



## CANDID CONFESSION

Actor Aamir Khan's daughter Ira says she has been suffering from clinical depression for many years

LEISURE P2



## CLIMATE BILL CLEARED

European Parliament votes to pass a fiercely contested law which will degrade natural ecosystems and salvage environmental measures

INTERNATIONAL P10



## VENUE FINALISED

The much anticipated Asia Cup games between India and Pakistan will be played in Dambulla, Sri Lanka

SPORTS P12

# Bahanaga mishap: 7 officials suspended

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** The Indian Railways has suspended seven officials including the three arrested personnel in connection to the Bahanaga triple train tragedy, an official said Wednesday.

"In the train mishap case, three railway staff have been arrested by the CBI. As per railway rules, an official will be automatically put on suspension 24 hours after his arrest. So, they are already suspended. Along with them, a decision has been taken to suspend the Bahanaga Bazar station master, traffic inspector and two maintainers," Anil Kumar Mishra, general manager, South Eastern Railway (SER) told mediapersons after a visit to the accident site.

Asked about the reason behind their suspension, Mishra said, "Had they (the officials) been alert, the tragic train mishap could have been averted." Further action will be taken as per the CBI probe findings, he added.

Divisional Railway Manager

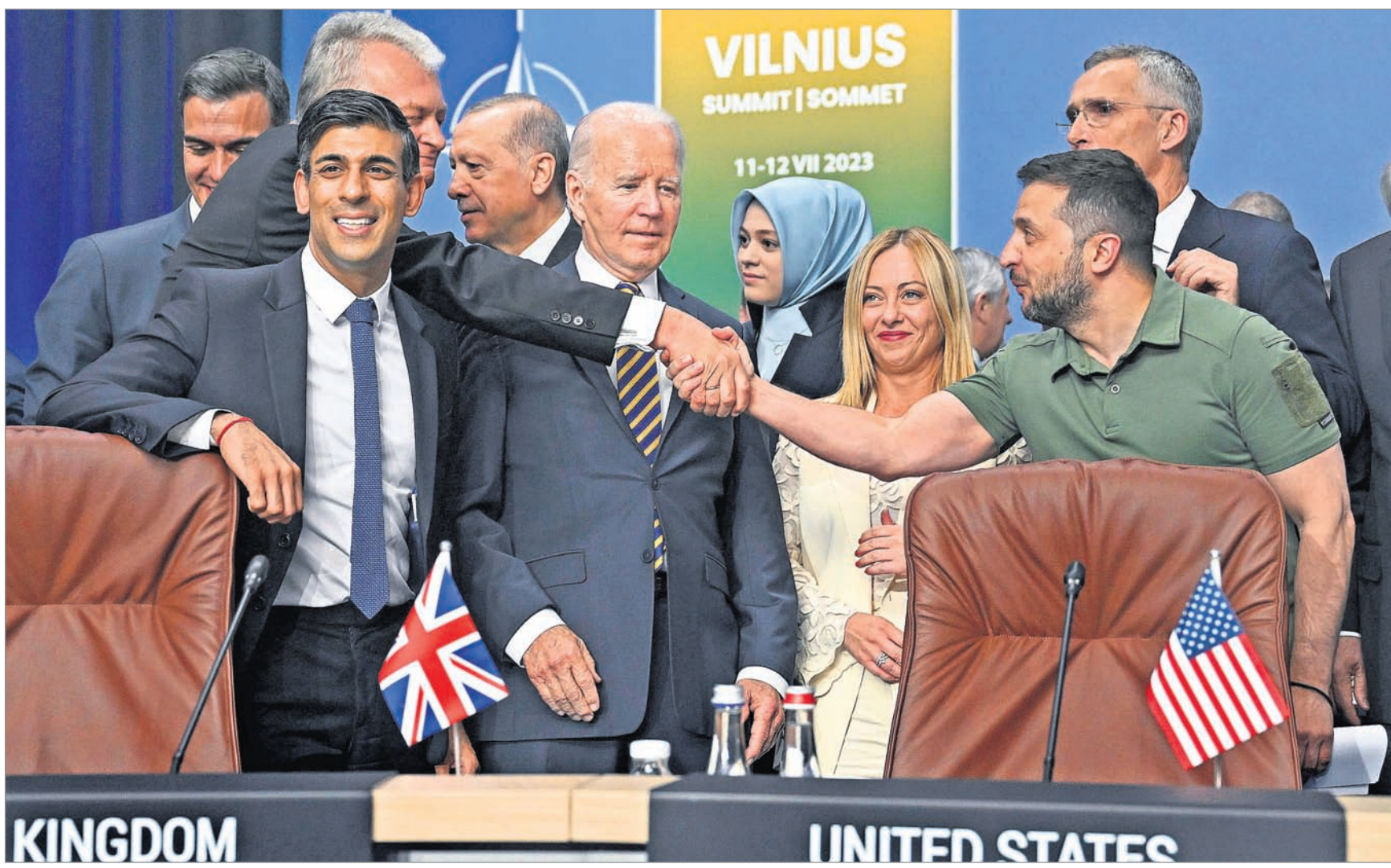
(DRM), Kharagpur accompanied Mishra during his visit to the accident site Wednesday.

