BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY JULY 9 | 2023



SOUL-STIRRING ACT

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 99 | www.orissapost.com

Netizens go gaga over Kiara Advani's portrayal as a victim of date rape in the movie Satyaprem Ki Katha



of violence and killings.

ing". Bose, who vis-

ited different places

in North and South

24 Parganas districts

during the day, said that

'Peace Home' at the Raj Bhavan

to address complaints of the com-

mon people would continue to

Among those killed was

BJP's polling agent Madhab

Biswas who was allegedly

killed in Falimari gram pan-

chayat in Coochbehar district,

A TMC worker was also killed

Another TMC worker

Sabiruddin Sk was killed in the

in Murshidabad district's

DUTCH GOVERNMENT FALLS

Dutch PM Mark Rutte submits resignation of his four-party coalition and sets the deeply divided Netherlands on track for a general election

INTERNATIONAL P10



GUKESH STUNS ANAND

GM D Gukesh beats Viswanathan Anand in rapid event of Grand Chess Tour's SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz tournament

SPORTS P1

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

12 killed in Bengal rural poll violence

All the parties level allegations against each other for the violence with the Opposition BJP calling for President's Rule in the state

Kolkata, July 8: Bengal's rural polls drew towards a bloody finish as 12 people died, bombs exploded and all parties leveled allegations of strong arm tactics against their rivals Saturday. Twelve people, including eight from the ruling TMC and one worker each of the BJP, CPI(M), Congress and ISF, died since midnight in the crucial three-tier panchayat polls, officials said.

The election which is being seen by analysts as a litmus test for the 2024 general elections, also witnessed scenes of ballot boxes being stolen and burnt and of public anger against political workers. Among flashpoints were Murshidabad, Nadia and Cooch Behar districts besides pockets in South 24 Parganas such as Bhangar and in East Medinipur's Nandigram.

The polling began at 7am for 73,887 seats in the rural areas of the state with 5.67 crore people deciding the fate of around 2.06 lakh candidates. Till 5 pm, 66.28 per cent voter turnout was recorded, officials said.

Political parties made accusations and counter-accusations as the day lengthened. TMC's senior minister Sashi Panja said.

"Shocking incidents are being reported since last night. BJP, CPI(M) and Congress have colluded." She also raised questions on the role of the central forces.

Leader of the opposition in the state assembly, Suvendu Adhikari of the BJP, demanded that President's Rule be imposed in the state and threatened to lead a march to Kalighat where chief minister Mamata Banerjee lives against

the violence in the panchayat polls panchayat polls. gained notoriety for "A free and fair its death toll of 76, election under the state administration with more than 40 is a mirage. It is only killed on the day of possible only if electhe elections tions are held under President's Rule or Article

The 2003

355," he said In a statement, TMC however claimed that if the party was behind the violence, "why would their own workers be targeted and killed? The Opposition has conceded defeat and is now attempting to shape the narrative around how violence affected the election".

It also alleged that there are nearly 61,000 booths across West

Bengal, however only 60-odd Kapasdanga area in overnight booths have witnessed disrupviolence. The deceased was identified as Babar Ali, officials said. tion during the polling process.

district's Khargram area. The TMC also alleged that its booth committee member in Tufangani-2 panchayat samiti in Cooch Behar: Ganesh Sarkar: was killed in an attack by the BJP.

function.

they said.

The brother of a TMC leader as killed in a clash with Congress supporters in Malda district, police said. TMC also alleged that one of its workers was killed in Nadia's

An ISF worker was killed in a clash with TMC in the district's Haringhata area. The victim was identified as 48-year-old Saidul Seikh, police said.



RAHUL AS RYOT: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi drives a tractor at a farm in Sonipat district of Haryana, Saturday. Gandhi was also seen sowing seeds and holding discussions with farmers at the fields in Baroda and Madina

with cyber

China

QR code scam of ₹14cr busted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: In one of the rarest and newest type of cyber fraud, Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Odisha Police detected a case of huge cyber financial fraud in which more than ₹14 crore has been siphoned off by manipulating QR codes of a Fintech company, an

official said. In connection with this case, the EOW has arrested the accused Karan Kumar Singh, a resident of Noida's Sector-19, Uttar Pradesh, July 6 under different Sections of the IPC and

Inormation Technology Act. The accused was produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, July 7 and was brought to Bhubaneswar on the strength of three days' transit remand for producing him before the designated court

FRAUD OF RAREST KIND

at Cuttack, an EOW official said. The arrest was made against a case registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Sanjib Kumar Parida, Chief Technology Officer of 'IServeU Technology Pvt. Ltd., a Bhubaneswar-based Fintech company

Parida alleged that their company had entered into technol-

ogy integration agreements with the directors of Noida-based company, Payone Digital Services Pvt. Ltd. during April-May 2023 for providing digital payment services for facilitation of

the finotech service, and accordingly IServeU had extended its UPI API to the company for the commercial

utilisation. On June 19, 2023, the com-

plainant's company came to

"The element of discount shall

account maintained with the FINO Bank. On verification of the UPI logs, it came to light that Karan Singh and Lallu Singh, both di-

know on reconciliation that there

is a significant difference in the

cash balance in their nodal bank

rectors of Payone Digital, have manipulated the QR codes generated by IServeU and embezzled the extra credit of ₹14.33 **EOW officials**

crore of the complainant's company. came to know The accused have also

that accused fraudulently diverted the **Karan Kumar** extra amount to more Singh has links than 125 different bank accounts, the official criminals of added.

> During interrogation, EOW officials came to know that the accused person has links with cyber criminals in China.

The cops may seek court's permission to take him on remand to unearth the Chinese link.

the sections where discount is to

be provided) during the last 30

days shall be taken into consid-

eration." The fares of compet-

itive modes of transport will be

the criteria while deciding the

quantum of discount, it added.

the first and/or last leg of the

journey and/or intermediate

sections and/or end-to-end jour-

ney provided the occupancy is

less than 50 per cent in that

leg/section/end-to-end.

The discount can be given for

"The BJP-JJP government should take back such objectionable decision. Recruitments have been taking place earlier also, but till date such objectionable parameters have never been adopted even in police recruitment," Hooda said.

Women's chest

measurement for

jobs sparks row

Chandigarh, July 8: A major

controversy has erupted over

the Haryana government's de-

cision to measure the chest of

women candidates in the re-

cruitment for posts of forest

ranger and deputy ranger with_

former Haryana Chief Minister

Bhupinder Singh Hooda strongly

criticising the move, Saturday.

but every woman in the country

has objection to such a decision.

Hooda said not only Haryana,

AGENCIES

Responding to Hooda's assertions, a government spokesperson said the recruitment of rangers is being done on the basis of Haryana Forest Service (Executive) Group C Rules, 1998, wherein the physical standards for height and chest for both males and females have been prescribed.

In the past also, the spokesperson said, all such recruitments have been done on the basis of these physi-

cal standards. Consequent to these rules, 22 women forest guards and four women foresters have been recruited from time to time using these physical measurements

A plant that can cause suicidal thoughts

The venomous Gympie-Gympie, usually found in Australia and Indonesia's rainforests, finds a new home in UK's Poison Garden

AGENCIES

London, July 8: Believe it or not, there is a plant whose painful sting can cause suicidal thoughts. Yes, this is one of the world's 'most dangerous plants' that has arrived in the UK. The Gympie-Gympie is so potent that it's been likened to being 'electrocuted' and being on fire at the same time.

Whilst the painful plant is usually kept in botanical gardens, one adventurous Brit even decided to grow it in his own home, as per a report published by LADbible.

The venomous Gympie-Gympie, which is usually found



reportedly stung with the ani-

mal going mad before dying

'within two hours'.

a burning sensation through the victim, with the pain intensifying over the next 20 to 30 minutes before continuing for up to weeks or months

There is even at least one report of suicide, with a man reportedly shooting himself after a painful run

in Australia and Indonesia's rain-According to John Knox, lead tour guide at Poison Garden, the forests, has now found a new plant's tiny hair-like needles send home at Alnwick Garden's Poison Garden – where it's being kept a burning sensation through the victim, with the pain intensifyunder lock and key, it reported. When it was first discovered in ing over the next 20 to 30 minutes 1866, a road surveyor's horse was before continuing for up to weeks

> or months. This can happen even if you only brush against it for a second,

perience to 'being electrocuted and set on fire at the same time'.

People have also reported being sent into experiencing huge red rashes, have their limbs swell up and have been left unable to

There's even at least one report of suicide, with a man reportedly shooting himself after a painful run with the shrub.

But this hasn't put off experts

toxicating and narcotic plants', from deadly nightshade and hem-

Part of the larger Alnwick Garden is the creation of Jane Percy, the Duchess of Northumberland, who became a member of nobility when her husband's brother suddenly died.

weed.

lock to strychnine and giant hog-

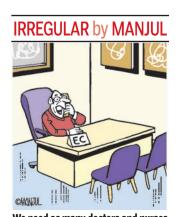
With the unexpected title came the magnificent Alnwick Castle - which many of you might recognise from the Harry Potter films and its grounds, with Percy's husband tasking her with bringing new life into the gardens.

Percy decided to 'do something really different', taking inspira-



Honey-trapped by Pak agent, BSF man held

Ahmedabad: A contractual employee working for the Border Security Force (BSF) at Bhuj in Gujarat was arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive information with a woman Pakistani intelligence agent. Accused Nilesh Balia was working as a peon in the electrical department office of CPWD at the BSF headquarters in Bhuj for last five years. Balia came in contact with the Pak agent in January 2023.



We need as many doctors and nurses as the armed forces. These are for West Bengal elections, sir

WEATHER Trace

MALKANGIRI WOMAN DIES IN CUSTODY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mathili, July 8: In a shocking incident, a woman arrested on charge of smuggling ganja, died allegedly by suicide in the excise police station custody here in Malkangiri district. Saturday. The deceased was identified as Priti of MV-66 village under Kalimela block of the district.

Reports said excise sleuths conducted raids on Gobindpali Ghat road after being tipped off about ganja smuggling in nearby Kamalapadar area under Mathili police limits. They apprehended Priti Friday and found her carrying 10 kg ganja in a bag during verification. She was brought to excise police station but could not be produced in court. She was kept in the lock-up but was found hanging with her scarf Saturday morning.

Excise sleuths rushed her to Mathili hospital where doctors pronounced her dead. On being informed, Mathili police reached the spot and sent the body to Malkangiri headquarters hospital for post-mortem, Excise police IIC Rabindranath Pradhan said.

While the exact reason behind the death is yet to be ascertained, police have formed a special team to probe the unnatural death. Probe is on.

Rlys to slash fares of AC chair car by up to 25%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: Fares of AC chair cars and executive classes of all trains, including Vande Bharat, and those with Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches will be reduced by up to 25 per cent, depending on occupancy, a Railway Board order has stated. The fares will also depend on those of competitive modes of

With a view to optimising util-

isation of accommodation, the rail ministry has decided to delegate powers to principal chief commercial managers of railway zones to introduce discounted fare schemes in trains with AC seating.

"This scheme shall be applicable in AC chair car and executive classes of all trains having AC seating accommodation, including Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches," the Railway Board order stated.

be up to a maximum 25 per cent on the basic fare. Other charges like reservation charge, super fast surcharge, GST, etc, as applicable, shall be levied separately. The discount may be provided in any or all the classes on the basis of occupancy," it said.

The order also said that trains having "classes with occupancy less than 50 per cent (either endto-end or in some specified legs/sections depending upon

with the expert likening the ex-The plant's tiny hair-like needles send

sleep due to the unbearable pain.

from welcoming the plant at

The Poison Garden in Alnwick, located in Northumberland, is home to around 100 'toxic, in-

tion from a famous poison gardenin Italy that belonged to the Medici family in Padua.



leisure



GARNER TO REPRISE HER ROLE IN DEADPOOL 3

Actress Jennifer Garner is making a return to the world of Marvel, as she will reprise her role as Elektra in Deadpool 3. The actress first made her appearance as Elektra Natchios in the 2003 Ben Affleck starrer Daredevil following which she starred in a spin-off solo movie Elektra in 2005.

NOLAN: NO CGI SHOTS IN OPPENHEIMER

Christopher Nolan seems to be taking his next directorial, Oppenheimer, to a whole new level. The filmmaker has claimed that there is 'zero' CGI in the entire film that is the biopic of J Robert Oppenheimer, known as the 'Father of the Atomic Bomb'.



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You have your hands full today. There will be planning, meetings and a lot of work to do. You may feel tired and dejected due to insufficient inputs from others. However, Ganesha says things will become clear slowly as matters come to a conclusion.

TAURUS

Today, you need to take hold of your emotions. Ganesha urges you to not get carried away by your feelings. Instead, you should try to maintain a practical, sensible frame of mind. Women are like to feature prominently in your life during the day.

GEMINI

Your entire attention will be concentrated on the workfront today. You will be on the lookout for new projects and contracts to spur on your earnings. Opportunities for changing your job will come knocking on your door. You will be afforded the full co-operation of your colleagues today.

the back-

ground.

CANCER

Control your anger, counsels Ganesha. Or else, it will sadden your near ones. Writers may display creative output of high order. The day augurs well for artists, too. This is the time to take up new challenges, says Ganesha

You will not be in the mood to take up significant tasks today. You will want to throw your responsibilities to the wind and pursue leisurely activities. However you will still need to tackle some pressing issues. It is easier to swim with the tide, than against, , says Ganesha

You will be bubbling with ideas today. You may face a dilemma between your obli could prove to be very perplexing. New contacts turn out to be very use ful. Ganesha says blood is thicker than water, and family and friends will cement their relationship with you.

Ganesha says you will learn a lot from your past experi-You will be slightly possessive about some costly item that you own. There will be small concerns during the day about different matters, which will give you mental stress. On the whole the day will pass by nicely.

SCORPIO

No matter how rich and successful you become, it is very important to stay grounded. Never let your success go to your head, advises Ganesha, Rudeness and overconfidence may take away everything from you and may leave you empty handed.

You become your own judge today. Through introspec-tion, you try to find you the various causes that lead to troubles in your life. Though it may take time, eventually you achieve what you want and try to find reasonable solutions for the same However, make sure you do not waste your entire day in pondering about the glitches; move on, Ganesha advises.

CAPRICORN

Mounting pressure of work and responsibilities during the day may drain your energy, but not your enthusiasm, feels Ganesha. The second half of the day will be tiring, as you will be fighting a tough battle with your competitors. You'll come out triumphant from the fight as you per-

AOUARIUS

a brave face, feels Ganesha. You can ventilate your emotions and speak your heart out in front of your loved ones. It will make the pain bearable and you'll probably get a way out of your problems.

PISCES

You need to nurture your personal relationships carefully today, and give them the attention they are due. You need to control the outbursts of your temper and stop arguing with your partner or spouse over

Anupam to play Tagore Odia Film T set for a national release in his 538th movie

Mumbai: Actor Anupam Kher Sharing the post, Anupam caphas revealed that he will portray tioned it, "Delighted to portray the role of the poet, philosopher, #Gurudev #RabindranathTagore and essayist, Rabindranath in my 538th project. Will reveal Tagore in his 538th film. Taking the details in due course. It is to Instagram Friday, the Saaransh my good fortune that I have got actor announced the news to his the privilege of embodying fans and followers. He also shared Gurudev on screen! his first look as the poet.

Reacting to the post, Parvin Dabas wrote, "Wow (clap-In the black and white photo, Anupam wore an ping hands emoji)." A fan outfit similar to what wrote, "Omg sir, vou ac-Rabindranath Tagore tually look like him. used to wear. He also Another person comsported white hair mented, "And I am and a long beard. very much sure that nobody can perform Anupam gave a serious expression as he it better than you.' looked at the floor as in-An Instagram user wrote, "Oh! My strumental version of Rabindranath God, I couldn't Tagore's famous recognize you Sir... Superb." song Sokhi. Bhabona Kahare Bole played in

SATYAPREM KI KATHA SWEEPING BOX OFFICE

Kiara winning hearts

as victim of date rape

Mumbai: With Satyaprem Ki Katha success-

fully following in the footsteps of yet another mid-

budget movie (Zara Hatke Zara Bachke) and

all set to recover its budget, netizens have

been unanimous in their praise of Kiara

The story of the film is centred on the rel-

evant and sensitive subject of date rape and

its aftermath, and Kiara enhances it with her

performance, becoming the voice of abused

women. The social media is brimming over with

messages from cinephiles applauding the ac-

tress for having the sensibility and courage

Applauding the acting prowess of Kiara,

netizens couldn't stop praising the emotional

Resonating with her emotional por-

trayal of her character, a user wrote:

"Katha is an emotion, my heart went out

Another user complimented the actress saying: "It's not every day that we get to see mainstream actors take on such roles. @advani kiara, kudos to vou for your sen-

sitive, nuanced portrayal of Katha!'

self a victim to holding d sword n

shield & getting ready to fight, de-

velopment of Katha's character, and

AGENCIES

One more fan said: "#KiaraAdvani ake a bow girl. From considering her-

to her, I felt so anxious watching her

carry that heavy burden.

to portray the truth with so much soul.

