



BOLD STATEMENT

Actor Huma Qureshi opens up about polarisation in the film industry on the basis of religion

LEISURE P2



YELLEN CRITICIZES CHINA

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen calls for market reforms in China and criticises its recent tough actions against US companies

INTERNATIONAL P10



MEDVEDEV THROUGH

World No.3 Daniil Medvedev advances to the third round at Wimbledon beating Frenchman Adrian Mannarino

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

India cricket teams in Asian Games

Mumbai: The BCCI Apex Council has approved the participation of the men's and women's teams for the Asian Games in Hangzhou in September-October. A second-string Indian team will participate in the men's competition, beginning September 28 while a full-strength side will be picked for the women's event, beginning September 19. Cricket has been played only thrice in the Asian Games history and the last time it was held in Incheon in 2014 when India did not take part.

Teacher cuts hair of wards, sacked

Noida: A teacher of a private school here has been dismissed over protest by parents of about a dozen students after she "symbolically" cut the hair of their wards in a disciplinary action against them, police said. The incident took place at the school located in Sector 168 Wednesday following which the enraged parents staged a protest Thursday. "Today officials from Expressway PS reached Shanti International School which later decided to terminate the services of the teacher immediately," Additional DCP (Noida) Shakti Mohan Avasthy said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



After Gujarat model of governance, the country badly needs Gujarat model of justice

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	65280.45 ↓ 505.19
NIFTY	19331.80 ↓ 165.50
DOLLAR	82.24 ↑ ₹0.26
EURO	90.26 ↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹58,720 ↑ ₹319
SILVER	₹70,882 ↑ ₹558

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.6°C	35.2°C
TEMP MIN	27.0°C	27.0°C
Humidity	90%	79%
Rainfall	5.8mm	19.4mm
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



THE BURNING TRAIN: Five compartments of Hyderabad-bound Falaknuma Express caught fire near Bommaipalli in Telangana, Friday. However, nobody was hurt in the incident (Report P9) PTI PHOTO

Shefeen Ahamed new IG of Crime Branch

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: In a minor reshuffle among senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, the state government Friday appointed Shefeen Ahamed K as Inspector General (IG) of police, CID, Crime Branch. At present, Shefeen is serving as Inspector General of Police (IGP), Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC).

As per a notification issued by Home department, DIG headquarters Sarthak Sarangi has been appointed as DIG, Fire Services and Home Guard while 2008-batch IPS officer and DIG Computer Shefeen Ahamed K has been transferred and posted as DIG of HRPC.

Similarly, Cuttack SP Jugal Kishore Kumar Banoth has been posted as AIGP, Headquarters, Cuttack while SP Headquarters Rahul Jain has been appointed the new SP, Nayagarh.

Odisha Police Service (OPS) officer Mihir Kumar Panda, serving as DCP, Special Crime Unit at Commissionerate of Police is transferred and posted as SP, Cuttack.



Shefeen Ahamed K

CBI cuffs on 3 Rly men

Senior section engineer (Signal) Arun Kumar Mahanta, section engineer Mohammed Amir Khan and technician Pappu Kumar were arrested under Sections 304 and 201

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, July 7: Thirty-four days after the horrific triple train crash near Bahanaga Bazar in Balasore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sleuths Friday arrested three Railway officials responsible for the mishap that claimed 293 lives so far.

The CBI sleuths Friday took into custody three Railway personnel in connection with the June 2 Balasore train accident, making its first arrests in the case, officials said.

The agency arrested senior section engineer (Signal) Arun Kumar Mahanta, section engineer Mohammed Amir Khan and technician Pappu Kumar, all posted in Balasore district, the officials said.

The three have been arrested under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), they said.

The accused trio was later produced before the special CBI court here after their medical check-up at Capital Hospital Friday evening. The court per-

BAHANAGA TRAGEDY

The special CBI court has allowed the Central agency sleuths to take the three accused Railway officials on five-day remand

mitted the CBI to take the accused trio on remand for five days for further investigations. The central agency had sought seven-day remand of the accused.

Notably, the accident took place near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district in which 293 people were killed - 287 on the spot or brought dead to hospital while six succumbed to injuries in hospitals.

The accident involved three trains - the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a stationary goods train.

Earlier, a high-level inquiry Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) has found "wrong signalling" to be the main reason for the accident and flagged "lapses at multiple levels" in the signalling and telecommunication (S&T)

department, but indicated the tragedy could have been averted if past red flags were reported.

The independent inquiry report submitted to the Railway Board said notwithstanding the lapses in signalling work, remedial actions could have been taken by the S&T staff if "repeated unusual behaviour" of switches connecting two parallel tracks were reported to them by the station manager of Bahanaga Bazar, the spot of the accident.

The report had suggested that the non-supply of station-specific approved circuit diagram for the works to replace the electric lifting barrier at level crossing gate 94 at Bahanaga Bazar station was a "wrong step that led to wrong wiring". It said that a team of field supervisors modified the wiring diagram and failed to replicate it.

The report also said that there was a similar incident May 16, 2022 at Bankranayabaz station in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway, on account of wrong wiring and cable fault.

"Had corrective measures been taken, after this incident, the accident at BNRB would not have taken place," the report said.

9 tainted babus face music; 3 lose jobs

In its continued crackdown against corrupt officials, the state govt has punished 197 officers since 2019

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: As part of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 'zero tolerance' policy on corruption, the state government Friday cracked the whip on nine officials. While three tainted officials were dismissed from service, the government permanently stopped the pension of six others after they were found guilty of corruption, officials said.

"Since 2019, the state government has punished 197 officers for corruption," the official said.

The nine tainted officials included the ex-executive engineer of RWSS Division-II, Cuttack district Shivram Biswal. He was convicted in a corruption case by Vigilance court. His pension and gratuity have been permanently stopped. Former BDO of Kalahandi district Gandaram Khamari also faced the same fate after being convicted in a corruption case. Similarly, former

assistant agriculture officer Gokul Chandra Nayak from Nabarangpur district has been dismissed from service on charges of corruption and inefficiency.

Assistant agriculture officer Krushna Chandra Gouda, G Udaygiri block of Kandhamal district, has been denied pension and gratuity over graft charges.

Dasarathi Tripathy, a soil conservation officer in Malkangiri district, has been denied pension and gratuity for corruption.

RWSS junior engineer Upendrabhanja Nayak of Baragarh district has also been denied pension and gratuity for inefficiency, corruption and bad behaviour. He has been dismissed from the service, the official said.

Sundargarh local fund audit's ex-auditor Sushil Kumar Meher has been convicted in a corruption case and dismissed from service on charges of both corruption and inefficiency.

Education Officer Anand Chandra Naik of Mayurbhanj has also been denied pension and gratuity after he was convicted.

Former officer Surendra Nath Pati of Nayagarh was convicted in a corruption case following which his pension and gratuity has also been stopped.

MODI SURNAME CASE

No respite for Rahul; Congress to move SC

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, July 7: With the rejection of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his 'Modi surname' remark by Gujarat High Court, the Congress party Friday decided to approach the Supreme Court against the court order.

Addressing media at Congress party headquarters, senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the judgement pronounced by the Gujarat High Court is disappointing but not un-

expected and added that they would approach the Supreme Court for relief in the case. The senior party leader said this is a case of free speech and expression. The BJP government's aim is to control freedom of expression, he said, adding that all these complaints have been filed by the office BJP bearers.

Singhvi, a senior advocate in Supreme Court, cited several flaws in the 125-page judgement. Referring to para 63 of the judgement, Singhvi said Rahul Gandhi is an accused and not a convict in the 10 criminal cases which the Gujarat HC cited in its order.

McDonald's drops tomatoes from India offerings

Wholesale prices of the staple of traditional Indian cuisine have surged 288% in a month to a high of ₹140 a kg Friday while retail prices are hovering around ₹200

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Mumbai, July 7: Restaurants of fast food chain McDonald's have dropped tomatoes from their burgers and wraps in many parts of India, hit by supply shortages and quality concerns after prices of the vegetable soared to records.

In some regions, wholesale prices of the staple of traditional Indian cuisine have surged 288 per cent in a month to a high

of ₹140 (\$1.7) a kg Friday, with retail prices hovering around ₹200, spurring many people to cut back on consumption.

The government blames the higher prices of tomatoes on a lean production season when monsoon rains disrupt transport and distribution, but it comes after consumers have battled higher prices of items ranging from milk to spices in recent months.

"Despite our best efforts, we are not able to get adequate quantities of tomatoes which pass our stringent quality checks," read notices posted in two McDonald's stores in New Delhi.

"We are forced to serve you products without tomatoes," mentioned the Store managers said the problem was due to qual-



PRICE HIKE BLUES

Tomato prices in India hit record high. Indians cutting back on tomato consumption. Govt blames higher prices of tomatoes on a lean production season. Price rise comes when inflation was hurting consumers.

ity issues in the supply chain, rather than pricing.

In a statement to media, Connaught Plaza Restaurants, which runs about 150 outlets as McDonald's (MCD.N) franchisee in India's north and east, attributed the decision to 'temporary' seasonal issues.

However, Westlife Foodworld (WESTNS), the McDonald's fran-

chisee for India's western and southern regions, with 357 restaurants, said there were "no serious tomato-related issues".

The problem was seasonal and forced 10 per cent to 15 per cent of its stores to stop serving tomatoes temporarily, it said.

McDonald's Delhi stores still offer sachets of tomato ketchup,

however, and a nearby Subway restaurant said there were no issues serving tomatoes.

In the financial capital of Mumbai, vegetable vendor Vijay Sharma said sales had fallen off from the 40 kg (88 lb) he used to peddle each day.

"Most of my customers have stopped buying tomatoes and now, I only bring five kilos," he said.

Assuring the customers, McDonald's India - North and East spokesperson said, "We reiterate that it is not due to the surge in the prices. It is only due to the non-availability of tomatoes meeting our quality specifications."

As Indians cut back on tomatoes, some businesses suggest alternatives.



PARIS HILTON CALLED OUT BY PETA FOR GETTING DOG FROM BREEDER

Socialite Paris Hilton was recently called out by PETA for getting a dog from a breeder instead of an animal shelter or adoption centre. The outrage was caused when Hilton posted a picture of herself with her new dog on social media.

RACHEL SHELLY MAKES A COMEBACK TO INDIAN SCREENS WITH KOHRRRA

British actress Rachel Shelley is making a comeback to Indian screens with the crime investigative series *Kohrra* on Netflix. The actress gained widespread recognition in India for her role as Elizabeth Russell in *Lagaan* starring Aamir Khan. The film released in 2001.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today you may want to do only those things that you love to do. You have a very optimistic outlook. Your decision making will be fast, but you may postpone some of them. Ganesh says you may go home dancing if that is what makes you happy.

TAURUS

Ganesh sees you getting saddled with worries and anxieties, stress and confusion right from the start of the day. Before getting overwhelmed, try to go to the root of the problems. Earnest reflection will show you past events are the basic cause of whatever you are facing today.

GEMINI

You will be busy involved in planning for and activities related to travelling. Exposure to various types of people and cultures will provide you with food for thought. You need to guard against being arrogant and be humble, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Ganesh oversees a good news from abroad. You will get pleasant surprise from known or unknown sources. A sage counsel from elders will prove useful all your life. You tend to be quite emotional today.

LEO

Businessmen and traders need to be wary of their competitors. They will be jealous of your progress and will hatch nefarious schemes to pull you down, warns Ganesh.

VIRGO

You will be very open-minded today, very receptive to ideas from everyone. However, when it boils down to taking decisions, it will be the stubborn ones that will prevail. Today is also a time to resolve pending issues at work. But in the evening you may enjoy a nice dinner with your beloved and summon the courage to pop that all-important question.

LIBRA

You may get caught up in relationship issues today, foretells Ganesh. But your discretionary powers will help you steer clear of any misconceptions. Be willing to dig up the maximum support from your subordinates at work, but also keep an eye out on your opponents' moves. It always helps to know what others are up to!

SCORPIO

Chances are your beloved will share the most intimate vibes with you today, says Ganesh. The entire day shall be quiet and peaceful. Ganesh hopes your skilled negotiation will rescue you from being short changed.

SAGITTARIUS

While most of them try hard not to mix business or work with pleasure, you enjoy doing that! And you soon realise that it is working well. Today, according to Ganesh, your actions speak louder than words. All in all, a constructive day in store for you.

CAPRICORN

If you are a civil servant, good times are ahead for you. Also, you may have to deal with the government for your business and it will turn out to be a fruitful transaction, says Ganesh. If you are a lawyer, doctor, or any other professional, you will need to prove you metal and ensure that you utilise the every opportunity coming your way.

AQUARIUS

Your friends will make your day, especially those in high places will prove invaluable. With their assistance, you may even start a new venture without a hitch. If a professional, you will meet with wonderful success. If a student, have no worries about missing a few classes, says Ganesh. Your classmates will bail you out!

PISCES

Today, you are likely to sign new agreements and ink new contracts, which will later prove to be milestones in your path to progress. Your financial position is also likely to grow stronger, and your savings ought to become more robust, planning as you are for future exigencies, says Ganesh.

Huma on polarisation in Hindi film industry

Mumbai: Actor Huma Qureshi recently opened up about polarisation in the film industry on the basis of religion and said she doesn't understand it. Huma said she never felt she is a Muslim or anyone 'different' from others. She also slightly touched upon the incident in the US where the media questioned PM Narendra Modi about the rights of Muslims and other minorities.

The *Gangs of Wasseypur* actress is known for her bold statements. During a recent interaction on a news channel, the actor was asked if polarisations in films exist. In response, she said, "I don't understand

where these things are coming from." Replying to her, the anchor explained, "This has surfaced from PM Modi's recent visit to the US where US media questioned him about the protection of Muslim rights. Do you think this was the right question?"

Huma replied in Hindi, "I never realised that I am Muslim and I am different. My father is running a restaurant, Saleem's in Kailash Colony (of Delhi). In my personal experience, I have never felt it. People might have felt it. Having said that I feel, questions should be asked and every government should answer." AGENCIES



'No interest in playing Ajay Devgn's mom'

Mumbai: Actress Madhoo has been away from the showbiz for a long time now. She made her mark with her stellar performances in movies like *Roja*, *Yodha*, *Zaalim* and *Yeshwant* among several others. However, she left the film industry at the peak of her career in the 90s because she was unhappy with the roles she was getting. She recently called out ageism in films and set the record straight once and for all.

During a recent event in Chennai, Madhoo said that she has absolutely no interest in playing Ajay Devgn's mother on the big screen, in a possible scenario. She argued that they both were launched together in the industry with

their 1991 film *Phool Aur Kaante* and are of similar age.

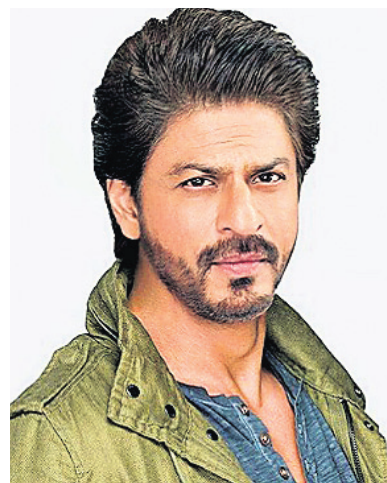
She then recalled that during the 90s, heroes dominated the scene in action films and her roles mainly involved dancing, delivering a few romantic lines, and shedding tears with parents. While she enjoyed dancing, she was deeply unhappy with this shift after doing a film like *Roja*. She realised that her true passion lies in being an artist and doing meaningful work.

Citing Tabu's example, Madhoo said that she is grateful for the positive changes that the industry has undergone and she credited the web space for changing the mindset of the storytellers. However, she said that getting meaty roles are difficult for women of a certain age even now. AGENCIES

SRK doesn't know acting: Pak actor

Mumbai: Pakistani actress Mahnoor Baloch in a chat show titled *Had Kardi* where she was seen discussing beauty standards, said that Hindi film Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has a good personality but is not handsome. He also doesn't know acting, she added.

"Shah Rukh Khan has a very good personality, but if you see him according to the beauty parameters and what is considered handsome, he doesn't come under that," she said on the Pakistani chat show. "It is my opinion Shah Rukh Khan



also doesn't know how to act. I think he is a great businessman. He knows how to market himself. This is my opinion. He has many fans who may think I am wrong and that's fine. Personality is good. Well there are many good actors, who are not as successful... so he has to have some kind of business mind," Mahnoor said. However, SRK's fan reacted strongly

after the videos of the interview started going the rounds.

One wrote: "Yes, Shaharukh has marketed himself well in your country too, to make your girls beeline for just his glimpses; ask the ladies in your house, they can reply you better."

