



IMAGE MAKEOVER

Actor Janhvi Kapoor says she hopes to convince the audience to look beyond her innocent look

LEISURE P2



EMERGENCY IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe declares a nationwide state of emergency with effect from Monday

INTERNATIONAL P10



BATRA RESIGNS

Veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra steps down as FIH president, gives up IOC membership

SPORTS P12

BJB GIRL'S SUICIDE BANDH TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The student wing of the Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan (NNKS) has called for Odisha bandh July 19 demanding proper probe into the death of Ruchika Mohanty, who was a student of BJB Autonomous College here.

Vehicular traffic is likely to get disrupted due to the protest. Plying of trains may also be affected. The organisation has urged businessmen to down their shutters as part of the protest. NNKS convener Akshaya Kumar said, "Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan has called upon political outfits and every responsible citizen of the state to come forward and raise voice against the state government's failure to give justice to the victim."

Meanwhile, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) has also supported the bandh call by the farmers' outfit.

The farmer leader alleged that the police are yet to get any clue even after 11 days of the girl's suicide.

"The cops have ruled out ragging as the reason for the girl's suicide though she had mentioned it in her suicide note. While the deceased's mother was sitting on peaceful dharna, police personnel forcibly picked her up. The hostel warden and the superintendent should resign on moral grounds," said the NNKS convener. On the other hand, Mohanty's mother has demanded a CBI probe.



Low water levels are seen at Scammonden Reservoir in West Yorkshire as reservoir levels dip dangerously low amid record high temperatures in the UK. The UK's first ever red warning for exceptional heat came into force Sunday midnight, with temperatures expected to climb up to 41°C over the next two days, breaking the country's heat records

PTI PHOTO

PARCHED

13 killed in MP as bus plunges into Narmada

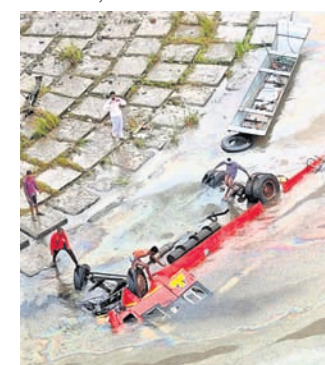
AGENCIES

Bhopal/Mumbai, July 18: At least 13 passengers were killed after their bus heading towards Maharashtra fell into the Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district Monday, officials said.

The deceased included four women and a child, they said. Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said 15 people were rescued. The bus, belonging to the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), was believed to be carrying 30 to 32 people, another official said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and directed the MSRTC to take immediate action to pay ₹10 lakh to the relatives of each of the deceased passengers. The MSRTC later announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the relatives of each of the deceased and to bear the entire cost of treatment cost of the injured persons.

According to MSRTC officials, the bus left from MP's Indore city around 7.30am and was heading to Amalner in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, located about 260 km from Dhar. It crashed into the railing of a bridge between Khalghat and Thigari around 10am to 10.15am and then plunged into the river, the MSRTC said.



"Thirteen bodies have been retrieved," Indore Zone Inspector General of Police Rakesh Gupta told PTI, "adding the rescue operation was on. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) also rushed to the spot, another official said. The MSRTC in a release said so far 13 bodies, including of the bus driver and conductor, have been retrieved from the river and eight of them have been identified."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



... plus GST, please!

Traders plan nationwide protest against GST hike

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 18: Traders and shopkeepers will hold a nationwide protest next week against a hike in taxes on a range of products and services, including food grains and household items, that went into effect Monday, a top official of a leading traders' group said.

"The 5 per cent tax on a range of food products - which remained tax free so far - and hike in rates on other household items has increased the inflation burden on the public and traders," said Pravin Khandelwal, president of the Confederation of All India Traders, which represents more than 10 million small shopkeepers and wholesalers.

He said the group's members would launch a nationwide series of protest meetings July 26, starting in Bhopal, a stronghold of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Small traders and shopkeepers are a key constituency for Modi, who introduced the Goods and

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	54521.15 ↑ 760.37
NIFTY	16278.50 ↑ 229.30
DOLLAR	79.97 ↑ ₹0.09
EURO	81.35 ↑ ₹0.89
GOLD	₹50,350 ↑ ₹243
SILVER	₹56,065 ↑ ₹478

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.0°C	33.5°C
TEMP MIN	24.4°C	24.5°C
Humidity	78%	78%
Rainfall	9.7mm	9.7mm

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

Moquim votes for Murmu

Immediately after exercising his franchise in the House, the Cuttack-Barabati MLA said he followed his conscience

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim created a flutter in political circles Monday by announcing that he has voted in favour of NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu as she happened to be a "daughter of Odisha". Immediately after exercising his franchise in the Assembly, the legislator from Cuttack-Barabati Assembly segment said he went by his "conscience call".

"I am an Odia; I voted in favour of Droupadi Murmu as she is a daughter of Odisha. I went by my conscience. MLAs cannot be prevented from listening to their conscience," Moquim stated.

The Congress lawmaker also said that he had received phone calls from several eminent persons, including those staying abroad, requesting him to support the "daughter of the soil".

"People of Odisha will support my move. Murmu's victory will make me proud," Moquim explained. Asked if he was under pressure from the ruling BJD, which has also pledged its support



RACE FOR RAISINA

to Murmu, Moquim said, "It is my personal decision... There is no other reason."

Meanwhile, Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said all MLAs of the grand old party including Moquim, had agreed to vote for joint Opposition nominee Yashwant Sinha. Condemning Moquim's "change of stance", Congress MLAs SS Saluja and Taraprasad Bahinipati said the Cuttack-Barabati MLA must have been unhappy in the party.

"Everyone should have toed the party line. Many meetings were held and all MLAs of the party had given assurance that they would vote for Yashwant Sinha. We will



I am an Odia; I voted in favour of Droupadi Murmu as she is a daughter of Odisha. I went by my conscience. MLAs cannot be prevented from listening to their conscience. People of Odisha will support my move. Murmu's victory will make me proud

MOHAMMED MOQUIM | CONG MLA

bring the matter to the notice of party high command for necessary action," Saluja maintained.

OPCC president Sarat Pattmayak, too, said that he would apprise the party high command of this latest development. "I cannot say for sure what exactly prompted him to go against the party line," he added.

CROSS-VOTES GALORE IN MURMU'S FAVOUR

New Delhi: Several legislators in states Monday said they have cross-voted in favour of NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu by not following their party line in the Presidential election. Among them are NCP legislators in Jharkhand and Gujarat and Congress MLAs in Haryana and Odisha who said they followed the voice of their conscience. An Akali MLA in Punjab boycotted the Presidential election citing non-redressal of issues relating to the state. In Assam, IUDF MLA Karimuddin Barbhuiyan claimed that around 20 Congress MLAs from the state voted for Murmu Monday. In Uttar Pradesh, Shivpal Singh Yadav also claimed that he would never support Yashwant Sinha, as he had once accused his brother and Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav of being an ISI agent. Haryana Congress MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, who cross-voted in last month's Rajya Sabha polls, said he has voted according to his conscience in the Presidential election too. CONTD...P4

Girls asked to remove innerwear at NEET centre

Washing its hands off the incident, the institution blamed the agency which was entrusted with the conduct of the exam for what happened

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, July 18: Parents were up in arms after girl students, appearing for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) at an examination centre near here Sunday, were asked to remove their innerwear.

According to the father of one such 17-year-old girl, who was sitting for her first ever NEET exam, his daughter is yet to come out of the traumatic experience wherein she had to sit for the over 3-hour long exam without a brassiere.

An angry parent, whose daughter had to undergo this ordeal at the centre in Ayoor, 60 km from



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Thiruvananthapuram, said Monday what happened is totally unacceptable and he had no other option but to give a complaint.

"We dropped her around 12 noon

at the examination centre and later we were asked to give a shawl by the exam officials. It was only after she came out after the examination did we realise what had happened.

It seems there was a metal object in her innerwear and it was found out during the screening. She and many other students were asked to remove such innerwear and then only they were allowed to take the examination. Even the college where the examination took place said they had no role, as these things were done by an agency that was entrusted for the conduct of the examination," he said.

All those candidates who had to undergo such a humiliation were under tremendous duress and they were unable to perform well because of this insensitive behaviour of the centre officials, the parent added. CONTD...P4

IN BRIEF

No precipitative steps against Zubair, says SC

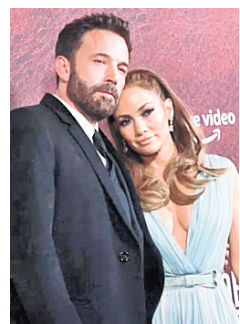
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday directed that no precipitative steps be taken against Alt News co-founder Mohd Zubair in connection with five FIRs lodged against him in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly outraging religious feelings. The apex court observed that it seems to be a "vicious cycle" where the moment Zubair gets bail in one case, there is another FIR against him. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna said it would hear July 20 the plea filed by Zubair, who is seeking quashing of these FIRs. MORE P7

Kerala logs second case of monkeypox

NEW DELHI: A 31-year-old man from Kannur in Kerala tested positive for monkeypox Monday, making it the second confirmed case of the disease in India, a Union health ministry official said. The patient had landed at the Mangalore airport in coastal Karnataka from Dubai July 13. He was admitted to a hospital after he exhibited symptoms of the disease. His samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, and they tested positive, the official said. MORE P9



leisure



JLO, AFFLECK GET WEDDED; SHE ADDS HIS SURNAME

Hollywood stars Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck have finally tied the knot in Las Vegas. "We did it!" Lopez wrote in her newsletter *On the JLo*, alongside a black-and-white photograph of her holding a bouquet and Affleck kissing her cheek. Significantly, Lopez took Affleck as her legal last name.

EMILIA ON SURVIVING TWO BRAIN SURGERIES

Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke says it's nothing short of a miracle she is able to speak articulately after quite a bit of her brain was removed following two emergency surgeries to treat aneurysms. The British actor recalled her experience during an interview with the BBC's *Sunday Morning*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesh. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the company of friends and loved ones.

TAURUS

You need to be very and practical and realistic in all that you do today, urges Ganesh. You are known to be pretty emotional and sensitive and generally go by your feelings. Your mind, your reason do not normally feature in your decision making. Even minor problems, complications get you worked up.

GEMINI

If you are into retail business, planetary positions indicate today is a day for bumper sales. You will set records in making profits. After work, you may want to take your beloved out shopping. Though it may burn a hole in your pocket, the returns you get once you reach home will be worth every penny!

CANCER

Ganesh advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture.

LEO

The bourgeoisie feasted on cake, while the masses starved for want of a mere loaf of bread. Ganesh foresees something similar for you today, as you show the propensity to indulge in unwanted expenses. Whether it is impulsive decisions or compulsive buying, they shall not serve as an excuse on a later date when the milk is already spilt.

VIRGO

You will be cool as a cucumber today. Nothing that happens will unsettle that composure, says Ganesh. Your loved ones will stand tall and strong behind you, and inspire you to overcome obstacles. Your work will reflect dedication, says Ganesh. Go ahead and ask for work that is intellectually taxing.

