



Government of Odisha

EKAMRA PROJECT

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY

Wednesday, 28th June 2023, 10 AM, Bhubaneswar



Highlights of the Project

- Restore Ekamra Kshetra's architectural, archaeological, and ancient heritage.
- Implement a 12-18 meter wide mixed traffic lane for better vehicular movement.
- Create 4-10 meter wide shaded walkways for smooth pedestrian flow.
- Relocate parking facilities to the outer periphery to ease congestion in Ekamra Kshetra.
- Create interconnected landscaped open spaces for safe gatherings of devotees.
- Construct one 300 sqm temple facility for pilgrims' belongings.
- Develop a 1,600 sqm Information & Control Centre for emergency services.
- Create a dedicated pedestrian path around Bindusagar for easy access to ritual spaces & Ekamra Van.

Join us in large numbers to witness Live Telecast of this historic & glorious event on various TV Channels / Social Media Handles.

Youtube



For Live Streaming, follow us on

Twitter

https://twitter.com/SLTA_Lingaraj

Facebook

Shree Lingaraj Temple Office, Bhubaneswar



HOLLAND IMPRESSED ZENDAYA WITH HIS CARPENTRY SKILLS

Actor Tom Holland has revealed how he wooed girlfriend Zendaya. The 27-year-old actor shared that he put his carpentry skills to good use to impress Zendaya. He revealed that he impressed her by fixing her door, reports *Female First UK*.

PINK GETS SHOCK OF HER LIFE ON STAGE

Singer Pink got the shock of her life after a fan threw her mum's ashes on stage in a pouch at her two American Express Presents BST Hyde Park shows in London over the weekend, including teddy bears, flowers and art work, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Today, a romantic link-up is about to be delivered at your doorstep, all wrapped in silver and tinsel! So, Ganesha hopes you are prepared. Don your best attire, check your breath and practice some sweet-talking. After all, who knows what the evening will lead to? Only Ganesha, and he's smiling an impish grin! Need more clue?

TAURUS
Chaos will reign supreme as unexpected things occur and expected ones are missed out on, says Ganesha. Luck will favour you and nothing is powerful enough to hamper you other than your own thoughts. You will dodge any trouble that is headed your way and escape easily, much to the embarrassment of others.

GEMINI
Today is an important day to completely immerse yourself in your favourite activities, says Ganesha. But don't forget that loved ones come first as lack of warmth may affect family life. Show your family members that you care. New relationships are also on the anvil. It is an eventful and positive day for you.

CANCER
At work, your ability to forge great partnerships will see to the success of one of your ambitious projects. However, you need to be careful before signing the contract. It's always important to go through the finer details of a deal before closing it.

LEO
Reinvention and rejuvenation – these are the two words that shall dictate your philosophy for the day. Refurbishing oneself does not always have to be in accordance with something new; taking a look back can be equally enlightening. In any case, it's a small world, and, hence, chances are that you shall revive most of your old contacts either in a social occasion or an official meeting.

VIRGO
Achievement and accomplishment will be the highlights of the day, notes Ganesha. You will be recognised for your devotion to work and determination to succeed at your workplace. Much awaited promotions may come and financial arrears may also reach your hands.

LIBRA
You will be very active today, especially when it comes to finishing tasks in office. Your thoughts will reach new heights and you will be able to motivate and stimulate others to perform. Your motto for the day is 'Arise, awake and sleep not till the goal is reached'.

SCORPIO
Your close friends and loved ones seem to be on the menu today, predicts Ganesha. Romantic brilliance will usher in happiness and favourable business prospects will be the icing on the cake. Your charm will peak and you will enjoy the attention you get out of it.

SAGITTARIUS
Be ready with your bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today.

CAPRICORN
That you are affectionate towards your loved ones will be more noticeable today than ever before, says Ganesha. In fact, you will enjoy their company and will do everything in your capacity to make them feel wanted. Long-term relationships will also thrive.

AQUARIUS
Fortune favours the brave, and who knows it better than you? Your performance may come under scrutiny, but your bosses will come away pleased as punch. Want to make some money? Ganesha points to real estate and the construction business.

PISCES
Your expenses are likely to soar and you will need to draw a line between your needs and your desires if you are to keep them in check. There is a strong possibility that you will undergo a spiritual experience today.



Sonam invited for Sunak's reception

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor recently grabbed all the limelight when she delivered a spoken word piece at King Charles III's coronation concert. And now she is again in the news as she

UK-India week 2023. As a global Indian fashion icon, the *Delhi-6* actress has been invited by Sunak. The reception is hosted by the UK Prime Minister at his official residence and office in 10 Downing Street and is a part of India Global Forum's flagship event UK-India week, which is being held from 26th June to 30th June in London. UK-India Week 2023 is the 5th iteration of IGF's flagship event, a weeklong program that seeks to honour and strengthen the longstanding partnership between these two countries by providing a platform to spotlight crucial topics, including politics, trade, business, sustainability, inclusion, and innovation. She will be attending the reception June 28 to represent India and its cultural influence globally. On the work front, Sonam will be soon seen in a film titled *Blind*.



has been invited by the UK Premier Rishi Sunak for his reception to celebrate

Kubbra Sait on her The Trial co-stars

Mumbai: Actress Kubbra Sait has talked about working with acclaimed actors such as Jisshu Sengupta and Sheeba Chaddha in the upcoming Kajol-starrer *The Trial - Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha*.

Kubbra has shared her experience working with her co actors. Talking about her experience working with Jisshu Sengupta, Kubbra said: "The cast of *The Trial* are a great bunch of people, really wonderful. My first day of shooting was this face off scene with Jisshu and he's so stoic, quiet, settled and centered and literally as the camera rolls at me, he goes and sits behind the monitor, you can hear him giggle. He has this childlike fun ability, which was amazing to deal with."

Sharing her experience working with Sheeba Chadda, she added, "Sheeba Chadda is an incredible actor. Every time I had a scene with her and I worked with her, I went Oh, my God. She's such a good actor, also Sheeba and I follow each other on Instagram. So, we're in touch every day, that's something that we do, come what may."

"Ally - very interesting choice to play Vishal because of his energy, what he brings to the table, which is so different from anybody else we've seen." added Kubra on working with Ally Khan. The movie will be streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from July 14.



13TH MARGI FESTIVAL BEGINS

Lifetime honour for Ranjana Gauhar



International Odissi exponent Ranjana Gauhar during her performance at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday

Bhubaneswar : Margi, a two-day Classical dance festival presented by City's well known Odissi dance institution Nrutyashala, kicked off here at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday. The first evening began with a recital by New Delhi based International Odissi dancer Padma Shri Ranjana Gauhar who also was honoured with Lifetime achievement honour on the occasion.

She began with *Mangala Charan* followed by *Jagannath Stuti*. Her third performance was *Rati Sukha Sare*. Guru Mayadhara Rout composed the numbers.

Bandita Ghosal, the programme director of the event, took to stage next with *Mu Jani Jani Karichhi Mana*, written by Gopal Krishna. The dance was choreographed by Guru Ashok Kumar Ghosal.

The third solo performance *Sanginire Chahain Benu Pani Ku* was performed by Binod Kevin followed by duet Shiba Panchaka Sachikanta Pradhan and Swagatika Pradhan.

Bhubaneswar's Pragnya Nrutyayana troupe performed *Dasa Mahabidya* to end the evening. The dance was composed by Guru Durga Ch. Ranbir under the direction of Guru Swayampragnya Sahoo.

Luminaries present on the occasion included MLA Pratap Jena, retired IAS and Independent Director SAIL Ashok Ku. Tripathy and Mardala Guru Dhaneswar Swain. The objective of organising such an event is to promote Odissi and offer a platform to the young performers, said Ashok Ghosal, the director of the festival.

'SRK is the most selfless co-actor'

Mumbai: Actress Kajol recalled her experience of filming *Jaati Hoon Main* with SRK, praised and called him the most understanding co-actor.

Talking about shooting *Jaati Hoon Main*, the *Baazigar* actress said, "I had no clue what was being done. I was told before the shot 'do this, do that' and I did just that. It was tough to do, but I did it. I would say one thing about Shah Rukh Khan that he is still one of the most understanding co-stars." She continued, "(It's) because he understands what is uncomfortable for a woman to do and not to do and he tries his level best to make you most comfortable to do that."

Praising SRK, the *Fanaa* actress added, "I would say that he is the most understanding of actors that I have worked with in my whole (career). He really gets it, that, 'This is not comfortable for her to do and it's ok, I will figure a way out to make it as comfortable as possible'."

On the professional front, Kajol is awaiting the release of *Lust Stories 2* and *The Trial*.



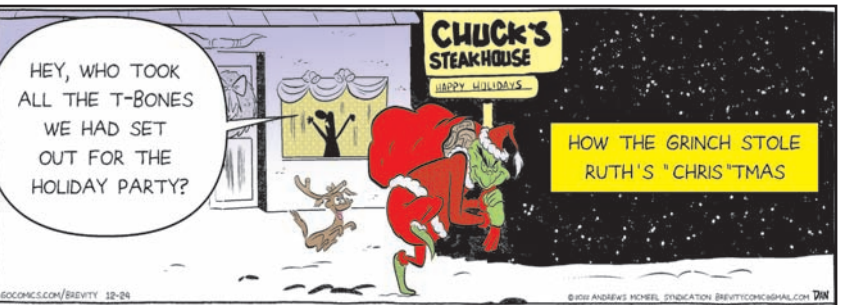
PEANUTS



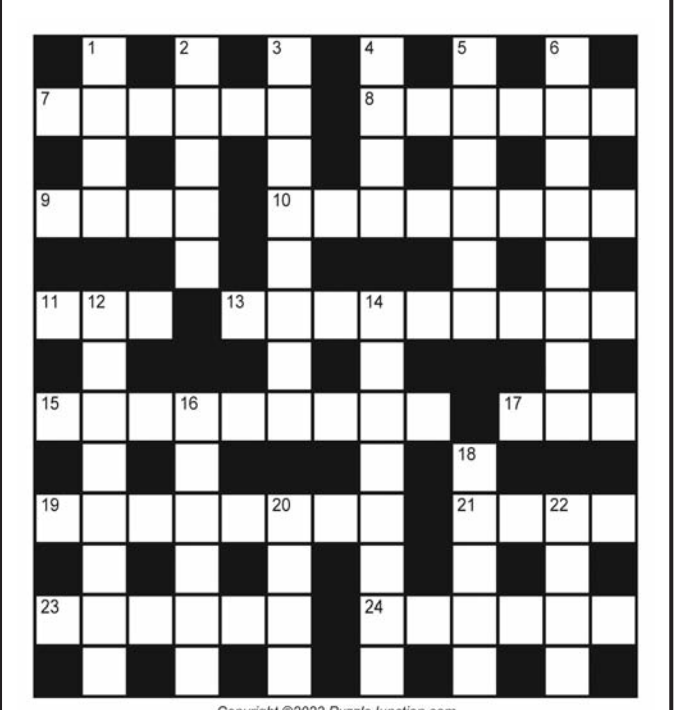
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Game bird
 - 8 In shock
 - 9 Chigger
 - 10 Having creative skill
 - 11 Boxer's target
 - 13 Deception
 - 15 "Not included" items
 - 17 Handful
 - 19 Aperitif wine brand
 - 21 Like some lips
 - 23 Hunters' aids, briefly
 - 24 Showerhead
 - 25 Seed covering
 - 26 Persian Gulf port
 - 27 Figure of speech
 - 28 Off one's trolley
 - 5 Conan Doyle character
 - 6 Line of descent
 - 12 Mexican resort
 - 14 Exam no-no
 - 16 Minstrel show, e.g.
 - 18 Mania
 - 20 Famed loch
 - 22 Hotel desk item

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

C	O	E	R	C	E	D	T	U	S	K	S
A	A	O	R	A	E	A					
M	A	S	C	A	R	A	C	U	R	E	D
E	E	S	G	I	P	E	D				
L	I	S	Z	T	O	A	T	M	E	A	L
				E	N						
H	A	I	R	E	G	O	U	T	S		
				S	L						
M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	D	U	T	C	H
L	U	W	S	S	I	O					
O	R	A	T	E	T	R	A	C	T	O	R
C	G	R	E	L	A	N	D				
K	E	E	P	S	M	A	T	I	N	E	

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



PROTESTS AGAINST AAP

BJP and Congress hold protests against AAP government in Delhi over power tariff hike

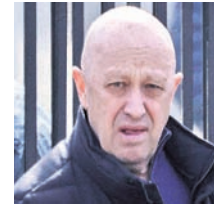
TWO STATES P5



UCC: OPN ATTACKS PM

Opposition attacks the PM for his comments on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) at an event in Bhopal

NATIONAL P7



'PRIGOZHIN IN BELARUS'

Yevgeny Prigozhin is in Belarus after his abortive armed rebellion against the Kremlin, Belarus President says

INTERNATIONAL P8

SHORT TAKES

Naveen for withdrawal of GST on kendu leaf

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has once again urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) imposed on kendu leaf in the greater interest of over eight lakh pluckers, binders and seasonal workers in Odisha, an official said, Tuesday. Imposition of GST (18 per cent) on kendu (tendu) leaf is adversely affecting the trade, he added. It also affects the livelihood of kendu leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal workers and implementation of social security and welfare schemes for them, the chief minister said in his letter. P2

OSRTC bus driver held

Berhampur: Police Tuesday arrested the driver of the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) bus which was involved in the accident that claimed 11 lives and left many injured near Digapahandi in Ganjam district Sunday night. Manas Pradhan, 40, of Gopalpur in Cuttack district was arrested after interrogation, said Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M. Though the exact cause of the accident was yet to be ascertained, police ruled out drunken driving. "Preliminary inquiry has revealed that the drivers had not consumed liquor," the SP said. Speeding might have been the cause of the accident, police suspected.



SAFETY IN MIND: Security personnel stand guard ahead of the Amarnath Yatra 2023, at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The state government Tuesday ordered compulsory retirement of Nabarangpur Additional Sub-Collector Prasanta Kumar Rout, who was arrested on charges of possessing disproportionate assets (DA) worth ₹5 crore, said an official.

The Vigilance sleuths had recovered cash amounting to ₹3,02,30,800 from Rout's residence in Bhubaneswar and ₹77 lakh from his Nabarangpur residence during raids June 23.

The Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer was also found to have owned five plots, including four in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar; bank and insurance deposits amounting to over ₹92.34 lakh, vehicles, jewellery and household articles worth over ₹27.27 lakh.

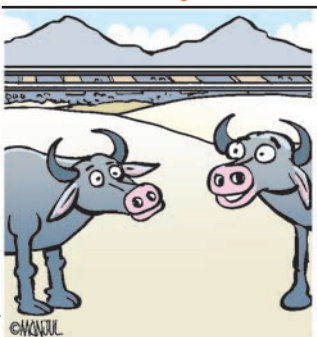
The assets in Rout's possession were 506 per cent more than his known sources of income, the official said.

Rout was arrested by the Vigilance June 24.

The action was taken following the state government's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, the official said.