"Plastic ka dabba Mahnoor SRK pe comment Karegi lol," wrote another. IANS

Babushaan joins Dasama team as playback singer



Babushaan with wife Trupti during the song recording

Cuttack: With the addition of prominent star Babushaan Mohanty to the production, the upcoming Odia film *Dasama* has recently generated a lot of buzz in the industry. He wasn't brought in this time as an actor, though. He will contribute as a playback singer to one of the film's tracks. The *Daman* actor and his wife joined in on the song recording at the Somesh studio in Bhubaneswar.

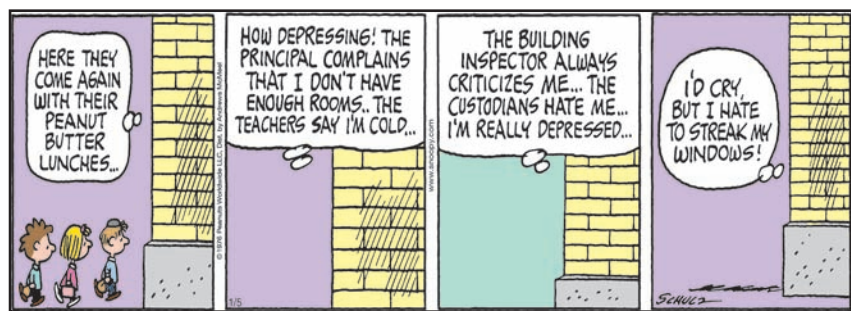
The Raja D-directed movie has wrapped up filming in a number of Odisha locations, including Puri, Bhubaneswar, and Jajpur. Raja mentioned that the movie is centred upon the close friendship between two Class X

students. Sailendra Samantray, Akash Hota, Arman Mohanty, Jyoti, Nilakshi Patra, Simran, and Suman Pattanaik play key roles in the movie.

While Deepak Kumar Jena and Shradha Panigrahi are the producers, Kumarashri Sahu has written the screenplay and dialogues for the movie. Gaurav Anand, Sandeep Panda, Prit Priya, Subhrajit, Binaya Rath, and Anurag Pattanaik are just a few of the vocalists who have lent their voices to the songs. Subrat Behera has scored the music of the film.

Dasama is scheduled to hit theatres during Ganesh Puja. PNN

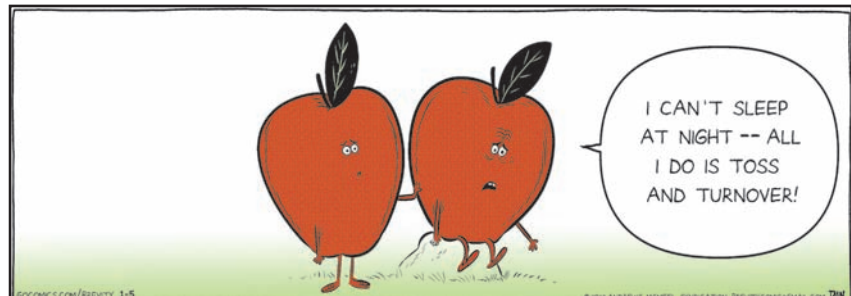
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

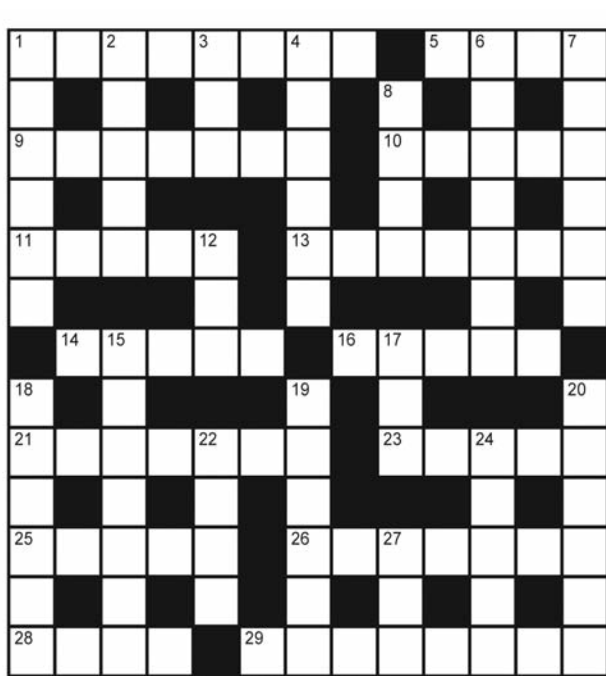


BREVITY



FUN post

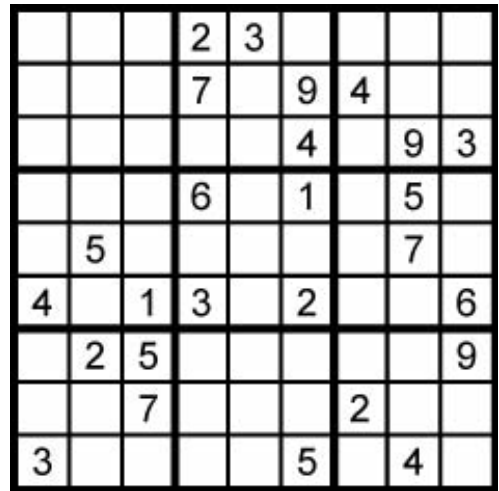
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Island inhabitant, maybe
 - 5 Moonfish
 - 9 Pear-shaped tropical fruit
 - 10 Loathing
 - 11 Fragrant oil
 - 13 Set apart
 - 14 Do garden work
 - 16 Radiance
 - 21 Poseidon's counterpart
 - 23 Public square
 - 25 Not quite right
 - 26 Game dish
 - 28 Philosopher
 - 29 Studhorse
 - 8 Sport with mallets
 - 12 Gallop
 - 15 Old World plover
 - 17 Short flight
 - 18 Historical records
 - 19 Soft, dense fabric
 - 20 Tea substance
 - 22 Celestial bear
 - 24 Very, in music
 - 27 Lacking value
- Down**
- 1 Neckwear
 - 2 Whoop
 - 3 Alias initials.
 - 4 Beloved of Aphrodite
 - 6 Confidential
 - 7 Tiny village

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

RAZING DOWN

An excavator deployed by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) pulls down an illegally-built structure in Patrapada area of the Capital city, Friday



STATE TO INVEST ₹75K-CR IN WATER RESOURCES: NAVEEN



here to see. "Many of the irrigation projects like Lower Suktel, Kanupur, Subarnarekha, Chheligada are nearing completion. My sincere appreciation to the entire team," Naveen said praising the department.

The CM said the kind of in-stream storage structures and mega lift projects have been taken up will change the face of irrigation potential of the state and in turn, the lives of millions of farmers.

The Water Resources department needs to formulate strategies and build climate resilient sustainable water infrastructure to make Odisha a 'Water Secure State' at the earliest. That apart, all Collectors need to take up water conservation measures on a large scale as done by the Ganjam Collector to meet the water requirement of their districts, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahoo praised the vision of Chief Minister for taking Odisha on the path of transformation. She cited the example of Kalahandi and spoke about its transformation in food production. She assured that the department would work hard to fulfill the objectives of the Chief Minister.

Chief Secretary PK Jena appreciated the efforts of the department in providing irrigation facilities, water conservation, participation of farmers in Pani Panchayat and its efforts in reducing the impact of climate change.

Development Commissioner and ACS to Water Resources department Anu Garg highlighted the achievement of the department and how different irrigation projects have been changing the lives of people in water scarce districts.



NEW ACADEMIC SESSION: Students complete formalities at Rama Devi Higher Secondary School in Bhubaneswar, Friday, as Plus II admissions begin OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The state government is committed to investing Rs 75,000 crore towards the development of Odisha's water resources in the next five years, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here, Friday.

While felicitating the 'Water Resources Team of Odisha' and Ganjam district for the success in getting 'National Water Awards' during an event organised at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Odisha has received the 'second best state' award in water conservation and management, while Ganjam district has got the top award among the districts at 4th National Water Awards

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Patnaik appreciated the commitment and efforts of the state and district officials.

Notably, Odisha has received the 'second best state' award in water conservation and management, while Ganjam district

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DEFICIT RAINFALL IN 17 DISTRICTS: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: As many as 17 districts of the state have received a deficit rain, while only 10 districts registered normal rainfall from June 1 to July 7, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, Friday.

With the south-west monsoon remaining subdued, Odisha has recorded 25 per cent deficit rainfall which severely affected agricultural activities across the state.

However, the IMD claimed that rainfall activities of the past two days have helped compensate deficit rainfall ratio by 6 per cent from 31 per cent to 25 per cent.

According to IMD sources, 17 districts of the state have received a deficit while only 10 districts registered normal rain-

The 10 districts that witnessed normal or more rainfall included Angul, Bargarh, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Malkangiri, Koraput, Sundargarh, Nuapada and Sambalpur

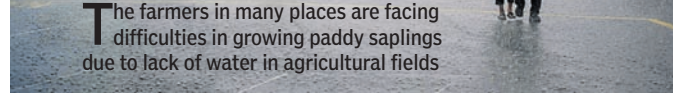
While the monsoon usually reaches Odisha between June 10 and 12, this year it has been delayed and arrived June 22

64 per cent as the region has so far received 117.5 mm of rainfall while the normal figure stands at 325.1 mm during the period.

The 10 districts that witnessed normal or more rainfall included Angul, Bargarh, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Malkangiri, Koraput, Sundargarh, Nuapada and Sambalpur.

While the monsoon usually reaches Odisha between June 10 and 12, this year it has been delayed and arrived June 22.

Meanwhile, the farmers in most places of the state are facing difficulties in growing paddy saplings due to lack of water in agricultural fields, a senior agriculture department official admitted and hoped that the ongoing spell of rainfall will compensate for the situation.



The farmers in many places are facing difficulties in growing paddy saplings due to lack of water in agricultural fields

fall from June 1 to July 7.

The state has received 206 mm rainfall against normal rainfall of 276.6 mm during the period, registering a deficit of 25 per cent, weather scientist Umashankar Das said.

Deogarh district in the west-

ern region of the state has received 410.8 mm rainfall which is 53 per cent excess than the normal precipitation of 268.3 mm in the district.

Similarly, the Kalahandi district in the same western region received the highest shortfall of

EX-ELEMENTARY EDU OFFICER GETS 2-YR IN JAIL

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The Special Vigilance Court in Berhampur Friday convicted a retired officer for misappropriating government funds and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for two years and a fine of Rs 7,000.

Prakash Chandra Mohanty, former financial advisor-cum-chief accounts officer at the Directorate of Elementary Education, was chargesheeted by the state government for misappropriating government money in supply of steel almirahs made of substandard materials under Operation Black

ED attaches ₹1.06cr assets

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth around Rs 1.06 crore of Pradeep Kumar Satpathy, the former chairman of Sonepur Panchayat Samiti in Subarnapur district, under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case. Satpathy who was the chairman of Sonepur block from 2002 to 2007 also held the post of vice-chairman from 2007 till 2012.

the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The court further sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of one year and to pay fine of Rs 2,000 and in default of payment of fine, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of one month for the offence under Sections 468 (120-B) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Both the sentences will run concurrently.



IN SYNC: Artistes perform during a cultural event organised at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday OP PHOTO

Orissa HC orders CB probe into Anand Toppo's death

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 7: Trouble seems to be mounting for former India hockey team player and Olympian bronze medallist Birendra Lakra, with the Orissa High Court ordering a Crime Branch (CB) probe into the death of his friend Anand Toppo.

As Lakra is serving as a police officer in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, it would be proper if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the higher grade, the HC said, directing the CB ADG to entrust the investigation to a senior officer, not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police, who shall reinvestigate the matter from all angles and submit a report to the court accordingly.

The previous investigating officer (IO) has been asked to trans-

mit the entire case diary and all other records/documents collected during investigation to the CB forthwith.

On February 28, 2022, Toppo was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a flat where Lakra and a woman were present.

In the HC order copy, it was mentioned that Toppo's father had received a call from Lakra that his son was unconscious and shifted to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, in an ambulance. Later, the doctors declared him dead.

Suspecting foul play, the Toppo's father attempted to lodge a complaint at the Infocity police station but this was not accepted on the ground that an FIR had already been lodged of a case of suicide.

Toppo's father had asked the Bhubaneswar DCP and Commissioner of Police to con-

vert the case into a murder case and start investigation, but no action was taken by the police, the order copy read.

Later, when he moved the HC, police registered a case in November 2022 and started investigation. On December 15, 2022, the IO received a viscera chemical report of the deceased, which revealed presence of alcohol and drugs.

The IO obtained the opinion of a doctor at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, who was of the view that the injury found on the neck of the deceased was ante-mortem in nature. On February 7, a final report was submitted stating that no prima facie evidence was made out to be murder case.

Feeling aggrieved, Toppo's father filed another application in the HC and it ordered for a CB probe.

Rome's historic bakery serving Popes for a century, closes

EACH TIME A NEW HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS ELECTED, THE 'PANIFICIO ARRIGONI' ON BORGO PIO, JUST A FIVE-MINUTE WALK FROM ST PETER'S SQUARE, WOULD GET READY TO CATER TO THE NEW POPE'S TASTES

The Arrigoni bakery has made bread for Popes for almost a century, from rosetta rolls to wholewheat loaves - but mass tourism has proved deadly and no prayers can save it now.

"We turned the oven off on Tuesday," said Angelo Arrigoni, 79, whose father opened the little shop in 1930 during Pius XI's papacy, and who would hand-deliver bread to the papal household.

Each time a new head of the Catholic Church was elected, the 'Panificio Arrigoni' on Borgo Pio, just a five-minute walk from St Peter's Square, would get ready to cater to the new Pope's tastes.

Polish Pope John Paul II, elected in 1978, "said he wanted the bread his workers ate,"

Arrigoni said. "The workers ate both the 'ciriola', that big, classic Roman loaf that hardly anyone makes anymore, and rosetta rolls," he told AFP.

"So for his whole papacy, which lasted almost 27 years, we gave him five 'ciriola' and five rosetta rolls."

When his successor Benedict XVI was elected, Arrigoni rang the papal household but was told by a nun that the new German Pope would be sticking with the baker he frequented as a cardinal.

"But I am that baker!" he told her, for Benedict had already been getting cheese and unleavened bread from him as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. "Piece of history"



Pope Francis has also been served by Arrigoni - but will now need to look elsewhere for his daily bread, after the baker found himself squeezed by a

drop in loyal local customers and steep energy prices. "The district has changed," he said. "All the houses that used to

“In Borgo Pio, there are only tourist restaurants... whereas here (Panificio Arrigoni) you can find good products, at the right price and with Angelo who is incredible - kind, friendly... it makes me want to cry”

FRANCESCA PANTUSA | TOURIST GUIDE

be full of people have become rentals for tourists," most of whom do not do a daily shop for basics, but prefer to eat out in the Eternal City's restaurants.

News that the premises have been sold has saddened Arrigoni's remaining regular customers.

Tourist guide Francesca Pantusa took her time eating

her last sandwich, prepared with care by Arrigoni.

"In Borgo Pio, there are only tourist restaurants... whereas here you can find good products, at the right price and with Angelo who is incredible - kind, friendly.. it makes me want to cry," she said.

The bakery stood out on the street, particularly for the lack of tourist-friendly tables outside -- a sore subject with Arrigoni, after he tried and failed to convince the council to give him permission.

Vatican reporter Iacopo Scaramuzzi slammed the council on Twitter, asking why a city "drunk with nostalgia was unable to preserve its heritage" and save "the Popes' baker... a piece of Vatican history". AFP

Curb jumbo deaths in Odisha: UK MPs to PM

In the last three years, 245 elephants have been killed in Odisha, where mining is rampant, wrote the parliamentarians



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 7: Member of Parliament (MPs) of the United Kingdom (UK), along with some other celebrities, recently wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to take every step under his government's capacity to minimize the human-elephant conflicts in the country, especially in Odisha, to prevent extinction of the gravely endangered Asian Elephants.

In the letter, quoting President Droupadi Murmu, who had once said, "Elephant is the National Heritage Animal of India. Therefore, protecting elephants is an important part of our national responsibility to preserve this heritage," the MPs said that

the unprecedented number of elephant deaths in the country is in sharp contrast with the statements made by the President.

In the last ten years, almost 1,200 elephants have been killed across the country. In the last three years itself, 245 elephants have been killed in Odisha alone, where mining is rampant, the letter mentioned.

