due to heavy rain at Tridev Nagar in Phulbani Town of Kandhamal district, Thursday. The deceased were identified as Surati Majhi, 42, and her daughter Smitarani Majhi, 5. The injured were identified as Surati's husband Brajabandhu Majhi, 45, and their 3-year-old son Rohan Majhi. Reports said Kandhamal,

Malkangiri, Ganjam and various parts of the state have been witnessing heavy rain for the last three days.

Sources said Brajabandhu's family originally belongs to Banighochaa village in Nayagarh, but they have been staying in Phulbani town for the last five years. The couple used to work as daily wagers.

The four were having their lunch at 2pm when the wall of their mud house came crashing down on them. It was stated that the wall of a neighbouring house first col-

THE FAMILY MEMBERS WERE HAVING THEIR LUNCH AT 2PM WHEN THE WALL OF THEIR MUD HOUSE CAME CRASHING DOWN ON THEM

IT WAS STATED THAT THE WALL OF A NEIGHBOURING HOUSE FIRST COLLAPSED ON THE WALL OF BRAJABANDHU'S HOUSE, LEADING TO THE TRAGIC INCIDENT



lapsed on the wall of Barajabandhu's house, leading to the tragic incident.

Locals immediately informed the fire services personnel who along with some volunteers rescued them and sent them to the district headquarters hospital (DHH). However, the woman and the minor daughter were declared dead at the DHH.

SDPO Mahendranath Murmu, tehsildar Dinamani Nayak and Phulbani municipality chairperson Smitarani Mohanty took stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, reports from Malkangiri said rivers and creeks in the district have been swelling due to incessant rains.

Rivers like Sileru, Saberi, Potteru and Kankurukonda are flowing above the danger mark. Riparian pockets are most likely to witness floods, if the rains continue to lash the district in next 24 hours.

Water as deep as five ft has been flowing on NH-326 near Kaleru village for the last four days, disrupting communication between Andhra Pradesh and Motu.

It is said that Motu area is likely to see massive floods with Godavari river flowing above the danger mark.

All the schools in the district have been declared closed.

Notably, 39 families affected by landslide in Nuapalli village under R Udayagiri block in Gajapati district have been shifted by the administration to safer places. At least 10 houses were damaged due to landslide in Gajapati district.

Couple kills newborn, buries him in forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalimela, July 14: In a shocking incident, a man and his wife allegedly killed their newborn boy at MPV 83 village under Kalimela tehsil in Malkangiri district and later buried his body in a forest. The matter came to the fore after locals suspected foul play and alerted the police.

The accused couple has been identified as Shyamala Paika and her husband Binod Paika.

Learning about the incident, locals informed the Motu police who reached the spot, exhumed the body and sent it for autopsy to a nearby hospital. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to ascertain the motive behind the murder.

Temple priest gets life term for murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, July 14: A local court sentenced a temple priest to rigorous life imprisonment after convicting him of killing a villager who objected to his extramarital affair with a widow, Thursday.



The convict was identified as Akshaya Rana, a priest of Kali temple in nearby Pasara village under Chakapada police limits of Kandhamal district. The additional district judge Baliguda, Dillip Kumar



TALENT HUNT

A trial match in progress at Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium in Sector-5 of Rourkela for admission of hockey cadets to SAIL Hockey Academy managed by Rourkela Steel Plant. More than 280 hockey players from various parts of the country participated in the tournament out of which 20 cadets were selected

OP PHOTO

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Date and Venue:
Friday, 15th July, 2022; 6:30 p.m. onwards.
at Hotel Grand Residency, Palamandap, Badambadi, Cuttack - 753 001, Odisha.
For registration, please contact: Ashis Pattanayak, Mobile: 78944 07708.

Sunday, 17th July, 2022; 11:00 a.m. onwards.
at Hotel Harjee Residency, Dayal Towers, V.S Marg, Sambalpur - 768 001, Odisha.
For registration, please contact: Prasant Kumar Behera, Mobile: 83389 00593.

Registration is compulsory.
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.
It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.
No walk-ins will be allowed.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
TELENGIRI CANAL DIVISION, AT/P.O.: AMBAGUDA, DIST.: KORAPUT
Phone: 06854-246826, e-mail ID: eeteelingiricanal2@gmail.com, setcdambaguda@gmail.com
No. A-394

e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SE-TC-D-01/2022-23

- No. of works : 1 (One)
- Approx. Estimated Cost : Rs. 38.83 lac (Approx.)
- Eligibility of the bidders : Registered & licensed security service agencies for deployment of security personnel.
- Period of Completion : 365 days (Approx.)
- Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal : 15.07.2022 (10.00 A.M.) to 29.07.2022 (05.30 P.M.)
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 29.07.2022 (05.30 P.M.)
- Date of opening of the bids Online : 30.07.2022 (12.30 P.M.)
- Name & address of the O.I.T. : Superintending Engineer, Telengiri Canal Division, AT/P.O.: Ambaguda, District: Koraput

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Telengiri Canal Division, Ambaguda
OIPR-32434/11/0006/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-645
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JAJPUR

'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. Tender Online 08 JJPT of 2022-23

- Name of work : Road Works
- Total No. of work : 03 Nos. Road Work
- Estimated Cost (Approx.) : 6.00 lakhs to 15.00 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 1 & 2 Months
- Class of Contractor : C & D

Other details as follows:

- Procurement Officer : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jajpur
- Availability of tender online & submission of bid : 16.07.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 25.07.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification : 24.07.2022 upto 1.00 P.M.
- Opening of Tender : 26.07.2022 at 11.30 A.M.

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

Sd./ Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Jajpur
OIPR-25047/11/0012/2223

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/
E-Tender/42 Dt.: 13.07.2022
Tender No. e-tender-TMKUR-97-2022
Dt.: 29.06.2022

DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED RECONDITIONING OF WORNOUT TAMPING TOOLS OF DIFFERENT TAMPING MACHINES SUCH AS CSM, DUO & UNIMAT ETC. WORKING AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 37.76 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 75,500/-, Completion period: 12 months.

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 22.07.2022.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg),
PR-290/N/22-23, Khurda Road

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, MOHANA
e-mail: rwdmohana@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. Online Tender 03/MOHANA/2022-23

No. O-656: 1. Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total No. of Work : 05 (Five) Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: Varies from Rs. 14.16 lakhs to Rs.26.55 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: As per Annexure. 5. Period of Completion: As per Annexure. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender
			From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Mohana	Online Tender 03/MOHANA/2022-23	05 (Five) Nos.	15.07.2022 from 11.00 AM	26.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM	25.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM	27.07.2022 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tenderorissa.gov.in.

Sd./ Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Mohana
OIPR-25148/11/0004/2223

FARMERS CALL FOR PADMAPUR BANDH JULY 18

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, July 14: Peeved at pending insurance claims, farmers of Bargarh have called for Padmapur bandh July 18.

They accused the insurance company concerned of deliberately delaying the clearance of the dues.

"Though we have deposited the premiums in time, the company is reluctant to pay insurance claims - our entitlement. We have decided to observe a 12-hour Padmapur bandh July 18," farmer said.

Gaisilet Krushak Sangathan has agreed to be part of the dawn-to-dusk bandh.

Farmer leader Arabinda Panda had recently discussed the insurance issue at a meeting and said that scores of farmers in Padmapur sub-division were affected by drought in 2021.

Though the farmers have been repeatedly reminding the district administration about the quick clearance of the insurance dues, no step was taken in this regard, they said.

Body fished out after two days

Kalimela: The body of a youth who was swept away while fishing Tuesday amid heavy downpour at Buduguda village under Kalimela police limits in Malkangiri district was recovered Thursday. The deceased was identified as Jagannath Gouda. The youth's body was recovered after an extensive search operation by a team of fire services personnel and police. A case of unnatural death has been registered in this connection. The body was handed over to family members after autopsy. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall over the last three days has triggered a flood-like situation in the district.

Scam whiff in clean-up of Kendrapara canal

More than ₹17 lakh was sanctioned for cleaning of canal no-6; ₹11 lakh for the canal no-4; ₹10 lakh for canal no-5 and the equal amount for the canal no-3 in the current year



POST NEWS NETWORK

Salipur, July 14: A strange policy of the Water Resources department has come to the fore in Salipur area of Cuttack as the department has started cleaning weeds from its branch canals by spending lakhs of rupees when water is being released through Kendrapara canal.

Locals alleged that lakhs of rupees are being misappropriated on the pretext of canal clean-up even as water is not reaching the lower end of the canal.

Reports said canal nos- 3, 4, 5 and 6 under Salipur water resources division are the branch canals of Kendrapara canal.

As per official guidelines, canals are supposed to be cleaned and dredged up to 2-inch depth while breaches, if any, are to be plugged well before the release of water. Canal cleaning work is done under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) so as to create scope of manual labour for the job card holders. But here is an exception. JCB machines are used in this work in violation of official guidelines, it was alleged.

"Contractors are minting money

from this work. Machines are used to pull out grass and weeds from canals when they are filled with water," locals said.

More than ₹17 lakh has been sanctioned for cleaning of canal no-6; ₹11 lakh for canal no-4; ₹10 lakh for canal no-3 and an equal amount for canal no-5 in the current year.

Farmers alleged that beds of the canals need to be dredged and cleaned and that too without water. "Funds are being looted in the name of grass removal from the canal while machines are used in violation of the MGNREGS norms," they alleged, demanding that the higher authorities should pay attention to the lapses.

Farmers said that they had visited the offices of the water resources department at Baraboddi and Dharmagatpur to file complaints regarding the ongoing irregularities, but the offices were found closed. They also alleged that the assistant engineer at the water resources office at Kendupatana is always found absent.

Contacted, assistant engineer Akshay Kumar Mallick said that machines are used only at the places where manual labour is not possible.

CB urged to probe MLA's sex racket link

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paradip, July 14: Jagatsinghpur district police has requested the state Crime Branch (CB) to take charge of the probe into a sex racket allegedly run by BJD lawmaker from Tirtol, Bijay Shankar Das.

The request to the additional director general of police, CID, CB was made by Jagatsinghpur superintendent of police (SP) through a letter in which he mentioned that a case has been registered against the MLA under different sections of the IPC, including provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.

The case has been registered against the MLA based on a written complaint lodged by the legislator's wife-to-be Somalika Dash in June, the SP said.

The complainant has alleged that the accused named in the FIR is operating a sex racket and running a brothel. "As a result of which there is much hue and cry over the issue politically as well as in social media," the SP said in the letter.

The SP further said, "It has been a sensitive issue. The complainant also wants that the probe into the case may be taken by CID, CB, Odisha, for impartial investigation."

The woman had lodged the case against the MLA after he did not turn up to marry her at Jagatsinghpur sub-register's office in June.

Facelift for Panchalingeswar soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, July 14: The Panchalingeswar shrine here in Balasore district would get a major facelift as the district administration has decided to develop the infrastructure at the tourism site.

Thousands of devotees and tourists from various parts of the state and outside visit the picturesque site nestled in sylvan settings every year.

Panchalingeswar had remained shut for tourists for two years owing to Covid-19 pandemic. Now, with the easing of Covid restrictions, the shrine is expected to pull a good number of



tourists this year. Thousands of Kanwaris visit the shrine to pour water on the lingas in the holy month of Shrawana. Keeping this in view, the district administration has decided to

put in place some additional facilities like toilets, drinking water, market complex, parking lots, roads and to construct a dam at the site. Collector Sindhe Dattatraya Bhausahab visited the area

Thursday and held discussions with divisional forest officer Ayush Jain, Nilagiri sub-collector Dipti Ranjan Sethi, tehsildar Aresh Kumar Nayak, Upada BDO Parsuram Panda, SDO (rural development) Iswari Prasad Das and Kuldiha ranger Ananta Jena about developing various facilities.

The Collector also talked to local officials, sarpanch Purusottam Sethi, social activist Manoranjan Das, members of the temple trust board about multiple problems plaguing the shrine. He also talked to the tehsildar to identify land encroached upon by some people in the area.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE-III, KEONJHAR

POSSESSION NOTICE
[RULE-8(1)] For Immovable Property

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of STATE BANK OF INDIA, Barbil Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest, Cost, Legal Charges etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property 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 Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charges of the State Bank of India for the notice amount and interest, Cost and incidental Charges thereon.

BARBIL BRANCH / A/c. No./ Name and Address of the Borrower/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property	Liabilities Specified as on date	Demand / Possession Notice Date
A/c. No.: 31245789776 (CC) Borrower: M/s. Priya Medicine Store, Prop: Late Gouri Shankar Sahoo, Ward No.: 6, Old LIC office Road, Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar/ Guarantors & All Legal Heirs of Gouri Shankar Sahoo: 1) Rajib Sahoo, S/o.: Late Gouri Shankar Sahoo, 2) Sanjib Sahoo, S/o.: Late Gouri Shankar Sahoo, Both are At: Ward No.: 6, Old LIC office Road, Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar, 3) Rita Rani Sahoo, W/o.: Pares Sarkar, Vill: Bauri Pada, P.O./P.S.: Raisuwan, Keonjhar, 4) Neeta Pattnaik, C/o: Srinivas Pattnaik, At: Sheetal Nagar, P.O.: Bandhamunda, Dist.: Sundergarh	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting in Mouza: Barbil, Unit No.: 7, Khata No.: 105, Plot No.: 514, Area: Ac.0.028 Dec., KISSAM: Homestead, standing in the name of Late Gouri Shankar Sahoo	₹15,93,858/- as on 13.07.2022 + interest, cost and charges thereon	25.03.2022 13.07.2022

Place: Keonjhar
Date: 14.07.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India

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

SRI AUROBINDO



Fallen Dynasty

For much of nearly two decades, the four Rajapaksa brothers and their sons have run Sri Lanka like a family business – and a disorderly one, at that. With their grand construction projects and spendthrift ways, they saddled Sri Lanka with unsustainable debts, driving the country into its worst economic crisis since independence. Now, the dynasty has fallen.