LIBRA

Sit back and think hard – think about what is it that you really want when it comes to your business enterprises, because there are many ways to go about things at work, and they all shall lead you somewhere different. The stars favour you today with a golden touch, so take it in your stride and make hay while the sun shines.

SCORPIO

While not the Trot, you shall, however, trot on the lines of radicalism today, predicts Ganesh. Learn to think as you would, and always have, but act as others would have you to, advises Ganesh. Be the maverick that you are only with those who are closest and dearest, cautions Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Your friend base is slated to multiply today. At work, additional responsibilities will be thrust upon you, and you will also be given charge of new resources. Ganesh predicts you taking up the challenge and emerging triumphant in all spheres today.

CAPRICORN

Overcome with feelings, you may take decisions that may stand in the way of success. Don't let your sentiments ruin your future prospects because the damage done will be beyond repair, warns Ganesh. Today, there are also chances that your down-to-earth nature and amiable approach will win the hearts of many.

AQUARIUS

You will come out top in whatever you choose to do, and success will smell honey-suckle sweet! Naturally, recognition and rewards await you. Take your friends to that trendy café; you needn't wait for a reason to party, says Ganesh.

PISCES

Major expenses are coming your way, but the good news is a lot of them can be avoided simply by drawing a line between your needs and your wants. Exercising a little restraint now will go a long way in boosting your savings later on, says Ganesh.

'I'm more than an innocent woman'

Mumbai: Actor Janhvi Kapoor says she hopes she is able to convince the audience to look beyond her 'bholi' and 'bechari' image through the upcoming crime comedy *Good Luck Jerry*.

The 25-year-old, who made her debut with the 2018 romantic drama *Dhadak*, has starred in films such as *Roohi*, *Gunjan Saxena The Kargil Girl* and the Netflix anthology *Ghost Stories*.

"People have kind of mentally put me in this box of 'bholi si hai', 'shaant' and 'bechari' (innocent, quiet, helpless). Maybe it's the energy I give out. I want to show that I am more than an innocent woman," Kapoor said.

In *Good Luck Jerry*, she plays Jaya Kumari alias Jerry, an immigrant from Bihar who becomes a drug dealer in Punjab to foot the medical bills for her mother who is diagnosed with stage 2 cancer.

The film, directed by Siddharth Sengupta, came to Kapoor at the time when she was craving to do a comedy movie.

PTI

Mrunal to headline Balki's film in anthology

Mumbai: Ronnie Screwvala, Ashi Dua and Netflix's *Lust Stories 2* is in the works, and the makers have already reached out to R Balki, Konkona Sen Sharma, and Amit Ravindernath Sharma to direct the second part. Now, it is learnt that Balki has signed Mrunal Thakur to headline his portion of the anthology.

"All the formalities have been locked. It's a very unique script, and Mrunal and Balki are excited to collaborate on this one. Meanwhile, they are currently working on finalising the shooting schedule of the film. An official announcement should be made soon," informs a source close to the development.

LUST STORIES 2 followed by *Lust Stories* five years later, and then *Ghost Stories* that was unveiled in 2020. The 2018 movie was a compilation of four short segments revolving around the theme of 'lust'.

The first part of *Lust Stories* was nominated in two categories at the 47th International Emmy Awards, and had featured Kiara Advani, Vicky Kaushal, Radhika Apte, Akash Thosar, Bhumi Pednekar, Neil Bhoopalani, Manisha Koirala, Sanjay Kapoor, among many others in pivotal roles.

AGENCIES



Babushaan's 'Bol Bam' act to promote Daman



Actor Babushaan (L) on his way to Bindu Sagar

OP PHOTO

Bhubaneswar: Top Odia film actor Babushaan and the unit members of his upcoming movie *Daman* were seen on a 'Bol Bam Yatra' here at Old Town, to promote the film, Monday.

The crew members including producer Deependra Samal, director duo- Debi Prasad Lenka and Vishal Mourya, co-actors - Bobby Mishra and Pintu

Nanda and the members of his fan club accompanied him to Bindu Sagar lake and performed the rituals.

Earlier, they walked down the streets barefoot to offer puja at Lingaraj Temple.

Babushaan will be seen essaying the role of a doctor in *Daman*, working in the Maoist-hit Malkangiri district of Odisha.

"The movie is based on a true story. The first important thing about this project, which attracted me, is that it is about helping others. I could connect myself with the emotions involved in the story," Babushaan said.

The movie is slated to release in the theatres in Odisha September 30.

Babushaan will be travelling with the team members of *Daman* to promote it across India among the non-resident Odias starting with Chennai July 24. A special screening of the trailer has been arranged for the members of Utkal Association of Madras, reveals a source in Signature 24 Productions which looks after the promotion.

PNN

10TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF RAJESH KHANNA

'He had the DNA of a Superstar off-screen as well'

Khanna did 'Anand' for free when Hrishikesh Mukherjee told him he can't afford his fee

Mumbai: Not many people know that late Superstar Rajesh Khanna didn't take a penny to act in Hrishikesh Mukherjee's super hit movie *Anand*. Khanna's close friend Bhupesh

Raseen, who makes it a point to come to his Carter Road bungalow Aashirwad on his death and birth anniversaries, shared an anecdote with a portal over his large-heartedness.

Raseen rewinded, "It all began when Gulzar saab visited Khanna at his Linking Road office. While Khanna was escorting him out till the lift, Gulzar mentioned to Khanna that he should meet Hrishikesh Mukherjee who has a great subject for him - it's the story of a man who embraces and celebrates life when he knows that he's not going to live long."

And then? "Well, Khanna told

Gulzar saab that he should fix up his meeting with Hrishida, for the very next day. Gulzar came to pick up Khanna a little before 10 am and the two hopped across to Hrishida's office which was nearby."

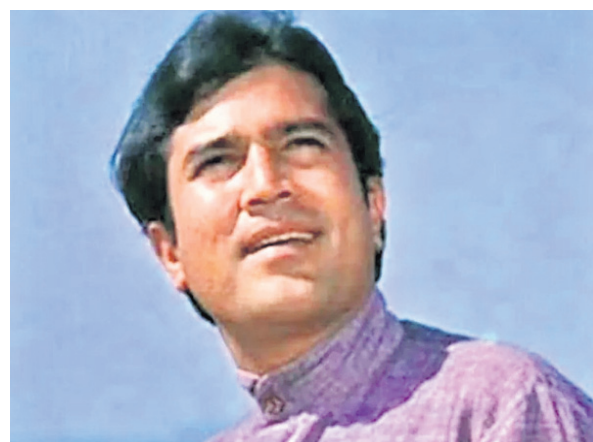
Continued Raseen, "When Hrishida met Khanna, he told him that he cannot afford his fee but has a marvellous story if he is interested. Khanna immediately turned around and said that he would not charge a penny. Hrishida said that there should be some compensation. Khanna said that he could then give him the releasing rights of the film in Mumbai. They instantly shook hands, and the

rest, as they say, is history."

Raseen carried on: "He had no dates for two years, but when he saw Hrishida wanted to start it immediately, he told Hrishida that he would come every day and shoot for 60-75 minutes during the lunch hour. And that's exactly what he did until the film's shooting culminated. The rest of the actors too would largely shoot their scenes with Khanna during the lunch hour."

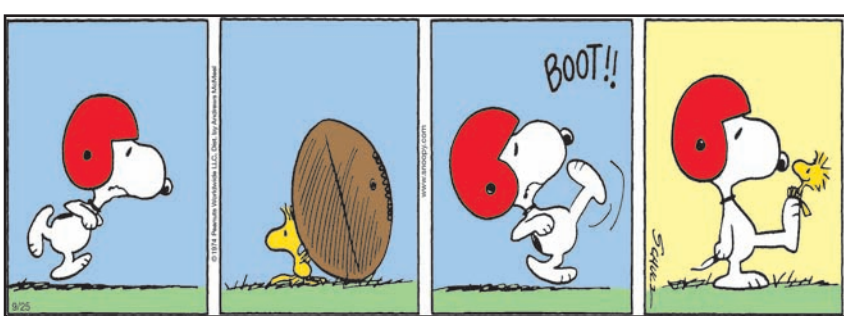
Raseen concludes, "My friend was Dhruv Tara. He had the DNA of a superstar not just off-screen but on-screen as well."

AGENCIES



FUN post

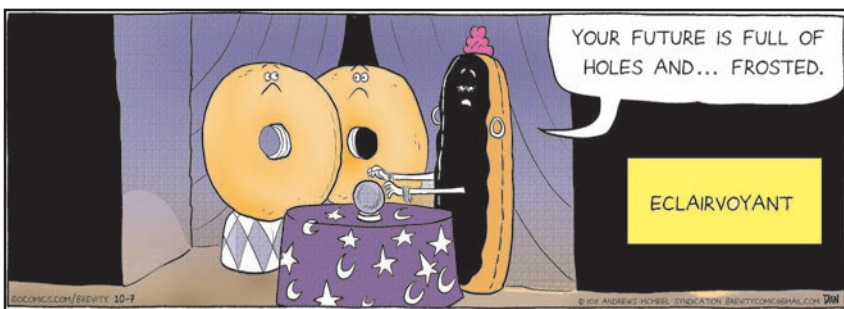
PEANUTS



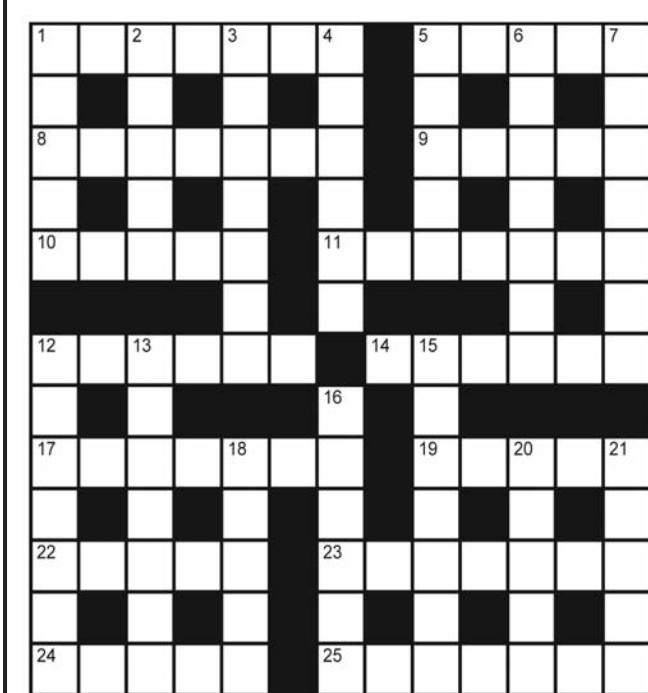
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



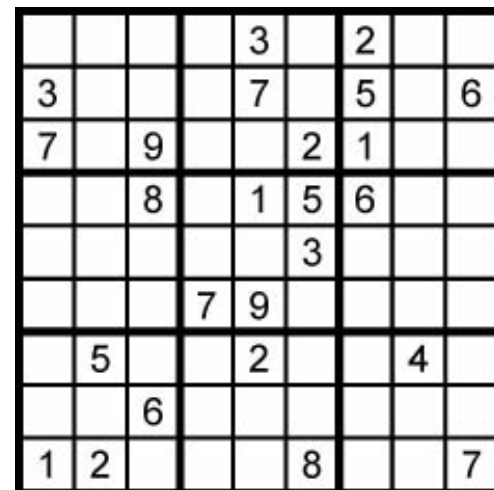
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- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Across | 19 A silly and inept person | 4 Bemoan |
| 1 Mournful | 22 Up to | 5 To the lowest degree |
| 5 Cowboy's rope | 23 Spanish explorer | 6 Analyzed |
| 8 Domain | 24 Ceased | 7 Eight-sided |
| 9 Grownup | 25 Horse opera | 12 Amount |
| 10 Move very slightly | | 13 Associated |
| 11 Zero | | 15 Higher position |
| 12 Sufferer | Down | 16 Russian capital |
| 14 Load | 1 Nerd | 18 Frigid |
| 17 A brisk and lively tempo | 2 Shocking | 20 Slack |
| | 3 Antsy | 21 Ache |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

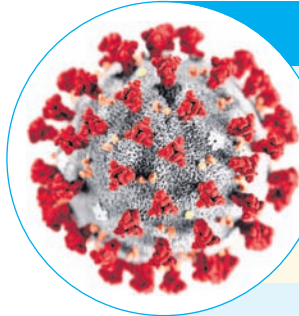


downtown



MATTER OF FAITH

Devotees queue up to offer water to Lord Lingaraj in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

Table with 4 columns: Region, Infected, Recovered, Dead. Rows for World, India, Odisha.