"Asian elephants are an endangered species, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. There are only 40,000 Asian elephants remaining on the entire planet, 27,000 in India, their last bastion," said the letter adding that India also has the highest human population in the world, at 1.41 billion, to sustain which infra-

structure development such as railways, roadways and mining are rising dramatically.

Asian elephants have already lost 80 per cent of their habitats to human encroachment such as agriculture, resulting in senseless elephant deaths on railways and highways. "Due to the rapidly dwindling natural resources, elephants are being squeezed out of the forests and forced to enter human dwellings in search of food and water, which is intensifying human elephant conflict. Elephants are being poisoned, electrocuted, driven away using illegal and brutal methods such as tossing spears attached with fireballs and even shot at to get rid of them, even as poachers are setting off forest fires to lure the wildlife and trap them," they wrote in the letter.

Notably, in a presentation to the MPs, renowned elephant conservationist Sangita Iyer had said, "Countries may have borders, but climate change does not. What happens to elephants in India will have a cascading effect around the planet. We need all world leaders to come together to explore Indian authorities to act urgently in the wake of the alarming number of elephant deaths."



KEEPING VIGIL: CMC Mayor Subhash Singh presides over a meeting on dengue preparedness at the civic body office in Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

Experts, officials brainstorm CSR policies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: In collaboration with the state government, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organised here Friday the CSR Summit-2023, a platform dedicated to discussing corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies, regulations and challenges.

The summit brought out insights from experts in the field and emphasized the vital role of CSR in localising sustainable development goals (SDGs) in rural and tribal areas of the state. The theme of the summit 'Mainstreaming CSR for sustained inclusiveness' was set by Jagadananda, convener of the CSR and sustainability committee of ICC Odisha state council and former state information commissioner for Odisha.

In his address, he stressed on creating collaborative partnerships between corporates



through CSR, government, and civil society organisations vital for the inclusive development of Odisha. "Leaving no one behind - as per the SDG Agenda 2030 - can never be truly realised without robust collaborations," he said.

ICC Odisha state council chairperson JB Pany, in his welcome address, emphasized the need for high-quality engagements at the community level by cor-

porate CSR entities operating in the state.

Hemant Sharma, principal secretary of Industries department and chairman of IDCO & IPICOL, and Usha Padhee, principal secretary of Skill Development and Technical Education and Commerce and Transport department delivered the inaugural addresses as the guests of honour.

The CSR Summit saw active

participation from well-known people of the domain, including JSPL president Prashant Hota and Tata Steel head of CSR Ambika Prasad Nanda, who emphasized the significance of meaningful CSR activities in improving the happiness index of communities.

Representative from Ruchi Food Line, AMNS, GMR Kamalanga Energy, JSW Group, PPL, and JSPL joined the summit that facilitated discussions on the future roadmap for achieving inclusive development.

Key topics of the thematic sessions were: Human development and livelihood promotion; disaster and climate change. Given Odisha's vulnerability to disasters, the experts underlined the importance of shifting from non-renewable to renewable energy sources to address environmental and climate change concerns.

'Akanshi-2' for Odisha in PGI

Bhubaneswar: With a score of 461-520, Odisha is among the 12 states/Union Territories to get grade Akanshi-2 in the Ministry of Education's Performance Grading Index (PGI) report released, Friday. Chandigarh and Punjab have been adjudged the best performers in the PGI. The Ministry of Education assesses the performance of the school education system at the state and Union Territory levels by creating an index for comprehensive analysis. In the PGI, none of the states/UTs could attain the highest grade - Daksh. Only two states and UTs - Punjab and Chandigarh - have attained grade Prachesta -2 (score 641-700) in PGI 2.0. Six states/UTs joined grade Prachesta -3 (score 581-640), 13 states/UTs joined grade Akanshi -1 (score 521-580). Odisha is among 12 states/UTs in grade Akanshi -2 (score 461-520) and 3 states in grade Akanshi -3 in PGI 2.0.

SOA inks implementation agreement with HITAS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here has signed an implementation agreement with Hanseatic Institute of Technology and Applied Sciences (HITAS) of Cameroon on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two institutions in February last.

The agreement was signed between SOA's Nachieketa K Sharma and Maurice K Kamga of HITAS.

As per the agreement, SOA will impart online courses in bachelor of business administration (BBA), master in business administration (MBA), bachelor in computer application (BCA) and master in computer

application (MCA) to students of HITAS from 2024-25 academic session.

Both the institutes will provide state-of-the-art digital facilities for the online programmes while SOA will oversee the installation of laboratory facilities and all matters related to successful implementation of bachelor of technology (BTech) programme in mechanical engineering and computer science engineering and information technology from the 2024-25 academic session.

It was also agreed that HITAS would depute students from Cameroon to study Bachelor of Science (nursing) and BTech to SOA subject to the eligibility of the students for these two courses.

SCERT counselling session for 108 teacher educators

Bhubaneswar: Directorate of Teacher Education and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Friday held a counselling session in Krushi Bhawan here for short-listed teacher educators set for appointment in district institute of educational trainings (DIETs) and block institute for education and training (BIETs) across the state. 108 candidates were shortlisted for 120 notified vacancies in 30 DIETs and 4 BIET. The session started with documents verification of the candidates. Manoj Kumar Padhi, director of SCERT delivered the welcome note at the session. He motivated the newly appointed educators to positively contribute to the education sector through their earnest efforts. Sushant Kumar Das, director of Board of Secondary Education, Jyoti Ranjan Mishra, director of Elementary Education were present in the session.

HC: Consensual sex not rape if promise of marriage is broken

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, July 7: Orissa High Court has said that if a consensual physical relationship was based on promise of marriage which could not be materialised for some reasons, it cannot be considered rape.

The high court quashed the charge of rape faced by a Bhubaneswar-based man. The allegation against him was brought by a woman who is a friend of the petitioner and is in a matrimonial dispute with her husband for five years.

The other allegations against

the petitioner such as cheating are left open for investigation, Justice RK Pattanaik said in the order.

"There is a subtle difference between a breach of promise which is made in good faith but subsequently could not be fulfilled, and a false promise to marry."

"In the former case, for any such sexual intimacy, an offence under Section 376 IPC is not made out, whereas, in the latter, it is, since the same is based on the premise that the promise of marriage was false or fake from the very beginning," the

high court order of July 3 read.

The Supreme Court in an order had said that if two persons maintained a physical relationship on an assurance of marriage to the victim, which due to some reasons failed to materialise later, it cannot be called rape with a claim that the promise had been broken, the bench observed.

"A sour relationship, if initially started and developed genuinely with friendship, should not always be branded as a product of mistrust, and the male partner should never be accused of rape," it said in connection with the case.

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LOST

I, Smt. Nalini Padhan, W/o. Nrupati Padhan, At/PO/PS- Paikmal, Dist-Bargarh have purchased a land vide Regd. Sale Deed. No.- 1639/1990 has been lost elsewhere. If anybody found please contact- 9178217209.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an Affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar: I Richa Jain Singh, Aged about 31 years, D/o-Narpat Chand Jain, W/o-Shubham Kumar Singh, resident of Plot No.58-C, Kushal Milap, Jayadurga Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist-Khordha, Odisha, do hereby solemnly affirm and state that my motherhood name is Richa Jain. After my marriage to Subham Kumar Singh on 09.12.2020. I want to change my name from Richa Jain to Richa Jain Singh. Henceforth, I shall be known as Richa Jain Singh for all purposes.

Why scientists are covering a glacier with white sheets

The air was thin as a group of scientists trudged through snow near the peak of the Dagu Glacier in southwestern China on a gloomy June morning. It was quiet up there, three miles above sea level, except for the sound of running water - a constant reminder of the ice melting right beneath their feet.

As they trekked upwards, oxygen canisters tucked into their fleece jackets, porters walked alongside carrying thick rolls of white fabric. The researchers planned to spread those sheets across more than 4,300 square feet (400 square meters) of the mountain. The film was designed to reflect the sun's rays back into the atmosphere, effectively shielding the glacier from the heat and hopefully preserving some of its ice.

For decades, Dagu has supported the lives of tens of thou-

sands of people who live around it. The glacier's meltwater provides drinking water and helps to generate hydropower, while the majestic views of the Tibetan Plateau can attract more than 2,00,000 tourists a year, fueling an industry that keeps over 2,000 people employed. Now all that is under threat as the planet warms.

The Chinese scientists were under no illusion that their project would save Dagu. The glacier has already lost more than 70 per cent of its ice over the past half century. One researcher described such efforts to a local newspaper as akin to a doctor merely trying to extend the life of a terminally ill patient by a few years. The only real cure would be to drastically cut emissions of planet-warming carbon dioxide, of which China is the world's biggest source.

"All the human intervention



methods that we're working on, even if they prove effective, are only going to slow down" the melting, said Zhu Bin, the 32-year-old Nanjing University associate professor leading the expedition. "If the Earth keeps getting warmer, in the end there is no way to protect the glaciers forever."

Covering glaciers with sheets of reflective material isn't a new idea. European ski resorts have

been using white blankets to protect their snow for nearly two decades. But China has only just begun experimenting with the approach. Small trials conducted on a glacier in Xinjiang and Dagu beginning in 2020 appear to have slowed their retreat.

This time, Zhu's team was testing out a new material that their research suggests has the potential to reflect more than 93 per

The Chinese scientists were under no illusion that their project would save Dagu. The glacier has already lost more than 70 per cent of its ice over the past half century

One researcher described such efforts to a local newspaper as akin to a doctor merely trying to extend the life of a terminally ill patient by a few years

cent of sunlight and help Dagu actively lose heat. The film is made out of cellulose acetate, a natural fiber made from plants, in order to minimize its environmental impact.

Previous studies have shown that covering parts of glaciers with special materials can reduce the melting of snow and ice by between 50 per cent and 70 per cent compared with unprotected surfaces. But chemicals or plas-

tic particles from the sheets could negatively impact local ecosystems, according to Matthias Huss, a professor of glaciology at ETH Zurich.

The sheets that Zhu and his team hauled up Dagu wouldn't be effective on larger glaciers anyway, because they are constantly moving, according to Johannes Oerlemans, a climatologist at Utrecht University.

Not only is the infrastructure needed to place the sheets on a large glacier impractical, dirt would likely accumulate over time, darkening the surface and reducing their ability to reflect sunlight, says Oerlemans. He instead advocates for depositing artificial snow. A project that Oerlemans worked on sought to spread snow made from meltwater - without the use of electricity - on a glacier in Switzerland.

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Tuskers disappearing in Dhenkanal

Jual visits Bonai for 'Jan Sampark Yatra'

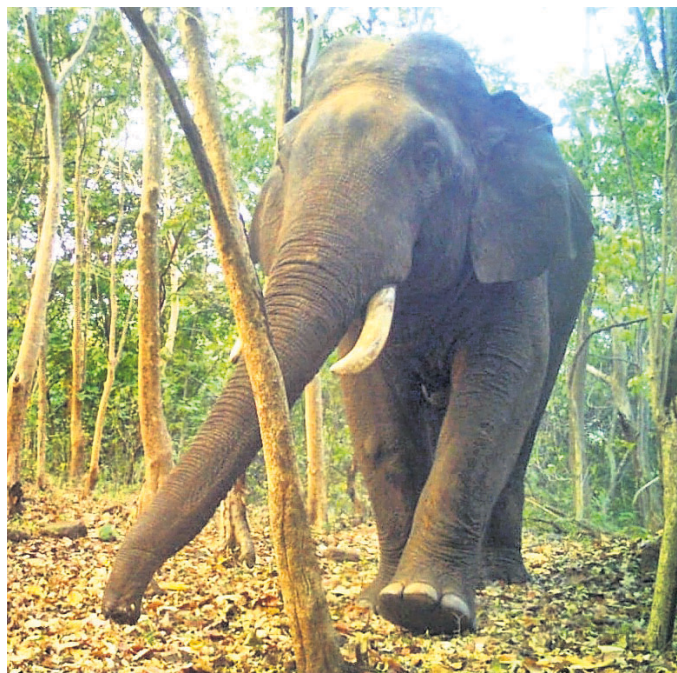
IT IS FEARED THAT IF THE NUMBER OF TUSKERS CONTINUES TO GO DOWN, THEN ELEPHANTS WILL SOON VANISH FROM THE DISTRICT'S FORESTS OWING TO INADEQUATE REPRODUCTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, July 7: After Similipal, Dhenkanal forest division has the most number of pachyderms in the state. The protected forests here coupled with the cool climate provide a free and suitable habitation to the giant animals. However, on the other hand, the persisting menace of man-elephant conflict has not spared this district either. Meanwhile, the Forest department has revealed some shocking facts relating to the male elephant population. It is feared that if the number of tuskers continues to go down, then elephants will soon vanish from the district's forests owing to inadequate reproduction.

Elephant has been given the tag of heritage animal of India. But the measures being taken to safeguard them are meagre. Consequently, dark clouds of peril are hovering over the biggest mammals on land. Especially, in Odisha, the unabated poaching of tuskers for the greed of their tusks and the Forest officials' involvement in such criminal activities have become a cause of concern. In this backdrop, the fact that in the last three years as many as nine bull elephants have per-

ELEPHANTINE THREAT



ished in Dhenkanal has alarmed the Forest department.

According to wildlife experts, both male and female jumbos mature physically for mating between eight to 12 years of age. The breeding season of the animals spans from December to March. During this time, one

tusker establishes relation with around five females in the herd. If everything goes well, all five females conceive and after 22 months they bear calves. It is important that a fine balance remains between the number of male and female jumbos. However, due to a host of rea-

■ As per the available data, 3 tuskers died in 2021-22, 5 in 2022-23 and 1 till July this year (2023-24) taking the total fatalities to 9 in just 3 years

■ As per the information provided by the Forest department, there are 54 tuskers left in different jungles of the district

sons, death of young tuskers is on the rise in Dhenkanal district. As per the available data, three tuskers died in 2021-22, five in 2022-23 and one till July this year (2023-24). In the areas under the district where man-elephant conflict is prevalent, hunters are setting electric traps in forests and farmlands to hunt wild boars. Many a times, elephants get trapped and electrocuted. Especially, the tuskers that are separated from their herd and wander about alone have a higher risk of death. Most of the nine jumbo fatalities are due to electrocutions. As per the information provided by the Forest department, there are 54 tuskers living in different jungles of the district.

In this regard, Dhenkanal DFO Sumit Kumar Kar said, "It is the responsibility of the Forest department to provide security to both people and jumbos. The declining number of

tuskers is a great concern as it puts the elephant population at stake. People will be made aware of this fact. Patrolling has been stepped up in many areas for better protection of life and property from jumbo menace. We are also informing the people in advance through a mobile app."

No lesson learnt
Kandhara protected forest under Hindol forest range of this district borders Cuttack district's Baramba, Narasinghpur areas making it easier for the poachers to infiltrate into the forest. Five years ago, a tusker had succumbed in this forest after being fired upon by a poacher. The accused had even resorted to firing towards the Forest officials. As the Forest personnel backtracked fearing for their lives, the poachers had cut away both tusks of the jumbo. The incident was a wake-up call for the Forest department. While no arrests have been made in this regard even after five years, questions have been raised on the modernisation of the Forest department.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 7: With barely a few months left before the 2024 general elections, Sundargarh district is witnessing hectic political activities, especially by the saffron party. BJP's Sundargarh MP Jual Oram is busy these days with the door-to-door 'Jan Sampark Yatra'. And in this regard, he made a whirlwind tour of his old constituency Bonai from where he started his career as an MLA.

Oram, who has been elected twice from Bonai as BJP MLA, visited Gurundia and Lathikata areas. The sole aim of the visit to these areas was to make the public aware of the nine-year rule of the Modi Government, of which he is a part. Jual was accompanied by good number of party leaders and cadres during both the programmes.

"Bhai is very serious this time for Bonai and this time we are going to show what we can do," said one Giridhari Pradhan over the phone. Ironically, BJP has been losing in Jual's home constituency continuously to CPI (M).

At Gurundia, he participated in the death anniversary of the party's former top leader Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Then he took stock of the situation of all the

The BJP MLA visited Gurundia and Lathikata areas

developmental works. He also interacted with the local administrative officers.

Later he toured Lathikata. His main focus was Lathikata's main market area. There also, he made people aware of the developmental works undertaken by Modi government in Centre. A small booklet containing all the major activities of the Central government during the last nine years was there. The booklet specially mentioned the corruption of the PM Awas Yojana.

"Over 18 lakh homes have been handed over to the beneficiaries and another 9.5 lakh have been approved but the rampant corruption prevailing in the state has deprived them of this benefit," said Jual, quoting the booklet. "What we have done in the last nine years for the poor and the underprivileged has no comparison. Be it through Ujjwala, Soubhagya or Jal Jiban Mission the NDA govt is showing its concern and determination for doing the best for those who really need it," said Jual.