The CBI, which is investigating the case, had arrested July 7 senior section engineer (signal) Arun Kumar Mahanta, section engineer Mohammed Amir Khan, and technician Pappu Kumar under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the IPC. The arrested officials have been taken on another four-day remand by the CBI after completion of five-day remand.

A total of 293 people died and over 1,200 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 in Balasore district June 2 evening.

The inquiry report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) had stated that the deadly train mishap at Bahanaga station occurred due to lapses in the signaling circuit.

**“Railways has taken departmental actions against 7 officials for neglecting their duties. The disaster could have been averted, if they were alert”**  
RAILWAY OFFICIAL



**SHOW OF STRENGTH:** World leaders including UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and US President Joe Biden share a light moment Wednesday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Well, it's illegal but you can carry on for some more time

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	65393.90 ↓ 223.94
NIFTY	19384.30 ↓ 55.100
DOLLAR	82.41 ↓ ₹0.18
EURO	91.205 ↑ ₹0.49
GOLD	₹59,175 ↑ ₹402
SILVER	₹73,220 ↑ ₹2,103

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.4°C	33.0°C
TEMP MIN	26.0°C	26.5°C
Humidity	87%	85%
Rainfall	34.2mm	6.2mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky with light rain

# Class VI kid hospitalised after teacher's punch

DESPITE BAN ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS, INCIDENTS LIKE THIS CONTINUE TO SHOCK PEOPLE OF THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kamakhyanagar, July 12:** A Class VI student of Kankadahada Upper Primary School under Kankadahada block headquarters in Dhenkanal district was injured and collapsed after a lady teacher allegedly punched him on the chest during the morning prayers inside the school, Wednesday.

The injured student was identified as Ganapati Mohanta, 12, son of Bharati and Dilip Mohanta of Gopapur village under Kankadahada block. The student reportedly collapsed on the floor after the 'brutal' punch.

After the incident, the school authorities called the kid's parents and asked them to take their son back home. Ganapati was admitted to the Kamakhyanagar sub-divisional hospital for treatment. Later in the evening, he was discharged, but the doctors have asked family members to keep an observation on the traumatised kid.

The incident has spread shockwaves in the locality, more so



because the Odisha government has banned corporal punishment in schools and declared those as punishment-free zone. However, these types of incident continue to happen often in various parts of the state. In May, a student of an ITI college in Bhubaneswar had died by suicide after being allegedly thrashed by a teacher.

While talking to mediapersons here, the boy's mother Bharati said that she had dropped her son at school in the morning. She was surprised when she got a call from the school asking her to take her son back home as

the latter was sick, she added. "The news was quite surprising to me," she said.

Bharati and the boy's grandfather rushed to the school. They found Ganapati writhing in pain and gasping for breath. He was also unable to speak. Initially Ganapati was taken to the Kankadahada hospital but was then shifted to Kamakhyanagar sub-divisional hospital. Bharati also alleged that not a single teacher had come to the aid of Ganapati. "When I arrived at the school to pick up my son, I found him crying, but no one came to our help," Bharati said.

Ganapati later told his family members after his recovery that the lady teacher had punched him while examining his nails.

Kankadahada block education officer (BEO) Sagar Tudu informed that such acts by teachers will not be tolerated. "We are currently conducting an inquiry into the allegation as such incidents in educational institutions will not be tolerated. The matter is being probed and strict action will be taken against the teacher if the charge is true," Tudu asserted.

# 3 HELD FOR HONOUR KILLING OF COUPLE

THE ACCUSED HAD HANGED THE BODIES FROM A TREE TO CONFUSE THE POLICE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, July 12:** Police cracked Wednesday the murder case of two youngsters who were in love as they arrested three persons including the father and two other relatives of the deceased girl over honour killing at Banjipadar village under Dharmagarh police limits in Kalahandi district.

The accused were identified as the girl's father Kaneshwar Patel, brother-in-law Sundar Naik and uncle Debanand Patel. This was stated here by Kalahandi SP Abhilash G at a press meet held, Wednesday.

The accused persons had strangled the couple in love identified as Sunil Patel, 22, and Jemamani Patel, 20, both of Banjipadar village and hanged them from a tree to give the murders the colour of suicide, Abhilash stated. The three accused killed the two lovebirds who were hiding in a sugarcane farm after escaping from their respective homes. The two had decided to run away as the girl's family was opposed to the affair.