Since 2019, the state government has taken action against 188 corrupt officials.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Be very careful. It's getting more dangerous for us. Five more Vande Bharat trains are running now

ICC WORLD CUP 2023

Will Pak vs India happen Oct 15

The PCB has objected to certain venues in India, including Ahmedabad, Chennai & Bangalore, after the ICC announced fixture of the 2023 ODI World Cup

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 27: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is still apprehensive about sending its team to India for the ODI World Cup but International Cricket Council (ICC) is 'confident' that the Babar Azam-led team will compete in the 50-over showpiece. However, Pakistan has specifically objected to playing at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad against India October 15 and also in Mumbai if they qualify for the semis due to security reasons. It has also asked for a change in venue from Chennai (against Afghanistan, October 23) and Australia (Bangalore, October 20).

The PCB has categorically stated time and again that it is not ready to play in Ahmedabad due to security reasons. However, it is for cricketing reasons that they want a change in venues for matches in Chennai and



ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP INDIA 2023

Bangalore. PCB did not want to play Afghanistan on a spin-friendly track in Chennai and also wanted to avoid facing Australia in Bangalore because the ground is not to their liking.

However, even though the PCB was not very expressive about Chennai and Bangalore, it said

DISPUTED VENUES

Pak vs Australia, Bangalore, Oct 20

Pak vs Afghanistan, Chennai, Oct 23

There will be a total of 10 venues - Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Dharamsala, Delhi, Chennai, Lucknow, Pune, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata -- hosting the matches in the tournament proper

that their participation in the World Cup is subject to the government's clearance. "Our participation in the World Cup and us playing in Ahmedabad October 15 or in Mumbai if we qualify for semifinals will all be dependent on government clearance," said a PCB official in Karachi.

Ex-Gunupur MLA gets life term for wife's murder

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The special court of Additional District Judge (ADJ-III) here Tuesday sentenced former Gunupur MLA Ram Murty Gomanga to life imprisonment for murdering his wife Sashirekha in 1995.

Gomanga was convicted June 24 under Section 302 (murder) and 201 (destroying evidence) of IPC. Apart from life imprisonment, special court judge Sashmita Padhi also slapped the former MLA with Rs 60,000 fine under various sections, said government pleader Rashmi Ranjan Brahma. According to the prosecution, Sashirekha's half-burnt body was recovered from Gomanga's official quarters here August 29, 1995. Though initially an unnatural death case was registered at Kharavel Nagar police station here, later a murder case was lodged as the probe indicated towards her killing.

Gomanga was elected to the Assembly from Gunupur constituency on a Janata Dal ticket in 1995. He joined the BJP in 2000. He was re-elected from the seat on a BJP ticket in 2000, but lost to his Congress rival Hema Gomanga in the 2004 elections.

Later, he quit the BJP after the BJD snapped ties with the saf-ron party in 2009. He joined BJD, but quit the regional party in 2014.

Centre for action against IAS officer

LETTER WITHOUT NAME OF THE CIVIL SERVANT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has asked Odisha Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena to take appropriate action on a complaint filed by BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi and party's state president Mammoohan Samal on alleged violation of the 'Conduct Rules' by an IAS officer.

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi took to Twitter to share the letter, Tuesday.

The letter was issued on the basis of a complaint, along with a CD and pen drive, submitted by the MP and the state BJP president alleging violation of the Conduct Rules for the All India Service (AIS) personnel by an Odisha cadre IAS officer.

"Government of India has taken cognisance of the violation of Conduct Rules by an officer in Odisha. Based on clear evidence of violation, DoPT has asked the Chief Secretary to take action as the state is the cadre-controlling authority. Hope law will be allowed to take its course," Sarangi tweeted.

However, neither the BJP MP nor the DoPT letter has named the IAS officer against whom the complaint was filed.

Holding a press conference June 17, Sarangi had alleged that a secretary-rank officer has hijacked the entire governance in the state. She had sought clarification from the Chief Minister on whether the officer has been attending public meetings with his permission. Though Sarangi has not named the officer, she was indicating the secretary to the CM, VK Pandian.

Pandian Monday played an audio of the CM at a public meeting in Barpali in which Naveen told the people that he has sent the IAS officer so that they can narrate their grievances to him.

Meanwhile, Odisha Congress Campaign Committee chairman and former Odisha chief secretary Bijay Patnaik informed that he also wrote to the Centre, demanding disciplinary action against Pandian.

In his letter to the DoPT secretary, Bijay claimed that the name of VK Pandian appears on a hoarding bearing the symbol of the Biju Janata Dal, the ruling party in Odisha. The hoarding at Hatibadi Road of Paralakhemundi in Gajapati claims that a sum of ₹20 lakh has been sanctioned for a church during the August visit of Pandian. This is a clear violation of Rule 5 of the AIS Conduct Rules, he alleged.

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.9°C	32.5°C
TEMP MIN	25.4°C	24.5°C
Humidity	90%	87%
Rainfall	8.8mm	1.8mm

Forecast: Heavy Rainfall

Not hotel, Hong Kong high-rise is 'village' of the dead

ETHNIC CHINESE POPULATION IN HONG KONG HISTORICALLY PREFERRED BURIALS, BUT THE GOVT POPULARISED CREMATION IN 1960s

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Hong Kong, June 27: With its white marble foyer and lavish chandeliers, the 12-storey tower could be mistaken for one of Hong Kong's newest hotels, but it offers a longer stay: a final resting place for thousands in one of the world's most crowded cities.

Hong Kong's 7.3 million residents share some of the most densely populated neighbourhoods on earth, and in the past, mourning families had to wait years to secure a spot for their loved ones' ashes.

The Shan Sum columbarium opened last month with plans to eventually offer 23,000 niches

for funeral urns, part of the government's decade-long effort to bring in private companies to ease pressure on the deathcare sector.

That policy is now paying off after the city's ageing population pushed death rates above government urn space capacity in the mid-2010s, creating a dire shortage.

The sleek, modern building is the work of German architect Ulrich Kirchhoff, 52, who told AFP he tried to blend elements of nature into a high-density space to create a 'neighbourhood village feel'.

"It's an apartment building for the dead... It feels more like a close-knit neighbourhood," he



said. Kirchhoff said his design was inspired by traditional Chinese graveyards, which are often

perched on mountainsides. His columbarium carried over those undulating lines, greenery and textures of hewn rock.

Ashes are stored in ornate compartments, some as small as 26 by 34 centimetres (10 by 13 inches), that line the walls of air-conditioned chambers.

Kirchhoff said he designed rooms on each floor to provide intimacy, in contrast to the cramped confines of public columbariums, which he said feel like being in a 'warehouse'.

"How do we maintain quality of life and dignity for the people in this high density?" he asked.

"Is it just a shoebox or is there something else?"

reach of most people.

A basic two-person option at Shan Sum is sold for \$58,000 while the top-tier package, meant for a whole family, costs nearly \$3 million.

The median monthly household income in Hong Kong is currently around \$3,800, according to government data.

Places like Shan Sum were created in response to Hong Kong's shortage of urn spaces a decade ago.

At the time, cremated remains were often stored in drawers at funeral parlours for years while waiting for spots to open up, or were housed in unlicensed columbariums in temples or refurbished factory buildings.

NYC declares Diwali as school holiday

AGENCIES

New York, June 27: Diwali, the festival of lights, will now be enshrined as a school holiday in New York City (NYC), authorities announced here and described it as a 'victory' for the city's residents, including the Indian community.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said he was proud that the State Assembly and the State Senate have passed the bill making Diwali a New York City Public School holiday.

"And we feel confident that the governor is going to sign this bill into law," he said at a special announcement from City Hall Monday.

Diwali will be a public school holiday in New York City beginning this year.

Withdraw GST on kendu leaves: CM to Sitharaman

Imposition of 18% GST on kendu leaves is adversely affecting kendu leaves trade, says Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in his letter to the Union Finance minister



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has reiterated his request to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw goods and services tax (GST) on kendu leaves in the greater interests of the pluckers, binders and seasonal workers.

“Imposition of 18 per cent GST on kendu leaves is adversely

of 8 lakh kendu leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal workers of Odisha. “The kendu leaf pluckers and workers are mostly tribal and women belonging to the poorest of the poor of the society. Tribal people collect the leaves as part of their rights defined under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. They have the right to procure and sell these products,” he said.

In the interest of a large section of people dependent upon kendu leaves for their livelihood, Naveen requested Sitharaman once again to withdraw the GST being imposed on kendu.

November 25 last year, Naveen had dashed a similar letter to the Union Finance Minister, barely three days after announcing ₹111-crore special package for the welfare of kendu leaf pluckers. The Opposition BJP had then termed the move as politically motivated and aimed at wooing the tribals ahead of the byelection to Padampur Assembly constituency.



HOMECOMING TODAY: Chariots of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are being readied for the return car festival to be held in Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Gangadhar Meher LI project by Sept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The much-awaited Gangadhar Meher lift irrigation (LI) project in Bargarh district will be made functional by September 2023, Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Tuesday.

Secretary to the Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian, who was on a two-day visit to Bargarh, Tuesday visited the Gangadhar Meher lift irrigation project at Girsul and Jira River crossing sites, and the pump house in Bargarh block.

He reviewed the progress and expressed satisfaction that the project is nearing completion. The test run is planned for July and in phases the project will



be operationalised from September onwards, it said.

The project has been taken up at a cost of ₹1,677 crore and will provide irrigation to 25,600 ha in Bijepur, Barpali, Sohela and Bargarh blocks.

Pandian also reviewed the progress of the project works in Nrusinghanath Temple com-

plex. The temple beautification project involving ₹22.78 crore is expected to be completed by December.

The secretary then visited the under construction 30-bedded mother-child care hospital building in Sohela community health centre (CHC). He interacted with the patients and enquired about the quality of the services.

During the day, Pandian attended the public grievance redressal meetings at Sohela, Ambabhona and Padampur.

In spite of the heavy rain, large number of people attended the meetings and put forward their grievances. He addressed the public and assured them that the grievances will be examined

in details and prompt action taken. Secretary (5T) also visited the High School in Paikamal and interacted with the students and teachers. He participated in the Vijeta initiative trainers programme which focuses on the extra-curricular personal development activities.

He visited Kasturba Gandhi Matru Niketan Child Care Institution, Paikamal and interacted with the children.

The 5T Secretary also visited various temples as per the requests of the local public including the Maa Durga Temple, Alekh Mahima Temple among others and discussed with the temple committees regarding the development of the shrines.

Padhee appointed principal secy of Cooperation dept

Bhubaneswar: Arabinda Kumar Padhee assumed charge as Principal Secretary Cooperation department Tuesday. Soon after joining, he interacted with the department officials. During the interaction, he told officials about his priorities for the department. He categorically told that



discipline, honesty and accountability of the officers are his top priority. He also discussed important issues relating to Cooperation department with the senior officers. He told crop insurance, computerisation of PACS, audit of PACS, facilitation of inter-state trade through e-NAM, creation of meaningful infrastructures of cooperatives and building an image of Cooperation department are some of his priorities.

9 protesting teachers held

Bhubaneswar: Commissionerate Police arrested nine teachers following a scuffle between the protesting members of Odisha State Non-Government Lecturers and Employees' Association (OSNLEA) and the police at Lower PMG here, Tuesday. Several persons from the association and the police sustained injuries in the scuffle. The police arrested the protesting lecturers for violating the prohibitory orders issued under Section 144 CrPC by registering a case (403/23). The arrested lecturers were later forwarded to court. The OSNLEA has been staging protest for the last 400 days here demanding grant-in-aid from the state government. The members alleged that they have been deprived of the grant-in-aid since 2008.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit (60AA159589, 19.06.2023) sworn before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar; I have changed my name from Prangya Paramita Mishra to Prangya Mishra. Henceforth, I shall be known as above for all purposes. Prangya Mishra

Unicef-led Youth4Water Plus launches chatbot programme



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Unicef-led Youth4Water Plus, along with U Report India, launched an on-line social media chatbot programme at KT Global School, Khurda, Tuesday. Renowned Odia actress Anu Chowdhury flagged off this programme.

The innovative initiative aims to revolutionise Water, Health, and Sanitation (WASH) and Climate Change advocacy by leveraging technology and engaging young people in the area of Climate Change and a sustainable future.

Encouraging the youth, Shipra Saxena, WASH and CCES Specialist, UNICEF, said, “Climate Change is now the biggest challenge for all of us. We believe in the power of youth engagement and technology to drive positive change. Through this initiative, we aim to amplify youth voices, raise awareness, and inspire a new generation of climate champions.”

Speaking on the occasion, KT Global School Director Rabindranath Pati, said, “Let's admit that we have misutilised our natural resources and left our next generation to bear the brunt of this crisis. So now it is high time that we take action for a better, sustainable future.”

Unicef's communication and digital media officer Amitayush Priyadarshi informed that the chatbot programme utilises an interactive and user-friendly interface to facilitate active participation in discussions surrounding water conservation, access to clean water, sanitation, and climate change challenges.

The programme currently has 26 lakh U Reporters in India and 28 million globally in 95 countries.

The event was attended by faculty and members of KT Global School, members of Satwik Soul Foundation, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Pantiss Foundation, and members of the National Youth Project (NYP).

Mo College-Think Zone ink MoU for 3k students' up-skilling training

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Nearly 3,000 youths in Odisha will be trained over a period of 2 years to transfer the quality of learning experience to nearly 15,000 students in their communities.

An MoU in this regard was signed Monday between 'Mo College Abhijan Parichalana Sangathan (MCAPS)' and 'Think Zone' to implement an up-skilling training program for 3,000 college students in Odisha.

'Mo College' Chairperson Akash Das Nayak and Think Zone CEO Binayak Acharya were present during the signing of MoU.

Speaking on this occasion, 'MCAPS' chairperson Das Nayak said, “Technical education always puts one ahead of time and Mo College Abhijan's MoU with Think Zone will brighten up many student's future.”



Acharya of 'Think Zone' said that the MoU aims to train Mo College students for a better and skilled future.

Official sources here Tuesday said during the training period the youth will be receiving certification after completing the fellowship and will continue getting paid for teaching children for a

Centre vows to curb milk prices

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, June 27: With the milk prices witnessing a sharp rise in recent months, the Union government Tuesday asserted that it will try to control the prices by increasing the production, though no timeline was set for reduction in prices.

Union Animal Husbandry, Fishery and Dairy Minister Purushottam Rupala Tuesday admitted that the milk prices have increased in the country.

“I agree that there has been an increase in milk prices. We will try to control prices by increasing production,” the minister said during a press conference on Narendra Modi government's achievements in the last nine years.

Significantly, the prices of milk have increased by over 50



Milk prices have increased by over 50 per cent during the nine years of Narendra Modi government

per cent during the nine years of Modi government. In May 2014, just before the Modi government took charge, milk prices were ₹38/kg which increased to ₹57/kg in 2023.

Major dairy players Amul and Mother Dairy have increased the prices multiple times since last year. According to reports, Mother Dairy increased milk prices by ₹10 per litre between March and December 2022. The hike in prices is largely due to higher fodder cost. When Rupala

was asked about fodder shortage leading to a rise in prices, he said that the government is providing subsidies under a new scheme to improve the availability of fodder.

Rupala said that India is the highest milk producer of the world and it contributes 23 per cent of global milk production. Milk production has increased by 51.05 per cent over the past 8 years from 146.3 million tonne during 2014-15 to 221.06 million tonne during 2021-22, he said.

