



SHRUTI MANTRA

Actor Shruti Haasan says one should never ignore the little dreams as they can become a reality

LEISURE P2



MAN KILLS FIVE

A heavily armed gunman opens fire on the streets of Philadelphia, killing five people and wounding two boys before surrendering

INTERNATIONAL P10



ALCARAZ SAIL THROUGH

Carlos Alcaraz advances to the second round of the Wimbledon after soaring past Jeremy Chardy

SPORTS P12



BLUE TIGERS SHINE: The Indian football team celebrate with the SAFF Football Championships trophy after winning the final against Kuwait at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore, Tuesday (More P12)

Rural unemployment rate at 2-yr high: CMIE

INDIA'S JOBLESSNESS RATE GOES PAST 8% IN JUNE

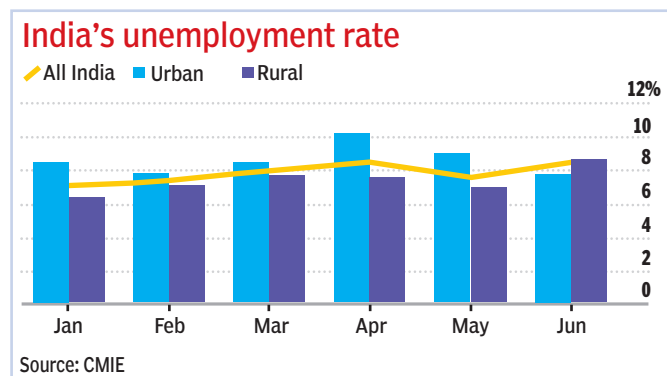
AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 4: India's unemployment rate jumped to 8.45 per cent in June from 7.68 per cent in the previous month. While unemployment rate in urban areas eased to 7.87 per cent last month, rural India saw a two-year high joblessness rate of 8.73 per cent, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

India's unemployment rate rose above 8 per cent for the third time this year on the back of seasonal joblessness in rural areas, the Bloomberg reported quoting CMIE's monthly data.

The nationwide joblessness rate was 7.68 per cent in May, 8.11 per cent in April and 7.8 per cent in March. The urban unemployment rate was 10.07 per cent in June 2021, while the rural joblessness rate was 8.75 per cent in the month.

According to the private think tank, India's labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell to 39.5 per cent in the last financial year (2022-23) that ended in March. This is the lowest LFPR reading since 2016-17. The LFPR for men stood at a seven-year low of 66 per cent, while that of women was at a mere 8.8 per cent.



Source: CMIE

The LFPR is the share of the working-age population (aged 15 years and above) that is employed or unemployed, willing and looking for employment, it was learnt.

The unemployment rate is the share of people who are unemployed despite looking for work. If the proportion of people looking for work is high, then the unemployment rate is a good way to assess the stress in the job market.

June is typically a lean season for the agricultural sector, a key source of livelihood for the country's rural population. Unemployment usually soars in India's villages in June as harvesting ends in May and sow-

ing for a new crop gathers pace only in July when monsoon progresses.

High joblessness is a worry for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has been trying to burnish the credentials of his administration by distributing job appointment letters as part of his promise to provide one million government jobs by the end of this year.

A persistent weakness in the labour market, particularly in rural areas where about two-thirds of the India's population lives, could make his reelection bid in 2024 polls more challenging and put hurdles in the way of India's world-beating economic growth.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Where is the time? 70% of my time goes into election campaigning & rest in toppling opposition-ruled govts

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VAR.
SENSEX	65479.05	↑ 274.00
NIFTY	19389.00	↑ 66.50
DOLLAR	82.08	↑ ₹0.07
EURO	89.46	↑ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹58,405	↑ ₹128
SILVER	₹69,684	↑ ₹372

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	36.1°C	35.6°C
TEMP. MIN	27.6°C	27.5°C
Humidity	63%	67%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	PARTLY CLOUDY	SKY

SIKHARCHANDI ROW

Trees felled sans DFO's nod: Panel

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The committee inquiring into alleged violation of norms in the water supply project atop Sikharchandi hills here, a part of Chandaka Wildlife Division, Tuesday informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that many trees were felled for the initiative without approval of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO).

The committee also told the environment watchdog that although three-acre land was required for the water project, IDCO has provided four-acre land to WATCO, which has chopped trees on a total 7.5 acre of land in violation of norms. The panel, however, suggested allowing the water project on three-acre land and another acre of land for afforestation, it was learnt.

The green body is scheduled to hear the case Wednesday. When asked, Chandaka ACF Sarat Mishra confirmed that trees were felled without the DFO's approval.

Sources said the green body had June 12 kept in abeyance

the ongoing water project atop Sikharchandi hills, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, citing it may damage the bio-diversity and other endangered plant species in the area.

The NGT also ordered constitution of a four-member joint committee for conducting an independent inquiry into the matter.

"It does prima facie appear that the project may be in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and may result in damage to the bio-diversity, particularly, rare and endangered medicinal and wild plant species and overall integrity of the hill. Thus, intervention of this tribunal may be necessary under Section 15 of the NGT Act to prevent further damage and to restore the

damage already done after independent verification of facts," the green tribunal stated in its order. The project has sparked resentment among locals and environmentalists who demanded protection of the patch of natural forest of the hill that has been acting as green lungs for north Bhubaneswar.

The committee, however, suggested allowing the water project on three-acre land and another acre of land for afforestation

ACF DEATH

HC RESPITE FOR BIDYABHARATI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The Orissa High Court Tuesday stayed the non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued by a lower court against Bidyabharati Panda in connection with the death of her husband—Paralakhemundi Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra.

The NBW was issued by the court of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) in Paralakhemundi.

The HC directed not to take any stringent action against Bidyabharati and posted the next hearing to July 27.

Sources said Bidyabharati had moved the HC challenging the issuance of NBW by the lower court.

Earlier, Bidyabharati was not found at her village in Mayurbhanj district when police had gone there to execute the NBW.

The SDJM court had June 30 issued NBW against Bidyabharati, former Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sangram Behera and cook Manmath Kumbha for their alleged indulgence in the ACF's death in July 2021.

The SDJM court issued the NBW against the three accused after they failed to depose in connection with the case despite repeated reminders.

Weak monsoon: State gets 31% deficit rain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The state has received 171.7 mm of rainfall, 31 per cent less than normal so far due to the prevalence of a weak monsoon which has affected agricultural activities across the state, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

The state received deficient rainfall between June 1 and July 4 as compared to the normal of 247.4 mm, it said. However, Deogarh district recorded 331.8 mm rainfall, the highest in the state during the period, which is 41 per cent more than the normal of 238.9 mm. Rayagada on the other received the least rainfall of 56.7

mm against the normal of 213.9 mm, marking a departure of 73 per cent during the same period.

Deficient rainfall of 68 per cent and 65 per cent were recorded in Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts respectively. The actual rainfall in the two districts till Monday was 85.6 mm and 78.2 mm respectively.

The coastal districts of Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Ganjam along with the southern districts of Gajapati, Koraput and Nabarangpur and Boudh, Subarnapur, Bolangir and Nuapada in the west are the worst hit. The rain deficit in these districts ranged 22 to 57 per cent, the weatherman said.

12 CRUSHED TO DEATH IN MAHA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 4: At least 12 people were killed and more than 20 injured after a container truck hit four vehicles and then rammed into a hotel on a highway in Maharashtra's Dhule district Tuesday, police said.

The accident took place at around 10.45am near Palasner village on Mumbai-Agra highway in Dhule, located more than 300km from the state capital, a police official said.

The brakes of the truck failed, following which its driver lost control over the wheels. It hit two motorcycles, a car and another container from the rear side.

The truck then rammed into a hotel near a bus stop on the highway and overturned, he said.

"At least 12 people were killed and more than 20 injured," the official said.

The truck was going towards Dhule from Madhya Pradesh.

SRK 'injured'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 4: Get well soon wishes for Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) flooded social media platforms on Tuesday after reports that the star was injured and underwent surgery in Los Angeles where he was shooting for a project.

Though there was no official confirmation from Khan's office, sources close to him were quoted as saying that he received a minor nose injury and now was back home in Mumbai.

According to ETimes, Shah Rukh began bleeding and was immediately rushed to hospital. His team was informed by the doctors that there was nothing to worry. There was no response from his team despite several attempts. There is no update on when the actor got injured or the project he was shooting for.

Worried fans took to social media to wish the 57-year-old actor a speedy recovery.

First 'flying car' that can ply on road as well

CALIFORNIA STARTUP ALEF AERONAUTICS EXPECTS TO SELL THE 100% ELECTRIC VEHICLE FOR \$300,000 EACH, WITH THE FIRST DELIVERY PROJECTED BY THE END OF 2025

AGENCIES

New York, July 4: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States (US) has issued a Special Airworthiness Certificate for testing a vehicle that California startup Alef Aeronautics describes as a flying car — the first 100 per cent electric vehicle that can both fly and ply on roads to receive US government approval.

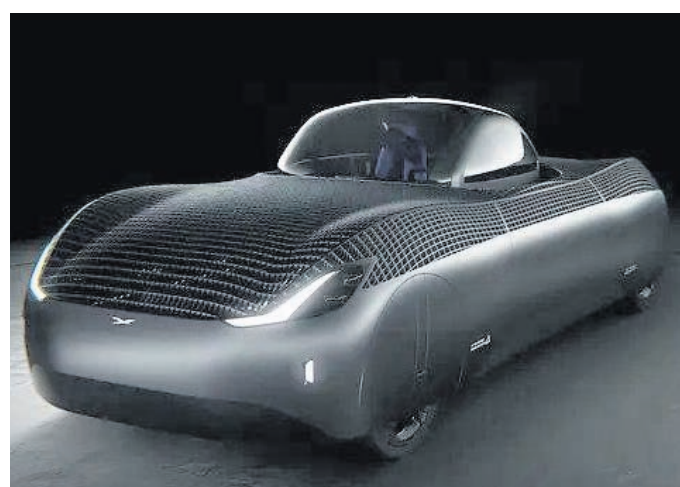
According to Alef Aeronautics, the vehicle/aircraft — Model A — is the first flying vehicle that is drivable on roads and able to park like a normal car. It also has vertical takeoff and landing capabilities. It apparently will be able to carry one or two occupants and will have a road-range of 200 miles and a flying range of 110 miles.

The company expects to sell the vehicle for \$300,000 each, with the first delivery projected by the end of 2025.

The FAA confirmed that it has issued the company a Special Airworthiness Certificate, allowing for limited purposes that include exhibition, research and development. Sources in know of the development said that multiple firms were working on all-electric vehicle takeoff and landing aircraft.

FAA said that Alef Aeronautics is "not the first aircraft of its kind" to get a Special Airworthiness Certificate. Alef Aeronautics, however, claimed that its vehicle is different because of its ability to function both on roads and in the air—to appear like a normal car and to park in a normal parking space.

JIM DUKHOVNY | ALEF AERONAUTICS CEO



cause of its ability to function both on roads and in the air—to appear like a normal car and to park in a normal parking space. "We are excited to receive this certification from the FAA. It

allows us to move closer to bringing people an environment-friendly and faster commute, saving individuals and companies hours each week. This is a one small step for planes, one giant step for cars," said Jim Dukhovny, the CEO of Alef Aeronautics.

The company's website said the flying car will be certified as a "low speed vehicle", which means it will not be able to go faster than about 25 miles per hour on a paved road. "The assumption is that, if a driver needs a faster route, a driver will use Alef's flight capabilities," the company posted on the site.

Regardless, it also still needs approval from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to go on roads. Development has been underway on the vehicle since 2015.

Four friends, Constantine Kisly, Pavel Markin, Oleg Petrov and Dukhovny, inspired by the "Back to the Future" movies (which foresaw flying cars being available in that year), decided to form a company to try to develop them.

According to the company, an initial automated test flight of a skeleton version of the car was successfully conducted in 2018, and a full-size prototype was flown the following year. But Alef said that it needed the FAA's special airworthiness certificate to continue conducting the necessary research and development.

The company also said that earlier this year that it had taken refundable pre-orders for more than 400 of the vehicles, with the cost of \$150 for to be in the general queue or \$1,500 for the priority queue.

leisure



TAYLOR SWIFT FINED \$3K FOR LITTERING

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has been fined because of rubbish which has been left outside of her New York City home. The 33-year-old singer has allegedly been ticketed a whopping 32 times for failing to keep the area in front of her building clean, with the fines totalling \$3,010, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

BLANCHETT FEELS HER CRAFT IS NOT CELEBRATED IN AUSTRALIA

Hollywood star Cate Blanchett feels the need to constantly justify her career in her native Australia. The actress said she hates strangers asking her what she does for a living when she's in *Down Under* because she doesn't think her craft is celebrated in the way it is in the UK and US.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Of late you have been very preoccupied with work and social life. It is about time you gave yourself a break to indulge in something for your own benefit. Your health could be a cause of concern. Ganesh advises you to put everything else on the back-burner if you are feeling stressed out.

TAURUS
This day you are likely to make wasteful expenditure. You will be more reckless, extravagant than you can afford to be. Your expenses are sure to outweigh your income. Be as tightfisted as you can. Not buying anything unnecessary or too costly can help control losses, points out Ganesh.

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

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

LEO
You may experience some tension trying to stay ahead of your busy schedule. You will need to maintain your mental and physical health. Important meetings will conclude successfully, but they may leave you fatigued at the end of the day. Find ways to unwind, says Ganesh.

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

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

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

SAGITTARIUS
Dark and gloomy, that's what how you feel today, foresees Ganesh. However, the cloud of worries is likely to burst during the latter half of the day. Good news from abroad or a phone call from a friend is likely to cheer you up.

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

AQUARIUS
You are good with words and with the art of eloquence you manage to get through any situation. Today, thanks to your communication skills, you will be able to crack important deals and make people follow your vision. You, however, need to respect opinions of others' as well, advises Ganesh.

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

Isha on inspiration for her Chamak role

Mumbai: Actress Isha Talwar says while she was creating her character in her head for her upcoming webseries *Chamak*, the first person that came to her mind was author and poetess Amrita Pritam.

In *Chamak*, Isha plays the role of a musician from a small town in Punjab. As a part of the research she even read a lot of the author's work. Isha says Amrita Pritam's simplicity helped her create an outer structure of her character in the web series.

Isha says, "My character is a musician from a small town in Punjab. While I was creating her in my head, the first person that came to my mind was author and poetess Amrita Pritam."

She added: "As I started reading up about her and her work, I could find so many similarities between both of them, as Amrita ji and my character are

believers of unconditional love and both have the ability to speak about it with a lot of simplicity. I was very careful that it did not turn out to be a caricature of her, since my character has a very different story."

Isha will be headlining her upcoming web series *Chamak*, which is set to premiere on SonyLiv in August. The story of the web series is based on the glitz and glamour of Punjab's music industry and shows an artist's journey and her complex relationship with fame.



AAMIR, HIRANI IN TALKS FOR A BIOPIC

Mumbai: Amir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani are one of the most loved and celebrated actor-director duo, having earlier collaborated on blockbuster films like *3 Idiots* and *PK*. Their last joint collaboration was unveiled in 2014, and ever since then fans have been eagerly waiting to see them work together again. According to a report, Hirani recently narrated a concept to Amir Khan, and here's what happened in the meeting.

"It's a known fact that both are extremely fond of each other, and have been wanting to collaborate again for a while. They have even discussed many concepts in the past, and it seems they have finally found a subject that both of them like equally. It's a biopic, and when Amir heard the idea he instantly got excited. Having said that, Raju sir is presently busy with *Dunki* and will start working on the final script and other pre-production formalities after the release of his film with Shah Rukh Khan. Even though the discussion at present is at a nascent stage, it seems promising," informs a source close to the development.



Mumbai: Actress Ameesha Patel is currently gearing up for her upcoming film *Gadar 2* starring opposite Sunny Deol.