Mahinda Rajapaksa was instrumental in establishing the Rajapaksa dynasty. After becoming president in 2005, he ruled with an iron fist for a decade, attacking civil liberties, expanding presidential powers (including abolishing term limits), and making bad deal after bad deal with China. Throughout this process, he kept his family close, with his younger brother Gotabaya holding the defence portfolio.

But in 2015, Mahinda narrowly lost the presidential election, and the Rajapaksas were briefly driven from power. During that time, parliament restored the presidential term limit, ruling out another Mahinda presidency. Yet the family quickly devised a plan to restore their dynasty: Gotabaya would renounce his US citizenship and run for president.

Gotabaya was well-positioned to win. After all, he had been defence secretary in 2009 when Mahinda ordered the final military offensive against the Tamil Tiger rebels, bringing a brutal 26-year civil war to a decisive end. With that, the Rajapaksa brothers emerged as heroes among Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority.

To be sure, the final offensive killed as many as 40,000 civilians and sparked international accusations of war crimes. The United Nations described it as a "grave assault on the entire regime of international law." According to Sarath Fonseka, the wartime military commander, Gotabaya ordered the summary execution of surrendering rebel leaders. In California, where he was previously domiciled, Gotabaya faces civil charges over alleged war crimes.

But the Rajapaksa brothers simply presented themselves as hardheaded custodians of Sinhalese interests. And, thanks largely to his ethno-nationalist credentials, Gotabaya won the 2019 election – at which point he immediately appointed Mahinda as his prime minister. Mahinda then appointed his two sons, his other two brothers, and a nephew as ministers or to other government positions.

The same year, 277 people were killed, and hundreds more wounded, in bombings carried out by Islamist extremists on Easter Sunday. The attack highlighted tensions that had been simmering since 2009: though the military offensive marginalised the Hindu-majority Tamils, the war's end sowed the seeds of religious conflict between the Buddhist-majority Sinhalese and Sri Lanka's Muslims, who constitute one-tenth of the country's population. The Easter Sunday terrorist bombings provided new ammunition for the Rajapaksas to whip up Sinhalese nationalism.

Beyond deepening ethnic and religious fault lines, Gotabaya followed his brother in establishing an imperial presidency, exemplified by the passage in 2020 of a constitutional amendment expanding the president's power to dissolve the legislature. And he helped to push Sri Lanka further into the economic death spiral that his brother had helped create, not least through his dealings with China.

During Mahinda's rule, as China shielded the Rajapaksas from war-crime charges at the UN, it won major infrastructure contracts in Sri Lanka and became the country's leading lender. Debt to China piled up, incurred largely over the construction of monuments to the Rajapaksa dynasty in the family's home district of Hambantota.

Examples include "the world's emptiest" airport, a cricket stadium with more seats than the district capital's population, and a \$1.4 billion seaport that remained largely idle until it was signed away to China in 2017 on a 99-year lease. The most extravagant China-backed project is the \$13-billion "Port City," which is being built on land reclaimed from the sea close to the center of the capital, Colombo.

China's modus operandi is to cut deals with strongmen and exploit their countries' vulnerabilities to gain a strategic foothold. China's larger aims in Sri Lanka were suggested in 2014, when two Chinese submarines made separate unannounced visits to Colombo, docking at a newly built container terminal owned largely by Chinese state companies.

So, China gained leverage over a country located near some of the world's most important shipping lanes, and Sri Lanka became increasingly mired in debt, including "hidden debt" to China from loans whose public disclosure was prohibited by their terms. But hubris prevented the Rajapaksas from recognising the looming crisis. On the contrary, they enacted a sweeping tax cut in 2019 that wiped out a third of the country's tax revenues.

Then the pandemic hit, crushing the tourism and garment industries – Sri Lanka's two main foreign-exchange earners. More recently, the war in Ukraine, by triggering soaring international energy and food prices, helped to drain Sri Lanka's foreign reserves, creating fuel, food, medicine, and electricity shortages. It was the final straw for many Sri Lankans, who took to the streets in droves.

On May 9, Mahinda reluctantly resigned from his post as prime minister, in an effort to appease protesters. But protests continued to rage, culminating in the storming of the seaside presidential palace by demonstrators. Gotabaya fled minutes earlier before conveying his decision to resign.

Within Sri Lanka, photos of protesters lounging on the president's bed and cooking in his backyard have become a symbol of people's power. But they should also serve as a warning to political dynasties elsewhere in the world, from Asia to Latin America. When a family dominates a government or party, accountability tends to suffer, often leading to catastrophe. This can cause even the most entrenched dynasty to fall – and swiftly.

There is also a lesson for other heavily indebted countries. Unless they take action to make their debts sustainable, they could quickly be overwhelmed by crisis.

As for Sri Lanka, its next leaders will have to address shortages of basic necessities, rebuild a wrecked economy, reestablish the rule of law, and hold responsible those who caused the current disaster. But in a country where politics is a blood sport, one should not underestimate the challenge of overcoming the Rajapaksas' corrosive legacy.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Shang-Jin Wei & Tao Wang

DEGLOBALISATION PRESSURES IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE HAVE INCREASED IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS AMID RISING NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS AND GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS



Brahma Chellaney

In a country where politics is a blood sport, one should not underestimate the challenge of overcoming the Rajapaksas' corrosive legacy

FOCUS INFLATION

PERILS OF DEGLOBALISATION

The return of high inflation in many developed economies seems to have surprised central banks and has quickly become people's leading economic worry. While monetary tightening is necessary, the role of structural factors warrants attention, too. Specifically, besides pandemic-related supply-chain disruptions and the energy and food-price shocks amplified by the Ukraine war, policymakers must also acknowledge more explicitly the inflationary consequences of deglobalisation.

During the two decades before the 2008 global financial crisis, globalisation seemed unstoppable. The volume of global trade increased more than twice as fast as world GDP, as liberalisation of trade and investment in developing Asia, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe contributed to a boom in cross-border reallocation of production flows of final and intermediate goods.

The hyper-globalisation of this period, and notably the integration of China into world trade and investment portfolios, helped to reduce inflationary pressures in developed economies. For example, when overall annual US inflation was hovering around 2%, goods inflation was often about -1%. While US import prices of manufactured goods from industrialised countries rose by 33% between 1990 and 2008, prices of goods from developing countries increased by a mere 3.4%. Furthermore, the smallest price increases were for products imported largely from China.

The disinflationary pressure from China resulted from the country's sustained economic reforms and international firms' investments. China reduced its average tariff from over 40% in the early 1990s to 15% when it joined the World Trade Organisation in 2001, and to about 8% in subsequent years. Economic liberalisation and access to world markets spurred domestic Chinese entrepreneurs to set up firms in response to growing opportunities.



One country's deglobalisation measure may prompt others to follow suit, potentially distorting global production and trade patterns and making every country worse off

Meanwhile, China's encouragement of foreign direct investment, coupled with its low labour costs and relatively good infrastructure, attracted international companies, helping to turn the country into one of the largest FDI recipients and the "factory of the world." Foreign companies accounted for one-third to one-half of China's overall exports for much of the previous three decades.

By enabling low-cost imports to replace more expensive domestic products, globalisation had a direct disinflationary impact on advanced economies. It also helped to make domestically produced goods more competitive and weakened workers' bargaining power. But, by launching a series of trade wars – and especially by hiking tariffs on imports from China during 2018 and 2019 – US President

Donald Trump dealt a body blow to globalisation. Trump's actions have pushed up US prices both directly and indirectly. The direct effect is that US households must now pay substantially more for Chinese-made goods. The indirect consequences include higher prices of US imports from other countries and of other goods and services.

Moreover, US President Joe Biden's administration, wary of accusations of softness toward China, has so far not rescinded Trump's tariffs. In fact, deglobalisation pressures in the US and elsewhere have increased in the past couple of years amid rising national-security concerns and geopolitical tensions.

Seemingly inspired by these US measures, many other countries have recently introduced import tariffs or other trade barriers, resulting in comparable upward pressure on prices. Plans by the US and several European countries to

offer companies incentives to reshore production at home or "friend-shore" their supply chains will likewise lead to higher domestic prices.

Similarly, China has long-standing industrial policies aimed at increasing "self-reliance." Its recent adoption of a "dual-circulation" strategy to foster growth based on domestic demand and domestic supplies, especially in technology sectors, will have similar effects on the prices.

Although talk of deglobalisation is now translating into actual policy, the inflationary consequences will be felt only over time. In 2019, Kristin Forbes, a former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, asked a key question: If globalisation's disinflationary effects previously made it easier for major central banks to pursue and maintain low inflation, will increasing deglobalisation have the opposite effect?

If deglobalisation proceeds unchecked, central banks may need to tighten monetary policy more than they otherwise would have. One country's deglobalisation measure may prompt others to follow suit, potentially distorting global production and trade patterns and making every country worse off. The world therefore needs some global rules, most logically via the WTO and the G20, to discipline national policies in these domains.

A collective approach like this would limit the inflationary impact of deglobalisation and reduce the need for central banks to step too hard on the brake. That will help to decrease the likelihood of a global recession, or at least make an eventual downturn less severe.

Shang-Jin Wei is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School. Tao Wang is Head of Asia Economic Research at UBS Investment Bank.

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SPECTRUM NEW FOREST CONSERVATION RULES

Another attack on tribal rights

While the BJP is trying to project itself as pro-tribal by fielding a tribal woman for first time for the top post of the country, its own government at the Centre has started an all-out attack on tribal people living in forests. The hard earned rights of tribals and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land is going to be snatched away soon after the amendments to the forest conservation rules. While tribal people will lose their right over forest land, the government will get absolute right to hand over the land to corporate houses for carrying out large scale mining and other non-forestry projects. That is why organisations working among tribal and forest dwelling communities have come out against this anti-tribal and anti-environment decision of the Centre.

On 28 June 2022, the Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry issued a notification to amend the present forest conservation rules framed under the Forest Conservation Act-1980. The new amendments will replace the existing rules which were framed after the amendments in 2004, 2014 and 2017. Given the numerical strength of the ruling party in Parliament, it may be easily passed in the upcoming session.

But once these amendments are approved by Parliament, lakhs of our tribal and other traditional forest dwellers residing in forests for generations will lose their rights over forests forever. The government will have unchecked power of approving the felling of trees without taking the consent of Gram Sabha which was part of the historic The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.

As per the present forest conservation rules, compliance of forest rights of tribals and other traditional forest dwellers is mandatory in accordance with the Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) for any kind of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. The Union government is required to verify the consent of the tribal and forest dwellers and ensure recognition of their rights over the forest land before approving handovers for private projects. But after the proposed amendments, it can approve the handover of forest land without any hindrance and collect payment for compensatory afforestation from the private developer even before the state government has settled the forest dwellers' rights and ensured their consent for the project. The proposed rules will reduce the power of Gram Sabhas, im-

prove the ease of doing business for corporates, concentrate power in the forest bureaucracy and seek to override the FRA. This will only help big corporates who have been seeing this whole process of clearance by Gram Sabha as an obstacle for acquiring forest land.

The Tribals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Forest Rights Act -2006 (FRA-2006) was enacted after decades of continuous fight by tribal and traditional forest dwellers of our country. Its stated objective was to undo the historical injustice done to these communities by successive governments since the colonial takeover of the country's forest in 1878. The FRA-2006 recognises all rights of tribal and traditional forest dwellers (except hunting) over all categories of forest land including reserve forest area. It not only confers individuals' rights to habitat, but also aims to protect their tradition and culture by recognising their collective ownership over a larger landscape within or outside their traditional village boundaries. At a time when tribals and forest dwellers have been living at the mercy of forest officials and under threat of losing their homes and livelihood for more than a century in the name of development, the Act empowers Gram Sabhas by giving them sev-

eral statutory powers.

Even the 18 April 2013, historic judgment of the Supreme Court has reaffirmed the right of these communities over forest land through Gram Sabhas. It categorically said that FRA-2006 is applicable for all forest land and no forest land can be handed over for non-forestry purposes without the consent of Gram Sabha.

Big corporates see the FRA-2006 as an obstacle to their projects. That is the reason why the BJP-led government at the Centre, soon after coming to power in 2014, started to remove these legal obstacles. But, since it was not possible to repeal the whole Act, the government tried to dilute or weaken the FRA. It repeatedly tried to undermine the Act by bringing in changes in various other forest and environment laws. This latest amendment is one such attempt.

The pro-corporate and anti-environment amendment also dilutes the federal rights of the state governments. The amendment should be immediately withdrawn in larger interest of tribals, forests and environment.

The writer is a social activist and writes on socio-economic issues. Views are personal.