The three accused in the honour killing of the couple after their arrest, Wednesday

After the boy and girl escaped from their respective homes, the family members of the girl started looking for her. When they found the couple, they brutally murdered the two. Then the girl's father lodged a police complaint to evade suspicion, Abhilash added.

Police had recovered the decomposed bodies of the two deceased hanging from a tree, July 9. After that they had launched a detailed probe on the matter and zeroed in on the three accused. During interrogation, the three confessed to their crime, police said.

Deceased Sunil's family members said they were not against the relationship. However, they informed that Jemamani's family was opposed to the relationship as the two were related to one another. Sunil's kin also informed that the two were in love for a little more than two years and were eventually planning to get married.

# Police detain 2 for cannibalism

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mayurbhanj, July 12:** In a bizarre incident, two inebriated men allegedly ate the flesh of a half-burnt dead body during cremation in this district, police said Wednesday. The shocking incident took place at the tribal village of Bandhasahi under Badasahi police limits. Police have detained the two persons, identified as Sundar Mohan Singh (58) and Narendra Singh (25) of Dantuni village.

Locals said, Madhusmita Singh (25), a native of Bandhasahi village, succumbed to her illness at a hospital. After conducting the post-mortem, the body was handed over to her family members. They took the body to the cremation ground to conduct the last rites.

During cremation, two drunken men, cut a part of the half-burnt body into three pieces for speedy disposal, informed Laba Singh, uncle of the deceased. "They kept one piece with them and others were put back into the pyre," he informed.

"When I asked what you will do with the flesh, Sundar said 'you don't know about witchcraft'. After some time, though I was opposing, he started eating the half-burnt flesh. He also gave a piece of human flesh to Narendra who also ate it," Laba stated.

The villagers then thrashed the duo for the inhuman act and informed the local police about the incident. Later, police reached the village and detained the duo and launched a probe.

# Internet 'apocalypse' on anvil, say scientists

The Sun can create solar storms that are so devastating that they can snap all forms of communications on Earth

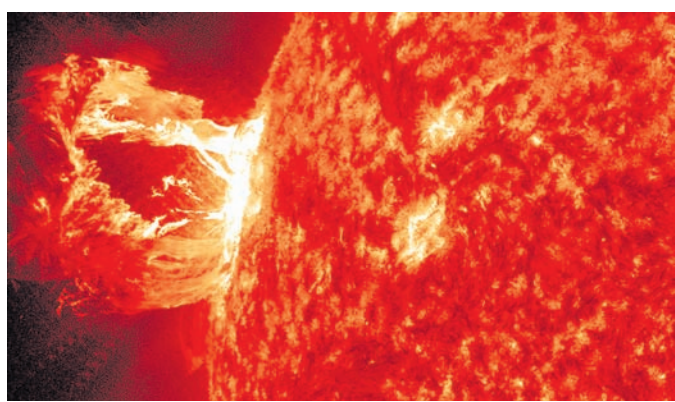
- SUN WILL BE IN ITS MOST ACTIVE PHASE IN 2025
- SOLAR STORMS CAN EVEN DAMAGE UNDERSEA COMMUNICATION CABLES

AGENCIES

**Washington, July 12:** Scientists have been showing renewed interest in the solar cycles of the Sun as it sends out solar storms. Sometimes, these solar storms are so devastating that they can snap all communication on the Earth. As per a report in the *Washington Post*, the Sun will reach 'solar maximum' – a particularly active period – in 2025 and today's digital world is not prepared for it.

Terms like 'internet apocalypse' have caught the attention of social media users, which led to a barrage of misinformation and unsubstantiated warnings from American space agency NASA. But the fact is that internet connection can break down completely due to a solar storm.

NASA has not yet commented on the possibility of the end of the internet being caused by the 2025 solar storm. However, people have already started discussing online as to how the world will be without the 'internet'. Many have called this



'just hype'. However, there are many people including the *Post* who doesn't think so.

A strong solar storm could hit Earth – a rare event that has

not happened in the interconnected world so far – causing widespread internet outage. The *Post* mentioned the 'Carrington Event' in 1859 due to which the

telegraph lines sparked and operators were electrocuted, as well as the 1989 solar storm that took out the Quebec power grid for hours.

"We've never experienced one of the extreme case events, and we don't know how our infrastructure would respond to it. Our failure testing doesn't even include such scenarios," Sangeetha Abdu Jyothi, a computer science professor at University of California at Irvine, was quoted as saying by the *Post*. Her paper 'Solar Superstorms: Planning for an Internet Apocalypse' played a key role in popularising the term.