BOOST TO JUDICIARY



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar (2nd from L) inaugurates POCSCO courts in Balasore, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Koraput, Kendrapara and Keonjhar on virtual mode at Cuttack, Monday

Ruckus in House over GST on puffed rice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The Odisha Assembly Monday witnessed uproarious scenes as the opposition Congress targeted the BJP-led Central government for bringing common man's food like puffed rice (mudhi) and flattened rice (chuda) under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

Termining the move as anti-poor; the Congress members trooped into the well of the House, shouted slogans and disrupted the proceedings by protesting against the imposition of GST on certain food items.

As the protest continued, Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha was forced to adjourn the House twice, first for 10 minutes and again till 4pm.

During the Question Hour, Congress MLA Suresh Routray first raised the issue by terming the GST imposition on 'food items of the poor' as unfortunate.

"I urge the Chief Minister to write to the Centre to withdraw its decision. Otherwise, let the state government bear the GST cost on the items like puffed rice and flattened rice," Routray added.

In his reply, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari said, "As far as levying of GST on puffed rice and flattened rice is concerned, it is the subject of GST Council and Odisha, a single state, cannot take any decision on this."

Pujari, however, clarified that only packaged and labelled puffed rice would attract GST. "Therefore, it will have no impact on customers and traders in rural areas, where these items which are sold in loose," he said.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati and his party colleagues Santosh Singh Saluja also raised the issue during the Zero Hour. Bahinipati demanded the Speaker to form a house panel to meet the GST Council chairman and Prime



As the protest continued, Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha was forced to adjourn the House twice, first for 10 minutes and again till 4pm

I urge the Chief Minister to write to the Centre to withdraw its decision. Otherwise, let the state government bear the GST cost on the items like puffed rice and flattened rice



SURESH ROUTRAY | CONGRESS MLA

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NIRANJAN PUJARI | FINANCE MINISTER

Minister on the issue.

Similarly, BJD member Amar Prasad Satpathy also expressed concern over the issue and demanded the state Finance Minister make a statement clarifying whether the GST Council has taken permission from the state government before levying of GST on puffed rice and flattened rice.

The Congress members said in Odisha, puffed rice, flattened rice, parched rice, curd, milk and jaggery is consumed by the poor and also offered as prasad in temples. If tax is imposed on these items, poor people will be affected and the baby food would become dearer.

The Speaker appealed to the members to return to their seats and cooperate for smooth conduct of the business of the House.

The agitating Congress members, who were in no mood to listen to the Speaker's appeal, continued shouting slogans forcing the Speaker to adjourn the proceedings till post-lunch session.

Notably, several food items like puffed rice, flattened rice, parched rice, rice, wheat, curd, lassi, jaggery and milk attracted 5 per cent GST from Monday after the GST Council meeting decided to lift the tax exemption on some packaged and labelled items.

13 projects worth ₹50 crore sanctioned for Kotia: Mallik

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The state government has sanctioned 13 projects worth Rs 50.15 crore for the development of Kotia gram panchayat in Koraput district, Revenue Minister Pramila Mallik told the Assembly here Monday.

On July 15, several members of opposition BJP and the treasury bench had expressed concern over the interference of Andhra Pradesh in Kotia gram panchayat and urged the Speaker to direct the government to make a statement in the House on the situation. As per the direction, Mallik made a statement in the House, Monday, it was learnt.

On the direction of the Chief Minister, Development Commissioner PK Jena July 16 held a meeting and took up 13 projects

worth Rs 50.15 crore for the development of Kotia gram panchayat. The district administration has been asked to execute the projects with immediate effect.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced a special package of over Rs 100 crore for the development of Kotia panchayat.

Mallik said the CM has always given importance for the all round development of the panchayat. Developmental works like construction of roads, electrification and creation of livelihood are on with the assistance provided by the state government, she said.

The Revenue Minister further said that the police station, health and wellness centre, and Odisha



IN THE HOUSE

Adarsha Vidyalaya have been made functional in Kotia.

"This year, 2022-23, Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya has enrolled 54 students in Kotia and free bus services have been launched to facilitate their transportation," she said.

The Minister said the Chief Secretary, the Additional Chief Secretary and senior officials of the Revenue and Disaster Management department have visited Kotia and assessed the situation.

The district-level officers, the minister said, are also regularly visiting and reviewing the implementation of various projects and welfare programmes in Kotia.

20 get life term for murder in Kanas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 18: A local court here Monday awarded life imprisonment to 20 people after holding them guilty of killing a man over a trivial issue in Kanas block under the district here in 2012.

According to the case details, the convicts had killed Manas Kumar Baliarsingh over the ownership of a tree at Balajitpur under Kanas block September 12, 2012.

"Manas and the convicts were at loggerheads over the ownership of a tree on a piece of government land on the outskirts of the village. On the fateful day, Manas had gone to attend a nature's call when the culprits attacked him, killing the victim on the spot. Manas' wife, father and a few others sustained critical injuries while attempting to save him," said an official, adding that a case was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Manas' father.

Prez poll: 146 of 147 MLAs cast votes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: As many as 146 MLAs of the 147 members of the Odisha Assembly cast their votes to elect the country's 15th President, Monday.

Enthusiastic lawmakers of the ruling BJD and the opposition BJP queued up as the NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu is a 'daughter of Odisha'. BJP member Mukesh Mahaling was the first Odisha legislator to cast his vote when polling commenced at 10am.

It is for the first time that a person from the state is in the fray for the election to the country's topmost constitutional post.

It is also probably for the first time in the history of Presidential election in the state that both the ruling party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are supporting the same candidate. Congress has announced to support Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha in the Presidential poll.

While the ruling BJD has 112 MLAs, the BJP has 22, Congress nine and CPI(M) and Independent one each. Two members of the BJD have been expelled.

All the 31 MPs from Odisha—21 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members—cast their votes in the Parliament. Of the 21 Lok Sabha members, 12 are from the BJD, eight from BJP and one from the Congress. The BJD has nine members in



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik casts his vote

the Rajya Sabha while the BJP has one.

The Leader of the Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik, a BJP lawmaker from Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district, cast his vote in Delhi as he is under treatment there for post Covid-19 ailments.

BJD's expelled MLA Prashant Jagdev, who is in jail for his alleged involvement in a criminal case, did not turn up to cast his vote at the Assembly premises.

As the system of secret ballot is followed in the Presidential election, parties cannot issue whips to their MLAs for voting. The value of votes for each MLA in Odisha is 149. The value of a vote by an MP is 700 as it is across the country

Patnaik, who is also the BJD president, had appealed to all the members of the Odisha assembly to cast their votes in support of Murmu, who hails from Mayurbhanj district in the state.

BJP gears up to celebrate Murmu's win

New Delhi: As the voting for the election to choose the 15th President of India held Monday, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) started preparations to celebrate the victory of NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu, a resident of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. According to the sources, as part of the celebrations, a marquee has been set up at the residence of Murmu at Pandit Uma Shankar Dikshit Marg here. Soon after the declaration of the results July 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Union ministers are set to meet Murmu at her residence and congratulate her. The PM, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former PM Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi also cast their votes. On Monday morning, Murmu woke around 3:30am and offered prayers to Lord Jagannath. Later in the day, she watched tv and took updates of the election. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met Murmu in the evening, it was learnt.

Now, AI to help diagnose birth defects

Canadian researchers have in a breakthrough experiment with the use of Artificial Intelligence-based deep learning as a tool for the early identification of birth defects.

A team from the University of Ottawa in a new proof-of-concept pioneered the use of a unique deep learning model as an assistive tool for the rapid and accurate reading of ultrasound images.

The goal of the study, published in the scientific journal Plos One, was to demonstrate the potential for deep-learning architecture to support early and reliable identification of cystic hygroma from



first trimester ultrasound scans.

Cystic hygroma is an embryonic condition that causes the lymphatic vascular system to develop abnormally. It's a rare and potentially life-threatening disorder that leads to fluid swelling around the head and neck. It is documented

in approximately 1 in 800 pregnancies and 1 in 8,000 live births.

Ultrasound is critical in the observation of foetal growth and development, however, small foetal structures, involuntary foetal movements and poor image quality make neonatal image acquisition

and interpretation challenging. The research group wanted to test how well AI-driven pattern recognition could do the job.

"What we demonstrated was that in the field of ultrasound we're able to use the same tools for image classification and identification with a high sensitivity and specificity," said Dr Mark Walker at the University's Faculty of Medicine.

"With further development, including testing in a large multi-site dataset and external validation, our approach may be applied to a range of other foetal anomalies typically identified by ultrasonography," he noted.

Bank of India GOLD AUCTION NOTICE. Includes bank logo, address, and a detailed table of gold ornaments for auction with columns for SI No., A/c No., Name & Address of the Borrowers, Gross Wt, Net Wt, Balance U/S, and Total Dues.

Cross-votes galore in Murmu's favour

Continued from P1
Indicating that he supported Murmu rather than Opposition's Yashwant Sinha, Bishnoi said in Delhi, "Like in Rajya Sabha, I have cast my vote in this election too as per my conscience."

Voting in the presidential election is done through a secret ballot and parties cannot issue whips to their MPs and MLAs.
In Jharkhand, NCP MLA Kamlesh Singh said that he has voted for NDA presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu.

"NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu will get the support of at least 65 legislators in Jharkhand under any circumstance as many Congress legislators are also going to listen to their conscience and vote for her," BJP MLA Biranchi Narayan claimed.