Advani's performance in the film.

claimed Odia film directed by Jitesh Kumar Parida, will soon be released around the country. Based on the life of Meghna Sahoo, the country's first transgender cab driver, the film has already won over spectators in Odisha with its gripping story and excellent acting. T now hopes to appeal to a wider audience with the help of its Hindi

> According to the filmmaker, the movie hopes to inspire inclusivity, education, and a more welcoming society by overcoming linguistic obstacles.

Bhubaneswar: T, a critically ac-

Meghna's life journey is portrayed in the film by Debasish



Sahoo. Meghna, who was raised as Vishnu, experiences harassment and discrimination for expressing her gender identification. She has sex reassignment surgery and sets out on a transformative journey to

cab driver, unfazed by hardship Her adventure doesn't end there; she goes on to establish herself as a steadfast kinnar community advocate, working assiduously to improve their lives and confront society stereo-

The decision to release Tin Hindi was made in response to the film's tremendous success and critical praise in its Odia version. The film immediately connected with viewers thanks to its deep storytelling and engrossing performances by its principal cast - Prasanjeet Mohapatra, Usasi Misra, Ranbeeir Kalsi, and Hara Rath.

ALIA ON BEING CALLED A YOUTH INFLUENCER

Mumbai: From bagging awards to endorsement deals, Alia Bhatt has some of the biggest achievements in her kitty which makes her as one of the top actresses of our generation. Recently when she attended the Brand Summit 2023, the actress, who is the face of several renowned brands, opened up about being referred to as youth in-During

the event. when she was addressed as the vouth influencer, the actress. said. am also okay with being

FUN

called a clown as long as the cheque reaches on time." The actress' practical answer left many surprised.

On the work front, Alia is having quite an interesting year ahead. The actress is currently gearing up for the release of Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani which features her alongside Ranveer Singh. The romantic drama marks the return of Karan Johar as the director after seven years and also features Shabana Azmi, Jaya Bachchan, and Dharmendra in pivotal roles. The film is slated for release on July 28. On the other

hand, Alia Bhatt is

Hollywood debut this vear with Heart of Stone. Going by the trailer it seems that the actress will feature in a grey-shaded role alongside Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan

SUDOKU

6

2

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

8

5

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.

9

1

5 2

3

8

3 7 9

3

4

CASTAWAYOPAH

PLANTSHEEN

VENISON

SAGITTARIUS

form smartly and get your acts right.

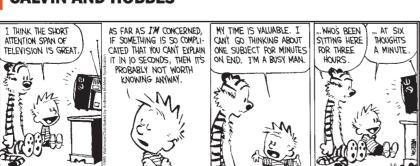
You need not always put up

PEANUTS

the way u owned it all.'



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



CROSSWORD 23

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19 Ascertain

22 Cyclones, e.g.

23 Menu item

21 Rapid

Down

17 Jamaican capital

Across	
7	Chinese
	temple

- 8 Bird of prey 9 Flower holder
- 10 Westall's Sword of
- 11 Warning signals (3,5)
- 14 Take a chance 15 Toiletry item

- 2 Angler's lure
- 1 Chess move

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 3 Termite eater 4 Baby buggy
- skies 18 Shellfish

5 Apparitions

6 Bath items

12 King or queen,

e.g. (4,4)

13 Watchmen

16 Take to the

- 20 Sleeveless garment
- 21 Destiny

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

SUDOKU

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

2 3

downtown

IN SYNC

Artistes performing Odissi at 11th Utkarsha Samman Utsav organised by Aveksha Trust at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



■ ILLEGAL PARKING AT SAHEED NAGAR

BMC urges commuters to avail MLCP facility

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 8: In a concerted effort to address the issue of illegal parking and ensure smooth transportation for citizens, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced the removal of illegal parking from Janpath Road at Saheed Nagar. The initiative was discussed in a meeting chaired by Mayor Sulochana Das. Several representatives from local businesses and house owners were present in the meeting.

Das urged citizens to utilise the Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP) facility instead of parking on the roadside. She specifically requested businessmen and their workers. who lack designated parking areas, to make use of the MLCP in Saheed Nagar. The customers visiting the area were also encouraged to park their vehicles in the designated parking facility.

To maintain the City's aes-

thetic appeal, the BMC has established the MLCP to cater to the parking needs of Bhubaneswar's residents. The issue of parking congestion caused by businesses, workers, and customers parking on the roadside has been recognised as a major concern. The BMC commissioner directed those who own multiple vehicles to strictly adhere to parking guidelines. The MLCP in Saheed Nagar offers parking spaces for 200 four-wheelers, 300 two-wheelers and 200 bicycles.

During the meeting, discussions were held on ensuring effective implementation of the parking arrangements. Present on this occasion were BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange, Corporator Raj Kishor Das, Additional Commissioner Suryawanshi Mayur Vikash, Zonal Deputy Commissioner Priyabrata Padhi and General Manager of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) Subrat Behera



at Centenary Conference Hall of Pruthwiraj High School in Bolangir, Saturday. Chief Guest MLA Narasingha Mishra presented a trophy and certificate to a successful participant of a debate competition held on the subject earlier. Chief Speaker Sujit Kumar Pruseth, Associate Professor in IIM-Sambalpur, Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, the newspapers' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, and Dharitri's Bolangir district correspondent Birendra Kumar Jhankar were present at the event.

BJD seeks 'first war of independence' tag for Paika Rebellion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The ruling BJD Saturday reiterated its demand for grant of the first war of independence tag on the 1817 Paika Bidroha (Rebellion).

Addressing a press conference here, Khurda BJD president Bibhuti Balabantray, Begunia MLA Rajendra Sahoo and Bhubaneswar North MLA Susant Rout raised the demand and said the braveness of Buxi Jagabandhu has been giving inspiration to the Odia people for

TIME FOR CELEBRATION: A seminar was conducted on 'Media, Democracy and the Youth' ahead of the Golden Jubilee celebration of leading Odia daily Dharitri

two centuries. July 18, 2017, the Odisha cabinet had decided to make a formal demand to the Centre for declaring the Paika Bidroha of 1817 as the first war of independence in Indian history. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had also written a letter to the then Home Minister Rajnath Singh to press the demand, said Balabantray.

Besides, the Chief Minister had also raised the demand at the

CBI GRILLS ARRESTED RAILWAY OFFICIALS

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 8: A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team Saturday started interrogation of three railways officials arrested in connection with the Balasore triple train tragedy.

The CBI Friday evening ar rested senior section engineer (signal) Arun Kumar Mohanta, section engineer (signal) Mohammad Amir Khan and technician Pappu Kumar under sections 304 and 201 of IPC and Section 153 of Railways Act, 1989.

After the arrests, the central agency brought all of them to Bhubaneswar and produced before them in a CBI court here

after their health check-up. The CBI got a five-day remand of all the arrested officials for interrogation. Now, the arrested of ficials are being interrogated by a special team of the CBI at Chandaka police station on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar reportedly to avoid any law and order situation and other disturbances. Sources claimed that the sleuths are trying to elicit details about others responsible for the tragic mishap. The CBI had registered the instant case June, 6 following the request of the Union Ministry of Railways, consent of the Odisha government and further orders from Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) relating to the tragedy

At least 293 people died and over 1,000 others were injured after Chennai-bound Coromandel Express, Howrah bound SMVP-Howrah Superfast Express and a goods train were involved in a tragic accident near the Bahanaga Bazar railway station June 2.

Govt to strengthen OPSC: CM

PATNAIK SAID THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION IN DIFFERENT FIELDS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION HAVE MADE STELLAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday said his government has always been keen to strengthen the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC).

A new annexe building of the Commission is under construction at a cost of ₹14 crore to meet its infrastructure needs. Besides. the cadre restructuring of the OPSC is under active consideration of the government, Patnaik said while addressing at an event organised here to celebrate Commission its 75th Foundation

Patnaik congratulated all OPSC family, the former chairpersons, and members of the Commission for their signifi-



cant contribution to this magnificent institution.

'The OPSC is a creation of the Constitution of India and is mandated to conduct recruitments for appointments to the services of the state. The journey of the Odisha Public Service

Commission in the last seventyfive years has been remarkable,

Patnaik said thousands of men and women selected by the Commission in different fields of public administration have made stellar contributions to the allround development of the state. In recent years, the Commission has enabled itself to conduct a huge number of recruitment drives faster. It has maintained a high level of transparency by leveraging technology and following best practices in the field of recruitment, the CM said.

He complimented the Commission and its staff for their efforts in clearing the backlogs in recruitments and adhering to the annual recruitment calendar. The Chief Minister expressed hope that the Commission will continue to contribute in building a prosperous and strong Odisha.

The Chief Minister also released a 'Souvenir, OPSC@75', on this occasion.

The valediction session was

graced by Governor Ganeshi Lal who launched the highly advance e-CHAYAN portal of the Commission. The software has many advanced features like AI enabled photo verification to eliminate impersonation, digital mark extraction from certificates, API based certificate verification and customised application forms.

The Governor felicitated ten officers and staff of the Commission for rendering meritorious service. He emphasised on merit based selection which contributes to nation building.

OPSC Chairman Satyajit Mohanty welcomed the guests. Members of the Commission Sanat Kumar Mohanty, Sarita Supkar and Shyambhakta Mishra proposed the vote of thanks.

foundation stone laying ceremony for the Paika Rebellion memorial at Barunei by President Ram Nath Kovind December 8, 2019.

In December 2021, a delega tion of BJD MPs had submitted a memorandum to the Union Culture Minister on the issue, he said. However, the two Odia Union Ministers and eight BJP MPs from Odisha have remained silent on this issue. It is also unfortunate that Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi has also remained silent on this demand, MLA Sahoo said.

The BJD leaders demanded the Centre should declare Paika_ Bidroha as the first war for independence without any delay.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The state government has enhanced the remuneration paid to artistes for performing in awareness programmes organised by the Information and Public Relations department.

hanced amount for three performances of three hours in a day. The leader of the artistes' group will be paid ₹1,000 per day while other members will get ₹800 per day. Besides, the government will provide travelling and food allowance of ₹300 per

were earlier paid ₹200, now a team of 2 artistes will get ₹2,400

■ For Ghoda Nacha (horse dance), a team of eight artistes will be given ₹9.000 for one performance against the earlier payment of ₹350 per artist

■ Similarly, artistes performing Pala, who were getting ₹350, will now a team of 6 artistes will be paid ₹6.800 for one performance

person per day. Artistes performing 'Dasakarja' drama were earlier paid ₹200, now a team of two-artists will get ₹2400. Similarly, artistes performing Pala, who were getting ₹350, will now a team of six artists will be paid ₹6,800 for one performance.

For Ghoda Nacha (horse dance). a team of eight artistes will be given ₹9,000 for one performance against the earlier payment of ₹350 per artist.

For folk dance and folk music, the artistes who were getting ₹400 for a performance, will now get ₹9,000 for one performance by a team of eight people. The Chief Minister expressed hope that this initiative will be very helpful in protecting

folk art and promoting artistes. The Odisha government has taken many progressive steps to promote folk arts in the state. Since 2009. artistes' unions were formed in the block, district, and at the state level Folk art programmes are being organised and promoted by the state Information and Public Relations department, Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, and other departments.

Artistes performing 'Dasakarja' drama

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed the authorities concerned to raise the remuneration for various folk arts such as Daskudia, Pala, Ghoda and folk dances, and folk music. The folk artistes will get the en-

Millennials, Gen-Z have higher climate worry

with the issue. The study used data from Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST) nationally representative surveys, con-

ducted in 2020, 2021 and 2022. 'While there is widespread aware ness of climate change across all generations, younger generations feel much more threatened by it and have stronger emotional reactions. That is not completely surprising, given that younger generations will feel the brunt of the impacts of climate change, more so than older generations," said Professor Poortinga.

The team suggested that negative emotions can take a heavy toll on the younger generations' wellbeing, although they can also be an important driver of climate action.

'We however have to be careful not to put the onus on younger generations to solve climate change. Older generations have a responsibility to take action now to mitigate climate change for future generations," added Professor Poortinga.

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illennials and generation The research team said the different Z (Gen-Z) experience I greater levels of fear, guilt and outrage about the impacts of clies to climate mate change compared to older Gen-X, baby boomer and post-war groups, new research suggests. Millennials are those born be-

tween 1981 and 1996, whereas generation Z were born between 1995 and 2012. Baby boomers were born between 1946 and 1964. They're currently between 57-75 years old. The study found that younger

age groups worry more about climate change, demonstrating a stronger emotional engagement with the topic than older age groups.

It also found that despite the significant differences in climate-related emotions between generations, understandings and perceived impacts of climate change were more comparable.

"It is widely believed that younger generations are more engaged with climate change than older generations, but that has never been studied systematically," said lead author Professor Wouter Poortinga of

change may be one of the reasons why tions demonstrate higher levels of activism and engagement with the issue



The study used data from Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST) nationally representative surveys, conducted in 2020, 2021 and 2022

Cardiff University in the UK. "In our study, we found an overall pattern of higher levels of climate-related beliefs, risks percep-

tions and emotions among younger

generation groups. However, the gap between generations about climate change is mainly in their emotional responses to climate change, rather than in be-

liefs about climate change "For example, there are no gen-

erational differences in beliefs in the causes and impacts of climate change, although older age groups are more likely to think that we are already feeling the effects of climate change," Poortinga said.

> The team suggested that negative

younger generations' wellbeing,

important driver of climate action

although they can also be an

emotions can take a heavy toll on the

The research team said the different emotional responses to climate change may be one of the reasons why younger generations demonstrate higher levels of activism and engagement

DN group chairman grilled by IT sleuths

DURING THE RAID. THE TEAM REPORTEDLY ALSO EXAMINED SEVERAL INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The Income Tax department officials Saturday grilled chairman of the Bhubaneswar-based real estate and construction company DN Group Jagadish Prasad Nayak at the group headquarters in IRC village here over allegations of tax evasion. The raid by the IT department officials continued Saturday for the fourth consecutive day.

The IT officials questioned Nayak in presence of Chandrasekhar Panda, the legal officer of DN group, at the IRC village office. The officials were reportedly trying to ascertain the source of huge amounts of cash recovered from Panda's house Wednesday



Sources informed that the officials also found over Rs 2 crore cash Saturday. During the raid, the team reportedly also examined several incriminating documents. Nayak, while speaking to media, had rubbished the tax evasion claims as completely

Meanwhile, opposition Congress and BJP continued to attack the ruling BJD over its alleged links with the DN group.

Notably, several teams of the IT department had Wednesday conducted simultaneous raids at 20 places associated with the real estate and construction company on the allegations of tax eva-

As per sources, further raids are being carried out at residences of the company's director, staff and offices in the state Capital. The officials had seized Rs 30 crore in cash from the house of a company staffer the located in Unit-4 area of the City.

The IT sleuths are said to have laid their hands on some important documents of the company during the search, sources informed. However, no comments could be obtained from the company officials about the



BOOK RELEASE: A book titled 'Kaleidoscope of life' by Umakanta Mahapatra and published by UA Kathachitra, an independent film production and publishing company, was released at Press Club of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The event was presided over by Jatin Nayak while eminent dramatist Ananta Mahapatra and renowned poet Ramakanta Rath joined in a reading session.

Plantation needs to be prioritised: Experts Startup Odisha completes 1st

ARINDAM GANGULY, OF

Bhubaneswar, July 8: As a consequence of uncontrolled population growth and various other detrimental activities of mankind, diverse environmental problems are on the rise with the degradation of forest resources accelerating progressively.

But people fail to understand that the best way to solve many environmental challenges is to increase the number of trees which is declining. Every year, around a thousand hectares of forest is being gutted and the quality of the remaining forests is degrading.

So, the need of the day is to have a minimum of 33 per cent forest cover globally, discourage deforestation and stop human intervention in natural ecosystem functioning, recommended the speakers at the Van Mahotsav programme organized by the



Orissa Environmental Society (OES), Raajdhani Engineering College (REC) and GITA Engineering College.

'The best option for human society to resolve various environmental problems is to spread greenery around us through massive plantation programmes. More importantly, since the urban areas of the world are now facing severe environmental problems, there is a need to give more importance to tree planting there," said OES secretary Jayakrushna Panigrahi. At Raajdhani Engineering College, there was a plantation drive involving saplings of various species in the college campus, in which students, teachers and OES members participated.

In a meeting, principal Bimal Sadangi, former forest department official Manoj Mahapatra highlighted the importance of forests and other natural ecosystems, and mankind's depend-

OES president Sundar

Jayakrushna Panigrahi, joint secretary Manoranjan Mishra and member Swapna Behera delivered views on various aspects of forest protection and appropriate plantation practices.