Jyothi said that a severe solar storm is likely to affect large-

scale infrastructure such as undersea communication cables that could interrupt long-distance connectivity. Such outages could last for months and the economic impact of just one day of lost connectivity in the US alone is estimated to be more than \$11 billion, she stated in the paper.

As the US celebrated July 4 its independence day, the Sun held its own firework display. Space weather physicist Tamitha Skov shared pictures and videos of the solar storm, or coronal mass ejections (CMEs), captured by NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) that orbits the Sun. It was indeed a frightening sight.

## Classes at Ravenshaw second campus soon

**Cuttack:** The newly-built second campus of Ravenshaw University will be operational from this month, sources said Wednesday. A team from the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) including Mayor Subhash Chandra Singh and Deputy Mayor Damayanti Majhi visited the campus built on 126 acre of land at CDA Sector-13 locality Wednesday to take stock of the situation. The CMC will take steps to ensure 'Mo Bus' connectivity to the second campus of Ravenshaw. Besides, it will put up sign boards and speed breakers on the road leading to the campus, the mayor stated.

# leisure



## JAMIE FOXX SPOTTED IN CHICAGO AFTER HIS RETURN FROM HOSPITAL

Actor Jamie Foxx made another public appearance in Chicago after his return from hospital. This time, he was spotted retrieving a missing handbag for a woman. The 55-year-old *Django Unchained* actor, who was hospitalised in April, appeared in high spirits while continuing his recovery in Windy City.

## FREEMAN CONTRACTS UNKNOWN ILLNESS

On his way to the UK to promote his new series *Special Ops: Lioness*, actor Morgan Freeman missed his plane after contracting an unknown illness. A representative of the actor said: "Morgan has a fever and his doctor felt he had a contagious infection, so he cancelled his trip."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

Today, you will crave total freedom in whatever you are doing, says Ganesh. And sheer entertainment is on the cards for teenyboppers, like mall-hopping or going for a film. The kids will demand a Jumbo Berry ice cone. All in all, it will be a family day for you.

#### TAURUS

Your unflinching punctuality, your insistence on following time schedules is due to be noticed and appreciated today. Your colleagues and superiors will be singing praises as soon as you arrive for work. If you are in an artistic or a creative profession, such as designing, journalism, multi media, you have a remarkably eventful and gratifying day ahead.

#### GEMINI

You will find yourself caught in two minds repeatedly, owing to your unpredictable mood swings. This will be the cause of a lot of mental stress. You can reduce your anxiety by talking out your issues with family members and experts. You need to take care of your health today, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesh's blessings in tow.

#### LEO

You will relentlessly try to find means to progress at the workplace today. You will remain steadfast in your resolutions. You will not allow those working under you to slack. You will need to let go of your inhibitions and fears to be happy in life. You will receive the benediction of highly placed superiors, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Confidently take on the challenges that in all likelihood will test your business abilities, especially the ones that are related to your investments and monetary matters. You will most probably come up with novel ideas to solve long-pending issues, and Ganesh says that this will be very effective.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will be busy in your work field today and will be able to attain your goals in your work field today. Your level of enthusiasm will be at its peak. Today you may be able to meet with a person from the opposite sex who will be your future partner. Ganesh showers you with his blessings always.

#### SCORPIO

You are a visionary and today you work towards building a successful future. But, expecting an instant result would be unfair. You need to have patience to bring in those dynamic changes in your life. Wait and watch, the patience would reap sweet fruits!

#### SAGITTARIUS

The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesh says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

#### CAPRICORN

You want to enhance your knowledge by exploring foreign shores, but luck hasn't favoured you yet. Ganesh predicts today to be a favourable day for you to try again for higher studies. If associated with the Stock Market or speculation, you are likely to make profits. You will come across many opportunities, but you need to identify and explore them to the fullest.

#### AQUARIUS

Are you facing a roadblock in your path? Make a minor change in your route, you will find a smooth and clear road once again, advises Ganesh. The efforts you have made in the past will come to fruition, today. Don't get satisfied with your current achievements, you still have a long way to keep working hard.

#### PISCES

Do not commit yourself to any large investments today. It is best to avoid speculative activities. For those who have a job, the co-operation of your colleagues will help you progress, says Ganesh.

## Ira's candid confession

**Mumbai:** She has fought clinical depression for some years now, but Ira Khan has emerged stronger from the battle.

Asked, if being the daughter of actor Aamir Khan and in the public eye must have had some impact on her mental health too, she agrees by saying, "It would be silly to say that growing up in the family I grew up in, did not affect my state of mind. Every single thing that happened in my life, did. So yes, 100 per cent being a part of the family I have has affected my mental health," she admits.