In Gujarat, the Nationalist Congress Party MLA Kandhal Jadeja also said he voted for Murmu in the presidential election.

The Sharad Pawar-headed NCP is one of the constituents of the Congress-led opposition bloc in the country.
In 2020, the NCP had issued a show cause notice to Jadeja, the lone party MLA in Gujarat from Kutiyana seat in Porbandar, for defying the whip and cross-voting in Rajya Sabha polls.

In Punjab, Shiromani Akali Dal legislator Manpreet Singh Ayali decided to boycott the Presidential poll, saying issues related to Punjab remain unresolved and he was not consulted by his party leadership before deciding to back the NDA candidate.

With regional parties like the BJD, YSRCP, BSP, TDP, JDS and SAD lending their support to Murmu in the presidential poll, cross-voting by several opposition legislators in state assemblies during polling on Monday is likely to help push her vote share further.

Some parties like Shiv Sena and JMM have already broken ranks with their allies in the UPA to support a woman tribal to become the next President of India.

The BJP is seeking to increase the total votes in favour of Murmu to above seven lakh out of a total of 10,86,431 votes.

RAO's plea to govt for easing Covid norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Restaurant Association of Odisha (RAO) organised its quarterly meet at Press Club of Odisha here Monday. In the meeting, they discussed how the Covid guidelines proposed by the state government would be strictly followed by the restaurateurs. The guidelines include 'No Mask - No Entry', appropriate social distancing and proper seating arrangement.
They also discussed the hygiene & safety drives to be conducted by the association in collaboration with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Installation of handwash & sanitisation station at every restaurant is mandatory.
It also requested the govern-

ment for granting relaxation to operate restaurants during the Covid phase and not to put them in a situation of shutdown. It said around 5,000 families are dependent on this sector and their livelihood will be at stake in case of shutdown.

Orissa POST & Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy said that the association must try to promote the work which it is doing to keep Covid at bay. "If the government comes to know what the association is doing to stay safe from Covid then it may be lenient towards them," he added.
RAO president Rajiv Swain, its vice president Sameer Hans, secretary M Tejeswar Rao and the outfit's joint secretary Saurav Mishra were present in the meet.



Girls asked to remove innerwear at NEET centre

Continued from P1

KM Abhijith, President of the NSUI state wing, said appropriate action should be taken against the wrong-doers, while students, after hearing about the incident, staged protest marches towards the institution where this incident took place.

The institution has washed their hands off the incident, and blamed the agency which was entrusted with the conduct of the examination for what happened.
Reacting to the incident, Kerala Higher Education Minister R Bindu Monday said the test was not organised by a state-run agency and what happened indicated a grave lapse on the part of the organisers.

Such a conduct of the organisers towards the women and girl candidates without considering their human rights was unacceptable.
"We will be conveying our disapproval regarding what happened to the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) - a central government agency which conducts entrance examinations for educational institutions - the minister said. The local police also have started a probe after a complaint was registered.

EX-TEHSILDAR GETS 2-YEAR RI FOR GRAFT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 18: A Vigilance court here Monday sentenced an Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer to rigorous imprisonment (RI) for two years after holding him guilty of receiving bribe in May 2009. The convict identified as Panchanan Barik, 67, was the tehsildar of Khandapada in Nayagarh district.
The court also imposed a fine of Rs 7,000 on the convict who has to undergo additional imprisonment of 1 year if he fails to pay the fine amount.

"The complainant, Rabindranath Mohanty, had applied for renewal of licence for stamp vendor at Khandapada before the Nayagarh Collector in 2009. Subsequently, the then tehsildar of Khandapada, was instructed by the Collector to submit an enquiry report. Barik asked the complainant to pay Rs 1,000 to send the enquiry report favouring Mohanty," said special public prosecutor Hemant Kumar Swain.
Mohanty agreed to pay Rs 500



An illegal structure in Jobra area of Cuttack razed by CMC, Monday

Centre grants land to Odisha for integrated campus

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 18: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has allotted 2.70 acres of land to the government of Odisha to build an integrated campus in New Delhi consisting of a state guest house, a cultural centre, and a state government office.

It should be noted that the request from Odisha government for construction of Odisha cultural centre and library was pending since 2006. The state had been requesting for a chunk of commercial land located adjacent to Hotel Oberoi.

During the meeting of the Land Screening Committee, under the ministry of Housing and Urban

Affairs, the representative of Delhi Development Authority stated, the land falls in the Lutyens Bungalow Zone, so it would require permission from the Prime Minister's Office. The representative also informed that due to the presence of a large number of trees on the land, clearance from the forest department would also be needed.

The BJD had raised the issue in the Parliament several times. BJD MP, Sasmit Patra, while urging the Union government to allot land had said this would add to the richness and diversity of the national capital region, as well as showcase to the world the rich culture, heritage, legacy and traditions of Odisha.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

Before Notary Sri Binayak Sahu Govt. of Odisha, Khalikote, Ganjam, I, K. Gurumurthy Patra, S/o. Late K. Trinath Patra, Mother- K. Puni Patra, Vill-Manapalli, Po-Kairasi, PS/ Tahasil-Khalikote. In my school leaving certificate (TC) and my birth certificate mentioned as K. Gurumurthy Patra, But in my Aadhaar Card wrongly mentioned as B. Bhikari Patra, S/o. B. Trinath Patra, which is my nick name. Necessary to produce before competent authority to record my name as per my transfer certificate of school and birth certificate and issue new Aadhaar Card in my above name and for odisha gazette.

By virtue an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I Ajay Kumar Agarwal, S/o. Late Banarasi Das Agarwal, At-Bhabanipur, Po/Ps- Pipili, Dist-Puri-752104, Odisha. That in my school leaving certificate (TC) and Passport my name mentioned as Ajaya Kumar Agrawalla, S/o-Banarasi Das Agrawalla. Now I am keep up my name as Ajay Kumar Agarwal, S/o- Banarasi Das Agarwal for all purpose.

INDIA'S OLDEST CITIES OFFER MODERN LESSONS

Mangalore, July 18: 21st century urban designers rediscover centuries-old tradition in India. Dholavira, a 4,670 year old city with orthogonal streets, planned urban spaces and underground water and sewage management, was recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2021. Hundreds of such planned cities are dotted across the Indian subcontinent.

Evolving over centuries, India's ancient urban heritage offers many lessons in this era of worsening climate change. The idea of 'vernacular urbanism'—that is, cities and settlements that respond to local weather and climate patterns is recognised both by academics and the building industry. The old cities of India have much to offer to 21st century urban development.

Urban development in the 20th century was characterised by urban sprawl and high-rise city cores. Cities expanded up and out. Urban experts from Patrick Geddes to Louis Mumford to Jane Jacobs, have recognised suburbia and high-rise city centres as unsustainable. They involve a massive ecological footprint, water management problems and problematic transportation systems, along with the poor quality of life they offer to the majority of citizens.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, a 21st century

invention, point to what was already realised in the pre-industrial city. The fundamental characteristics of the traditional city in India are its compact form, with non-motorised transit systems cutting down wasteful consumption of resources and high pollution load that contribute to climate change. It's a built form perfected over centuries. Indian cities such as Shahjahanabad (which became Delhi), a living city planned and built in the 17th century, as well as many other traditional cities of the Global South, exhibited exactly the features that the UN SDGs now strive for.

The old compact cities occupy less land than modern metropolises as many of them are built on geographical high-points, often resulting in a high-density—but not high-rise—living, good public transport networks, and mixed-use areas that embrace work, home and play within the one area. Their hill-top locations reduce the extent of infrastructure, both physical and social, and in a modern context reduce demand for electrical and electronic systems. The resulting savings in fossil fuel consumption and overall capital investment contribute to climate change resistance.

Before the term was invented, old cities had already embraced



mixed-use zoning. The compact city reduces commuting distances and provides for proximate recreation spaces. Transportation systems within old cities are usually well shaded pedestrian networks, which also ensure cooling airflow. The shaded streets double as open spaces where playing children are within the 'eyes on the street' of the family.

The compact old city often located its larger institutional buildings on higher ground while being connected by the movement lines in the valleys. These large institutional buildings spontaneously generate public open spaces in front of them, functioning as a distribution hub for natural airflow.

In the hot-arid regions of India, the continuous air change improves the micro-climate and most recently provided necessary air change during the pandemic.

The value of low-rise—high-density development is now well recognised by academics and eminent urban designers like Léon Krier, Charles Correa, and Jan Gehl, as more sustainable compared to the urban sprawl.

as the heat-absorbing surface area of the building mass is considerably reduced. Modern construction materials— from production to consumption to waste—are undoubtedly unsustainable. Steel, glass, aluminium and plastics have huge impacts in their mining and are highly energy intensive in their production. They also involve long distance, fossil fuel based transportation. But these are, at present, 'normal materials' of construction.

The huge embodied energy in modern materials is compounded by the energy required for their upkeep, cooling, and heating. Traditional, organic building materials such as timber, clay, and straw use little energy to create and therefore have a considerably lower ecological footprint than materials such as steel and concrete.



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of the day quote

I am not a criminal, I am a chief minister and a free citizen of the country. There was no legal basis to stop me from visiting Singapore so there appears to be a political reason behind this

People hurt when they needed relief

Elections for the President and Vice President are a fight about ideology and not individual candidates



High taxes, No jobs. BJP's masterclass on how to destroy what was once one of the world's fastest growing economies

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

GOLD FOUND

Gold coins from the British Empire era have been found in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh during digging of a toilet pit inside the house of a woman in Kotwali area of the district, police said



Monsoon Session begins on a stormy note

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: The Monsoon Session of Parliament got off to a stormy start Monday leading to adjournment of the two Houses without transacting much business following Opposition uproar over issues ranging from price rise to the Agnipath scheme.

The uproar broke out even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged MPs before the start of the parliamentary proceedings to make the session as productive as possible and called for debate, criticism and analysis for positive contribution to policies and decisions.

Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, M Venkaiah Naidu also urged MPs to be "different and better" than they were in the last five years when 57 per cent of House sittings were partly or fully disrupted. Naidu's five-year term as Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman ends on August 10.



Speaking to reporters, Modi said Parliament functions and takes best decisions with everyone's 'prayaas' (efforts) and urged parliamentarians to make full use of this session in national interest. "We always consider the House an efficient medium of dialogue, a pilgrimage place. Where there is dialogue with an open mind, there are fierce debates if needed, there is also criticism and by very good analysis of things a very positive contribution can be made to policies and decisions," the prime minister added.

Subject to exigencies of government business, the Monsoon Session will conclude on August 12. The morning session of the Lok Sabha was adjourned to allow members to vote in the presidential election even as opposition members tried to raise some issues.

and Trinamool Congress' Shatrughan Sinha (Asansol, West Bengal) and two BJP members from Uttar Pradesh Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua (Azamgarh) and Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi (Rampur) - took their oath.