Bhala Chandra Shadangi

THE PROPOSED RULES WILL REDUCE THE POWER OF GRAM SABHAS, IMPROVE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS FOR CORPORATES, AND CONCENTRATE POWER IN FOREST BUREAUCRACY

Protect the gentle giants

Sir, The largest animal on land, elephant, was accorded the 'National Heritage Animal' status in 2010. The gigantic, but lovable animal is, as a consequence, placed in Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Protection of the endangered species is everyone's responsibility. Sixteen of the 28 Indian states have elephants in their forests. Many projects are in place in India to save the magnificent creatures from extinction. In Odisha there were 61 elephant deaths in 2020-21, and between 2009-10 and 2018-19, 730 jumbos lost their lives both due to natural and unnatural causes – the latter accounting for most deaths. In early 2021, Odisha's Karlapat wildlife sanctuary was gripped by a mysterious disease that was later termed as hemorrhagic septicemia resulting in the death of seven female elephants over two weeks. The 'mass deaths' of elephants was described as the 'largest ever' in Indian forests. Now, again in Odisha, discovery of three elephant carcasses in a short span has shocked wildlife lovers. Two elephants were said to be shot by poachers while one was electrocuted ostensibly by the evil design of poachers. Only a few days ago, another elephant carcass was recovered from the Tikarpada forest range in Angul district. It is sad that human greed has left no animal untouched. Steps have to be initiated to keep the big animals safe in their homes. Accidents, electrocutions and poaching have killed plenty of elephants in the country. Asian and African elephants are more vulnerable to all types of threats. The government is duty-bound to take necessary measures aimed at the conservation of elephants. Jumbos held captive in zoos and other places require particular attention. Securing the elephants in a non-exploitative and sustainable environment is key to their overall well-being.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Beleaguered fugitive

Sir, Beleaguered liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya once again found himself at the wrong end of the stick with the Supreme Court sentencing him to four months imprisonment and slapping a fine of ₹2,000 in a contempt case. The apex court found Mallya guilty of concealing facts and diverting \$40 million received from the British firm Diageo to his children in violation of court orders. The court also ordered the recipients to return the amount with 8 per cent interest to the recovery officer within four weeks. The fugitive in exile has proved to be a tough nut to crack for the Modi government.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

WISDOM CORNER

- Take care of all your memories. For you cannot relive them. BOB DYLAN
- The best way to pay for a lovely moment is to enjoy it. RICHARD BACH
- Many of us have been running all our lives. Practice stopping. THICH NHAT HANH

LOL

'HE WROTE A CHEQUE'

A visitor to a certain college paused to admire the new Hemingway Hall that had been built on campus. "It's a pleasure to see a building named for Ernest Hemingway," he said.



"Actually," said his guide, "it's named for Joshua Hemingway. No relation." The visitor was astonished. "Was Joshua Hemingway a writer, also?" "Yes, indeed," said his guide. "He wrote a cheque."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

of the day quote

The mistake China did, India should not. I will not support it (two-child law) at all because it will not be in India's interest. The Modi government has itself already said this (that it had no plans for a two-child policy)...It filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court and (their) Health Minister also said that in Parliament

ASADUDDIN OWASI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

Maharashtra is again under a lockdown. Nearly 100 people have died due to floods

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

After giving up hope in her own skills and the skills of her economic advisers, the FM has called the planets to the rescue of the economy

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

JMM backs Murmu

Ranchi: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Chief Shibu Soren Thursday said his party will support NDA presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu in the July 18 election, ending weeks of suspense. It is for the first time that a tribal woman has got an opportunity to become President of India, he said. Soren directed all MPs and MLAs of the JMM to vote for Murmu on July 18, the date for the Presidential elections. Murmu, the former Jharkhand governor, had recently visited the state to seek support for her candidature. She met the JMM chief and its executive president and Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

Fresh CBI FIR against Choksi

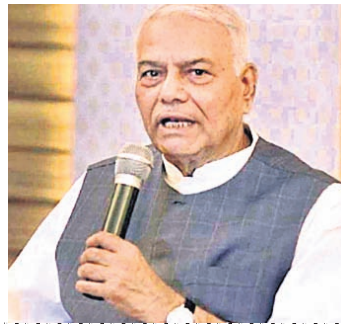
New Delhi: The CBI has filed a fresh FIR against fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi for allegedly cheating a Canara Bank-led consortium to the tune of Rs 55.27 crore, officials said Thursday. The agency has also booked Bezel Jewellery and its whole-time directors, including Choksi, Chetna Jhaveri, Dinesh Bhatia and Milind Limaye. The Canara Bank and the Bank of Maharashtra had sanctioned Rs 30 crore and Rs 25 crore respectively as working capital facility under a consortium agreement to Bezel Jewellery.

Delhi court seeks CCTV footage

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday directed authorities to produce CCTV camera footage of the Tihar Jail as it heard the plea moved by activist Sharjeel Imam alleging assault and harassment inside the prison, where he is currently lodged in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat also directed the duty register of jail sewadars to be presented before the court in the next hearing on July 20.

Two 'shooters' in transit remand

New Delhi: A court here Thursday granted one-day transit remand of two persons arrested in connection with the murder case of singer-turned-politician Sidhu Moosewala, to Punjab Police. The two accused -- Ankit Sersa and Sachin Chaudhary had been in the custody of the Delhi Police in an arms case. Chief metropolitan magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria granted their transit remand to the Mansa Police SIT team that is probing the murder of Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala.



BJP running 'Operation Kamal' even in Presidential polls. Money power at play

YASHWANT SINHA | OPPOSITION PARTIES' PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

AMARNATH YATRA SUSPENDED

Amarnath Yatra was suspended on both routes Thursday due to bad weather as rains lashed the Valley, officials said



PALANISWAMI CRACKS WHIP

In a party release, Palaniswami said the move is a disciplinary action and all the 18 of them have acted against party interests, principles and brought disrepute to the organization

OPS's loyalist in his home district of Theni, SPM Syed Khan, a former MP and also the Theni District Secretary, was ousted from the party



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 14: AIADMK interim general secretary K Palaniswami Thursday expelled O Panneerselvam's sons, and 16 other supporters of the ousted leader, from the party. Raveendranath, the party's Lok Sabha member from Theni constituency, and Jayapradeep, both sons of Panneerselvam (OPS) and a former Minister, Vellamandi N Natarajan were expelled. Natarajan is the Tiruchirappalli-based party strongman who sided with Panneerselvam. OPS's loyalist in his home district of Theni, SPM Syed Khan, a former MP and also the Theni District Secretary, was ousted from the party. In a party release, Palaniswami said the move is a disciplinary action and all the 18 of them have acted against party interests, principles and brought disrepute to the organisation.

Kovai Selvaraj, a former MLA, and Marudhu Alaguraj, both spokespersons of the AIADMK, were eased out of the party. Alaguraj is also the editor of party organ 'Namadhu Amma' and his name appeared as editor even in the July 14 edition of the daily. Former MLA from Chennai VNP Venkatraman (Trade wing secretary), SA Asokan, Kanyakumari east party district secretary, Kolathur D Krishnamurthy, an office-bearer of MGR youth wing, were relieved from their posts and the party membership. Former legislator belonging to neighbouring Pudukcherry Om Shakthi Sekar and former MP R Gopalakrishnan were among others who were expelled from the party's primary membership. July 11, the AIADMK general council meeting expelled Panneerselvam and 3 of his supporters including Thanjavur district based R Vaithilingam from the party.

Girl forced to sell oocytes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 14: Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian told mediapersons Thursday that the state government has ordered the closure of four fertility hospitals after a minor girl from Erode was forced to donate her oocytes. An oocyte is an immature egg (an immature ovum). Oocytes develop to maturity from within a follicle. During each reproductive cycle, several follicles begin to develop. The minister said that six hospitals were involved in the crime of which four are located in Tamil Nadu, and one each in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. He said the hospitals in Tamil Nadu will be shut, while the state Health Secretary has been directed to write to his counterparts in the other states to initiate appropriate action. The hospitals which have directed to close down are located in Salem, Krishnagiri and Erode on charges of violating the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act and Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, based on an inquiry report which said the minor girl was forced to donate her oocytes. Four persons, including the mother of the 16-year-old girl and her paramour, have been arrested on charges of forcing the girl to donate her Oocytes. The state health department had formed an inquiry committee headed by Viswanathan, Joint Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, and a final report was submitted on July 7. Inquiries were conducted at the hospitals in Salem, Erode, Krishnagiri and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala where the girl was taken forcibly. The minister said that these hospitals have violated the provisions of law.

SEEKING BLESSINGS

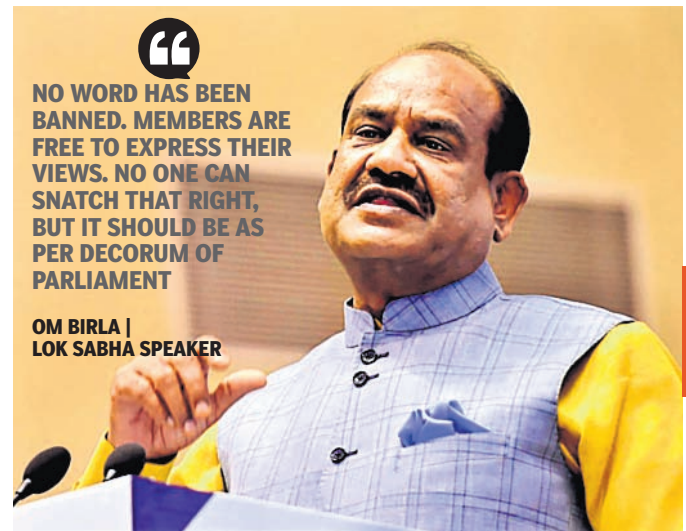


Devotees offer prayers to Lord Shiva on the first day of the holy month of Shraavan, at Shiv Temple, Kadipur in Gurugram

Speaker soothes frayed tempers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The opposition Thursday went straight for the government's jugular over the "gag order" on using certain words in Parliament, insisting indignantly every expression used by them to describe how the BJP was destroying India has now been declared unparliamentary. The clamour forced Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to step in to soothe frayed tempers by making it clear no word has been banned from use in Parliament but will be expunged on contextual basis. Members are free to express their views while maintaining decorum of the House, he said. The opposition was brimming with anger after a new booklet by the Lok Sabha Secretariat said Wednesday the use of terms like 'jumla jeevi', 'baal buddhi', 'Covid spreader', 'Snoogate' and even commonly used words like 'ashamed', 'abused', 'betrayed', 'corrupt', 'drama', 'hypocrisy' and 'incompetent' will henceforth be considered unparliamentary in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi derisively termed the compilation the "New Dictionary for New India". "Words used in discus-



NO WORD HAS BEEN BANNED. MEMBERS ARE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. NO ONE CAN SNATCH THAT RIGHT, BUT IT SHOULD BE AS PER DECORUM OF PARLIAMENT

OM BIRLA | LOK SABHA SPEAKER

sion and debates which correctly describe the PM's handling of the government, now banned from being spoken." "Example of an unparliamentary sentence: 'Jumla jeevi Tanashah shed Crocodile Tears when his lies and incompetence were exposed', he said. An angry Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "All words used by the Opposition to describe the reality of Modi Sarkar now to be considered 'unparliamentary'. What next Vishguru".

TMC leader said. As the political temperature soared, Speaker Om Birla hastened to address the issue. "No word has been banned. Members are free to express their views. No one can snatch that right, but it should be as per decorum of Parliament," Birla told reporters. The Speaker rejected the criticism that the BJP-led government at the Centre was behind the selec-

ROW OVER 'UNPARLIAMENTARY' WORDS

tion of 'unparliamentary' words and asserted that legislatures are independent of any government and the executive cannot give instructions to Parliament. "It is a routine practice continuing since 1954," he said referring to the release of the booklet that lists words and expressions deemed unparliamentary. Birla said words chosen for expunging have been used by members of the ruling party as well as the opposition. Several words and expressions, even those used commonly, get routinely expunged during legislative proceedings if a member protests and the presiding officer finds them inapt in a particular context.

Phone tapping case: ED arrests Chitra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 14: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday arrested Chitra Ramkrishna, the former CEO cum MD of National Stock Exchange (NSE) in connection with a money laundering case pertaining to allegedly tapping the phones of NSE employees between 2009 and 2017 on the basis of the case of the CBI. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had also conducted raids in Mumbai, Pune and in several other parts of the country in this connection. "Pandey ran iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd. It has been alleged that Ramkrishna used this firm to tap the phone of NSE's employees. The phone calls made by NSE employees between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. were tapped and recorded by iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd. It has been alleged that Pandey helped in tapping the phone calls illegally," a source had said.

of Sanjay Pandey in this connection. Pandey's statement was recorded at CBI's Mumbai-based headquarters. After the questioning, he was allowed to go. CBI sources said that he, however, could be called again to join the investigation. The case was lodged by the federal probe agency on the directions of Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The ED's case is with the help of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey. Ramkrishna is currently lodged behind the bars. The probe agency moved the court to seek permission to record her statement, and demand her custodial remand. The ED said that her questioning was must as she had been named as an accused in the matter. The court has allowed the ED plea and granted the anti-money laundering agency four days' custodial remand of Ramkrishna. Earlier, the CBI had on last Friday recorded the statement



The ED said that her questioning was must as she had been named as an accused in the matter

2009 MAOIST KILLING SC junks plea for probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The Supreme Court Thursday junked a plea by activist Himanshu Kumar demanding a CBI probe against the Chhattisgarh Police and central security forces for an alleged massacre of tribals in two separate places in Dantewada in 2009 and also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on for misusing the judicial process. It pointed at glaring loopholes in the case put by petitioners seeking an independent probe into the killings. A bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and J.B. Pardiwala said: "In the overall view of the matter, we have reached to the conclusion that no case, worth the name, has been made out by the writ petitioners for any further investigation much less through an independent agency to be appointed by this court." It imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on

Kumar and directed that it should be deposited within 4 weeks with the Supreme Court legal services committee, failing which recovery steps will be taken against him. Kumar had accused security forces of extra-judicial killings and demanded compensation for families of those killed. A plea was filed by Kumar and 12 others, who were the family members of the deceased tribals, seeking an independent probe into the killings. The bench noted that the prime concern and the endeavour of the court of law should be to secure justice on the basis of true facts which ought to be unearthed through a committed, resolved, and a competent investigating agency. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, vehemently submitted that the alleged brutal incidents of killing of the tribals should be investigated through the CBI.