The Van Mahotsav programme at the GITA Engineering College was presided over by the principal Manmmath Kumar Roul. Among others, OES president Patro, vice-president Lala AK Singh, secretary Panigrahi, presented their views on importance of the forest festival. They agreed that it is desirable to preserve the natural forests and greenery of the environment for our own security. Paintings made by students on significance of trees were displayed on the occasion; a quiz competition on environment was held among the students at both the programmes and the winners were awarded certificates.

pre-incubation programme

THE MoUS SIGNED BETWEEN STARTUP ODISHA AND ITS PARTNERS MARK A MILESTONE IN THE JOURNEY TOWARDS BUILDING A ROBUST AND DYNAMIC STARTUP ECOSYSTEM IN THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 8: Startup Odisha, an initiative of the state MSME department, announced Saturday completion of its first cohort of pre-incubation programme. With an impressive registration count of 62 aspiring entrepreneurs, the programme saw 23 participants successfully complete the rigorous training and mentorship curriculum. From them, 9 talented individuals showcased their innovative ideas, and three startups were selected to receive comprehensive support from Startup Odisha to propel them to the next level.

"The pre-incubation programme, initiated by Startup Odisha, aimed to empower and equip emerging entrepreneurs with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to transform their ideas into successful ventures. The overwhelming response received during the registration phase is a testament to the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and potential of the region," said a department official.

In another development, Startup Odisha announced strategic partnerships with Technolplat Limited, Wadhwani Foundation, and Her Money Talks. "These partnerships will further strengthen the startup ecosystem in the state, bringing in valuable expertise, global networks, and access to capital," said the official

Startup Odisha executive chairman Omkar Rai said, "These partnerships will foster an environment of innovation and provide invaluable support to our budding entrepreneurs. Through collective efforts, we aim to unlock the full potential of the startup ecosystem in Odisha, driving economic growth and creating opportunities for_ our talented youth.'

"The memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Startup Odisha and its partners mark a milestone in the journey towards building a robust and dynamic startup ecosystem in the region. The collaborations will facilitate knowledge exchange, mentorship programme, access to funding opportunities and international exposure for the selected startups," said the official.

'Gymnastics centre would bring laurels for country'



AM/NS India, Rajiv Bhatnagar, executive director of Odisha Projects, Arun Rath, head of brownfield projects, Odisha, and Ashok Mishra, head coach of the centre, were present on the occasion along with trainee gymnasts and other officials.

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Don't install Pink Whatsapp: Odisha Police public as pink Whatsapp is a

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA

Bhubaneswar, July 8: The Odisha Police Saturday warned the public not to click any link relating to 'Pink Whatsapp' received through message on their mobile devices. The state police issued this advisory on its official twitter handle.

Cybercriminals are sending messages to random people about the launch of a new pinkthemed Whatsapp with many additional features. Once peo-



ple click the link, the fraudsters steal all their personal details and crucial information from their mobile phone. The Odisha police warned the

novel technique recently being adopted by these cybercriminals to steal personal data that many people are unaware of.

"Got a text with a link to nange your Whatsapp theme to pink? Don't click it. All you need to do is to delete message immediately," tweeted the police.

Police forces of different states have already issued advisory warning people to not entertain any such message.

Pandemic babies behind on communication at age two: Study

he world changed for all of us when we were suddenly plunged into a pandemic in 2020. Covid sent us into a series of lockdowns in a bid to control the spread of the virus until a vaccine could be developed.

Most of us knew that a vaccine would be the key to our postpandemic lives. But what about those of us who knew nothing of the world before Covid? Our research group wanted to understand what life was like for babies born during the pandemic, and what it might mean for their general health and development.

In a latest paper, researchers found that by age two, with the important exception of communication, these pandemic babies were very similar to babies born before the pandemic in behaviour and development.

They followed families of babies born in Ireland in the first three months of the pandemic, between March and May 2020. A total of 354 families and their babies visited the researchers at six, 12 and 24 months of age.

The visits, particularly the earlier ones, were sometimes the only trips the families made outside the home. We were struck by some babies' wariness towards our experienced paediatric staff, which was often explained by comments from parents like "she hasn't been out much".

At each of the visits, we asked the parents for lots of information on their babies' lives and development by way of questionnaires.

Usually, in a study like this, it's best to compare the babies to a control group of other babies born at the same time but without the same challenges. As most of the world was in lockdown, we did the next best thing. We compared the lockdown babies to a similar group of babies born in Ireland before the pandemic.



This is a limitation of our study, but comparable groups of babies available at the same

They also found these lockdown ba-

TOTAL OF 354 FAMILIES AND THEIR BABIES VISITED THE RESEARCHERS AT SIX, **12 AND 24 MONTHS OF AGE**

Covid restrictions, activities such as parent and baby groups were called off, and there were no vis-

cial circles. Because of

babies, including their parents - suggesting they hadn't met many relatives or family friends. One in four babies had not met another child their own age by their first birthday. We also asked parents what

At six months, an average of

only three people had kissed the

it felt like to raise a baby during the pandemic. Words such as "lonely", "isolating" and "challenging" appeared repeatedly. Some positive themes emerged too, including parental bonding with the new baby and more family time due to the lockdown restrictions We looked at ten developmental

milestones at the babies' first birthday. Among these, fewer pandemic babies had said their first word, could point or wave "bye-bye", and slightly more babies could crawl.

This makes sense when you think about it. Babies were probably hearing fewer words since they were getting out and about less. Also, the pandemic babies were likely to be very familiar with their home so there were few new things to point to. And as parents were working from home and visitors didn't generally come to the house, there may have been less need to learn how to wave goodbye. It's possible more pandemic babies crawled because they were more likely to have spent more time at home ex-

ploring. At age two, we were interested to see whether these developmental differences had shifted. We asked parents questions about communication at this point including whether the child could say two or three words together to convey an idea, whether they could correctly point at something when asked (for example, point at the ball), and whether they could follow a simple command (for example, put the toy on the table).

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BOOK FAIR: Visitors flip through the pages of books displayed at a book fair titled 'Sambalpuri Bahihaat' organised by Kalama Parivar and held on the premises of Sri Aurobindo School in Sambalpur, Saturday

3-YEAR-OLD GIRL THROWN INTO BAITARANI IN 2013

Crime scene recreated involving fugitive dad in Keonjhar village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, July 8: Ten years after the murder of a three year old girl, Crime Branch sleuths conducted a scene recreation of the murder at Fakirpur village here in Keonjhar district, Saturday. This was done after the arrest of the accused Prashant Sahani, the father of the toddler.

The girl was killed after Prashant flung her into swelling Baitarani river following a tiff with his wife Puja Sahani, August 18, 2013. He was absconding since that day. CB sleuths nabbed him from Muradabad in Maharashtra recently. Prashant was brought to Fakirpur where he recreated the heinous act.

CB sources said Prashant after a fight with his wife Puja lost his cool and threw his daughter into the Baitarani which was in spate at that time. Police regis-



tered a case and launched a probe after Puja lodged a complaint at Anandapur police station but there was no headway in the in-

Expressing displeasure over police probe, Puja filed a petition in the Orissa High Court

following which CB took up the matter. Finally, it managed to nab the accused. He was arrested after the CB sleuths matched his PAN number, Aadhaar number and bank account number, inspector Devi Prasad Das said.

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Address of New Premises: Ground Floor, Plot No.: 8/807, 8/808, Panposh Road, Civil Township, Near Labour Office (Welfare) Rourkela-769004, Odisha. Customers are requested to visit the new premises from 17.07.2023 for their banking operations.

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Rourkelaites to board from Ranchi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 8: Indian Railways introduced the concept of operating tourist trains on theme based circuits under the banner of Bharat Gaurav Tourist Trains.

Residents of this city will have the opportunity to be a part of two such tours in separate months. However, they have to board the train from Ranchi, it was learnt.

The two circuits that are going to be covered, starting from Kolkata are - Ajmer to Jaipur and Vaishno Devi and other religious places in the north. The Ajmer circuit is known as Royal Rajasthan tour and the other is Vaishno Devi

BHARAT north **GAURAV** The Vaishno Devi tour will **TOURIST** start from **TRAIN** August 11 and will wind up

after 10 night and 11 days. The charges per person are - ₹17,700 for sleeper, ₹27,400 (standard) and ₹30,300 (comfort) for AC-3 tier. Those who prefer to avail comfort class in AC-3 tier will get air-conditioned accommodations at all the destinations that include AC buses and hotel rooms.



The Royal Rajasthan tour will start November 8, and will come to an end after 11 nights and 12 days. The charges per person are ₹20, 650 in sleeper, ₹30,960 (standard) and ₹34,110(comfort) for AC-3-tier.

Speaking to the media, chief supervisors of IRCTC Kinker Roy Choudhury and Nikhil Prasad informed about many other features of the tour. "The government is providing 30% subsidy on every head and only veg foods, three times a day, will be provided during the tour," informed Kinker. And if there is a group consisting of twenty one persons, then one person can travel absolutely free, he added

Rail users fume over 'fleecing' by Railways

PREPAID SERVICES LAUNCHED IN SAMBALPUR AND TITILAGARH STATIONS

It is the duty of the Indian Railways to provide basic services free to the passengers instead of exploiting the travellers through prepaid services, said former Lok Sabha MP Bhabani Shankar Hota who was also an advisor of Zonal Rail Users' Consultative Committee

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 8: The privatisation of passenger waiting rooms under the Sambalpur Railways Division has sparked resentment among railway passengers and made them unhappy, a report said.

People in India mostly prefer to journey by train as it is quite cheap in comparison to other modes of travelling.

However, the Railways department has been privatising its various departments for the last few years. Various political parties have opposed this move but the department is undeterred and going ahead with its plan. It has already privatised the management of stations, engagement of casual workers and the supply of food and beverages to the passengers, the burden of which is



borne by the passengers. Meanwhile, amid the entire

hullabaloo, prepaid services, which are 'pay and use' services, have been launched in passenger waiting rooms meant for firstand second-class passengers. The launching of prepaid services at Titilagarh and Sambalpur rail stations under the Sambalpur Railway Division from June last week is a case in point. This has sparked resentment among the rail users and various quarters.

Earlier, passengers with their family members were taking rest in the waiting room if a train was running late. Moreover, the women travellers felt safe here.

However, with the waiting rooms being handed over to private agencies, passengers, now have to pay per hour for using the service which was free before.

The concerned agencies now

charge ₹20 (excluding GST) to a passenger for the first one hour and ₹15 per additional hour excluding GST. Similarly, for children in the 5–12 age group, the

Bhabani Shankar Hota, former Lok Sabha MP and former advisor, Zonal Rail Users Consultative Committee, said that the privatisation of rail serv-

ices has posed a major problem

first hour will cost ₹10 exclud-

ing GST, while the charges for ad-

ditional hours are @Rs 10 ex-

cluding GST.

and burden for the passengers. It is a duty of the Indian Railways to provide basic services to the passenger having a valid ticket. However, passengers are being fleeced and exploited. It is also department's responsibility to provide drinking water, rest rooms, toilet facilities to the passengers and to protect their life and properties, he

In the past, the waiting rooms used to have more facilities for the first class and second class passengers but they are now being looted of their money after the launch of prepaid services, he further said, and added that this has to be stopped for the benefit of scores of passengers travelling by train in the country.

Recounting his experience, a passenger, Sanjiv Kumar Mishra, said five days back he visited the waiting room at Sambalpur railway station as his train for Bhubaneswar had not arrived. There a worker of a private agency asked him to pay by hour if he wished to spend time in the rest room.

Irked, he returned to the platform and waited for the arrival of his train. He alleged that this exploitation of the passengers. The Railway department, instead of providing service, has turned into a business establishment, said the fuming traveller.

Contacted, a senior official of the Sambalpur Railway Division said the prepaid service has been launched at Sambalpur and Titilagarh railway stations and will soon be introduced at other stations. He said even though the service has been privatised, passengers will get access to things like newspapers, comfort seating and other facilities in the rest rooms.

Wooden bridge washed away in Koraput

Koraput, July 8: Four villages in this district have been cut off from the mainland as a result of the torrential rains that destroyed the single wooden bridge used for transportation.

The bridge was built over Poda river connecting Girliguma Gram Panchayat under Dasmanthpur block, and the district headquarter

According to sources, several peo-



ple have been stuck in their homes for the past two days because there

is no other means to communicate It further stated that children are unable to attend school.

Despite earlier requests from the people to the administration, no action has been taken to build a permanent bridge over the river, lo-

cals alleged. Contacted, an official of the block said that about ₹30 lakh was granted for construction of the bridge. But the project was withdrawn as a bigger bridge was the need of the hour.

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PR-322/O/23-24

RKL BJD president appointment a masterstroke

TRIBAL LEADER HALU **MUNDARI'S ELEVATION IS VIEWED BY THE POLITICAL OBSERVERS** AS AN EFFORT TO KILL **TWO BIRDS WITH ONE SHOT**

RAJESH MOHANTY/OP

Rourkela, July 8: All political parties are leaving nothing to chance for the elections in 2024 which is becoming increasingly visible here. Suddenly the otherwise cool political atmospheres of Rourkela and Sundargarh are witnessing a gradual warming up if the activities are any indicator.

The appointment of Halu Mundari as the district president of BJD here has killed many hopes and aspirations. And in one stroke BJD Supremo seems to have closed a few chapters at one go. First thing first. Mundari's appoint-



ment indicates that the BJD's rebel team, a group of young senior cadres opposing Sarada Prasad Nayak, has come to a nut.

"All our activities to upstage Sarada have gone astray with Halus' appointment. It is not Halu's elevation but rather cementing Sarada's stature in the party," said

one BJD top-line activist whose dissidence against Sarada is no secret. Halu is a prominent tribal leader and a one-time MLA also. His arrival as the party's face is seen as a masterstroke as far as tribal politics is concerned. Currently, he is a Zilla Parishad member from

"Everybody was wondering how an MLA stooped to the level of becoming a Zilla Parishad member and now it shows what the real reason was," said the same leader.

The entire move was like killing two birds with one arrow. "The party would have faced severe dissension had a General Caste risen to that level as there were many aspirants. With this that has been quelled and also the tribal sentiment has been appeased," opines a political observer.

Besides, Halu's promotion will give BJD a new lease of life in the Biramitrapur constituency which remains an Achilles heel for the party. He comes from Bisra area, however, in the last alignment of constituencies, his base area got merged into Biramitrapur. It is no

secret that Sarada managed in building a good cadre base at the grassroots level there and the net results are the party's performances in the Gram Panchayat (GP) and Urban Local Bodies (ULB)

If one looks at the electoral performances of the party from 2009 till 2019 then the party has come from fourth position to second in the last and now has the GP and ULB in its kitty. In 2009 the party pooled 19,665 votes and remained in fourth place, in 2014 it got 25,158 votes and came to third position and in the last 2019 election it came second to BJP's Shankar Oram with 44,568 votes.

"There is a steady rise for the party now. And this must have prompted our Supremo to appoint a tribal fighter as the party president in the Rourkela district,' said Nayak, the new Labour

Amongst all these developments it looks like George Tirkey, who has resigned from Congress and is very keen to join the party, is becoming redundant for BJD.

Station & Location: (1) BRAHMAPUI STAND-2 (2 WHEELER) (NEAR RMS

Auction start Date & Time: 18.07.2023 at

1100 hrs. (For Sl.No.1&2)

File No.: DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/ E-Tender/45, Dtd.03.07.2023 KUR-134-2023, Dtd.28.06.2023 Description: PROVISION OF FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM FOR HO BUILDING AIL SADAN) OF EAST COAST RAILWAY

AT BHUBANESWAR

MD-₹2,33,400/-(2) Tender No.: e-Tender-ESTATE-KUR-135-2023, Dtd.28.06.2023

oprox. cost of the work : ₹ 166.70Lakhs

Description: PROPOSED SUPPLY NSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF FIRE FIGHTING MANCHESWAR, BHUBANESWAR Approx. cost of the work : ₹91.29 Lakhs

/D - ₹1,82,600/ Completion period: 12 (Twelve) months For all the Tenders)

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. or

1.07.2023 (For all the Tenders) No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenden even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shabe considered invalid and shall be rejected to the proposition of t mmarily without any consideration. he tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digit

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digits Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderers/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

NOTE: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note an inchanges/corrigenda issued for this tender website: http://www.ireps.gov.in

3. Smt. Swarnalata Sahoo, W/o. Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. - Nayagari

Navagarh, Orissa, Pin - 752 081 2. Shri Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, S/o. of Late Ladukeswar Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist.

M/s. Shreeram Food Products, Registered Office: Plot No. 1281/2565, Unit 32, Gobin Prasad, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 010. Unit Address: Akhupadar, P.O. - Odagaon, Dist.