The actress recently opened up about her upbringing and shared her views on parenting, stressing the significance of discipline and balance in raising children.

The *Kaho Naa... Pyar Hai* actress said, "I am very happy I was disciplined; I was very happy I was strictly brought up because I see the generation how spoiled they are. If they had spared the rod, I would have been spoiled. So, I am happy they didn't spare the rod and I think if I had children, I wouldn't spare the rod either."

Ameesha highlighted that enforcing discipline is not about personal enjoyment but for their long-term benefit.

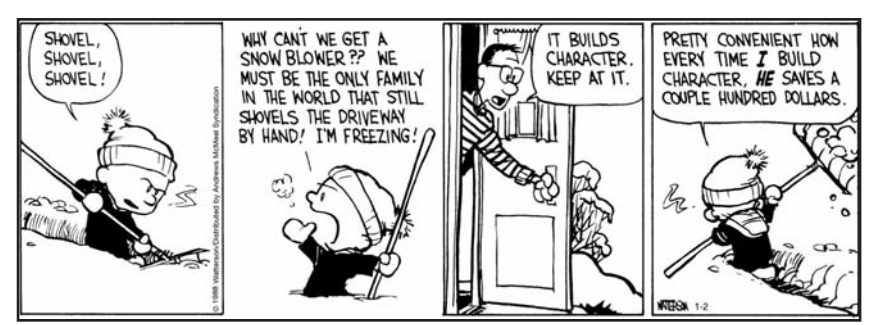
"I would go ahead and do what I had to discipline them because in the future that's what would help them. I am only doing it for their good. I am not doing it because I enjoy it doing it. I am doing it for discipline. Like even I would want to bring them up, it's okay to have an army like upbringing and at the same time be friends because a balance of both is very necessary."

Ameesha believes in the adage 'spare the rod, spoil the child'

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

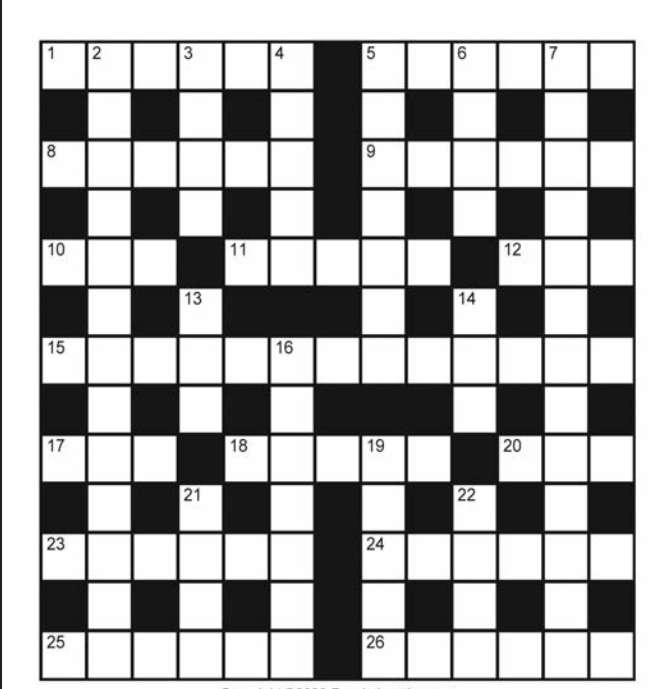


BREVITY



FUN post

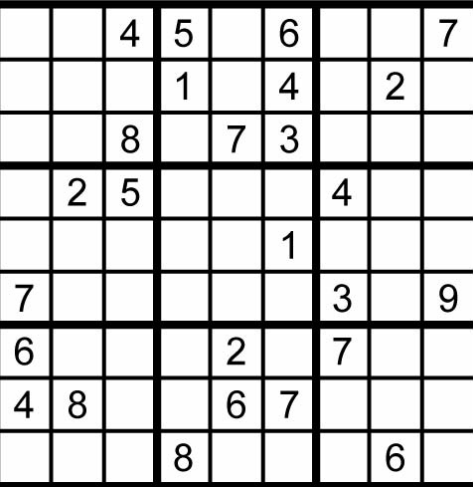
CROSSWORD



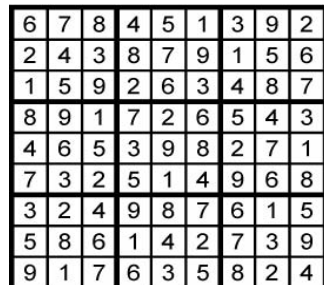
- Across**
- 1 Type of puzzle
 - 5 All thumbs
 - 8 Lissome
 - 9 Clippers
 - 10 Artful
 - 11 Flower holder
 - 12 German resort
 - 15 A place to get snookered? (8,5)
 - 17 Kind of trip
 - 18 Angler's supply
 - 20 Psyches
 - 23 Scraped knee, to a child (3-3)
 - 24 Emotional pang
 - 25 Kind of center (9,4)
 - 26 After Sherwood or Black
 - 5 Made a certain move, in chess
 - 6 Preowned
 - 7 Breakfast dish (9,4)
 - 13 Kind of shot
 - 14 Office machine
 - 16 Passionate
 - 19 Recurring theme
 - 21 Nile wader
 - 22 Yarn spinner
- Down**
- 2 High rate of turnover (9,4)
 - 3 Sheltered spot
 - 4 Ticket seller

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

₹1,950 crore irrigation boost to Subarnapur



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 4: In a bid to irrigate farmlands in Subarnapur district, the state government has decided to construct two in-stream storage structures with an investment of around ₹1,950 crore.

The in-stream storage structures will be constructed at Khairmal and Godhaneswar with an estimated cost of ₹925.59 crore and ₹1,021.81 crore respectively.

As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian Tuesday visited Rameswar Ghat where a detailed presentation was made on the proposed in-stream storage structures. He asked the department officials to expedite the process and ensure that the work starts soon. Pandian started his Subarnapur district visit by offering prayers at Patali Srikhetra at Kota Samalei of Birmaharajpur and interacted with temple com-

mittee members for further development of the shrine and pilgrim facilities. The district administration was directed to prepare a detailed project report for the development of the temple.

During his visit to Ulunda, he interacted with the locals and heard their grievances. He also instructed officials for timely redressal of the grievances.

Then, he proceeded to Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Project. The project at a cost of ₹270 crore with a potential of 10,221 ha will be completed by September 2023.

The 5T Secretary visited the mega pipe water supply project at Baunsuni and inspected the progress of the project. More than 60 gram panchayats (GPs) will be provided water supply at a cost of ₹417 crore. In the first phase, 25 panchayats of Dunguripali will get pipe water from December 2023.

Pandian then visited 'Samadhi Pitha' of Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi in Khaliapali, offered prayer

- Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Project will be completed by September 2023
- Patali Srikhetra at Kota Samalei of Birmaharajpur will be redeveloped
- All colleges in Subarnapur district to be transformed under 5T

at Sunya Mandir and interacted with saints and local people. It was discussed to prepare a master plan for development of the area with pilgrim facilities.

At Sonepur, the 5T Secretary interacted with Mission Shakti members, office bearers and staffers. He also interacted with the college students. He revealed about the approval of ₹13.25 crore by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik towards transformation of nine degree colleges and 22 higher secondary schools of Subarnapur district.

He also visited Subarnameru temple and interacted with servitors and devotees regarding the development of pilgrim facilities.

Pandian directed the district administration for timely completion of the weaving mall at Jhinki and implementation of the Chief Minister's special package for weavers.

During his visit to the new building of district headquarters hospital, he instructed the officials concerned to operationalise it soon. The project was taken up at a cost of ₹110 crore.

Eggs hurled at 5T Secy's carcade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 4: 5T Secretary VK Pandian, Tuesday, faced the ire of Aam Admi Party (AAP) workers when the latter allegedly threw eggs at the IAS officer's carcade during his visit to Subarnapur district.

The incident took place on Kota Samalei-Ulunda road when Pandian's carcade was on its way to Subarnapur town.

Pandian, a 2000-batch IAS officer, has been accused by the opposition parties of violating the All India Service Rules for bureaucrats and acting like a politician.

Meanwhile, the AAP state unit in a statement said that hurling eggs as a mode of protest was not its ideology.

"If someone from our party has hurled eggs, we will certainly initiate action in this regard," an AAP spokesperson said.

Both the BJP and Congress have moved the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, seeking action against the IAS officer.

The DoPT has written a letter to the Chief Secretary of Odisha asking the top official to take appropriate action against the officer amid an allegation of violating the norms of the All India Conduct Rules.

The DoPT's letter came after BJP state president Manmohan Samal and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi lodged a complaint against the officer.

Sarangi had also sought disciplinary action against the officer for violating All India Service rules by conducting public meetings.

BJP MLA's representative pees on tribal man, booked

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, July 4: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Tuesday directed the state police to book Pravesh Shukla, who had urinated on a tribal man, under National Security Act (NSA).

"A viral video of Sidhi district has come to my notice. I have instructed the administration to arrest the culprit and take strict action and also impose NSA," Chouhan added.

Following the Chief Minister's direction, Sidhi district police have arrested the person and booked him under Section 329/23, 294.504 IPC and the Atrocities Against Tribals Act.

In one of the most shameful

The shocking incident came to the fore after a video of the incident surfaced on social media Tuesday

incidents, a person urinated over a tribal man, who is said to be a labourer, in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district. The shocking incident came to the fore after a video of the incident surfaced on social media Tuesday.

In the viral video, a person, who is said to be from Beba tribal is seen sitting on a footpath, while the other man, identified as Pravesh Shukla, was seen urinating over him.

Madhya Pradesh Congress spokesperson Abbas Hafeez attacked the BJP and said that Pravesh Shukla is the representative of BJP MLA Kedarnath Shukla, who is a senior BJP leader and two-time MLA from Sidhi.

"I have nothing to do with Pravesh Shukla, he is not my representative. I don't know him," MLA Kedarnath Shukla told IANS. However, the posters and hoardings put up in Sidhi districts suggested that Pravesh Shukla was appointed as MLA's representative.

Pravesh Shukla can also be seen sitting with Kedarnath Shukla in various photographs of government programmes in Sidhi.



EVICITION DRIVE

An excavator deployed by Puri administration pulled down illegal shops near Acharya Harihar Square in the Pilgrim City, Tuesday

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **AASHA BHAROSA PARTY**. The office of the party is located at Bhagabanpur, Post: Goudarama, Police Station and Block: Kuliana, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha - 757030. The party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:

National President: SURENDRANATH HANSDAH, Village: Bhagabanpur, Post: Goudarama, Block: Kuliana, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha - 757030.

National Vice President: JAGENDRA HEMBRAM, Village: Khadisholajamuna, Post: Deulia, Block: Badasahi, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha - 757026.

National General Secretary: JYOTI PRAKASH, Tanki Sahi, Post: Bhanjpur, Block: Baripada, Dist: Mayurbhanj, Odisha - 757002.

National Treasurer: CHANDRA MOHAN MURMU, Village: Deulia, Post: Deulia, Block: Badasahi, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Odisha - 757026.

If anyone has any objection to the registration of AASHA BHAROSA PARTY, they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.




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- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION COMPLIANCE
- COMPLIANT WITH -
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State forms welfare fund for med college students



and music teacher. It can also be used to support various intra-college and intra-institute musical, sports and cultural activities/festivals undertaken by the students' bodies.

Sports, music and other equipment for extra-curricular students' activities will be purchased from the welfare fund. It will also facilitate minor repair and maintenance of the playground/gym/other equipment used for student activities.

Medical institutions can utilise the fund for celebration of important days bearing national and state importance by the students.

However, the institutions cannot use the fund for hiring of full-time manpower and purchase of vehicle on long-term basis.

Students' welfare fund amounting to ₹20 lakh per annum will be provided to each government medical college that has completed five years.

Similarly, welfare fund amounting to ₹15 lakh per annum will be provided to each the medical college which has not completed five years.

Moreover, fund amounting to ₹8 lakh per annum will be provided to each government PG institutes, SCB Dental College, Cuttack and Mental Health institute, SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack.

The fund can be utilised to support students' activities like physical training, sports and cultural activities, cost towards outsourcing of part-time physical instructor, yoga and music teacher

and the Principal, SCB Dental College, Cuttack.

The fund can be utilised to support students' activities like physical training, sports and cultural activities, cost towards outsourcing of part-time physical instructor, yoga

Bhubaneswar, July 4: The state government has formed Student Welfare Fund under which all medical colleges in the state will get financial support from ₹8 lakh to ₹20 lakh per annum, for student welfare and extracurricular activities.

Health and Family Welfare department has issued a notification in this regard, Tuesday.

The fund will be placed with the dean and principal of each government medical college, the director of Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC), Cuttack and Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar, the Superintendent of Sishu Bhawan, Cuttack, the Director-cum-Medical Superintendent, Mental Health Institute, Cuttack



VENTING IRE: Members of Bhim Army scuffle with police at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday as they protest against the attack on their chief, Chandra Shekhar Azad, in UP

BoR launches Court Case Monitoring System 2.0

THE CCMS 2.0 HAS ALSO BEEN INTEGRATED WITH BHULEKH TO HELP OFFICIALS EASILY FETCH RECORD OF RIGHTS FROM THE LAND RECORDS DATABASE. EVERYTHING HAS BEEN AUTOMATED AND MADE ONLINE, A BoR MEMBER SAID

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Cuttack, July 4: State Board of Revenue (BoR) launched the Court Case Monitoring System (CCMS), version 2.0, here Tuesday. Inaugurating the system, BoR member Raj Kumar Sharma directed the Board to work closely with the National Informatics Center (NIC) to move towards paperless functioning.

Sharma emphasised that paperless functioning would immensely help litigants approaching Revenue Courts for land records and other matters relating to 'record of rights.' He also directed the presiding officers of Revisional Courts to maintain transparency and always give priority to public service.

In the upgraded version 2.0, the entire process for filing of



Revision Cases till their disposal has been made online, marking a step towards making the process entirely paperless. "A Petitioner can file a Revision Case himself or herself online or through his or her advocate, pay the requisite court fee and other fees as prescribed online, as the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) has been incorporated into the software in collaboration with the Finance department and the Directorate of Treasury," informed a BoR member.

The CCMS 2.0 has also been integrated with Bhulekh to help officials easily fetch Record of Rights from the land records database. Once the petitioner files a case, a unique ID and password will be provided to him or her for future login and

to check the status of the case when required. Starting from generation of case number to the final order, everything has been automated and made online, added the member.

The Board of Revenue, currently with 39 Revision Courts, deals with disposal of cases relating to land issues. In the past year in the courts, a total of 91,409 cases have been heard and 14,285 cases have been disposed of, the highest record of the last five years.

Land Records and Settlement commissioner and chairperson of sub-committee on CCMS Suresh Kumar Vashisth, Board of Revenue secretary Bijay Ketan Upadhyaya and NIC senior technical director Pabitra Pattnaik were present at the inaugural event with other officers.

Anonymous letter threatens Balasore like train tragedy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad, July 4: The South Central Railway (SCR) has received an anonymous letter threatening Odisha-like train tragedy on Hyderabad-Delhi route.

The letter received last week by the SCR Divisional Manager threatened that an Odisha-like rail accident will take place on Hyderabad-Delhi route. The railway officials have informed Hyderabad police about the receipt of the letter.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Chandana Deepti said Monday that they received the information three days ago and the police are investigating to trace the person who sent the letter. Over 290 people were killed in the triple train accident in Balasore June 2.

According to the findings of a high-level inquiry, wrong signaling was the main reason behind the accident. The Commissioner of Railway Safety ruled out any likelihood of sabotage or conspiracy behind the accident, though the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing the accident from a possible criminal angle.

Meanwhile, SCR General Manager (GM) Arun Kumar Jain Monday conducted a safety review meeting with all the principal heads of departments.

Divisional Railway Manager's of all six Divisions (Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur and Nanded) joined the review meeting through video conference.