45 hand guns seized at IGI airport

A GURUGRAM-BASED MARRIED COUPLE WAS ARRESTED AT THE AIRPORT FOR ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO SMUGGLE THESE GERMANY AND ITALY-MADE HAND GUNS INTO THE COUNTRY, THE OFFICIALS SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: Delhi Customs has written to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), mandated to probe terror-related incidents, about its recent seizure of 45 hand guns at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport here, officials said Thursday. They said that the federal agency may look into this case to ascertain any suspected terror conspiracy. "A letter has been sent to the NIA informing them about the seizure of these 45 guns. A team of NIA officials, who had visited the airport, has already been briefed about the matter," an official said, requesting anonymity. A Gurugram-based married couple was arrested at the airport here for allegedly trying to smuggle these Germany and Italy-made



hand guns into the country, the officials said. They said efforts are on to nab another accused, who escaped from the airport after handing over two pieces of luggage carrying the guns to the couple. The accused couple, who arrived here from Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City on Monday, were accompanied by their infant daughter. The male passenger (husband) was carrying two trolley bags, which were handed to him by his elder brother who had arrived from Paris almost at the same time and day as the couple's flight from Vietnam landed

here, the officials said. The elder brother, after handing over the trolley bags, slipped out of the airport, they said. The officials said that investigation has revealed that the third accused, who is yet to be traced, has a few serious criminal cases registered against him including that under the Arms Act. The customs department has sought a ballistic report to confirm whether the seized guns are real or not, they said. However, a preliminary report has confirmed that the guns can be used after certain modifications, the officials said. As many as 45 pieces of assorted brand guns having approximate value of Rs 22.5 lakh were recovered from the baggage, they said. The husband-and-wife duo has been arrested and their child was handed over to her grandmother, the officials said.

J&K cops soft targets for terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 14: They can be easily spotted in a bustling marketplace buying vegetables or dropping their children to school. The everyday ordinariness of their lives has rendered the Jammu and Kashmir police personnel soft targets, as they fight a seemingly endless battle against militancy in the valley.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad Tuesday became the 49th victim of terrorist violence in the past over six months in Jammu and Kashmir, where militant attacks on soft targets have shown an upward trend despite successful counter-insurgency operations by the security forces.

Ahmad (56) was killed and his two subordinates – constables Fayaz Ahmad and Abu Bakar – were injured when terrorists opened fire on their patrol at Lal Bazar on the outskirts of Srinagar.

He is the 11th state policeman to have been shot dead by terrorists in Kashmir since January, officials said Wednesday. Six army personnel and five paramilitary jawans have also laid down their lives this year taking the total number of fallen security personnel to 22.

Last year, a total of 42 security forces personnel were killed in the valley. Of them, 21 were from the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Ironically, Ahmad's son Aaqib Mushtaq, an alleged terrorist associate was killed in an encounter in Kulgam in April 2020.

Among the 49 victims of terrorist violence, 27 are civilians who fell to targeted attacks in different parts of the valley, setting off panic among Kashmiri migrant pandit employees engaged under Prime Minister's employment package and Dogra staffers who are on strike since May demanding relocation from Kashmir to Jammu.

According to a police official, terrorists are looking for soft tar-



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gets to make their presence felt without encountering much trouble. The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said since the state police constituted the first line of defence, they were in the line of terrorist fire.

"Police is spread thin. It is the first line of defence. The Army is deeply entrenched in camps and rightly so as Army is the last resort," he said.

"We are everywhere, we are easy targets. We have to go to our homes, get vegetables from market, drop kids at schools. We are soft targets," he added.

Quite a few of the felled police personnel like constable Ghulam Hassan, who was shot dead May 7, were unarmed. Others like constable Saifullah Qadri were enjoying familial bliss when their lives were cut short by terrorists' bullets. Qadri was shot dead outside his home, while his seven-year-old

daughter was injured in the attack.

The 27 civilians killed by terrorists included government employees belonging to minority communities like Rahul Bhat and Rajni Bala who were shot dead in their respective places of posting in Budgam and Kulgam districts May 12 and May 31, respectively.

Officials said stepped up counter-insurgency operations neutralised 133 terrorists across Jammu and Kashmir since January this year with June accounting for the highest 35 terrorist fatalities.

While 66 terrorists were eliminated between March and May, 22 were killed in January and seven others in February, they said, adding three terrorists were gunned down in the first two weeks of the current month.

Shocked at the targeted killings, panic-stricken government employees belonging to the minority

community especially Kashmiri migrant pandits and Dogras, have been on strike since May in support of their various demands, the foremost being relocation from the Kashmir valley to Jammu division.

Many of them have already fled to Jammu after the killing of their colleague Rajni Bala of Samba and are staging a sit-in at Panama chowk in the heart of Jammu, unwilling to resume their duties in the valley till normalcy returns.

Kashmiri pandits are also protesting inside their heavily-guarded camps in different parts of Kashmir and in Jammu since the cold-blooded murder of Rahul Bhat, a clerk, inside his office in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

They insist "no place is safe for them in the valley".

For most of these attacks, The Resistance Front (TRF) – believed to be an off-shoot of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) – has claimed responsibility. The TRF came into existence after the Centre abrogated Article 370 and divided J-K into two union territories.

Officials believe LeT perpetrated the attacks but TRF claimed responsibility to put on a facade of indigenous involvement.

By doing so, Pakistan also wants to evade any action by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which has still kept it on the grey list.

The TRF often releases videos and pictures of an attack. Of late, the militants have been using body cameras to shoot the killings.

After ASI Ahmad's killing, a video released by Amaq news agency – the propaganda outlet linked to the ISIS – shows a terrorist firing a pistol at a policeman before he goes on to shoot another inside a police vehicle. He then goes around the area and shoots another policeman taking refuge behind a tree, as a burst of gunfire rings in the background.

Hilsa hits the Bengali platter but farmers worried over rain deficit



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 14: Arrival of the 'kachcha' or fresh Raidighi Hilsa, considered the best among estuarine varieties of the fish, in markets across the city and suburbs may have brought some cheer to those who can afford it but farmers in south Bengal are a worried lot. A good catch of Hilsa in the Bay of Bengal is indication of fair weather conditions and less rainfall. However, the lack of adequate rainfall is threatening crops like paddy and jute in parts of rural Bengal.

In June this year, south Bengal districts recorded a rain deficit of 49 per cent while there was a surplus of 50 per cent in the north. Rainfall in south Bengal has been scanty so far and standing crops have begun to wither.

After the dry summer, most farmers depend on the Monsoon for sustenance. Unless the situation improves over the next few days, thousands of farmers – many of them marginalised – will incur heavy losses.

In districts like Nadia and North 24-Parganas, there are hundreds of acres where jute is cultivated. As it is, the demand for jute has come down and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is low. "Unless we produce enough, there will be no earnings. All our investment and effort will go to waste. In many areas,

the saplings have already started dying due to lack of water," Nasim Ali, a farmer from Nadia said.

In districts like Burdwan, Hooghly and South 24-Parganas, the story is the same for paddy. Saplings have already been planted and have grown to a height where they require more water. Farmers gaze up to the skies every morning, hoping for a heavy downpour but meteorologists have not been able to provide much information about when this will happen.

"We need sufficient water to submerge the paddy partially. Paddy requires a lot of water. The rainfall that has taken place so far was not even sufficient to form puddles. The mango growers from this region have already taken a huge

beating this year due to insufficient nor'westers in April. The nor'westers adds moisture to the stems of unripe mangos and provides strength for them to ripen. This year, there was hardly any Himsagar variety of mangos that is a mainstay for many orchard owners and lessees," said Samir Mandal, a farmer from Hooghly.

There is some cheer among fishermen in the South 24-Parganas and East Midnapore districts though. Their first foray into the Bay in search of the silver harvest (Hilsa) went to waste as the winds and tides were unfavourable. It's 'Bhora Kotal' (high tide) season now and the Hilsa is returning to the sea after spawning in rivers like the Hooghly and Rupnarayan. The best Hilsa, after all, is the one without eggs.

Good catches of Hilsa have started coming in and they have reached markets. The price has also come down now, a trawler owner in Kakdwip said.

The Raidighi variety is now going for Rs 1,500-1,600 a kilogram (for fish weighing 900 grams to a kg). It goes up to Rs 2,000-2,200 for fish weighing 1.5 kg to 2 kg.



J&K govt for digital contour mapping of Amarnath shrine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 14: The Jammu and Kashmir government has asked the Surveyor General of India to conduct digital contour mapping of the Amarnath cave and its adjoining areas to prevent loss of human lives due to natural calamities in future.

Addressing mediapersons at the Raj Bhawan, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said, "I have requested the Surveyor General of India to conduct digital contour mapping of Amarnath cave shrine and its adjoining areas."

The survey will recommend steps to be taken to prevent loss of human lives in case of natural calamities as happened July 8. It is believed that in the absence of the bund (embankment) constructed there by the Irrigation and Flood Control department, the casualties due to the recent cloudburst would have been more, but there always is scope for more improvement.

He said 15 Yatris lost their lives and 55 were injured in July 8 flash flood. Sinha said every Yatri is insured and the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) will provide cash assistance of Rs 5 lakh each



Rescue ops called off; none missing

Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha Thursday said the rescue operations launched following a flashflood near the Amarnath cave shrine – that left 15 people dead – has been called off and there was no report of any person missing. Referring to reports about several persons missing in the aftermath of the flashflood July 8, Sinha said the helpline number of the shrine board had received about 200 calls and it took some time to track the yatris as their mobile phones were switched off. He said the administration was in touch with all the state governments and as of now no person was missing.

to the next of kin of those who lost their lives.

About the demand that the number of pilgrims who are allowed to perform the Yatra daily should be increased, Sinha said that a committee constituted by the Supreme Court two years ago had fixed the number of pilgrims at 7,500 from both routes – Baltal and Pahalgam.

After pani puri, Mamata makes momos in Darjeeling



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 14: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took to making momos at a roadside shop in Darjeeling Thursday, two days after she served 'pani puris' to the people of the Hills.

In a video clip shared by her on social media, Banerjee can be seen interacting with women at the shop as she tries her hand at making the dumplings.

"Today I made momos during my morning walk, in Darjeeling. Elated to share such special moments with my people. Darjeeling will always have my heart and I salute the hard-working people of our Hills who make every visit so memorable," she posted on Facebook.

Banerjee, who is on a three-

day visit to Darjeeling, had Tuesday attended the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected members of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). Shortly after, she was found serving pani puris to people, videos of which went viral on social media.

Children and tourists were seen in the clip savouring the potato-stuffed fried dough balls, also known as 'phuchka' and 'gol gappa'.

On an earlier occasion, too, Banerjee had prepared momos at a stall in Darjeeling, much to the surprise of the locals.

In 2019, just before returning to Kolkata from the seaside town of Digha, she had stopped at a tea stall, made fresh cuppas and served them to locals.

'Not seeking independence but meaningful autonomy for Tibet'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

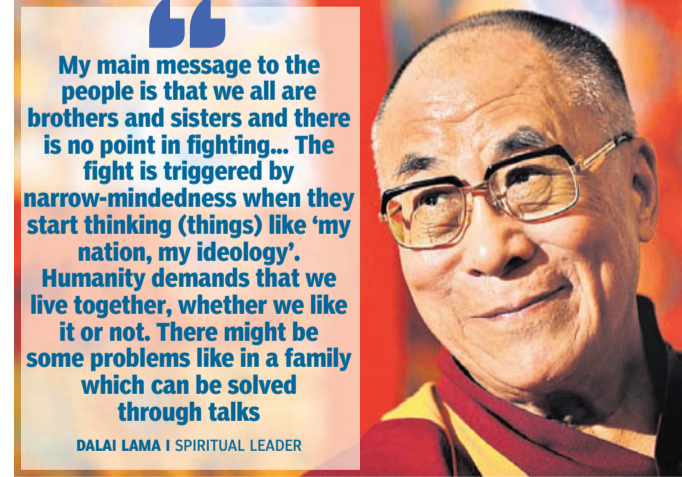
Jammu, July 14: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama Thursday said more and more people in China are beginning to realise that he is not seeking independence but meaningful autonomy and preservation of the Tibetan Buddhist culture.

Advocating resolution to all disputes through dialogue, he asserted that all human beings are equal and they need to rise above the narrow-minded approach of my nation, my ideology which is the main trigger for fights among people.

The Dalai Lama arrived here to a warm welcome by his followers who turned up in large numbers despite heavy rains. This was his first visit outside Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh in the last two years. He is likely to visit Ladakh Friday.

"Some Chinese hardliners consider me a separatist and a reactionary and always criticise me. But now, more Chinese are realising that the Dalai Lama is not seeking independence and only wishing China (to give) meaningful autonomy (to Tibet) and (ensure) preservation of Tibetan Buddhist culture," the 87-year-old spiritual leader told reporters.

Asked about China's objection to his visit, the Dalai Lama said,



My main message to the people is that we all are brothers and sisters and there is no point in fighting... The fight is triggered by narrow-mindedness when they start thinking (things) like 'my nation, my ideology'. Humanity demands that we live together, whether we like it or not. There might be some problems like in a family which can be solved through talks

DALAI LAMA I SPIRITUAL LEADER

"This is usual. The Chinese people are not objecting... More and more Chinese are showing interest in Tibetan Buddhism. Some of their scholars are realising that Tibetan Buddhism is very scientific. Things are changing." The Dalai Lama, whose real name is Tenzin Gyatso, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and is feted worldwide for his advocacy of independence for Tibet and other causes.