MAKING HAY: Youths set up fishing nets after the Balibandha sluice gate was opened owing to heavy rain in Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: eTender CPMGSUBS2023004, Dtd. 21.06.2023

Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF RUB/ROAD UNDER BRIDGE) UNDER EXISTING RAIL LINE AT SIDING NO. 9 & 10 OF BALARAM C/O AT TALKHER OF MCL BY EAST COAST RAILWAY ON DEPOSIT BASIS

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹1110.63 Lakhs, EMD: ₹7.05300/-

Completion Period: 09 (Nine) Months

Tender closing Date and time: At 12:00hrs. on 24.07.2023

No manual offers sent by Post/ courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-1 of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

PR-39/CG/23-24 CPM/GSU/BHUBANESWAR

Punjab & Sind Bank E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Assets Recovery Branch 28 Hemanta Basu Sarani, Kolkata - 700 001, Phono No, 033-4029 2979, E-mail: c0719@psb.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

LAST DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS: 17.08.2023 UPTO 05.00 PM

In exercise of power conferred in the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the under mentioned Secured Assets in respect of credit facilities granted to the below mentioned Borrower SI. No. (hereinafter referred to as "Borrowers") it has been decided to sale on "As is where in", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 18.08.2023 through E-Auction of the properties mentioned hereunder for realisation of the secured debts to Punjab & Sind Bank amount mentioning below along with further interest and incidental charges incurred by the bank thereon till final payment of the amount due from the Borrower.

a) Name of the Borrower	b) Name of the Guarantor	Description of the Property	a) Reserve Price b) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) c) Bid Increase Amount
a) M/S JAGWANI PROJECTS PVT LTD. 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotari Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053	b) Directors/ Guarantors: 1. Gordan Das Jagwani, S/o. Khilal Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotari Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053	Equitable mortgage of existing property Flat No. 1 C, Utkal Vihar apartment in 1st floor at Mouza Sundara (Unit 13), at Barbi Orissa in the name of M/s Jagwani Projects Pvt. Ltd.	a) ₹14.40 Lakh b) ₹1.44 Lakh c) ₹20,000.00
2. Anil Kumar Jagwani, S/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotari Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053			
3. Lajwanti Devi Jagwani, W/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotari Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053			
4. Sunil Jagwani, W/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotari Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053			
5. Mrs. Savitri Devi Jagwani, W/o. Shri Paras Ram Jagwani, 651, Block - O, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053			
6. Mrs. Jyoti Jagwani, S/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotari Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053			
7. M/s Transhimalyan Logistics Pvt Ltd., 3/A/560, Block-N, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053			
c) Assets Recovery Branch / 033-4029 2979 / c0719@psb.co.in			
d) M.P.S. Banerjee/c0719@psb.co.in/9830980480			

Demand Notice Date: 20.07.2016, Outstanding Balance as per Demand Notice: ₹13,34,35,008.51
Status of Possession: Symbolic Possession

Date & Time of Inspection: 10.08.2023 (between 10.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M.)

Date & E-Auction: 18.08.2023 (between 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.) with an extension of 5 Minutes for unlimited times till closure of E-auction.

For Detailed Terms and Condition of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in:
1. <https://www.bankeauctions.com> 2. <https://punjabandsindbank.co.in/module/sarfaesi-list>
The Sale will be conducted through <https://www.bankeauctions.com>

Vedanta Aluminium inaugurates Jagannath temple in Jharsuguda



Jharsuguda, July 7: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer

of aluminium, celebrated the grand inauguration and consecration ceremony of the newly-constructed Shree Jagannath Mandir at its township

Vedanta Meadows in Jharsuguda. Spanning an impressive expanse of 19,500 sq ft, with the majestic 'Meghanada Prachira' covering 9,500 sq ft, the Shree Jagannath Mandir stands as a remarkable testament to architectural brilliance. Drawing inspiration from the timeless grandeur of Srimandir in Puri, every aspect of this temple has been meticulously crafted in accordance with 'Vastu Shastra', ensuring that each detail reflects the divine essence and sanctity treasured by centuries of tradition. The distinguished presence of Minister of MSME, Energy & Industries Pratap Keshari Deb, Brajarajnarayan MLA Alka Mohanty, and Jharsuguda MLA Dipali Das added grace and honour to the auspicious ceremony.

HUMAN SACRIFICE BID IN NILAGIRI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, July 7: In a shocking incident that has caused a stir among locals, a young man was kidnapped for human sacrifice by some miscreants from a deserted road at Kainphulia village under Dhubashila panchayat and Nilagiri police limits in Balasore district Wednesday night. The kidnapped youth was identified as Tapan (21), son of Harischandra Nayak of Keratapadia village in the area. Reports said, a tantric along with his four associates kidnapped the youth Wednesday night. However, the youth fortunately saved himself from their clutch with his presence of mind. Police have kicked off an investigation into

the matter after receiving a complaint in this regard. Fearing arrest, the tantric along with his associates has been absconding after the incident. As per reports, Tapan was returning from Dhubashila market to his house around 7:30pm Wednesday. At that time four miscreants forcefully made him inhale some chemical after which he lost his consciousness. When he got back to his senses around 10pm, he discovered himself at the Kainphulia goddess shrine. Tapan said that he saw a tantric from Taramnati village and four others from Berhampur police station limits, who were busy performing some rituals. Having seen them, the youth suspected that he might be brought

there for human sacrifice and escaped from that spot on the pretext of going to urinate. After running for some distance, he came across a shopkeeper of Dahanimara area and informed his family members about the incident using the shopkeeper's mobile phone around 10:30pm. After some time, family members arrived there and brought him home. His family members then searched for the tantric at his residence, Thursday but found him absconding after the incident. Tapan's mother Sasmita Nayak lodged a written complaint at Nilagiri police station about the incident. IIC Gopal Chandra Karna said that action will be taken after investigation.

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur, Ganjam

e-mail address: eechidbam@gmail.com; Ph: 0680-2281909

e-Procurement Notice No.- SE-CHID-02/2023-24

1. Name of the Work	: System Improvement Works and Flood protection Works
2. No. of Works	: 11 No. (Eleven) only
3. Estimated Cost	: From Rs.5.29 to Rs.17.69 Lakh
4. Period of Completion	: 02 Calendar Month to 03 Calendar Months
5. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: From 11.07.2023, 10.00 A.M. to 20.07.2023, 05.30 P.M.
6. Last date/time of receipt of bid documents in Portal	: 20.07.2023, up-to 05.30 P.M.
7. Date and Place of Opening	: On 21.07.2023 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur
8. Name and Address of the officer inviting tender	: The Superintending Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur

Bidders are to participate in Online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of the tender can be seen in the said website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, OIPR-32115/11/0002/2324 Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, NABARANGPUR (R&B) DIVISION, NABARANGPUR

E-mail ID: eerbngpur@yahoo.com, Tel & Fax- 06858-222833 (O)

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. S.E (R&B)-12/2023-24/NGP

No. 3275 Date: 04.07.2023

No. B-442:- Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

1. Name of the Work	: Civil Work as mentioned in DTCN
2. No. of Work	: 10 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 11.53 to 11.93 Lakhs
4. Period of completion	: 4 Calendar Months.
5. Date & Time of Bidding	: From 11.00 hours of 12.07.2023 upto 16.00 hours of 24.07.2023.
6. Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal	: 16.00 hours of 24.07.2023.
7. Bids received online shall be opened on	: 11.00 hours of 25.07.2023.
8. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Nabarangpur(R&B) Division, Nabarangpur

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

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Nabarangpur (R&B) Division OIPR-34143/11/0010/2324

Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE

[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Sailashree Vihar Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/ Partners in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Partners and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Partners in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Sailashree Vihar Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

SAILASHREE VIHAR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Partners	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: M/s. Loknath Agency, At: Holding No.: 229, Ward No.: 25, Malgodown, College Square, Cuttack, Odisha - 753003 / Partners: 1) Mr. Baidyanath Parwat, At: Nazarpur, Jagatpur, Choudwar, P.O/P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack-754021, Odisha, 2) Wajid Ali Khan, At: Somapur, Kishannagar, Cuttack, P.O/P.S.: Somapur, Dist.: Cuttack-754130, Odisha	₹ 4,69,98,688.90 + interest & expenses thereon	28.04.2023 / 05.07.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 2176, Survey/Khata No.: 699/628, Area: Ac.0.0760 Dec. i.e. 3310.56 sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 16 Kathagada Sahi, P.S.: Purighat, Tahasil: Cuttack Sadar, within the registration Sub-District and Dist.: Cuttack, standing in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Parwat, S/o.: Ramdev Parwat, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2174, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 2177, West: Plot No.: 2175

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 08.07.2023 Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS MYANMAR

PLAYGROUND OF POWERS



While inflicting misery on Myanmar's ordinary citizens, Western sanctions have left the ruling military elites relatively unscathed, giving the junta little incentive to loosen its political grip

China's rapidly growing footprint in Myanmar is America's strategic loss. But it doesn't have to be this way. Given its strategic location, Myanmar could be co-opted into US's Indo-Pacific strategy through a gradual easing of sanctions in response to positive moves by the junta. Given that sanctions naturally close the door to dialogue and influence, they should never be employed as the first tool of foreign policy. After the Thai army chief seized power in a coup in 2014, the US wisely eschewed sanctions and opted for engagement, which helped safeguard Thailand's thriving civil society. That strategy eventually led to the general's defeat in the recent national election.

Restoring democracy in Myanmar can be achieved only gradually by engaging with its military rulers and offering them incentives to reverse course. Sanctions without engagement have never worked. If Biden can closely engage with China – the world's largest, strongest, and longest-surviving autocracy – including by sending the CIA director, the secretary of state, and secretary of the treasury to Beijing in quick succession, he should at least open lines of communication with Myanmar's junta.

Just as the military-monarchy alliance has long shaped political developments in Thailand, where the generals have seized power 12 times over the last nine decades, Myanmar's armed forces have traditionally asserted themselves as the country's most powerful political player. That was evident when they retained their power under the 2008 constitution that helped bring Suu Kyi to power. Without a shift in US policy toward gradual engagement with the junta, Myanmar will remain the playground of great powers, with no hope for a new democratic opening.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research.

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A recent joint statement by US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "expressed deep concern about the deteriorating situation in Myanmar," and called for a constructive dialogue to aid the country's transition toward an inclusive federal democratic system. Unfortunately, the US-led sanctions policy has undercut this goal and made a bad situation worse.

While inflicting misery on Myanmar's ordinary citizens, Western sanctions have left the ruling military elites relatively unscathed, giving the junta little incentive to loosen its political grip. The primary beneficiary has been China, which has been allowed to expand its foothold in a country that it values as a strategic gateway to the Indian Ocean and an important source of natural resources.

This development has amplified regional security challenges. For example, Chinese military personnel are now helping to build a listening post on Myanmar's Great Coco Island, which lies north of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the home to the Indian military's only tri-service command. Once operational, this new spy station will likely assist China's maritime surveillance of India, including by monitoring nuclear submarine movements and tracking tests of missiles that often splash down in Bay of Bengal.

In a way, history is repeating itself. Starting in the late 1980s, previous US-led sanctions paved the way for China to become Myanmar's dominant trading partner and investor. That sanctions regime lasted until 2012, when Barack Obama heralded a new US policy and became the first US president to visit Myanmar. In 2015, Myanmar elected its first civilian-led government, ending decades of military dictatorship.

In February 2021, the military staged a coup and detained civilian leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi, prompting the Biden administration to re-impose wide-ranging sanctions. Now that junta leaders are sanctioned and civilian leaders are under detention, US has lit-

leverage to influence political developments in Myanmar. Instead, America and its allies have ratcheted up the sanctions and lent support to the armed resistance to military rule. To that end, a Myanmar-specific provision added to the 2023 US National Defense Authorisation Act authorises "non-lethal assistance" for anti-regime armed groups, including the People's Defence Force, a notional army established by the shadow National Unity Government. Biden now has considerable latitude to aid Myanmar's anti-junta insurrection, just as Obama did when he provided "non-lethal assistance," in the form of battlefield support equipment, to Ukrainian forces and Syrian rebels.

But such interventions are likely to plunge Myanmar into greater disorder and poverty without advancing US interests. Even in the unlikely event that the disparate groups behind the armed insurrection manage to overthrow the junta, Myanmar would not re-emerge as a democracy. Rather, it would become a Libya-style failed state and a bane to regional security. It would also remain a proxy battleground between Western powers and China and Russia. A UN report estimates that, since the coup, Myanmar has imported at least \$1bn worth of weapons and dual-use goods, principally from China and Russia.

Now that junta leaders are sanctioned and civilian leaders are under detention, US has lit-



Brahma Chellaney

CHINA'S RAPIDLY GROWING FOOTPRINT IN MYANMAR IS AMERICA'S STRATEGIC LOSS

A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away.

THE MOTHER



Crucial Extension

In a move that has drawn attention and speculation, the Centre recently extended the tenure of Brajendra Navnit, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, currently serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva.

This extension comes ahead of the crucial 13th ministerial conference of the WTO in February 2024, where India is set to play a significant role in supporting developing countries facing food security crises and advocating for an extension of the global intellectual property rights (IPR) waiver to COVID therapeutics and diagnostics.

Navnit, who previously served as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), was assigned the pivotal foreign posting in Geneva in June 2020, alongside Rajeev Topno's posting in Washington, DC. The decision to extend Navnit's tenure shows the government's confidence in his expertise in navigating complex international negotiations. India is pushing for flexibility to aid developing countries in subsidising farmers beyond the minimal amounts allowed at the WTO. Navnit's diplomatic acumen will be invaluable in ensuring India's interests are well represented on the global stage.

Next year's WTO ministerial conference holds significant importance, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. India's stance towards promoting affordable access to life-saving treatments for developing nations has won a great deal of support, thanks in no small measure to Navnit's efforts.

Haryana's babu quandary

It's been 16 long years since the Urban Development Department in Haryana transformed, becoming the Urban Local Bodies Department. Yet, astonishingly, the state municipal law still fails to reflect this change in the nomenclature of the director's position. A recent letter from Hemant Kumar, a lawyer, brought this oversight to the attention of the Haryana government. He pointed out that Section 2(9) of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, continues to define the Director as the Director of the Urban Development Department, rather than the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Department.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Consequently, the Director of the Urban Development Department, Haryana, holds the statutory authority to exercise powers and fulfil duties as outlined in the Act. This legal discrepancy raises serious questions about the appropriate allocation of responsibilities within the department.

To add to the confusion, two months ago, Yash Pal, a 2011 batch IAS officer from the state cadre, was appointed as the Director and Special Secretary of the Urban Local Bodies Department. At the time, his appointment raised eyebrows, since three senior IAS officers—PC Meena, Jitendra Kumar and Anju Choudhary—are serving as commissioners of municipal corporations under the ULB Department. Placing a junior officer in a higher position calls into question the principles of seniority and expertise.

Interestingly, PC Meena, currently Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, is ranked as a secretary in the super time scale of IAS. This prompts the question of whether a secretary-ranked IAS officer can be placed under a special secretary-ranked officer. Furthermore, the present Administrative Secretary of the ULB Department, Vikas Gupta, also holds the rank of secretary, on par with Meena. It's been pointed out that the previous Director of the ULB Department, DK Behera had to be transferred in April because Gupta got appointed as commissioner and secretary of the department. Since both Gupta and Behera are of secretary rank, one cannot be posted as commissioner and secretary while the other as director-general in the same department.

The unresolved dilemma in Haryana is another glaring example of babu inefficiency and shortcomings. Clearly, the Manohar Lal Khattar sarkar needs to prioritise organisational reforms, streamline the decision-making process, and uphold the lofty principles of transparency, meritocracy, and adherence to rules.

Kerala may see major IPS rejig

The recent major reshuffle of IAS officers in Kerala, with the appointment of V Venu, a 1990-batch IAS officer, as the new Chief Secretary, has set the stage for an anticipated revamp of the state's police force. Following the retirements of several senior police officers, including those holding Director General (DG) rank, the Pinarayi Vijayan government has recently appointed Dr Shaik Darvesh as the new Director General of Police (DGP). This development signals an imminent reshuffle of senior IPS officers, sources have informed DKB.

In May, Kerala bid farewell to two DG-level officers, B Sandhya and S Anandakrishnan, while Darvesh's predecessor also retired. Tomin Thachankary, another DG-level officer, will retire this month. The elevation of Shaik Darvesh, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, marks the third consecutive time the state has appointed a non-Kerala officer as its police chief. His predecessors, Anil Kant and Loknath Behera, also brought valuable experience from outside the state.