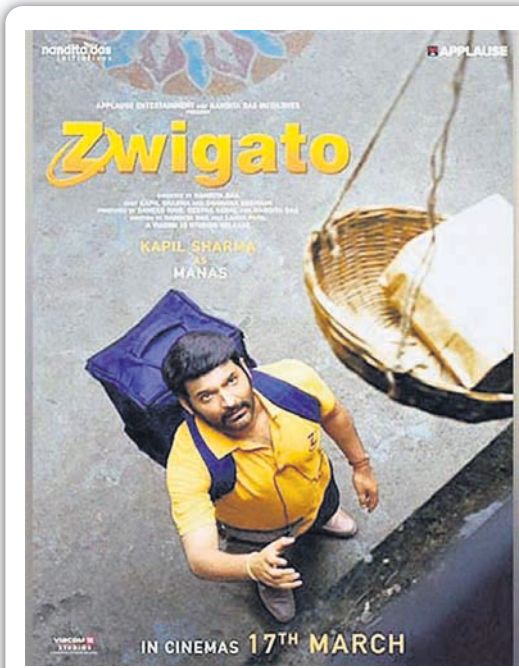
But using the position and privilege it comes with, Khan now spearheads a foundation which aims to help people facing mental health issues.

"I was afraid people would not understand me, when I was diagnosed. I had financial resources and also a support system, people who cared about me. Even then my depression and fear crippled me. I became scared

of that feeling, and I was also afraid what if there are other people also feeling it. So we started Agastu in 2021, but did absolutely nothing for a year and a half," adds Ira.

"I go around championing everyone's mental health, but have severe amount of stigma with my own. I was upset with myself. It took me long to get out of this one, and I finally joined Agastu in December," Khan reveals.

AGENCIES



## Nandita's Zwigato in Academy library

**Mumbai:** Actor turned director Nandita Das recently made a heartfelt movie called *Zwigato* with comedian Kapil Sharma. Even though the movie couldn't perform well at the box office, everyone appreciated Kapil's performance. The film has now earned a spot in the permanent core collection of the Library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Nandita took to Instagram to share the news and made a point to call out OTT players, saying that despite rave reviews, the movie still hasn't found buyers on OTT.

She wrote, "I was most surprised and delighted to receive an email from the Library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (The Oscars!) about wanting the script of *Zwigato* for their Permanent Core Collection. It is a happy reminder that the film is relevant and glad we made it. Hope OTT platforms are reading this! I think it's time to give the audience the opportunity to see *Zwigato*!"

The film premiered at Toronto Worldwide Film Celebrations in 2022 and is the story of a man who takes up the job of a food delivery agent after getting fired as the floor manager of a factory.

AGENCIES

## Nushratt shares her new passion

**Mumbai:** Nushratt Bharuccha has found a new passion for off-roading, of which the actress keeps her fans updated on her social media. Recently, the actress spoke about her experience and what makes her passionate about it.

Speaking to a leading digital news portal,

Nushratt said, "I really got bored of fitness regimes and what's in your bag etc kind of thing and I really wanted to do something new."

Elaborating more, she continues: "I didn't even know the meaning of the term off-roading. I didn't even know how to drive till a few months ago. I learnt how to drive and I bought myself an SUV and once I got that, my friends asked me if you have an SUV, how come you have never gone off roading? So I went to a school for it and they really tried hard to make me understand things."

While it rained in Mumbai June 25, Nushratt took her Thar car out for a drive. She shared a reel showing, of her training and getting down and dirty in this muddy weather.

The video has garnered a humongous response

from the actress' fans, who can't stop raving about her weekend adventures.

On the other hand, Nushratt will be seen in *Akelli and Chhorri 2*.

AGENCIES



## Suniel is also affected by rising tomato prices

**Mumbai:** The rising prices of tomatoes aren't just affecting regular households, but also movie stars like Suniel Shetty. In a new interview, the actor said that because he is also a restaurateur, he has been forced to compromise on the taste and quality of the tomatoes that he's purchasing because of the rising prices.

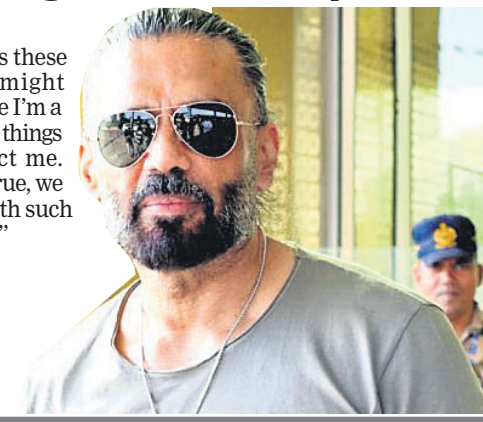
He said that contrary to public opinion, he has always been a haggler, and only buys produce at the best price. Suniel also spoke

about the various fruits and vegetables that he grows at his Khandala farmhouse, and said that unlike other actors who turn environmentally conscious during film promotions, he has always believed in living a simple lifestyle.