Earlier this month, Beijing criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for greeting the Dalai Lama on his 87th birthday, saying India should stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China's inter-

national affairs. However, India rejected China's criticism and asserted that it is a consistent policy to treat the Dalai Lama as an honoured guest of the country.

The spiritual leader's visit to Ladakh, where he is likely to spend over a month, is expected to rile China further as it comes amid the lingering military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at several friction points in eastern Ladakh. "I am leaving for Ladakh tomorrow to take part in some programme. The weather did not cooperate," the Dalai Lama said. He expressed displeasure over the prevailing crisis in Sri Lanka.

Massive turtle conservation project in Bengal on the anvil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 14: West Bengal has joined hands with a non-governmental organisation to carry out a crucial project for conservation of the turtle species found in the state, officials said.

The initiative, to be undertaken in association with the Forest Department, comes after the success of the conservation project regarding Batagur baska, one of the most endangered turtle species in the world. This will be an extension of the Batagur baska project and we are preparing a plan-of-action report, Shaileendra Singh, turtle expert at the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), told PTI.

Out of the 20 species of freshwater turtles found in West Bengal, the TSA will carry out a detailed study on their status and distribution of the species, Singh said. At least seven of them are critically endangered, including the red crowned roofed turtle, three-striped roofed turtle and elongated tortoise.



The report will contain the steps necessary for the conservation of the Assam roofed turtles, which are generally found in the Jaldapara and Gorumara regions, the scientist said. He added that a survey would also be conducted out on the giant softshell turtles and the Terai region's leaf turtle.

The new initiative will help in the conservation of the other species of turtles found in West Bengal, Sunderbans Tiger Reserve deputy field director Justin Jones said. The report will be submitted to the Forest Department, Singh said, adding that the TSA signed a memorandum of understanding with it May 23.

The TSA and the department have a recovery plan for the Batagur baska till 2030. A similar vision plan is there for the black soft shell turtle. The conservation project of the northern river terrapin or Batagur baska is being deemed successful since the population of the species has increased to 400 in 2022 from 12 a decade ago.

of the day **quote**

This government has not taken even one decision in favour of farmers. During the Congress government's time, farmers used to get compensation if high-tension power towers and wires passed through their fields but the present government changed this policy

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | CONGRESS LEADER

90 per cent work of Goa's Mopa airport complete, commissioning after August 15

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

India's fertiliser consumption is 35 per cent of the world's and India imports 70 lakh to 100 lakh metric tonnes every year

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION MINISTER FOR HEALTH, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS

SHORT TAKES

Woman burns adopted daughter

Lucknow: A 35-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly torturing and inflicting injuries on the private parts of her six-year-old adopted daughter. The accused, Poonam, was arrested late Wednesday night. The victim's father, Ajay Kumar, informed the police about the incident and rushed the girl to a private hospital where she is undergoing treatment. Kumar owns a food cart.

13 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims injured

Srinagar: Thirteen Amarnath yatis were injured Thursday in separate accidents in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam and Ganderbal districts, officials said here. Eight pilgrims were injured in south Kashmir's Kulgam and five more in central Kashmir's Ganderbal, they said. In Kulgam, the officials said, a bus enroute to the Baital base camp with around 40 pilgrims lost control and hit a tipper dumper moving in the same direction. The accident took place on the national highway near Nussu Badergund in Qazigund, they said.

No holiday in UP on I-Day

Lucknow: For the first time, schools, colleges, universities, government, non-government offices and most importantly, markets will remain open on Independence Day. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that this Independence Day will be celebrated as a special event this year in each district as it is the 75th year of Independence. Chief Secretary D.S. Mishra said that a special sanitisation drive would be carried out, as is done during the festival of Diwali, and this should be made into a national public movement.

Fire breaks out, 10 rescued

New Delhi: A major fire broke out at a hotel in Central Delhi's Paharganj Thursday morning from where ten people were rescued by the firefighters. According to the fire department, they got a call at around 4 a.m. regarding the fire at Roma Delux Hotel in Paharganj. Four fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

Bodies found

Hyderabad: Two rescue personnel, who were reported missing in a flood-hit village in Telangana's Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Wednesday, have been found dead. Their bodies were found near Ainam village of Dahegaon mandal in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district.



The Centre is working to improve the e-NAM (National Agriculture Market), an online trading platform for agricultural commodities in India, to make agricultural business even more transparent

NARENDRA TOMAR | UNION MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

STALIN HOSPITALISED

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, who tested positive for coronavirus July 12, was Thursday admitted to a hospital for investigations and observation



TEST FOR MONKEYPOX AT ENTRY POINTS: CENTRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: Amid a rise in monkeypox cases globally, the Centre Thursday asked states to ensure screening and testing of all suspect cases at points of entry and in the community as part of India's preparedness against the disease. It also asked the states and Union Territories to identify hospitals and ensure adequate human resources and logistic support to manage any suspect or confirmed monkeypox case. In a letter, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that from January 1 to June 22, a total of 3,413 laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases and one death have been reported to it from 50 countries and territories.

A majority of these cases have been reported from the European region (86 per cent) and the Americas (11 per cent). This points at a slow but sustained increase in the spread of monkeypox cases globally, he said.

Considering this is the first time that cases and clusters are being reported concurrently in five WHO Regions, the global health body has assessed the overall risk of spread of cases as 'moderate at the global level'.



A MAJORITY OF THESE CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE EUROPEAN REGION (86 PER CENT) AND THE AMERICAS (11 PER CENT)

IN A LETTER, UNION HEALTH SECRETARY RAJESH BHUSHAN SAID THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HAS REPORTED THAT FROM JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 22, A TOTAL OF 3,413 LABORATORY-CONFIRMED MONKEYPOX CASES AND ONE DEATH HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO IT FROM 50 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

"Continued expansion of monkeypox disease globally calls for proactive strengthening and operationalisation of requisite public health actions for preparedness and response against the disease in India also," Bhushan said. He reiterated some of the key

actions that need to be taken by all states and Union Territories in line with the Health Ministry's guidelines on the subject. The key actions include orientation and regular re-orientation of all key stakeholders including, health-screening teams at points of entry, disease surveillance teams and

SC rejects plea on common dress code

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana was urged by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay that his PIL be also listed for hearing like the batch of appeals filed against the Karnataka High Court verdict on the hijab row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to accord urgent hearing to a PIL which seeks a direction to the Centre and states to implement a common dress code for staffers and students in registered educational institutions for securing equality and promoting fraternity and national integration.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana was urged by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay that his PIL be also listed for hearing like the batch of appeals filed against the Karnataka High Court verdict on the hijab row.

Wednesday, the bench, also comprising justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant



Bhushan and agreed to list next week the petitions challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state. At the outset, Upadhyay said this is a matter pertaining to the common dress code. "We have told you a number of times. Do not force me to repeat. Every day you file a PIL. How many matters have you filed? As if there is no regular litigation. I do not know, in every case you come and mention. It will come in due course. Wait..." the bench said. "Your Lordship agreed to hear the hijab matter yesterday.. I filed this PIL in February," Upadhyay said. Earlier in February, the PIL was filed by Nikhil Upadhyay through lawyers Ashwini Upadhyay and Ashwani Dubey in the apex court seeking implementation of common dress code in educational institutions in the wake of the hijab row.

Zubair requests SC to cancel 6 cases



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 14: Mohammed Zubair, the co-founder of fact-checking website Alt News, has moved the Supreme Court seeking to quash six FIRs registered against him by the Uttar Pradesh Police, over his tweets.

The plea has also challenged the constitution of a special investigative team (SIT) to probe these cases. Zubair has also sought interim bail in the 6 FIRs. On Tuesday, the Uttar Pradesh government formed a two-member SIT to probe six cases lodged against Zubair in Hathras, Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, and Sitapur. Inspector General Dr Preetinder Singh, who is presently posted at Department of Prisons Administration and Reform, will head the SIT, while Deputy Inspector General of Police Amit Verma is a member of the SIT. On July 12, the Supreme Court extended the interim bail granted to Zubair; by the top court, in the case regis-

tered against him at Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur.

A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.S. Bopanna listed the matter for final disposal on September 7. The bench noted that the state government seeks time to file a counter affidavit and allowed the government to file a reply within 4 weeks and rejoinder within 2 weeks thereafter.

"Interim bail in Sitapur FIR case shall continue till further orders. List for final disposal on September 7, 2022," said the bench. The top court's order came on a plea by Zubair seeking quashing of the FIR registered against him at Sitapur.

On July 8, the Supreme Court granted an interim bail for five days to Zubair in connection with a case registered against him by the Uttar Pradesh Police for a tweet, where he allegedly called Hindu seers 'hatemongers'.

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

"It is made clear that this order pertains to FIR dated 01.06.2022 lodged at PS Khairabad, District Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh only."

VIOLENT SEA



Sea waves crash at the shore at Gateway of India during high tide in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

Big move: Shinde cuts VAT on fuel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 14: The Maharashtra government will reduce the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹3 per litre, respectively, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced Thursday.

The decision, to be implemented from Thursday midnight, would put a burden of ₹6,000 crore on the state exchequer but will benefit

common people, he told reporters after a cabinet meeting here. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said the decision was part of the Shiv Sena-BJP government's commitment to people's welfare.

The government will also ensure that the revenue loss of ₹6,000 crore does not affect development works, Shinde said. At present, in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Amravati and Aurangabad petrol is 26 percent VAT plus ₹10.12 per litre

and diesel is 24 percent VAT plus ₹3 per litre.

For the rest of Maharashtra, at present petrol is 25 percent VAT plus ₹10.12 per litre and diesel is 21 percent VAT plus ₹3 per litre. The state government, meanwhile, also reversed the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) regime's decision to stop direct election of village sarpanchs and presidents of municipal councils/nagar panchayats.

Daler jailed in trafficking case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 14: A court in Punjab's Patiala on Thursday dismissed the plea of leading bhanga-rapper singer Daler Mehndi against his two-year jail in a 19-year-old human trafficking case. He was subsequently arrested and sent to a local jail.

He was convicted along with his brother in March 2018 and later released on bail. As his bail plea was dismissed by the court of Additional Sessions Judge H.S. Grewal, Daler Mehndi was taken into custody.

Police had registered a case against the singer, his brother Shamsheer Singh - who died in October 2017 - and two others, after it was alleged that the accused took money from people to the tune of Rs 1 crore on the pretext of taking them abroad. Complainant, Bakshish Singh, alleged that the deal never matured and the accused failed to return the money.

The case was registered in 2003 in Patiala. Daler Mehndi was subsequently arrested but released on bail after a few days.

LANCET STUDY

Nasal spray lowers Covid viral load by 94% in 24 hrs

The study on Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray was conducted by Mumbai-based pharmaceutical company Glenmark in 306 vaccinated and unvaccinated adults with symptomatic mild Covid across 20 clinical sites in India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 14: A nasal spray administered in high-risk adult COVID-19 patients in India reduced viral load by 94 per cent within 24 hours and 99 per cent in 48 hours, according to the results of phase 3 trial of the drug published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal.

The study on Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray (NONS) was conducted by Mumbai-based pharmaceutical company Glenmark in 306 vaccinated and unvaccinated adults with symptomatic mild COVID-19

across 20 clinical sites in India.

The trial evaluated a seven-day treatment of NONS plus standard of care versus placebo nasal spray and standard care in patients with symptomatic COVID-19. NONS was self-administered six times daily as two sprays per nostril for seven days.

The study was conducted during the Delta and Omicron surges.

The research found that high risk patients who received NONS had significant reduction in viral load within 24 hours, which was sustained over seven days of treatment.

Viral load was reduced by 93.7 per



cent within 24 hours and by 99 per cent within 48 hours of treatment with NONS. Similar results were observed in vaccinated and unvaccinated populations, the authors said. "The robust double-blind trial demonstrated significant efficacy and remarkable safety of NONS," Monika Tandon, Senior

VP & Head - Clinical Development, Glenmark, and one of the authors of the study said.

"This therapy has the potential to make a crucial contribution to COVID-19 management, with its ease of use in the current highly transmissible phase of pandemic," Tandon said in a statement. NONS

was launched in India under the brand name FabiSpray in February, after it received manufacturing and marketing approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) as part of the accelerated approval process.

Nitric Oxide blocks entry into the nasal passage, kills the virus, and stops its replication, which is why viral load is reduced so rapidly with NONS, the statement said. The median time to viral cure was three days in the NONS group and seven days in the placebo group after the start of the treatment, it said.

The proportion of immediate contacts having a positive COVID-19 test or becoming symptomatic, remained nearly the same in the NONS group while it numerically increased in the placebo group over the treatment, the authors added.

international

of the day quote

I will get taxes down in this Parliament, but I'm going to do so responsibly. I don't cut taxes to win elections, I win elections to cut taxes

RISHI SUNAK | EX-FINANCE MINISTER, UK

The unlawful transfer and deportation of protected persons is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians and is a war crime

ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

There is no military base, nor any other military facility or institutions, in the agreement (with China). The moment we establish a foreign military base, we immediately become an enemy

MANASSEH SOGAVARE | PM, SOLOMON ISLANDS

SHORT TAKES

Spacey pleads not guilty in UK

London: Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of sexually assaulting three men a decade or more ago. Spacey, 62, spoke clearly as he denied five charges during a hearing at London's Central Criminal Court. Judge Mark Wall set a date of June 6, 2023 for the trial to start and said it would last three to four weeks. The former "House of Cards" star, who ran London's Old Vic theater between 2004 and 2015, denied four counts of sexual assault and one count of causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent.