Bike rally organised to promote drug-free life



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: To spread the message of 'Say yes to life and say no to Drugs', a bike rally 'One Nation Ride Cause' was recently organised by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in association with twin city Police Commissionerate and biking community of Odisha. Around 180 bikers from across the state took part in the rally.

The rally started from Commissionerate office and passed through different areas of the City and ended at NCB office in Bhubaneswar where bikers were felicitated. The rally

was flagged off by police commissioner Saumendra Kumar Priyadarshi, Kuldeep Sharma, Asst. Director of NCB, Govt. of India, S Sen (Superintendent NCB, BBSR) and actor and ex-MP Siddhanta Mahapatra. Speaking on this occasion, Priyadarshi said that to stop drug menace support of all stakeholders and people are needed.

Amita Singh, state coordinator, Bhubaneswar said that the main aim of the rally was to spread the message of 'Say yes to life and say no to Drugs'. Life is a beautiful journey and it should not be wasted. We need to take a pledge to lead a drug-free life, she said.

Continue learning: CS to OAS probationers

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 27: State Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena Tuesday inaugurated 'induction training programme' of Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) probationers of THE 2020 batch. Out of the 129 probationers who have joined to undergo training at the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA), 128 belong to the OAS (direct recruit) - 2020 batch and one is from the OAS (direct recruit) - 2018 batch.

The group comprises of 56 women and 73 men probationers, who are set to undergo the 22-week long training programme scheduled from June 26.

Jena urged the probationers to lead Odisha to transformative changes through continuous acquisition of knowledge. He asked them to internalise the 5T approach and use innovative thinking to ensure efficient service delivery and optimised use of resources.

Woman commits suicide in City

Bhubaneswar: A woman was found hanging in her house at Jena colony under Laxmisagar police limits here late Monday evening. The deceased was identified as JK Milan, 40, who was resident of Satyabadi area of Puri district. According to sources, when Milan did not come out of her house for more than 24 hours, it created doubt among the neighbours. They broke open the door and went inside the house to check the situation. To their shock, they found that her body was hanging from the ceiling fan of her room. They later informed the police and her family members. “We recovered the body and sent it to Capital hospital for post-mortem after the arrival of family members,” told a senior police official. Milan had allegedly taken huge amount as loan from many self help groups (SHGs) in the City.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Doyal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Banks play spoilsport for MSME units

3RD PARTY AGENTS USED BY BANKS TO RECOVER LOANS TURN HEADACHES FOR MANY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, June 27: Employment generation programme for youths through establishment of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) has run into rough weather in Kendrapara district. This is because in most cases banks are not ready to sanction the requisite amount, sources said here Tuesday. Also the use of force and third party agents by banks to recover the loans is prompting youths to seek livelihood elsewhere. Many such cases where loanees have been physically attacked and humiliated have been reported from Pattamundai locality of this district, locals alleged. The Centre and state government have floated various schemes towards employment generation for youths. Among them, are schemes like the Prime Minister's Employment Programme



(PMEGP), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Credit Guarantee Scheme. However, youths interested in starting their own business are finding it extremely difficult to do so. With banks not sanctioning the requisite amount, they have to turn to other lenders. Then they face the double pressure of banks and the lenders who are only interested in recovering the loans. Ritarani Barik said that she had applied for a loan of ₹8 lakh for establishing a spice manufacturing unit with the district industries centre (DIC) under the PMEGP scheme. However,

she was sanctioned ₹3 lakh only by a public sector bank. She then arranged the remainder of the money by selling a plot of land and gold ornaments. She started the unit, but was forced to shut it down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She complained of regular harassment by the bank and said that the latter was using third party agents to humiliate her. Social activist Satyapriya Samal pointed out that since this district is essentially agriculture-oriented, encouragement should be given to youths wanting to start their units. Then only industrialisation

of the district will be possible. However, the DIC is letting the youths down, Samal added. Locals stated that banks are only interested in loan recovery and for that they can go to any extent including use of force. Hence many youths are migrating outside the state for their livelihoods. When contacted, DIC manager Ganesh Chandra Behera said that steps will be taken if any victim lodges complaint against the third party agents of banks. Farmer leader Bijay Das informed that the third party agents of banks are not even sparing the farmers who have mortgaged their land for loan. He added that at times, the banks also hold back the money farmers receive from Kalia and other government schemes. District agriculture officer Sarat Nayak expressed his helplessness over the issue.

BALASORE TRAIN DISASTER

Only 22 IRCTC insurance claims filed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Balasure, June 27: A total of 22 claims for disability and hospitalisation due to the Bahanaga train accident involving three trains have been lodged with the general insurance companies, under the IRCTC travel accident insurance scheme for train passengers till date, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said Tuesday. In the accident that happened early this month, a total of 292 passengers were killed and over a 1,000 were injured.



A total of 624 passengers were having insurance cover under the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd's (IRCTC) travel accident insurance scheme, the IRDAI told this agency. Out of that, 22 claims have been lodged for suffering disabilities - permanent total and permanent partial - due to the accident and for hospitalisation expenses. Fortunately no claim for the death of an insured passenger has been lodged till date, the IRDAI said. According to IRDAI, out of the 22 claims received, two are for permanent total disability, 15 are for permanent partial disability and five for hospitalisation expenses. The IRDAI said two claims have been settled for ₹2.25 lakh and the remaining 20 are still

awaiting settlement. It added that the total claims amounted to ₹ 60.52 lakh and ₹58.27 lakh still are pending. The IRDAI has held two meetings with the CEOs of the insurance companies to review the claims. The list of passengers who got insurance through IRCTC have also been circulated to other insurers, so that they can settle any other claims apart from IRCTC. IRDAI had advised the insurers June 3 to start the claims process, suo moto, and to settle those expeditiously. Guidelines were issued June 5 for faster settlement of claims. The insurers were insured on a number of issues. They are:

To appoint designated official for settlement claims; give the details of office/camps to settle claims on the website, media and other channels; to process the claims proactively, if the insurer name is in the list of injured/deceased; to launch awareness campaign; publish management information systems (MIS) on the websites.

The IRCTC has selected SBI General Insurance and Liberty General Insurance to offer the travel accident insurance cover. However, top bosses of both the companies, maintained silence when this agency queried about the claim details.

Train services resume at Bahanaga

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bahanaga, June 27: Train services at the Bahanaga Bazaar railway station resumed Tuesday for the first time since June 2, the day the horrific triple train crash occurred. Three passenger trains stopped at the station, exactly 26 days after the disaster which left 292 passengers dead and over a 1,000 injured. Meanwhile station master SK Pattnaik informed that passengers can board trains from the station Wednesday onwards when the ticket booking counters will reopen. He added that as per schedule, all trains that have a halt at Bahanaga station will stop from Wednesday. The three trains that halted at the station Tuesday were Jaleswar-Puri passenger Memu train, Balasure-Bhadrak passenger and Bhadrak-Kharagpur Memu passenger. After the horrific accident, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav visited the site and ordered a probe. Accordingly the CBI is now investigating the cause behind



the accident. They have sealed the relay room of the station and seized some documents. The CBI has so far interrogated three railway staffers and has also sealed the rented house of Amir Khan, a signal junior engineer. However, even though 26 days have elapsed since the accident, the CBI is yet to ascertain the causes that led to the disaster. The railway gate and a stretch on the Bahanaga-Gopalpur main road had been closed for public. It was causing inconvenience for people going to Bahanaga block and to the national highway. However, the road was thrown open for the public, Tuesday.

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL
PURUSHOTTAMPUR, (GM.), Pin-761018
Email: purushottampurnac@gmail.com Ph No. 06811-295222
Letter No: 2311/NAC Dated: 26.06.2023

"e" Procurement Notice
Tender Ref No. PUR-NAC-02/2023-24
No. C-664:- Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, Cost of Tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of the contractor and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be seen on Govt. website, i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in

1. Name of the Work	: Works as mentioned in DTGN
2. No. of Works	: 5 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 14.75 Lakhs to Rs. 19.60 Lakhs
4. Period of Completion	: 30 Days
5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11:00 AM on dtd. 28.06.2023 to dtd. 06.07.2023 up to 4:00 PM
6. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 06.07.2023 up to 4:00 PM
7. Bids received online shall be opened on	: 07.07.2023 at 1:00 PM
8. Tender document in original should drop in tender box at NAC, Purushottampur Office	: From 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on dtd. 07.07.2023 during office hour
9. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Officer
NAC, Purushottampur
OIPR-13187/11/0011/2324

NOTICE TO ALL RELATIVES/NEXT OF KIN OF THE DECEASED IN THE BAHANAGA BAZAR (BALASORE) TRAIN ACCIDENT

Indian Railways hereby requests relatives/next of kin of the deceased involved in the recent train accident on 02.06.2023 at Bahanaga Bazar, District - Balasure (Odisha) involving 12841 Shalimar-MGR Chennai Central Coromandel Express and 12864 SMVB-Howrah Express to come forward and give their DNA samples to establish their identity and relationship with the deceased to claim the unidentified bodies.

Venue
**Academic Block (Committee Room),
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar**

Please contact the persons listed below:

139

Indian Railways Helpline

Shri Digambar Padhi, Asst. Personnel Officer,
Mobile - 8455887604

Shri Biswanath Padhi, Asst. Commercial Manager,
Mobile - 8455885967

Shri B. Tapan Kumar, Public Relations Officer,
Mobile - 8455885040

Shri Vikas Kumar, Public Relations Officer,
Mobile - 8455885041

Assistance at Bhubaneswar Railway Station : 0674 - 2534027

Assistance at East Coast Railway Control Room,
Bhubaneswar - 8455885999
and at Khurda Road - 8455887999

INDIAN RAILWAYS

EAST COAST RAILWAY

No. Comm/SBP/E-auction/Catg./23/16
Date : 21.06.2023

Sl. No. 1. Assets Description :
PROVISION OF TEA STALL (SMU-FREEDOM FIGHTER/WAR WIDOWS AND WIDOWS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEE, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DISLOCATED /DISPLACED DUE TO THEIR LAND HAVING BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE RAILWAY FOR ITS OWN USE) AT BARGARH ROAD "B" CATEGORY (BRGA)/PF01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station: BARGARH ROAD (BRGA)

Sl. No. 2. Assets Description :
PROVISION OF FRUIT / FRUIT JUICE (SMU-SC) AT BARGARH ROAD "B" CATEGORY (BRGA)/PF01 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station: BARGARH ROAD (BRGA)

Sl. No. 3. Assets Description :
PROVISION OF FRUIT / FRUIT JUICE (SMU-BPL) AT TITLAGARH "B" CATEGORY (TIG)/PF02/03 RAILWAY STATION FOR 05 YEARS. Station: TITLAGARH (TIG)

Auction Start Date & Time
07.07.2023 at 12:00 hrs. (For all Sl.Nos.)

Auction Close Date & Time
07.07.2023 at 12:50 hrs. (For all Sl.Nos.)

Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (E-auction module)

Sr. Divisional Railway Manager (Comm), Sambalpur
PR-297/O/23-24

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
(Established under the Central Universities Act, 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar PO, KASARAGOD-671320

No. CUK/APPT/NT/IAO/2017 Dated 8th June, 2023

EMPLOYMENT RE-NOTIFICATION (NON TEACHING)

Online applications are invited from the eligible Indian nationals for filling up the post of Internal Audit Officer on deputation basis.

The notification containing full particulars such as Number of Posts, Notification No., Category, Essential Qualifications, Experience, Pay, details of submission of Online Application etc are available at the University website: www.cukerala.ac.in. The last date for receipt of Online application is 15th July, 2023.

REGISTRAR
CBC 21363/12/0013/2324

MAA MARKAMA +3 COLLEGE
BISSAMCUTTACK, DIST - RAYAGADA
Email Id- mmdegrecollege@gmail.com
Mob No: 9337150340/8249390192

TENDER NOTICE : (27019301/Adv/2023-24/001)

Maa Markama +3 College, Bissamcuttack invites sealed Tenders for CCTV, DESK TOP COMPUTERS, INVERTER & AC from the reputed agencies. The Tender document may be downloaded from our website - <https://mmplus3college.in/>. The document should reach to the college office clearly super scribed "Tender for" on or before 19.07.2023 (5 P.M.) by Speed Post/ Registered Post/ Courier. Hand submission is not permitted.

Sd./- Principal-cum-Secretary
Maa Markama +3 College, Bissamcuttack

Piramal
Capital & Housing Finance

Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amity Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Website: www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address : Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) - 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) [formerly known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL)] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 05900002006 of Bhubaneswar Branch) Santosh Kumar Behera (Borrower)/Kalu Behera (Co Borrower 1)	29-05-2023 / ₹ 726796 / (₹ Seven lakh Twenty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Six Only) NPA (09-02-2023)	Plot No- 44/554, Khata No- 114/28, Mouza- Singharpur, Tahasil- Pipili Sadar Puri Orissa - 752104

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 28-06-2023 Place: Orissa
Sd./- (Authorised Officer) Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

Drug peddler held in Rourkela



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 27: Bondamunda police arrested Tuesday a person with 75.78 gram of heroin in his possession. The accused, identified as Imran Alam, is an auto-rickshaw driver by profession. The market value of the contraband seized is close to ₹3 lakh, police said. Police had been tipped off by sources that Alam was involved in drug peddling. Accordingly they were keeping a watch on the accused. Police got the information that Alam was carrying the contraband and accordingly they set a trap and nabbed him with the heroin Tuesday. "We spread our dragnet and kept a close vigil on the Bisra-Bondhamunda road. We spotted his auto near Kapatmunda square and nabbed him there," a senior police official said. Police also seized ₹4,500 in cash and Alam's mobile phone. Efforts are on to find out about the involvement of others in such nefarious activities with the accused.

To love is not to possess, but to give oneself.

THE MOTHER



Obama Needles

It may not be difficult to understand why some folks active on social media in India, owing allegiance to BJP have suddenly started attacking the 44th US President, addressing him as Hussain Obama, specifically pointing out that he is a Moslem. This group includes a present Chief Minister. No doubt his full name is, indeed, Barack Hussain Obama. It is also true that he ordered bombing of multiple Moslem countries and was also instrumental in getting Osama Bin Laden assassinated in Abbotabad of Pakistan. All this may be fine but while being aggressive, these people should not forget that it was Obama who was the only POTUS to have backed India for a seat at the UN Security Council. Obama was the President of the US of A for 2 terms, a country where systems work like in most other democratic countries, unlike India. It is noteworthy that during the recent US visit of Prime Minister Modi, the former president had appealed President Biden to enquire about the state of minorities in India from the visiting PM. That single action seems to have upset the BJP supporters.

The BJP's reaction, as voiced by Finance Minister N Sitharaman sounds very worried. The argument of Sitharaman that Obama had ordered bombing of Moslem countries is in no way similar in nature to violence against minorities within India. While this may not be construed as supporting any group against any other, it is to be clearly understood that American foreign policy is irrevocably in favour of its own interests. The robust systems functioning in the US do not falter or get cowed down by the comings and goings of political heads of state. Unlike India, American foreign policy has been consistently in the interest of that country and its business alone. The robustness of the American system was proven when then President Donald Trump, unwilling to quit the presidency, was forced out of the White House in spite of the 6 January revolt.