The *Main Hoon Na* actor added, "My wife Mana only buys vegetables for one or two days, we believe in eating fresh produce. By the prices for tomatoes are skyrocketing these days, and this has affected our kitchen as well. I eat

fewer tomatoes these days. People might think that since I'm a superstar, these things wouldn't affect me. But that isn't true, we have to deal with such issues as well."

AGENCIES

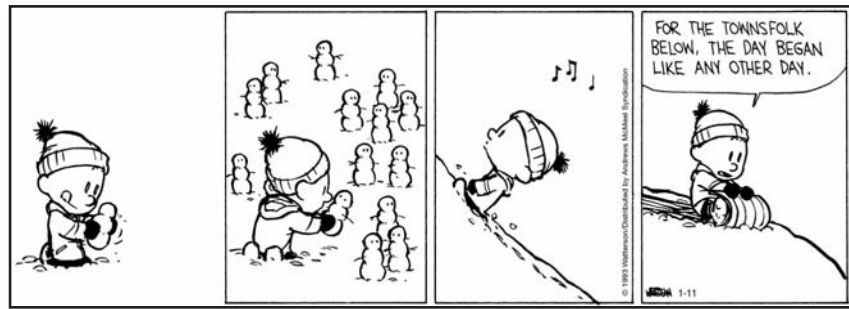


### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



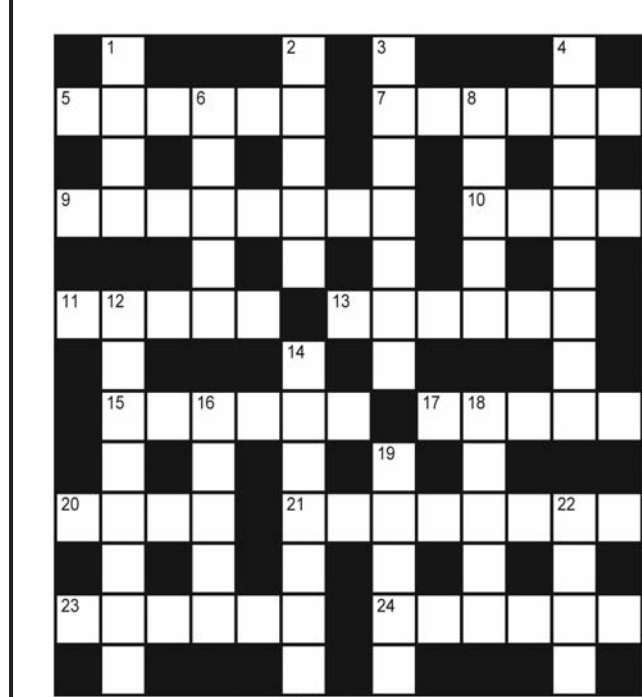
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



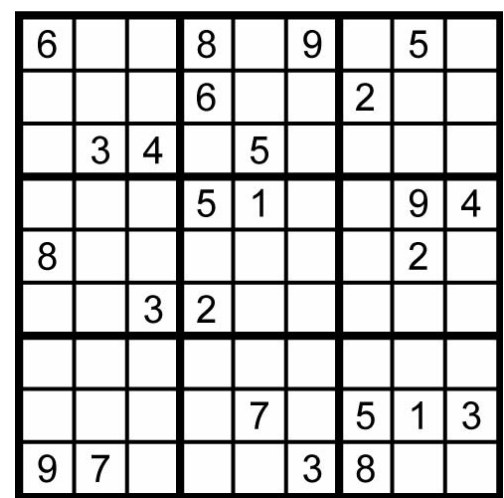
#### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 5 Lumberjack's cry
  - 7 Bear cats
  - 9 Special time
  - 10 Earthen pot
  - 11 Theatre worker
  - 13 Crude stone artifact
  - 15 Hair decoration
  - 17 Expression
  - 20 Mother of Ares
  - 21 Opine (5,3)
  - 23 Cruiseship parts
  - 24 Soak
  - 3 Personal view
  - 4 Hoopla
  - 6 Sword
  - 8 Ruth's mother-in-law
  - 12 Nicolas Cage played one
  - 14 Own
  - 16 Small goose
  - 18 Sidestep
  - 19 Compadre
  - 22 Cliff part
- Down**
- 1 Bluish-white metallic element
  - 2 Physically weak