FOR A GREENER FUTURE: CMC Mayor Subhash Singh distributing saplings to people at his office premises during observance of 'Van Mahotsav' week in Cuttack, Tuesday

Locals offer vegetables as bribe to engineer

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Opting for an unusual way of protesting, under the leadership of Cuttack District Congress, locals of Khadeita Panchayat of Cuttack Tuesday offered here vegetables as bribe to Irrigation department Prachi division superintending engineer Pratap Chandra Choudhury.

Cuttack District Congress president Manas Choudhury reached the office of the superintending engineer along with some local farmers and residents to enquire about developments on problems relating to the state of canal road and the canal in Khadeita Panchayat of Cuttack Sadar block.

The local residents were aggrieved that the officer was asking for bribes for construction of the road, despite hundreds of their genuine requests. The people were frustrated as they have been facing problems communicating in the rainy season due



to delay in construction of the 400m stretch road.

After learning that the road would not be completed without bribes, they informed Manas Choudhury about the issue. Choudhury accompanied them to the Prachi division office situated here to confront the superintending engineer directly in this unique and innovative way. As most of them belong to below poverty line (BPL) families and don't have money for bribes, the farmers put a bag of vegetables on the table of the officer as bribe to complete the road.

The engineer assured them to complete the construction work within a week.

Early spring leading to bird population decline

With climate change resulting in earlier spring-like weather, the birds have been unable to keep pace, the researchers said in their study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)

Warming climate is making birds produce fewer offsprings by advancing spring-like weather, and hence the birds' breeding season, and the birds not being ready to reproduce, according to new research.

Suggesting that breeding productivity may decrease by about 12 per cent for the average songbird species, the research said that the mis-

match between an early spring onset and the birds' readiness to breed is likely to get worse as the world warms.

Birds produced fewer young if they started breeding too early or late into the season, the research led by scientists at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Michigan State University, US, found.

With climate change resulting in earlier spring-like weather, the birds have been unable to keep pace, the re-



searchers said in their study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

"By the end of the 21st century, spring is likely to arrive about 25 days earlier, with birds breeding only about 6.75 days earlier," said the study's first author, Casey Youngflesh, currently a postdoctoral fellow at Michigan State.

For birds, timing matters when

it comes to raising their offsprings. The harsh weather while breeding too early or late could harm their eggs or newborns.

What also matters is timing regarding food sources - looking for food before or after they're naturally available could mean the birds do not have the resources to keep their young alive.

In this study, the researchers calculated the timing of breeding and the number of young

produced for 41 migratory and resident bird species at 179 sites near forested areas throughout North America between 2001 and 2018, using data from a large-scale collaborative bird banding program.

Then, using satellite imaging, they determined when vegetation emerged around each site. The scientists found that, overall, for every four days earlier that leaves appeared on trees, hinting spring onset, species bred only about one day earlier.

They found that the majority of birds were adversely affected by variations in the start of spring, even as some non-migratory bird species - the northern cardinal, Bewick's wren and wrenit among them - were found countering the trend.

However, the scientists said they were exceptions to the rule, because most non-migratory species couldn't keep up with earlier spring onsets.

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Pucca houses a distant dream for 'Mankidias'

LOCALS ALLEGE SIPHONING OFF FUNDS BY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS AND CONSTRUCTION AGENCY



are collapsing. Locals added that the contractor and engineers have worked jointly to misuse the money for the project.

The matter came to the fore after social activist Mantu Das wrote a letter to the Chief Secretary requesting him to probe the matter. He added in the letter that the aim to provide pucca houses by the administration to the 'Mankidia' people stands defeated.

Sources said locals have no involvement in implementation of development works in mining areas. Development has taken a backseat in these areas and villages like Nagada, Tumuni and Guhial under Sukinda block still lack basic facilities. This becomes clear when one sees the deplorable conditions the 'Mankidia' tribals live in at Mallharsahi village.

The DMF fund has been specially created for the interest and benefits of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations. The fund is built with contributions from miners. Locals alleged that nexus between politicians, officers and contractors has affected proper utilisation of the fund.

When contacted, Jajpur Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore said that construction has started again and the previous agency entrusted with the work has been removed. He assured that charges of sub-standard work will be probed and action will be taken against persons involved in this irregularity.

Rights Act at Kusumdiha village under Ransol panchayat for construction of houses for 87 Mankidia families in February, 2019. The district mineral foundation (DMF) sanctioned more than ₹3.25 crore for the purpose. The deadline for completion of houses was fixed for February 2020, but halfway through 2023 not even half the construction is complete.

The then District Collector Ranjan Kumar Das visited the 'Mankidia' slum and announced the construction of houses. He had informed the tribe members that each house will have a separate bathroom and drinking water facilities. Power supply will also be provided to each house.

Sources alleged that the project is no way near completion due to misappropriation of funds. They said that the construction done so far is sub-standard and as a result the half-built houses



RISKY PROPOSITION: People board a boat by walking on wooden planks at Hamirpur ghat of Koel river in Rourkela to travel to the other side after a bamboo bridge over the river collapsed following a rise in water level due to incessant rainfall

OP PHOTO

BONTH FARMERS COMPLAIN OVER LACK OF DRAINAGE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bonth, July 4: A group of farmers met Monday the tehsildar to lodge a complaint regarding drainage facilities in a number of villagers under Bonth block of Bhadrak district. They said that due to lack of proper drainage facilities, more than hundred acres of farmlands are lying submerged under water for many days. It is preventing them from growing crops. The villages where the farmlands are



under water are Sahadapalli, Begana and Budagadhia.

Locals informed that a few years back a drainage facility existed at Sahadapalli Chowk along the side of the Niloka-Chhatabara PWD road. Excess water due to rains accumulating

in Olama, Bhandaragadhia, Sahadapalli, Begana and Budagadhia villages use to flow out through this drain into the Reba river.

Problems started three years back when a person constructed a house adjacent to the drain thereby blocking a portion of it. Now water cannot flow out through the drain like it used to do in the past. Farmers alleged that due to this problem, most of the times the farmlands are submerged under four feet

or more water preventing them from growing crops. Also due to lack of drainage, water is flooding some of the residences of the three villages.

Acting on the complaint lodged Monday, additional tehsildar of Bonth, Binitarini Kisku visited the spot Tuesday. Kisku talked to the agitating farmers and gave instructions to clear the portion of the drain which has been blocked. Kisku also asked the house owner to clear all materials blocking the drain.

Goons attack old lady, loot ₹80K, gold ornaments

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, July 4: Miscreants looted ₹80 thousand and gold ornaments after attacking an elderly woman with sharp weapons from her rented accommodation in Gopalpur village under Ward No 23 under Basudevpur municipal corporation late Monday night. Locals found the woman identified as Brundabati Sahu (65) lying in a pool of blood Tuesday morning. She was unconscious with injury marks on her face and body. She was taken to a local hospital here before being shifted to Cuttack as her condition deteriorated.

It should be here that originally Brundabati is a resident of Baghua village under Sudarshanpur panchayat in Bhadrak district. She was staying at Gopalpur village as her son Paramananda is a doctor there. She was scheduled to shift within a couple of days to the new house that her son is building.

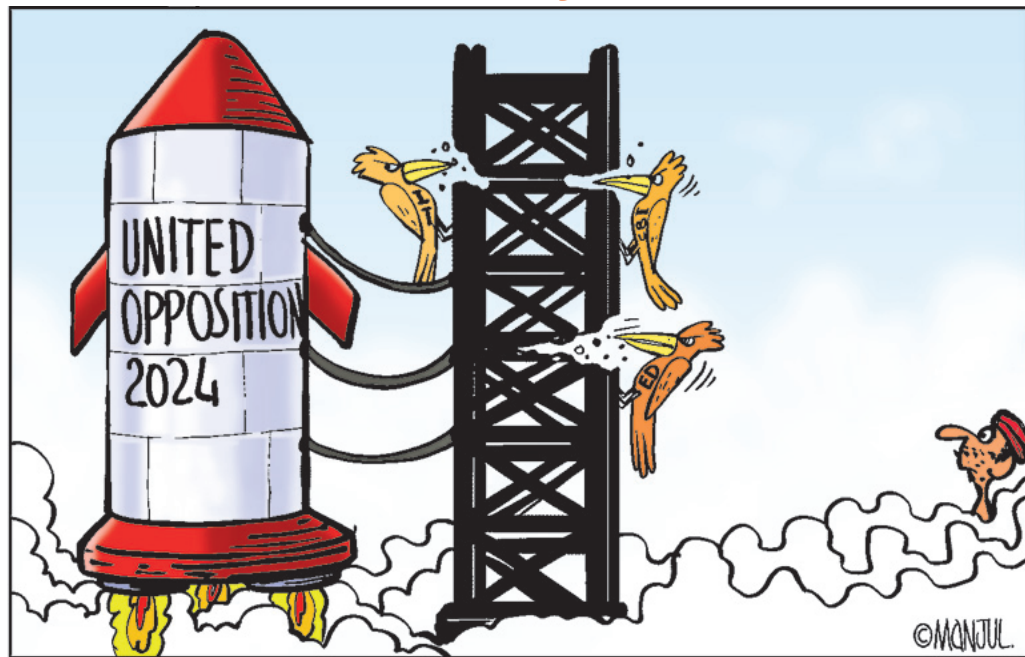
Sources said that the miscreants knew Brundabati was staying alone. So they decided to burgle the house and in the process assaulted her severely.

On being informed, Bhadrak SDPO Sourabh Otta and IIC Basudevpur, Sabitri Panda along with a forensic team reached the crime spot and kicked off an investigation.

Couple dies by suicide in Bhadrak

Tihidi: A couple was found dead Tuesday hanging from the ceiling at Baranakul village under Kanpada panchayat in Tihidi police limits in Bhadrak district. Even though police are investigating the case, they suspect that the couple died by suicide, officials said. The deceased were identified as Asha worker Minati Mallick (40) and her husband Upendra Mallick (45). Officials said Minati was working as an Asha worker at the Tihidi community health centre in Kanpada village. Minati and Upendra stayed alone at their house in Baranakul village as their sons are working outside the state. Locals grew suspicious after the door of the house, where the two resided in, did not open till 10.00am. Neighbours then informed the police who arrived at the spot. On entering the house police found the two hanging from the ceiling. Police sent the bodies for post-mortem and have registered a case of unnatural death. A probe has been launched but the police are yet to ascertain the cause behind the couple's suicide.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Cong promises help to displaced people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 4: Only the Congress can help and rehabilitate people who have been displaced due to various government projects, senior party leader Bijaya Pattanaik said here Tuesday. He added that the party will approach courts to help the displaced people.

Pattanaik made these observations during a meeting with the people who have been displaced due to the operations of the Jamkani coal mines under

Hemgiri block in Sundargarh district. He is on a two-day visit to the district along with other senior leaders of the party including Dr Rajan Ekka, MLA Rajgangpur and district secretary Janardan Dehury

"The state administration is in collusion with various corporate houses. It is the duty of the government to help out the displaced people with proper rehabilitation. However, the government is doing nothing," Pattanaik pointed out.

The senior Congress leader also

met the displaced people and discussed several issues like land acquisition, resettlement, employment and compensation. Those displaced informed him that they have been deprived of all facilities. Pattanaik also blamed middlemen for complicating the rehabilitation of the displaced. "These middlemen are threatening people who still have some land. It should stop immediately, or the party will protest," warned Pattanaik. All the other senior leaders of the party also expressed their solidarity with the displaced persons.

Mom in Mayurbhanj sells 8-month-old kid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 4: Police have arrested a woman Tuesday for allegedly selling off her eight-month-old daughter for ₹800 in Mahulia village under Khunta police limits in Mayurbhanj district, sources said. Along with the woman, identified as Karami Murmu, police have also arrested Phulamani Marandi, who bought the child. Two others also have been held for facilitating the deal.

Later in the day Karami and the three others were produced



in court which remanded them to judicial custody rejecting their bail pleas.

Police took action after Karami's husband Mushu lodged a complaint over his missing daughter. Mushu, who works in Tamil Nadu, was not at home when the deal was struck. He returned home recently and was surprised to see his daughter missing. When he questioned Karami on the issue, she appeared evasive. As a result, Mushu lodged an FIR.

Karami meanwhile said she had sold the child as the family does not have the means to raise her. It should also be stated here that Karami has another daughter as well.

Problems plague construction of OAV building in Sundargarh

Work which started 4 years back for the building is yet to be completed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kutra, July 4: Four years back the construction of a building for Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) was started at Budakata under this block of Sundargarh district. However, it is yet to be completed. Meanwhile the authorities have started operations of the OAV with 164 students.

However, the students are suffering and their studies are being hampered due to lack of classrooms. Last year two rooms of the nearby Kutra High School were used to host the OAV students. This year two more rooms have been added. However, even then problems continue to plague the students. They have to sit on the floor due to the lack of benches and desks. The absence of a proper school building is seriously hindering the activities of the OAV students.

The teachers, local residents and guardians of the students have lodged repeated complaints in this regard but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

The students have been provided with two buses to reach school with each vehicle having a capacity of 65. It means

the remaining 34 students have to reach the Kutra HS on their own. It is a difficult proposition for them.

Sources said that construction of the building was taken up after the district mineral foundation (DMF) sanctioned ₹3,53,52,000 in FY 2018-19. Later, the Rural Works division engaged a contractor and the construction of the building started.

However, controversy has engulfed the construction work. Locals alleged that the contractor is using sub-standard iron rods and cement in construction, which in future may hamper the safety of the students. The contractor meanwhile said that he has stopped work as his bills are not being cleared on a regular basis. However, Sanatan Tudu, an engineer of the Rural Works division refuted the allegation stating that all bills submitted by the contractor have been cleared.

Tudu in fact, misbehaved with this correspondent when asked to comment on the issue. SDO Mahendra Kalet also towed the same line and rejected the charges made by the contractor.

Farmers blame harsh summer for increase in vegetable prices

VEG PRODUCTS GO MISSING FROM MOST MARKETS IN SUNDARGARH DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 4: Vegetable prices have skyrocketed all over the state as well as the country. The increase in prices has been the highest in recent years. People of Sundargarh district are also feeling the pinch of the rising vegetable prices.

However, the reason for the high prices of vegetables is not man-made. In fact most people, both the buyers and sellers, at-

tribute it to nature. Septuagenarian Sardara Singh visits the Traffic Gate market area in this city on a regular basis. "Every day, I buy fresh vegetables, but for the last couple of days I have hardly noticed any seller or customer," Singh pointed out.

In fact, a visit to many of the markets around this town and other adjoining localities pointed to the disappearance of all varieties of vegetables. The daily market here and the weekly 'haats' at Jhirpani, Chhend, Kalinga Bihar and Panposh, all wore a deserted look due to the absence of vegetable sellers. Similar scenes were also reported from Sundargarh, Bonai, Rajgangpur, Biramitrapur and far-off places like Gurundia



and Talsara.

The areas mentioned above, particularly Rajgangpur, Biramitrapur, Gurundia, Bonai

and other adjoining areas, are known as the vegetable basket of this region. In fact, they cater to the coastal places every

season. However, the flow of vegetables from the farmers to the market has completely stopped. "Prices of vegetables have gone up because of lack of production. There are nothing in the fields," said Samir Sahu of Nuagaon, an affluent tribal farmer. "If you look around, you will find most of the fields barren. We have nothing to sell," he added.

Samir and others of his clan have the same story to offer. They informed that the harsh summer preceding the monsoon has affected the growth of vegetables. "Until it rains again properly, we will have nothing to offer," said Surama Ekka, who was trying to sell bitter and long gourds at Jhirpani. Another farmer said that the lack of water has led to poor vegetable pro-

duction. "Most of the rivers have dried up. We suffered due to the lack of water," he said.