4. Shri Suryakanta Sahoo, S/o. Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. - Nayagari

5. Shri Chandrakanta Sahoo, S/o, Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. Nayagarh, Odisha, Pin - 752 081.

Shri Tarakanta Sahoo, S/o. Baikuntha Nath Sahoo, Nelia Sahi, Nandighore, Dist. - Nayaga

Sub.: Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Final

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Trishul, Opp Samartheswar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad - 380 006 and its Corporate Office at Axis House, C-2, Wadia International Centre, P.B.Marg, Worli, Mumbai -400025 and having Structured Asset Group, East at 1 Shakespeare Sarani, AC Market 4th floor, Kolkata-700 071 do hereby give this Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, in its capacity as Secure

You No. 1 carrying business in the name and style as "M/s. Shreeram Food Products" (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") had approached the bank for availing certain credit facilities and after due consideration, the bank sanctioned credit facilities vide sanction letter no. AKISB/SME/BBSR/1033/2016-17 dated 24.03.2017 and AXISB/SME/BBSR/138/2018-19 dated 28.08.2018 on such terms and conditions mentioned therein and thereafter, the facilities have been reviewed/renewed/enhanced from time to time and the same have been duly accepted by you al on such terms and conditions more specifically mentioned therein

The details of the credit facilities availed by you No. 1 with Axis Bank Ltd. are as follows

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Facility	Limit Sanctioned
Cash Credit	Rs. 6,00,00,000.00
Term Loan – I	Rs. 95,00,000.00
Term Loan – II	Rs. 75,15,000.00
Term Loan – III	Rs. 76,00,000.00
TOTAL	Rs. 8,46,15,000.00

You No.1 as well as the Addressee No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have accepted all the terms and conditions of said sanctions and you had entered into and executed various documents/Agreements/Joir documents and created various securities as detailed in Schedule I and II. with the Bank, inter-

That in terms of the sanction, You no. 2, 3, 4,5 and 6 have created equitable mortgage ove properties together with all building and structures, more particularly described in the schedule for securing due repayment of all the aforementioned credit facilities sanctioned to the proprietorship firm and also extended from time to time

You No. 2, 3, 4,5 and 6 have executed the necessary documents including Deed of Guarantee in favour of the Bank thereby guaranteeing the due repayment of the credit Facilities along with the interest and future charges. We say that the above credit facilities are also secured by hypothecation of current assets, bool debts, movables, stocks, more particularly mentioned in the **Schedule I**.

The aforesaid securities are "Secured Assets" within the meaning of Section 2(1)(zc) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act.

2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). The aforesaid Secured Assets are fully owned by you, the addressees above named who are "Borrowers" within the meaning of Section 2 (1)(f) of the Act.

position of the credit facilities after giving credit to all the payments made by you is as under

We state that despite having availed the aforesaid credit facility, You No.1 have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The said Credit facility is classified by the bank as a Non-Performing Asset (NPA) w.e.f. 30.06.2019 in accordance with the directions / guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. The presen

(Amount in Rupees Limit Sanctioned Total dues as on 31.01.2022 (Interest applied upto 30.04.2019) Cash Credit Rs 6 00 00 000 00 61837616.68 Rs. 95.00.000.00 Term Loan - I 7759798.00 Rs. 75,15,000.00 5666300.00 Rs. 76,00,000.00

Rs. 8,46,15,000.00 80852226.68 laving regard to your failure to meet your liability in respect of the said credit facility and classification of your account as NPA, we hereby invoke the provisions of Section 13 of the Securitisation 8 construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and by this Notice issued under the provisions of Section 13(2) of the aforesaid Act and without prejudice to the Bank's rights arising from the various documents executed by you, we hereby call upon You No. 1 as Borrower, and You No. 2,3,4, 5 and 6 as Guarantor, jointly and severally, to make paym of an amount of Rs. 8,08,52,226.68 (Rupees Eight Crores Eight Lacs Fifty Two Thousand T Hundred Twenty Six and paise Sixty Eight only) being the amount due as on 31.01.2022 (This amount include interest applied upto 30.04.2019) together with further interest at the contractual rate of interest as detailed hereinabove, till the date of payment, within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice. In case of your failure to make repayment of the Bank's dues in the aforesaid manner, the Bank will be entitled to and will exercise all or any of the rights available to it unde Section 13 (4) and 15 of the Act in respect of the Secured Asset(s) mentioned hereinabove including

the management of the business of You No. 1. Please further note that as mentioned in Sub-section 13 of Sec.13 of the aforesaid Act, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the assets stated under security referred to in this Notice without prior written consent of the Bank.

As per the provision of the aforesaid Act, all of you are also informed that in case if the proceed from the liquidation of the secured assets are not adequate to cover the dues of the Bank, the Bani reserves its right to proceed against all of you jointly and severally for recovery of balance dues by initiating appropriate legal action.

Kindly note that all costs, charges, expenses that shall be incurred by the Bank in the process of its actions under Section 13 (4) and incidental thereto shall be recoverable from you in the manner

Please further, we draw your attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed thereunder which deals with your right of redemption over the Secured Assets

SCHEDULE - I : DETAILS OF HYPOTHECATED ASSETS

(a) The whole of the Borrower's all stocks of raw material work in progress semi-finished goods and finished goods such as packing materials, consumable stores and spares etc., whatsoever situate and or transit whether now belonging to or that may at any time during the continuance of this security belong to the borrower or that may be held by any party any where to the order and

(b) All the present and future book-debts, outstanding monies, receivables claims bills, contracts, engagements and securities which are now due and owing or which may at any time hereafter during the continuance of this security become due and owing to the borrower in the course of its business by any person firm company or body corporate or by the Government of India or any state Government or any Government Department or office or any Municipal or local or Public or Semi-Government body or authority whatsoever including those relating to the assets leased ou

SCHEDULE - II: DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building on Plot Nos. 616, 617 Khata No. 196/185 and Plot No. 613 Khata No. 196/361, Mouza - Akhupadar, admeasuring total area of AC 1.46 Dec, registered in the name of Shri Baikuntha Nath Sahoo.

Date: 09.07.2023 **Authorised Officer**

Axis Bank Ltd.













empty for the divine liquor to be



Aakar Patel

Renaming Our Time

ince we have entered the phase of Kartavyakal it may be instructive to see what happened in Amritkal. In 2017, NITI Aayog began putting together a five-year plan based on a call given by the Prime Minister. In August that year, Narendra Modi had pledged and asked others to pledge to creating a 'new India' by 2022. NITI Aayog consulted with the ministries and the states and a host of other individuals and institutions before coming up with a 200-page document of what would be achieved. A total of 1400 'stakeholders' were consulted and the strategy was signed off by Modi, who wrote that "let us combine our energies to achieve the targets outlined in the Strategy, thereby fulfilling the aspirations of our citizens.

The targets on the side of the economy were in the main: take GDP growth to 8%; raise investment rates to 36%; raise tax-to-GDP to 22%; take female labour participation rates to 30%; improve data collection on employment; double the rate of growth of the manufacturing sector through Make in India; double farmers' income

What has happened on these fronts is now known and has been reported and commented on the pages of this organ several times over but it is necessary to summarise. The rate of GDP growth began to soften

and fell in almost sequential fashion quarterly beginning in January 2018. For 13 quarters before the pandemic it plummeted before arriving at 3.1% in the last quarter of 2019-20. Some sleight of hand was suggested here and the former Chief Economic Advisor said that the numbers were inflated by 2% or so. After that the pandemic arrived and economic activity was hit. If we grow at 8% this year we will have lost two years of

The investment rate remains where it was, under 30%. The tax-to-GDP ratio fell from 11% in 2019 to about 10% in 2020 and has gone back to about 11%, though taxes on fuel have increased significantly. It is unclear how NIT1 Aavog assumed that 22% was possible, especially after the cut in the rate of direct taxes given to India's corporate sector in 2019. The story of labour force participation has been documented at length by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy The Economic Survey's figures are simi lar and India is at a labour force participation rate of 40%, the lowest in South Asia and about half that of China and Vietnam, both of which are over 70%. The



government's own data also suggests the same, and the worrying thing is that the rate has seen a long term and secular decline (explained by Santosh Mehrotra and others) which this government has not acknowledged and therefore not sought to correct.

Of course one part of the problem is the very poor rate of female participation but even the male participation is anaemic because the jobs are not there. On data collection, again this paper has recorded the issues with the Consumer Expenditure Survey, which was not released despite a plea from the previous Chief Economic Advisor. Specifically on unemployment data, the NITI Aayog itself discredited a National Sample Survey report showing that unemployment had hit a record 6%. Released after the election results were out, the data were validated and unemployment has remained over 6%. On 29 December 2019, PTI reported that "the statistics ministry has constituted a 28 member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCES) chaired by former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen to improve quality of data amid criticism of the government over political interference" and quoted Sen saying that "the first meeting of the SCES is scheduled on January 6, 2020. The agenda would be very broad based. We will come to know about that only in the first meeting next month." No further news or mention is to be found of this committee.

Manufacturing did not grow and instead manufacturing's share of GDP actually fell from 16% before Make in India to about 13% today. Jobs in manufacturing have also fallen. The automobile sector, which is half of all manufacturing, has been flat for a decade. India produced (for domestic and export markets combined) a total of 3.4 million passenger vehicles in 2014-15 and 3.4 million in 2019-20, before the pandemic. The average of the last three years, discounting the supply chain problems and catching up of demand lag, produces similar numbers. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers sent out an SOS in 2021 after assessing its growth rates for three years till March 2020 (before the pandemic). It concluded that "there is a slowdown in the Indian automobile industry that is long term, structural and deep" and that "more research needs to be done on this slowdown." But research is only done on those problems that we acknowledge the existence of, and there is no slowdown in India, according to the government.

The income of farmers did not double, of course. The Reserve Bank of India's Consumer Confidence Survey tracking current perceptions compared to a year ago on the economic situation, employment and inflation has been trending negative for seven straight years (except for

Even exports, seen as a success story last year, climbed after being negative for most part since 2014. India had topped \$300 billion in merchandise exports in 2014. A 23% boom in global trade after COVID lifted all boats in 2021-22. That boom is over and merchandise exports are again registering negative growth. This then is the record of New India@75. Halfway into 2023, there is no further reference to this five year plan. NITI Aayog has not said what the reasons were for having achieved or not having achieved what was sought to be achieved, or what lessons can be learned for the future.

Instead the Prime Minister has now renamed our time. Amritkal, the eternal era, was apparently not eternal and the era of duty is

WISDOM CORNER



As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch

There is a higher law than the law of government. That's the law of

Not being known doesn't stop the truth from being true. RICHARD BACH

Helping a 'lonely' child

Sandy began a job as an elementary school counsellor and she was eager to help. One day during recess she noticed a girl standing by herself on one side of a playing field while the rest of the kids enjoyed a game of soccer at the other. Sandy approached and asked if she

was all right. The girl said she was.

A little while later, however, Sandy noticed the girl was in the same spot,



offered, "Would you like me to be your friend?'

The girl hesitated, then said, "Okay," looking at the woman suspiciously. Feeling she was making progress, Sandy then asked, "Why are you standing here all alone?

"Because," the little girl said with great exasperation, "I'm the goalie!" FOCUS ECONOMY

PRODUCTIVITY, NOT TECHNOLOGY



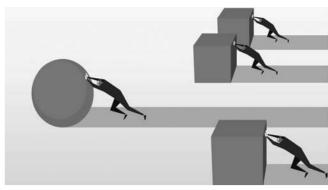
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION MAY BE NECESSARY FOR PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH THAT ENRICHES SOCIETIES, BUT IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT

conomists have long argued that productivity is the foundation of prosperity. The only way a country can increase its standard of living sustainably is to produce more goods and services with fewer resources. Since the Industrial Revolution, this has been achieved through innovation, which is why productivity has become synonymous, in the public imagination, with technological progress and research and development.

Our intuition about how innovation promotes productivity is shaped by everyday experience in business. Firms that adopt new technologies tend to become more productive, allowing them to outcompete laggards. But a productive society is not same as a productive firm. Something that promotes productivity in a business may not work, or may even backfire, at the level of a country. Whereas firms focuse on productivity of only those resources they choose to employ, a society needs to enhance productivity of all of its

But many economists have failed to appreciate this distinction, owing to the assumption that technological progress will eventually trickle down to everyone, even if its immediate benefits accrue only to a small group of firms and investors. The Industrial Revolution may have inaugurated the period of modern economic growth, but it did not produce advances in well-being for most ordinary workers for the better part of a century.

Worse, the conventional narrative may have become even less true with the most recent wave of technological advances. New technologies may fail to lift all boats because their benefits can be overwhelmingly captured by a small group of players - be it a few firms or narrow segments of the workforce. One culprit is inappropriate institutions and regulations, which skew bargaining power in the economy or restrict entry by outsiders to modern sectors.



Without the right kind of complementary policies, technological progress may not lead to sustainably rising living standards; and in some cases, it may even set a country back

Another is the nature of technology itself: innovation often empowers only specific groups, such as highly skilled workers and professionals. Consider one of the paradoxes of hyper-globalisation era. After 1990s, as trade costs fell and manufacturing production spread around the world, many firms in lowand middle-income countries became integrated into global supply chains and adopted stateof-the-art techniques. As a result, these firms' productivity increased by leaps and bounds. Yet the productivity of the economies in which they were domiciled stagnated in many cases, or even regressed

Mexico provides a startling case study, since it was once a poster child for hyper-globalisation. Thanks to the government's liberalising reforms in 1980s and the North American Free Trade Agreement in the 1990s, Mexico experienced a boom in manufactured exports and inward FDI. Yet the result was a spectacular failure where it really mattered. Along with many others in Latin America, Mexico experienced negative total factor productivity growth

in subsequent decades. As a recent analysis by the economists Oscar Fentanes and Santiago Levy demonstrates, Mexican manufacturing did init was forced to compete globally. While less productive firms that failed to adapt eventually shut down, many remaining firms adopted new technologies and became more productive.

The problem was twofold. First, manufacturing firms especially formal ones – shrank in terms of employment, absorbing an ever-smaller share of the economy's labour force. Then, the rest of the economy which was dominated by small informal firms, became less and less productive. The upshot was that productivity gains in the (shrinking) globally oriented manufacturing sector were more than offset by the poor performance in other activities, mostly informal services.

Fentanes and Levy attribute these consequences to Mexican labour and social-insurance regulations, which they claim encouraged informality and hampered growth of formal-sector firms. Yet one can find the same pattern of productivity polarisation in many other Latin American economies, as well as in Sub-Saharan countries.

An alternative explanation concerns the changing nature of manufacturing technology itself. So great are the skill and capital requirements of integrating into global value chains that countries poorly endowed with these resources face sharply

rising cost curves, preventing their firms from expanding and absorbing much labour. Workers flocking to cities from countryside have little choice but to crowd into petty services.

Whatever the underlying cause, this issue exemplifies why government strategies to boost productivity can miss the mark. Whether it comes in the form of plugging into global value chains, subsidising R&D, or investment tax credits, conventional policies often target the wrong problem. In many cases, the binding constraint is not a lack of innovation in most advanced firms, but rather large productive gaps between them and the rest of the economy. There are lessons here for the new age of artificial intelli gence. Large language models potential to perform a wide range of tasks at greater speed has generated much excitement about significant future productivity growth. But, overall impact of this technology will depend on the extent to which its benefits can be disseminated throughout the economy.

As Arjun Ramani and Zhengdong Wang argue in a recent commentary, the productivity benefits of AI may be limited if important parts of the economy - construction, face-toface services, human-dependent creative work - remain immune to it. These considerations should not turn us into technopessimists or Luddites. But they do caution against equating productivity with technology, R&D and innovation. Scientific and technological innovation may be necessary for productivity growth that enriches societies, but is insufficient. Transforming technological progress into broad productivity growth requires policies specifically designed to encourage broad diffusion, avoid productive dualism, and ensure inclusivity.

The writer is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard

SPECTRUM SPORTS

Spirit of cricket evaporated many moons ago



Yajurvindra Singh

CRICKET USED TO HAVE THAT AURA OF BEING A **GENTLEMAN'S GAME. ONE THAT WAS PLAYED HARD BUT FAIR**

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

send in their valuable comments, opinior

columns (between 750-1250

Holmes come to mind -"Elementary My Dear Watson" - when one reviews the Jonny Bairstow stumping incident. In a tight situation, especially, during a critical Ashes Test match, every cricketer on ground is looking to get that one extra bit of advantage. The batter tries to stay on the wicket, whereas, the fielding side hopes to get one. The 10 modes of dismissal for a batsman are foremost

on the mind of a fielding side. Aspiring cricketers right from their elementary days are taught to not fall victim to them. Bairstow, unfortunately, in a world of his own, forgot the basic rule, that the ball is not dead until the umpire says so. Strolling up to meet his non-striker captain at the other end with the ball in play was a folly that even a schoolboy would have avoided. The reason is that school and club cricket is where one learns the importance of rules of how one can get out. This is a growing-up process in cricket when one is still unaware of rules and consequences that may arise by not adhering to them.

Bairstow knows he made an el-

he words of Sherlock ementary error and quite rightly when assessed today, dates back ing through history when one is has kept quiet for others to debate the issue, rather than for him to get embroiled in it. The famous "spirit of cricket" and lack of "fair play" are some words that emerge from such incidents and "gamesmanship" from others, opposing it.

As an international cricketer, I have been through many such incidents wherein opposition players and teams have tried every means in the book to try and get me out. Yes, I have fallen victim to it on several occasions, annoyed at making myself vulnerable to the 10 commandments of getting out in cricket. I was once "run out" by a bowler as a non-striker for unintentionally being out of the batting crease. I remember when I was "timed out" for not coming to the wicket in the 2 minutes stipulated and for "hitting the ball twice". The last was in anger in exchange for a verbal retort by the bowler. On all these occasions my team lost and I learned over time to be careful.