BJP's reaction to Obama is only expected as adverse remarks on Modi and his rule coming from a prominent figure in US politics seems to have punctured the balloon of the PM's diplomatic and economic narrative on the world stage which that the party seeks to turn into a major plank of its campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. For, Obama has hurt the BJP where it hurts most - communal polarisation - that forms the core of its ideological moorings and electoral strategy, which it refuses to acknowledge on the global stage.

In a way, Obama's comment during a TV interview stating when President Joe Biden met PM Modi, "the protection of Moslem minority in a majority Hindoo India is something worth mentioning," is rather unusual. It struck a discordant note when the diplomatic establishment of India with help from the US was busy turning the visit into a propaganda hype of sorts. Obama was clear about the fact that such things are normally not spoken at the time of high level engagements between two countries for various lucrative deals. "You would have to do business with them because they are important for national security reasons, because there are a range of economic interests," he said.

Obama was brutally honest in raising the burning internal issue of India that has already tarnished the nation's democratic credentials in the international arena. Question may be asked why he made such comments when the US has economic stakes while clinching defence and high value business deals with India. He seems to have given the answer himself when he told the interviewer an incumbent President is so handicapped by mutual economic interests that he often cannot afford to touch on issues that may jeopardise business deals.

This seems to be the reason why Biden may have left this task to Obama. To be noted is that Biden was Vice President during Obama's presidency. The fact that both belong to the Democratic Party also tends to make it clear that the concerns expressed by Obama were also what President Biden cannot articulate in public. Biden only told the media that he had taken up the issue with Modi. But, his remark was rather vague compared to Obama's categorical statement that the Modi government's policies might bring about the disintegration of democratic India.

The worst part of Sitharaman's response is that she even sought to hold the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi responsible for "malicious Modi abroad." By this statement, she seems to communicate to Indians that Rahul Gandhi has been very successful in tarnishing Modi's image abroad. This tiny example is proof enough that careless and short-sighted utterances from senior government office holders could have very bad diplomatic impact on the country as a whole.

WISDOM CORNER

The cleverest of all, in my opinion, is the man who calls himself a fool at least once a month.

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

If the doors of perception were cleansed everything would appear to man as it is, infinite.

WILLIAM BLAKE

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.

MAYA ANGELOU

WORDSWORTH

Larrikin

Larrikin is a quintessentially Australian term. It appeared in the 1860s for a street rowdy or urban tough. The writer Archibald Forbes described the larrikin as "a cross between the Street Arab and the Hoodlum, with a dash of the Rough thrown in to improve the mixture." Vicious fights between larrikin gangs were common. In the late nineteenth century some gangs formed a subculture with a dress style that included broad-brimmed hats, gaudy waistcoats, strapped moleskin trousers and high-heeled boots. Early suggestions of its origins were fanciful. The obituary in the Melbourne Argus in 1888 of a police officer named James Dalton said that he had accidentally invented it in a court hearing through a mishearing of his saying larking in his broad Irish accent. This was countered by a letter in a later edition, which argued that it was instead from leery; the writer said it had become a catchword of Melbourne youths in the 1860s from its appearance in a popular London song, The Leery Cove. Locals started to call the boys leery kids, which was transmuted over time into larrikin. A related story of the same period was that criminals in local jails described themselves as leery kin, which was similarly amended through the Irish brogue of their jailers. Kin was also invoked in Larry's kin, the supposed relatives of some unknown Australian. This has been linked to another Australianism, happy as Larry, recorded first around the same time as larrikin. The supposed connection with Irishmen in two of the tales has led to some writers on language declaring larrikin to be an Irish word. We can dispose of all of these stories at a stroke by looking across the Tasman Sea. Larrikin is recorded in New Zealand in 1866, two years before Australia. There can be little doubt that the word had a common origin in the old country. The English Dialect Dictionary has larrikin as a dialect term of Warwickshire and Worcestershire for a mischievous or frolicsome youth. It would seem to have become significantly modified in sense during its journey to the Antipodes. In modern Australian English, larrikin has been inverted into a term almost of respect. The old sense of a tearaway or hooligan has been replaced by that of a non-conformist and irreverent person with a careless disregard for social or political conventions, someone who may be thought truly Australian.

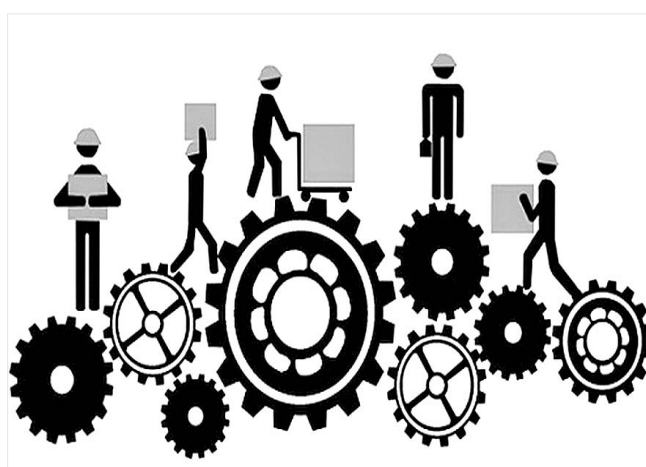
FOCUS MSMEs

ECONOMY'S UNSUNG HEROES

June 27 was international MSME day declared by the United Nations via a resolution passed in the General Assembly in 2017. The UN celebrates MSMEs because they are crucial in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are to be achieved by 2030. The seventeen SDGs were adopted in 2015 with a 15-year time horizon to achieve them. The first goal is to end poverty. The MSMEs will help achieve goals number 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10. These goals are about generating employment and economic growth, reducing income, wealth and gender inequality, fostering education, innovation and skilling. The importance of MSMEs to any economy cannot be overemphasised. Indeed, they are the unsung heroes of a thriving economy. The UN says that globally these enterprises account for a whopping 90% of all business entities, 60 to 70% of employment, and 50% of GDP.

In India too, even if you focus only on the manufacturing sector, the MSMEs provide more than half the employment, output and exports. But they get less than 20% of bank credit. Hence, they have to depend on friends and family, or moneylenders and informal credit for carrying on their businesses. Often if they are B2B enterprises, i.e. suppliers to large companies, then they are at the mercy of their sole customer who is like a "maayi baap." Being a vendor dependent on one large customer is not as bizarre as it sounds. The Indian Railways has a million vendors for whom it is a sole customer. Think of the small vendors who supply sheets and blankets, or provide catering services, or just nuts and bolts.

This is the case with other large companies. Indeed for large companies and governments, vendor development is a big achievement. India's booming auto and auto components sector have thousands of small vendors, who have a critical, symbiotic relationship with



The UN says that globally MSMEs account for a whopping 90% of all business entities, 60 to 70% of employment, and 50% of GDP

large auto companies. But in a downturn all the small guys get singed, since payments get delayed. There is nothing that the small guy can do. If the small supplier decides to go to court for payment dispute he risks earning ire, being black-listed and losing the customer. Indian law has empowered small vendors to seek timely payments. The 2006 MSME law makes it illegal to delay payments beyond 45 days. But how many large companies have paid a penalty? Probably zero. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) law made it possible for small businesses to sue large customers, for payment default, for as low as a default of ₹1 lakh. That threshold was increased to ₹1 crore during COVID, because the government did not want MSMEs to create a nuisance with small payment defaults. But despite this legal empowerment the MSME suppliers simply cannot pursue these measures, since the same customer that they sue, is also the one on whom they depend for their livelihood. The aggregate delayed payment problem is quite huge, estimated to be ₹10 trillion (or ₹10 lakh crore). Imagine

the interest burden alone, which at 10% interest rates, could be close to ₹1 lakh crore. If the payment delay problem was solved, it would release ₹1 lakh crore of profit into the system, energising the MSME sector.

Ultimately the problem of delayed payments to MSMEs is a moral one. Industry chambers should ask all their members (typically large companies) to take a pledge that they will not delay payment to small vendors beyond 45 days. This can be a national movement, and the Prime Minister is urged to start a campaign called "Naitik Dabaav" or "Ethical Pressure" on large companies to take care of the small, micro and tiny suppliers.

If India has to generate 10 to 15 million new jobs every year for the next decade, these will not come from large companies, or the government, armed forces, post office or railways. They will mainly come from small enterprises which employ between two to two dozen employees. Hence the birth of 10 million jobs requires the birth of at least half a million new enterprises every year. This calls for another national slogan: 10 million new jobs

means half a million new enterprises. The latter needs not only ease of doing business, but also ease of starting and ease of closing down a business. The paperwork and inspector raj is still a big deterrent to starting new business in any part of India. New businesses still need permits and regulatory clearances or registrations from a city and state government machinery. There is a great deal of uncertainty on how long the process could take. And not to forget the corruption angle. The MSMEs also suffer from financial and tech illiteracy, which further handicaps registering new businesses. An entrepreneur of a small business will find that he is spending more time in government offices, filling out forms and figuring out GST compliance than in developing his core business or marketing. This makes it very difficult to start and sustain micro businesses.

Indian agriculture with almost 140 million small land parcels is also an ocean of small entrepreneurs, whom we call small and marginal farmers. Let us acknowledge and celebrate the role of the small businesses in our economy.

Let us also recognise that growing inequality, i.e. large corporations becoming highly profitable while MSMEs perish is harmful to the economy and for meeting SDG goals. Inclusive growth implies healthy growth of MSMEs

The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

IN JEST THIS

Some things are still good after they expire

Expiration dates worry me. I hate when things expire. But extending an expiration date may lead to lower quality.

A doughnut, for example, tastes great when it's freshly fried. A few days later, it will still be edible, but may taste stale. Two weeks later, unless it's refrigerated, it will have expired. Anyone who eats it risks being expired too.

Actually, it may take several weeks before the doughnut poses health risks to a consumer. If the doughnut is packaged, it will last even longer, thanks to preservatives. But the quality will be compromised. And once the package is opened, the doughnut will quickly go from "youth" to "middle age," with "old age" approaching fast. True expiration may take months or even years, depending on various factors, such as temperature, humidity and whether the doughnut goes on risky expeditions. It's important for consumers to conduct tests of their

own, such as these:

1. The sight test. You do not need a microscope for this. Just look at the food item closely. If anything is growing on it, do not eat it and do not offer it to your guests.

2. The smell test. If it smells like gourmet cheese, throw it out immediately. Do not eat it. (Unless, of course, it happens to be gourmet cheese.) Any type of unpleasant smell is a sign that a food item has expired, unless the item had an unpleasant smell to begin with.

3. The taste test. If the food item has failed the sight and smell tests, do not attempt the taste test. You may seek volunteers for the taste test, but please do not just offer them the food, like you would a guest. Make sure you say something like this: "Can you please taste a small piece of this pie to see if it is still good and won't cause anyone else to drop dead?"

It is important to have willing volunteers for the taste test and to not, for example, volunteer

your pets. Do not use your guinea pigs as guinea pigs. I have never had guinea pigs as pets, but I've had dogs, and I know one thing to be true: dogs will eat anything that looks remotely like food. Swallow first, ask questions later.

Dog: "What was it that I just ate? Tasted strange and very crunchy, but filled me up."

Owner: "Has anyone seen my cellphone?" Many food manufacturers put expiration or "best before" dates on their products, but these are just estimates of how long a product will maintain its peak quality. Some foods are safe to eat for years after they have expired, but consumers are still wary to eat them, in case one expiry leads to another.

Of course, it's not just food items that expire. Passports, driver's licenses, and other documents also have expiration dates, because it's a good way for the government to make more money from us.

To be fair, government revenue is only one of the reasons for expiration dates. The other reason is that things change over time, particularly our appearances. Entering another country is almost impossible if you're a bald man with a passport photo showing a full head of hair.

Thankfully, humans do not have expiry dates, especially if we're healthy and have not antagonised Vladimir Putin. We may live to be 122, the current world record, or perhaps even longer.

It's quite common, however, for governments and employers to put "best before" dates on us. A mandatory retirement age is basically a "best before" date. A pilot flying international routes is considered "best before" age 65.

But like "best before" dates on food items, these are quite arbitrary. Many people enjoy their greatest achievements late in life. Such people need "best after" dates.

Putin's woes

Sir, This refers to the editorial "Mutiny or Trap," Orissa POST, June 27. Whatever may be the backdrop of the short-lived storm, whether a mutiny or a scripted drama by Putin himself in the Russia-Ukraine battlefield, the Russian President's image took a severe beating. Considering it to be a mutiny, Putin can't escape the question, why he failed to prevent the feud between Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the Wagner Group and Defence Minister Shoigu from escalating into such a humiliating public crisis. Since February, Prigozhin has attacked the Ministry, accusing it of corruption and incompetence, and Putin did nothing. Prigozhin has also blamed the defence establishment for the excessive losses Wagner suffered in Bakhmut. But Wagner's victory in Bakhmut, seemed to have intensified the Shoigu-Prigozhin feud. A few days after Wagner captured Bakhmut, Shoigu asked all paramilitary forces to sign contracts with the Defence Ministry, which Prigozhin saw as an attempt to dismantle Wagner. This was the trigger for his revolt. However, Putin's challenges at home are mounting. He may have brought temporary peace between his generals and warlords, but the reasons behind the mutiny remain unaddressed. If he wants stability, Putin should first bring the war to an end and put his house in order. N Sadhasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON

Enduring legacy

Sir, It is sad that the recent passing away of the renowned social scientist Professor Imtiaz Ahmed went unnoticed amidst the heat of political activities and other events across the country. As a political sociologist, Prof. Ahmed was well-known for his work on caste among Muslims in India. Among his prominent works, the book "Caste and Social Stratification Among Muslims in India" is celebrated as a pioneering work in the field, which helped to methodically and in detail to study the impact of caste and casteism on Indian Muslims. A staunch believer in India's composite culture, he was a bold academician, and as a liberal he was often the butt of attack from diverse kinds of fundamentalists. He would employ his deep understanding of religions and sociological insights to explain social changes rationally and critically. Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed's legacy will endure and inspire further generations of students and academics. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

POWER TARIFF HIKE

BJP, Cong protest against AAP govt

POWER CONSUMERS IN DELHI WITH MONTHLY USAGE OF OVER 200 UNITS WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE AFTER AN 8% HIKE IN THE POWER PURCHASE ADJUSTMENT COST



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: The BJP and the Congress held separate protests here Tuesday against the AAP government in Delhi over a hike in power tariffs in the national capital.

Power consumers in Delhi with monthly usage of over 200 units will have to pay more after an 8 per cent hike in the power purchase adjustment cost (PPAC). Delhi BJP legislators held a sit-in near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in the Civil Lines area, while Congress leaders and workers protested outside the AAP's office in central Delhi.

They alleged that the city government has "failed to fulfil its promise" of providing free electricity to consumers.

Power tariff has been increased three times from what it was before 2014, said Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who led the BJP protest.

The BJP will continue to protest unless the PPAC hike is reversed by the Kejriwal government, Bidhuri said. Delhi Congress president Anil Chaudhary alleged that the power tariff hike will increase the prices of all essential commodities and will impact the poor the most.