In the Lok Sabha, three newly-elected members - Bollywood actor

As some people have come determined not to allow the House to function and also enable members to go and vote in the Presidential election, I am adjourning the House for the day

M VENKAIAH NAIDU

Legendary singer Bhopinder Singh dies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 18: Legendary ghazal singer Bhopinder Singh died Monday due to suspected colon cancer and Covid-related complications at a Mumbai hospital, his wife Mitali Singh said. He was 82. Singh was best known for songs such as 'Duniya Chhute Yaar Na Chhute' ('Dharam Kanta'), 'Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Aasman' ('Sitara'), which he sang with the late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, 'Dil Dhoondta Hai' ('Mausam'), 'Naam Gum Jayega' ('Kinara').

"He was admitted to the hospital eight to ten days ago as he had some infection in the urine. After tests were performed, he tested positive for COVID-19. He passed away at around 7:45 pm due to suspected colon cancer and had COVID-19," Mitali Singh, also a well-known singer, said.

SHORT TAKES

Minor raped

Palanpur: The Gujarat police have registered a case against three youths over allegations that they blackmailed and threatened to release the nude video clip of a minor girl who was raped by one of the accused six months ago. The incident came to light on Sunday evening, when the 12-year-old victim attempted suicide. Her family rushed her to hospital for treatment, and when she regained consciousness, her statement was recorded by the police.

Criminal shot dead

Surat: A criminal shot and seriously injured by his fellow gang member in Gujarat's Surat succumbed in hospital, police said Monday. The deceased is identified as Mohammad Bilal alias Haji Ali Abdul Rehman Poonawala and the alleged assailant was Faiyub Amin Barafwala, police said, adding that the incident took place late Sunday night.

Remand extended

New Delhi: A special court Monday extended by four days the remand of Chitra Ramkrishna, former CEO and MD of National Stock Exchange (NSE) in connection with the prevention of money laundering case related to the phone tapping of NSE's employees between 2009 and 2017. She was produced before Rouse Avenue Court by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after the expiry of her custodial remand.

Four killed

Raichur: Four members of a family, including two children, were killed in a head-on crash between a car and a truck in this district of the state Monday. According to police, all the deceased were occupants of the car and belonged to the same family from Madhya Pradesh.

COP KILLS 3 COLLEAGUES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: A policeman deployed at the Haiderpur water treatment plant here shot dead his three colleagues Monday and later surrendered, officials said.

The accused, Prabin Rai (32), and the three deceased were Sikkim Police personnel deployed at the plant for its security as part of the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRBn). A senior official said they received a PCR call at the KNK Marg Police Station at around 3 pm about the firing.

"Upon reaching the spot, it was found that three persons belonging to Sikkim Police had been shot, of which two had died on the spot and one was critically wounded and transferred to BSA hospital where he was declared brought dead," a senior official said. He said the accused surrendered at the Samaypur Badli police station.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi casts his vote for the election of the President at Parliament House in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Kerala reports second monkeypox case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/New Delhi, July 18: A 31-year old man who arrived in Kerala last week from Dubai has tested positive for monkeypox, making it the second case in India this year, state Health Minister Veena George said Monday.

The minister said the patient, who arrived in Kerala on July 13, was a native of Kannur in north Kerala and was undergoing treatment at the Pariyaram Medical College there. His health is stable, she said.

The minister also said that all those who were in close contact with the patient are being closely monitored.

Meanwhile, the Kerala Health Minister held discussions with the central team visiting the southern state to study the situation. After the meeting, she said the state government will introduce the monkeypox diagnosis system in government labs. "There are 28 government labs in the state that can conduct COVID RT-PCR tests. In the first phase, test kits for detecting monkeypox will be immediately made available from NIV Pune to NIV Alappuzha and tests will be conducted in the Alappuzha lab itself," the minister's office said in a statement.

The team expressed satisfaction over the preventive measures being taken by the state," the statement said. "Help desks have been set up at all international airports and surveillance has been intensified. If any of the passengers show symptoms of infection, they will be safely taken to isolation centres for testing and specialist treatment," it said.

BABRI DEMOLITION CASE

HC to hear plea against acquittal

Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh said the revision petition by Ayodhya residents - Haji Mahmood Ahmad and Syed Akhlaq Ahmad - was not maintainable and directed that it be treated as criminal appeal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 18: The Allahabad High Court Monday directed that the revision petition filed against the acquittal of all 32 accused, including former deputy prime minister LK Advani and senior BJP leader M M Joshi, in the Babri mosque demolition case be treated as a criminal appeal.

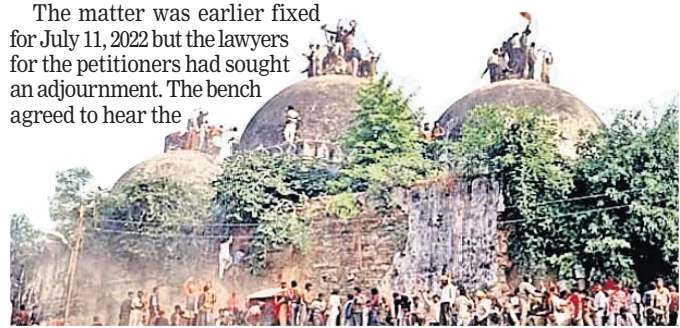
The Lucknow bench of the high court also fixed August 1 as the next date of hearing. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh said the revision petition by Ayodhya residents - Haji Mahmood Ahmad and Syed Akhlaq Ahmad - was not maintainable and directed that it be treated as criminal appeal.

The matter was earlier fixed for July 11, 2022 but the lawyers for the petitioners had sought an adjournment. The bench agreed to hear the

matter Monday but cautioned the lawyers that it would not adjourn the hearing any further. The two petitioners have alleged that they were witnesses in the trial against the accused and that they were also the victims of the violence.

The Babri mosque was demolished by karsevaks on December 6, 1992. After a long legal battle, the special CBI court on September 30, 2020 pronounced the judgment in the criminal trial and acquitted all the accused including Advani, former UP chief minister Kalyan Singh, senior BJP leaders MM Joshi, Uma Bharti and Vinay Katiyar; Sadhvi Ritambhara and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The trial judge had refused to believe newspaper cuttings, video clips as evidence as the originals of the same were not produced, while the entire edifice of the case rested on these pieces of documentary evidence. The trial judge also had held that the CBI could not produce any evidence that the accused had a meeting of mind with karsevaks who demolished the structure.



It's dangerous to be right when the establishment is wrong

It is dangerous to be right when the establishment is wrong. Or so it seems. And wrong it was for Mohammed Zubair, fact checker and co-founder of Alt News who was arrested for a 4-year-old tweet, allegedly for hurting Hindu sentiments, was granted conditional bail July 15 by a Delhi court with the remark that a voice of dissent is necessary for a healthy democracy. The court noted that the Delhi police has not been able to identify the Twitter users who had been offended by the tweet in 2018. No statement of any offended person has been recorded either. "The voice of dissent is necessary for healthy democracy. Merely for the criticism of any political party, it is not justified to invoke Section 153A and 295A, IPC," Additional Sessions judge Devender Kumar Jangala said. Section 153A pertains to promoting enmity between different

groups of religion, race, place of birth and residence while 295A is about deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.

The text for which Zubair is undergoing this ordeal at the hands of the Delhi police is about a tweet of an image from a 1983 movie which showed a hotel's name was changed from Honeymoon Hotel to Hanuman Hotel. The text of the tweet said, "Before 2014: Honeymoon Hotel. After 2014: Hanuman Hotel." "It is the case that the accused (Zubair) is stated to have used this to point towards a political party. In Indian democracy, political parties are open for their criticism," the court observed.

The court ruled that the film was certified by the Central board of film certification which is a statutory body of the government of India and is available



for public view ever since. "No complaint is stated to have been filed till today that the said scene of the movie has hurt the feelings of a particular community of society. Hindu religion is so tolerant that its followers proudly name their institutions/organisations/facilities in the name of their holy Gods or Goddesses," the court observed. Zubair may have been a soft target but Alt News that he co-founded has a history. It is an Ahmedabad-based Indian non-profit fact checking website founded in February 2017 and run by a software engineer Pratik Sinha along with Zubair. Alt News earned its spurs and rose in pop-

ularity fast because it came into being in a year when the state witnessed one of most closely contested state Assembly elections in Gujarat.

Pratik is the son of Mukul Sinha, a human rights activist and a lawyer practicing at the Gujarat High Court who passed away to cancer in 2014. A Masters in Physics from IIT, Kanpur, he had joined the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad for his doctoral studies when fate ordained otherwise and he plunged into the trade union movement. A vocal critic of the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi, he legally represented the victim of the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat and even secured the conviction of politicians and police officers. The Jan Sangharsh Manch was set up by him along with wife Nirjhari as a civil rights organisation.

Mukul Sinha and his organi-

zation remained a thorn in the side of the Modi establishment in Gujarat taking up the cause of the victims of the 2002 communal riots before the Nanavati-Mehta judicial inquiry commission was set up to probe the Godhra train carnage and the communal violence that followed thereafter. CDR (call data records) secured by IPS officer Rahul Sharma, who has since quit the service, and its citing as evidence was crucial in corroborating the testimonies of the Naroda Patiya (Ahmedabad) massacre victims leading to some high profile convictions. Pratik has inherited the mantle of his late father but his non-profit focuses on fact-checking which continues to expose a lot of misinformation and disinformation crowding the social media space thus throwing a spanner in many well laid plans, rubbing politicians in power on the raw side.

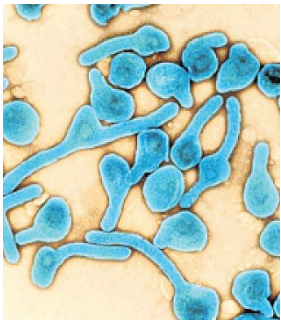
international



So, I've always been a completely normal UK taxpayer; my wife is from another country so she's treated differently, but she explained that in the spring and she resolved that issue
RISHI SUNAK | THE UK'S PRIME MINISTERIAL RACE FRONTRUNNER

MARBURG OUTBREAK IN GHANA

The World Health Organization has declared Ghana's first outbreak of the Ebola-like Marburg virus disease after labs confirmed the infections in two cases announced earlier this month



of the day quote

Algeria contributes in a determining way to the action of the Italian government to diversify its sources of provisions, having become the top supplier of gas to Italy in these months
MARIO DRAGHI | ITALIAN PREMIER

Shehbaz Sharif has become the Prime Minister of just Capital Development Authority (CDA)
SHEIKH RASHEED | AWAMI MUSLIM LEAGUE (AML) CHIEF

The US pledged not to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon even at the cost of using all elements of its national power, affirming its commitment to work together with other partners to confront Iran's aggression and destabilising activities
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

India top lender to Lanka this year

Colombo: India has emerged as the top lender to Sri Lanka, extending \$376.9 million worth credit compared to \$67.9 million by China in the first four months of this year to rescue the island nation from the unprecedented political crisis and economic turmoil. Loans from India with \$376.9 million were the highest foreign financing disbursements during the period of January 1 to April 30, 2022, according to Sri Lanka's Finance Ministry. After India, Asian Development Bank (ADB) came in as the second largest lender with USD 359.6 million being disbursed in the first four months, followed by the World Bank with \$67.3 million.