#### SUDOKU

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

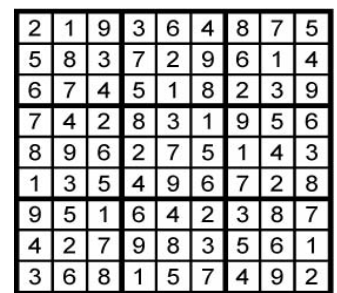


#### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

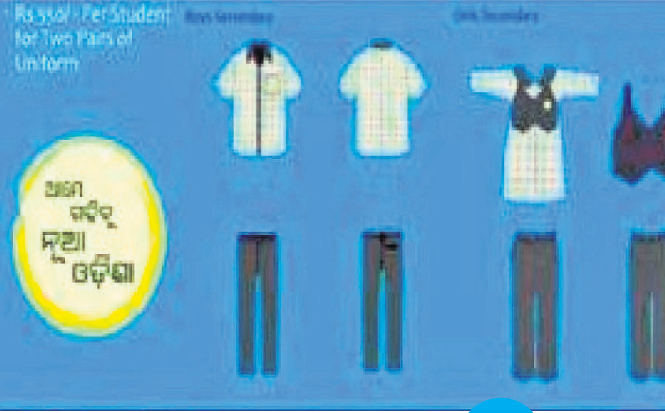
# downtown

## RAVENSHAW 2ND CAMPUS

Construction of the second campus of Ravenshaw University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University at Markat Nagar in Cuttack is nearing end, CMC Mayor Subhash Singh said after reviewing the progress of the work, Wednesday. The Mayor accompanied by the civic body's Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan and other senior officials took stock of the ongoing work in the morning. The second campus of Ravenshaw University is being built at a cost of ₹68 crore on 126 acre land. **PNN**



# School uniform colour change raises a stink



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** With the state government planning to change the colour of the uniform for high school students from white-blue to white-hunter green. Opposition parties questioned the choice of the colour and alleged that it was an attempt to influence the minds of students and parents. The BJP and Congress alleged that hunter green resembles the colour of the ruling BJD and that the colour is used in the party's flag and the background. The state government said that students of Class IX and X in all government and government-aided high schools would be provided with white and hunter green shirts in stripes, pants and green blazers respectively under 'Mukhyamantri Chhatra Chhatra Paridhan Yojana'.

Bhubaneswar MP and BJP leader Aparajita Sarangi said

**Schools have also been painted in green colour. Is the state government not indirectly drawing school children towards party ideology?**

**SURYABANSHI SURAJ | BJP MLA**

**The national flag also has green colour. Those, who have made sacrifices for the country, have selected green in the flag as the colour of progress**

**GOUTAM BUDDHA DAS | BJD SPOKESPERSON**

the government should have held consultations before changing the uniform colour. "It is suspected that the changed colour is aimed at influencing the minds of young kids and their parents," Sarangi said, adding that the government instead should take measures to change the quality of education in schools.

Taking to Twitter, BJP MLA Suryabanshi Suraj said, "...Is the state government not indirectly drawing schoolchildren towards party ideology?"

Suraj pointed out that schools have also been painted in green colour.

The Dhamnagar MLA also said that Odisha receives an annual grant of ₹240 crore for school uniforms under 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan'.

"Now, the Central funds are being diverted to Mukhyamantri Chhatra Chhatra Paridhan Yojana," he alleged.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) campaign panel chief and senior Congress leader Bijay Kumar Patnaik also denounced the government's plan to change the colour of school uniform.

"The state government should have thought twice before using green as it has political connotations. The ruling party is largely identified with green colour. The government should have kept schools above petty politics," Patnaik said.

Reacting on this issue, BJD spokesperson Goutam Buddha Das said, "The national flag also has green colour. Those, who have made sacrifices for the country, have selected green in the flag as the colour of progress."

However, BJP MLA Suryabanshi is only doing politics as he cannot understand its importance, he added.



**SCINTILLATING SHOW:** Dancers perform Odissi at the concluding day of 18th Guru Dakshina 2023 organised by Kalashram at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

# FinMin releases ₹707cr SDRF to state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, July 12:** The Union government Wednesday released ₹707.60 crore to Odisha for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The Union Ministry of Finance released a total of ₹7,532 crore to 22 states as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The ministry said that the government has relaxed guidelines

to provide immediate assistance to the states in the wake of heavy rains across the country. "The amount has been released as immediate assistance to states without waiting for the utilisation certificates against the amount provided to the states in the last financial year," the ministry said.

Highest amount of ₹1,420.80 crore was released to Maharashtra and ₹812 crore re-

leased to Uttar Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh, which is among the worst-affected states, was disbursed ₹180.40 crore.

Significantly, SDRF has been constituted in each state under Section 48(1)(a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The fund is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to notified disasters. The Union government con-

tributes 75 per cent to the SDRF for general states and 90 per cent for north-east and Himalayan states. The SDRF is to be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of notified calamities like cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and frost & cold wave.