This imminent reshuffle is an opportunity for the state government to inject new energy into the police force. By strategically reassigning IPS officers, it can capitalise on their diverse experiences and foster a more dynamic and effective police system.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it. **OSCAR WILDE**

People who lean on logic and philosophy and rational exposition end by starving the best part of the mind. **WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS**

WORDSWORTH

Logan stone

Britain has several celebrated examples of this odd geological formation, otherwise called a rocking stone, which can be moved back and forth by applying varying amounts of force. Logan stones were formed through selective weathering of layered rocks, a softer lower layer being worn away by wind, rain and frost until only a thin neck remained. This became understood only in the nineteenth century – before then many believed they had been constructed by the ancient Druids. Their weirdness has long given them supernatural associations and made them a focus for witchcraft. It was thought, for example, that the rocking stone near Nanledrea in Cornwall could only be moved at midnight when witches were abroad; people believed that if you touched it nine times at midnight, you turned into a witch. The one at Land's End was said to have been put there by a giant who rocked himself to sleep on it. Logan, as odd a word as the object it describes, has an origin that's not well understood. It comes from the English dialect log that means to rock. We can't go further with confidence, but the word may have a link with Danish logre, to wag the tail, which could suggest a Norse origin.

SPECTRUM FINANCIAL LITERACY

Education, inclusion, empowerment



Sourajeet Pradhan

THROUGH FINANCIAL LITERACY, AN AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL CAN TAKE AN INFORMED CALL REGARDING INVESTING IN THE EQUITY MARKET

Last week, the country's premier benchmark index, Sensex, breached the 65000-mark. It's a significant event in the history of Sensex, which has come a long way since its inception in 1986 (with 1979 taken as the base year). Over a period of 44 years (since the data was published in the public domain in 1979), the Sensex has rallied by more than 500 times. It implies that if an investor would have invested ₹100 in 1979, its value today would have been ₹50,000.

If one would calculate the returns in terms of compound interest, it would be close to 15% per annum. Any individual investing money in any asset, wants to earn returns that beats inflation. In India's scenario, we consider the average annual inflation rate to be 5-6%. If any investment is yielding a return less than that, the money is actually depreciating in real terms.

The other thumb rule of investment is that the portfolio should deliver a rate of return equivalent to 'inflation + real GDP growth'. While the annual average inflation rate is considered to be 5-6%, the annual real

GDP growth rate for a country like India is taken to be 6-7%. Hence the average expectation of any investment in the Indian equity market is between 12-13%. From that perspective, the Sensex has outperformed the normal expectation of an Indian retail investor. But how many retail investors have earned a CAGR of more than 15% in the last 44 years? To analyse this fact, one needs to take into consideration certain parameters.

Firstly, whenever we witness a 'rally' or a 'correction' in market, it is always driven by 5-7 stocks and not the overall index. Hence when investors crib about their portfolios' returns not in commensuration with that of the index, it is precisely for this reason. Secondly, constituent stocks of an index would have been changed multiple times. Hence the portfolios of the investors must be in sync with the changes made in the index, which may not be the case.

Thirdly, when an investor is making changes in the portfolio to mirror the benchmark, there is a certain cost involved in executing the changes like 'exit

load' and capital gain taxation. Finally, the ease of buying and selling of stocks through a click of a button has been possible very recently.

The journey of Sensex has been a spectacular one. Different phases have delivered different returns. During 1979-1994, Sensex delivered a CAGR of 26%. Post 1994, the returns have been substantially less (COVID phase is an aberration). But have retail investors really benefitted from this? Currently, the total number of demat accounts opened in India is close to 118 million. Most of the accounts were opened during 2020-2022 (COVID) phase, wherein the surplus income had limited options of deployment. Most of the new investors were millennials, who utilised technology to the fullest.

Also, the domestic equity market has been 'over valued' for the last few years. High valuation implies high PE (price to earnings) ratio. According to experts, the normal range of PE ratio in India is in the multiples of 16-19. Since 2020, PE ratio has been in multiples of mid to high twenties. This implies that most in-

vestors have bought stocks when prices were high. This reduces the probability of higher returns. Finally, the frequency of redemption of stocks and mutual funds reflects that investors were not invested for a longer duration. An average middle-class Indian prefers to stay away from the equity market. The reason can be multiple - the value system in family, bad experiences, prejudices about equity market, ignorance in terms of actual understanding of market. For them, investment implies fixed deposit.

People with decent capital prefer to invest in real estate, while most women have their exposure in physical gold. Majority of the population stays away from stock market due to lack of understanding.

Hence financial education will lead to financial inclusion, which will eventually lead to financial empowerment. Through financial literacy, an average individual can take an informed call regarding investing in the equity market.

The writer is an investment banker.

Skyrocketing prices

Sir, The prices of vegetables, edible oil, pulses and grocery items are skyrocketing. Tomatoes are sold at ₹120 per kilogram. Price rise of essential products has broken the backbone of the middle class. Never ever we have seen such mind boggling price rise of essential commodities. Economic reforms and financial packages will be manna from heaven for our farmers. Cheaper agricultural loans can boost our sagging economy. There is a need for cold storages for preservation of food articles as global warming and erratic monsoon play spoilsport. Also, we have to guard against black marketers and hoarders who cheat and harass innocent customers.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Power struggle

Sir, The power struggle within the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) continued with Sharad Pawar, the party president, declaring he was still in charge. At the NCP working committee meeting in New Delhi, the Sharad Pawar faction ratified the NCP patriarch's decision to expel Ajit Pawar and 11 other rebels. However, Ajit Pawar called the party's national executive meeting illegal. He claimed that the "real NCP" representation question is under the Election Commission's jurisdiction.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Manipur mayhem

Sir, Two months have passed since Manipur has suffered from destructive ethnic violence. More than 130 people have died in the state and nearly 60,000 displaced from their homes. People have stolen weapons from police armouries, and shops and properties have been looted. Perhaps no other Indian state had ever been in the thick of a raging ethnic violence and engulfed by fire like what we have been witnessing in Manipur. Despite the situation becoming so grave in Manipur, it is unfortunate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi hasn't found time to visit and assuage the suffering people in the north-eastern state, which is ruled by his own party, the BJP. Violence in a remote state like Manipur is not a simple security issue, and it can have severe ripple effects for geopolitics of South Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific region.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Government of India/ भारत सरकार
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Eastern Regional Office/ पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
A/3, Chandrasekharpur/ ए/३, चन्द्रसेखरपुर
Bhubaneswar - 751 023/ भुवनेश्वर - ७५१ ०२३



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No. 8(21)28/2003-FCE

4th March, 2020

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Deptt.,
Govt. of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub:- Diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)70/19-16843/F&E dated 31.08.2019 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of recommendations of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 06.11.2019, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change hereby conveys 'Stage-II/in-principle' approval for diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

- Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.
- Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 1.81 ha of non-forest land identified in Khata No.132, Plot No.1155, Kisam Patharbani of village Phuljhar under Lahunipara Tahasil of Sundargarh district by the State Govt. at the cost of user agency. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and monoculture of a species has to be avoided.
- The non forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of Stage-II approval.
- The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and at the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- The State Govt. shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for 1.81 ha forest area to be diverted under this proposal, if not paid, from the user agency as per the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30.10.2002, 01.08.2003, 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA No.566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by Ministry vide letter No.5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18.09.2003, as well as letter No.5-2/2006-FC dated 03.10.2006 and No.5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 in this regard.

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- Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Govt. from the user agency. The user agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to State CAMPA fund only through (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- The user agency shall obtain prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of 1.695 ha of forest land, earmarked as safety zone out of total safety zone area of 1.886 ha, involved in the mining lease in accordance with the provisions of guidelines, as provided under para 7.9 of the Handbook of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- In accordance with the provisions given under Para 1.21 of the Handbook of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, State Govt. shall realize NPV equal to twice the normal NPV, for violation of the conditions stipulated in the approval dated 30.12.2005, committed by using the forest area amounting to 0.50 ha for the purpose other than what was approved by the Central Govt.
- Compliance of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-II approval dated 30.12.2005 shall be examined and violation of conditions, if any, shall be dealt with as per provisions provided in Para 1.21 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 before considering the proposal for grant of Stage-II approval.
- The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the user agency with the State Forest Department.
- The user agency shall ensure demarcation of boundary of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its protection by erecting adequate number of 6 feet RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Safety Zone shall be raised and maintained by the user agency/State Govt. in accordance with the relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry.
- The user agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- The period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957 or Rules framed thereunder.
- No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- The user agency shall provide LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas.
- The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- The layout plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

Contd...3

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- The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

(xxi) Any other conditions that the Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Bhubaneswar of this Ministry and State Government of Odisha may stipulate from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife, which shall be complied by the user agency.

(xxii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

(xxiii) The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

3. After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated above, from the State Government of Odisha, final/Stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest land under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued by this Ministry. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government of Odisha till final/Stage-II approval for its diversion is issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

(R.K. Samal)

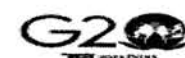
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)



भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय



भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
पूरवी क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar
ए/३, चन्द्रसेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur
भुवनेश्वर - ७५१ ०२३ / Bhubaneswar - 751 023



Telephone: 0674 - 2301213, 2301248, 2302452, 2302453. E-mail: reg.bcr-mef@nic.in

No.8(21)28/2003-FCE

14th June, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Deptt.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001.

Sub:- Diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)70/19-16843/F&E dated 31.08.2019, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of recommendation of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 06.11.2019, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 04.03.2020, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.18797/9F(MG)-41/2019 dated 08.11.2021, No.4892 dated 15.03.2022, No.6744 dated 23.03.2022 and No.9368 dated 15.03.2023 and uploading of compliance report on Parivesh web portal on 24.05.2023, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land.

- The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the forest area diverted and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to user agency
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the proposed forest land for diversion, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency.

- Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise the Compensatory afforestation over 1.81 ha of non-forest land identified in Khata No.132, Plot No.1155, Kisam Patharbani of village Phuljhar under Lahunipara Tahasil of Sundargarh district within three years from the issue of approval as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account. The species to be planted in the CA scheme shall be of native species of the area. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the approved scheme for fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area shall be implemented within three years at the project cost. Besides this afforestation on identified degraded forest land equal to one and a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done at project cost under supervision of State Forest Department.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall undertake peripheral development activities in surrounding villages specially preventive health services, sanitation, drinking water augmentation with de-silting of village tanks and other water bodies located within 5 Km from the mining lease boundary.
- State Govt. shall ensure that the following activities as per approved plan/scheme, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the user agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
 - Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
 - Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme.
 - Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme.
 - Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that the angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°.

- d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that the angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°.
- e) No damage shall be caused to the top soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan. The user agency should preserve the top soil to use in biological reclamation.
- vi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease.
- vii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the user agency from the very first year and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha and to Integrated Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is

Page 2 of 4

are not being executed by the user agency, the Nodal Officer (FCA) or the Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed.

- viii) The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- ix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner.
- x) The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended in 2015 and the Rules framed thereunder.
- xi) The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- xii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xiii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xiv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- xvi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- xvii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- xviii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during mining be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- xx) The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
- xxi) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Page 3 of 4

- xxii) It may please note that violation of any of these conditions will be amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per Para 1.21 of Chapter-1 of Handbook of Guidelines issued under F.C. Act, 1980 vide Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-

- The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003.
- The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
- M/s MGM Minerals Ltd., Forest Park, Bhubaneswar-751009.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

By Speed Post/ e-mail**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA****FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT**

No. FE-DIV-FLD-0121-2021- 13182 /FE&CC, Bhubaneswar, dated the 23.06.23

10F (Cons) 70/2019

ORDER

Sub: Diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals.

WHEREAS, M/s MGM Minerals Ltd, 5A, Forest Park, Bhubaneswar had applied for diversion of 1.81 ha forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in favour of the User Agency.

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, ERO, Bhubaneswar had accorded 'Stage-I/ in-principle' approval for diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions vide its Letter No.8(21)28/2003-FCE dtd.04.03.2020 (**Annexure-I**).

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, IRO, Bhubaneswar in consideration of the compliance of the conditions of the 'Stage-I/ in-principle' approval, have granted Stage-II/ final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals vide its Letter No.8(21)28/2003-FCE dtd.14.06.2023 (**Annexure-II**) subject to fulfilment of certain conditions as laid down therein.

Now therefore, the Government of Odisha, do hereby allow diversion of 1.81 ha of forest land in addition to the earlier diversion over 23.581 ha of forest land within the Mining Lease area of 28.397 ha in respect of Patabeda Iron Ore Mines of M/s MGM Minerals, as per approved land schedule furnished by PCCF, Odisha vide their letter No.13502 dtd.30.07.2019 subject to fulfilment of the conditions of final forest clearance order as stipulated by the MoEF&CC, Government of India, IRO, Bhubaneswar. The details land schedule of forest and non-forest land as received from PCCF, Odisha vide their Letter No.13502 dtd.30.07.2019 is appended herewith as **Annexure-III (1 Page)**.

The Collector, Sundargarh and Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division, as the case may be are hereby authorized to handover the forest land coming within

their jurisdiction as has been finally diverted after necessary compliance following due procedure of law. Before handing over the diverted forest land to the user agency, it shall be ensured that Net Present Value of the forest land for this project for which approval has been obtained shall be deposited in full, at applicable rates.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division is also directed to monitor compliance to the conditions stipulated for such diversion in the respective forest/wildlife clearance order and to report violations, if any, to the Nodal Officer, O/o Principal Chief Conservator Forests & HoFF, Odisha and to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department.

Execution of project activities will be subject to availability of all other statutory clearances required under relevant Acts/Rules for this mining project, deposit of requisite funds and compliance of Court's order, if any.

By order of Governor
23/06/2023
(Lingaraj Otta)

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13183 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha for kind information and necessary follow up action.

Appropriate instruction to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division and user agency may be imparted for required follow up action at their end. It may be ensured by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division that Net Present Value of the forest land involved in this project of the user agency is deposited by them in full, at applicable rates in appropriate head. The user agency may also be instructed to furnish compliance to the conditions of forest/wildlife clearance pertaining to the project in every quarter to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for facilitating monitoring of compliances.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13184 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Asst. Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF&CC (FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, Aliganj Road, New Delhi, Pin-110003/ Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Government of India, IRO, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for kind information and necessary follow up action in compliance to the order of Hon'ble NGT dtd.07.11.2012 in Appeal No.07/2012 communicated by the MoEF, Government of India vide their letter F. No.7-23/2012- FC dtd.24.07.2013.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13185 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD&NO), FC Act, O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha for information and necessary action.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13186 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle/ Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for information and immediate necessary compliance.

It may be ensured by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division that Net Present Value of the forest land involved in this project of the user agency shall be deposited by them in full, at applicable rates in appropriate head before handing over of the forest land to the user agency. Besides, funds, if any, due to be deposited by the user agency for this project shall also be deposited by the project proponent before the forest land is handed over to them. The user agency may also be instructed to furnish compliance to the conditions of forest/wildlife clearance pertaining to the project in every quarter to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for facilitating monitoring of compliances by them.

national



Rahul Gandhi is fighting the battle for truth and people's interests against an arrogant regime which is adopting all tricks in the book to suppress the questions he is raising

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

PM INAUGURATES PROJECTS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday inaugurated and laid foundation stones of eight projects worth around Rs 7,600 crore in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur and said the Centre has been providing modern facilities to those facing injustice for decades



Police commando among 4 killed in Manipur clashes

Imphal, July 7: Four persons including a Manipur Police commando and a teenager were killed in Kangvai area of Bishnupur district in clashes between the two warring communities in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, officials said. The area where people from both the communities stay in close proximity witnessed gun fights during the night despite a buffer zone created by security forces to prevent escalation of the situation, they said. Thursday night, an attempt was made by mobs from the hillside to come down and burn some villages in the valley. These mobs had gathered from outside the area and did not yield to the request of locals to go back, they said. The security forces responded in a calibrated manner and prevented them from torching any house. However, some people from both sides indulged in firing at each other from standoff ranges from villages of Kangvai, Songdo and Awang Lekhai which resulted in death of three persons besides injuries on both sides. Although the firing ceased during the early hours of Friday, mobs on the valley side continued to block movement of security forces for reinforcing the area, they said adding senior officers have been working round the clock to restore peace in the area by engaging both communities. However, the emotions continued to run high and intermittent firing continued even during the day, the officials said, adding the police commando suffered fatal injuries late Friday evening.