IMF to resume loan to Pakistan

Islamabad: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Thursday it had agreed with Pakistan to resume a suspended loan programme that will inject \$1.17 billion into the struggling economy. A statement from the IMF said a "staff level agreement" -- which is still subject to board approval -- will bring to \$4.2 billion the amount dispersed under an extended fund facility (EFF) that could increase to \$7 billion and stretch until June next year.

PM blames cops for Abe's death

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida Thursday blamed inadequate police security for the death of former leader Shinzo Abe, who was shot while giving an outdoor campaign speech. Abe, one of Japan's most influential politicians, was assassinated last Friday in western Japan, shocking a nation known for its low crime rate. Photos and videos of the shooting show the gunman was able to come close to Abe.

Heatwave singes eastern China

Beijing: High temperatures have prompted cities in eastern China to open former air raid shelters as a relief from the heat. Temperatures have surpassed all-time records in much of the country, while flooding has hit many parts. Air raid shelters were built in numerous Chinese cities during the Japanese invasion beginning in 1937. The building campaign was restored in the late 1950s when the former Soviet Union canceled its projects with China, prompting then-leader Mao Zedong to lean toward a diplomatic opening with Washington while guarding against a nuclear attack.



If the tensions created by India's current policies in occupied Kashmir and aggressive postures are left unattended, it could lead to another conflict in the region with potentially catastrophic consequences

AHSAN IQBAL | PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, PAKISTAN

VAN GOGH SELF-PORTRAIT FOUND

A self-portrait of Dutch post-Impressionist artist Vincent van Gogh has been uncovered hidden behind one of his paintings. National Galleries of Scotland said Thursday art conservators made the discovery, during an x-ray examination of Van Gogh's previous artwork. The image was hidden behind cardboard and layers of glue



Fresh wave of Covid-19 sweeps Asia

The renewed surge in cases provides a further challenge for authorities grappling with the economic fallout of earlier waves of the pandemic while trying to avoid extending or reintroducing unpopular curbs

REUTERS

Wellington/Tokyo, July 14: A new wave of coronavirus infections is rapidly spreading through Asia, prompting warnings for residents from New Zealand to Japan to take precautions to slow the outbreak and help prevent healthcare systems from being overwhelmed. The New Zealand government Thursday announced free masks and rapid antigen tests as it tries to relieve pressure on the country's health system, which is dealing with an influx of both Covid and



influenza patients during the southern hemisphere winter.

- NZ announces free masks and rapid antigen tests
- Japan newly infected rise by 2.14-fold from last week
- Tokyo raised Covid alert level to the highest tier
- Oz warned it could be hit with its worst Covid-19 outbreak

New Zealand, which has a population of 5.1 million, has almost

69,000 currently infected with the virus. Of those, 765 cases are in hospital, which has caused increases in wait times and surgeries to be cancelled.

In Japan, new Covid-19 cases have surged to levels not seen since early this year. Japan reported almost 95,000 cases Wednesday and newly infected patients have increased by 2.14-fold compared to the last week, according to a government spokesperson.

"Tomorrow, we will hold a meeting of the task force to decide on measures to be taken this summer,

taking into consideration the national trend and the opinions of experts," Tokyo Governor said.

Australia warned it could be hit with its worst Covid-19 outbreak over the next few weeks fuelled by the BA.4/5 Omicron variants. Authorities ruled out any tough restrictions to contain the spread.

Mainland China has reported an average of over 300 locally transmitted Covid daily infections in July, higher than around 70 in June, as Beijing's strict "dynamic Covid-zero" policy helps keep local clusters in check.

ON WINNING STREAK

Sunak tops second round of voting to succeed as UK PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 14: Rishi Sunak tightened his grip on the race to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and British prime minister as he bagged 101 votes to again emerge as the winner of the latest voting round Thursday.

There are now five candidates left in the Tory leadership contest after Suella Braverman, the Indian-origin Attorney General in the fray, was knocked off the shortlist with the least votes at 27.

Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt (83 votes), Foreign Secretary Liz Truss (64 votes), former minister Kemi Badenoch (49 votes) and Tory backbencher Tom Tugendhat (32 votes) remain on the ballot in the narrowing race after the second round of votes were cast by lawmakers.

The next few rounds of voting among Conservative Party members of Parliament to whittle this list down to just two by next Thursday is scheduled for early next week.

All eyes will now be on which way Braverman and her backers will swing, handing those 27 votes to shore up one of the remaining five. "I'm convinced that I'm the best person to beat [Opposition Labour leader] Keir Starmer and secure that election victory," Sunak, 42, said in an interview earlier.

The British Indian former Chancellor and son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy looks set to be among the final two candidates to hit the campaign trail around the UK for hustings to convince the wider Conservative Party membership ahead of a postal ballot to decide the winner.

The race is now narrowing down into a three-way fight between Sunak, Mordaunt and Truss with the others expected to throw their weight behind one of these three campaigns in the hope of securing a good Cabinet post under a new leader.

Johnson's successor will be known by September 5 and go on to address the first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in Parliament September 7.

Gotabaya quits after fleeing to Singapore



REUTERS

Colombo/Singapore, July 14: Sri Lankan president Gotabaya Rajapaksa has submitted a letter of resignation, two government sources said Friday after he fled to Singapore following mass protests over his country's economic meltdown.

Rajapaksa emailed a letter of resignation to the speaker of the country's parliament late Thursday, two sources said. It was not immediately clear if the letter, sent shortly after Rajapaksa arrived in Singapore, would be accepted in email form, the sources added.

In commercial capital Colombo, troops patrolled the streets to enforce a curfew.

Rajapaksa, who fled to the Maldives Wednesday to escape a popular uprising over his family's role in a crippling economic crisis, headed on to Singapore on a Saudi Arabian airline flight, according to sources.

Singapore's foreign ministry said Rajapaksa had entered the country on a private visit, and had not sought or been granted asylum.

His decision on Wednesday to make his ally Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe the acting president triggered more protests, with demonstrators storming parliament and the premier's office demanding that he quit too.

Protests against the economic cri-

- 'RAJAPAKSA ON PRIVATE VISIT, NOT GRANTED ASYLUM'
- INTERIM SUCCESSOR IMPOSES CURFEW IN COLOMBO
- PROTESTERS HAND BACK PREZ, PREMIER'S RESIDENCES
- 1 DEAD, 84 HURT IN CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE & RIOTERS

Here to see a criminal, say Lankans in S'pore

Singapore: "We are here to see a criminal" and a "fugitive who devastated our economy," some two dozen Sri Lankans living in Singapore said Thursday as they showed up at the Changi International Airport after hearing that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who fled the country to the Maldives will land here. The Sri Lankans who arrived at the airport described Rajapaksa as a "fugitive", "corrupt", and "a war criminal", outpouring their anger over the president's "U-turn from his promise of resignation" Wednesday. Another Lankan citizen living in Singapore for the last 15 years said Rajapaksa and his entire family were responsible for ruining the island nation's economy.

sis have simmered for months and came to a head last weekend when hundreds of thousands of people took over government buildings in Colombo, blaming the powerful Rajapaksa family and allies for runaway inflation, shortages of basic goods, and corruption.

The usual protest sites, however, were calm and organisers handed back the President and Prime Minister's residences to the government Thursday evening.

US, Israel vow to deny Iran N-arms

In 2015, Iran signed a deal capping its N-projects with bomb-making potential. In 2018, then-US President Donald Trump quit the pact, deeming it insufficient. Iran has since ramped up its nuclear activities, putting a ticking clock on world powers' bid to return to a deal in Vienna talks

REUTERS

Jerusalem, July 14: US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid signed a joint pledge Thursday to deny Iran nuclear arms, a show of unity by allies long divided over diplomacy with Tehran.

The undertaking, part of a "Jerusalem Declaration" crowning Biden's first visit to Israel as president, came a day after he told a local TV station that he was open to "last resort" use of force against Iran - an apparent move toward accommodating Israel's calls for a "credible military threat" by world powers.

Washington and Israel have separately made veiled statements about possible preemptive war with Iran - which denies seeking nuclear arms - for years. Whether they have the capabilities or will to deliver on this has been subject to



We will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

The only way to stop a nuclear Iran is if Iran knows the free world will use force

YAIR LAPID | PM, ISRAEL

debate, however.

Thursday's statement reaffirmed US support for Israel's regional military edge and ability "to defend itself by itself".

"The United States stresses that integral to this pledge is the commitment never to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon, and that it is prepared to use all elements of its national power to ensure that outcome," the statement added.

Lapid cast this posture as a way of averting open conflict. Speaking alongside him, Biden described preventing a nuclear Iran as "a vital security interest for Israel and the United States and, I would add, for the rest of the world as well".

The Jerusalem Declaration further committed the US and Israel to cooperating on defence projects such as a laser interceptors, as well as on

Iran Prez fumes

DUBAI: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said Thursday that the Islamic Republic will have a "harsh and regrettable response" to any "mistake" committed by Washington or its allies. "The great nation of Iran will not accept any insecurity or crisis in the region and Washington and its allies should know that any mistake will be met by a harsh and regrettable response from Iran," Raisi said during a speech. US and Israel have long expressed concerns over Iran's nuclear capabilities. Iran insists it never had any ambition to make a nuclear bomb.

civilian technologies. US was open to future defence grants to Israel, it said, reaffirming Washington's interest in reviving talks on an Israeli-Palestinian two-state solution.



A spate of wildfires is scorching parts of Europe, with firefighters battling blazes in Portugal, Spain and southern France

'AIMING MISSILES AT CIVILIANS'

Deadly Russian strikes kill 21

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, July 14: Russian missiles that struck a city in central Ukraine killed at least 21 people and wounded about more than 100 Thursday, Ukrainian authorities said.

Ukraine's national police said three missiles hit an office building and damaged nearby residential buildings in Vinnytsia, which is located 268 kilometers (167 miles) southwest of the capital, Kyiv. The Ukrainian Emergency Service said 42 were missing after the airstrike.

A Russian submarine in the Black Sea fired Kalibr cruise missiles at the city, and three children were among the dead, the deputy



head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, wrote on the Telegram messaging app. Russia hasn't officially confirmed the strike. But Margarita Simonyan, head of the state-controlled Russian television network RT, said on her messaging app channel that mili-

tary officials told her a building in Vinnytsia was targeted because it housed Ukrainian "Nazis."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of intentionally "aiming missiles at civilians". The strike happened as government officials from about 40 countries met in The Hague to discuss coordinating investigations and prosecutions of potential war crimes committed in Ukraine.

"Every day Russia is destroying the civilian population, killing Ukrainian children, directing missiles at civilian objects. Where there is no military (targets). What is it if not an open act of terrorism?" Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram.

Smile or get fined: New policy for public servants in this town

AGUIRRE, WHO WAS AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST BEFORE RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN THE MAY 9 POLLS, WANTS TO "CHANGE THE ATTITUDE OF GOVT WORKERS"

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Manila, July 14: A Philippine mayor has ordered public servants

to smile, or risk a fine, as he seeks to improve the level of service provided by the local government.

Aristotle Aguirre introduced the "smile policy" this month after being sworn into office in Mulanay town in Quezon province, on the main island of Luzon.

The policy must be adopted "while serving the people to give sincerity by showing a feeling of calmness and friendly atmosphere," the executive order said.

Aguirre said the measure was in response to complaints from locals, mostly coconut growers and fishermen, about the unfriendly



Employees who do not comply with the order could be fined the equivalent of six month's salary or be suspended from their jobs

treatment they received from town hall staff when they went to pay their taxes or seek aid.

Some constituents would walk for an hour from their remote villages to reach the town hall. "When they arrive, they're dismayed at the attitude of people they transact with," Aguirre said.

Aguirre, who was an occupational therapist before running for office in the May 9 elections, wants to "change the attitude of our government workers".

"We need to be a business friendly municipality," said Aguirre, the son of a former jus-

tice secretary in ex-president Rodrigo Duterte's administration.

Employees who do not comply with the order could be fined the equivalent of six month's salary or be suspended from their jobs.

Asked how the rule would be enforced when Filipinos are still required to wear a face mask in public, Aguirre said people can sense if someone is sincerely helping them.

"I don't think we'll reach that point," Aguirre said of the possible punishments. "It's just to send good vibes to our employees and constituents."

of the day quote

While the development of crypto asset reporting framework is underway, I call upon the G20 to examine feasibility of an automatic exchange of information in respect of other non-financial assets beyond those covered under the Common Reporting Standards like immovable properties as well

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

We have 42 million happy M-Series consumers since 2019. We have very aggressive plans for the year. We have set ourselves a target of \$1 billion this year coming from the M series,

ADITYA BABBAR | SENIOR DIRECTOR, SAMSUNG INDIA

I recommend formation of a large Indian mining conglomerate having multi-mineral portfolio, which will enhance the capability of the country in respect of geostrategic reach, sustainability, socio-economic development of the backward mining areas

ARUN KUMAR SHUKLA | CMD, HINDUSTAN COPPER

SHORT TAKES

LIC's embedded value at ₹5,411-cr

Mumbai: Life Insurance Corporation of India Thursday said its embedded value stood at Rs 5,41,492 crore at the end of March this year compared to Rs 95,605 crore in the year-ago period. At the end of September 2021, the Indian Embedded Value (IEV) stood at Rs 5,39,686 crore at the end of September 2021. The embedded value is a measure of the consolidated value of shareholders' interest in the life insurance business.