The vegetable market at Traffic Gate is usually a bustling and bustling place filled with cacophony of noises. However, Tuesday only a few vegetable sellers were present at the market and the lack of customers was evident. "Most of the farmers have gone to their native places as they have nothing to sell," said Simachala Pradhan, a vendor, who was present at the market. "Tribal farmers come here everyday, but now they are conspicuous by their absence. The harsh summer is responsible for such a scenario. We could not grow anything this summer," Simachala added.

FOCUS MANIPUR CRISIS

HEALING TOUCH AMISS



It's critical that no community be dehumanised. Both Meiteis and Kukis are victims of ethnic violence. Both communities have their own concerns, and these must be addressed at the earliest

It has been two months since the ethnic violence between the Meiteis and Kukis broke out in Manipur. This dreadful conflict has already taken over 100 lives and over 40,000 people have been displaced. Still there are no signs of normalcy returning to the state. It's another story that the grave situation isn't getting the coverage it deserves in the national media. On June 24, there was an all-party meeting, although belated, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the situation in Manipur. Many leaders of Opposition parties expressed concern over Prime Minister Modi's silence and at the same time opined that if peace has to be restored, the Centre first has to remove Chief Minister Biren Singh. However, the BJP-led Centre is said to have remained non-committal during the meeting on removing him. It is no secret that Biren Singh has failed miserably to anticipate this violence, despite the fact there were signs of growing dissent. He no longer enjoys the support among the Kukis, who view him as an anti-Kuki politician. Even Kuki MLAs belonging to BJP are critical of him. On the other hand, a significant section of Meitei BJP MLAs too has problems with him. They dislike his style of functioning. Let's note that even before the State slipped into this unending violence, there were clear signs of dissent against Biren Singh. Recently even Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education RK Ranjan, who is MP of Inner Manipur Lok Sabha constituency, has admitted there's no law and order in the state. His statement came after his residence was torched by a mob and is significant as he is signalling towards the complete failure of his own BJP government. However, the BJP's national leadership till now has avoided taking any action against Biren Singh, whose authority has been severely diminished among the common people. The state is sharply polarised between Meiteis and Kukis, but the BJP doesn't want to be seen favouring the Kukis by replacing Biren. And it is this view of the BJP which to many seems to be complicating peace efforts. The party could replace him by appointing another Meitei leader, as there are several chief ministerial contenders within the party. They include power minister Thongam Bishwajit Singh, PWD minister Govindas Konthoujam and education minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh — all from the Meitei community. Importantly, the Kukis have expressed their unhappiness over the inclusion of Biren Singh in the 51-member peace committee headed by Governor Anusuiya Uikey. The committee was formed after Amit Shah's belated four-day visit to the state, wherein he engaged with all sections of people and even visited the remote town of Moreh, situated on the India-Myanmar border. His visit was promising but the results are yet to be seen as violence is being reported every other day. A dialogue between the communities is much needed. One of the first steps that must be taken by the Centre to

restore peace is by replacing Biren Singh with another Meitei MLA and appointing a deputy CM from the Kuki community. This way the Meiteis won't feel alienated. Further, the Centre could even consider having another deputy CM from the Naga community, given that the government has two ministers from the Naga community, belonging to its ally, Naga People's Front. This way both Kukis and Nagas (the latter are not involved in the violence), won't feel neglected. Remember, Manipur is ethnically diverse. The Meiteis account for over 50% of population, whereas Kukis and Nagas account for 30% and 15% respectively. While Kukis and Nagas are followers of Christianity, Meiteis have a religious diversity. Majority of them are followers of Hinduism while a section follow Sanamahism, a local religion. Another section of Meiteis practice Islam, and are called Meitei Pangals. There is also a small percentage of Christians among the Meitei community. Thus, keeping in mind this diversity, the Centre needs to install an ethnically diverse government with a new chief

minister. At the same time, the demand by some for Presidential rule may not be appropriate in the long run as the state can't be ruled from New Delhi to regain confidence of the people and address the trust deficit. A new chief minister could send a strong message that New Delhi is willing to listen and take a step forward, even though it would hurt the BJP's image. Additionally, Prime Minister Modi would do well to break his silence as sadly he hasn't spoken a word since violence broke out on May 3. And though Amit Shah says that Modi is regularly monitoring the situation, it doesn't help matters. The people of the state, particularly the Meiteis and Kukis, are eagerly waiting to hear his 'Manipur Ki Baat'. Remember, Modi has his own popularity among the masses, and his message of peace may have an effect. Not just this, perhaps a visit to the State could help calm down tempers, as his silence is deafening, rekindling the alienation felt amongst the north-eastern states. At the same time, politics must be put in the backburner. Attempts to stop Rahul Gandhi from visiting relief camps in Churachandpur, by stopping his convoy midway and asking him to take a helicopter, hasn't gone down well with Congress supporters. He did eventually get there in a state government-provided chopper and interacted with the people. Lastly, it's critical that no community be dehumanised. Both Meiteis and Kukis are victims of ethnic violence. Both communities have their own concerns, and these must be addressed at the earliest. The unending violence has also given rise to refugee crises in neighbouring states, particularly Mizoram, where over 10,000 people are said to have taken refuge. Time is running out for the Centre. Before the fire spreads to other states in the region, it must act, and act decisively to restore peace.

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Sagameel Sinha

ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN BY THE CENTRE TO RESTORE PEACE IS BY REPLACING BIREN SINGH WITH ANOTHER MEITEI MLA AND APPOINTING A DEPUTY CM FROM THE KUKI COMMUNITY

French Racism

He who chooses the infinite has been chosen by the infinite.

SRI AUROBINDO



Paris is burning and along with it several parts of France are engulfed in fire. The extent of violence, looting, attacks on public transports, infrastructure and public anger can be gauged from the fact that over 2,500 cases of arson have been reported from these places during the past few days. All these are due to the mindless killing of a 17-year-old youth, Nahel Merzouk, in broad daylight during a traffic stop by a hate-filled, racist, white police officer in suburban Paris. As is the wont of law enforcing agencies across the globe, the police initially lied and accused the youth of trying to run over an officer. But, social media nailed the lie immediately by circulating a cell phone video from a bystander that showed the horrific, cold-blooded killing by the police officer. By now, people across the globe have seen the horrific images of French police brandishing rifles and menacing the occupants of a yellow vehicle in the Parisian suburb of Nanterre before summarily executing the teenage driver with a bullet to the head as he pulled away. Contrary to false claims by the police, no officer was standing in front of the car or physically threatened by the youth driving away.

The cruel irony the current situation has brought to the fore is that France — which taught the world the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity — has long been infected with the virus of racism. The French teen, Nahel, whose life was taken away by the police, was of Algerian ancestry. France has had a long and sordid history of colonial racism and violence against non-white people, stretching from Haiti, Guadeloupe and Martinique in the Caribbean to Réunion Island in the Indian Ocean, North and West Africa as well as Vietnam, among many other populations. France has ruthlessly oppressed Algerians in particular — including those who are French citizens. French colonisation of Algeria dates back to the early 1800s and involved the widespread use of brutal violence and mass killings to establish French rule.

That the embers of racism in French society, even centuries later, are still glowing is evident during similar attacks by French police in recent years. This week's protests echoed the three weeks of rioting in 2005 that followed the deaths of 15-year-old Bouna Traoré and 17-year-old Zayed Benna, who were electrocuted while hiding from police in a power substation in Clichy-sous-Bois. Nahel's mother, identified as Mounia M, spoke the truth with brutal honesty when she said "He (the police officer) saw a little Arab-looking kid, he wanted to take his life. A police officer cannot take his gun and take our children's lives like that."

The preliminary investigation by Nanterre prosecutor Pascal Prache revealed the officer's use of his weapon was not "legally justified." The death has prompted demands for more accountability in France, which also saw racial justice protests. No wonder, France's iconic footballer, himself a "non-white," Kilyan Mbappe and his co-footballers of the French national team have condemned the killing and appealed to the people for calm and dialogue as they rightly believe violence cannot remedy the racism that the French society is afflicted with. The emergence of Far-Right groups in the political horizon of France has only exacerbated the tension and rift.

What is most unfortunate is that the police force, at least a section of it, which is supposed to remain calm and discharge its duties as prescribed by the country's constitution, could be so driven by racial hatred. France is officially known to be colour-blind, meaning there cannot be any official discrimination on the basis of the colours of the citizens' skin.

In the wake of massive protests, French President Emmanuel Macron called the killing of Nahel "inexplicable." The expression itself shows he is too diplomatic and in a denial mode about the existence of racism in his country. Studies have long demonstrated extensive racial bias in French policing targeting Arab and Black people in particular. In 2020, France's own human rights ombudsperson found that young men who are racialised as Arab or Black are 20 times more likely to be profiled and stopped by the police.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance has long warned of racial discrimination perpetrated by French police which cannot be allowed to continue with its jaundiced view of the populace while discharging public duties. It is time that France and the whole of 'white' Europe takes a firm stand against racism. No doubt this is easier said than done as the coloured migrants too are contributing their major bit in making the situation worse.

WISDOM CORNER

- The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large. **CONFUCIUS**
- No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man. **HERACLITUS**
- We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light. **PLATO**

WORDSWORTH

Liripipe

Nobody seems to know much about the origin of this word, except that it comes from medieval Latin liripipium, variously explained down the centuries as the tippet of a hood, a cord, a shoe-lace and the inner sole-leather of shoes. This suggests strongly that nobody has the slightest idea what it really meant. What we do know is that the English word (on occasion appearing as liripoop, for reasons that are entirely obscure) was used for a dangling extension to the point of a medieval hood. Hoods like these were at first worn by academics as part of their formal dress; indeed a few universities still use the word liripipe for their graduates' ceremonial sashes. Later on, liripipes became part of everyday wear on a hood called a chaperon, a word that is closely related to the modern French chapeau. Over time, liripipes became steadily longer, sometimes down to the ankles; this was hardly practical, so the liripipe was often wound around the head to keep it out of the way. As well as longer, it also grew more ornamental as time passed. The hoods went out of fashion in the fifteenth century and liripipe became a semi-fossil word, most commonly used today by historians of fashion and the occasional academic institution. By the seventeenth century, the chaperon had become an item of female costume exclusively. About a century later the word began to be used figuratively for a married or elderly woman protecting a young woman — a chaperone, as we now spell it. One author explained that "Chaperon ... when used metaphorically means that the experienced married woman shelters the youthful débutante as a hood shelters the face".

Lithophone

This name is applied to any musical instrument made of stone that produces a ringing sound when hit. There are a surprising number of them around the world in places as far apart as Togo, Iceland and Venezuela. The Chinese ch'ing is a set of 16 L-shaped tuned stone slabs, which are suspended in a large frame and struck on their long side with wooden mallets or padded sticks. The word is often applied to a specific example, the Vietnamese dan da, a set of resonant stones. A set in Ho Chi Minh City and another now in Paris can lay claim to be the oldest extant music instruments in the world, from 6,000 years ago. The stones were found in 1949 by Georges Condominas in a village in the central highlands of Vietnam. They were quarried from a place nearby where the rock is made of petrified wood and were chipped and shaped to tune them to a perfect pentatonic scale. They can still be played, by hitting them with wooden mallets, to make a sort of hugely antique stone marimba.

IN JEST THIS

Reasons to call off sick from work



Melvin Durai

IS IT OKAY TO CALL IN SICK WHEN YOU'RE JUST SICK OF WORK?

An American woman from Louisville, Kentucky, recently drove about 160 km to Cincinnati, Ohio, to take her 11-year-old daughter to a Taylor Swift concert.

The woman was standing in line at 2:45 am to buy Taylor Swift merchandise before the concert. She was wearing a disguise — a blanket over her head and sunglasses — partly because TV cameras were around and she didn't want her boss to recognise her.

She had called off sick from work that day. I don't blame her. What better reason to call off sick from work than attending a Taylor Swift concert?

Okay, perhaps you're not a big Taylor Swift fan. Surely there's some other concert or event, such as the World Cup, that you'd gladly call off sick to attend.

This raises an important question: is it ethical to call off sick from work to merely attend or watch something? That depends partly on how you define the

word "sick."

The dictionary lists at least 12 meanings, beginning with "affected with ill health, disease, or illness," but also including meanings such as "deeply affected with some unpleasant feeling, as of sorrow, disgust, or boredom" and "mentally, morally, or emotionally deranged, corrupt, or unsound."

If you are willing to skip work to attend a Taylor Swift concert, you are, by definition, "sick."

I'm not saying you're "deranged." I'm saying you're "deeply affected with some unpleasant feeling," such as the feeling that if you don't attend the concert, you'll be "deranged."

Another meaning of sick, according to the dictionary, is "disgusted; chagrined." I don't know about you, but when it comes to work, I am quite often chagrined. But if I called my boss and said, "I'm not coming into work today. I'm chagrined," my boss would be extremely chagrined.

It's much easier to use the word "sick." Many employers provide employees with sick days. They do not provide us with chagrined days.

How many sick days you get depends on your employer. Perhaps you're lucky enough to get several paid sick days per year. If so, you probably know that sick days do not always roll over from one year to another.

You've got to use them or you might lose them. This is not a problem for some employees, who are sick a few times a year. But other employees have the misfortune of being too healthy. They find themselves wondering how to use up their sick days. Is it okay to call in sick when you're just sick of work? What if you just have a mild ailment, such as an itchy back? Can you take the day off work to scratch it?

If you can justify it to yourself, the next step is to justify it to your boss. Here are some tips to ensure that you're still able to retain your job:

1. Prepare your boss for the sick day. The day before you call off sick, make sure you say something like this: "I'm not feeling 100 per cent today." This is the truth, of course. Even "100 per cent" doesn't always feel "100 per cent." Just ask any math teacher.
2. Show some regret. "I hate to do this, because I have so much work to do, but I just can't make it to work today. Whatever I had yesterday has gotten worse."
3. Be as vague as possible. After all, you have an undiagnosed condition. Just say you are "sick" or "not feeling well" — don't say that you've come down with an acute case of IBS (itchy back syndrome).
4. Mention that you're reluctant to spread anything. "I'm a little worried that whatever I have might go viral, like a Taylor Swift song."
5. If your boss asks if you can work remotely, tell them that you are indeed planning to remotely work. And try to sound remotely credible.