Three killed in mall shooting

Greenwood (US): Three people were fatally shot and two were injured, including a 12-year-old girl, at an Indiana mall after a man with a rifle opened fire in a food court and an armed civilian shot and killed him, police said. The man entered the Greenwood Park Mall on Sunday evening with a rifle and several magazines of ammunition and began firing in the food court, Greenwood Police Department Chief Jim Ison said. The three people who died were in addition to the man with the rifle. The identity of the gunman and a possible motive weren't immediately known.

4 killed in plane crash

Washington: Four people were killed after the small planes they were travelling on collided in mid-air around noon at North Las Vegas Airport in the US state of Nevada. "At this time, there are four reported fatalities. Accident is still under investigation," the City of North Las Vegas Fire Department tweeted. Each aircraft had two people aboard, Xinhua news agency reported.

5 ultras killed in drone strike

Baghdad: Five militants of Turkey's Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were killed in a Turkish drone strike in Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, official sources said. The five PKK members, including a woman, were killed when a Turkish drone bombarded their vehicle moving near a village in the west of the provincial capital Mosul, nearly 400 km north of Baghdad, according to a statement by the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service.

Acting Prez declares emergency in Lanka

Trade union representatives and activists shout slogans during a protest against Sri Lanka acting president Ranil Wickremesinghe in Colombo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 18: Sri Lanka's Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe Monday imposed emergency giving him sweeping powers ahead of the key election July 20 to pick a new president as he urged the political parties to put aside differences and form an all-party government, with the Opposition dubbing his decision as an "undemocratic draconian act".

Wickremesinghe, who was sworn-in as the acting president Friday after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives and then to Singapore from where he resigned in the face of public revolt against his government's mis-handling of the country's economy, imposed the emergency as protests demanding his resignation continued in most parts of the country. In a government gazette dated July 17, Wickremesinghe said that he was of the opinion enforcing public emergency was required in Sri Lanka in the interests of public security, the protection of



WICKREMESINGHE, WHO IS ONE THE CONTENDERS FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT, SAID JULY WOULD BE A DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR THE SUPPLY OF FUEL

However, diesel stocks have been secured and are being distributed while from July 21 petrol will also be distributed

public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community.

The President is empowered to impose emergency regulations in part 2 of the public security ordinance which says "(a) if the president is of the opinion that the police are inadequate to deal with a situation he may gazette an order calling out the armed forces to maintain public order".

This means that security forces gain the power to search, arrest, seize and remove weapons and explosives, and enter and search premises or persons. Hours later, Wickremesinghe's office issued a special statement in which he called

upon the political parties to put aside their differences and not allow the country to suffer over differences over an individual.

"He urged them (political parties) to come together and form an All-Party Government which would allow the country to recover from the economic crisis," according to the statement issued by his office.

In the statement, 73-year-old Wickremesinghe said that when he took over as the Prime Minister May 13, the economy had collapsed.

He also explained that relief was being provided to the citizens who are struggling with the economic crisis. The loans taken by paddy farmers who have planted fields

Japan, SK foreign ministers agree to improve ties

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, July 18: The foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan reaffirmed Monday the importance of bilateral ties and the three-way relationship with the US as they renewed efforts to mend relations amid the war in Ukraine and other global tensions.

Park Jin, South Korea's top diplomat, and his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi agreed to work together on the nuclear threat from North Korea and on the need to resolve a dispute over Japan's colonial-era forced mobilisation of Korean laborers, according to the two foreign ministries. The countries' ties have been strained mostly over historical issues, including forced labour leading up to and during World War II.



At the heart of the dispute are South Korean court rulings in 2018, which ordered two Japanese companies, Nippon Steel and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, to compensate forced Korean labourers.

The Japanese companies have refused to comply with the rulings, and the former labourers and their supporters responded by pushing for the forced sale of corporate assets of Nippon Steel and Mitsubishi.

BEATING THE HEAT



Children cool off during sunset as temperatures rise in Vlora, Albania

REUTERS

Trump aide Bannon goes on trial

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, July 18: The trial begins Monday of Steve Bannon, an adviser to former US President Donald Trump, for refusing to testify before a congressional select committee investigating the January 6 riots.

The first step of the trial will be selecting the jurors. Bannon faces two counts of misdemeanor for defying a subpoena from the committee to give testimony and provide documents. Bannon had infamously predicted the January 6 riots. "All hell is going to break

loose tomorrow," he had said on a right-wing radio talk show January 5. A clip from that show was played by the select committee of the House of Representatives at a hearing in July: "It's all converging, and now we're on, as they say, the point of attack," he had added.

The controversial adviser claimed the cover of executive privilege claimed by Trump to defy the summons, despite the fact that he had not held any position in the administration after being fired as White House senior adviser in 2017.

Imran demands fresh general polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, July 18: Imran Khan has demanded fresh general elections in Pakistan after his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party routed the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party in the crucial Punjab assembly by-polls, dealing a major blow to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif whose son Hamza Shehbaz is all set to lose his post as chief minister.

The election for the Chief Minister will be held July 22 on the Supreme Court's order and PTI-PMLQ joint candidate Chaudhary Parvez Elahi is likely to be the new chief minister of the



politically crucial province Punjab. According to unofficial results so far, the PTI has won 15 seats while the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of Sharif has just four. An independent candidate also won. PTI chairman Khan in a tweet Sunday thanked party workers and voters of Punjab for defeating, what

he called, not just PML-N candidates, but the entire state machinery, especially harassment by police and a "totally biased" Election Commission of Pakistan.

He also thanked the PTI allies - PML-Q, Majlis-i-Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

"The only way forward from here is to hold fair and free elections under a credible ECP. Any other path will only lead to greater political uncertainty and further economic chaos," Khan, who was ousted as prime minister in April after he lost a confidence vote in Parliament, said.

Britons asked to stay indoor as UK faces hottest day ever

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 18: People in the UK are being advised to stay indoors and avoid non-essential travel as the country faces its hottest day Monday, with temperatures set to edge towards the 40-degree Celsius mark for the first time since records began.

A national emergency is in place by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Meteorological (Met) Office has issued its first-ever red alert for extreme heat, warning of danger to life from the extreme heat. The heatwave is set to peak Tuesday before some rain forecast for Wednesday.

"We may well see the hottest day in UK history," said Professor Penny Endersby, chief executive of the Met Office. "Tomorrow [Tuesday] there's a higher chance of 40C and

above, possible numbers 41 are on the cards, some 43 in some models, but we're hoping it won't be as hot as that," she told the BBC.

She urged people to take the warnings seriously as they would any forecast of storm or other harsh weather. "These temperatures are unprecedented and we're not used to dealing with them - heat causes many hundreds or thousands excess deaths, so people need to follow the advice of keeping the shade, keeping cool and hydrated," she added.

The highest temperature ever recorded in Britain is 38.7 C (101.7 F), a record set in 2019. People are being warned of major disruption to journeys by train and car. Downing Street said railway speed restrictions may be needed "on some parts of the network... To manage the hot weather and to



A member of the Queen's Guard receives water to drink during the hot weather, outside Buckingham Palace in London, Britain

REUTERS

avoid any potential damage".

Very hot temperatures can affect rails, overhead power lines and signalling equipment, as well as

"bend and buckle" tracks.

Network Rail, which runs the country's railway networks, warned that journeys will take signifi-

Some schools have also decided to cancel planned sports days or shut down, with others keeping some staff on site and allowing children to wear their cooler sports uniforms if their parents are unable to find childcare at short notice

The majority of UK schools are set to break up for the summer holidays later in the week and might accelerate that date.

Southern Europe battles wildfires as heatwave spreads north

Climate change extreme weather costs Germany billions annually

Customers should only use London's transport network for essential journeys. If customers do need to travel, they should check before they travel as we are expecting there to be some impact to Tube and rail services," said TfL chief operating officer Andy Lord.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said he supports calls for some industries to adapt working hours to make sure employees aren't in danger in the hottest temperatures.

"New buildings now have cooling systems, rely on renewable energy and are insulated," he said.

Some schools have also decided to cancel planned sports days or shut down, with others keeping some staff on site and allowing children to wear their cooler sports uniforms if their parents are unable to find childcare at short notice.

cantly longer and delays are likely. It, along with Transport for London (TfL), is strongly encouraging customers not to travel on Monday and Tuesday. "Due to the exceptionally hot weather that is ex-

business

of the day quote

In view of the concerns expressed by the RBI on the destabilising effect of cryptocurrencies on the monetary and fiscal stability of a country, the RBI has recommended for framing of legislation on this sector. The RBI is of the view that cryptocurrencies should be prohibited

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

It is becoming critical for India to liberalise its exploration and production policy for a wide range of metals, rare metals, minerals, and hydrocarbons

ANIL AGARWAL | VEDANTA CHAIRMAN

500+ engineers & PhDs, \$500mn investment. Will be up & running next month!

BHAVISH AGGARWAL | OLA ELECTRIC CEO

SHORT TAKES

Bank of Maharashtra Q1 net jumps 2-fold

Mumbai: State-run Bank of Maharashtra Monday reported a more than two-fold jump in net profit to Rs 452 crore in the April-June quarter, helped by a healthy net interest income and improvement in asset quality. The lender had reported a net profit of Rs 208 crore on a standalone basis in the similar quarter of the fiscal 2022. The bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer A S Rajeev said despite transfers and promotions of employees, the bank performed well and its net profit grew by 117.25 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal. "We envisage a higher growth from the second quarter onwards and are very positive on the future growth," Rajeev told reporters.

Adani Wilmar cuts prices of edible oil

New Delhi: Edible oil firm Adani Wilmar, which sells its products under Fortune brand, Monday announced reduction in cooking oil prices by up to Rs 30 per litre amid fall in global prices. The maximum reduction has been done in soybean oil. The stocks with new prices will reach market soon. February 7, Mother Dairy, which sells edible oils under the Dhara brand, had cut prices of soybean and rice bran oils by up to Rs 14 per litre. The food ministry had called a meeting July 6 to discuss edible oil prices and directed edible oil firms to pass on the benefits of fall in global cooking oil prices to consumers. "In continuation to the global price reduction and the government's effort to pass on the benefits of reduced edible oil prices to consumers, Adani Wilmar has further slashed edible oil prices from the last month's reduction effected by the company," a company statement said.

Yes Bank to invest ₹350cr in JC Flowers

Mumbai: Yes Bank will invest up to Rs 350 crore for a potential 20 per cent stake in asset reconstruction company JC Flowers, which has emerged as the base bidder for the lender's bad loans worth Rs 48,000 crore. The private sector lender is planning to raise up to USD 1 billion in FY23 to bolster its core capital base once the NPA challenge is over, its managing director and chief executive Prashant Kumar told reporters here Monday. The bank's core equity ratio stands at 11.5 per cent right now and will go to over 14 per cent after the capital raise, he said, adding that even though the market conditions are not conducive right now, it would like to conclude the process in FY23 itself.



Countries with high debt levels and limited policy space will face additional strains. Look no further than Sri Lanka as a warning sign

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | IMF CHIEF

MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LAUNCHES NEW S-PRESSO

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Monday said it has launched new version of its entry level hatchback S-Presso priced between Rs 4.25 lakh and Rs 5.99 lakh (ex-showroom price).