Cricket used to have that aura of being a gentleman's game. One that was played hard but fair. This feeling, unfortunately, to the initial days of Test cricket.

Douglas Jardine, the famous England captain in the Ashes series of 1932 in Australia, a gentleman by all accounts, was the first one to put a spoke on the spirit of the game. In trying to stop the Australian run-machine. Sir Don Bradman, Jardine utilised the famous "bodyline tactics" to demolish Australia. He did not break the rules of cricket then, however, he destroyed the very essence of the game.

In today's parlance, his tactics would have been the case study of success for several top business schools. Jardine undertook many hours of research to plan and implement his winning ways and although it proved successful, his fellow gentlemen and members of MCC disapproved of it quite vehemently.

The irony is that 91 years later at the famous Long Room at the Lord's, the very members who talked and upheld the spirit of the game, booed and made ugly remarks of cheating when the Australian team came back to the pavilion victoriously. The Long Room for a visiting cricketer playing at Lord's is like walk-

going out to bat or field. There is an aura that engulfs one.

Personally, as a former cricketer, the onus of playing fair lies in the actions of a cricketer. Winning is important, however, how one achieves it, is even more important. The rules are there for one to follow and sense should prevail when one applies it.

One may marvel at Courtney Walsh not running out Saleem Jaffar in a crucial World Cup match in 1987. Cricket has had umpteen numbers of such heartwarming and wonderful gestures as well in the years gone by The famous line that comes to one's mind is, "Playing is not about winning and losing but how you play the game.'

The Australians may feel that they have done nothing wrong in getting Bairstow out and quite rightly so. However, subconsciously they know it was not in the right spirit to do so. The spirit of the game of cricket had evaporated many moons ago, and one wonders whether it will ever come back.

> The writer is a former India cricketer. ©IANS

Mosquito menace

Sir, Mosquito-borne viral infections and diseases are reportedly on the rise in different parts of the country. In particular, dengue has raised its hood in some areas of India. A deviation in the common duration of symptoms like fever is noted in dengue patients across the country. Fever that used to subside in four to seven days is being observed for ten days or more in a few cities. Mosquito control is the key; simple measures like keeping the windows and doors of houses closed should do the trick. Stagnant water, a fertile source for mosquitoes, should be expeditiously cleared inside and around the houses. Good mosquito repellents and foolproof mosquito nets can also go a long way. People would do well to avoid dark clothes that attract mosquitoes. Healthcare authorities should be on their toes to regularly fog commonest mosquito breeding places like storage containers that hold water after a rainfall and small ponds that contain rain water. Also, overgrown grass needs to be trimmed.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Systemic racism

Sir, France, a country that once proclaimed 'liberty, equality, fraternity' to the world, is currently in the midst of an intense civil unrest. The unrest was sparked by the fatal shooting of a teenager of Algerian and Moroccan descent by the police at point blank range, which exposed the deep-rooted issue of systemic racism. While the young man's death served as the immediate trigger, the underlying problem seems to be the alienation experienced by a significant portion of the population, which accounts for nearly 10%. In 2017, a law was enacted to grant the police the authority to use firearms when a driver failed to comply with instructions during a routine check, a measure implemented in response to a series of terrorist attacks. However, statistics clearly demonstrate that the French police consistently abused this power, primarily targeting people based on color, particularly immigrants. In 2022 alone, there were 13 deaths resulting from similar incidents involving individuals of non-white backgrounds, while none involved white individuals. These incidents serve as a example of the entrenched racism that exists within French society, particularly within the gendarmes. President Emmanuel Macron bears the responsibility of addressing the outpouring of anger.

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

Thousands stranded as inclement weather halts Amarnath Yatra

Jammu/Srinagar, July 8: The Amarnath Yatra was suspended for the second consecutive day Saturday following incessant rains and landslides, leaving thousands of pilgrims stranded in Jammu and at various places en route to the cave shrine.

Union minister Jitendra Singh assured the pilgrims that senior officials are monitoring the situation and requested them not to panic and to follow instructions issued by authorities from time to time.

Heavy rains have lashed large parts of Jammu and Kashmir since Thursday night while several high-altitude areas, including Mahaguns Top and adjoining areas near the Amarnath cave shrine, experienced snowfall. Some places witnessed record rainfall over a 24-hour period for July.

"The Yatra remains suspended from both the Pahalgam and the Baltal routes for the second day due to the inclement weather," an official said.

"No fresh batch of yatris were allowed (to leave) from the morning in view of the suspension of the Yatra in the Valley and the inclement weather," a police official told PTI.

The meteorological department has predicted widespread light to moderate rains, accompanied by thundershowers, under the influence of monsoon winds and western disturbances across Jammu and Kashmir till

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the shrine, situated at an altitude of 3,888 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district July 1. The Yatra is scheduled to conclude August 31.

Over 80,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine

The pilgrims were stranded in Jammu and at various places including Chanderkote along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which was closed for traffic following multiple landslides and the washing away of a portion of the road near Panthiyal tunnel.

has not dampened the spirits of devotees.

"I was supposed to leave for the Valley to join the yatra today (Saturday) but the closure of the highway and the weather did not allow further journey.' Deepu, a resident of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh told PTI at Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

Deepu, who was accompanied by several friends, said they will wait for the weather to clear and will complete their Yatra. "We are here on the call of 'Baba Barfani' and are not going back unless we perform darshan," he said.

Manisha, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, said she had come with a lot of hopes and prayers and will wait till the next week before thinking of returning home.

The devotees were also stopped at the Baltal and the Nunwan base camps. A landslide occurred on the Baltal route of the Yatra track following heavy rain in the area. However, there were no reports of any loss of life.

The Yatra will resume once the weather improves, the officials



A pilgrim wearing raincoat walks down a road as Amarnath Yatra remains suspended from both Pahalgam and Baltal routes for second day, in Panjtarni, due

Central agencies tame Mayawati

WITH THE CBI, ED AND THE I-T DEPARTMENT SNAPPING AT HER HEELS, MAYAWATI HAS UNDERSTANDABLY RETRACTED FROM AN OFFENSIVE POSITION IN POLITICS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 8: In 1995, Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati had emerged as an important player in Uttar Pradesh politics. Her importance can be gauged by the fact that the BJP chose to ally with her in 1997 and again in 2003 to form the government in the state even though their parting in 1995 had been marked by bit-

However, the parting gained an element of permanence in 2003 when the Tai Heritage Corridor case emerged. This was an alleged scam in 2002–2003 in which the then chief minister Mayawati and a minister in her government, Naseemuddin Siddiqui, were charged with corruption.

The Taj Corridor project was intended to upgrade tourist facilities near the Tai Mahal and was to be implemented during her tenure as chief minister. The then BJP government at the Centre gave the environmental clearance required for the project near the Taj Mahal. However, later the BJP backed out and then started saying that the project was not cleared by the Environment Ministry and blamed Mayawati for starting construction work near the Taj



Mahal. The total estimated cost of the project was Rs 1.75 billion. The project was started with the support of the BJP and interrupted when the BSP misaligned itself with that party on 25 August, 2003.

Mayawati sensed the BJP's hostility toward the Taj Heritage Corridor project and snapped ties with that party. It was alleged that Mayawati had embezzled the money dedicated for this project. The case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Initially, the case saw some rapid progress, when the CBI conducted extensive searches at her various addresses, and claimed that though she had claimed income of only Rs 11 million during her tenure as chief minister, her bank balance in a single bank went up to Rs 25 million and the total assets held by her were estimated at Rs 150 million. In September 2003, Ajay Agarwal, the former government counsel in the project. began accusing Mayawati of enriching herself from the Corridor project and also stated that Mayawati had recently acquired property both in her name and in the care of her relatives. However, since late 2003, investigations appear to have

There is speculation that the case is used at regular intervals to push the BSP into submission by the Centre. After she lost the 2012 assembly elections in UP, Mayawati's presence and power in UP politics has been rapidly declining. What makes it worse for her is that all her aides have turned hostile and there is the lurking fear of their handing over evidence against her. Former BSP minister Naseemuddin Siddiqui is now a regional Congress president while Babu Singh Kushwaha, whose name figured in the NRHM scam, is out of the BSP.

While the Taj Corridor case lurks in the background, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has detected cash deposits, totalling over Rs 104 crore in an account belonging to the BSP and Rs 1.43 crore in an account belonging to Mayawati's brother Anand Kumar.

The ED has sought full details about the two accounts from the bank even as it is understood that the agency has informed the income tax department which has the power to go into the legality of donations and contributions made to political parties.

With the CBI, ED and the I-T department snapping at her heels. Mavawati has understandably retracted from an offensive position in politics. Her statements against the ruling BJP are much milder and the fire is now directed towards the Opposition. Sources claim that it is because of the agencies that Mayawati has kept away from the opposition conclaves and has made it clear that she would not be a part of any such

UP prepares to repeal 138 'unwanted' British era laws

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 8: The Uttar Pradesh government is preparing to repeal 138 laws of the British Era, which it says are no longer relevant. The legislative department

has written to around 40 concerned departments, asking for their opinion on whether these laws need to be retained in their present form, and if so, to provide a "convincing reason" for the

An official in the Chief Minister's Office confirmed that the drive was part of a larger plan

to get rid of old, redundant laws. The state government has lreadv struck down several such laws and amended rules to make them more suitable to the present.

The Centre had also written to the state, asking it to take action in the matter.

Another state official said there are more than 40 departments under which 138 British

era laws are applicable. "A letter has been sent to the heads of the concerned depart-

ments, asking for their opinions on the matter. The departments will have to give a very convincing reason to retain these laws in the present state for the government to consider their request," he said.

The official added that the failure to provide any reason for retaining the law or for not changing it in its present form would be

> considered as an assent by the department to repeal the law. The official gave the example of the Indian

Partnership Act of 1932, which was enacted by the Imperial Legislative Council.

The Act, which dictates the functioning of a partnership firm, pertains to all of India. except for Jammu and Kashmir.

"The law was promulgated in 1932. Since then, India as a country has evolved, the style of conducting businesses has changed and the challenges before us are very different. Therefore, such a law now needs to be repealed and replaced with a fresh law that addresses the concerns of the present-day stakeholders," the

Govt employees riding 2-wheelers sans helmets to be marked absent

AGENCIES

Lucknow, July 8: Government employees who drive two-wheelers and arrive for work without a helmet for the second time in a department will not be allowed entry and marked as absent.

The initiative is a part of the statewide campaign for road safety that is being held from July 17 to 31.

'On the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the road safety fortnight will be organised on the basis of the action plan of the departments related to it, including, transport, home, public works department, medical and education department," the government



A meeting of the district road safety committee will also be organised as part of the road safety fortnight. In this regard, a district road safety action plan will be prepared and sent to the transport commissioner by the end of the fortnight.

Implementing UCC not easy like revoking Article 370: Azad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 8: Former Union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Saturday cautioned the Centre over implementing a uniform civil code, saying it will affect all religions. Talking to reporters here, he

also said that implementing UCC will not be "easy as it was to revoke Article 370.' "There is no question (of im-

plementing it). It is not easy as it was to revoke Article 370. All religions are involved in it. Not only Muslims, but Christians and Sikhs also, tribals, Jains, Parsis, annoying all these people at once, will not be good for any government," the chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) said.

"So, I suggest this government to not even think about taking this step," he said.

UCC refers to a common set of laws that are applicable to all citizens of India that is not based on religion and dealing with marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption among other mat-

The DPAP chairman welcomed the announcement of the landfor-landless policy by the Jammu and Kashmir administration. but demanded that land be given



only to the poor residents of the Union Territory and not out-

"Land should be given, but there is a condition. We welcome the announcement, but it should (be given) only to the poor residents of Jammu and Kashmir. That is important," he

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, who formed the DPAP in September last year after ending his more than five-decade-long association with the Congress, also batted for early assembly elections in the Union Territory.

Pulwama, July 8: Farm fields of Pulwama district in south Kashmir have added a purple hue with a number of farmers taking up lavender cultivation to

increase their income. With rising demand due to its medicinal values and the prospect of better returns, growing lavender has become a preferred choice for many farmers in the area, around 25 kilometres from Srinagar, which is considered as the most fertile belt in

'We first extract oil and then do the value addition of the oil. There is a huge scope in lavender cultivation," said Madiha Talat, a Srinagar-based agri en-

Talat said lavender farming has also opened up opportunities of overseas trade.

We can export the oil as it is. Its export market is huge in comparison to traditional crops which we grow. So, it is more profitable than the conventional crops. Its shelf life is long, its benefits are more," she said.

Besides, lavender leaves can be used as tea and they can be processed as oil for use in medicines and aromatherapy.

People in the foreign countries value that tea. Its oil is also used in aromatherapy which is



liked world over. We use it in perfumery, cosmetics," said Talat, who has started her own brand Roohposh and uses the oil in her various skin care products.

Lavender cultivation has also created job opportunities for local youth including women. Seerat Jan, a resident of Pulwama, who has been working in lavender fields for the past three years, said, "We pick up about one quintal (100 kilogramme) of the raw material daily. We earn about Rs 370 per day. There are about 30 to 35 women working here, and some men as well. We sustain our livelihood through this.'

Lavender is a signature crop which is a buzz word today because of its varied uses in the industry, which includes cosmetics, toiletries, fragrances, therapeutics

SHAHID RASOOL I SENIOR SCIENTIST, CSIR IIIM

Farmers also get help from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR IIM), which has set up a facility spread over 200 acres for conducting research on different

types of aromatic crops. 'We conduct R&D and extension of different types of aromatic crops, and predominantly the focus is on lavender and rose," said Shahid Rasool, senior scientist and incharge, CSIR IIIM at Bonoora station.

"Lavender is a signature crop which is a buzz word today because of its varied uses in the industry, which includes cosmetics, toiletries, fragrances, therapeutics," Rasool said, adding that the weather of Jammu and Kashmir is conducive for the

Also, the lavender plant is antimicrobial, anti-fungal and antibacterial and even anxiolytic. and these inherent character-

Lavender preferred crop for Pulwama farmers istics help farmers save cost

'We do not need to use or spray agro-chemicals on it for maintaining the good crop, health and yields. It is an ecologically viable crop for J&K... Its essential oil sells at Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per kilogram," Rasool

The crop requires mild summer and cold winter to thrive.

"We look up to this as a future crop because landholdings are shrinking for the farmers and natural resources are also getting limited, so considering all those aspects, the requirement of agri inputs are less in these crops, irrigation requirement is also very less, and these crops thrive in stress conditions," the scientist said.

More than 100 people are working at Bonoora station to maintain the fields and the quantum of the plantation material generated from here increases every year, which in turn spurs the demand for manpower.

"The food habits of the people are changing, so is the choice of the crops. Nowadays, the concept of farming is not only about the choice of food, but also about how much money can be earned from these crops. Today, there is a growing consumer consciousness for the use of natural herbs to maintain good health or well-being," Rasool said.



PHOTO POST



People holding umbrellas walk along railway tracks in Banihal. Rail services between Banihal and Kashmir were temporarily suspended due to rains which caused waterlogging on the tracks at several places



An RAF personnel shares a light moment with a child at a polling centre during panchayat elections, in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal



People drive through a waterlogged road after rains in New Delhi



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Delhi Education Minister Atishi during an interaction with Delhi government school students who qualified NEET and JEE this year, in New Delhi



A mahout rides an elephant on a road in Guwahati



Fishermen cast net in Indravati river to catch fish at Jagdalpur in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh



Members of Assam Pradesh Youth Congress stage a protest over rising prices of essential commodities in Guwahati

national



Instead of spending its energy and resources on non-essential issues such as a uniform civil code, the BJP and its government should work for curbing inflation and alleviating poverty MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

RAJNATH TO VISIT MALAYSIA

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake a two-day visit to Malaysia beginning Monday to explore ways to further consolidate the bilateral defence and strategic partnership





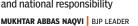
open to talks with China and have made it clear years ago that we are not seeking complete would remain a part of the People's

Republic of China DALAI LAMA TIBETAN SPIRITUAL HEAD

Liquor revenue in the state has gone up in the last four-and-a-half years and there is no question of any scam BHUPESH BAGHEL



rights but they conveniently and deliberately forget Both rights and duties are our moral and national responsibility



SHORT TAKES

HC stays probe against Nadda

Bangalore: The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the investigation against BJP national president JP Nadda for allegedly violating the model code of conduct in an election speech during the recent Karnataka Assembly polls. The criminal petition filed by Nadda seeking to cancel the case registered against him by the Harappanahalli police was heard by a single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna that gave an interim order staying the investigation on Friday and adjourned the hearing of the petition to July 21.

Four held for stealing bridge

Mumbai: The Mumbai police have arrested four persons for allegedly stealing a 6.000-kg iron bridge placed over a drain in a western suburb here, an official said Saturday. The 90foot-long metal structure in Malad (west) had been placed by utility company Adani Electricity to move huge power cables, said the official from Bangur Nagar police station. After a permanent bridge was built over the drain, the temporary structure was moved to another place in the area a few months ago, he said. However, the makeshift bridge was found missing on June 26 following which the power company filed a police complaint, the official said. During their probe, the police found that the bridge was last seen at its place on June 6.