Lenders as predators

Sir, This refers to "Couple dies by suicide over 'loan burden'" (Orissa POST, July 3). Suicide by the couple for being unable to repay loan installments to three Private Financial Institutions (PFIs) is shocking and painful. These loan sharks have, of late, become predators, ruthlessly exploiting common people. How the PFIs provided loans to the couple without verifying their means and assessing the repaying capacity as per the prevailing banking norms is a moot question. The banks have a loan policy, approved by the respective bank boards and the branches and offices are guided accordingly. The private lenders are responsible for the heinous crime of abetting suicide of the couple. The recovery agents of the PFIs act more like goons, often threatening borrowers with dire consequences. Unable to bear the trauma and societal stigma attached to loan repayment, many gullible borrowers prefer to end their precious lives. It is high time the RBI came out with a lasting solution to this problem. **Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR**

Ajit's opportunism

Sir, This refers to "Rival NCP groups go on sacking spree in Maha" (Orissa POST, July 4). Once again, Sharad Pawar — who has a legendary knack for making and breaking alliances — finds himself on the receiving end of a revolt. Taking a leaf from the 82-year-old Maratha strongman's playbook, his nephew Ajit Pawar engineered a split in the NCP to become the deputy CM in the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government. Ajit's opportunism has rattled not only the Pawar-headed NCP but also the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance comprising the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction, the NCP and the Congress. The developments in Maharashtra have serious implications for the national Opposition, which is trying to regroup in view of the 2024 general elections. The BJP has emerged stronger in Maharashtra, which sends 48 MPs (the second highest after Uttar Pradesh) to the Lok Sabha. Even as a legal battle over the NCP split seems inevitable, the Opposition parties need to introspect about how the BJP repeatedly manages to exploit their weaknesses. The focus must be on the bigger battle — the parliamentary elections. Much will depend on how the wily Pawar tackles the current challenge in the twilight of his rollercoaster political career. **N Sadhasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON**

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

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Opposition unity needs rational narrative: Kishor

Kishor, who has given up political consultancy, recently revived his "Jan Suraj" campaign in Bihar after a gap of more than a month during which he nursed a ligament injury



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, July 4: Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor Tuesday said the opposition unity drive would reap electoral benefits only if it came up with a "narrative" and did not rely solely on "arithmetic". Talking to reporters in Bihar's Samastipur district, he refused to attach much political importance to the split in NCP in Maharashtra and the CBI chargesheet against Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav. "A combined opposition can work only if it succeeds in creating a narrative against the regime. The Janata Party experiment came on the back of the Emergency and Jayaprakash

Narayan's mass movement. During VP Singh's rule, the Bofors scandal had caught public imagination," said the IPAC founder. Kishor said, "Mere political arithmetic, devoid of a rational narrative, is unlikely to strike a chord with people." Kishor, who has given up political consultancy, recently revived his "Jan Suraj" campaign in Bihar after a gap of more than a month during which he nursed a ligament injury. Asked about the development in Maharashtra, Kishor said, "It is for the people of that state to decide whether what has happened is appropriate or not. But normally a party does not lose its support base just because of some MLAs jumping ship. I don't see any serious impact on NCP"

He also scoffed at reports in a section of the media speculating that the Bihar CM had grown wary of a fate, similar to that of the NCP, being met by his JD(U). "Politicians are far too hard-nosed to be swept away by the cycle of breaking news. Maharashtra's development will have no impact outside that state, just like the upheaval in Bihar last year did not affect politics elsewhere". He, however, added, "I repeat that the Mahagathbandhan will not retain its current composition by the time the state faces its next assembly polls. Former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's exit points in that direction. But any major shift is unlikely before Lok Sabha elections." On the fresh CBI chargesheet against Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav, he said, "People do not resent any politician facing legal action for alleged wrongdoing. But it is becoming a matter of concern to them that only those in the opposition are caught and those who make peace with the ruling dispensation are let off". He, however, added, "It is wrong to believe that crackdown by an investigating agency will help a leader reap political dividends by playing the victim card. Such attempts do not find traction with people".

Sriharikota to witness a unique launch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 4: Just a few hours ahead of India's much-awaited Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 takes off next week, the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota will witness a unique launch. Not the launch of a rocket but of a book. It may sound strange but the book named 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow', a collection of science articles, will be released at the SDSC-SHAR from where the LVM-III would lift off carrying Chandrayaan-3 to the Moon on July 13. Authored by national award-winning filmmaker-writer Vinod Mankara, 'Prism' is likely the first book to be released from a rocket launchpad anywhere in the world. Mankara is the maker of 'Yanam', a science-Sanskrit documentary on India's historic Mars Orbiter Mission 'Mangalyaan'. A collection of 50 essays in Malayalam, the book comprises articles from various streams of science including space science, astronomy, biology, anthropology, mathematics and so on. ISRO Chairman S Somanath will launch the book by handing it over to Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) Director S Unnikrishnan Nair on July 12 night, it's author Mankara said. Somanath himself penned the foreword of the 167-page book in which he said it was full of the "marvels of science". There are 50 articles in the book and they cover significant topics in science in-depth, Somanath said.



'Prism' is an exploration into the aesthetic and poetic aspects of science, he added. "Besides space and space technology, several other such topics are also presented in a poetic way in the book. What attracted me the most is the aesthetics of its presentation and beauty of its language," the ISRO Chairman said. Stating that space has always been an area of interest and inspiration for people, he said rockets, astronomy, space expeditions and so on have always attracted society. "This book is also such an inspirational work. It skillfully blends science and poetry in its presentation. I feel that if it is released from a rocket launchpad, the book will get the push and attention that it deserves," he said. Somanath said the book would help common people develop a

AUTHORED BY NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER-WRITER VINOD MANKARA, 'PRISM' IS LIKELY THE FIRST BOOK TO BE RELEASED FROM A ROCKET LAUNCHPAD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

MANKARA IS THE MAKER OF 'YANAM', A SCIENCE-SANSKRIT DOCUMENTARY ON INDIA'S HISTORIC MARS ORBITER MISSION 'MANGALYAAN'

Somanath said it has simplified hard-core science principles in a way that is understandable to the common man. The ISRO Chairman also said such works are essential to cultivate an interest and awareness among the public about the science sector. He said Mankara has developed a close connection with the rocket launchpad after his recent film 'Yanam'. Expressing happiness over the unique launch of his ninth book, Vinod Mankara said he is indebted to ISRO and its chairman Somanath for this opportunity. "I have so far published eight books and hundreds of articles in dailies and periodicals on various topics. But, I am extremely happy that my ninth book is purely on science and its release is being done at the launch pad of the historic Chandrayaan-3 rocket," he said.

Qatar Airways fined



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, July 4: A consumer court here imposed a fine of Rs 7.5 lakh on Qatar Airways in a 5-year old complaint filed by a judge of Kerala High Court, Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas against the airline for offloading him and his friends from the aircraft despite having valid tickets. The consumer court directed an amount of Rs 7 lakh to the complainant as compensation for the mental agony, hardship and physical stress afforded by the complainant due to deficiency of service and unfair trade practice by the opposite parties besides Rs 50,000 towards the cost of proceeding. The 54-year-old judge, Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas is the son of former Supreme Court Judge K.T. Thomas and his case was filed before the Consumer Commission here in 2018, two years before he was sworn in as a judge. His case was against Qatar Airways when he along

with his friends booked tickets many months before their actual date of travel. But when they reached Qatar, from here, enroute to Scotland, they were offloaded as the flight to Edinburgh was overbooked. They were given hotel accommodation and gave the group a voucher for US\$ 250 and put them on a flight the next day to Edinburgh. After returning home, Thomas sent a legal notice to Qatar Airways claiming compensation but he did not receive any reply and later approached the Ernakulam district commission seeking compensation of Rs 10 lakhs. Finally the Consumer Court allowed Justice Thomas application on December 30, 2022. The Consumer Court ruled that denying permission to passengers holding valid boarding passes from boarding the aircraft amounts to unfair trade practice and deficiency in service. The court imposed a total fine of Rs 7.5 lakh on the airline to be paid within 30 days.

HEAVY RAIN BATTERS KERALA

The district administration urged people to avoid travelling unnecessarily through high range roads due to threat of landslides

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 4: Heavy rains lashed several parts of Kerala Tuesday prompting authorities to declare holiday to educational institutions and set up control rooms in districts. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has already sounded "red alert" in Idukki and Kannur districts for today. It also issued "orange alerts" for 10 of the remaining 12 districts in the state on the day. As heavy downpour is expected in southern Alappuzha, the district administration declared holiday to all educational institutions including schools, and professional colleges, an official statement said. As a precautionary measure, holiday was declared to all educational institutions, except colleges in northernmost Kasaragod district also. The district administration urged people to avoid travelling unnecessarily through high range roads due to threat of landslides. Two-wheeler riders are advised to avoid national highways as waterlogging has been reported in many places due to continuous rainfall. Directions have been issued to address and resolve the issue at the earliest, a senior district official said. The official Facebook page of Ernakulam District Collector said that in view of "intense rains" in the district holiday was declared to all educational institutions. Considering the 'o-

range alert' sounded in the district on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Mining and Geology Department ordered halting all kinds of mining and related operations in Ernakulam. In Pathanamthitta, special control rooms, which would function round-the clock, are operational at the district collectorate and taluk offices to meet any exigency as rains intensified. All taluks in nearby Kottayam district also witnessed heavy downpour throughout the night. The sky is overcast and rain continued to batter many places, authorities said. According to weatherman, cyclonic circulation lies over Southwest Bay of Bengal in



lower and middle tropospheric levels. "Light or moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to heavy very likely to continue over the region during next 5 days." Isolated extremely heavy rainfall is likely over Kerala on Tuesday and Wednesday, a report said. As heavy rains lashed the southern state on Monday leading to the death of a girl, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan advised people to be vigilant and avoid getting close to rivers, travel to hilly areas and trips to the beach. A red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rains of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while orange alert means very heavy rains from 6 cm to 20 cm of rain.

Bihar CS defends no domicile policy for teachers' jobs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, July 4: Bihar Chief Secretary Amir Subhani has described the state government's decision to rescind the domicile policy for recruitment of teachers in schools as a step in consonance with the Constitution and in line with the Supreme Court's observations. The chief secretary's statement comes amid the protests against the Nitish Kumar government's controversial decision to allow those from other states to compete for teaching jobs. "The government's decision to withdraw the domicile requirement for fresh recruitment of school teachers through the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) is constitutionally right and legally justified. Article 16 (2) of the Constitution clearly says that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or; any employment or office under the state," Subhani said. Therefore, the decision of the state cabinet to rescind the domicile policy for teachers' jobs has been taken according to the provisions of the Constitution, he said on Monday. "Earlier, teachers were recruited in the state without domicile policy. Previously, 1.68 lakh teachers had been recruited in the state as per provisions of the 2012 recruitment rules. There was an opportunity for aspirants from other states to apply for such

jobs. "Out of the 1.68 lakh posts of teachers, only 3,400 candidates from outside the state were selected. In any case, 50 per cent of seats are kept reserved for different categories of aspirants and that benefit can only be availed by those who are natives of Bihar," the chief secretary said. Explaining the reasons behind the move of the government, the chief secretary said, "Earlier, when the state government had announced that only those aspirants, who are native of Bihar, can apply for teachers' jobs, several writs were filed in courts raising the issue of violation of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution." Asked about a section of teachers who are supporting job aspirants' protests against the state government's decision, the CS said, "Any sort of indiscipline will not be tolerated".

Asked about a section of teachers who are supporting job aspirants' protests against the state government's decision, the CS said, "Any sort of indiscipline will not be tolerated". The state education department Additional Chief Secretary KK Pathak said, "Those states, which made the provision of domicile in recruitments, either withdrew it after the intervention of courts or will do it". Notably, the Nitish Kumar cabinet had, on June 27, announced that a "no domicile" policy would be adopted for recruitment of teachers, drawing flak from the opposition BJP as well as the CPI(M). Liberation which supports the 'Mahagathbandhan' government from the outside.

Roadmap to reduce pollution from rolling mills soon

Of the 42 rolling mills in the state, 28 are operational, and the emissions from the industry "continue to rise", despite efforts being made to decrease the level of pollution, BSPCB chairman Devendra Kumar Shukla said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, July 4: Bihar State Pollution Control Board has decided to chalk out a roadmap to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from rolling mills in the state, a top official said Tuesday. Of the 42 rolling mills in the state, 28 are operational, and the emissions from the industry "continue to rise", despite efforts being made to decrease the level of pollution, BSPCB chairman Devendra Kumar Shukla said.

"The board is conducting a study to determine the origins of pollutants, especially greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. "The board initiated a plan for brick kilns to adopt cleaner technology, which is less carbon-emitting. Now, we are finalising a roadmap for rolling mills in the state. They will also be asked to adopt cleaner technology that is less carbon-emitting," Shukla, said. The BSPCB has already collaborated with IIT-Kanpur to in-



stall low-cost sensors in all 534 blocks in the state to identify the source of pollutants, he said. "As many as 13 of the 28 functional mills are integrated but the

greenhouse gas emissions from the industry continue to rise despite efforts being made to decrease this as the steel industry is one of the major emitters of

carbon dioxide. "The industry's emissions are predicted to increase naturally due to infrastructure growth. The emissions from rolling mills are quite high," he said, adding that some of them have updated technologies but a few are still running by burning coal on site. Apart from being a construction sector industry, this generates employment for locals, he said. "The central government recently notified the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme 2023, which has paved the way for the formation of the country's first domestic carbon market. This scheme can prove to be a game changer for industries in contributing to the target of achieving carbon neutrality in the country by 2070," he added.



People wade through waterlogged service road of the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway after monsoon rain in Gurugram, Haryana



A child enjoying rain at a field in Jalandhar, Punjab



Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla cut a commemorative cake during their visit to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, to celebrate 75 years of the NHS at NHS Lothian, as part of the first Holyrood Week since his coronation, Scotland



President Droupadi Murmu with Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy during 125th birth anniversary celebrations of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, in Hyderabad, Telangana



Delhi Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena with NGT Chairman Adarsh Kumar Goel during the inspection of the navigable channel in the River Yamuna, near ITO in New Delhi



Lord Shiva devotees or 'Kanwaris' carry holy water during 'Kanwar Yatra' in the month of 'Shravan', in Haridwar, Uttarakhand



United Kingdom Minister for International Trade Nigel Huddleston takes a ride on electric bike to promote green and shared micro-mobility, at Eco Park in Kolkata, West Bengal

national

of the day quote

The BJP leaders spread corruption. They have only created problems before the public

SHIVPAL YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY LEADER

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is necessary to bring uniformity and harmony in the country

MANOHAAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

It has been decided to bring a Bill in the upcoming assembly session to make life imprisonment the maximum punishment under the law against paper leaks

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Pak woman held in Greater Noida

Noida: The Pakistani woman who has been arrested for illegally entering India and staying in Greater Noida without valid documents was Tuesday sent to 14-day judicial custody by a local court, which also ordered that her four children will stay with the mother in the jail, police said. The woman's Indian partner, who lives in Greater Noida and sheltered her, and his father, who knew of the whole episode, have also been remanded in custody, they said.

Six dead as auto collides with car

Agra: Six people lost their lives when an auto-rickshaw collided with a speeding car here, police said Tuesday. The incident took place around 10.30 pm Monday in the Kheragarh police station area, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Sonam Kumar said two people died on the spot after the crash and four more succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital here.

6 killed, 3 injured in J'khand mishap

Hazaribag: Six persons were killed and three injured when the SUV in which they were travelling fell into a well in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district Tuesday afternoon, an official said. The accident took place near Romi village under Padma police station in Hazaribag district when the SUV lost control fell into the roadside well, Hazaribag SP Manoj Ratan Chouthe told PTI.

DERC chief's oath taking deferred

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will examine the constitutional validity of a provision of the Centre's recent ordinance governing appointments such as that of the DERC chairperson even as the Delhi government informed the court the oath taking of Justice (ret'd) Umesh Kumar as chief of the national capital's electricity regulatory authority stands deferred.

ED arrests IREO MD Lalit Goyal

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday arrested realty firm IREO's owner and managing director Lalit Goyal in a money laundering case linked to alleged bribery of a now-suspended special judge based in Panchkula, sources said. The businessman was taken into custody by the federal probe agency under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from Gurugram, they said.



A uniform civil code will directly affect a very large segment of the population. Therefore, its consequences, good or bad would be far greater than the implementation of the other two core agenda of BJP

PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST-TURNED-ACTIVIST

RUCKUS IN KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY

Karnataka Assembly Tuesday witnessed uproarious scenes due to protests by the BJP against the ruling Congress leading to four adjournments by Speaker U T Khader. As planned, the opposition BJP staged protests inside and outside the Assembly alleging injustice and cheating by the ruling Congress in the name of five guarantees



SCO vows to check spread of terrorism

With Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russia's Vladimir Putin listening, Modi, who hosted the SCO meeting of the council of heads of the member states virtually, said that "decisive action" is required to deal with terrorism and terror financing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: The top leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tuesday resolved to check spread of terrorism and disrupt terror financing while coming down hard on states using terrorist and extremist groups to advance their political and geopolitical goals.

A declaration issued at the conclusion of the virtual SCO Summit hosted by India said the member states will eliminate "sleeper cells" and terrorist safe havens, and counter the radicalisation of youth and dissemination of terrorist ideology.

The SCO states, subject to their national laws, also agreed to develop common principles and approaches to form a unified list of terrorist, separatist and extremist organisations whose activities are prohibited on the territories of the member nations of the grouping, it added.

The declaration said the SCO leaders reaffirmed their commitment to peaceful settlement of disagreements and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultations.

The leaders also came out with a separate statement on countering radicalisation that reiterated that any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable.