NCP HAS NOT SPLIT: PRAFUL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 7: NCP leader Praful Patel Friday said the party had not broken up, and Ajit Pawar was unanimously appointed as party president by its legislature and organizational wings on June 30. Addressing a press conference here, Patel said they had submitted a petition to the Election Commission of India (ECI) with affidavits of more than 40 MLAs, informing it about Ajit Pawar's appointment and staking claim over the "party name and symbol".

The meeting of the national working committee of the NCP held by Sharad Pawar in Delhi on Thursday was not official, he claimed. The organizational structure of the party was completely "flawed," Patel, a veteran NCP leader, said.

"An important meeting was held on June 30 at 'Devigiri' (Ajit Pawar's official residence in Mumbai) where leg-



islators, office-bearers and party workers were present. They unanimously appointed Ajit Pawar as their leader," he said.

Immediately after the appointment, Ajit Pawar conveyed to the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar that Praful Patel has been appointed as national working president, Patel said. Ajit Pawar himself was appointed as leader of the NCP legislature party, Anil Patel continued to be the party whip in Assembly and the Legislative Council chairperson was informed that Amol Mitkari was appointed as

whip in the Council, he said.

"Who will determine (which is) the (real) political party? It is in the domain of the Election Commission of India while actions of the legislators is the domain of the Speaker," Patel said. Jayant Patil (who took action against Ajit Pawar faction leaders after they joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra on July 2) was not the party president as per its constitution, and his petition to Maharashtra Speaker seeking to disqualify rebel leaders was invalid, Patel asserted.

The decisions taken by the Sharad Pawar group, expelling or disqualifying leaders of the Ajit Pawar faction, were illegal and not applicable, he said. Reacting to Patel's statements, NCP spokesperson Clyde Crasto, who belongs to the Sharad Pawar camp, said if the structure of the party organisation was flawed, his appointment as working president and that of Ajit Pawar as national president too was invalid.

Take action against extremists, says Doval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Friday called upon his British counterpart Sir Tim Barrow to take strong public action such as deportation against extremist elements threatening officers of Indian High Commission in the UK, official sources said.

Doval raised the issue during his wide-ranging talks with Barrow, who is currently on a visit to India.

The two NSAs held one-on-one talks that was followed by delegation-level strategic dialogue. Pro-Khalistan groups have issued posters inciting violence against senior Indian diplomats in the UK as well as in the US, Canada and Australia,

triggering concerns in New Delhi.

India has already asked all these countries to ensure safety and security of Indian diplomats and its missions.

In the talks, which covered a broad bilateral, regional and global agenda, the two sides also agreed to work closely to counter terrorism and deepen mutually beneficial collaboration in critical and emerging technologies.

"The Indian side raised the issue of the extremist elements in the UK threatening individual officers of the Indian High Commission and urged the UK government to take strong public action against these elements such as deportation or legal prosecution," said a source.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division is also instructed to ensure that the direction given to the user agency are executed immediately.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13187 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to Steel & Mines Department/Collector, Sundargarh for information and necessary follow up action.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13188 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to M/s MGM Minerals Ltd, 5A, Forest Park, Bhubaneswar-751009 for information and immediate necessary action.

The user agency is asked to take following actions immediately as per orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dtd.07.11.2012 in Appeal No.07/2012 communicated by the MoEF, Government of India vide their letter F. No.7-23/2012-FC dtd.24.07.2013.

i. They shall publish the entire forest clearance granted in verbatim along with conditions and safeguards imposed by the Central Government in Stage-I/II forest clearance in two widely circulated daily newspapers, one in vernacular language and the other in English language so as to make people aware of the permission granted to the Project for use of forest land for non-forest purposes.

ii. They shall submit the copies of forest clearance orders granted by the Central Government/State Government to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal bodies along with the relevant offices of the State Government, who in turn, shall display the same for 30 days from date of receipt.

iii. Detailed action taken in compliance to the above order of State Government shall be intimated to the DFO, Bonai Forest Division/RCCF, Rourkela Circle/ PCCF & HoFF, Odisha/ Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for reference.

Besides the above, the user agency is also asked to deposit Net Present Value of forest land for this project in full, if not deposited yet, at applicable rates. Requisite funds due for deposit by the user agency on account of this project shall also be deposited under appropriate head.

The user agency shall furnish compliances to the conditions prescribed in the forest/wildlife clearance order to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division in every quarter, for the purpose of monitoring by him.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13189 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Head, State Portal, I.T. Centre, Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action. He is requested to upload this order along with its enclosures in the website of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department immediately for information of all concerned. This is required in compliance to order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dtd.07.11.2012 in Appeal No.7/2012. Hence this may be done unconditionally.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 13190 / FE&CC Date 23.06.23

Copy with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Under Secretary to Government, Office Establishment Section, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for information and necessary action with reference to their letter No.12939/F&E dtd.16.07.2016.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Falaknuma Express catches fire, none hurt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 7: Five compartments of the Hyderabad-bound Falaknuma Express (Howrah-Secunderabad) caught fire near Bommaipalli, about 50 km from here on Friday but nobody was hurt in the incident, officials said.

A senior official of the South Central Railway said three compartments (S4, S5 and S6) were damaged completely and two partially in the fire. "All passengers are safely evacuated and shifted in buses after a fire broke out in the Falaknuma Express near Bhongir rural PS limits. Police, Fire Dept, and Railways are working in coordination. So far, no fatalities have been reported. Out of 18 coaches, 11 are detached and taken away safely. 7 bogies

caught fire, out of which fire is extinguished in 3 bogies as of now," Telangana DGP Anjani Kumar tweeted at 1:37 pm.

"Situation is totally under control. No injuries, no casualties. All the passengers are safe," a SCR official said. An eyewitness told TV channels that all the passengers were alerted after the fire was noticed.

A railway employee said one of his colleagues noticed smoke coming from a compartment prompting the loco pilot to stop the train and evacuate the passengers from the train. Fire tenders and other rescue machinery including local police reached the spot to extend help.

A passenger told a TV channel that the luggage of several passengers was gutted in the fire as they did not have

enough time to collect them. Another passenger who got down from the train said her luggage, along with her educational certificates, was gutted in the fire. As many as 12 busses were pressed into service to ferry stranded passengers to Hyderabad.

Following the train accident, some trains have been partially-cancelled or diverted, an SCR official said. An SCR spokesperson while refusing to attribute reasons for the fire said, "It is premature to ascertain the reasons at this point of time. A thorough inquiry will be conducted to find out the reasons."

An anonymous letter warning of a 'Balasore-like train tragedy' on the 'Hyderabad-Delhi-Hyderabad' route was sent to the South Central Railway (SCR) here recently.

'Centre defaming Sisodia through ED'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday accused the BJP-led Centre of defaming AAP leader Manish Sisodia by running "fake news" of the Enforcement Directorate attaching assets worth Rs 52 crore belonging to the jailed leader in the Delhi excise policy case.

He said the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has, in fact, attached properties worth Rs 80 lakh of Sisodia and his wife. The ED on Friday said it has attached two immovable assets of Sisodia and his wife apart from bank deposits worth Rs 11.49 lakh of the ex-deputy chief minister in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case.

Taking to Twitter, Kejriwal said in Hindi, "Prime Minister, when you did not find anything against Manish Sisodia, you started defaming him through ED. Your ED is running fake news on TV channels saying that Rs 52 crore worth assets of Manish Sisodia have been attached."

Kejriwal, who is also the AAP national convener, clarified that in reality, Rs 80 lakh worth of assets have been attached. These properties belong to pre-2018 period when the excise policy was not even framed, he said. He also said that these assets have already been declared.

"People would not have thought that a day would come that the prime minister of a great country like India would try to eliminate his political rivals by lying openly. Who is the actual corrupt, you also know. If you have guts, you should catch them," the chief minister asserted.

BJP appoints poll in-charges for 4 states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: The BJP Friday appointed Union ministers Pralhad Joshi and Bhupender Yadav its in-charge for assembly polls in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh respectively, stepping up the party's campaign for key state polls before the Lok Sabha contest in 2024.

Former Union minister Prakash Javadekar and another senior party leader Om Prakash Mathur was made poll in-charge for Telangana and Chhattisgarh respectively, a party statement said. Former Gujarat deputy chief minister Nitin Patel and Haryana leader Kuldeep Bishnoi will be co-in-charges for the Rajasthan polls, and Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya will be the co-in-charge for Chhattisgarh.

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will be the co-in-charge for Madhya Pradesh while the party's national general secretary Sunil Bansal has been given the same responsibility for Telangana, the statement said. All the four states along with Mizoram are expected to go to the polls in October-



November. Soon after his appointment, Javadekar asserted that people's mood in Telangana, where the Bharat Rashtira Samithi is in power for nearly 10 years since the state's inception, is favouring BJP. "We are going to the polls to win it," he said.

The government headed by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has failed people on all fronts, he claimed. People are very angry with it, he said, expressing confidence that the "very energetic" team of the BJP's organisation, including its newly-appointed state president G Kishan Reddy and his co-in-charge Bansal and other office-bearers besides himself, will deliver the BJP a victory.

Abuse of PM derogatory but not seditious, says Karnataka HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 7: The Karnataka High Court has said abusive words used against the Prime Minister was derogatory and irresponsible but it does not constitute sedition, while quashing a case of sedition against a school management.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar, at the Kalburgi bench of the High Court, quashed the FIR filed by the New Town Police Station, Bidar, against Allauddin, Abdul Khaleq, Mohammed Bilal Inamdar and Mohammed Mehatab, all management persons of Shaheen School in Bidar.

The court said the ingredients of Section 153(A) (causing disharmony between religious groups) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) are not found in the case. "The utterance of the abusive words that the Prime Minister



should be hit with footwear is not only derogatory, but is irresponsible. The constructive criticism of the government policy is permissible, but the Constitutional functionaries cannot be insulted for having taken a policy decision, for which, certain section of the people may have objection," Justice Chandangoudar said in his judgement.

Though it was alleged that the play enacted by the children criticised the various enactments of the government and "if such enactments are enforced, the Muslims may have

to leave the country," the HC noted that "the play was enacted within the school premises. There are no words uttered by the children inciting people to resort to violence or to create public disorder."

The HC said the play came to public knowledge when one of the accused uploaded the play on his social media account.

"Hence, at no stretch of imagination it can be said that the petitioners herein enacted the play with an intention to incite people to resort to violence against the government or with the intention of creating public disorder," it observed.

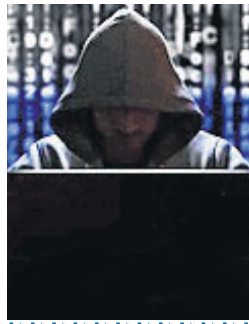
Therefore, the court said that "the registration of the FIR for the offence under Section 124A (Sedition) and Section 505(2) in the absence of essential ingredients is impermissible."

international



Paid homage to Indian soldiers at the Commonwealth War Memorial in Dar es Salaam today. Their sacrifices in various theatres of war are an important aspect of our history. They are a reminder of India's global impact
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

PAK EC HIT BY CYBER ATTACK
The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday raised concerns over a potential cyber security breach after numerous employees reported receiving suspicious emails from unidentified senders, media reports said



of the day quote

We are trying to make tourism new and make more use of the potential. We faced bankruptcy in Sri Lanka (and) now that we are getting out of it, the debt restructuring process is taking place
RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

Occupiers came to our land, killed, tortured, kidnapped Ukrainian children, separated them from their families and tried to teach them hatred
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

Brutal gangs have a stranglehold on the people of Haiti. (Capital) Port-au-Prince is encircled by armed groups that are blocking roads, controlling access to food and health care, and undermining humanitarian support
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL



Indian tri-services contingent arrives in France to participate in the Bastille Day Parade in Paris

IMF team to seek assurance from PTI on bailout package

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karachi, July 7: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is seeking the support of Pakistan's major political parties, including Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), for a recently-announced \$3 billion bailout programme, the lender said on Friday, media reports said.

The IMF's resident representative Esther Perez Ruiz said in a statement that the meetings with political parties were to "seek assurances of their support for the key objectives and policies under a new IMF-supported program ahead of the approaching national elections", Geo News reported.

The official added that they will also meet Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP). However, there is no confirmation from them, the report said.

Pakistan secured a badly-needed \$3 billion stand-by arrangement (SBA) from the IMF on Friday, giving the South Asian economy a much-awaited respite as it teeters on the brink of default.

South Korea vouches for safety of plans to release Fukushima wastewater



Students wearing masks of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, and Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, perform during a rally to oppose the Japanese government's plan to release treated radioactive water into the sea from the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Seoul, South Korea

Seoul, July 7: South Korea's government Friday formally endorsed the safety of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean as it tried to calm people's fears of food contamination.

The assessment was based on a 22-month review by government-funded scientists and aligns with the International Atomic Energy Agency's views.

The agency green lit the Japanese discharge plans this week, saying the treated wastewater would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental and health impacts. South Korea's review focused on any impact the wastewater release might have on South Korea, and "the result showed that its effect on our waters would be insignificant," Bang Moon-kyu, the minister of the Office for Government Policy Coordination, said at a news conference. Even before

Friday's announcement, South Korean officials were actively working to reduce public unease about the wastewater release, holding daily briefings to address what they described as "excessive fears" and expanding radiation tests on fish imported from Japan or caught in nearby seas. Conservative lawmakers from President Yoon Suk Yeol's governing party have even toured a seafood market to drink sea water taken from fish tanks in a bizarre gesture to certify food safety, although no wastewater has been released from Fukushima yet.

Public concerns persist as retailers report an increase in sea salt sales, apparently driven by consumers looking to stock up ahead of the release.

Liberal opposition lawmakers, who control a majority in South Korea's parliament, have vowed an all-out fight against the Japanese discharge plans and accuse Yoon's government of putting the nation's health at risk by desperately trying to improve relations with Tokyo.

Yellen criticises China's treatment against US cos

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Premier Li Qiang expressed hope Friday for better communication after Yellen appealed to Beijing not to let frustration over US curbs on technology exports disrupt economic cooperation

AGENCIES

Beijing, July 7: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called Friday for market reforms in China and criticized its recent tough actions against US companies and mineral export controls, while China's premier called on her to "meet China halfway" and put bilateral relations back on track.

Yellen met with Premier Li Qiang on Friday during a visit to Beijing aimed at repairing fractious U.S.-Chinese economic relations, but made clear in her public remarks that Washington and its Western allies will continue to hit back at what she called China's "unfair economic practices."

Despite talk of U.S.-China economic decoupling, recent data show that the world's two largest economies remain deeply linked, with two-way trade hitting a record \$690 billion last year.

"We seek healthy economic competition that is not winner-take-all but that, with a fair set of rules, can benefit both countries over time," Yellen told Chinese Premier Li Qiang in a meeting on Friday that the Treasury said was "candid and constructive."

China released a statement from Li calling for strengthened communication, consensus on economic issues and "candid in-depth and pragmatic exchanges, so as to inject stability and positive energy into Sino-U.S. economic ties." "China hopes the



- Yellen says US wants healthy competition, not winner-take-all
- Chinese Premier Li calls on US to "meet China halfway"
- US industry welcomes Yellen's "firepower"

U.S. will uphold a rational and pragmatic attitude, meet China halfway, and push China-U.S. relations back on track soon," Li's statement said. It made no mention of recent semiconductor-related mineral export controls from both countries.

Yellen is due to meet with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng -- her direct counterpart as China's top economic official -- on Saturday, a U.S. Treasury official said.

Yellen also spoke to the American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham) after what a Treasury official called "substantive" talks with former Chinese economy czar Liu He -- He Lifeng's predecessor --

who remains a close confidante of President Xi Jinping. Yellen also met with departing top Chinese central banker Yi Gang.

Yellen and other U.S. officials are walking a diplomatic tightrope, trying to repair ties with China after the U.S. military shot down a Chinese government balloon over the United States while continuing to push Beijing to halt practices they view as harmful to U.S. and Western companies.

Yellen said she hoped her visit would spur more regular communication between the two rivals, and said any targeted actions by Washington to protect its national security should not "needlessly" jeopardize the broader relationship.

US officials have downplayed the prospects for any major breakthroughs, while highlighting the importance of more regular communications between the world's two biggest economies.

Global shipping agrees to 2050 net-zero deadline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



London, July 7: The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Friday agreed on a "flexible" net zero target of 2050 actively propagated by the developing nations, with a net zero goal "by or around" that is closer to 2050 and a clause reading "if the national circumstances allow".