Tribal bodies stage protest

Ranchi: Around a dozen tribal organisations under the banner of Adivasi Samanwai Samiti staged a demonstration near the Jharkhand BJP headquarters here on Saturday to protest the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The members of the tribal outfits assembled at Ranchi's Harmu Ground before marching towards the state BJP headquarters. They raised slogans such as "Adivasiyon ka soshan bandh karo (stop exploitation of tribals)" during the procession. The demonstrators were, however, stopped by the police before the BJP headquarters, where they staged a demonstration for about an hour.

JEE aspirant hangs self in Kota

Kota (Rajasthan): A 17-yearold JEE aspirant allegedly hanged himself in his hostel room here, the fifteenth case of suspected suicide this year by students taking classes at this coaching hub, police said Saturday. Bhadur Singh's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his room in the Mahaveer Nagar area here on Saturday morning, they added.

Allow limited internet access: HC to Manipur

Imphal, July 8: The Manipur High Court has directed the state government to carry out physical trials to check the feasibility of providing internet service to mobile phones while ensuring security of "life and property of cit-

The court, which has asked for a detailed report, will hear the case on July 25. After hearing multiple PILs, a division bench of Justice A Bimol and Justice A Guneshwor Sharma said, "In the case of Fibre To The Home (FTTH) connections, internet service can be provided by the home department on a case to case basis" after ensuring compliance of the safeguards suggested by the committee.

The 12-member expert committee had informed the court that internet service could be provided through broadband connections, either through Internet Leased Line (ILL) or FTTH by ensuring "static IP, banning of Wifi/Hotspots from any of the routers or system, blocking of social media websites and VPNs at the local level, removal of VPN softwares from the system and prohibiting installation of new softwares by any user and enforcing physi-



cal monitoring by the concerned authority/officials.

The state government had proposed to higher authorities to consider "lifting the ban on ILL with a capping of maximum speed @10 MBPS and subject to undertaking obtained from intended/existing subscribers for not indulging in illegal spreading and posting of rumours...Which may aggravate the ongoing law and order crisis."

It also said, "In the event of any violation, he or she shall be liable to be punished as per provisions of relevant laws..And the subscriber shall be fixed personally responsible for any leakage/activities done by the secondary user of internet through Wifi or hotspot.'

Violence continues in Manipur

Imphal: A mob torched two vehicles in Imphal West district while an exchange of fire was reported in Imphal East district, as violence continued in Manipur. officials said Saturday. A group of people burnt two private vehicles at Mahabali Road near the historic Kangla fort as they suspected those four-wheelers were being used for ferrying household goods to a particular ethnic community on Friday night, they said. The police intervened and the mob dispersed. Drivers of both vehicles managed to flee and there was no casualty. There was an intermittent exchange of fire at Laikot near Yaingangpokpi in Imphal West district between two communities late Friday night

'Adipurush' writer apologises for hurting sentiments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 8: "Adipurush" dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla extended his "unconditional apology" for hurting people's emotions.

The Prabhas-starrer mythological epic film, directed by Om Raut, was criticised heavily for its pedestrian language upon its release last month. The film's team, including Shukla, announced days later that they have decided to "revise some of the dialogues".

On Saturday, the dialogue writer said he accepts that "Adipurush" has hurt people's sentiments."I accept that people's emotions have been hurt by 'Adipurush'. With folded hands, I extend my unconditional apology," Shukla, who has penned the Hindi dialogues and songs of the retelling of the Ramayana, wrote on Twitter.

"May Prabhu Bajrang Bali keep us united and grant us strength to serve our sacred Sanatan and our great nation. #Adipurush" he added."Adipurush", which was released across the country in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil in June, stars Prabhas as Raghav (Ram), Kriti Sanon as Janaki (Sita) and Saif Ali Khan as Lankesh (Raavan).

Produced by T-Series, the bigbudget multilingual saga was panned on social media over its poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with many political parties demanding a ban on the film's screening.

Disqualification case:

Sena factions get notices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 8: Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar Saturday said notices have been issued to 40 MLAs of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and 14 of the Uddhav Thackeray faction, seeking their replies on disqualification petitions against them.

These legislators have been given seven days to file their reply, he said. The notices have been issued against a total of 54 MLAs, including Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray. But notice was not issued against Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Rutuja Latke who was elected after the Shiv Sena split last year.

The development comes a day after Narwekar said that he has received a copy of the Shiv Sena's constitution from the Election Commission of India, and that hearing on the disqualification petitions against 16 Shiv Sena MLAs, including CM Shinde would start soon.

"Notice seeking replies on disqualification issued to 40 MLA of Eknath Shinde-Shiv Sena faction, 14 of Uddhav Thackeray faction," Narwekar said. Shiv Sena MLA and spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said he has not received any notice so far from the state legislature.

He said the Shiv Sena led by Shinde had also filed disqualification petitions against 14 MLAs of the Uddhav camp including Aaditya Thackeray. Earlier this week, the Shiv Sena (UBT) approached the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Assembly Speaker to hear the disqualification petitions expeditiously. Attacking Narwekar, Shiv

Sena (UBT) leader Arvind Sawant said, "The speaker did not do anything (on the disqualification pleas) in the last two months, which is why we approached the Supreme Court which prompted him to issue notices and seek reply in seven days.

BRS hits back at PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Warangal (Telangana), July 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday sounded the BJP's poll bugle in Telangana with a sharp attack on the state's BRS government, saying that the tentacles of its corruption has now spread up to Delhi.

He also said the people's aspiration in Telangana now is 'ab ki bar BJP sarkar' (BJP government this time). In a veiled attack on the ruling BRS in Telangana and the AAP government in Delhi, he said it was for the first time that allegations of deal for corruption between two political parties and state governments were cropping up.

Earlier, there used to be news on development-related agreements between two countries or two state governments. (Like) two states have made an agreement for development (purpose). Two states have made an agreement for water. Such news used to appear," he said.

"But, this is for the first time when allegations of deal for corruption between two parties and two state governments are made," Modi said, addressing a BJP rally at Warangal after laying foundation stone for several development projects.

"It is unfortunate that things have come to such a pass that the

Hitting back at Prime Minister Modi over his remarks on the BRS Government, Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao Saturday said the PM has insulted the people of the state by setting up a ₹520 cr wagon factory while "taking away" a ₹20,000 cr locomotive factory to Gujarat

gle, with many sacrificing their life. for formation of a separate state had to see such a day" he said.

While AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Mninister Manish Sisodia has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over the matter, BRS leader and Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter, K Kavitha, had appeared before the ED for questioning in connection with the case.

Hitting back at Prime Minister Modi over his remarks on the BRS government, Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao Saturday said the PM has insulted the people of the state by setting up a ₹520 crore wagon factory while "taking away" a ₹20.000 crore locomotive factory to Gujarat.

Referring to PM's comments that there are thousands of teacher posts vacant in Telangana, KTR said it is like "pot calling the kettle black" as the Centre is not filling more than 16 lakh central government jobs and is permanently privatising jobs in public sector organisations.



Women Congress activists hold posters to express support for Rahul Gandhi at the Mahila Congress meeting in Kochi

Man thrashed, forced to lick feet in moving car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gwalior, July 8: Amid an uproar over the Sidhi urination incident in Madhya Pradesh, a video has now surfaced showing a man being thrashed and forced to lick the soles of another person's feet in a moving vehicle in Gwalior. following which two persons have

been arrested, police said Saturday. Preliminary investigation shows that it was a case of revenge attack as the victim had allegedly at-

tacked the accused last month. The victim and the accused are residents of Dabra town in Gwalior district an official said

The viral video shows the victim being slapped several times by another man, who also forces the former to say, "Golu Gurjar baap hai" in a moving vehicle. The victim is then seen licking the soles of the feet of the man after the latter forces him to do so. The accused is also seen slapping the victim repeatedly and

verbally abusing him. In another video clip, the accused is seen hitting the victim on his face with footwear several times.

Speaking about the incident, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said two persons have been arrested in connection with this incident Dahra Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Vivek Kumar Sharma said, "A video went viral on social media on Friday evening that shows a man being thrashed in a vehicle.

The video clip is being sent for a forensic examination.'

A case has been registered against the accused under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for abduction and beating following the complaint of the

victim's family, Sharma said. Gwalior's Superintendent of Police Rajesh Chandel said the victim, identified as Mohsin Khan, beat up Golu Gurjar, the accused in the current case, on May 21.

After theft, farmers in K'taka forced to guard pricey tomatoes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 8: The steep rise in the prices of tomatoes in the market is forcing the farmers in Karnataka to guard their crop in their farm lands as it is being stolen by the miscreants

Tomato prices have crossed ₹100 and they are even sold for ₹150 per one kilogram. The farmers are forced to sleep at their farms and take turns guarding the crop ready to be harvested.

The monsoon rains have made the situation worse for them. This scenario is commonly found in the south Karnataka districts of Kolar, Hassan where the crop is grown in large quantities.

The farmers explain that they

are erecting tents at their farm land to monitor the movement of the people and vehicles. They state that they need to be more vigilant in the wee hours. One box of tomatoes is fetching the price between ₹2,500 and ₹3,000 and farmers who reaped a good crop are earning in lakhs.

The farmers had not got a good price for their crop for years. They had even thrown the crop on roads and highways protesting the steep crashing price of tomatoes. Most of the time, the farmers were not able to get the expenditure of transportation. Now, when the crop is fetching a very good price, the menace of theft of their crop is worrying them.



A farmer has lodged a police complaint alleging that ₹3 lakh worth tomatoes were stolen overnight from his farm in Hassan district. The incident was reported on July 6. The in-

cident had been reported from Goni Somanahalli village near Halebeedu town in Hassan. Dharani aka Somashekar, a farmer, had lodged a complaint with Halebeedu police in this regard. Police explained that the thieves have taken away 90 boxes

FORCED TO SLEEP AT THEIR FARMS AND TAKE **TURNS GUARDING THE CROP READY TO BE HARVESTED**

of tomatoes worth ₹3 lakh. The price of first quality tomatoes has crossed ₹150. The tomato

was grown in two acres of land. The complainant had decided to take the crop to Chikkamagalur market and reap the crop. The miscreants had entered his farm on the night of Tuesday and had taken away most of the tomatoes

The burglars have also damaged the tomato plants. The incident came to light when Dharani had gone to his farm the next morning. "I have been growing tomatoes for seven to eight years. Never got a good price for the crop. This year I had reaped a rich crop and the price was also good. I thought of clearing my loans but the incident had ruined my happiness," he said.

international

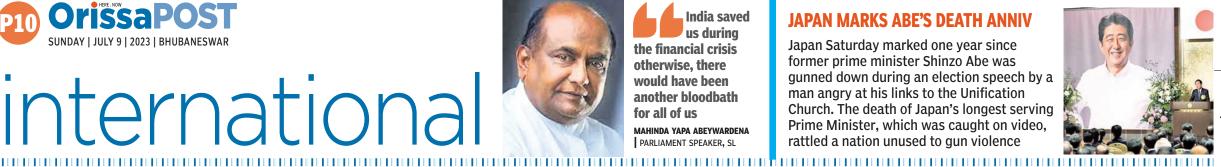


India saved us during the financial crisis otherwise, there would have been another bloodbath for all of us MAHINDA YAPA ABEYWARDENA

PARLIAMENT SPEAKER, SL

JAPAN MARKS ABE'S DEATH ANNIV

Japan Saturday marked one year since former prime minister Shinzo Abe was gunned down during an election speech by a man angry at his links to the Unification Church. The death of Japan's longest serving Prime Minister, which was caught on video. rattled a nation unused to gun violence





Ukraine would become a member. Our summit will send a stands united, and Russia's aggression



SECRETARY-GENERAL, NATO







force, and obviously in this situation, there was an excessive force used by

ANTONIO GUTERRES SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

SHORT TAKES

Bullied PIO wins **UK compensation**

London: In what is believed to be one of the largest compensation settlements for the UK's Royal Mail, an Indianorigin employee has been awarded more than 2.3 million pounds after her bullying claim was upheld. Kam Jhuti had claimed before an employment tribunal dating back nearly eight years that she had been intimidated and harassed by her boss after she raised concerns that a colleague had secured their bonus illegitimately. The tribunal went on to find that there had been a "catastrophic" impact on her over her boss' treatment of her, 'The Daily Telegraph' reports.

Ultras storm police station; 6 killed

Dubai: Two police officers and four attackers were killed when gunmen and suicide bombers stormed a police station in Iran's restive southeast Saturday, Iranian state television reported. The attack occurred in Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchistan province, scene of some of the bloodiest protests during a wave of nationwide unrest last year triggered by the death of a young Kurdish woman in the custody of the morality police. State television said "all four terrorists" and two policemen had died in the raid.

China to ban Japan seafood

Beijing: Authorities in China have vowed to take "all necessary actions", including extending a ban on seafood from 10 prefectures of Japan, including Fukushima and capital Tokyo, after Tokyo begins releasing treated radioactive water from nuclear plant into the sea, according to South China Morning post (SCMP). The United Nations nuclear watchdog this week gave Japan the green light to begin discharging more than a million metric tons of water. enough to fill 500 Olympic swimming pools, used to cool the plant's fuel rods after it was wrecked by a 2011 tsunami.

Pak assures IMF

Islamabad: Cash-strapped Pakistan has provided the IMF with a financing plan for external payments, in which it has informed the global lender that it will arrange \$8 billion for the purpose instead of \$6 billion, according to a media report Saturday. Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund reached a long-awaited staff-level agreement June 29 to inject \$3 billion Standby Arrangement into the ailing economy after months-long

CLOSING A World finally free of chemical weapons

US was the last of the Chemical Weapons Convention's signatories to complete the task of destroying their "declared" stockpiles, though some are believed to maintain secret reserves of chemical weapons

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, July 8: The world's chemical weapons watchdog said Friday that all declared stocks had been "irreversibly destroyed" after the United States revealed it had finally got rid of its last toxic arms

President Joe Biden announced that the Blue Grass Army Depot, a US Army facility in Kentucky, had eliminated its decades-old stocks, completing a global effort started in 1997 to rid the world of chemical

The Hague-based body said that the step by the United States. the "last possessor state", meant that "all declared chemical weapons stockpiles (were) ver-

ified as irreversibly destroyed". But recent use of chemical weapons meant the world still

Biden warned Xi on

West's investment

after Putin meeting

Washington, July 8: US

President Joe Biden told Chinese

President Xi Jinping following

his meeting with Russia's

Vladimir Putin to "be careful"

because Beijing relies on

Western investment, accord-

ing to excerpts from an inter-

"I said: This is not a threat.

'Since Russia went into

This is an observation," Biden

Ukraine, 600 American corpo-

rations have pulled out of

Russia. And you have told me

that your economy depends on

investment from Europe and

the United States. And be care-

Putin and Xi held two days

of talks in March with warm

words of friendship between

China and Russia and joint crit-

icism of the West, but no sign of

a diplomatic breakthrough over

The pair also participated in

a virtual summit earlier this There are heightened tensions

and pessimism in the US-China

relationship over national se-

curity issues, including Taiwan,

Russia's war in Ukraine, grow-

ing US export bans on advanced

technologies and China's stateled industrial policies.

Yellen was continuing a visit to

Biden said: "He listened, and

he didn't ... argue. And if you no-

tice, he has not gone full-bore in

can work through this.

"So, I think there's a way we

China Saturday.

on Russia."

US Treasury Secretary Janet

Asked what Xi's response was,

view with CNN

ful. Be careful.

had to be on guard, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning OPCW warned.

The watchdog has in recent years blamed Syria for carrying out chemical attacks during its civil war, and investigated the use of Soviet-era nerve agents against a former Russian spy in Britain and Kremlin opponent Alexei Navalny in Russia. "Recent uses and threats of

use of toxic chemicals as weapons illustrate that preventing re-emergence will remain a priority for the organisation," Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) chief Fernando Arias cautioned.

The last of the United States declared chemical weapons stockpile was destroyed at a sprawling military installation in eastern Kentucky, Senate Republican

leader Mitch McConnell has announced, a milestone that closes a chapter of warfare dating back

"Chemical weapons are re-

weapons were first used in modern warfare in World War I, where they were estimated have killed at least 1,00,000

The end of destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles is an important milestone

> FERNANDO ARIAS CHIEF, OPCW

some of the most horrific episodes of human loss, McConnell said in a statement Friday. "Though the use of these deadly agents will always be a stain on history, today our nation has finally fulfilled our promise to rid our arsenal of this evil."

The weapons' destruction is a major watershed for Richmond, Kentucky and Pueblo, Colorado, where an Army depot destroyed the last of its chemical agents last month. It's also a defining moment for arms control efforts worldwide.

The US faced a September 30 deadline to eliminate its remaining chemical weapons under the international Chemical Weapons Convention, which took effect in 1997 and was joined by 193 countries. The munitions being destroyed in Kentucky are the last of 51,000 M55 rockets with GB nerve agent — a deadly toxin also known as sarin that have been stored at the depot since the 1940s.