It said the leaders emphasised the "inadmissibility of states using terrorist, separatist and extremist groups and their accomplices to implement particular political and geopolitical goals."

In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the grouping must not hesitate to criticise countries supporting cross-border terrorism as



The virtual summit under India's presidency was attended by leaders from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran as well

The Prime Minister welcomed Iran as the new member of the SCO and also the signing of the Memorandum of Obligation for SCO membership of Belarus

an instrument of state policy and there must not be any "double standards" in combating terrorist activities.

The summit, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was joined by Chinese President Xi Jinping, his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and other leaders of the grouping.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said India has been strongly highlighting the threat of terrorism including cross-border terrorism.

The New Delhi Declaration

said the member states are determined to continue taking active measures to "eliminate the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, to disrupt the terror financing channels, to suppress recruitment activities and cross-border movement of terrorists." It said the member states note the "inadmissibility of interference in the internal affairs of states under the pretext of countering terrorism and extremism, as well as unacceptability of using terrorist, extremist and radical groups for mercenary goals."

"The member states consider

it important to build up joint coordinated efforts by the international community to counter the attempts to involve young people in the activities of terrorist, separatist and extremist groups," the declaration said.

The statement on radicalisation said the leaders vowed to enhance cooperation in dealing with radicalisation as the spread of radical ideologies by terrorist groups and their sponsors, including on the Internet, have a negative impact on the minds of young people.

It said the member states, while strongly condemning terrorism in all its forms "committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose", stressed that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, civilisation, nationality or ethnic group.

"The member states will further develop cooperation in countering radicalisation that leads to terrorism, separatism and extremism, including by sharing experiences and best practices, in accordance with the SCO Charter," it said.

The statement said the member states intend to make joint efforts to block and remove radical and terrorist content from the Internet and initiated necessary measures against identified individuals and entities in accordance with the domestic laws.

According to the New Delhi Declaration, the member states have expressed their concern about the growing threats posed by increased production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and using the proceeds of illicit drug-trafficking as a source of funding for terrorism.

Separate meetings by NCP factions today



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar during the inauguration of new NCP office in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 4: The NCP led by Sharad Pawar and the Ajit Pawar camp has convened separate meetings in Mumbai Wednesday where a clear picture may emerge on the exact number of MLAs backing each group amid the contrasting claims.

After taking oath as deputy chief minister in the Shiv Sena-BJP cabinet, Ajit Pawar Sunday said it was a collective decision of NCP and he has the support of all (53) MLAs.

However, the Sharad Pawar group countered this claim saying Ajit Pawar enjoys the support of only 13 MLAs.

Sharad Pawar has convened the meeting of MLAs, MPs, and office-bearers at 1 pm at Y B Chavan Centre in south Mumbai. The Ajit Pawar group will meet on the premises of the Mumbai Education Trust (MET) in suburban Bandra at 11 am.

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has 53 MLAs in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly.

Ajit Pawar will need the support of at least 36 MLAs to not

attract the provisions of the anti-defection law.

The Ajit Pawar camp Sunday claimed 36 MLAs had signed the letter of support. The BJP, which is part of the coalition government, has pegged the number of legislators backing Ajit Pawar at more than 40.

The Sharad Pawar camp has claimed that except for the nine MLAs, including Ajit, who joined the government, other MLAs are loyal to the senior Pawar.

MLAs Saroj Ahire, Prajakt Tanpure, and Sunil Bhusara who were said to be siding with Ajit Pawar met Sharad Pawar and pledged their support.

Earlier in the day, NCP spokesperson Clyde Crasto claimed Ajit Pawar has the support of only 13 MLAs.

"All MLAs are with us and you will know tomorrow," Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil told reporters.

Patil said all office-bearers, heads of frontal cells of NCP, district unit presidents, working committee members, party workers at the taluka level, MLAs, MLCs and MPs have been asked to attend the meeting.

EYE ON 2024 POLLS

BJP appoints 4 new state chiefs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 4: In view of the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2024 and the upcoming Assembly elections, the BJP in an organisational reshuffle Tuesday, appointed new state presidents in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Jharkhand.

BJP President J.P. Nadda has appointed former Union Minister D Purandeshwari as the new state President of Andhra Pradesh. Purandeshwari, who had joined the BJP in 2014, is daughter of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder N. T. Rama Rao. She replaced Somu Veeraj.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has been made the President of Telangana. Kishan Reddy, currently Union minister for tourism and culture, replaced

Bandi Sanjay, who is also an MP. Assembly elections in Telangana are due to be held later this year while Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh are scheduled along with Lok Sabha elections next year.

In view of the assembly elections to be held this year in Telangana, former state minister Etela Rajendra has also been appointed as the chairman of the Election Management Committee.

Along with this, Nadda has also announced the appointment of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy as a member of the party's national executive.

Sunil Jakhra, who switched to BJP from Congress, has been given the command of Punjab, whereas former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi has been appointed as the new president of Jharkhand.



Dhami meets Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, days after he announced that his state will soon implement the Uniform Civil Code.

He, however, did not give a direct reply when asked if the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) was discussed in the meeting. He said the prime minister is already aware of all provisions (of the

UCC). A UCC typically means having a common law for all citizens of the country that is not based on religion. Personal laws and laws related to inheritance, adoption and succession are likely to be covered by a common code.

The Chief Minister said he discussed about various infrastructure and developmental projects with Modi, and also extended him an invitation to be the chief guest at the global investors summit proposed to be held in Dehradun in December.



TOO COSTLY: Farmers show tomatoes during a bid at APMC market as tomato prices are soaring across the nation, in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka. Retail tomato prices have shot up to ₹155 per kg across major cities in the country due to the supply disruption caused due to rain in the producing region, as per the official data

No details of expenditure incurred on PM's post Covid foreign visits

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, July 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi resumed his foreign state visits, after a brief halt due to Covid-19 pandemic, in March 2021 with a two-day visit to Bangladesh and toured 15 more countries since then but the Prime Minister did not reveal the expenditure incurred during these visits.

As the Covid-19 pandemic was not over completely in 2021, Prime Minister Modi took only four foreign visits during the year to the countries like United States of America (USA) Italy, UK and Bangladesh. In 2022, PM Modi had visited abroad seven times. The Prime Minister visited twice to Japan and

Germany in 2022. In 2023, Narendra Modi held two foreign visits till now.

Significantly, the Prime Minister office did not furnish the details of expenses incurred on the chartered flights during the 12 foreign visits to 16 countries undertaken by Modi post pandemic.

Before the breakout of Covid-19, the Prime Minister undertook 59 foreign visits, the last trip was to Brazil November 2019 that incurred expenditure of

₹20.01 crore. According to Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at least ₹588.52 crore were spent during these trips. The PMO informed that the expenses on foreign visits of PM are met from the budget of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Soon after taking oath as the Prime Minister in 2014, Narendra Modi undertook his first foreign visit to Bhutan in June and expenses incurred on chartered flight for two-day visit

was ₹2.45 crore. The very same year Modi went to Brazil (Rs 20.35 crore), USA (19.04 crore), Myanmar, Australia and Fiji (Rs 22.58 crore).

Well, the most expensive trip of PM Modi was to France, Germany and Canada in 2015 for which ₹31.25 crore were spent.

As per the official information, PM Modi has undertaken eight visits to USA, seven visits to Japan, six visits to Germany, five visits each to France and China. He thrice visited to Britain and twice he went to Brazil and Bangladesh.

During these visits, the Prime Minister held crucial meetings with state heads to strengthen the relations and also signed several official agreements.

international

of the day quote

Greece is ready to start talks with Turkey to resolve a long-standing dispute over maritime borders that has repeatedly brought the two neighbors to the brink of armed conflict

Australia will ease visa rules for Indonesian travellers in a bid to boost economic ties between the two nations

I will travel to Brussels to witness the signing of a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union

SHORT TAKES

Foiled attack on Moscow: Russia

Moscow: Russian air defences Tuesday foiled a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow that prompted authorities to briefly close one of the city's international airports, officials said, as a Western analysis said that Russia has managed to slow Kyiv's recently launched counteroffensive. The drone attack, which follows previous similar raids on the Russian capital, was the first known assault on the city since an abortive mutiny launched 11 days ago by mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin.

Taliban ban beauty salons

Islamabad: The Taliban are banning women's beauty salons in Afghanistan, a government spokesman said Tuesday. It's the latest curb on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls, following edicts barring them from education, public spaces and most forms of employment. A spokesman for the Taliban-run Virtue and Vice Ministry, Mohammad Sidik Akif Mahajar, didn't give details of the ban.

Journo attacked

Moscow: Masked assailants in the Russian province of Chechnya attacked and beat a journalist and a lawyer Tuesday, an assault that highlighted a violent pattern of rampant human rights abuses in the region. Novaya Gazeta journalist Elena Milashina and lawyer Alexander Nemov had just arrived in Chechnya to attend the trial of Zarema Musayeva, the mother of two local activists who have challenged Chechen authorities. Just outside the airport, their vehicle was blocked by several cars and they were beaten by several unidentified masked assailants.

UN okays plan for Fukushima water release

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, July 4: The UN nuclear agency gave its endorsement Tuesday to Japan's planned release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea from the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant, saying it meets international standards and its environmental and health impact would be negligible.

The plan is opposed by groups in South Korea, China and some Pacific Island nations because of safety concerns and political reasons. Local fishing organizations are worried that their reputation will be damaged even if their catch isn't contaminated. Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, submitted its final assessment of the plan to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday. The report is a "comprehensive, neutral, objective, scientifically sound evaluation," Grossi said. "We are very confident about it."

The report said IAEA recognizes the discharge "has raised societal, political and environmental concerns, associated with the radiological aspects." However, it concluded that the water release as currently planned "will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment."

Japan's plan and the equip-



The plan is opposed by groups in South Korea, China and some Pacific Island nations because of safety concerns and political reasons

Local fishing organizations are worried that their reputation will be damaged even if their catch isn't contaminated

ment for the discharge are "in conformity with the agreed international standards and its application," Grossi said. He said the dilution of treated but still slightly radioactive wastewater for gradual release into the sea is widely used in other countries, including China, South Korea, the United States and France, to dispose of water containing certain radionuclides from nuclear plants.

Japan has sought the IAEA's support to gain credibility for the plan. Experts from the U.N. Agency and 11 nations have made several trips to Japan since early 2022 to examine preparations by the government and the plant's

operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings.

Some scientists say the impact of long-term, low-dose exposure to radionuclides remains unknown and urge a delay in the release. Others say the discharge plan is safe but call for more transparency in sampling and monitoring.

Kishida, after meeting with Grossi, said Japan will continue to provide "detailed explanations based on scientific evidence with a high degree of transparency both domestically and internationally."

A massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi

nuclear plant's cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt and their cooling water to be contaminated and leak continuously. The water is collected, treated and stored in about 1,000 tanks at the plant which will reach their capacity in early 2024.

The government and TEPCO say the water must be removed to prevent any accidental leaks and make room for the damaged plant's decommissioning.

Japanese regulators finished their final safety inspection of the equipment last Friday and TEPCO is expected to receive a permit in about a week to begin gradually discharging the water. The start date for the release, which is expected to take decades, is still undecided.

The IAEA will continue to monitor and assess the release, Grossi said.

During his four-day visit, Grossi will also visit the Fukushima plant and meet with TEPCO officials, local fishing groups, heads of nearby municipalities and other stakeholders. "I believe in dialogue and I believe in the validity of the exercise we are carrying out," he said.

Grossi is also expected to visit South Korea, New Zealand and the Cook Islands after his visit to Japan to ease concerns there.

Swedish authorities' failure to prevent Quran-burning protests in the country is raising security concerns and questions about Sweden's credentials for possible NATO membership

HAKAN FIDAN | TURKEY'S FOREIGN MINISTER



NATO EXTENDS STOLTENBERG'S TERM

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg will stay in office for another year, the 31-nation military alliance decided Tuesday. Stoltenberg has been NATO's top civilian official since 2014



Relief for Imran in Toshakhana case

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan, was indicted in the Toshakhana case May 10 by Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar, who rejected objections about the admissibility of the case



that he would look into the matter after Eid ul-Adha.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 4: In a relief to embattled Imran Khan, a top Pakistani court Tuesday overturned the ruling of a sessions court and declared the Toshakhana corruption case against the former prime minister inadmissible.

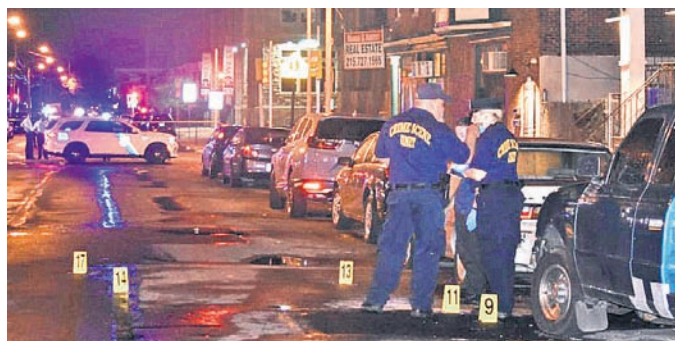
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Khan, 70, was indicted in the Toshakhana case on May 10 by Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar, who rejected objections about the admissibility of the case.

The PTI chief then approached the Islamabad High Court, which had stayed criminal proceedings on the case till June 8. Following the resumption of the hearing in June, Justice Aamer Farooq on June 23 reserved his verdict on the petition, saying

On Tuesday, the IHC Chief Justice Farooq pronounced the verdict on a petition filed by the former prime minister, challenging the Toshakhana trial proceedings. The verdict came a day after the PTI chief petitioned the court for Justice Farooq's recusal from the bench, Dawn newspaper reported.

The Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries. The Toshakhana issue over the sale of state gifts received by the cricketer-turned-politician became a major issue in national politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified the former premier for making "false statements and incorrect declaration".

Five killed after man opens fire



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia (US), July 4: A heavily armed gunman in a bulletproof vest opened fire on the streets of Philadelphia on Monday night, seemingly at a random, killing five people and wounding two boys before surrendering, police said.

The shootings took place over several city blocks in the southwestern neighbourhood of Kingsessing. Responding officers chased the suspect as he continued to fire, and he was arrested in an alley after giving himself up. Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said at a news conference.

"Thank God our officers were on the scene and responded as quickly as they did. I can't even describe the level of bravery and courage that was shown, in addition to the restraint that was shown here," Outlaw said.

No connection was immediately known between the vic-

tims and the shooter, she said. He had a bulletproof vest, an "AR-type rifle," multiple magazines, a handgun and a police scanner. Officers were flagged down at about 8:30 pm, and multiple calls of shots fired came in from Kingsessing. Police found some gunshot victims, and as they were attending to them, they heard more gunfire, Outlaw said.

Police later told Fox 29 that a fifth victim was found. He was chased into his home and shot to death. Bullet casings were found outside the home. The suspected shooter was identified as a 40-year-old man. A second person was also taken into custody who may have returned fire at the suspect, but police did not know whether there was a connection between the two people, Outlaw said.

The chief said dozens of shell casings were found across an eight block area. "You can see there are several scenes out here," Outlaw said.

Indian Consulate attacked in San Francisco

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, July 4: India's Consulate in San Francisco came under an attack from Khalistan supporters who tried to set the diplomatic facility on fire in the second such act of violence within months, drawing strong condemnation from the US government which termed it a "criminal offence".

A video by Khalistan supporters, dated July 2 posted on Twitter, showed the act of arson at the Indian Consulate in San Francisco. The video, with the words "violence begets violence" emblazoned over it, also showed news articles related to the death of Canada-based Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Nijjar, one of India's most-wanted terrorists who carried a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Canada last month. Responding to the incident, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller in a tweet on Monday said: "The US strongly condemns the reported vandalism and attempted arson against the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on Saturday. Vandalism or violence against diplomatic facilities or foreign diplomats in the US is a criminal offence."