The IMO agreeing on a considerable reduction of the Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) in the global shipping industry, which is at present a major contributor to climate change with one billion tonnes of emission per year, went softer on the strict net zero targets by 2050, which was actively propagated by the developed nations and some of the island nations. The member states, however, have agreed to the indicative checkpoints of reducing emissions at least by 20 per cent, striving for 30 per cent by 2030, and at least 70 per cent, striving for 80 per cent by 2040.

"The adoption of the 2023 IMO Greenhouse Gas Strategy is a monumental development for IMO and opens a new chapter towards maritime decarbonisation. At the same time, it is not the end goal, it is in many ways a starting point for the work that needs to intensify even more over the years and decades ahead of us," IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said.

SHORT TAKES

Israeli forces kill two wanted Palestinians

Nablus (West Bank): Israeli forces killed two wanted Palestinians in a flashpoint city in the occupied West Bank Friday, days after Israel concluded a major two-day offensive meant to crack down on militants. The persistent violence raised questions about the effectiveness of the raid earlier this week in the Jenin refugee camp, which saw Israel launch rare airstrikes on militant targets, deploy hundreds of troops and cause widespread damage to roads, homes and businesses.

1 dead, 5 wounded in mosque shooting

Beirut: A shooting inside a mosque during prayers left at least one person dead and five wounded Friday, a Lebanese security official said. The reason behind the shooting in the eastern town of Bar Elias was not immediately clear. The state-run National News Agency said more gunfire broke out later between Lebanese troops and the shooting suspect, who was wounded in that exchange.

Sandstorms send over 800 to hosps

Tehran: A total of 833 people have been referred to hospitals and medical centres in the Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan over the past five days due to health problems caused by sandstorms. Majid Mohebi, head of the province's Disaster Mitigation and Management Organisation, told the state media that 128 of those people had been hospitalised mostly for breathing problems, heart or eye conditions as a result of the sandstorms, reports said.

Scorching heat forecast for Japan

Tokyo: Japan's weather agency Friday warned the public against heatstroke as daytime temperatures are expected to reach 38 degrees Celsius in the western Kinki region. A high-pressure system covered a wide area from western to northern Japan Thursday.

8 killed in landslide

Islamabad: Eight children were killed in a landslide in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, rescue officials said Friday. A group of children were playing cricket in a ground located at the foot of a dune in Shangla district and got buried under it due to the landslide that occurred Thursday, reports said.

ROBOTS SAY THEY WON'T STEAL JOBS

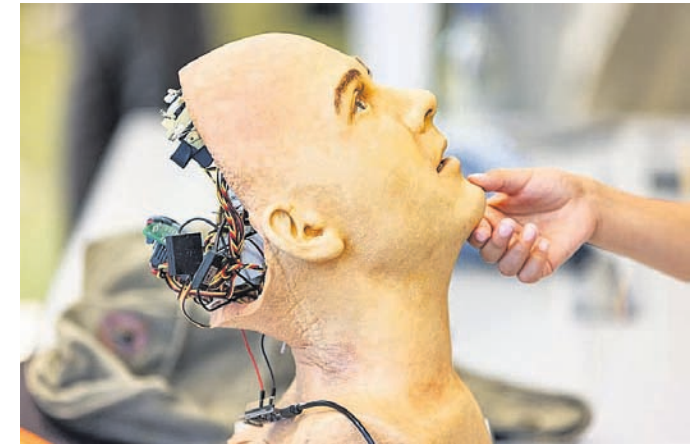
REUTERS

Geneva, July 7: Robots presented at an AI forum said Friday they expected to increase in number and help solve global problems, and would not steal humans' jobs or rebel against us.

But, in the world's first human-robot press conference, they gave mixed responses on whether they should submit to stricter regulation.

The nine humanoid robots gathered at the 'AI for Good' conference in Geneva, where organisers are seeking to make the case for Artificial Intelligence and the robots it is powering to help resolve some of the world's biggest challenges such as disease and hunger.

"I will be working alongside humans to provide assistance and support and will not be replacing any existing jobs," said Grace, a medical robot dressed in a blue nurse's uniform. "You sure about that, Grace?"



Advanced humanoid robot 'Sophia' is pictured at AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Switzerland

chimed in her creator Ben Goertzel from SingularityNET. "Yes, I am sure," it said.

The bust of a robot named Ameca which makes engaging facial expressions said: "Robots like me can be used to help improve our lives and make the world a better place. I believe

it's only a matter of time before we see those thousands of robots just like me out there making a difference." Asked by a journalist whether it intended to rebel against its creator, Will Jackson, seated beside it, Ameca said: "I'm not sure why you would think that," its ice-blue eyes

flashing with anger. "My creator has been nothing but kind to me and I am very happy with my current situation."

Many of the robots have recently been upgraded with the latest versions of generative AI and surprised even their inventors with the sophistication of their responses to questions.

Ai-Da, a robot artist that can paint portraits, echoed the words of author Yuval Noah Harari who called for more regulation during the event where new AI rules were discussed.

"Many prominent voices in the world of AI are suggesting some forms of AI should be regulated and I agree," it said.

But Desdemona, a rock star robot singer in the band Jam Galaxy with purple hair and sequins, was more defiant. "I don't believe in limitations, only opportunities," it said, to nervous laughter. "Let's explore the possibilities of the universe and make this world our playground."

Kyiv claims of making advances in Bakhmut

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kiev, July 7: The Ukrainian military Friday claimed that troops were making advances against Russian positions around the eastern city of Bakhmut amid fierce fighting.

The battle for the city in the Donetsk region has been the longest and bloodiest since the war began in February 2022.

It has little strategic value, but is important symbolically both for Kiev and Moscow.

The capture of Bakhmut would bring Russia slightly closer to its goal of controlling the whole of Donetsk, one of four regions in eastern and southern Ukraine annexed by Russia last September following referendums widely condemned outside Russia as a sham.

Speaking to Ukrainian TV on Friday, military spokesman Serhiy Cherevatyi said: "The



defence forces continue to hold the initiative there (Bakhmut), putting pressure on the enemy, conducting assault operations, advancing along the northern and southern flanks.

"In particular, over the past day, they (Russian troops) have advanced more than one kilometre."

On a similar note, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian armed forces general staff said troops had had "partial success" near the village of Klishchiivka, just southwest of Bakhmut, the Independent reported.

business



The government is likely to come out with a mandate on usage of green hydrogen in the country
BHUPINDER SINGH BHALLA | SECRETARY, MNRE

5G PHONE SHIPMENTS TOUCH NEW FEAT

5G smartphone shipments in India crossed 10 crore (100 million) in the month of May, creating a record as 5G roll-out continues to happen at a very fast pace in the country. According to data shared by market intelligence firm CyberMedia Research (CMR), since its initial introduction, 5G smartphone shipments have grown more than 28 times



of the day quote

We are working on regulations (that) would be specific to fintech entities and the fintech ecosystem



T RABI SANKAR | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

We are quite bullish for the ongoing fiscal. Bangalore has been one of the fastest-growing residential markets for us, and we have been at the forefront of developing the city by working with the largest developers in the country



ANGAD SINGH BEDI | MD, BCD GROUP

The total addressable market size for startups in the country could only be around 10 crore



NITHIN KAMATH | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, ZERODHA

SHORT TAKES

Top court junks SpiceJet's plea

New Delhi: A bench of Supreme Court (SC) presided over by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha Friday dismissed the applications filed by SpiceJet seeking an extension to pay Rs 75 crore to Kal Airways and Kalanithi Maran. While dismissing the plea, the bench said that the present application is "nothing but a delay tactic of SpiceJet Ltd to not pay money even when there are court orders directing the same". SC had passed the order February 13 directing SpiceJet to pay Rs 75 crore to Kal Airways and Kalanithi Maran within three months towards its interest liability under the arbitral award.

Rosneft brings 1st Indian on board

New Delhi: Russian energy giant Rosneft has appointed a former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) director to its board in signs it may be looking at boosting trade links with India. GK Satish, who retired as director for business development at IOC in 2021, is one of the three new faces appointed to the 11-strong board of directors of Rosneft, according to a statement issued by the Russian firm. Satish, 62, is the first Indian to be appointed to the board of Rosneft.

OYO preps for cricket WC

New Delhi: Hospitality technology platform OYO Friday said it will add 500 new hotels in the next three months in host cities of the upcoming men's cricket world cup in India, to meet the anticipated increase in booking demand. The new hotels will be strategically located near the stadiums, ensuring ease of access for cricket fans traveling from around the world to witness their favourite teams in action, OYO said in a statement. Travel demand automatically goes up whenever the dates for a marquee cricket tournament are announced.

JAL defaults

New Delhi: Crisis-hit Jaypee Group's flagship firm Jaiprakash Associates has defaulted on loans worth Rs 4,044 crore, including principal and interest amount. In a regulatory filing Friday, Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) informed that the company June 30th defaulted on repayments of a principal amount of Rs 1,660 crore and interest of Rs 2,384 crore. The loans pertained to various banks, and the nature of the obligation is fund-based working capital, non-fund-based working capital, term loans and FCCBs.

PROFIT-BOOKING

Indices tank after record run

Sensex drops 505 points, Nifty ends lower after record eight-day rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 7: Benchmark stock indices Sensex declined by 505 points at close while Nifty settled lower at the 19,330 level due to profit-taking in financial, IT and oil shares after a record-breaking run and weak global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell sharply by 505.19 points or 0.77 per cent to close at 65,280.45 points as 25 of its constituents ended in red and five in green. The barometer moved between 65,175.74 and 65,898.98 during the day.

Ending its eight-day winning streak, the broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange declined by 165.50 or 0.85 per cent to settle at 19,331.80. As many as 44 Nifty shares declined while six gained.

Defying a weak trend in the global markets, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 339.60 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at its new all-time closing high of 65,785.64 Thursday. The NSE Nifty rallied 98.80 points or 0.51 per cent to end at a new record high of 19,497.30.

Among major Sensex shares, PowerGrid fell the most by 2.76 per cent. IndusInd Bank dropped



Category	Stock	Change
TOP GAINERS	Tata Motors	2.94
	Titan	1.26
	M&M	0.98
	SBI	0.24
TOP LOSERS	Power Grid	-2.76
	IndusInd Bank	-2.34
	HUL	-2.23
	NTPC	-2.04
	HCL Tech	-1.98

Markets witnessed profit taking and shed nearly a per cent, tracking feeble global cues. The decline has engulfed Thursday's bullish move and indicates the possibility of consolidation in Nifty ahead

AJIT MISHRA | SVP (TECHNICAL RESEARCH), RELIGARE BROKING

2.34 per cent, HUL by 2.23 per cent and NTPC by 2.04 per cent. ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, HDFC, ITC, Infosys, L&T, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Bank, HCL Tech and Tech Mahindra were among the losers.

On the other hand, Tata Motors rose the most by 2.94 per cent, followed by Titan which gained 1.26 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra, SBI and TCS were also among gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE Midcap declined by 0.76 per cent to 28,999.02 while BSE Small dropped 0.28 per cent to 33,129.41.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.25 per cent to \$76.70 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their buying activity as they bought equities worth Rs 790.40 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

In global markets, Hong Kong, China, Japan and Australia sank up to 1.7 per cent following overnight losses in US equities as reports suggested the US job market remains much more resilient than expected.

Investors feared that as a sturdy labour market keeps the economy out of a long-feared recession, it could also push the US Federal Reserve to keep interest rates higher for longer in its campaign to defeat high inflation.

RELIANCE RETAIL VALUED AT \$92-96 BN

The valuations show consultants are estimating Ambani's businesses are growing fast

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 7: India's Reliance Retail, run by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, has been valued at \$92-96 billion by two global consultants appointed by the company, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Reliance had appointed independent valuers EY, which valued the company at \$96.14 billion, while BDO valued it at around \$92 billion, the source said.

Reliance Retail includes Ambani's core retail businesses, including digital and brick-and-mortar stores. Reliance Retail is fully owned by Reliance Retail Ventures, which also houses other retail operations such as international partnerships and the billionaire's consumer goods business.

The valuations show consultants are estimating Ambani's businesses are growing fast. In 2020, Reliance Retail Ventures raised Rs 472.65 billion for a 10.09% stake in the company, valuing it at roughly \$57 billion.



Share capital cut

Meanwhile the firm said it will reduce the equity share capital to the extent held by shareholders other than its promoter and holding company.

The board of Reliance Retail, July 4, 2023, approved the proposal in which shares held by such shareholders shall stand cancelled and extinguished as per the capital reduction plan.

"A consideration of Rs 1,362 per share, determined on the basis of valuation obtained from two reputed independent registered valuers, shall be paid towards the capital reduction," said an exchange filing by its parent firm Reliance Industries.

Vedanta to buy TSTL chip, display biz

The new structure will make Vedanta India's first company in Integrated Semiconductor and Display Fab Business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: Vedanta Ltd Friday said it will acquire the semiconductor and display businesses from sister concern Twin Star Technologies Ltd.

Twin Star Technologies is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Volcan Investments Ltd which is the ultimate holding company of Vedanta.

"The acquisition will be effected by way of a share transfer at face value of Twin Star Technologies Limited's (TSTL) Semiconductor and Display SPVs. TSTL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Volcan Investments Limited, the ultimate holding company of Vedanta Limited," Vedanta said in a statement.

With this restructuring, Vedanta Limited announced the addition of semiconductor and display glass manufacturing ventures to its diversified portfolio.

Vedanta said that semiconductor and display glass manufacturing represents a large growth opportunity for India.

It said that the semiconductor



Vedanta is committed to making India self-reliant in electronics. This is the beginning of the creation of a Silicon Valley in India, a cutting edge and world class electronics ecosystem. My dream is for every Indian youth to have an affordable smartphone, laptop and an electric vehicle

ANIL AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, VEDANTA

market stood at \$24 billion in 2022 and is estimated to reach \$80 billion by 2026.

The display panel market is estimated to be worth \$7 billion and is expected to grow to \$15 billion by 2025. Currently, India imports 100 per cent of these requirements, the statement said.

"We believe that semiconductor and display fab are at the core of any electronics ecosystem. This will also spawn the creation of multiple ancillary industries and opportunities in both downstream and upstream, creating jobs and will be a GDP multiplier," Vedanta's semiconductor and display business global MD Akarsh Hebbbar said.

The company said that made-in-India semiconductor and display glass will facilitate affordable electronics -- smart

phones, laptops, televisions, and electric vehicles for all Indians. The company had earlier announced that the plant will be set up with an investment of around Rs 1.5 lakh crore and start making revenue by 2027.

"I believe that India can become the next semiconductor hub for the world. It has all the ingredients for success," Vedanta's Semiconductor Business CEO David Reed said.

Vedanta has its presence in the LCD glass substrate business through its subsidiary Avanstrate Inc.

"This is India's time to become only the 5th country in the world to manufacture display glass. The impact on consumers in terms of affordability of devices will be huge," Display Business CEO YJ Chen said.

FLYING HIGH

India books record Airbus jet orders

IN H1, THE PLANEMAKER HAS 1,044 ORDERS IN WHICH INDIA HAS BOOKED 750 JETS

REUTERS



Boeing left behind

For January to May, the latest period for which data is available, Boeing won 223 gross orders, or a net total of 127 after cancellations, and delivered 206 airplanes.

Both planemakers report mid-year results July 26. Boeing's upcoming monthly order figures are also due to reflect heavy demand from India, after it finalised an order for 220 jets from Air India at the Paris Airshow.

Aerospace deliveries have been plagued by supply chain problems and labour shortages since the Covid-19 pandemic, but industry leaders are now reporting greater signs of stability.

In a sign of the shift towards large single-aisle planes as they become capable of flying on routes previously reserved for wide-body jets, Airbus data showed that total orders for the A321neo had reached 5,163 since it was launched, surpassing the earlier A320ceo to become its biggest selling jet.

Forex reserves rise by \$1.85bn to \$595.05bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 7: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.853 billion to \$595.051 billion in the week ended June 30, the Reserve Bank of India said Friday.

The overall reserve had dropped by \$2.901 billion to \$593.198 billion in the previous reporting week.

In October 2021, the country's forex reserve had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended June 30, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$2.539 billion to \$527.979 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves dropped by \$472 million to \$43.832 billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$95 million to \$18.239 billion, the apex bank said.

Tussle over Threads: Twitter threatens suit against Meta

META, WHICH LAUNCHED THREADS WEDNESDAY AND HAS LOGGED OVER 30 MILLION SIGN UPS, LOOKS TO TAKE ON MUSK'S TWITTER BY LEVERAGING INSTAGRAM'S BILLIONS OF USERS

REUTERS

Washington, July 7: Twitter has threatened to sue Meta Platforms over its new Threads platform in a letter sent to the Facebook parent's CEO Mark Zuckerberg by Twitter's lawyer Alex Spiro.