₹ depreciates by 25% since Dec 2014

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 18: Indian rupee has declined by about 25 per cent since December 31, 2014, and is nearing 80 against the dollar, the Lok Sabha was informed Monday. The value of the rupee declined from 63.33 against a dollar on December 31, 2014, to 79.41 on July 11, 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a reply quoting RBI data.

The exchange rate of the Indian Rupee against the dollar was Rs 78.94 per dollar as of June 30, 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply. The rupee on Monday ended the session 16 paise lower at 79.98 (provisional) amid a surge in crude oil prices and unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

Global factors such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, soaring crude oil prices and tightening of global financial conditions are the major reasons for the weakening of the Indian rupee against the US dollar, she said.

Currencies such as the British pound, the Japanese yen and the euro have weakened more than the Indian rupee against the US dollar and, therefore, the Indian rupee has strengthened against



these currencies in 2022, she said. The outflow of foreign portfolio capital is a major reason for the depreciation of the Indian rupee, she said, adding, monetary tightening in advanced economies, particularly in the United States, tends to cause foreign investors to withdraw funds from emerging markets.

Foreign portfolio investors have withdrawn about USD 14 billion from Indian equity markets in 2022-23 so far, she said.

On the impact of falling currency, she said, nominal exchange rate is only one of the factors that impact an economy.

The depreciation of a currency is likely to enhance the export competitiveness, which in turn impacts the economy positively, while the depreciation also impacts the imports by making them more costly.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regularly monitors the foreign exchange market and intervenes in situations of excess volatility. It has raised interest rates in recent months that increase the attractiveness of holding Indian rupees for residents and non-residents.

Earlier this month, the RBI raised the overseas borrowing limits for companies and liberalised norms for foreign investments in gov-

Rupee touches 80-mark intra-day for first time

Mumbai: For the first time, the rupee declined to the low level of 80 against the US dollar in intra-day spot trading Monday before ending the session 16 paise lower at 79.98 (provisional) amid a surge in crude oil prices and unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.76 against the greenback but lost ground to touch the psychological low mark of 80 against the American currency. The local unit clawed back some lost ground and closed at 79.98 (provisional), registering a fall of 16 paise over its previous close.

The RBI increased the ECB limit under the automatic route from USD 750 million or its equivalent per financial year to USD 1.5 billion, and eased norms for foreign portfolio investments in the debt market.

EPFO likely to up investment limit in equities to 20%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: Retirement fund body EPFO is likely to approve this month a proposal to enhance its investments in equities to up to 20 per cent of the investible deposits from the current limit of 15 per cent.

The proposal is expected to be considered and approved during the EPFO trustees' meeting scheduled to be held July 29 and 30, according to a source. At present, EPFO can invest 5 to 15 per cent of the investible deposits in equity or equity-related schemes. The proposal to revise the limit to 20 per cent has been vetted and approved by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) advisory body Finance Audit and Investment Committee (FAIC).

The recommendation of FAIC will be placed before the EPFO apex decision making body -- Central Board of Trustees (CBT) -- for consideration and approval. "The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) headed by Union Labour



Minister is likely to approve the recommendation of the FAIC for increasing the investment in equity and equity related scheme to 5-20 per cent from existing 5-15 per cent," the source said. In a written reply to Lok Sabha Monday, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameshwar Teli said, "FIAC, a sub-committee of CBT, EPF, has recommended for the proposal to increase investment in equity and related investments in category IV of the Pattern of Investment from 5-15 per cent to 5-20 per cent for consideration of CBT, EPF." EPFO had started investing in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in August 2015, putting 5 per cent of its investible deposits in stock-linked products.

SENSEX, NIFTY CLIMB OVER 1%

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 18: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty spurred over 1 per cent Monday following hectic buying in IT, oil and gas and banking shares bolstered by firm global trends.

Rising for a second straight session, the 30-share BSE SENSEX rallied 760.37 points or 1.41 per cent to settle at 54,521.15. During the day, it jumped 795.88 points or 1.48 per cent to 53,760.78.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 229.30 points or 1.43 per cent to 16,278.50 as 41 of its constituents advanced.

Stock markets opened on a positive note following gains in Asian markets. Key indices extended gains in afternoon session after buying in IT, banking, teck and capital goods stocks.

"Gains in frontline blue-chip stocks such as Infosys, Tech Mahindra also helped to lift the markets," said Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research - Anand Rathi Investment Services.

Among Sensex constituents, IndusInd Bank rose the most by 4.36 per cent.

IT companies ended their losing run with Infosys rising by 4.16 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 3.67 per cent, Wipro by 2.77 per cent and TCS by 2.23 per cent.

Reliance Industries rose by nearly 1 per cent after a spurt in crude oil prices.

Bajaj Finserv spurred by 3.46 per cent, Axis Bank by 3.31 per cent, Kotak Bank by 3.25 per cent, ICICI Bank by 2.78 per cent and



SBI by 2.35 per cent. Ultratech Cement, L&T, Tata Steel, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance also gained. On the other hand, Dr Reddy's fell the most by 1.7 per cent while HDFC twins also dropped up to 1.19 per cent. M&M dropped by 0.86 per cent and Maruti by 0.84 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Nifty IT index snapped its five-day losing streak and jumped the most by 3.17 per cent. Nifty Metal rose by 2.49 per cent, Banking by 1.95 per cent and Consumer Durables by 1.45 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.49 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.39 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, IT jumped the most by 3.07 per cent, followed by teck (2.96 per cent), metal (2.72 per cent), bank (2.08 per cent), basic materials (1.97 per cent) and capital goods (1.96 per cent). FMCG was the only laggard.

Foreign institutional investors went in selling mode again as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,649.36 crore in the capital market Friday, as per exchange data.

BIZ BUZZ

Odisha right place for startups to grow: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Minister of MSME Pratap Keshari Deb asserted that Odisha is right place for startups to grow and nurture themselves. At the concluding ceremony of Odisha Startup Conclave organised

their enterprise here and grow holistically.

Executive Chairman, Startup Odisha, Dr Omkar Rai in his keynote address said that, "O-Hub with its world class facilities & services shall continue to be the epicenter of such programs in the



at O-Hubs, he said that all those startups and investors who are trying to explore must know that the time of Odisha has come and this is the right opportunity to start in Odisha.

He also asserted that the state has got a large technical pool of resources and the field ready with land, water, infrastructure and power which make Odisha a versatile state for anybody to start

state. Odisha has more than 1300 recognized startups with 40% of them being women-led which makes the state unique among all the other ecosystems in the country."

Deviyoti Mohanty, CEO, AIC-Nalanda welcomed the dignitaries, guests and audience for their gracious presence in the program and elaborated on the successful journey of the first Odisha Startup Carnival.

Cos spent 60% CSR funds on edu, health

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 18: Around 60 per cent of the total CSR funds spent by companies in the last seven financial years were in the areas of education, healthcare and rural development-related activities, according to the government.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, the corporate affairs ministry also informed that during the given period, around 33 per cent of the total CSR amount spent by companies were in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Under the Companies Act, 2013, a certain class of profitable companies are required to shell out at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities in a particular fiscal.

CSR is a board-driven process and the board of a company is empowered to plan, decide, execute and monitor CSR activities of the company based on the recommendation of its CSR Committee.



Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh said in the written reply that the government does not issue any specific direction to the companies to spend in any particular geographical area or activity.

"An analysis of CSR data during the period 2014-15 to 2020-21, reveals that around 33 per cent of the total CSR spent by the companies is in the

areas of education, healthcare and rural development-related activities," he said.

In a separate written reply, Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said all CSR eligible companies have spent a cumulative CSR amount of Rs 24,865.46 crore in FY 2020-21. Out of the total amount, Rs 6,946.75 crore was spent on 'healthcare-related activities', including activities related to COVID-19.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,12,509 companies have been struck off from official records in a little over

three years by the corporate affairs ministry, according to another written reply.

These companies have been struck off under Section 248 (1) of the Companies Act during the period from April 1, 2019, to July 12, 2022. This section allows Registrars of Companies (RoC) to strike off companies. Singh said the government has undertaken a special drive for identification and striking off shell companies.

However, there is no definition of the term 'shell company' in the Companies Act, 2013.

"It normally refers to a company without active business operation or significant assets, which in some cases are used for illegal purposes, such as tax evasion, money laundering, obscuring ownership, benami properties etc," the minister said.

Out of the total 1,12,509 companies, the maximum number was in Delhi at 19,464. It is followed by Maharashtra (16,023 companies), Uttar Pradesh (12,823), West Bengal (11,044) and Tamil Nadu (6,989), among other states.

Morgan Stanley cuts FY23 GDP estimate by 0.40%

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 18: American brokerage Morgan Stanley Monday cut its FY23 real GDP expansion estimate for India by 0.40 per cent to 7.2 per cent on slower global growth.

It said the GDP growth will slow down to 6.4 per cent in FY24, the brokerage said, adding that this is lower by 0.30 per cent compared to the earlier estimate. A majority of watchers are expecting FY23 GDP growth to come at over 7 per cent levels. The RBI estimate also stands at 7.2 per cent. "We pare our GDP forecasts by 0.40 per cent to 7.2 per cent for FY23 and by 0.30 per cent to 6.4 per cent for FY24 on the back of slower global growth. We see downside risks emanating from a weaker than expected global growth trend, supply-side-driven commodity price shock and faster than warranted tightening of financial conditions," the brokerage said in a note.

The brokerage said it expects global growth to slow down to 1.5 per cent for the quarter ended

December 2022 from 4.7 per cent registered in the year-ago period, which will have an impact on the export growth for India.

However, domestic demand will be providing a partial offset to the impact of the slowing export growth, it said, noting that the government's supply-side response and the reopening vibrancy to partially counter the downside.

The ongoing moderation in commodity prices is improving the near-term trajectory for macro stability and also cut its FY23 average inflation target to 6.5 per cent against 7 per cent earlier.

"However, we do not expect much change in inflation beyond FY23 and expect it to average 5.3 per cent in FY24. Near-term risks to the inflation trajectory stem from changes in commodity prices and/or domestic food prices," it said.

The RBI will continue with the policy normalisation measures, and the repo rate will be at 6.5 per cent by April 2023 against 4.9 per cent at present, it said.

Batra quits as FIH chief

Removal as IOA president by Delhi HC may have triggered resignation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: Veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra resigned Monday as president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). Batra also gave up his membership of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The FIH Board accepted the resignation and said an acting president will be appointed soon in Batra's place.

Batra ceased to be president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) when the Delhi High Court, May 25, struck down the post of 'Life Member' in Hockey India (HI), courtesy which he had contested the IOA elections and won in 2017.

In three separate handwritten notes, Batra officially tendered his resignations from the IOA, IOC and FIH respectively. In all the letters, he cited 'personal reasons' behind his decisions.

"Due to personal reasons I submit my resignation from the post of president FIH," Batra wrote to the executive board of FIH.