By destroying the munitions, the US is officially underscoring that these types of weapons are no longer acceptable in the battlefield and sending a message to the handful of countries that haven't joined the agreement,

AFTERMATH OF RIOTS

Hundreds ignore Paris protest ban

REUTERS

Paris, July 8: Hundreds of protesters defied a ban Saturday to march in central Paris against police violence, a week after riots sparked by the killing of a teenager in a Parisian suburb.



Paris's huge Place de la Republique, sending several hundred people towards the wide Boulevard Magenta, where they were seen marching peacefully. Two people were arrested, Paris police said after the demonstration.

The Paris police department said in a decision published on its website that it had banned the planned demonstration, citing a context of tensions".

"We still enjoy freedom of expression in France, but freedom of assembly, in particular, is under threat", said Felix Bouvarel, a health worker who came to the gathering in spite of the ban which he called "shocking."

Authorities also banned a demonstration in the northern city of Lille Saturday, while a march in Marseille took place with a changed trajectory, ordered out of the city centre.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said this week that more than 3,000 people, mostly teenagers, had been arrested in six nights of riots that ended a week ago. Some 2,500 buildings were damaged.

The riots were triggered by the June 27 fatal shooting by a police officer of 17-year-old Nahel M at a traffic stop. A police officer is under investigation for voluntary homicide: his lawyer says he did not intend to kill the teen.

Saturday's demonstration was called by the family of Adama Traore, a Black Frenchman whose death in police custody in 2016 has been marked by annual protests since.



to World War I.

Workers at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky destroved rockets filled with GB nerve agent, completing a decades-long campaign to eliminate a stockpile that by the end of the Cold War totalled more than 30,000 tonnes.

Dutch premier, the longest-serving Prime Minister of the nation, resigns because of deadlock on thorny issue of migration, paving way for new elections

Amsterdam, July 8: The Dutch government collapsed Friday after failing to reach a deal on restricting immigration, which will trigger new elections in the fall.

REUTERS

The crisis was triggered by a push by Prime Minister Mark Rutte's conservative VVD party to limit the flow of asylum seekers to the Netherlands, which two of his four-party government coalition refused to support "It's no secret that the coalition

partners have differing opinions about immigration policy. Today we unfortunately have to conclude that those differences have become insurmountable. Therefore I will tender the resignation of the entire cabinet to the king," Rutte said in a televised news conference.

Tensions came to a head this week, when Rutte demanded support for a proposal to limit entrance of children of war refugees who are already in the Netherlands and to make families wait at least two years before



they can be united. This latest proposal went too far for the small Christian Union and lib-

eral D66, causing a stalemate. Rutte's coalition will stay on as a caretaker government until a new administration is formed after new elections, a process which in the fractured Dutch political landscape usually takes

MARK RUTTE | OUTGOING PM, THE NETHERLANDS The collapse of Rutte's government is good news for the Netherlands. I think that everybody felt that this **Cabinet was done. They have**

It's no secret that the

immigration policy. Today we

that those differences have

become insurmountable

unfortunately have to conclude

coalition partners have

differing opinions about

they solved ILIAN MARIJNISSEN | LEADER, OPPOSITION

created more problems than

months. News agency ANP, citing the national elections committee, said elections would not be held before mid-November.

INMIGRATION ISSUE DUTCH GOVT COLLAPSES

A caretaker government cannot decide on new policies, but Rutte said it would not affect the country's support for Ukraine.

The Netherlands already has a one of Europe's toughest immigration policies but under the pressure of right-wing parties, Rutte had for months been trying to seek ways to further reduce the inflow of asylum seekers.

Asylum applications in the Netherlands jumped by a third last year to over 46,000, and the government has projected they could increase to more than 70,000 this year - topping the previous high of 2015.

This will again put a strain on the country's asylum facilities, where for months last year hundreds of refugees at a time were forced to sleep in the rough with little or no access to drinking water, sanitary facilities or health care.

Rutte, 56, is the longest-serving government leader in Dutch history and the most senior in the EU after Hungary's Viktor Orban. He is expected to lead his VVD party again at the next elections. Rutte's current coalition,

which came to power in January 2022, was his fourth consecutive administration since he became prime minister in October 2010.

500-DAYS OF WAR

9K civilians, including 500 kids, killed: UN

Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine February 24 last year and since then it has indiscriminately bombed civilian infrastructure causing widespread mayhem

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, July 8: The United Nations condemned the civilian cost inflicted by Russia's war in Ukraine as the fighting passed the 500-day mark with no end to the conflict in sight. More than 9,000 civilians, in-

cluding 500 children, have been killed since Russia's February 24, 2022 invasion, the UN's Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) said in a statement Friday, though UN representatives have previously said the real count is likely to be much higher.

'Today we mark another grim milestone in the war that continues to exact a horrific toll on Ukraine's civilians," Noel Calhoun, the deputy head of HRMMU, said in the statement marking the 500th day since the

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy marked the 500th day of the war Saturday by hailing the country's soldiers in a video from a Black Sea island



that became the symbol of Ukraine's resilience in the face of the Russian invasion.

"I want to thank – from here,

from this place of victory - each of our soldiers for these 500 days," Zelenskyy said. "Thank you to everyone who fights for Ukraine!'

While this year the casualty numbers have been lower on average than in 2022, the figure began to climb again in May and June, the monitors noted.

The cities of Bucha and Mariupol became bywords for Russian atrocities last year, after reports and images of massacres there shocked the world and prompted allegations of war crimes and even genocide.

Satellite images later showed that several bodies had been lying in the street since mid-March, when the town was under Russian control, while Ukrainian authorities said that hundreds of people had been killed in Bucha by Moscow's retreating forces.



Artists of Italy's Flower Sway Poles perform during the B-FIT in the Street international festival in Bucharest, Romania. The street theatre festival took place over the weekend in the Romanian capital

Farmer's thumbs-up emoji leads to \$62K fine

A JUDGE HAS ORDERED A CANADIAN FARMER TO PAY \$62K AS HE FAILED TO DELIVER A PRODUCT – AFTER USING A THUMBS-UP EMOJI IN A TEXT

Ottawa, July 8: A Canadian farmer has been ordered to pay more than C\$82,000 (\$61,784) in damages over an emoji confusion that a Saskatchewan judge resolved by ruling that a thumbsup image is enough to accept contractual terms.

Chris Achter, the owner of a farming company in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, had sent a thumbs-up emoji in response to a photograph of a flaxbuying contract sent to him by



Months later, when the time of the delivery arrived, the buyer which had been doing business with Achter for several years - did not receive the flax.

That started a dispute that led to "a far-flung search for the

The buyer, South West Terminal, argued that the emoji implied acceptance of contractual terms, while Achter said he used the thumbs-up image only to indicate that he had received the contract, but not to indicate his agreement.

In a summary judgment littered with 24 instances of the emoji, Judge TJ Keene said: "I am satisfied on the balance of probabilities that Chris okayed or approved the contract just like he had done before except this time he used a thumbs-up

requirement was met by the thumbs-up emoji originating from Chris and his unique cell

equivalent of the Rosetta Stone in cases from Israel, New York State and some tribunals in Canada" to unearth what a thumbs-up emoji means, according to the June court ruling that surfaced in local media this

> "In my opinion the signature phone," Keene said.

business

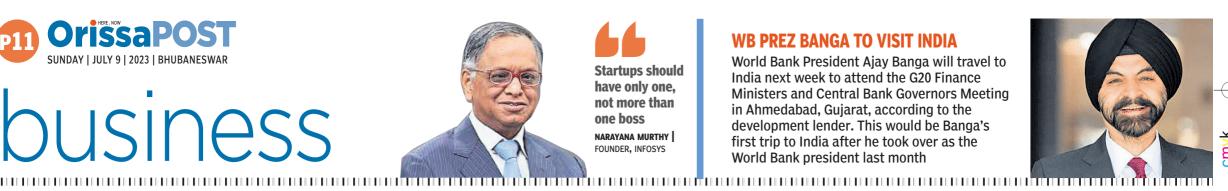


Startups should have only one, not more than one boss

NARAYANA MURTHY FOUNDER, INFOSYS

WB PREZ BANGA TO VISIT INDIA

World Bank President Ajay Banga will travel to India next week to attend the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, according to the development lender. This would be Banga's first trip to India after he took over as the World Bank president last month





want to replace create a public communities on Instagram that never

really embraced Twitter ADAM MOSSERI | HEAD, INSTAGRAM

The side effects of over consumption of chemical fertilisers are visible now. Soil health has been impacted. The growth in production and productivity has stagnated MANSUKH MANDAVIYA UNION MINISTER







SHORT TAKES

Fuel demand slips in June Mumbai: India's fuel demand

eased 3.7% in June month-onmonth, government data showed Friday, as monsoon rains restricted mobility in the world's third-biggest oil consumer. Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 19.31 million tonne in June, down from 20.06 million tonne in May, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed. Sales of diesel, mainly used by trucks and commercially run passenger vehicles, decreased about 3.7% in June to 7.91 million tonne from a month earlier. In May, diesel sales hit an all-time high of 8.22 million tonne, as per PPAC data going back until 1998. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were about 5.9% lower than the previous month at 3.15 million tonnes.

Adani buys 30% in Trainman

New Delhi: Adani Enterprises, the flagship firm of billionaire bought a close to 30 per cent stake in Start Enterprises Pvt Ltd, which owns the online train ticket booking platform Trainman. Adani Enterprises last month announced that it has signed a pact to acquire 100 per cent of SEPL. In a stock exchange filing Saturday, Adani Enterprises said Adani Digital Labs Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, has bought a 29.81 per cent stake in SEPL for Rs 3.56 crore SEPL had a turnover of Rs 4.51 crore in 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) fiscal year. While last month, Adani Enterprises had described SEPL as "an online train booking and information platform,' Saturday it described the firm as one into "e-commerce and website development."

HARMING ECONOMIES

Nations dare EU carbon \$2.7BN VIA SHARE SALE tax, deforestation rule

INDIA'S IRON, STEEL AND ALUMINIUM EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN UNION **COUNTRIES WILL FACE EXTRA SCRUTINY UNDER THE MECHANISM**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: A number of countries, including India, Russia, and Brazil, have flagged concerns over European Union's (EU) carbon tax and deforestation regulation in a meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, stating that these measures would affect their industries, an official said Friday.

These countries raised the issues in a two-day meeting of the WTO's Council for Trade in Goods, which concluded July 7 in Geneva.

On EU's deforestation regulation, India said that the agriculture sector in developing countries is a key driver for employment as well as economic well-being for a large part of the population and it was unfortunate that the EU is making policy choices, which "directly harmed" economic interests of these socioeconomic groups, the Genevabased trade official said.

The EU's regulation will enter into application December 29, 2024, with an additional six months flexibility for small enterprises.

Nine WTO members -Indonesia, Russia, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Peru, Paraguay, Türkiye and Argentina cited concerns about the EU's new regulation on deforestation free products which entered into force 29 June; operators and traders will have 18 months to implement the new rules.

Further on the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), twelve WTO members including China, Russia, Brazil, Indonesia, Paraguay, and India raised their concerns.

Certain members stated that it is a unilateral measure that deviates from the basic principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and does not comply with the basic principles of non-discriminatory under the WTO.

Many also complained that the EU did not provide enough time for WTO members to com-

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries (RIL)

later on as Jio Financial Services (JFSL), said reports Saturday. The

yesterday after getting regulatory approval on the demerger last

decision to this effect was taken at a board meeting of the company

month. The demerger will unlock value for 36 lakh-strong shareholder

announced July 20 as the record date for the demerger of its financial

services arm Reliance Strategic Investments, which would be renamed



ment on the measure before it enters into force in October.

The EU stated that it has been transparent throughout the design stage of CBAM and will continue to engage with members during the transitional period as it is gradually introduced through the end of

The EU is introducing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) from October 1 this year. **UNDER THE NEW NORMS**

According to a report of the think-tank GTRI, CBAM would translate into a 20-35 per cent tax on select imports into the EU starting January 1, 2026.

From October, domestic companies from seven carbon-intensive sectors -- including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products -- will have to seek compliance certificates from the EU authorities to comply with the CBAM norms.

According to the GTRI report, from October 1, India's iron, steel and aluminium exports to European Union countries will face extra scrutiny under the mechanism.

From January 1, 2026, the EU will start collecting carbon tax on each consignment of steel. aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen and electricity.

Jio Financial demerger: RIL fixes July 20 as record date

base of RIL, India's largest company by market capitalisation. As part of the plan, RIL shareholders will get one

share of Jio Financial for every share they own of RIL. The stock is already up 13% in the last three months and

Bank of India (RBI). JFSL is expected to become India's fifth-largest financier in terms of capital and compete

directly with the likes of Paytm and Baiai Finance, RSIL and Financial services undertaking has a combined

networth of Rs 280 billion (FY22) which includes investments of 6.1% stake (market value of Rs 980bn) in RIL.

ended Friday's session marginally lower at Rs 2,635.45. The board has also approved the appointment of McLaren

Strategic Ventures' Hitesh Sethia as the CEO and MD of RSIL for 3 years. Mukesh Ambani's daughter Isha has also

been appointed as a non-executive director of the financial services company subject to approval from the Reserve

Another report by the thinktank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has stated that India's exports of products like coffee, leather hides and paper-

board worth \$1.3 billion annually to the European Union 2022, India's will get impacted due to 27% exports of iron, the deforesta steel and aluminium tion regulation adopted products worth by the EU ear-\$8.2 billion went lier this week. to the EU The Global Trade Research

Initiative (GTRI) said that the EU-DR appears to prioritise protecting its own agricultural sector and promoting exports, making imports more difficult as it is a trade barrier disguised as a green measure.

The regulation covers cattle, buffalo, the meat of bovine animals, preparations, oil cake, soya beans, palm oil, cocoa bean, powder, chocolate, coffee, leather hide, skin, paper, paperboard, wood, wood articles, wood pulp, boards and wood furniture.

The exporters now have to ensure that these products have been grown on land, which has not been deforested after December 31, 2020.

The new rules will apply to large firms after 18 months and small firms after 24 months. Thus, the timeline for large firms is December 2024 and for small firms is June 2025

The next formal meeting of the Council for Trade in Goods is scheduled for 30 November -1 December 2023.

IOC TO RAISE

Bangalore, July 8: Indian Oil Corp would raise up to Rs 220 billion through a rights issue of shares, the state-owned refiner said Friday

Last month, Reuters reported that the Indian government had kicked off its plan to fund energy transition projects of three big state refiners — IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) — in exchange for equity.

IOC, the country's top refiner, has not specified which projects the newly raised funds would target. It said it would give further details on the rights issue, including the price and timing, after a board approval.

Last week, BPCL had said it would raise \$2.19 billion through a rights issue to help meet its "energy transition, net-zero and energy security objectives".

HPCL has not yet announced any plans to raise funds. The government is seeking a preferential allotment of shares from HPCL, Reuters had reported.

The three refiners together aim to invest Rs 3.5-4 trillion to achieve their net zero-emission goals by 2040

Indian Oil also approved the formation of a joint venture for battery-swapping business in India as a private limited company with 50:50 collaboration between itself and Sun Mobility Pte Ltd Singapore, with IOC's equity investment of Rs 18 billion (\$217.83 million). Indian Oil's share price

has gained nearly 30% so far this year, while HPCL's has risen over 30% and BPCL's roughly 18%.

CURBING MALPRACTICES

All GST registered businesses told to geocode addresses

GEOCODING WILL HELP IN FINDING OUT THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE REGISTERED ENTITY AND CHECK BOGUS REGISTRATIONS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: GST Network Friday said it has geocoded 1.8 crore addresses of registered businesses and the functionality is now live for all states and UTs

Geocoding will help in finding out the exact location of the registered entity and check bogus registrations. The Central Board of Indirect

Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has already conducted a pilot for geocoding in a couple of states. In an update to businesses, GSTN said the functionality for geocoding the principal place of business address is now live for all States and Union territories.

This feature, which converts an address or description of a location into geographic coordinates, has been introduced to ensure the accuracy of address details in GSTN records and streamline the address location and verification process.

"GSTN has successfully geocoded more than 1.8 crore addresses of principal places of business. Furthermore, all new addresses post-March 2022 are geocoded at the time of registration itself, ensuring the accuracy and standardization of address data from the outset, GSTN said.

Businesses can access the geocoding functionality in the portal and the system-generated geocoded address will be displayed.

Businesses can either accept it or update it as per their requirements. In cases where the system-generated geocoded address is unavailable, a blank will be displayed, and you can directly update the geocoded ad-

India, Tanzania start trade settlements in local money

INDIA'S TRADE STANDS AT \$98 BILLION WITH AFRICA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dar es Salaam, July 8: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Tanzania have started trade settlements in local currencies and this new initiative will help in promoting commerce between the two countries

Addressing industry leaders at a function, the minister said India-Tanzania bilateral trade has seen very strong growth, and stood at \$6.4 billion in 2022-23.