"Kejriwal had come to power with the support of the poor and the middle class, promising them a corruption-free government, but the power hike through the PPAC hike is clear proof of his

corruption," he alleged. "Why Kejriwal who frequently calls special sessions of the Assembly on different issues is not convening a special session now to discuss the electricity rates?" a protesting BJP MLA asked.

The Aam Aadmi Party government always claims that since they came to power, electricity rates in the capital have not increased. However, the reality is that every year, permission is given to electricity companies to hike rates through the "backdoor", the protesters charged.

"Electricity bills are burdening the public due to fixed charges, power purchase adjustment costs, and surcharge for pensions for retired electricity employees," Bidhuri claimed.

Power Minister Atishi had said consumers who get zero bills with monthly consumption of up to 200 units will not be impacted.

However, those who do not get a subsidy will have to pay nearly eight per cent more on their monthly bills. Reacting to the statement, Chaudhary alleged that the Power Minister has "lied to mislead" the public.

Electricity distribution companies here have increased the power purchase adjustment cost (PPAC) following approval of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). On Monday, Atishi alleged that the power tariff was increasing due to the Centre's mismanagement.

Delhi's Deer Park de-recognised as 'mini zoo'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: Delhi is set to lose its famous Deer Park with the central authorities cancelling its recognition as a 'mini zoo' and deciding to translocate the animals due to their rapidly increasing numbers and inadequate manpower. An order to this effect was recently issued by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, officials said Tuesday.

"Six deer were introduced in the park in the 1960s and over time, the number swelled to approximately 600. It had been given the status of a 'mini



A deer is pictured sitting in Deer Park

zoo' by the CZA," a senior official said.

"Rapid growth of population, inbreeding, possibility of spread of disease and lack of

trained manpower to maintain the mini zoo led to the decision," an official source said. Now, forest departments of Rajasthan and Delhi shall take

The park, officially known as A N Jha Deer Park, in south Delhi's Hauz Khas area is a popular picnic spot and a popular hangout zone

It comes under the jurisdiction of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA)

The CZA issued the order cancelling the Deer Park's recognition as a 'mini zoo' June 8

on January 30, 2023, to deliberate on the proposal - 'Shifting of deer and cancellation of recognition of A N Jha Deer Park'."

It was suggested that "since only about 600 animals are stated to be housed in the said zoo, upon cancellation, the captive animals shall be released in natural habitat of the state of Rajasthan and National Capital Territory of Delhi in the ratio 70 per cent and 30 per cent respectively", the order stated. The release shall comply with extant statutory provisions and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines for re-introduction and other conservation translocations, it said.

J&K's Kishtwar gets 1st digital movie theatre

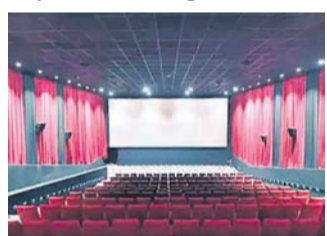
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, June 27: The Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir recently got its first digital movie theatre after a gap of three decades.

The inflatable theatre was officially launched by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who congratulated the district people and local administration as well as other stakeholders on the return of the movie culture to the district, a press release stated.

The theatre boasts of 120 luxurious reclining seats, an HD quality screen, and a state-of-the-art sound system, guaranteeing a top-notch cinematic experience for the residents.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor said J&K is witnessing a new era of peace and development in "Amrit Kaal" and the launch of a movie theatre in picturesque Kishtwar is a symbol of an aspirational so-



ciety. "Art and creativity transcend all boundaries and bring people closer. Cinema is not just a medium of entertainment, but it is also an integral part of the culture, society and a reflection of change happening around us," Sinha said.

Kishtwar has been without a cinema hall for decades after a privately-owned theatre was targeted by terrorists in the 1990s. However, the new development, a government-run initiative, signifies a remarkable turnaround for the town's entertainment landscape, an official said.



PURE DEVOTION: Devotees chant religious slogans outside Bhagwati Nagar base camp as they wait for registration of the Amarnath Yatra 2023 in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

Eid al-Adha Traders await buyers in livestock market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 27: Ashiq Mohammad, a trader from Rajasthan, comes here every year with sacrificial animals ahead of Eid al-Adha and heads back home after selling his livestock within days.

This year, however, what should have been the busiest time of the year for Mohammad has turned into a waiting game with high prices keeping buyers away.

"I have been coming here for five years now and business is very slow this year. People used to be very fond of buying these animals but due to soaring prices, they are not buying them like they used to," Mohammad said. Some traders in the livestock market, which was swarming with sacrificial animals with colourful markings and painted horns, said they were selling their livestock at a loss. Mohammad Shafi from Kupwara's Handwara said he brought around 35 home-reared animals to the market, hoping to get some good returns.

"In the last two days, I have only sold around eight to 10 animals. This year business is slow. Buyers don't have enough money to buy animals and hence they are staying away," Shafi said. Abdul Majid, a livestock trader from the Lolab area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district said, "I brought 50 sheep from my hometown for selling here. I bought them for Rs 330 per kilogram and I am selling them for almost the same price. I am incurring losses due to this." The government has not fixed the prices and authorities are not paying attention, he rued. "I am selling local breeds that have been fed good quality fodder but since many traders have brought animals from other states, they are selling them for around Rs 400 per kilogram," he said.

Stakeholders in Kashmir seek revision of 20% duty waiver on American apple



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 27: The Centre's decision to remove 20 per cent retaliatory import duty on American apples will pile on difficulties for the already stressed Kashmiri horticulture industry, fruit dealers and growers in the valley said.

The farmers and dealers were suffering due to hail storms and unexpected weather conditions, including unseasonal rain, this year, Bashir Ahmad, president of the Fruit Growers and Dealers Association of Kashmir, told PTI. The fruit industry of Kashmir is already struggling.

Reducing 20 per cent import taxes on Washington Apple will add more difficulties and have an adverse impact on the horticulture industry, he said. "Now, if we won't get adequate rates of the

apples, it will be very unfortunate. Though the production of apples is quite high, a decrease in rates will raise our difficulties tremendously. We request the Government of India to immediately roll back the waiver," Ahmad added.

He said this will not only benefit the apple farmers of Kashmir but also those from Himachal and Uttarakhand.

Shahid Chowdhury, General Secretary of the New Kashmir Fruit Association, said the 20 per cent waiver will substantially bring down the prices of Kashmir apples.

"Foreign countries are quite advanced than us. The farmers get subsidies, technologies and there are a number of schemes that make their products far superior in quality. If tax is lower, growers of Kashmir and apples of Kashmir would not be able to compete with them," Chowdhury said.

Farooq Ahmad Rather, an apple grower, said that in 2017, the government of India raised the duty of the apple from the United States from 50 per cent to 70 per cent. Mehraj Ahmad, a fruit seller, said if the cost of American apples is reduced, the market of the local apple will get affected.

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office:
IndianOil Bhavan, G-9, Ali Yavar Jung Marg,
Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051

Marketing Division - Odisha State Office

Notice for appointment of Regular / Rural Retail Outlet (Petrol Pump) Dealerships

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. proposes to appoint Retail Outlet dealers at various locations in the State of Odisha.

The detailed Advertisement and Brochure are available in the website: www.petrolpumpdealerchayan.in

Application for RO dealership along with online payment of Non-refundable application fee, as applicable, should be submitted online by date **(27/09/2023)**.

The facility for submission of online application will be withdrawn immediately after the cut-off date as mentioned above.

APPLICANTS, IN THEIR OWN INTEREST, SHOULD CAREFULLY GO THROUGH THE "BROCHURE" AND UNDERSTAND CONDITIONS OF SELECTION BEFORE SUBMITTING THEIR APPLICATION.

The Corporation reserves the right to cancel / withdraw / amend this advertisement or extend the due date at its sole discretion without assigning any reason.

In case of any discrepancy in advertisement published in English Newspapers vis-a-vis vernacular dailies, the direction / information indicated in English paper would prevail.

Corrigendum, if any, will be published only in the website : www.petrolpumpdealerchayan.in

For purchase of Brochure and any information with regard to the advertisement, candidates may contact the following address: -

SN	Address	Contact No.	For Districts
1	Divisional Retail Sales Head, Bhubaneswar Divisional Office, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, IndianOil Bhawan, A/2, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751024, Odisha	0674-2745854	Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Boudh, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Khordha, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Puri
2	Divisional Retail Sales Head, Sambalpur Divisional Office, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Kainsir Road, Ainthapali, Sambalpur, PIN-768004, Odisha	0663-2950319	Bargarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Sundergarh



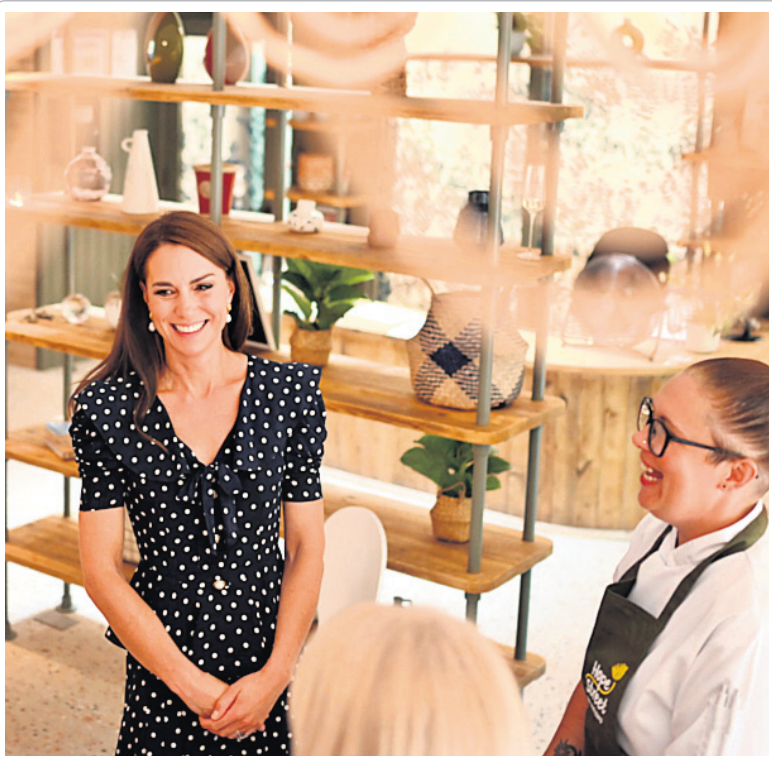
Fishing boats are seen amid high tides and rain in Kochi



A vendor waits for customers to sell umbrellas in Bhopal



Fishermen and buyers at Vizhinjam harbour in Thiruvananthapuram



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales speaks with members of staff during a visit to 'Hope Street', in Southampton, England



A goat put on sale ahead of the Eid-ul-Adha (Bakrid), at Joggers Park near Dubbagga market in Lucknow



Patna Vande Bharat Express at the Ranchi Railway Station after its virtual flag-off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Ranchi



Rescuers work at a landslide site in Miansi Township of Wenchuan County in southwestern China's Sichuan Province



SP Bulandshahr Anukriti Sharma with an elderly woman Noorjahan after the former got electricity connection installed at the latter's house, in Bulandshahr

of the day quote

A short play on road safety measures will be staged at every Assam government function to create awareness and help bring down the number of accidents

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The people of Telangana are yearning for change and looking towards the Congress

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is rattled as the BJP is fighting corruption and taking the country on the path of progress

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Criminal killed

Kaushambi/Lucknow: A wanted criminal, named in more than a dozen cases, was killed in an encounter with the police in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambi district early Tuesday morning, officials said. Gufran, a resident of neighbouring Pratapgarh district, was injured in an exchange of fire with the Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force near Samda village in the Kaushambi district. Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said.

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: An Al-Badr terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces on Tuesday in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said. They said a Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel was injured during the operation in Hoowara area of the south Kashmir district. A police spokesman said a cordon and search operation was launched by security forces in Hoowara area during the night after a specific input regarding the presence of a terrorist. As the search party moved towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately, leaving a J-K police personnel injured, the spokesperson said, adding he has been shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Court summons Uddhav, Raut

Mumbai: A magistrate's court here has issued a summons to Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Uddhav Thackeray and Sanjay Raut over alleged defamatory articles carried by the party mouthpiece 'Saamana' against Rahul Shewale, a leader of the rival Sena faction. Metropolitan Magistrate (Sewree court) S B Kale issued the summons in response to a complaint filed by Shewale, MP from the Mumbai South-Central constituency.

Oppn attacks PM for UCC remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 27: Opposition parties Tuesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his comments on the UCC with the Congress saying he was making such remarks only to divert attention from the real issues like unemployment and Manipur violence and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi asking whether the country's pluralism would be "snatched away" in the name of the UCC.

Congress general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal said the Prime Minister can say anything, but "he has to answer the real questions of this country - unemployment, price rise and Manipur issue". "Manipur has been burning for the last 60 days. Why has the PM not uttered a single word? These are all diversionary issues. He wants to run away from the real issues of the country, that is why they are only trying to divert



the issues," he said. Addressing a gathering of party workers in Bhopal, Prime Minister Modi made a strong pitch for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), saying the Constitution calls for equal rights for all citizens. Modi also said the opposition is using the issue of UCC to mislead and provoke the Muslim community. "You tell me, in a home, how can there be one law for one

member and another law for another member? Will that home be able to function? Then how will the country be able to function with such a dual system? We have to remember that even in India's Constitution, there is a mention of equal rights for all," he said. "These people (opposition) level allegations against us but the reality is that they chant Musalman, Musalman. Had

they really been (working) in the interests of Muslims, then Muslim families would not have been lagging in education and jobs," he said.

Hitting back, Owaisi asked whether the country's pluralism and diversity would be "snatched away" in the name of UCC. "It seems Modi did not understand Obama's advice properly. Will the PM end 'Hindu Undivided Family' (law) Because of HUF, the country is losing Rs 3064 crores every year. When PM Modi speaks about UCC, he is speaking of Hindu Civil Code. I challenge him to abolish Hindu Undivided Family (law), can he do so," he asked.

"On the one hand, the PM is shedding crocodile tears for Pasmamda Muslims, and on the other hand, his pawns are attacking their mosques, taking away their livelihoods, bulldozing their homes and lynching them", he alleged. "They are also opposing reser-

vations for backward Muslims. His government has stopped scholarships for poor Muslims. If Pasmamda Muslims are being exploited, what is Modi doing about it? Before seeking votes from Pasmamda Muslims, BJP workers should go door-to-door and apologize that their spokespersons and MLAs tried to insult our Dear Prophet," Owaisi tweeted.

"Citing Pakistan, Modi ji has said that there is a ban on triple talaq. Why is Modi ji getting his inspiration from Pakistani law? He even made a law against triple talaq here, but it did not make any difference at the ground level. Rather, the exploitation of women has increased further. We have always been demanding that social reform will not happen through laws. If a law has to be made, then it should be made against those men who flee from their marriages," the AIMIM leader said.

Mamata injured after emergency landing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Siliguri/ Kolkata, June 27: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was injured when the helicopter in which she was flying made an emergency landing at the Sevoke air base near Siliguri in the northern part of the state due to bad weather on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.