Batra's IOC membership was linked to IOA presidency but his resignation from FIH has come as surprise since in May he had said that he wants to focus on his job in the world hockey body.

The Delhi High Court's refusal to stay his appeal before a double bench might have been the trigger for Batra's resignations. But the matter is listed for normal hearing July 26.



Man hearing July 26.

Batra, after he was removed by the High Court, had issued a statement, announcing his decision not

to contest the upcoming IOA elections. He had said that his focus will now completely shift to managing world hockey.

The 65-year-old Batra took charge of the IOA for the first time in 2017 and was eligible to contest for re-election. The IOA elections were due

CBI conducts raids at Batra residences

NEW DELHI: Hours after his resignation as FIH president, the CBI conducted Monday searches at the premises of former IOA president Narinder Batra at five locations in Delhi and Jammu, officials informed. The searches were conducted after an FIR was lodged against him in an alleged corruption case. CBI officials also conducted raids at the IOA and Hockey India offices. Sources said the CBI 'recovered incriminating documents and records' over misappropriation of funds

in December last year but could not be held as per schedule due to ongoing amendments in the election process.

Batra became an IOC member in 2019 and later went on to become a member of the Olympic Channel Commission. He became president of FIH in 2016 and reclaimed the position last year for a second term.

Batra's reign has been marred by a number of controversies. In 2020, IOA vice-president Sudhanshu Mittal had written to the IOC, alleging irregularities and false declarations by Batra in his election to the top post. In April, the CBI had also initiated a preliminary inquiry against Batra for alleged misappropriation of public funds (see box).

BOWLER HARDIK NEEDS RHYTHM

ALL-ROUNDER REVEALS THE REASONS FOR HIS SUCCESS



IN RHYTHM: Hardik Pandya is congratulated by teammates after the dismissal of an England batter Sunday at Old Trafford

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manchester, July 18: Hardik Pandya, the bowler, feels he has finally got his rhythm back and going forward, the India star will continue to be 'smart' about his job and bowl at full pace only when required.

Not being able to bowl regularly due to fitness issues had cost Hardik his place in the Indian team but he made a roaring comeback with the IPL. More recently, he was at his absolute best with the bat and ball in the white ball series in England. He has turned heads with his brilliant bowling performances against England. The 28-year-old took career-best figures, 4/33 and 4/24, in the T20Is and ODI series.

Hardik said to be able to bowl regularly gives him a lot of satisfaction. "After IPL, I played the South Africa series. I bowled one over and I did not bowl in couple of games. As a bowler for me, it's very important to keep bowling. So I

was not finding the rhythm," Hardik said. "Even in Ireland I was not getting the rhythm which I wanted to. I don't have much skills, but I play with smartness. I try to out-smart the batter," he added.

Hardik said the four-wicket burst in the first T20I against England gave him the much-needed confidence.

"So for me, it's very important to get my consistency, something which I worked on. And I gradually got my rhythm back. Obviously that four-wicket haul (against England in T20I) kind of changed everything and gave me my consistency and my confidence to pitch wherever I want to, so that's where I come into the picture and be effective," informed the bowler.

Hardik also doesn't see the point in bowling full tilt at all times. "I think I bowl smart. I only bend my back and bowl quick as possible when required. If you see my last couple of games, I was bowling in the 130s because because I was not needed to bowl quick," he pointed out.



What matters to me as a bowler is rhythm. If I achieve it, then I feel happy bowling and enjoy the challenges

HARDIK PANDYA

Top-order failures don't worry Rohit

AGENCIES

Manchester, July 18: India skipper Rohit Sharma asserted Sunday that there are no issues as far as the top-order is concerned, in spite of the fact that it has failed to fire on most occasions in the all-format series against England over the last one month. Rohit (except for the first ODI), Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan have failed, but the skipper is not unduly worried.

"We do understand that it is something we need to look into, but it is not a big issue. We played

INDIA THIRD IN ODI RANKINGS

Dubai: India have consolidated their third spot in the latest ICC ODI rankings after the away series victory over England. With a rating of 109 points, India are three points clear of Pakistan (106) in the list. New Zealand continue to reign supreme at the top of the table with 128 rating points, while England are second with 121. India could stretch their lead even further with a good show in their three-match series against West Indies, starting this week.

some not-so-good shots and that's what cost us our wickets. But I still back those guys to come out good because they've done it for a long time. I've got nothing more to say since I understand the quality they bring to the team," Rohit said.

Rohit also said that there will be injury scares between now and the T20 World Cup this year and ODI World Cup in 2023, as it is part and parcel of the game, but added India have a 'solid' bench strength to take care of that.

"We've got some solid guys in the bench who are looking for a long time to get a game. We want to create that bench strength because the kind of games we play, injuries are bound to happen and you need to manage workload. It is a conscious effort," he informed.

Rohit's predecessor Kohli also lauded the team's efforts in winning the ODI series against England. He had special praise for Rishabh Pant and all-rounder Hardik Pandya. "Brilliant run chase and a great series," Kohli captioned Team India celebrating the win on the 'Koo' app.

India aim to end Oz dominance

Since the introduction of hockey at CWG in 1998, Australia have won gold on all 6 occasions



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 18: The phenomenal success at the Tokyo Olympics has ignited hopes of an in-form Indian men's hockey team stopping the Australian juggernaut at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham beginning later this month.

Australia's dominance at the CWG is a matter of envy. Since the game's introduction in the quadrennial event 24 years ago, World No.1 Australia have been the most dominant force, having won all six gold medals till date.

Going by renewed optimism and belief among the Indian players, it appears the men's team have a great opportunity to end Australia's gold rush at the event.

The Indian team that won a historic Olympic bronze after a hiatus of 41 years last year has improved by leaps and bounds under Australian Graham Reid. India's best result came in 2010 at home (New Delhi) and in Glasgow (2014) when they finished runner-up. The team finished fourth twice - in 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, where the sport made its debut and in 2018 in Gold Coast.

Earlier editions, fitness was one area which was a cause of concern but the current Indian team are con-

sidered one of the fittest sides in world hockey. And if the players play to their potential, there is no reason why the Indians can't bring home their maiden CWG gold from Birmingham. But it would be easier said than done as competition in hockey at the CWG is pretty tough.

The Indian men are placed in Pool B alongside hosts England, Canada, Wales and Ghana, while Pool A consists of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Scotland.

Reid is pretty confident about his team doing well in Birmingham. "It is very difficult to predict what will happen but anything is possible (on winning gold), because the gap between teams in current international hockey is very little," Reid said Monday. "But we can't control the uncontrollable. We can only control what is in our capacity," the coach added.

In veteran PR Sreejesh, India have a world-class goalkeeper who is definitely eyeing a gold in what will be his last CWG. "This is definitely going to be my last CWG and I am desperate to return with a gold medal. Although Australia have won all the golds so far, this team have the potential to beat them. They are not as invincible as they used to be in the past," Sreejesh said.

JAMAICAN SPRINTER WINS 5TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE WITH BLISTERING RUN

Fraser-Pryce back as 100m queen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eugene (US), July 18: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce sped her way back to the top of the sprint game, winning her fifth world 100 metres title by leading a Jamaican sweep and knocking off Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah.

The 35-year-old Fraser-Pryce, mother of a four-year-old son, Zion, led all the way Sunday and crossed the line in 10.67 seconds. She beat Shericka Jackson by 0.06 seconds while Thompson-Herah finished a surprising third in 10.81.

A night that started with thoughts that Thompson-Herah might knock off Florence Griffith-Joyner's 34-year-old world record of 10.49 closed instead with Fraser-Pryce setting a World Championships record. Marion Jones set the old mark of 10.70 in 1999.

With her blonde and green-tinted hair waving in the breeze as she



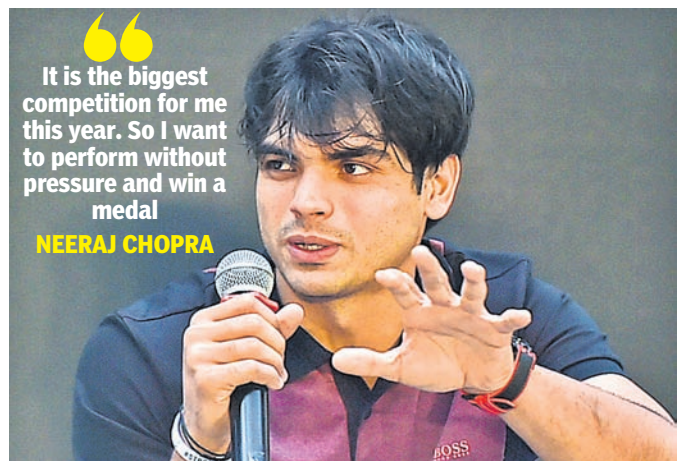
OVER THE MOON: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce is all smiles as she poses with fans for pictures after winning the 100m sprint Sunday

jogged through her victory lap, stopping to take pictures with fans that cheered her as loudly as anyone, Fraser-Pryce was all smiles -

a completely different reaction than last year in Tokyo, when she finished second by a sizable 0.13s. "I went back home and I worked

Neeraj not concerned with 'distance'

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST KEEN TO DO WELL AT ATHLETICS WORLDS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 18: Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra expects to breach the coveted 90m mark this year but doesn't want to think about 'distance' going into the World Athletics Championships, currently under-

way in Eugene, USA. Chopra had set a new national record of 89.94m, just six centimetres shy of the 90m mark, the gold standard in the world of javelin throw, at the prestigious Diamond League in Stockholm last month en route to a silver medal. The 24-year-old finished second behind Grenada's

Anderson Peters, who recorded a best throw of 90.31m.

"I was six centimetre short of the 90m mark, I was pretty close. I hope to cross 90m this year. But I never think or focus on distance going into a competition. I just try to give my 100 per cent," Chopra said Monday in a virtual interaction from Eugene during a promotional event.

A strong field awaits Chopra in the World Championships, where he will be seen in action, starting with the qualifiers July 21. "It is the biggest competition of this year for me. I want to perform without any pressure. It is the biggest stage; the competition will be very tough. There are 5-6 throwers who are performing consistently so the level is similar this year," Chopra said.

"But every day every competition is different. My focus is just on one thing - to throw as big as possible. And if a medal comes, all the more better for me," Chopra signed off.

HISTORIC SKEET GOLD FOR KHAN IN SHOOTING WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Changwon, July 18: Veteran Indian shooter Mairaj Ahmed Khan created history Monday by winning the country's first-ever ISSF World Cup gold medal in men's skeet here. In the 40-shot final, the 46-year-old from Uttar Pradesh shot 37 to finish ahead of Korea's Minus Kim (36) and Britain's Ben Llewellyn (26), who won the silver and bronze respectively.

Khan shot 119/125 over two days of qualifying before coming through in a five-way shoot-off en route to his maiden individual gold. The two-time Olympian had won a silver at the 2016 World Cup in Rio de Janeiro. Earlier, the trio of Anjum Moudgil, Ashi Chouksey, and Sift Kaur Samra won bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3P team event. They beat the Austrian team of Sheileen Waibel, Nadine Ungerank and Rebecca Koeck 16-6.