"Now, bear in mind, this is not only a very substantial bilateral trade, but it's also actually a bilateral trade, which is getting increasingly balanced. Many new products are being added to the trade basket...India remains the biggest destination for Tanzanian exports," he said.

There's also an issue which has been brought up from time to time, which is the possibility of trade settlements in our own currencies, Jaishankar said.



BANK OF INDIA, BANK OF BARODA, AND CANARA BANK **HAVE STARTED OPERATIONS IN TANZANIA**

ABOUT 18 COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY OPENED SPECIAL VOSTRO ACCOUNTS WITH INDIAN BANKS

"And I want to share with you that the India central bank has cleared such a possibility. So the three Indian banks, which are here, have that ability to do trade settlements in each other's currencies. I am told few transactions have already taken place in Indian rupees and Tanzanian

India's investments are \$75 billion, and we are expecting both this trade with Africa and investments in Africa to grow, and I certainly agree that now that there is a pan-**African larger continental** free trade arrangement in the making

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

shillings, and certainly this will provide an additional mechanism to promote trade between our two countries," he said.

Last year, the Reserve Bank of India and Indian finance ministry asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push export and import transactions in rupee. They want banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the US dollar.

MICROSOFT LEADS

Public cloud revenue crosses \$500 billion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 8: Led by Microsoft, global revenue for the public cloud services market reached \$545.8 billion last year, an increase of 22.9 per cent over 2021, according to a new report. Top 5 public cloud service

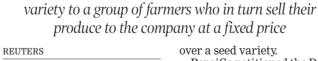
providers - Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, Salesforce, Google, and Oracle - captured more than 41 per cent of the worldwide total and growing 27.3 per cent vear over year, according to the latest IDC data.

With offerings in all four deployment categories, Microsoft remained in the top position in the overall public cloud services market with 16.8 per cent share, followed by Amazon Web Services with 13.5 per cent share.



Software as a Service - applications (SaaS-applications) continued to be the largest source of public cloud services revenue, accounting for more than 45 per

cent of the total in 2022. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) was the second largest revenue category with 21.2 per cent of the total while Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Software as a Service - System Infrastructure Software (SaaS – SIS) delivered 17 per cent and 16.7 per cent of overall revenue, respectively.



New Delhi, July 8: An Indian court rejected PepsiCo Inc's appeal against an order that revoked a patent for a potato variety grown exclusively for the New York-based company's pop-

ular Lav's potato chips. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Authority in 2021 revoked intellectual protection granted to PepsiCo's FC5 potato variety, saying that India's rules do not allow a patent on seed

The authority removed PepsiCo's patent cover after

Kavitha Kuruganti, a farmers'

over a seed variety. PepsiCo petitioned the Delhi High Court against the revoca-

The US snacks and drinks maker, which set up its first

potato chip plant in India in 1989, supplies the FC5 seed

tion of the patent cover. In its order dated July 5, Delhi High Court judge Navin Chawla dismissed PepsiCo's appeal against the authority's decision.

"We are aware of the order .. and are in the process of reviewing the same," a PepsiCo India spokesperson said in a statement.

The US snacks and drinks maker, which set up its first potato chip plant in India in 1989, supplies the FC5 seed variety to a group of farmers who in turn sell their produce to the company at a fixed price.

PepsiCo has maintained that



In 2019, PepsiCo sued some Indian farmers for cultivating the FC5 potato variety, accusing growers of infringing its patent. It also sought over ₹10 million each for alleged patent infringement

variety and registered the trait

lower moisture content required

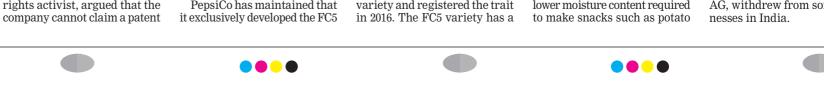
In a statement, Kuruganti said: "It is good that the judgement of Justice Navin Chawla upheld the revocation order."

In 2019, PepsiCo sued some Indian farmers for cultivating the FC5 potato variety, accusing growers of infringing its patent. The company also sought more than Rs 10 million (\$121,050) each for alleged patent infringement.

Within months, PepsiCo withdrew lawsuits against farmers. In its order, the Delhi High Court did not uphold accusations of any public interest vi-

olation by PepsiCo. PepsiCo is the second large US company to face patent infringement issues in India.

After a long-standing intellectual property dispute, seed maker Monsanto, now owned by German drugmaker Bayer AG, withdrew from some busi-





Indian women's team players go through their training drills ahead of the first T20I in Mirpur, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mirpur, July 8: The Indian women's cricket team will be expecting the fresh faces to grab the opportunity with both hands and finishers to flourish in the three-match T20 series against Bangladesh beginning here Sunday, their first international assignment in four months. The T20 series will be followed by three ODIs beginning July 16.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side was last in action at the T20 World Cup in South Africa where it endured a narrow loss to Australia in the knockout phase.

In an era where most male cricketers live out of a suitcase due to a relentless schedule, the members of the Indian women's team has had a lot of time to reflect and work on their game. The last competitive event for

INDIA

Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Devika Vaidya, Uma Chetry (wk), Amanjot Kaur, S Meghana, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarvani, Monica Patel, Rashi Kanojiya, Anusha Bareddy, Minnu Mani.

the Indian players was the inaugural Women's Premier League in March.

India, who now have all the resources at their disposal, have not been able to take their game to the next level and match the mighty Australia on a regular

The team needs to improve on various aspects including fitness, bowling and the lack of finishers which come at a premium in the shortest format.

The star performers of the team over the past 12 months –

Akter, Dilara Akter, Shathi Rani, Shamima Sultana, Sobhana Mostary, Murshida Khatun, Shorna Akter, Ritu Moni, Disha Biswas, Marufa Akter, Sanjida Akter Meghla, Rabeya Khan, Sultana Khatun, Salma Khatun, Fahima Khatun.

BANGLADESH

Nigar Sultana (C, wk), Nahida

pacer Renuka Thakur and wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh - are not part of this side due to injury and fitness issues respectively, providing an opening for the rookies to impress

The seasoned Deepti Sharma will be expected to play the finisher's role in Ghosh's absence with Pooja Vastrakar and Amanjot also needing to chip in with quickfire knocks towards the end of the innings.

Yastika Bhaita and the uncapped Uma Chetry are the two wicket-keeping options in the

side. Yastika is expected to start Sunday and needs to bat a lot quicker than her current strike rate of 85.38.

Bangladesh should not pose a lot of problems to India but pressure will be on opener Shafali Verma who has often been found wanting against the short ball since making her international debut in 2019.

The absence of left-arm spinners Radha Yadav and Rajeshwari Gayakwad can hand maiden caps to 20-year-old Anusha Bareddy and Rashi

The series will also be a comeback for pacer Monica Patel and Meghna Singh will be eager to cement her place in the side after warming up the bench for the most of the last season.

Nooshin Al Khadeer, who guided India U-19s to the World Cup title and more recently the U-23 unit in Hong Kong, has been named interim coach for the tour with Amol Muzumdar's full-time appointment yet to be formalised.

The players trained at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru before leaving for Bangladesh. All games will be played at the Shere Bangla National Stadium.

"Bangladesh are a very good side, they always play good cricket in home conditions. We are ready for the challenge. We have had two three days to prepare and we feel prepared in all the departments," said Harmanpreet on the eve of the

SCHEDULE

IND Women vs BAN Women Time: 1:30 pm Live stream: FanCode app

Pak PM forms high-level committee to decide on team's WC participation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, July 8: Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has formed a high-level committee, headed by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, to decide on the national cricket team's participation in the 2023 ODI World

The committee will explore and discuss all aspects of Pakistan and India relations, the government's policy of keeping sports and policy apart, and the situation in India for the players, officials, fans, and media before submitting its recommendations to Sharif. The Prime Minister is also the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Both the International Cricket Council and host BCCI have already announced the World Cup schedule and expect Pakistan to travel to India for the 50-over showpiece beginning October 5. The PCB, however,

has conveyed to them that the national team's participation in the pre mier event is subject to government clearance due to the tense relations between the two countries. Other committee members

include Sports Minister Ahsan 🛚 🚵 Mazari, Maryam Aurangzeb. Asad Mahmood, Amin ul

Haq, Qamar Zaman Kaira, and former diplomat Tariq Fatmi.

The concerned ministers have already indicated to the PCB that a high-level security delegation would be sent to India to inspect the venues where Pakistan's matches are scheduled.

The acting chairman of the board, Zaka Ashraf, and chief operating officer, Salman Taseer are also due to leave for Durban on Saturday night to attend the ICC meetings where it is expected that Ashraf would be discussing India's repeated refusal to send its team to Pakistan citing security reasons.

The much-awaited World Cup game between India and Pakistan will be staged at the world's largest

cricket stadium in Ahmedabad October 15. Pakistan will

play their two warm-up games in Hyderabad before taking on Netherlands and Sri Lanka in their opening two World Cup matches at the same venue. The team is also scheduled to play in Chennai, Bangalore

and Kolkata. Both India and Pakistan only play each other in Asia Cup or ICC events.

ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP

Teenaged GM Gukesh defeats his idol Anand



Zagreb, July 8: Young Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh scored a memorable win over illustrious compatriot and idol Viswanathan Anand in the eighth round of the Rapid event of the 2023 SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz tournament, part of the Grand Chess Tour.

The 40-move win for the 17year-old Gukesh late Friday was his first ever over Anand and came in his maiden tournament match against the five-time World Champion. The two Indians have 10 points each and are tied for fourth place.

"It was a very important win. I'm happy," Gukesh told the Grand Chess Tournament's social media handle. "I thought I was better, but he equalised quite easily. Then he blundered the back rank. And after that the position got really tricky. It was

very hard to play from there. We were discussing the game,' he said about the discussion he had with Anand after the match.

Fabiano Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi remained coleaders after the final day of the Rapid event, each with 12 points. While the day 1 leader Anand stumbled and fell two points behind the leaders, world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen bounced back into form to take the clear third position going into two full days of blitz next

Apart from the loss to Gukesh, Anand could only draw his games against Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland) and Nepomniachtchi in rounds seven and nine re-

Gukesh started the final day of the Rapid section with a loss to Caruana before stunning Anand and holding Duda to a draw. An 18-round blitz segment follows the rapid event in the tournament which features top players including Carlsen, Anand and Nepomniachtchi among oth-

The time control for the rapid portion is 25+10, with 2 points awarded for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 for a loss. The blitz portion will have a time control of 5+2, using the typical 1, 1/2, 0 scoring system. The Grand Chess Tour is a circuit of international events, featuring the world's best players.

Medvedev, Alcaraz reach pre-quarters



AGENCIES

Wimbledon, July 8: World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz and No.3 Daniil Medvedev marched into the prequarterfinals at the Wimbledon after beating their round 3 opponents, Saturday.

 $A\,year\,after\,being\,banned\,from$ playing at the home of grasscourt tennis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Medvedev has been making up for lost time and he came from a set down to beat the Hungarian 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to reach the Wimbledon last 16 for the second time.

Medvedev has been on fire on the ATP Tour this season, winning five titles, but the 27-yearold maverick has struggled to carry that form into the majors,

falling early at both the Australian and French Opens.

Alcaraz, on the other hand, had a tough outing against Chilean Nicolas Jarry. It was an incredible performance from Jarry as he pushed the top seed all the way. Four points stands between Alcaraz and the last 16 but

it is Jarry who got the first point. Alcaraz got the first of four next and a fantastic lob saw him two points away. But Jarry did n't lose hope and won the next point, courtesy Alcaraz's error. Then a huge forehand gave Jarry break point.

However, Jarry couldn't return an Alcaraz serve and the point went into deuce. The World and bagged the next two points



with a 6-3, 6-7(6-8), 6-3, 7-5 win.

KVITOVA THROUGH

Women's ninth seed Petra Kvitova also advanced to last 16 for only the second time since triumphing at the All England Club nine years ago with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Serbian qualifier Natalija Stevanovic in a raindisrupted encounter.

DJOKO OUTPLAYS WAWRINKA

Walking out little more than two hours before Wimbledon's 11pm curfew, seven-time champion Novak Djokovic was a man in a hurry as he rattled through the opening two sets and although he met more resistance after that he sealed a 6-3, 6-1, 7-

His 31st consecutive match win at Wimbledon sent him into the last 16 of a Grand Slam for the 61st time in which he will face Poland's 17th seed Hubert Hurkacz.

'PRESSURE IS OFF'

"I do feel more relaxed. I think also because I won Roland Garros and I feel like after that the pressure is a little bit off because I reached my goal kind of for the season," top seed Iga Swiatek said after reaching the last 16 Friday.

The WTA World No.1 Pole kept her Wimbledon campaign on track with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Croatia's Petra Martic as she reached the fourth round without dropping a set. She will face Swiss 14th seed Belinda Bencic next.

WINNING START

India's Rohan Bopanna and his men's doubles partner Matthew Ebden from Australia survived a scare before prevailing over Argentine duo of Guillermo Duran and Tomas Etcheverry 6-2, 6-7(5-7), 7-6(10-8) to advance to the second round.

The 43-year-old Bopanna and 35-year-old Ebden, who claimed two doubles titles on the ATP Tour earlier this year, will next face the unseeded British pair of Jacob Fearnley and Johannus Monday, Sunday.

SCHEDULE

TIME: 3:30 pm (Expected)

Telecast: Star Sports channels

Deadline extended for IOA to send list of wrestlers for Asiad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 8: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Saturday extended the deadline till July 22 for sending Indian wrestlers' entries to the Asian Games organisers even as the IOA had_ sought time till August 5.

The OCA has, otherwise, set July 15 as deadline for all participating nations to send athletes' entries by names for the Games, set to begin in the Chinese city of Hangzhou September 23.

The one-week extension was granted by the OCA under "exceptional circumstances" after the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) top brass including President PT Usha, Senior Vice President Ajay Patel and Joint Secretary Kalyan Chaubey attended the General Assembly

of the OCA in Bangkok. 'The IOA officials tried their best but the OCA gave a week's extension and that too they (OCA) said was being granted under exceptional circumstances. So, this is the final and we have to send names of our wrestlers by July 22," a source close to IOA adhoc committee told PTI.

Usha had written to the OCA Thursday to extend the deadline so that it could provide the six protesting wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik. enough time to prepare for the Asian Games and World Championship trails.

Pedersen wins Stage 8, Cavendish crashes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Limoges (France), July 8: With Mark Cavendish out of the picture, former World Champion Mads Pedersen claimed a second career stage win at the Tour de France Saturday with a big burst of power to win a mass

Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard kept the yellow jersey after the 201-kilometer (125mile) eighth stage from Libourne to Limoges in central France.

Pedersen proved the strongest in the long final stretch of road leading to the finish line and the Danish rider held off a late challenge from Jasper Philipsen, who had won all three previous sprints this year. Wout Van Aert com-



The stage was marred by several crashes, including the one

that ruled Cavendish out of the race. The ace sprinter hit the ground with 64 kilometers (40 miles) left while riding at the back of the peloton.

The British rider had finished second in Friday's stage when Philipsen denied the rider known as the "Manx Missile" an outright record 35th Tour stage win. Cavendish, who has never won the Tour, unlike five-time champion Merckx, will retire at the end of the season.

Vingegaard spent the day well protected by his Jumbo-Visma teammates and kept his 25-second lead over two-time champion Tadej Pogacar in the general classification. Jai Hindley remained in third place, 1 minute, 34 seconds off the pace.

SINDHU, SEN REACH CANADA OPEN SEMIFINALS PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Calgary, July 8: Commonwealth Games champions PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen notched up contrasting wins to advance to the semifinals of the Canada Open Super 500 badminton tournament here.

Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, stamped her authority over Fang Jie to register her first victory in four meetings against her opponent with a dominating 21-13, 21-7 margin in the women's singles quarterfinals late Friday night.

Later, Sen staved off a spirited fight from German qualifier Julien Carraggi 21-8, 17-21, 21-10 in the men's singles quarterfinal. Sindhu will now face



world number one Japan's Yamaguchi and Sen is pitted against fourth seeded Japanese Kenta Nishimoto.

The 28-year-old from Hyderabad has a favourable 14-10 head-to-head record against the top seeded Japanese, who had beaten the Indian in their last meeting at Singapore Open this year. Sen, on the other hand, has



a 1-1 record against Nishimoto, having last played him at the 2022 Japan Open.

Sindhu looked more alert as she zoomed to a 5-1 lead early on. Her trademark smashes and drops troubled Fang Jie, who also committed lot of unforced errors. The Indian entered the break with an 11-6 lead.

Sindhu was quick on her feet

turning everything thrown at her with ease. With the shuttle going to net a few times, Fang Jie reduced the deficit to 10-14 and then 12-16 but Sindhu finished things with two whipping smashes.

The second game started on an even keel with Fang Jie managing a slender 5-3 lead at one stage but Sindhu quickly turned things around, reaching the interval at 11-5 with her opponent finding the net.

It was mostly a one-way traffic as Sindhu made her opponent work hard, dominating the rallies to keep moving ahead. Looking for precision, the Chinese missed the lines and soon handed over the match to the Indian with two net errors.

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