Banerjee was injured on her waist and legs when she tried to disembark the chopper at the air base. She later returned to Kolkata by a flight from Bagdogra Airport. The chief minister, soon after reaching the city, was taken to the state-run SSKM Hospital where an MRI was conducted on her, the official said.

"The injuries do not appear to be serious. We are waiting for the MRI report," a doctor said. Several specialist doctors examined the chief minister, he added. The decision on whether Banerjee will require hospitalisation will be taken after seeing the reports, the official said.

Earlier, the pilot decided to make an emergency landing after the helicopter started 'shaking terribly' when it ran into bad weather on the way to Bagdogra airport. Banerjee, also the Trinamool Congress supremo, then travelled by road to reach the airport and took a flight back to the city.

The chief minister was returning to Kolkata after a two-day trip to northern districts of the state to campaign for the panchayat elections, scheduled on July 8. Sources said that Governor CV Ananda Bose telephoned Banerjee and enquired about her health condition.

Renovation row: AAP slams CAG audit order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: The Aam Aadmi Party Tuesday condemned the Centre's decision to initiate a CAG audit into the reconstruction expenses of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence, saying the move "reeks of desperation" as the BJP anticipates a defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll.

The ruling party's sharp reaction came after Raj Niwas officials informed that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India will conduct a special audit into the alleged "irregularities and violations" in the "reconstruction" of the chief minister's residence.

The Union home ministry has recommended the special CAG

The AAP said a CAG audit was already conducted last year and initiating a fresh audit is a 'clear reflection' of the BJP's 'frustration, paranoia, and authoritarian tendencies'

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva welcomed the CAG audit as he called Kejriwal's official residence a 'Sheesh Mahal'

into the reconstruction expenses of the Chief Minister's residence, it is important to note that it was already conducted last year, revealing no evidence of financial irregularities."

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva welcomed the CAG audit as he called Kejriwal's official residence a "Sheesh Mahal". "The CAG is country's top most audit body of high repute and its inquiry will soon bring out under whose pressure PWD officials violated laws and constructed the palatial bungalow for the chief minister otherwise eligible for only a Type VII bungalow accommodation," Sachdeva said.

The AAP, however, said a CAG audit was already conducted last year and initiating a fresh audit is a "clear reflection" of the BJP's "frustration, paranoia, and authoritarian tendencies". The BJP is troubled by its successive electoral defeats in Delhi Assembly polls, the AAP said, adding the CAG move is an attempt to tarnish the "reputation" of Delhi's "honest government".

In its attempt to seek "revenge", the BJP is "inadvertently orchestrating its own downfall through such chaotic and ill-conceived actions", the AAP said, while also accusing the saffron party of engaging in clandestine efforts to undermine the established power structure.



audit taking note of a May 24 letter by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena which pointed out the "reconstruction" "gross and prima facie financial irregularities" in the "reconstruction" of the chief minister's official residence, the officials claimed.

Reacting furiously, the AAP said in a statement, "This move by the Modi government reeks of desperation as the BJP anticipates an inevitable defeat in the upcoming 2024 general elections. As far as the CAG inquiry



Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait during a protest in Noida

PTI PHOTO

Supertech boss arrested in money laundering case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: The ED arrested real estate company Supertech's chairman and owner R K Arora on money-laundering charges Tuesday, official sources said.

Arora was taken into custody under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), following a third round of his questioning at the federal agency's office here, they said. He is expected to be produced before a special PMLA court here on Wednesday, where the ED will seek his further remand.

The money-laundering case against the Supertech group, its directors and promoters stems from a clutch of FIRs registered by the police departments in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Manipur govt to invoke 'no work no pay' rule

The General Administration Department has been asked to furnish details of employees who are not able to attend their official work due to the prevailing situation in the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, June 27: The Manipur government has decided to invoke "no work, no pay" rule for its employees who are not attending office.

The General Administration Department (GAD) has been asked to furnish details of employees who are not able to attend their official work due to the prevailing situation in the state.

A circular issued on Monday night by GAD Secretary Michael Achom said: "In pursuance of the meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on June 12 and decision taken at para 5(12) of the proceedings, all employees drawing



their salaries from General Administration Department, Manipur Secretariat are informed that no work, no pay may be invoked to all those employees who do not attend their official duty without authorised leave."

Manipur government has one lakh employees. The circular also asked for all administrative secretaries to "furnish details of

those employees who could not attend their official duty due to prevailing situation in the state indicating the details of employees such as designation, name, EIN, present address, to the General Administration Department and to the Personnel department, latest by June 28 so as to take appropriate necessary action."

More than 100 people have lost their lives in the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in the northeastern state so far. Clashes first broke out on May 3 after a Tribal Solidarity March was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals - Nagas and Kukis - constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts.

Man held for urinating on AI flight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: Air India Tuesday said a passenger behaved in a repulsive manner on board an Air India flight from Mumbai to the national capital on June 24 and was handed over to the security personnel after the plane landed at Delhi airport.

A police complaint has been registered and the incident has also been reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). According to police, a man has been held here for allegedly defecating and urinating on the floor of the flight.

Ram Singh defecated, urinated, and spat in row nine of the aircraft. Upon observing the "misconduct", the cabin crew warned the passenger and secluded him from the others, as per the FIR. In recent times, there have been rising incidents of unruly behaviour of passengers onboard flights.

"A passenger on our flight AI866 operating Mumbai-Delhi



on June 24 behaved in a repulsive manner, causing discomfort to the co-passengers. In doing their best to manage the situation in the circumstance, the crew immediately secluded the passenger for the rest of the flight and issued a warning," an airline spokesperson said in a statement.

The airline said the passenger was handed over to the security personnel upon landing in Delhi and a police complaint (FIR) was registered subsequently, as was

the matter reported to the regulator. Upon arrival, the head of Air India security escorted the passenger to the local police station, it said, adding that a case under IPC sections 294 (obscene acts) and 510 (misconduct in public by a drunken person) has been registered, police said.

"Air India follows a zero tolerance policy for such unruly and unacceptable behaviour. We are extending all cooperation to the ongoing investigations," the spokesperson said.

Sister of slain gangster Atiq moves SC

In her petition, Aisha Noori, has sought a comprehensive inquiry by an independent agency into the "campaign of encounter killings, arrests and harassment" targeting her family which is allegedly being carried out by the Uttar Pradesh government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court by the sister of slain gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad and Ashraf seeking constitution of a commission chaired by a retired apex court judge to inquire into their "custodial" and "extra judicial deaths".

Atiq Ahmad (60) and his brother Ashraf were shot dead at point-blank range by three men posing as journalists in the middle of a media interaction while police personnel were escorting them to a medical college in Prayagraj in April.

In her petition, Aisha Noori, has also sought a comprehensive inquiry by an independent agency into the "campaign of encounter



killings, arrests and harassment" targeting her family which is allegedly being carried out by the Uttar Pradesh government.

"The petitioner, who has lost her brothers and nephew in 'state-sponsored killings', is con-

strained to approach this court through the instant writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, seeking a comprehensive inquiry by a committee headed by a retired judge of this court or in the alternative

by an independent agency into a campaign of 'extra-judicial' killings carried out by the respondents," the plea submitted.

"The respondents-police authorities are enjoying full support of the Uttar Pradesh government which appears to have granted them complete impunity to kill, arraign, arrest, and harass members of the petitioner's family as part of a vendetta," it alleged. It claimed that in order to "silence" the members of the petitioner's family, the state is "ropeing them one by one in false cases".

The petitioner said it is essential that an independent agency carries out an inquiry which can "evaluate the role played by high-level state agents who have planned and orchestrated the campaign targeting the petitioner's family". The top court is seized of a separate plea filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari seeking an independent probe into the killing of Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf.

international

of the day quote

We are witnessing a concerning increase in the number of refugees in need of resettlement in 2024. Resettlement remains a critical lifeline for those most at risk and with specific needs

FILIPPO GRANDI
UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

There won't be any military agreements. I don't think China will enter into one

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE
SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

NATO wants to bring Sweden into the fold by the time allied leaders meet in Lithuania on July 11-12. The allies also hope to make progress on long-term funding and the security plan for Ukraine at the same event

JENS STOLTENBERG
SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

SHORT TAKES

Italian group calls off pasta strike

Milan: Italians can celebrate lower pasta prices but must face higher prices across the board for fruit and vegetables. Italy's industry ministry reported last week that prices of pasta had fallen by an average of 0.3 per cent in May compared with a month earlier, saying that a monitoring system it set up had the intended effect of reducing prices. The price of a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of pasta had dropped to 2.12 euros (USD 2.32) in the Adriatic port city of Ancona from a high of 2.44 euros in March, and to 2.02 euros in Genova from a peak of 2.38 euros. The price dipped below 2 euros in many cities.

Russia strike kills 6 al-Qaeda militants

Idlib (syria): A Russian airstrike Tuesday targeted a military post of a group linked to al-Qaeda in northwest Syria killing at least six militants, medical officials and a war monitor said. The airstrike on the Jabal al-Zawiya area in the northwestern province of Idlib came two days after another airstrike on a busy vegetable market in the same province killed at least nine people. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said the Tuesday morning airstrike killed eight militants and wounded other members of the al-Qaeda-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS.

Former-Audi boss convicted of fraud

Berlin: Former Audi boss Rupert Stadler was convicted of fraud Tuesday in connection with the automaker's diesel emissions scandal, making him the highest-ranking executive found guilty over cars that cheated on emissions tests with the help of illegal software. A German court handed Stadler a suspended prison sentence of 21 months and ordered him to pay a fine of 1.1 million euros (USD 1.2 million), some of which will go to charitable groups. The sentence resulted from an agreement between his lawyers, the judge and prosecutors after he pleaded guilty last month.

Five teens killed after car swerves off road

Fort Myers: Five teenagers were killed when their car ran off a curving street and landed in a southwest Florida retention pond where it went underwater, authorities said. It happened either late Sunday or early Monday, killing everyone inside. The crumpled Kia sedan was pulled from the water Monday.

Sharif, Zardari meet in UAE over Pak election, seat sharing: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, June 27: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and former president Asif Ali Zardari have reportedly met in the UAE to consult and decide on the timing of the next general elections in the country and "their respective share" in the future set-up, a media report said Tuesday.

The meeting between Nawaz Sharif, the supreme of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Zardari, the co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), both parties a partner in the ruling coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), happened in Dubai on Monday afternoon to hammer out a consensus on a

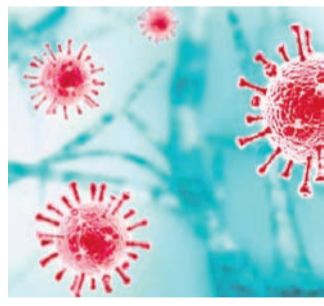


number of key issues like finalising names for the caretaker set-up and deciding who will get what key position if the two partners win the next elections, the Dawn News reported. "The uncertainty surrounding the next general elections may end soon after detailed deliberations by the top leadership of the two main coalition partners in the federal government are concluded in the UAE," said the report, citing sources.

Insiders said that it was decided that elder Sharif of PML-N and Zardari of PPP, would "talk directly" on these issues instead of allowing a prolonged debate "at the lower level", which would be a waste of time.

Pakistan, currently in the throes of a major political as well as economic crisis, started preparations for the general elections with a meeting of the election commission recently. The PDM is also fighting the challenge posed by former prime minister Imran Khan. The current National Assembly will complete its five-year term August 12 and the fresh general election must be conducted within 60 days as laid down in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Covid has not gone away, warns WHO



AGENCIES

Copenhagen, June 27: The World Health Organisation's European office Tuesday warned the risk of Covid-19 has not gone away, saying it was still responsible for nearly 1,000 deaths a week in the region.

The global health body May 5 announced that the Covid-19 pandemic was no longer deemed a "global health emergency."

"Whilst it may not be a global public health emergency, however, Covid-19 has not gone away," WHO Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge told reporters.

The WHO's European region comprises 53 countries, including several in central Asia.

"Close to 1,000 new Covid-19 deaths continue to occur across the region every week, and this is an underestimate due to a drop in countries regularly reporting Covid-19 deaths to WHO," Kluge added, and urged authorities to ensure vaccination coverage of at least 70 percent for vulnerable groups.

Kluge also said estimates showed that one in 30, or some 36 million people, in the region had experienced so called "long Covid" in the last three years, which "remains a complex condition we still know very little about."

"Unless we develop comprehensive diagnostics and treatment for long Covid, we will never truly recover from the pandemic," Kluge said, encouraging more research in the area which he called an under-recognised condition.

The health body also urged vigilance in the face of a resurgence of mpox, having recorded 22 new cases across the region in May, and the health impact of heat waves.

'Prigozhin in Belarus'

THE EXILE TO BELARUS OF THE 62-YEAR-OLD OWNER OF THE WAGNER GROUP WAS PART OF THE DEAL THAT ENDED THE SHORT-LIVED MUTINY IN RUSSIA

AGENCIES

Minsk, June 27: Yevgeny Prigozhin, owner of the private army of inmate recruits and other mercenaries that has fought some of the deadliest battles in Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is in Belarus after his abortive armed rebellion against the Kremlin, Belarus's president said Tuesday.

The exile to Belarus of the 62-year-old owner of the Wagner Group was part of the deal that ended the short-lived mutiny in Russia. He and some of his troops would be welcome to stay "for some time" at their own expense, President Alexander Lukashenko said. The Russian Defence Ministry said preparations are under way for Wagner to hand over its heavy weapons to the Russian military.

Prigozhin had said his troops were preparing to turn over their weapons ahead of a July 1 deadline for them to sign contracts to serve under the Russian military's command.

Russian authorities also said Tuesday that they have closed a criminal investigation into the uprising and are pressing no charges against Prigozhin or his troops after the negotiated deal. The Federal Security Service, or FSB, said its investigation found that those involved in the mutiny, which lasted less than 24 hours, "ceased

The Russian Defence Ministry said preparations are under way for Wagner to hand over its heavy weapons to the Russian military



Prigozhin had said his troops were preparing to turn over their weapons ahead of a July 1 deadline for them to sign contracts to serve under the Russian military's command

Russian authorities also said Tuesday that they have closed a criminal investigation into the uprising and are pressing no charges against Prigozhin or his followers after the negotiated deal

activities directed at committing the crime".

Still, Russian President Vladimir Putin appeared to set the stage for charges of financial wrongdoing against an affiliated organisation owned by Prigozhin.

He told a military gathering that Prigozhin's Concord Group earned 80 billion rubles (\$941 million) from a contract to provide the military with food, and that Wagner had received over 86 billion rubles (over \$1 billion) in the past year for wages and additional items.

For years, Prigozhin has had lucrative catering contracts with the Russian government. Police who searched his St. Petersburg office over the weekend said they found 4 billion rubles (\$48 million) in trucks outside, according to media reports con-

firmed by the Wagner boss. He said the money was intended to pay soldiers' families.