Wipro arm enters packaged food biz

New Delhi: FMCG firm Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting Thursday announced its foray into packaged food business in the Indian market and changes in its top-level management. The company aspires to be a "significant player in the snack food, spices and ready-to-eat market," said a statement issued by the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company which is part of Rishad Premji-led Wipro Enterprises.

Gem, jewellery exports surge

Mumbai: India's gems and jewellery exports rose by 21.41 per cent to Rs 25,295.69 crore (\$3,241.38 million) in June compared to the same month last year, an industry body said Thursday. The overall gems and jewellery exports stood at Rs 20,835.57 crore (\$2,830.79 million) in June 2021, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said in a statement. Exports during April-June 2022 rose by 14.6 per cent to Rs 77,049.76 crore (\$9,983.78 million) compared to Rs 67,231.25 crore (\$9,110.48 million) during April-June 2021.

PNB commences its AA platform

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) has on-boarded Account Aggregator (AA) platform to help customers digitally access and share information from one financial institution to other regulated such entities. The AA system helps banks leverage data acquired digitally through customers' consent. It thus eliminates the need for physical documentation furnishing by a customer for other financial usages. PNB is the second public sector lender to go live in the ecosystem.



A price cap on Russian oil is one of our most powerful tools to address the pain Americans and families across the world are feeling at the gas pump and the grocery store right now, a limit on the price of Russian oil

JANET YELLEN | TREASURY SECRETARY, US

WAR TO HIT EU ECONOMY

Russia's war in Ukraine is expected to wreak havoc with the European Union's economic recovery for the foreseeable future with lower annual growth and record-high inflation, the bloc's economic forecast showed Thursday. The summer figures for the 19-nation eurozone set inflation to reach an average of 7.6% this year, a major increase from its earlier expectation of 6.1%



3-MONTH LOW

WPI inflation eases to 15.18% in June

June is the 15th consecutive month when the WPI based inflation remained in double-digit



May WPI touched record high of 15.88%

Price-based inflation was at 12.07% in June '21

Highest inflation seen in crude petroleum, natural gas

We expect the WPI inflation to ease to 13 per cent in July 2022, reflecting the ongoing correction in global commodity and fuel prices as well as domestic food prices

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The wholesale price-based inflation eased to a three-month low of 15.18 per cent in June on a sharp decline in the prices of minerals, but food articles continued to remain costly. Last month, Wholesale Price Index (WPI) touched a record high of 15.88 per cent.

Inflation in food articles in June was 14.39 per cent, as prices of vegetables, fruits and potato witnessed a sharp spike over the year-ago period. In May, the wholesale price inflation in food articles was 12.34 per cent.

The rate of price rise in vegetables was 56.75 per cent, while in potato and fruits, it was 39.38 and 20.33 per cent, respectively. The WPI inflation in minerals dropped sharply to 8.55 per cent in June from 33.94 per cent in May.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 40.38 per cent, while in manufactured products and oil seeds, it was 9.19 per cent and 2.74 per cent, respectively. Inflation in crude petroleum and natural gas was 77.29 per cent in June.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said minerals and basic metals dis-

played a sharp month-on-month correction in June 2022, as fears of an impending global recession unfolded, dampening commodity prices. She said that the RBI could hike interest rates by 60 bps over the next two reviews, taking the repo rate to 5.5 per cent by September 2022, followed by a pause to ascertain the momentum of economic growth.

The RBI mainly looks at retail inflation to frame monetary policy. The next meeting of the RBI's interest-setting monetary policy committee is August 2-4.

Retail inflation remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level for the sixth month in a row and was at 7.01 per cent in June.

The RBI projected inflation to be at 7.5 per cent in the June quarter (Q1) and 7.4 per cent in the September quarter (Q2), before easing to 6.2 per cent in the December quarter (Q3) and further to 5.8 per cent in the March quarter (Q4) this fiscal.

To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI has hiked the key interest rate by 90 basis points in the last two months. The central bank also raised the inflation projection by 100 basis points to 6.7 per cent for 2022-23.

₹ edges closer to historic low of 80/\$

THE INDIAN CURRENCY DECLINED BY A LITTLE OVER 18 PAISE TO SETTLE AT 79.9975

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 14: The rupee edged closer to the historic low of 80-mark against the US currency Thursday as it declined by a little over 18 paise to settle at 79.9975 amid a stronger greenback in overseas markets.

A sharp correction in crude oil prices in the past few days, however, has been a breather for the local currency, analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee started the day on a strong note and touched a high of 79.71 to a dollar in early trade. The local unit lost momentum after the dollar surged to 24-year high levels against a basket of global currencies in the early European trade.

The rupee finally settled at the day's lowest level of 79.9975 to a dollar, down by 18 paise over the



previous close of 79.81. Some of the leading banks such as SBI were already quoting above 80 levels for selling the US dollar.

Spot USD/INR delayed the level 80 in today's session but is expected to break in the coming days. The pair has resistance at 80.90 after crossing 80 while the support shifted to 78.80 from 78.50

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, traded 0.3 per cent up at 108.58 as it moved to near parity with the Euro.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 98 points or 0.18 per cent lower at 53,416.15, while the broader NSE

The Indian rupee becomes the median performer among the regional currencies. The rupee closed at a record low for the fourth day in a row amid safe-haven demand for the dollar after US inflation surged to a 41-year high

DILIP PARMAR | RESEARCH ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

Nifty declined 28.00 points or 0.18 per cent to 15,938.65.

Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers in the capital market Thursday, as they bought shares worth Rs 309 crore, as per exchange data. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, dropped 2.20 per cent to \$97.38 per barrel.

Exports up 23.52% in June; trade deficit at record high

During April-June period of this fiscal, the exports grew by 26.25 per cent to \$70.97 billion while imports increased by 49.15 per cent to \$45.35 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: Exports in June rose by 23.52 per cent to \$40.13 billion while the trade deficit ballooned to a record level of \$26.18 billion mainly due to jump in gold and crude oil imports, the government data said Thursday.

The country's export growth in May was 20.55 per cent. Imports expanded by 57.55 per cent to \$66.31 billion in June compared to the year-ago month, the data showed.

"The merchandise trade deficit in June 2022 was estimated at \$26.18 billion as against \$9.60 billion in June 2021, which is an increase of 172.72 per cent," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

Crude oil imports in June almost doubled to \$21.3 billion. Coal



and coke imports more than doubled to \$6.76 billion in the month under review as against \$1.88 billion in June 2021.

Gold imports too rose sharply by about 183 per cent to \$2.74 billion. Imports in June 2021 were subdued on account of restrictions due to the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Subdued imports resulted in lower trade deficit of \$9.6 billion in June 2021.

Cumulative exports in April-June 2022-23 rose by 24.51 per cent to \$118.96 billion while imports increased 49.47 per cent to \$189.76 billion during the period.

The trade deficit during the first three months of this fiscal widened

to \$70.80 billion from \$31.42 billion in the year-ago period.

On the exports front, outbound shipments of petroleum products more than doubled to USD 8.65 billion. Gems and jewellery shipments increased by 25 per cent to USD 3.53 billion.

Shipments of textiles, rice, oil seeds, tea, engineering, and meat, dairy and poultry products too recorded positive growth during the last month.

However, exports of iron ore, handicrafts, plastic and linoleum, cotton yarn/ fabrics/made-ups, handloom products, carpet and cashew registered negative growth in June.

UAE announces \$2bn investment in hi-tech Indian 'food parks'

REUTERS

Jerusalem, July 14: The United Arab Emirates has pledged \$2 billion to help develop a series of food parks in India to tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East, the UAE, India, the United States and Israel said Thursday.

Speaking in Jerusalem at a virtual summit with UAE, Israeli and Indian leaders, US President Joe Biden said the investment could increase India's food yields in the region three-fold in just five years.

The parks would bring farmers, processors and retailers together using advanced climate technology to minimise waste, conserve water and maximise crop yields. The four countries would also advance renewable energy projects in India, they said.



The projects would be supported by Israeli and US private sectors, Biden said at the summit on food security and clean energy amid fears of global food shortages caused by the war in Ukraine.

Russia and Ukraine are the world's third and fourth largest grain exporters, respectively, while Russia is also a key fuel and fertiliser exporter.

Gulf Arab states import as much as 80-90% of their food and while their oil wealth renders them less vulnerable to rising global food prices than poorer countries in the region, disruptions threaten their supply chains.

Wealthy Gulf states have invested heavily in farmland overseas and have been investing domestically more in agritech, which is also a fast-growing sector in Israel.

Crop yields are relatively low in India, which despite being a major farm goods producer, lacks regular irrigation for around half its farmland. Venture capital firms are increasingly pouring money into agritech start-ups in the country.

COSTLIER IMPORT

CAD may deteriorate in FY23: FinMin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: India's current account deficit is expected to deteriorate in the current fiscal on account of costlier imports and tepid merchandise exports, according to the Finance Ministry's monthly economic review.

The review released Thursday by the ministry also said that global headwinds would continue to pose a downside risk to growth as crude oil and edibles, which have driven inflation in India, remain major imported components in the consumption basket.

For the present, it said, "their global prices have softened, as fears of recession have dampened prices somewhat. This would weaken in-



flationary pressures in India and rein in inflation."

If recession concerns do not lead to a sustained and meaningful reduction in the prices of food and energy commodities, "then India's CAD (current account deficit) will deteriorate in 2022-23 on account of costlier imports and tepid exports on the merchandise account."

Primarily driven by an increase

in trade deficit, the CAD stood at 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2021-22. Analysts expect CAD may expand to 3 per cent of the GDP in the current financial year.

The deterioration of CAD could, however, moderate with an increase in service exports in which India is more globally competitive as compared to merchandise exports, the report said, adding that the widening of CAD, has depreciated the Indian rupee against the US dollar by 6 per cent since January of 2022.

The depreciation of rupee, in addition to elevated global commodity prices, has also made price-inelastic imports costlier, thereby making it further difficult to reduce the CAD, it said.

Israel sells Haifa Port, Gadot to Adani Ports for \$1.2 billion

REUTERS

Jerusalem, July 14: Israel said Thursday it will sell Haifa Port, a major trade hub on its Mediterranean coast, to winning bidders Adani Ports of India and local chemicals and logistics group Gadot for 4.1 billion shekels (\$1.18 billion).

Gadot and Adani made it to the end of a two-year tender process that Israel hopes will lower import prices and help shorten notoriously long wait times at Israeli harbors.

"The privatization of the port of Haifa will increase competition at the ports and lower the cost of living," said Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

Adani will have a majority 70% stake and Gadot will hold the re-



maining 30%, according to an industry official. Neither company was reachable for immediate comment. Adani Ports, which has said it is the largest transport utility in India, is targeting expansion and seeks to become the premier global port group, the company's chief executive Karan Adani, told an earnings call in May.

The new owners will compete with a private port that opened down the bay last year, which is operated by Shanghai International Port Group.

TAKING ON TESLA

Hyundai Motor Co launches first electric sedan

The launch comes after Hyundai announced its plans to build dedicated EV plants both at home and the US, where the Ioniq 5 and Kia's EV 6 SUV together became the second-best selling EVs after Tesla cars and ahead of Ford Motor Co's Mustang Mach-E

REUTERS

Seoul, July 14: Hyundai Motor Co Thursday launched its first electric sedan, Ioniq 6, which the South Korean automaker is betting will help it grab a bigger share of the electric vehicle (EV) market dominated by Tesla Inc.

The Ioniq 6 is one of more than 31 electric models that Hyundai

Motor Group - including Hyundai Motor, its sister company Kia Corp and premium brand Genesis - plans to introduce through 2030 to secure a projected 12% of the global EV market.

Hyundai's sedan will expand its EV range beyond its current crossovers and SUVs to compete head-to-head against Tesla's best-selling Model 3 sedan.

Hyundai and Kia were already the second-biggest EV shippers globally excluding China in January to May this year, with a combined 13.5% market share that was second only to Tesla at 22%, according to industry tracker SNE Research.

The Ioniq 6 will be priced in the range of 55 million won (\$41,949.51) to 65 million won for the South Korean market.

"The Ioniq 6 will be able to compete with Tesla in the volume EV sedan sector, considering its competitive pricing and long driving range," said Lee Jae-il, an analyst at Eugene Investment & Securities. The Ioniq 6 could leverage its pricing in the EV sedan market be-



cause Tesla has increased prices several times, he added.

The Hyundai electric sedan will have a driving range of about 610 kilometres (380 miles), around 30%

more than the Ioniq 5 crossover, Hyundai said.

"We are using the same (battery) cell chemistry but ... we maximised the amount of batteries per

each pack, enhancing energy density significantly," said Kim Yong Wha, an executive vice president at Hyundai.

It will come in two battery pack options - 53-kilowatt per hour (kWh) and 77.4 kWh - and will begin production at its Asan plant in South Korea later this year, Hyundai said.

The Ioniq 6 will be available in South Korea this year and the US market launch is expected in the first quarter of next year, it added.

Hyundai said the Ioniq 6 launched this year would source batteries from SK Innovation's SK On and LG Energy Solution's batteries will be used from next year.



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Indian fielders congratulate Yuzvendra Chahal after the dismissal of Jonny Bairstow

Indian bowlers restrict England

AGENCIES

London, July 14: Indian bowlers led by the diminutive leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (4/47) came to the party to restrict England to 246 all out in 49 overs in the second ODI at the Lord's here Thursday. After Rohit Sharma had put the opposition in, the bowlers bowled to a plan to restrict the England batters on a pitch that was far better than the one at the Oval where the hosts had lost by 10 wickets.