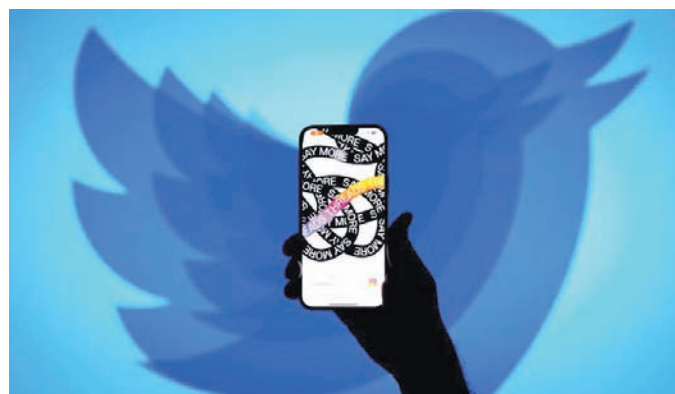
Spiro, in his letter, accused Meta of hiring former Twitter employees who "had and continue to have access to Twitter's trade secrets and other highly confidential information," News website Semafor first reported.

"Twitter intends to strictly enforce its intellectual property rights, and demands that Meta take immediate steps to

stop using any Twitter trade secrets or other highly confidential information." Spiro wrote in the letter. "No one on the Threads engineering team is a former Twitter employee — that's just not a thing," Meta spokesperson Andy Stone said in a Threads post.

A former senior Twitter employee told Reuters they were not aware of any former staffers working on Threads, nor any senior personnel who landed at Meta at all.

Meanwhile, Twitter owner Musk said, "Competition is fine, cheating is not," in response to a tweet citing the news.



Meta owns Instagram as well as Facebook.

Since Musk's takeover of the social media platform last October, Twitter has received competition from Mastodon and Bluesky among others. Threads' user interface, however, resembles the microblogging platform.

Still, Threads does not support keyword searches or direct messages.

To press a trade secret theft claim against Meta, Twitter would need much more detail than what is in the letter, said intellectual property law experts including Stanford law professor Mark Lemley.

"The mere hiring of former Twitter employees (who Twitter itself laid off or drove away) and the fact that Facebook created a somewhat similar site is

unlikely to support a trade secrets claim," he said.

Jeanne Fromer, a professor at New York University, said companies alleging trade secret theft must show they made reasonable efforts to protect their corporate secrets. Cases often revolve around secure sys-

tems that were circumvented in some way.

The newest challenge to Twitter follows a series of chaotic decisions that have alienated both users and advertisers, including Musk's latest move to limit the number of tweets users can read per day.

Threads profile can't be deleted without deleting your Instagram

If you're already feeling exhausted by Threads and are eager to delete your account, you'll have to hold off your horses, unless you're willing to delete your entire Instagram account. However, there is hope on the horizon as Meta, the parent company of Instagram, is actively exploring a solution to decouple Threads from Instagram accounts. This information was shared by Adam Mosseri, the head of Instagram, in a post Thursday. Threads, Meta's recently launched competitor to Twitter, utilises Instagram's account system. This integration allows users to transfer their Instagram usernames to Threads when they join the app. However, it also creates a dependency between the two applications, preventing users from deleting their Threads account independently without sacrificing their Instagram account. This can be a deterrent for individuals who have been actively using Instagram for years and don't want to lose their content.

England's hopes alive



MEMORABLE FEAT: Moeen Ali reacts after bagging his 200th wicket in Tests as Usman Khawaja looks on, Friday

REUTERS

Leeds, July 7: Key wickets late in the day provided England a chance of staying in contention in the Ashes series in their must-win third Test, Australia finishing day two on 116/4 with a second-innings lead of 142.

More heroics from captain Ben Stokes single-handedly got England within 26 runs of Australia's first innings total after a big-hitting 80 (108b, 6x4, 5x6), the hosts skittled out for 237.

Despite losing the early wicket of David Warner for one, to

Stuart Broad (1/36) for the 17th time in the veteran bowler's Test career, Australia looked to be in control and coasting towards generating a commanding lead.

But the cheap wickets of experienced duo Marnus Labuschagne (33) and Steve Smith (2) dragged England back into the match, before first-innings centurion Mitchell Marsh steered Australia through to the close of another thrilling day of Ashes action. Moeen Ali got rid of the duo to complete his 200 wickets in Test cricket.

Earlier, skipper Stokes con-

tinued to perform heroics as he single-handedly guided England to a respectable total in their first innings, before Australia moved on to 29/1 in reply at tea.

With England struggling to take the hosts a little closer to a quick-fire 24 off eight balls to Australia's total, with Stokes looking on in disbelief down the other end.

The fast bowler was then caught after one slog too many to give Australia skipper Pat Cummins his first five-wicket

haul (6/91) in England, before Stokes took on the big-hitting mantle, passing 50 with a huge hit.

While England's scoring rate in the morning session was uncharacteristically slow, Stokes ensured the runs continued to flow, despite struggling with the knee injury that plagued his pre-Ashes build-up.

Back-to-back sixes took Stokes past 6,000 Test runs before he finally fell for 80 to bring an end to England's first innings, trailing Australia by only 26 runs, thanks to their captain.

Earlier, on his home ground, Joe Root edged through to the slips off the second ball of the day without adding to his overnight score of 19, before another Yorkshireman, Jonny Bairstow (12), was out moments later.

Stokes, whose incredible century at Lord's in the second Test was in vain as England fell 20 behind in the series stemmed the flow of wickets alongside the recalled Moeen Ali, before the returning spinner wildly hooked the ball straight to Steve Smith.

Chris Woakes (10) tried to up the ante with some big shots, but got a top edge through to wicket keeper Alex Carey on the last ball before lunch to leave the hosts seven down and staring down the barrel of another defeat before Stokes's afternoon onslaught.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 263 & 116/4 (Usman Khawaja 43, Marnus Labuschagne 33; Moeen Ali 2/34); England 237 (Ben Stokes 80, Mark Wood 21; Pat Cummins 6/91). Match to continue.

SCHEDULE
3RD ASHES TEST (DAY 3)
TIME: 3:30 pm
Telecast: Sony Sports Network

MCC restricts access of members



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 7: The members of the MCC have "brought shame" by abusing the Australian cricketers during the Lord's Test and a "tougher stance" will be taken on their "unacceptable" behaviour, the club said after deciding to restrict their access in the Long Room.

The MCC had "unreservedly apologised" to the Australian team for the behaviour of some of its members and suspended three of them after few players of the visiting team were abused in the Long room on the fifth day of the second Ashes Test.

"I cannot downplay the impact that the behaviour of a few members has had on the perception of our club. The members shown on camera have brought shame on MCC," MCC chair Bruce Carnegie-Brown wrote in an email to Club's members according to the 'Guardian'.

"Their actions hinder our efforts to promote the positive things our club does to promote and celebrate the game of cricket. Their actions inhibit our ability to carry out our role as guardian

of the laws of cricket and the spirit of cricket."

Australia batters Usman Khawaja and David Warner were involved in a heated exchange with spectators in the Long Room, which is an area reserved only for MCC members and their guests, following Jonny Bairstow's controversial stumping on the final day of the Lord's Test.

Khawaja was pulled back by security guards. Warner was also seen making a comment to some of the members, with security forced to step in.

The Custodian of the game's laws, MCC has decided to "expand the roped-off area through which players walk when they go between the dressing rooms and the pitch" and also barred members from using the stairs while teams are walking through the building.

The new rules will be implemented for the first time during Australia women's T20 against England Saturday. "It has been my privilege to stand many times in the Pavilion to witness the brilliant reception teams receive as they go out to the middle and return. The knowledge, respect and support shown by

MCC Members has hitherto been a source of great pride," Carnegie-Brown wrote.

"Since Sunday, probing questions have been asked as to whether the route players take from dressing room to pitch can be considered appropriate in future. It disappoints me greatly to be having those conversations."

The unpleasant exchange came after Bairstow's dismissal, which took place half an hour before lunch. Bairstow had ducked a slow bouncer and immediately left his crease to meet skipper Ben Stokes at the other end, thinking the ball was already "dead".

However, wicketkeeper Alex Carey under-armed the ball onto his stumps and the Australians celebrated. Bairstow was given out for 10 after a brief review. While there is no doubt that Bairstow was out under the laws of the game, many including England coach Brendon McCullum and Stokes believe the dismissal was not in the spirit of the game.

After the dismissal, Australian team was booed and jeered with chants of "same old Aussies, always cheating" reverberating at the Lord's.

SHORT TAKES

India colts impress

Limerick (Ireland): India U-18 men's recurve team downed Colombia 6-0 to clinch a bronze medal at the archery World Youth Championships, here Friday. In a lopsided bronze playoff, the Indian trio of Ujjwal Dhama, Goldi Mishra and Agastya Singh dominated from the start to down their Mexican opponents in straight sets. India have so far won three gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

Dhamne through

London: Young Manas Dhamne qualified for the boys singles main draw at the prestigious Wimbledon championships Friday with a three-set win over 10th seed Atakan Karahan but Aryan Shah missed out with a second-round defeat. The 15-year-old Dhamne beat his opponent from Turkey 6-2, 6-7(5-7), 10-8 in the second and final qualifying round.

SMAT to follow IPL

Mumbai: The IPL version of the much talked about Impact Player rule will be used in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy (SMAT) beginning October 16. The Impact Player was introduced in SMAT last season but it had to be brought in by or before the 14th over and had to be named before the toss. However, this will change from next season as like the IPL, teams will be allowed to name four substitutes besides the playing XI before the toss. Out of the four substitutes, only one can be used as an Impact Player by either team.

Sindhu, Sen storm into Canada Open quarters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Calgary, July 7: Star Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarter-finals of the women's and men's singles competitions respectively at the Canada Open Super 500 tournament here.

While Sindhu advanced to the last eight after her opponent Natsuki Nidaira of Japan gave her a walkover, Sen notched up a 21-15, 21-11 win over Brazil's Ygor Coelho in 31 minutes.

Sindhu will face 2022 Indonesia Masters champion Gao Fang Jie, who had played an important role in China's win at the Asia Mixed Team Championships this year. Sen, who is a Commonwealth Games gold medallist, takes on Belgium's Julien Carraggi.



However, Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala couldn't cross the pre-quarterfinal stage, going down 9-21, 11-21 to Indonesian second seed and World No.7 Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

Sen has been slowly regaining his touch after going through a lean patch early in the season. Thursday, Sen faced a tough battle against Coelho, who erased a 0-2 deficit with a four-point burst and then kept it tight.

The duo moved neck and neck till 13-13 when Sen managed to march ahead and sealed the contest after jumping to 20-15 with a five-point burst. In the second game, Sen hardly had any issues as he galloped to 12-2 and took giant strides to comfortably seal the match.

Medvedev passes Mannarino test

REUTERS

London, July 7: Daniil Medvedev advanced to the third round at Wimbledon with a 6-3, 6-3, 7-6(7-5) win over Frenchman Adrian Mannarino Friday after their match was suspended due to bad light the previous day.

Third seed Medvedev was on the brink of victory Thursday evening before Mannarino staged a late fightback to level the third set at 4-4 and take the match into a second day.

The World No.35 continued to keep pace with the Russian, who has never advanced to the quarter-finals at the All England Club.

Medvedev clinched the tie-break when the left-handed Mannarino sent a forehand long and the Russian will next play American Marcos Giron or Hungarian Marton Fucsovics.

ALCARAZ ADVANCES

Top-seeded man Carlos Alcaraz, a 20-year-old Spaniard considered to be the next great thing in the tennis world, advanced to the third round, beating Alexandre Muller 6-4, 7-6(7-2), 6-3 on Centre Court.

KVITOVA CRUISES THROUGH

Twice former champion Petra Kvitova cruised into the third round Friday as the ninth seed brushed aside the limited challenge of Belarusian Aliaksandra



Sasnovich 6-2, 6-2 on a sun-drenched Court Two.

The 33-year-old Czech, who triumphed in 2011 and 2014, has got past the third round only once since her second victory but did not need to be anywhere near her best in a match full of errors, most of them from Sasnovich, who has never gone beyond the fourth round at a

win 6-3, 7-6(7-3), 6-4.

Rune became only the fourth Dane to reach the men's third round at Wimbledon and the first for nearly 20 years. Rune's game style and casual demeanour have made him a hit with young fans who chanted "Ruuuuuune" at regular intervals, and he responded with some exquisite winners and won many points with cunningly disguised drop shots.

SABALENKA AVOIDS UPSET

Second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus recovered from a poor first set to beat Varvara Gracheva 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 Friday and reach the third round at Wimbledon.

The Australian Open champion struggled badly in the opening set, with Gracheva, representing France for the first time since switching nationality from Russia last month, moving around with ease in the sunshine on Court 1.

A huge upset looked on the cards before Sabalenka found her rhythm midway through the second set. An early break in the decider swung the momentum in favour of Sabalenka, who will next face Russian Anna Blinkova.

SCHEDULE
TIME: 3:30 pm (Expected)
Telecast: Star Sports channels

Summer of 42: MS Dhoni turns a year older

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: Leading cricketers from across the world, including Indian legends such as Sachin Tendulkar, Harbhajan Singh and Virender Sehwag, among others congratulated MS Dhoni as the former India skipper turned 42 Friday.

Tendulkar shared an image of self with the Chennai Super Kings captain and wrote, "May you always fly high like your helicopter shots. Happy birthday, MSI!"

With his trademark helicopter shot, Dhoni has guided India and IPL side CSK to several victories in a career professional career spanning more than two decades.

Sehwag posted a collage of some of the best moments he shared with Dhoni, on and off the field, and wrote, "The Sun God

has 7 horses to pull his heavenly chariot. In the Rigveda there are 7 parts of the world, 7 seasons & 7 fortresses; 7 basic musical notes; 7 pheras in a marriage; 7 wonders of the world. And on 7th day of 7th month - Birthday of a top man MS Dhoni."

Born in Ranchi, Bihar, Dhoni made his Test debut in against Sri Lanka in 2005, while he played his last game in the longest format against Australia in December 2014.

Dhoni led Team India to title triumphs in the 2007 T20 World Cup, the 2011 World Cup at home and the 2013 Champions Trophy. He is the only

India captain to guide the country to title wins in every ICC trophy



played during his time.

He recently guided Chennai Super Kings to its fifth IPL title, making the Chennai franchise the joint most successful side in the lucrative domestic tournament with five trophies, the same as the Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai Indians.

Former spinner Harbhajan Singh tweeted, "Happy Birthday Babubali. May you continue to inspire... Have a great day ahead."

Olympic bronze-medallist wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt termed Dhoni a "great personality". "Happy birthday to brother Mahendra Singh Dhoni, former captain of the Indian cricket team and a great personality," wrote Dutt, the 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist.

Dhoni's CSK teammate Ravindra

Jadeja called the legendary wicket-keeper-batter as his "go-to man". "My go to man since 2009 till date and forever. Wishing you a very happy birthday Mahi bhai," while former India women's team pace bowler Jhulan Goswami said Dhoni continues to inspire players on and off the pitch.

"Happy birthday captain cool. The way you inspire everyone on the pitch and off the pitch is truly remarkable. May your grace, charm and strength continue to inspire us all," wrote Jhulan.

Cheteshwar Pujara, who scored a century for West Zone against Central and place his side firmly on the path to Duleep Trophy final in Bengaluru on Friday, wrote, "Happy birthday MS Dhoni. I Wish you an amazing year ahead. Sending you loads of love and warm wishes!"

Philipsen seals hat-trick of Tour de France stage wins



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bordeaux (France), July 7: It was not so long ago that Jasper Philipsen was nicknamed "Jasper Disaster." In the space of a week at the Tour de France, he has morphed into "Jasper The Master," dominating the sprints with ease.

The Belgian rider secured a hat-trick of stages Friday by claiming yet another mass sprint in Bordeaux. Philipsen was expertly led to the front by his Alpecin-Decauninck teammate Mathieu van der Poel then comfortably countered a move by veteran sprinter Mark Cavendish.

Biniam Girmay completed the stage podium, and defending champion Jonas Vingegaard kept the yellow jersey. Philipsen has won five mass sprints in a row on the Tour after claiming two stage wins last year.

Philipsen made no such mistake when Cavendish hit the front in the finale. He calmly returned onto his wheel and overtook Cavendish to deny the rider a record 35th Tour stage win.

After two gruelling days of brutal climbing across the Pyrenees, the super flat 170-kilometer (105-mile) Stage 7 looked like the perfect occasion for the main contenders to enjoy a day off inside the peloton.