Diya TV, a South Asian broadcast TV network in the US, said in a tweet that "a fire was set early Sunday morning between 1:30-2:30 am in the San Francisco Indian Consulate." "The fire was suppressed quickly by the San Francisco Department, the dam-



This is the second time within months that the Indian Consulate in San Francisco came under attack from Khalistani supporters

Responding to the incident, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller in a tweet on Monday said: "The US strongly condemns the reported vandalism and attempted arson against the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on Saturday. Vandalism or violence against diplomatic facilities or foreign diplomats in the US is a criminal offence."

age was limited and no staffers were harmed. Local, state and federal authorities have been notified," it said.

The outlet also posted a video of the arson attack. A poster being shared on social media says that a "Khalistan Freedom Rally" will be organised on July 8 that will start in Berkeley, California and end at the Indian embassy in San Francisco.

This is the second time within months that the Indian Consulate in San Francisco came under attack from Khalistani supporters.

On March 19, a group of pro-Khalistan protesters attacked

and damaged the Indian Consulate in San Francisco. Raising pro-Khalistan slogans, the protesters broke open the makeshift security barriers raised by the city police and installed two so-called Khalistani flags inside the Consulate premises. Two consulate personnel soon removed these flags.

Ajay Bhutoria, an Indian community leader, said the attack on India's consulate in San Francisco is extremely concerning and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. "It is deeply disturbing to see such acts of violence targeting diplomatic missions," he said.

"The Indian consulate serves as an essential hub for providing consular services and fostering bilateral relations between India and the United States. It is crucial that the staff and members of the consulate are able to operate in a safe and secure environment, free from any threat or harm," he added.

Bhutoria asked the San Francisco Police Department to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

"Ensuring the safety and security of diplomatic missions is not only a responsibility of the host country but also a fundamental obligation under international law," he said.

It is imperative that such incidents are met with a strong response from the authorities to deter any further attacks and ensure the safety of diplomatic personnel, he said.

Vietnam bans 'Barbie' movie over South China Sea map

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hanoi, July 4: Vietnam's state media have reported that the government banned distribution of the popular "Barbie" movie because it includes a view of a map showing disputed Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The newspaper Vietnam Express and other media said posters advertising "Barbie" were removed from movie distributors' websites after Monday's decision. With Margot Robbie playing Barbie opposite Ryan Gosling's Ken in Greta Gerwig's comedic look at their "perfect" world, "Barbie" was supposed to open July 21 in Vietnamese theatres.

The reports cited Vi Kien Thanh, director general of the Vietnam Cinema Department, as saying the National Film Evaluation Council made the



decision. It said a map in the film shows China's "nine-dash line", which extends Beijing's territorial claims far into waters that fall within areas claimed by Vietnam and other countries.

The "nine-dash line" is an arcane but sensitive issue for China and its neighbours that shows Beijing's maritime border extending into areas claimed by

other governments and encompasses most of the South China Sea. That has brought it into tense standoffs with the ASEAN nations of Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines, with Chinese fishing boats and military vessels becoming more aggressive in the disputed waters.

Asked about the issue at a

daily briefing on Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "China's position on the South China Sea issue is clear and consistent." "We believe that the countries concerned should not link the South China Sea

With Margot Robbie playing Barbie opposite Ryan Gosling's Ken in Greta Gerwig's comedic look at their "perfect" world, "Barbie" was supposed to open July 21 in Vietnamese theatres

issue with normal cultural and people-to-people exchanges," Mao said. However, China is exceedingly

sensitive when it comes to how its national image and border claims are portrayed in entertainment and by businesses. For example, it has routinely retaliated against companies from hotels to airlines that it believes have suggested that self-governing Taiwan - with its own political system, country code and currency - is anything other than a part of China. Companies almost always acquiesce to Chinese complaints, fearing they risk being locked out of the huge, lucrative Chinese market. That includes Hollywood films deleting or adding scenes based on the expected response on the ruling Communist Party and the highly nationalistic public. When an international court ruled in 2016 that the "nine-dash line" has no basis in law and the Philippines was entitled to an exclusive economic zone in part of the area claimed by Beijing, China rejected the ruling.

Palestinian attacker wounds 8 in Tel Aviv

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jenin (West Bank), July 4: A Palestinian man drove his car into a crowded bus stop in Tel Aviv Tuesday and then began stabbing people, wounding eight in an attack praised by the Islamist militant group Hamas as a response to Israel's ongoing military operation in the occupied West Bank.

Police chief Kobi Shabtai told reporters at the scene that an armed civilian shot and killed the assailant. The attack came as Israeli troops pressed ahead with their hunt for Palestinian militants and weapons in a refugee camp, after military bulldozers tore through alleys and thousands of residents fled to safety. The two-day Palestinian

death toll rose to 10.

The large-scale raid of the Jenin camp, which began Monday, is one of the most intense military operations in the occupied West Bank in nearly two decades. It bore hallmarks of Israeli military tactics during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s and came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces growing pressure from his ultranationalist political allies for a tough response to recent attacks on Israeli settlers, including a shooting last month that killed four people.

But the current violence is also different from the intense years of what was known as the second intifada, a period that claimed thousands of lives.

business

of the day quote

We have a long-term focus on the Indian market. As we already know, the Indian market is a very high potential market, as the number third (largest automotive market in the world)

TAE-JIN PARK KIA INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO

Fortunately, we are now witnessing a reversal in the commodity cycle, resulting in reduced prices for most of our key commodities, with the exception of the F&B basket. This development allows us to anticipate an expansion in gross margins for the current year

MOHIT MALHOTRA DABUR INDIA CEO

We are introducing PLENT, a multi-charging product meticulously engineered in-house with remarkable features to enhance the EV charging experience while addressing the requirements of the Indian market

MAXSON LEWIS FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF MAGENTA MOBILITY

SHORT TAKES

SBI MF AUM crosses ₹8L cr

Mumbai: SBI Mutual Fund, largest fund house by a wide margin in the 43-player industry, has clocked yet another milestone crossing the ₹8 lakh crore-mark assets under management, adding ₹90,000 crore to the asset pile during the first quarter of the fiscal. Given the current run rate in adding AUM (asset under management), the fund house expects to sniff at the ₹10 lakh crore AUM-mark over the next 12 to 18 months too, a top company official has said. The 43-player mutual fund industry closed May with total assets of ₹43.2 lakh crore despite a fall in net inflows into open-ended mutual funds, which almost halved to ₹59,879.31 crore from ₹1.24 lakh crore in April, when the industry-wide AUM stood at ₹41.61 lakh crore.

IFFCO to procure 2,500 agri-drones

New Delhi: To promote use of nano fertilisers across the country, leading cooperative IFFCO will procure 2,500 agri-drones and train 5,000-odd rural entrepreneurs as part of its national campaign launched Tuesday. Already, IFFCO has signed an agreement for procurement of the drones -- to be used for spraying of its products nano urea and nano di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) -- in a phased manner. Along with drones, the cooperative will also procure 2,500 electric three-wheeler (loader types) to carry drones to farmers' fields, IFFCO said in a statement. "The technical specifications of agri-drones being procured by IFFCO for spray of nano fertilisers are in accordance with the industry standards," IFFCO said.

HSBC India starts pvt banking biz

Mumbai: HSBC India has launched its global private banking business to serve high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth professionals, entrepreneurs and their families who can invest more than USD 2 million a year. The number of UHNWs in the country--those with over USD30 million to invest--is seen increasing 58 per cent by 2027. Already, the private wealth market is USD 2.8 trillion, and is projected to grow 8 per cent per annum by 2026. The private banking will offer a broad range of tailored solutions and bespoke services including investment products and propositions like mutual funds, bonds, portfolio management services, and insurance.



I would personally like to commit myself not to interfere in the startup world
PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

HIRING RISES 12% IN JANUARY-MAY

Hiring in India grew 12% y-o-y in January-May, led by professional services, manufacturing, BFSI, e-commerce and IT/ITES sectors, a report said. "The current global instability has had a significant impact on industries worldwide. Over the past few months, we have seen companies tightening their belts, but India's hiring prospects have improved from the past year," Allsec Technologies CEO Naozer Dalal said, quoting the report.



Meta to target Twitter with rival app Threads

Threads could be the latest headache for Elon Musk, who acquired Twitter last year for USD 44 billion and has been making changes that have unnerved advertisers and turned off users

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 4: Meta is poised to unveil a new app that appears to mimic Twitter—a direct challenge to the social media platform owned by Elon Musk.

A listing for the app, called Threads, appeared on Apple's App Store, indicating it would debut as early as Thursday. It is billed as a "text-based conversation app" that is linked to Instagram, with the listing teasing a Twitter-like microblogging experience.

"Threads is where communities come together to discuss everything from the topics you care about today to what'll be trending tomorrow," it said.

Instagram users will be able to keep their user names and follow the same accounts on the new app, according to screenshots displayed on the App Store listing. Meta declined to comment on the app.

Musk replied "yeah" to a tweet from Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey saying, "All your Threads are belong to us," along with a screenshot from the App Store's privacy section showing what personal information might be collected by the new Meta app.

Threads could be the latest headache for Musk, who ac-



quired Twitter last year for USD 44 billion and has been making changes that have unnerved advertisers and turned off users, including new daily limits on the number of tweets people can view.

Meta has good timing because Twitter users are growing frustrated with Musk's changes and looking for a viable alternative, said Matt Navarra, a social media consultant.

Threads presents the "opportunity to jump to a platform that can give them many of the things that they want Twitter to continue to be that it no longer is," he said.

Allowing Instagram users to port their profile to Threads could give the new app more traction with potential users by providing a ready-made set of accounts for them to follow, said Navarra, former director of social media at tech news site The Next Web and digital communications adviser for the British government.

Twitter has rolled out a series of unpopular changes in recent days, including a requirement for users to be verified to use the online dashboard TweetDeck. The policy announced Monday takes effect in 30 days and appears to be aimed

at raising extra revenue because users need to pay have their accounts verified under Musk's changes.

TweetDeck is popular with companies and news organisations, allowing users to manage multiple Twitter accounts.

It comes after outcry over Musk's announcement this weekend that Twitter has limited the number of tweets users can view each day—restrictions that the billionaire Tesla CEO described as an attempt to stop unauthorized scraping of potentially valuable data.

Still, some users might be put off by Meta's data privacy track record, Navarra said. And would-be Twitter challengers like Mastodon have found it a challenge to sign up users.

"It's hard to tell whether the upset and discontent is strong enough to make a mass exodus or whether it will be somewhat of a slow erosion," Navarra said.

Musk's rivalry with Meta Platforms also could end up spilling over into real life. In an online exchange between Musk and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, the two tech billionaires seemingly agreed to a cage match face-off, though it's unclear if they will actually make it to the ring.

Toyota's 'battery breakthrough' could boost EVs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 4: Toyota says it has made a technological breakthrough that will allow it to halve the weight, size and cost of batteries, in what could herald a major advance for electric vehicles, a media report said.

The world's second largest carmaker was already pursuing a plan to roll out cars with advanced solid-state batteries, which offer benefits compared with liquid-based batteries, by 2025, The Guardian reported.

Tuesday, the Japanese company said it had simplified production of the material used to make them, hailing the discovery as a significant leap forward that could dramatically cut charging times and increase driving range, the report said.

"For both our liquid and our solid-state batteries, we are aiming to drastically change the situation where current batteries are too big, heavy and expensive," said Keiji Kaita, President of the Japanese auto firm's research and development centre for carbon neutrality.

"In terms of potential, we



will aim to halve all of these factors." David Bailey, a professor of business economics at the University of Birmingham, said that if Toyota's claims were founded, it could be a landmark moment for the future of electric cars, The Guardian reported.

Kaita said the company had developed ways to make batteries more durable and believed it could now make a solid-state battery with a range of 1,200km (745 miles) that could charge in 10 minutes or less. The company expects to be able to manufacture solid-state batteries for use in electric vehicles as soon as 2027, according to the Financial Times, which first reported on Toyota's claimed breakthrough.

Solid-state batteries have been widely seen as a potential gamechanger for electric vehicles.

Bank of India launches savings scheme for women

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 4: Bank of India has rolled out Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme for women, offering an interest of 7.5 per cent.

MD and CEO Rajneesh Karnatak in a statement claimed Bank of India is the first lender to operationalise the scheme, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in FY24 Budget, across all branches.

Under the scheme, girls/women can open a savings certificate, or a guardian can do

so on behalf of a minor girl. The minimum investment required is ₹1,000, and any sum in multiples of ₹100 can be deposited, up to a maximum of ₹2,00,000.

The deposits made under this Scheme shall bear interest at the rate of 7.5 % per annum. The interest shall be compounded on quarterly basis and credited to the account. All earnings under Mahila Samman Savings Certificate will be taxable as per existing income tax provisions. However, TDS will not be deducted under the scheme.



STOCKS SOAR TO FRESH HIGHS

IN THE LAST FOUR SESSIONS OF A RECORD-MAKING SPREE, THE BLUE-CHIP 30-SHARE SENSEX SURGED MORE THAN 1,500 POINTS AND THE NIFTY JUMPED OVER 400 POINTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 4: Registering fresh record closing highs for the fourth straight session, Sensex sailed past 65,400 points and Nifty crossed 19,300 points Tuesday, as foreign fund flows and overall optimism over the economy continued to fuel the market rally.

Besides, unabated foreign fund inflows and heavy buying in financial and IT counters added to the optimism in the equity market. Rallying for the fifth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 274 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at its all-time closing high of 65,479.05. During the day, the benchmark surged 467.92 points or 0.71 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 65,672.97.



The NSE Nifty climbed 66.45 points or 0.34 per cent to end at a fresh record high of 19,389. In the session, it advanced 111.6 points or 0.57 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 19,434.15.

In the last four sessions of a record-making spree, the blue-chip 30-share Sensex surged more than 1,500 points and the Nifty jumped over 400 points.

Bajaj Finance was the best performer in the Sensex chart, spurring 7.71 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Titan, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India and ITC. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the

BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.22 per cent while smallcap index ended marginally up by 0.05 per cent. Among the indices, IT climbed 0.84 per cent, financial services rallied 0.73 per cent, tech advanced 0.54 per cent, consumer durables moved up by 0.37 per cent and FMCG (0.22 per cent).

Telecommunication declined

Investors richer by ₹790L cr in 5 days

New Delhi: Equity investors' wealth went up by ₹790 lakh crore in five days of rally in the BSE Sensex, which is on a record-breaking run helped by unabated foreign fund inflows and largely bullish investor sentiments. "Buoyancy in the markets continued as benchmark indices touched new highs in spite of mixed Asian cues and weak European markets in early trades. The cushion provided by Indian markets on the back of its strong fundamentals are offsetting some of the negative catalysts seen in key developed economies, and strong backing by the FIs in recent weeks is a testimony to it," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

LTIMindtree to replace HDFC in Nifty 50 index

New Delhi: LTIMindtree Ltd will replace Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd in the Nifty 50 index from July 13, the National Stock Exchange said Tuesday. The stock exchange has announced changes to various indices, including Nifty 50 and Nifty 100, on account of scheme of amalgamation of HDFC with HDFC Bank. From July 13, LTIMindtree will replace HDFC in the benchmark Nifty 50 index and Jindal Steel & Power will take the place of the mortgage lender in the Nifty 100 index, according to NSE.

1.17 per cent, oil & gas went lower by 0.66 per cent, auto fell by 0.56 per cent, consumer dis-

cretionary (0.27 per cent), and commodities (0.20 per cent) were among the laggards.

Cargo traffic at major ports declines to 64.63 MT in June

PARADIP PORT HANDLED THE HIGHEST VOLUME AT 11.73 MT, ACCOUNTING FOR 18.15 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CARGO TRAFFIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 4: Cargo traffic at the country's major ports declined 1.96 per cent year-on-year to 64.63 million tonnes (MT) in June, with seven ports posting a negative growth while five such facilities saw a surge in traffic, an official release said.