Quite a few of England batters threw their wickets away after getting starts when the need of the hour was to play with circumspection. Had it not been for a 62-run stand for the seventh wicket between Moeen Ali (47, 64b, 2x4, 2x6) and David Willey (41, 49b, 2x4, 2x6), England would have certainly been in an embarrassing position.

Coming in to bat at No. 8, Willey showed the senior batters of the side how to bat on the pitch. He was unwilling to take any risk waiting for the loose ball. When it came he took full advantage of it and hit it either for a boundary or a six while in between he ran the ones and twos quite intelligently. In short Willey batted with his thinking cap on which the more recognised batters did not do. Due to his and Ali's efforts England could reach a score near 250 even though

CHOPRA, BINDRA INSPIRE ARJUN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: Backed by Olympic gold medal-winning shooter Abhinav Bindra and inspired by his college senior Neeraj Chopra, youngster Arjun Babuta is looking to 'deliver' a strong performance at the shooting World Championships and secure an Olympic quota. The 23-year-old has played a pivotal role in India's impressive show at the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Changwon, Korea by winning two gold medals.

"Neeraj (Chopra) and I studied at the same college in Chandigarh, although he was a batch senior than me. But what he achieved at the Olympic Games was a huge motivating factor for athletes like me and he is indeed a huge inspiration," Arjun said Thursday.

Babuta said that qualifying for the Paris Olympic Games is his biggest 'goal in life' right now. "I was 19 when I missed the Tokyo Olympics qualifying event in 2019. The pain and agony was excruciating, but I practiced round-the-clock to ensure that I win medals at the World Cup," Arjun said. "The prime focus, right now, is to deliver a top performance at the World Championships in Cairo and qualify for the Paris Olympics," he informed.

The 23-year-old Punjab man said he grew up hearing stories about Bindra's historic gold medal-winning feat at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, when he became the first Indian to win an individual yellow metal at the Games.

"His achievements moulded me as a shooter. A towering personality like him who changed Indian sports in 2008, taught me so many things about life and sport," Arjun remarked.

"Just talking to Bindra Sir is an experience in itself. There's so much to learn from him," he added. Arjun also thanked Lt Col (retd) JS Dhillon who trained him in his formative years.

HOSTS ON TOP

London: England bowlers hit back strongly to have India on the ropes when the visitors batted. At the time of going to the press, India were 123 for 6 in the 30th over. The batters who are back in the hut are Rohit Sharma (0), Shikhar Dhawan (9), Virat Kohli (16), Rishabh Pant (0), Suryakant Yadav (27) and Hardik Pandya (29). At the crease were Ravindra Jadeja (20 batting) and Mohammed Shami (15 batting). Reece Topley (3/20) was the most successful bowler for the hosts while David Willey got the important wicket of Kohli. It looks like England are well on the way of squaring the series comfortably.

they were again guilty of not batting out their full quota of 50 overs.

When Willey was finally dismissed caught by Shreyas Iyer at long-on off the bowling of Jasprit Bumrah (2/49) he had ensured that England have at least some semblance of a total in hand to bowl with. He had to go for the shot simply because the innings to come to a close. He was unlucky also as Iyer managed to hold on to the catch on the second attempt.

Jason Roy (23), Jonny Bairstow (38, 38b, 5x4), Ben Stokes 21, Liam Livingstone (33, 33b, 2x4, 2x6) were all guilty of playing with the sword and perishing with it. Or why

would Livingstone try to hit Hardik Pandya (2/26 off 6) out of the ground when he had already managed a huge six in the same over. He was caught on the deep square-leg fence by substitute Shreyas Iyer. Bairstow on the other hand after doing all the hard work against the searing pace of Mohammed Shami (1/48) and Jasprit Bumrah played down the wrong line to Chahal and was bowled.

Joe Root (11) was also fooled by Chahal. The batter went for a sweep thinking it was a googly. Instead it turned out to be a flipper and Root was caught plumb in front. Only England skipper Jos Buttler got a peach of a delivery from Shami for which he had no answer to. The ball zipped back off the pitch to crash into the stumps with Buttler trying to flick it to the leg side.

Pandya once more demonstrated what a useful cricketer he is to the team when he bowls. He picked up the wickets of Roy and Livingstone when both were threatening to cut loose. Prasidh Krishna (1/53) also picked up a wicket but he was a tad expensive.

BRIEF SCORES

England 246 in 49 overs (Moeen Ali 47, David Willey 41, Yuzvendra Chahal 4/47, Jasprit Bumrah 2/49). Scoreboard incomplete.

Neeraj only medal hope at Athletics Worlds

THE JAVELIN THROWER HAS BEEN PERFORMING CONSISTENTLY IN THE BUILD UP TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Eugene (USA), July 14: Neeraj Chopra will carry a billion hopes into the athletics World Championships (WC) for yet another landmark result and it won't be a surprise if long jumper Murali Sreeshankar also grabs a slice of history at the showpiece, starting here Friday.

Chopra is cherishing phenomenal results this season. The javelin thrower has improved his personal best twice - he recorded a 89.30m throw June 14 at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland before sending his spear to 89.94m, just 6cm shy of 90m, in the prestigious Stockholm Diamond League Meeting, June 30. In between, he had won the javelin throw event at Kuortane Games in Finland with a throw of 86.69m



under wet and slippery conditions.

Given the form he is in, the Tokyo Olympics champion is expected to script history and become only the second Indian (after Anju Bobby George) and the first male player from the country to

SAINA STUNS WORLD NO. 9 TO ENTER QUARTERFINALS

AGENCIES

Singapore, July 14: Shuttle Saina Nehwal scripted her biggest win in more than two years defeating Chinese World No. 9 He Bing Jiao in the Singapore Open here Thursday. The two-time Commonwealth Games gold winner joined compatriots PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy in the quarterfinals of the tournament.

Saina prevailed 21-19, 11-21, 21-17 over the fifth-seeded Chinese to make the last eight stage. It will be her first appearance in quarterfinals of a Super 500 event in over two-

and-a-half years. She will meet Japan's Aya Ohori next.

Sindhu and the in-form Prannoy also registered fighting wins. Third seed Sindhu staged off a spirited challenge from Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen 19-21, 21-19, 21-18 in the women's singles competition to set up a clash with China's Han Yue.

Prannoy notched up his second win in three weeks over World No. 4 and third seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 14-21, 22-20, 21-18 in a 69-minute contest. The 29-year-old Indian, who is looking to break his five-year-old title drought, will face Japan's Kodai Naraoka next.

The men's doubles pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also entered the quarters, with a stunning 18-21, 24-22, 21-18 win over sixth-seeded Malaysian combination of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin.

However, the highlight of the day was Saina's thrilling victory over He, a two-time World championship bronze medalist.

Saina's trademark cross court smashes and drops were on full display as she put up a scintillating show at the Singapore Indoor Stadium here. Left-handed he however seemed too erratic, struggling with the lengths of the shuttles as



SINDHU, PRANNOY REGISTER FIGHTING WINS TO SEAL LAST 8 BERTHS

AT A GLANCE

Saina Nehwal bt He Bing Jiao 21-19, 11-21, 21-17

PV Sindhu bt Thuy Linh Nguyen 19-21, 21-19, 21-18

HS Prannoy bt Chou Tien Chen 14-21, 22-20, 21-18

her miscued shots went wide and long and also got

buried at the net, allowing Saina to pick up easy points.

Even though the first game was a close affair, Saina managed to hold on to her nerves and win it. Saina lost the second game tamely to He, but she kept her composure in the third to win it and with it the tie.

Kohli, Bumrah rested for T20I series against Windies

RAVI ASHWIN MAKES A RETURN TO T20 SQUAD AFTER NOV 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The BCCI has heeded to Virat Kohli's request and has rested him for the upcoming five-match T20I series against the West Indies. Also pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been given a breather. The BCCI announced Thursday an 18-member squad for the series to be played in the Caribbean and the United States starting July 29. Star leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has also been given rest.

Prior to the T20I series India will also be playing three ODIs against the hosts. The series starts July 22.

KL Rahul, who recently underwent a surgery for sports hernia, and Kuldeep Yadav were picked subject to fitness. Kuldeep had suf-



fered a hand injury in the home series against South Africa in June. Ravichandran Ashwin also made a comeback to the T20 squad, having played his last T20 in November last year.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya, who will not be part of the preceding ODI series, will return for the T20s. Shikhar Dhawan will captain the side in the ODIs.

From the squad that won the series in England, pace sensation Umran Malik has been dropped. In his outings in Ireland and England, Malik has shown that he remains a work in progress and needs to improve on his accuracy.

The first T20 will be played in Trinidad July 29, followed by a couple of games in St Kitts before the action moves to the US with two games scheduled in Lauderdale, Florida.

The T20 squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul and Kuldeep Singh (subject to fitness), Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Ravi Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel and Arshdeep Singh.

KICKBOXER DIES

Bangalore: Kickboxer Nikhil from Mysore, who went into coma after suffering grievous injury at a kickboxing event in the city July 10, breathed his last in a private hospital here July 12, police said Thursday. An FIR has been registered at the Jnanabharathi police station here in this connection. Nikhil suffered a serious injury during the state-level 'K1 Kickboxing Championships' which was held July 10. He took a powerful blow from the rival contestant and collapsed inside the boxing ring. He was immediately rushed to a private hospital where he remained in coma for two days before succumbing to his injuries.

MCFC RECRUIT STALIN

Mumbai: ISL franchise Mumbai City FC (MCFC) confirmed Thursday that the club has agreed a deal with Kerala Blasters FC for the transfer of defender Sanjeev Stalin. The 21-year-old joins MCFC on a four-year contract until May 2026. Stalin rose through the ranks of the AIFP Elite Academy and went on to represent India at the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup. He also represented the country at the U-20 level. Stalin has played for a couple of club sides in Portugal in their under-23 squads. Stalin joined Kerala Blasters in March 2021 and made eight appearances in his debut ISL campaign in the 2021-22 season.

DJOKOVIC HONOURED

SARAJEVO: Twenty-one-time Grand Slam champion Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic has been awarded the honorary citizenship of Visoko, a small town in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Three days after winning his seventh Wimbledon trophy, Djokovic arrived Wednesday in Bosnia to inaugurate a tennis tournament in Visoko. He also took part in exhibition singles and doubles matches. Mayor Mirza Ganic presented Djokovic with an honorary citizenship certificate and thanked the tennis player for bringing Visoko to the world map. In his speech, Djokovic said he enjoyed the event and had a lot of fun on the court.

FRESH START

LONDON: England star Raheem Sterling has joined Chelsea from Manchester City on a five-year contract. The move was on the cards, but was officially sealed Thursday. "First and foremost, it's a pleasure to be here. I've obviously achieved a lot in my career so far, but there is still so much more to achieve and I'm really looking forward to doing that in a Chelsea shirt, under Thomas's (manager Thomas Tuchel) management," Sterling said. Sterling also thanked City players and fans. "Seven seasons. Eleven major trophies. A lifetime of memories," he said in a note Wednesday. AGENCIES

India top medal's tally at ISSF WC in Korea

SHOOTERS BAG 1 GOLD, 3 SILVER MEDALS ON FINAL DAY



BRILLIANT SHOW: The Indian troika (middle) hold aloft their air rifles on the podium Thursday after winning gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Changwon, July 14: India topped the medal's tally at the ongoing ISSF Shooting World Cup (WC) here Thursday after a slew of fantastic outings from the country's shooters. India finished the tournament with eight medals - three gold, four silver and one bronze - and were way ahead of hosts Korea

and Serbia in the medal's tally.

The day began on a brilliant note for India when the troika of Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane and Paarth Makhija helped the country bag their third gold medal, beating Korea 17-15 in the 10m air rifle team event.

Arjun, Makhija and Mane fought neck to neck and staged a comeback, leading through the final to claim

the top prize ahead of the Korean team of Seungho Bang, Sangdo Kim, and Hajun Park. It was Arjun and Shahu's second gold in the World Cup.

The second medal of the day came in the form of silver when the trio of Elavenil Valaviran, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ramita settled for silver after going down to the home team of Jihyeon Keum, Eunseo Lee, and Dayeong Gwon 10-16.

In the men's 10m air pistol team event final, Indian shooters put up a spirited fight against the experienced Italian trio of Paolo Monna, Alessio Torracchi and Luca Tesconi before going down 15-17, ensuring another silver medal for the country.

India's third silver of the day came in the 10m air pistol team women's event when the new-look troika of Rhythm Sangwan, Yuvika Tomar and Palak got a 2-10 drubbing against a quality Korean side.

DISAPPOINTING 9TH PLACE FINISH AT HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Indian women seek redemption at CWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Terrassa (Spain), July 14: The FIH World Cup did not go as expected for the Indian women's hockey team but striker Navneet Kaur said Thursday that the side will look to better their performance at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham beginning later this month. India finished ninth in the World Cup.

The Indian eves had a chance to qualify for the quarterfinals had they beaten Spain in the cross-over match. However, the eyes lost 0-1.

Navneet said the loss against Spain had completely gutted the team. "When we lost against Spain, we were utterly disappointed.

However, knew we had to quickly put that match behind us and focus on the upcoming games against Canada and Japan," Navneet stated. "The only thing we wanted was to register good wins against these two teams and finish our World Cup campaign on a positive note," she added.

Navneet said that the wins against Canada and Japan had brought back positivity in the squad. "It is no use pondering over what has happened. It cannot be changed," the Indian striker said.

"Now are entire focus is to do well in the Birmingham (CWG) and target a podium finish. It is our goal now and we will go all out to achieve it," Navneet signed off.