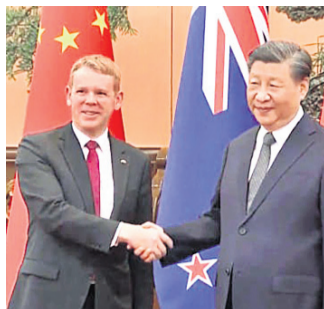
The charge of mounting an armed mutiny is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Prigozhin escaping prosecution poses a stark contrast to how the Kremlin has treated those staging anti-government protests in Russia, where many opposition figures have gotten long sentences in notoriously harsh penal colonies. Prigozhin's specific whereabouts were not known Tuesday.

The series of stunning events in recent days constitutes the gravest threat so far to Putin's grip on power amid the 16-month-old war in Ukraine. In addresses Monday and Tuesday, Putin has sought to project stability.

Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron hand for 29

NZ PM VISITS CHINA

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins discussed his country's interest in boosting economic ties with China during a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing Tuesday.



ROYAL VISIT: Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla applaud children from local Damers First School who performed their Coronation song as they visit Poundbury at Poundbury in Dorchester, England

Trump heard discussing secret documents on tape

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, June 27: An audio recording of a 2021 meeting has revealed former US President Donald Trump discussing holding secret documents he did not declassify after leaving the White House, a media report said.

In the two-minute recording exclusively obtained by CNN, Trump is heard rifling through papers and saying: "This is highly confidential."

The recording includes new details from the conversation in Bedminster, New Jersey, which is a critical piece of evidence in special counsel Jack Smith's indictment of Trump over the mishandling of the classified documents.



During the conversation, Trump is heard describing a document that he alleges is about possibly attacking Iran.

"He said that I wanted to attack Iran. Isn't it amazing?" Trump says near the beginning of the clip. "I have a big pile of papers, this thing just came up. Look," he says.

"See as President I could have declassified it... Now I can't, you know, but this is still a secret. These are the papers," Trump says in the audio recording. The former President and his aides also joke about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's emails after Trump says that the document was "secret information". "Hillary would print that out all the time, you know. Her private emails," Trump's staffer said. This latest development comes a week after Trump told Fox News that that he did not have any documents with him, CNN reported.

US on alert after first malaria spread in 20 years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, June 27: The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a health alert after five cases of malaria were reported in Texas and Florida in the last two months.

The alert was issued Monday to doctors, public health authorities and members of the public, reports NBC News.

According to the CDC, the

four cases in Florida and one in Texas are the first in 20 years to be acquired locally, meaning the infections were not linked to travel outside the country.

The last such local cases were identified in 2003 in Palm Beach County, Florida.

There is however, no evidence to suggest that this year's Florida and Texas cases are related, the CDC said, adding that the risk throughout the country remains extremely low. "Malaria is a

medical emergency," the health body said, adding that all five patients have gotten treatment and are recovering.

Last week, the Texas Department of State Health Services confirmed the detection of the malaria case in a person who had spent time working outdoors, NBC News reported.

The person had not traveled outside the country or state.

The department advised Texas residents to protect themselves

from mosquito bites by using insect repellent and wearing long sleeves and pants and further encouraged people to drain puddles, keep gutters clear, cover trash containers and regularly change the water in pet dishes and bird baths.

Also Monday, the Florida Department of Health issued a state-wide mosquito-borne illness advisory, adding that all the four cases were reported in Sarasota County.

Over 1K Afghan civilians killed since Taliban takeover: UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, June 27: The United Nations said Tuesday it has documented a significant level of civilians killed and wounded in attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover — despite a stark reduction in casualties compared to previous years of war and insurgency.

According to a new report by the UN mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, since the takeover in mid-August 2021 and until the end of May, there were 3,774 civilian casualties, including 1,095 people killed in violence in the country.

That compares with 8,820 civilian casualties — including 3,035 killed — in just 2020, according to an earlier UN report. The Taliban seized the country in August 2021 while US and NATO

troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from Afghanistan after two decades of war.

According to the UN report, three-quarters of the attacks since the Taliban seized power were with improvised explosive devices in "populated areas, including places of worship, schools and markets," the report said. Among those killed were 92 women and 287 children. The figures indicate a significant increase in civilian harm



The Taliban seized the country in August 2021 while US and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from Afghanistan after two decades of war

resulting from IED attacks on places of worship — mostly belonging to the minority Shiite Muslims — compared to the three-year period prior to the Taliban takeover, according to a press statement that followed

the report. The statement also said that at least 95 people were killed in attacks on schools, educational facilities and other places that targeted the predominantly Shiite Hazara community. The statement said that the majority of the

IED attacks were carried out by the region's affiliate of the Islamic State group — known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province — a Sunni militant group and a main Taliban rival.

However, the UN report said a "significant number" of the deaths resulted from attacks that were never claimed or that the UN mission could not attribute to any group. It did not provide the number for those fatalities. The report also expressed concern about "the lethality of suicide attacks" since the Taliban takeover, with fewer attacks causing more civilian casualties.

It noted that the attacks were carried out amid a nationwide financial and economic crisis. With the sharp drop in donor funding since the takeover, victims are struggling to get access

to "medical, financial and psychosocial support" under the current Taliban-led government, the report said.

Frazer said that even though Afghan "victims of armed conflict and violence struggled to access essential medical, financial and psychosocial support" prior to the takeover, this has become more difficult after the Taliban took power.

The UN report also demanded an immediate halt to attacks and said it holds the Taliban government responsible for the safety of Afghans.

The Taliban said their administration took over when Afghanistan was "on the verge of collapse" and that they "managed to rescue the country and government from a crisis" by making sound decisions and through proper management.

business

of the day quote

I request netizens to please stay aware. I have no associations with cryptocurrency of any form...If you see any articles or ads mentioning my association with cryptocurrency, they are absolutely untrue and meant to scam citizens

The India stack... Aadhaar, UPI and healthcare platforms... Are not something available in most countries. The India public goods space is a huge enabler and most of the other countries don't have this, so we have a big advantage

India's road network grew 59 per cent to become the second largest in the world as part of the development work carried out by the government in the last nine years

SHORT TAKES

Govt revises biomass policy

New Delhi: The power ministry Tuesday said it has revised the biomass co-firing policy to enable the purchase of biomass pellets by power plants. The decision would encourage farmers, entrepreneurs as well as thermal power utilities to strive to establish a sustainable biomass supply chain, the ministry said in a statement. "Ministry of Power (MoP) has decided to benchmark the prices of biomass pellets used for co-firing in Thermal Power Plants (TPPs). Ministry of Power has revised biomass Co-Firing Policy for enabling the purchase of biomass pellets by Power Plants at benchmark price," it said.

IDFC First Bank raises ₹1,500cr

New Delhi: IDFC First Bank Tuesday announced raising of ₹1,500 crore from Tier-2 bonds to fund business growth. These privately placed bonds are issued as unsecured, subordinated, rated, listed, non-convertible, fully paid-up, taxable, redeemable Basel III compliant tier-2 Bonds (in nature of debentures) at a face value of ₹1 crore each, the bank said in a statement. These bonds were raised through private placement on the NSE e-bidding platform, it said, adding, the participation for the issuance came from domestic Qualified Institutional Investors. The bidding on NSE e-bidding platform interest from corporates, public pension funds, provident funds, and insurance companies, and the overall issue was oversubscribed, it said.

CII, Vedanta to support startups

New Delhi: Industry body CII's Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startups Tuesday announced its strategic partnership with Vedanta Limited, a globally diversified natural resources conglomerate. This collaboration aims to promote corporate-startup connect and provide support to technology-based startups through CII's Corporate Accelerator program, CII stated. As part of this programme, startups have the opportunity to present their minimal viable products (MVPs) on demo day, to secure contracts with participating corporates.



We are seeing a decline in the inflation rate as the shocks that originally drove up inflation wane and our monetary policy actions are transmitted to the economy

CHRISTINE LAGARDE | EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT

LIQUOR SALES VOLUME GROWS 14% IN FY23

Sales of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) rose by 14 per cent in volume terms to 385 million cases in FY 2022-23 while premium products priced over ₹1,000 per 750ml bottle grew by 48 per cent, according to industry body CIABC. Sales are almost 12 per cent higher than the pre-Covid levels of FY 2019-20, indicating that the impact of Covid has fully worn off, it said.



Merger with HDFC Bank likely to be effective July 1: HDFC

Termed as the biggest transaction in the history of India Inc, HDFC Bank April 4, 2022, agreed to take over its parent, which is the largest pure-play mortgage lender, in a USD 40-billion all-stock deal, creating a financial services titan with a combined asset of over ₹18 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27: The reverse merger of the housing finance major HDFC with its banking subsidiary HDFC Bank is likely to be completed June 30, and the merger to be effective July 1, the Corporation clarified late Tuesday evening.

"Almost all the approvals are in place, and we hope to complete the merger process effective July 1. The boards of HDFC and the bank are meeting separately June 30 after office hours to clear and approve the merger, which will be effective July 1," Corporation Chairman Deepak Parekh, flanked by his deputy Keki Mistry, told reporters.

However, later in the evening through an exchange filing, the Corporation clarified that the dates cited by the chairman Parekh are tentative as they are still awaiting a few more approvals. "We wish to clarify that both -- HDFC and HDFC Bank -- are working towards completing all the necessary formalities for completion of the proposed amalgamation as per the aforementioned dates. However, the above dates for merger and record date for share swaps are tentative and subject to completion of certain formalities, including those



which are beyond the control of HDFC or HDFC Bank," the company informed the exchanges.

HDFC company secretary Ajay Agarwal said the company has received no-objection/approval letters from various regulators, including from stock exchanges, the Reserve Bank, the Securities and Exchange Board, the Competition Commission and the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai bench since March 17, 2023, sanctioning the merger scheme.

Given these, he said, "We clarify that today's news reports referring to the press interaction of Deepak Parekh, the chairman of HDFC the tentative effective date for the merger scheme as July 1, 2023, and the tentative

record date for determining the shareholders of HDFC who would be allotted equity shares of HDFC Bank as per the share exchange ratio as July 13, 2023, are tentative."

Termed as the biggest transaction in the history of India Inc, HDFC Bank on April 4, 2022, agreed to take over its parent, which is the largest pure-play mortgage lender, in a USD 40-billion all-stock deal, creating a financial services titan with a combined asset of over ₹18 lakh crore. The combined shares of the HDFC twins will have the highest weighting on the indices at close to 14 per cent, much higher than the present index heavy-weight Reliance Industries with a 10.4 per cent weightage.

In a first, govt to release critical minerals list today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 27: The government Wednesday will release a list of 'critical minerals of India' for the first time, an official statement said.

The list will be released by Union Minister of Coal, Mines & Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi, it said.

"The Ministry of Mines is all set to unveil for the first time the list of critical minerals for India to ensure reduced import dependencies, enhance supply chain resilience and support the country's net zero objectives," the coal ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

The release of the 'critical minerals list' will mark a milestone in India's pursuit of self-reliance and security in the domain of mineral resources. This list is designed to identify and prioritise minerals that are essential for various industrial sectors such as high-tech electronics, telecommunications, transport and defence.



The list will serve as a guiding framework for policy formulation, strategic planning and investment decisions in the mining sector.

Quarterly CAD narrows as trade deficit shrinks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27:

India's current account deficit narrowed to USD 1.3 billion or 0.2 per cent of GDP in the January-March quarter of FY23, mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports, RBI data showed Tuesday.

However, for the 2022-23 fiscal, the current account balance recorded a deficit of 2 per cent of GDP compared to 1.2 per cent in 2021-22.

"India's current account deficit (CAD) decreased to USD 1.3 billion (0.2 per cent of GDP) in Q4:2022-23 from USD 16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP) in Q3:2022-23, and USD 13.4 billion (1.6 per cent of GDP) a year ago [Q4:2021-22]," as per the RBI's 'Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Fourth Quarter (January-March) of 2022-23'. The sequential decline in CAD in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 was mainly on account of a moderation in the trade deficit to USD 52.6 billion from USD 71.3 billion in the preceding quarter, coupled with robust

services exports, it said. Net services receipts increased, on a sequentially and year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services.

The central bank had been maintaining that the CAD, a key indicator of the country's balance of payments, would remain manageable.

Private transfer receipts in the January-March period, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to USD 28.6 billion, up by 20.8 per cent year-on-year.

In the financial account, the RBI said net foreign direct investment (FDI) at USD 6.4 billion was higher than USD 2.0 billion in Q3 2022-23, although lower than a year ago (USD 13.8 billion).

Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of USD 1.7 billion - driven by the equity segment compared to an outflow of USD 15.2 billion during the corresponding period a year ago.

Net external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India recorded an inflow of USD 1.7 billion against an outflow of USD 2.5 billion during the third quarter of 2022-23 and an inflow of USD 3.3 billion in the final quarter of 2021-22.

UCB EYEWEAR AT L&M Perfect blend of fashion & vision

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 27: The United Colors of Benetton eyewear collection at Lawrence & Mayo combines the brand's signature contemporary aesthetics resulting in a range of frames and sunglasses that caters to diverse tastes and needs of fashion enthusiasts in Odisha.

From sophisticated frames to sporty designs, the collection showcases an array of options for fashion-conscious individuals seeking the perfect blend of fashion and vision correction.

Lawrence & Mayo and UCB bring together two industry giants, each renowned for their commitment to excellence. With over 146 years of experience, L&M has established itself as a pioneer in the eyewear industry, offering top-notch quality and exceptional service. Combining their expertise with UCB's renowned fashion-forward approach, the collection promises to elevate the eyewear experience for customers.

The UCB eyewear collection



at L&M encompasses a wide range of styles, materials, and colours, ensuring there is something for everyone. Whether its prescription glasses or sunglasses, customers can expect exceptional craftsmanship and attention to detail that are synonymous with both UCB and Lawrence & Mayo.

L&M's newest store in Metro House, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar showcases an appealing mix of collections ranging from budget to premium sunglasses and frames that will appeal to anyone who visits.

Sensex snaps three-day losing run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27: Equity benchmark index Sensex ended a three-session losing streak to close nearly 450 points higher Tuesday, helped by intense buying in index majors HDFC twins, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank amid a mixed trend in the global markets.

Besides, a firm trend in financial, realty, teck and IT counters also supported the domestic equities, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 446.03 points or 0.71 per cent to settle at 63,416.03 points. During the day, it advanced 497.54 points or 0.79 per cent to 63,467.54 points.

Ford cutting hundreds of jobs amid transition to EVs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

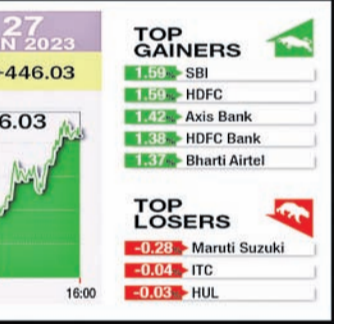
Dearborn, June 27: (AP) Ford Motor Co. is going through another round of white-collar job cuts as the company continues to reduce costs amid a transition to electric vehicles.

The company confirmed Tuesday that it was starting to notify several hundred engineers and other salaried employees that their jobs are being

eliminated. The firings come after around 200 Ford contract employees were let go last week.

Spokesman T.R. Reid wouldn't give a specific number of Ford jobs that are being cut this week, but said they are not nearly the scale of those made last summer when the company let go of 3,000 white-collar workers and another 1,000 contractors largely in the US.