There are 12 major ports spanning across India under the administrative control of the central government. These 12 ports are Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla), Mumbai, JNPT, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Kamarajar (earlier Ennore), VO Chidambaranar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia). "During June 2023, the major ports handled 64.63 million tonnes of cargo against 65.93 million tonnes handled during the corresponding period of last year. The overall fall in traffic was 1.96 per cent," Indian Ports Association (IPA) said in a state-



ment. Of the seven ports, which witnessed negative growth in June 2023, VO Chidambaranar Port saw cargo traffic declining 14.15 per cent followed by Kamarajar Port (9.55 per cent drop) and Chennai Port (8.62 per cent fall), as per the IPA.

Cargo traffic at JNPT fell 8.56 per cent, Deendayal Port 7.81 per cent, Cochin Port 7.32 per cent and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port (Including Haldia) saw a 5.29 per cent drop in June, IPA said. Fall in cargo

traffic of coking and other coal thermal and steam coal, container tonnage, miscellaneous cargo and other liquids were some of the factors that contributed to the cargo traffic declining at the seven ports, it said.

However, New Mangalore Port registered the maximum cargo growth of 11.26 per cent, followed by Mormugao Port at 10.18 per cent. IPA also said Paradip Port handled the highest volume at 11.73 MT, accounting for 18.15 per cent of total cargo traffic.

Housing sales down 1% in January-June across top 8 cities

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 4: Housing sales fell marginally by 1 per cent during January-June period this year, while gross leasing of office space rose 3 per cent across eight major cities, according to Knight Frank India.

Housing prices increased 2-10 per cent year-on-year. Releasing its bi-annual report for India's top eight realty market on Tuesday, real estate consultant Knight Frank India said housing sales have dipped 1 per cent to 1,56,640 units in January-June from 1,58,705 units in the year-ago period. In contrast, gross office space leasing increased 3 per cent to 26.1 million square feet from 25.3 million square feet.

Commenting on the findings, Knight Frank India CMD Shishir Bajjal told reporters that housing and office markets across major cities have remained steady in the first half of this calendar year despite rise in interest rates on home loans and global headwinds.

On housing market, he said a strong positive consumer sentiment was observed.

Analysts see market gain for Jio post Bharat phone launch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: The launch of internet-enabled Jio Bharat phones at an "attractive pricing" will enable Jio to gain market share at the lower end segment and signals a reduced probability of tariff hike in the near term, brokerages tracking the sector said.

Jio Monday launched internet-enabled Jio Bharat phones at ₹999, packing in a cheaper monthly plan of ₹123 for unlimited voice calls and 14 GB data. The new offering aims to accelerate the '2G Mukta Bharat' vision, as India still has 250 million mobile subscribers trapped in the 2G era with feature phones.

In its note, JP Morgan said this "disruptive step" can halt incremental tariff increases for 2G and help Jio gain a share in that segment.

"We believe with this phone Jio can take market share at the lower end of the market. This also puts Bharti at risk as it can see increased churn from its recent 2G price action of increasing the ₹99 plan to ₹155 plan," it said.



Jio already had become aggressive at the premium end of subscribers in March 2023 through an aggressive postpaid plan launch, and the latest move showcases its aggressiveness towards the lower end of the subscriber spectrum as well, it noted.

"We believe this is negative for Bharti as any hopes of a tariff hike should be diluted over the next 12-18 months," JP Morgan added.

Emkay, in its note, said that JioBharat is better placed to disrupt the market as compared to the original JioPhone in 2018, "as it is a more focused product, has a simpler value proposition and has better distribution and production planning".

INDIA ON CLOUD '9'

SANDHU HEROICS LEAD BLUE TIGERS CLAIM THEIR NINTH SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE BEATING KUWAIT VIA SUDDEN DEATH



Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu tries to save a shot by Kuwait's Shabib Al Khaldi during the SAFF Championship football tournament final at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 4: Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu made the difference once again as he saved a crucial penalty kick in the summit clash to help India beat Kuwait 5-4 in the shootout (via sudden death) and clinch SAFF Championships title for the ninth time here Tuesday.

After five rounds of penalty kicks, the scoreline remained 4-4 and sudden death rule was applied. Mahesh Naorem scored but a diving Sandhu saved Kuwait captain Khaled Hajiah's shot to the wild celebration of the home fans

and at the India dug out. In the regulation time, Shabaib Al Khaldi had put Kuwait in the lead in the 14th minute before Lallianzuala Chhangte equalised in the 39th minute. Defending champion India and Kuwait had also played out a 1-1 draw in their last group match.

This was the second time India won in the penalty shootout. They had made it to Tuesday's summit clash after beating Lebanon 4-2 in penalty shootout in the semifinal July 1. Sandhu had also made a crucial save in the shootout then.

For India, captain Sunil Chhetri, Sandesh Jhingana,

Chhangte, Subashish Bose and Mahesh converted while Udanta Singh missed. Before the shootout drama, Kuwait held a slight edge as they pressed forward for goals often in the first half.

The relentless fetched the desired result in the 14th minute. Mobarak Al Faneeni released Abullah Al Bloushi on the left wing with a deft pass. Al Bloushi found Shabaib Al Khaldi inside the box with an accurate cross which the latter slotted past India custodian Sandhu to give Kuwait 1-0 lead.

India could have levelled the scores within a minute but Kuwait goalkeeper Abdul

Rahman blocked Chhangte's long ranger. But Chhangte, who was named AIFF Men's Player of the Year earlier on the day, was not to be denied a second time in the 39th minute.

After a lovely exchange of passes between Sahal Abdul Samad and captain Chhetri, the latter found an unmarked Chhangte deep inside the box. Chhangte, India's energetic No.12, had little trouble in beating Abdul Rahman to find the equaliser. It atoned for Chhetri's failure to score during the regulation time for the second match in a row to an extent.

In the second half, the action

continued to flow thick and fast as both India and Kuwait searched for the winner. Both sides came close to scoring their respective second goals, but unable to do that, as the match moved towards the extra time for the second successive time for both the teams.

The extra time too witnessed frenetic action from both the sides. There were couple of injuries, yellow cards to players and officials of both sides and a slew of corners. But that the decisive goal did not come through, making a penalty shootout mandatory to pick the winner.

Chhangte, Manisha AIFF Players of Year



LALLIANZUALA CHHANGTE



MANISHA KALYAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 4: India and Mumbai City FC winger Lallianzuala Chhangte was Tuesday named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year, on the back of his impressive performance in the Indian Super League (ISL) and for the national team.

The 26-year-old Mizoram player featured in 12 matches during the international season for India, scoring two goals and providing one assist in the 2022-23 season. He beat national teammates Nandhakumar Sekar and Naorem Mahesh Singh to the coveted award.

Chhangte, who is currently doing national duty in the SAFF Championships here, played in 22 matches during Mumbai City FC's ISL Winners' Shield-winning campaign last season and scored 10 goals while providing six assists.

He also netted seven goals in seven matches in the Durand Cup last season, while also scoring one goal in three games in the Super Cup.

Manisha Kalyan was named

as the AIFF Women Player of the Year by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) after its Annual General Meeting here.

The 21-year-old Punjab forward, who pier her trade for Cypriot first division club Apollon Ladies, beat Dalima Chhibber and Ngangbam Sweety Devi for the award. She had won the 2020-21 AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year. The Men's Coach of the Year award went to former India player Clifford Miranda, who guided Odisha FC to Super Cup triumph and also AFC Cup qualification.

Priya Parathi Valappil was named Women Coach of the Year. A former India international, Priya is the current head coach of the India women's U-17 team.

Another Mumbai City FC player Akash Mishra and India U-17 team member Shilji Shaji were named Men's and Women's Emerging Players of the Year.

The best players and coaches of the 2022-23 season were picked by eminent former players, including ex-captains Shabbir Ali, IM Vijayan and Bhaichung Bhutia.

'Lengthy' welcome for Federer World No.1 Alcaraz through at Wimbledon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wimbledon, July 4: Roger Federer received a standing ovation of one and a half minutes from spectators including Princess Kate as he entered the Royal Box at Centre Court Tuesday, when he was celebrated during a brief ceremony for his career and his men's-record eight singles championships at Wimbledon.

Wearing a cream-colored suit with his purple All England Club member's pin attached to a lapel, along with a striped shirt and polka-dot tie, the retired Federer walked to his seat and stood between his wife, Mirka, and the Princess of Wales in the special



section above one of the baselines in the Grand Slam tournament's main stadium.

Federer waved and tapped his chest, repeatedly saying, "Thank you," as the applause and roars cascaded under the closed retractable roof on a rainy Day 2 at the grass-court event that he once dominated.

Before the start of play at Centre Court, an announcer explained that Federer was being honored for "his contributions to tennis — and, particularly, to these very special lawns."

Federer, who turns 42 on Aug. 8, announced his retirement at the end of last year following a series of knee operations. The

last match of his career was a quarterfinal loss to Hubert Hurkacz at the All England Club in 2021.

The ceremony Tuesday included a video highlight reel that showed clips of Federer playing, winning and speaking at Wimbledon, where he won the first of his 20 career Grand Slam titles in 2003. That was the start of a run of five in a row that stretched through 2007, followed by additional championships there in 2009, 2012 and 2017.

Novak Djokovic, who won his first-round match Monday, is trying to equal Federer this year by winning a fifth consecutive trophy and eighth overall at Wimbledon. Martina Navratilova, who won the women's singles title nine times, holds the overall record at the tournament.

"When I stop, the tournament still lives on. The tournament is bigger than any player who's ever lived," a younger Federer said in an interview shown during the film Tuesday. "I really look forward to the day where I retire and I can come back and just have tea time, you know, on the terrace."

The video was interspersed with shots of various players speaking glowingly of Federer. "Roger is legend. He makes every shot look easy," 2022 Wimbledon runner-up Ons Jabeur said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 4: Top seed Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the second round of the Wimbledon after soaring past Jeremy Chardy, who was competing in his final singles match, here Tuesday.

Under the roof on Court 1, the Spaniard overpowered the 36-year-old Frenchman with his destructive groundstrokes, sealing a 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory in one hour and 53 minutes.

Alcaraz, who holds a 41-4 record in the season, will next meet Arthur Rinderknech or Alexandre Muller. The 20-year-old arrived at SW19 in strong form, having lifted his maiden tour-level grass-court title at The Queen's Club last month.

He is making his third appearance at Wimbledon, where he advanced to the fourth round last year. If Alcaraz clinches his sixth tour-level title of the season at The Championships, he will remain No.1 in the ATP Rankings.

Matches began on most courts shortly after 11 am at the All England Club, but the tarps came out as the rain came down about an hour later.

Elena Rybakina opened play on Centre Court play against American opponent Shelby Rogers — the traditional spot for the defending women's cham-



Changte, who came out on top in their highlight-filled matchup on a windy, chilly Monday at No.1 Court, beating Gauff 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Kenin beats Gauff

Coming into Wimbledon, Sofia Kenin, used to be the up-and-coming American, the one who was a Grand Slam champion at age 21 and the one who beat a teenage Coco Gauff on the way to that trophy, was ranked 128th, so low she needed to go through three qualifying rounds just to get into the main draw, where she was placed in the bracket against none other than No.7 seed Gauff.

And it was Kenin who came out on top in their highlight-filled matchup on a windy, chilly Monday at No.1 Court, beating Gauff 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Venus bows out

As Venus Williams entered Centre Court for her 24th Wimbledon appearance at age 43, greeted by a standing ovation, she held a green exercise band overhead with both hands and stretched it while striding to her sideline seat.

Once her match against Elina Svitolina began, Williams played

like a throwback version of herself. And then, moving forward to attempt a volley, Williams slipped on the grass. Her right foot gave way.

She collapsed to the ground. She shrieked and clutched at her right knee, which already was covered by a beige sleeve.

Williams twice was treated by a trainer — including getting that knee taped up during a medical timeout after the first set — and although the American kept playing, she could not manage to overcome Svitolina in a 4-6, 3-6 defeat.

Agarkar named senior selection committee chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Former India pacer Ajit Agarkar has been appointed as chairman of senior men's selection panel on recommendations of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), BCCI secretary Jay Shah announced Tuesday.

"The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) interviewed applicants for the position of one selector in the Men's Selection Committee. The three-member CAC has unanimously recommended Ajit Agarkar for the said position," Shah said in a media release. "The committee further recommended Agarkar for the role of Chairperson of the Men's Selection Committee based on seniority (total number of Test matches)."

Dhull to lead India A at Emerging Asia Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 4: Ignored for Duleep Trophy after a poor first-class season, talented Yash Dhull got a massive boost Tuesday after being named as captain of the India A team for the Emerging Asia Cup One Day tournament in Sri Lanka from July 13 to 23.

The team comprised primarily U-23 players as requisite for the Emerging tournaments and Dhull's deputy would be Punjab Ranji captain Abhishek Sharma. All the selected players have represented their senior state team in either of the three formats and a few like Prabhsimran Singh have already scored an IPL hundred.

One of the good picks was Delhi pace bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana, whose speed impressed one and all during IPL.

He recently scored his maiden first-class hundred on Duleep Trophy debut.

Dhull, the 2022 U-19 World Cup winning India captain, had a dismal second Ranji season in which he scored 270 runs in 6 games and before that another 191 runs in seven Vijay Hazare games.

However, it is understood that the senior selection committee, which doesn't only check the quantum of runs but also looks at the long-term talent and potential of a player, didn't want the 20-year-old Delhi Capitals batter to just drop off the radar of national selection.

Event format

India A are placed in Group B with Nepal, UAE A and Pakistan A, while Sri Lanka A, Bangladesh A, Afghanistan A and Oman A form Group A. Nepal will be fielding its senior team for the tournament.



The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-final. The first semifinal will be contested between Group A topper against 2nd spot holder from Group B, while the second semifinal will be contested between Group B topper and 2nd spot holder from Group A, July 21. The final will take place July 23.

The squad: Yash Dhull (C), Abhishek Sharma (vc), Sai Sudharsan, Nikin Jose, Pradosh Ranjan Paul, Riyan Parag, Nishant Sindhu, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Manav Suthar, Yuvraj Singh Dodiya, Harshit Rana, Akash Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Rajvardhan Hangargekar

Standby: Harsh Dubey, Nehal Wadhwa, Snell Patel, Mohit Redkar; **Coaching Staff:** Sitanshu Kotak (Head Coach), Sairaj Bahutule (Bowling Coach), Munish Bali (Fielding Coach).

PHILIPSEN CLINCHES TOUR DOUBLE IN CHAOTIC FINALE

REUTERS

Nogaro (France), July 4: Belgian Jasper Philipsen won his second successive Tour de France stage amid scenes of chaos as several riders hit the ground on the final circuit Tuesday.

Australian Caleb Ewan took second place and German Phil Bauhaus finished third in the fourth stage, a 182km ride from Dax, with Briton Adam Yates retaining the overall leader's yellow jersey.

After the peloton rode at a snail's pace most of the day, things got hectic in the finale on the Paul Armagnac racing track, near the vineyards that once belonged to 1973 Tour champion Luis Ocaña of Spain.

With just over 1.5 kilometre to go, European champion Fabio Jakobsen hit the deck on a right-

hand bend, with his Quick Step-Alpha Vinyl team mate Julian Alaphilippe saying the riders were caught by surprise by the turns.

More riders crashed inside the final kilometre, but nothing could derail Philipsen, who took the green jersey for the points classification leader from France's Victor Lafay.

The Tour de France hits the mountains Wednesday with a 162.5km trek from Pau to Laruns, featuring the punishing Col de Soudet (15.2km at 7.2%) and Col de Marie Blanche (7.7km at 8.6%).

Yates leads Tadej Pogacar, the 2020 and 2021 Tour winner and his UAE Emirates teammate, in the overall standings by six seconds with his twin brother Simon in third place, also six seconds off the pace. Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard is sixth, 11 seconds further back.