Most of the cuts were in en-



NSE Nifty climbed 126.20 points or 0.68 per cent to end at 18,817.40 points.

State Bank of India was the best performer in the Sensex chart, rising 1.59 per cent, followed by HDFC, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel,

Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, NTPC and Bajaj Finserv.

Maruti, ITC and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.61 per cent, and the midcap



gineering, but all business units

index advanced 0.38 per cent.

Among the indices, financial services jumped 1.35 per cent, realty climbed 1.27 per cent, bankex (1.20 per cent), metal (0.97 per cent), teck (0.66 per cent), IT (0.61 per cent) and healthcare (0.55 per cent). FMCG and oil & gas were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green, while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.12 per cent to USD 73.35 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹409.43 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

SLOWDOWN IN INDIA'S STARTUP STORY: REPORT

India added only three unicorns - startups having a valuation of over USD 1 billion - in 2023 against 24 in the year-ago period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27: New additions in the coveted unicorn list declined sharply in 2023, indicating a slowdown in the Indian startup ecosystem, a report said Tuesday.

India added only three unicorns - startups having a valuation of over USD 1 billion - in 2023 against 24 in the year-ago period, as per the ASK Private Wealth Hurun Indian Future Unicorn Index 2023.

The slowdown in unicorn additions is indicative of a "slowdown in India's startup ecosystem," the report - which comes amid a slowdown in investor in-

terest in what is being termed as "funding winter" -- said. The overall number of unicorns also declined to 83 from 84 in the year-ago period.

ASK Private Wealth's chief executive and managing director Rajesh Saluja said unsustainable business models adopted by startups have led to a dip in valuations but stressed that funding to the right companies continues.

Hurun India's chief researcher Anas Rahman Junaid, however, said that the Indian startup story has high potential and he sees the overall number of unicorns in India touching 200 in the next five years.



He said China has over 1,000 unicorns and if India were to grow economically, startups will be very important.

Junaid said the overall number of startups in the list, which has startups valued at over USD

250 million, stands at 147 in 2023 compared to 122 in the year-ago period.

A total of 18 companies got dropped off the list last year, but there were over 40 new additions as well, as per the re-

port. Saluja said the overall funding to the startups on the list grew by 6 per cent to USD 18.8 billion.

Junaid explained that Hurun used regulatory filings and interviews with startup investors to arrive at the valuations and then subsequently make the index of unicorns (valued at over USD 1 billion), gazelles (valued at over USD 500 million which are likely to turn unicorns in three years) and cheetahs (valued at USD 250 million likely to turn unicorn in five years).

There were 51 gazelles and 96 cheetahs in 2023, against 51 gazelles and 71 cheetahs in 2022, as per the index.

Saluja said recent troubles on the governance front in some startups like Byjus will not impact funding to the broader

Indian startup ecosystem and pointed to high interest among high networth individuals to invest in funds, which will be deployed in startups.

Earlier, it used to take a year to raise a fund of ₹1,000 crore, he said, adding that the same can now be raised in under four months.

Peak XV Partners, which was formerly known as Sequoia, is the biggest investor with stakes in 37 unicorns, the report said, adding that Bengaluru continues to be the startup capital of India by being home to 53 probable unicorns.

Quick commerce startup Zepto's twenty-year-old co-founder Kaivalya Vohra is the youngest co-founder in the index. The 147 companies featured in the index employ over 1.02 lakh people.

PCB UNSURE, ICC CONFIDENT

Pakistan's travel to India for ODI World Cup yet to be confirmed as global cricket body announces schedule for the quadrennial event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Karachi, June 27: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is still apprehensive about sending its team to India for the ODI World Cup but International Cricket Council (ICC) is "confident" that the Babar Azam-led team will compete in the 50-over showpiece.

The ICC Tuesday announced the fixtures for the October 5-November 19 tournament and rejected PCB's request to not schedule their matches in Chennai and Bangalore against specific teams. PCB did not want to play Afghanistan on a spin-friendly track in Chennai and also wanted to avoid facing Australia in Bangalore.

As part of the announcement in Mumbai, it was confirmed that Pakistan will lock horns with India in Ahmedabad October 15 and take on Australia (October 20) and Afghanistan (October 23) at pre-decided venues.

Soon after the announcement, the PCB made it clear that its participation in the ODI World Cup will be subject to government clearance.

"Our participation in the World Cup and us playing in Ahmedabad October 15 or in Mumbai if we qualify for semi-finals will all be dependent on government clearance," said a PCB official.

The PCB official said the government has not yet issued any NOC to the PCB to travel to India and since it was a sensitive issue, the Board can only move forward after getting clear directives from its government.

"We have already informed the ICC that our participation in



ROHIT & CO'S 'INDIA TOUR'

New Delhi: The Indian team led by Rohit Sharma will be the most travelled team among top contenders in the upcoming ODI World Cup, covering a distance of approximately 8400 km while criss-crossing nine cities for nine league games in 34 days. In case India reaches semifinal and then the final,

the distance covered would be close to 9700 km for 11 games in 42 days. While 8400 kms in 34 days might not seem a lot, considering that Indian players will finish their games around 11 pm and will have a flight to catch every third day, it indeed becomes very tiresome after gruelling 100 over games. India is the only team that will play league games in each of the nine cities. All other prominent teams play at least two games in one city.

THE DISTANCE IN ORDER

Once team land in Chennai for the Australia game, the aerial distance travelled will be in this order: Chennai to Delhi (1761 km), Delhi to Ahmedabad (775 km), Ahmedabad to Pune (516 km), Pune to Dharamsala (1936 km),

Dharamsala to Lucknow (748 km), Lucknow to Mumbai (1190 km), Mumbai to Kolkata (1652 km) and Kolkata to Bangalore (1544 km). The cumulative distance travelled is 8361 km.

Pakistan will travel around 6849 kms they will play two games each in Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Bangalore, while Ahmedabad will host their match against India.

Australia also travel (6907 km) way less compared to India with a week's stay in Lucknow between October 9-16.

England travel nearly as much as India with no back-to-back games in a single city. England travel around 8171 km.

the tournament or any issues over venues is linked to firstly the PCB getting clearance from the government to travel to India," the official said.

Pakistan have a signed participation agreement to compete and the world governing body "100% expects them to be there and has had no indications to the contrary".

"All members have to abide

by the rules and the laws of their country and we respect that. But we're confident Pakistan will be in India for the men's cricket World Cup," an ICC spokesperson told PTI.

Pakistan last played in India in 2016 in the T20 World Cup. The two teams play each other in the ICC events and Asia Cup due to the tense relations between the two countries.

The ICC not entertaining Pakistan's request to relocate two matches was on expected lines as it usually addresses concerns over venues on potential security threat and not on cricketing grounds.

With the elections for the post of PCB chairman now postponed at least until July 17, it remains to be seen how the Board reacts to the schedule announcement.

Rohit expects 'competitive' CWC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27: India skipper Rohit Sharma is expecting the upcoming ODI World Cup in the country to be a highly-competitive affair since "the game has become faster".

T20 cricket, the slam bang version of the game, has impacted all formats, including the traditional five-day games where the batters are not averse to going for their strokes from the word go.

India will aim for their third title and the second at home when they begin their campaign against five-time champions Australia in Chennai October 8. India play all their nine league matches at different venues including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Lucknow and Bangalore.

"This World Cup is going to be very competitive as the game has become faster and teams are playing more positively than ever before," Rohit was quoted as saying in an ICC release.

"All this augurs well for fans worldwide, promising them many thrilling moments. We look forward to preparing well and being at our best this October-November," he added.

INDIA vs PAKISTAN

India's much-anticipated clash with arch-rival Pakistan is

scheduled for October 15 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

The two Asian neighbours now play against each other only at the ICC and ACC events as bilateral cricket ties are frozen due to diplomatic tension. The most recent match between the two nations was during the T20 World Cup in Australia, last year: India and Pakistan have faced each other

seven times in ODI World Cup – in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The only time they didn't clash in a 50-over World Cup was in 2007 when both the teams crashed out of the tournament in the opening round itself.

FORMAT

The tournament retains the round-robin format of last time with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. There are six day matches in the tournament, which will start at 10:30am IST. All other matches, including the knockouts, will be day-night fixtures starting at 2pm IST.

The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals to be played in Mumbai November 15 and in Kolkata November 16. The semifinals and the final will have reserve days. If India qualify for the semifinals, they will play their last-four stage game in Mumbai.



BUMRAH BOWLING 7 OVERS-A-DAY AT NCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 27: When is Jasprit Bumrah returning to the Indian team? Neither the injured pacer nor the ones working on him have a definitive answer to that.

But the good news is that Bumrah has bowled seven overs in a day at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) nets, a development that will bring smile to the Indian fans looking forward to the 2023 World Cup with optimism. The schedule for the mega event was released in Mumbai Tuesday.

Bumrah had undergone surgery for a recurring back niggle in New Zealand in March and since then he has been on the recovery path. Bumrah has last played for India during the home T20Is against Australia in September, 2022.

So, will he be able to make a comeback during the T20I series against Ireland or in the

Asia Cup? "For an injury of this nature, it is not wise to set any timeline as constant monitoring is necessary. But it can be said that Bumrah is recovering well and he has bowled seven overs at NCA nets. It is a steady increase in his workload from the light workouts and bowling sessions of the initial period.

"He will play a few practice matches (at NCA) next month, and there will be a close assessment of his fitness then," a source tracking the development told PTI.

Ramji Srinivasan, former strength and conditioning coach of Team India, said extreme care should be taken while bringing back Bumrah.

"He should

not be hurried. Playing practice matches at the NCA is a good step as it will help tune his body to the demands of a match. But he should be made to play in some actual (domestic) matches before bringing him to top level cricket.

"The demands of international cricket are different and the body should be absolutely ready to take that amount of workload. Recovering from stress fracture is a delicate exercise and Bumrah should be allowed maximum recovery time," Ramji told this agency.



FORMER OPENER URGES MEN IN BLUE TO DO WHAT THE THEN TEAM DID FOR TENDULKAR

Win it for Kohli: Viru to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 27: Drawing inspiration from its last World Cup triumph, India is looking to win the upcoming tournament for Virat Kohli like the batch of 2011 won it for Sachin Tendulkar, feels former opener Virender Sehwag.

Since winning the 2011 World Cup which Kohli was a part of, India have won only one ICC event – the 2013 Champions Trophy – and their wait for lifting a trophy in another global event has now lasted more than a decade.



I feel that now India handles the pressure that is why they win whereas Pakistan have a burden that they haven't won against India. In the 1990s, they were good at dealing with pressure but after 2000, India soak it better. If any player says that they don't feel pressure, I don't think it's right. We used to say it too but at the end of the day, we know it's an India versus Pakistan game and emotions run high

VIRENDER SEHWAG

"We played that World Cup for Tendulkar. We won the World Cup, and it was a great exit for Sachin paaji," Sehwag said during an ICC event to announce the World Cup schedule.

"Virat Kohli is (now) in Sachin Tendulkar's shoes. The way he plays, he talks, he looks after the others and the way he plays cricket with his passion, he is the one now. Everybody is looking to win this World Cup for Virat Kohli," he added.

"Virat Kohli is the same now.

Everybody will look to win the World Cup for him. He always gives more than 100 per cent. I think Virat Kohli is also looking (forward) to this World Cup.

"(About) 100,000 people will watch you at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Virat knows how the pitches will behave. I am sure he will score a lot of runs and he will do his best to win the World Cup for India."

With the country hosting the World Cup later this year across 12 venues wherein India will feature in nine different venues alone

in the league stage, the expectations will be high for them to go all the way and end their drought.



SAFF C'ship: India split points with Kuwait Odisha FC rope in Lenny, Amey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 27: Sunil Chhetri worked his magic but India had to split points with Kuwait after an acrimonious 1-1 draw in their last group match in the SAFF Championship here Tuesday.

Chhetri had put India on the road to victory with an injury-time strike in the first half but an own goal by Anwar Ali in the added time of the second half spoiled the home side's march. This was also the first goal India conceded in nine matches.

The result meant that India and Kuwait ended up on seven points but the latter topped Group A on better goal average. India will play Lebanon in the semifinal while Kuwait will take on either Bangladesh or Maldives.

Both the teams pressed forward from the whistle, giving some entertaining moments. India organised their attacks through both the wings while Kuwait mainly relied on sorties



Indian players and Kuwait players in scuffle during the match at Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore, Tuesday

through the left flank during that passage.

The Blue Tigers nearly went ahead in the sixth minute but Chhetri failed to connect with a cross from Akash Mishra by a whisker. Kuwait too had their own chances when Shadab Al Khaldi's ripper of a shot from just outside the box went inches over the bar in the 20th minute.

But, slowly but surely, India snatched the control of the match

and they could have netted the first goal in the 35th minute but Anwar Ali's header off an Anirudh Thapa corner lacked the desired direction.

India's persistent tries bore fruit in the injury time. Thapa took a rather low flag kick from the right side and Chhetri effected a classy, tumbling volley to beat Kuwait goalkeeper Abdul Rahman, whose desperate dive went in vain.

It was Chhetri's fifth goal of this tournament from three matches and overall 24th goal in 26 SAFF championship matches.

Armed with a 1-0 lead, India went ahead in full steam in the second half but saw their head coach Igor Stimac being sent off with a red card, second time in this tournament.

Stimac engaged in an animated argument with match officials and was eventually flashed a red card in the 81st minute. The Croatian was earlier given marching orders in the match against Pakistan for interrupting their player from taking a throw-in.

But the harsh moments did not end there as India's Rahim Ali and Kuwait's Al Qallaf were sent off. The melee ensued after Qallaf pushed down India's Sahal Abdul Samad in the 84th minute and Rahim, in turn, pushed the Kuwait player to the ground. After that there was not enough time for either side to force a result.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Indian Super League franchise Odisha FC have signed Lenny Rodrigues on a one-year deal with an option to extend his stay by another year, the club said Tuesday.

The Bhubaneswar-based club also confirmed that they have signed Amey Ranawade on a season-long loan from Mumbai City FC. The young defender has made a name for himself in the Indian football circuit, impressing fans and critics alike with his adaptability and consistent defensive performances.



With an impressive track record and a wealth of experience, Rodrigues brings a winning mentality and valuable expertise to the team, the club said in a press release.

An accomplished midfielder, he has left his own mark on Indian football with his stellar performances. Before joining Odisha FC, Rodrigues has showcased his talent at various clubs across India.

Rodrigues began his professional career with Churchill Brothers, then joined Dempo

and subsequently played for Bengaluru FC and ATK Mohun Bagan. During his time at these clubs, he has achieved remarkable success while winning several titles.

He played a crucial role in FC Goa's triumph in the Super Cup. Rodrigues has also won the I-League twice, the ISL League Winners' Shield, the Federation Cup and the Durand Cup.

Ranawade, on the other hand, commenced his professional career with DSK Shivajians, where his immense potential helped him earn a move to Mohun Bagan, where he won the prestigious CFL Cup (Calcutta Football League) during the 2018-19 season.

Following his stint with Mohun Bagan, Ranawade went on to represent FC Goa and Bengaluru United, gaining valuable experience and further honing his skills. However, it was his spell with Mumbai City FC that genuinely catapulted him into the national football spotlight.