# 4 students drown in Kuakhai river

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** Four students of a private management institute here drowned in Kuakhai river on the outskirts of the Capital city, police said Wednesday.

The incident took place Tuesday when a group of eight students went for a bath in the river near Dhabalahar village under Baliana block on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.

While two bodies were retrieved Tuesday, bodies of two other missing youths were found Wednesday.

The deceased have been identified as Aryan Mishra of Jamshedpur, Kumar Avinash of Cuttack, Rohit Parida of Balasore and Prateek Dhalasamanta of Balikuda.

Police said the eight friends from a private management college in the city went to the river for a bath when four among them slipped into deep waters and got swept away by the strong currents.

Fire services personnel along with some scuba divers carried out a search operation Tuesday. However, the operation was stopped at night and resumed Wednesday morning. "The youths had come to take bath in the river around 2pm. Police received information at around 5pm. Police and firefighters managed to retrieve the bodies of the missing students with the help of locals," Baliana police station IIC Jubaraj Swain said.

# Pilot digital crop survey in 4 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** The state government will hold a digital crop survey in four districts - Nayagarh, Bhadrak, Nuapada and Deogarh - from Kharif-2023 season on a pilot basis, an official said, Wednesday.

Odisha is among the 10 states identified by Centre's Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare department for the pilot digital crop survey in Kharif-2023. The state government has selected Nayagarh, Bhadrak, Nuapada and Deogarh for the pilot survey.

State's Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department organised a workshop at Krushi Bhawan here Wednesday to train tehsil-level trainers for the survey.

In order to prepare the district and block officials for proper and smooth implementation of the intervention with the help from Agriculture and Revenue department resources within



The digital crop survey aims to assess the plot-level crops grown in every season on each verified land and authenticate the data through physical inspection of geo-tagged photographs

the timeline (45 days), an in-person training session about the demonstration of mobile application was held during the workshop.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Secretary Arabinda Padhee inaugurated the training session, which was attended by around 150 trainers who received instructions on how to successfully execute the digital crop survey with the department's assistance.

The purpose of digital crop survey is to assess the plot-level crops grown in every season on

each verified land and authenticate the data through physical inspection of geo-tagged photographs.

To be more exhaustive, the crop survey system enables capture of crop information for each farmland, from within the boundary of the plot, sources said.

Various stakeholders are employed to plan, manage and conduct the survey. Surveyors appointed at the village level will be responsible for conducting the survey on ground by using a mobile application.

# KOTIA DISPUTE IN SC State gets 3 weeks to file affidavit

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, July 12:** The Supreme Court Wednesday granted three weeks time to Odisha to file the affidavit of service summons to Andhra Pradesh and Union of India with respect to a suit filed by Odisha over Kotia border dispute with Andhra Pradesh.

The case was listed before Registrar Sudhanshu Dhulia, who granted three weeks time to Odisha to file the affidavit of service of summons to the defendants. Odisha has filed an original lawsuit in the Supreme Court against AP over the border dispute related to Kotia group of villages.

The summons were issued to AP and Union of India. However, no one has appeared on behalf of the defendants.

# CM sanctions ₹20cr for Gupteswar facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday sanctioned ₹20 crore for transformation of Gupteswar shrine in Koraput district.

Officials said all-round development of the 'Shiva Peeth' would be undertaken to make it one of the prominent religious as well as heritage and tourist destinations.

On the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, ST Secretary VK Pandian had visited the Gupteswar shrine in February last and directed the district Collector to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for its development and beautification.

The Chief Minister sanctioned the fund as per the reports submitted by the Collector.



As per the DPR, development of the main road of the temple, electrification, laying of khondalite stones on the footpath, beautification of the entrance of the temple, facilities for drinking water, toilets, new shops for vendors, plantations, anti-landslide steps would be taken up without causing any harm to the natural beauty of the spot.

# Centre to sell tomatoes at 30 per cent discount

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 12:** In a first, the Centre will start selling tomatoes at discounted rates of around 30 per cent in retail markets here and a few other cities from Friday to provide relief to the consumers as the price of the kitchen staple is ruling high at over ₹200 per kg in some parts of the country.

Announcing the decision, the Consumer Affairs Ministry Wednesday said the sale of tomatoes will be undertaken by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF).

Tomatoes will be sold at discounted rates in Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region), Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. It will be available in cities, including Patna, Varanasi, Kanpur and Kolkata, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said.

"Tomatoes will be sold at a considerably lesser rate than the prevailing price in that area.

It will be at least 30 per cent lower than the prevailing market rate on that given day. The idea is to give relief to consumers," he said.

Both NAFED and NCCF will procure the perishable commodity from key producing centres of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, and sell it in major consumption centres, where retail prices have recorded maximum increase in the last one month, the ministry said in a statement.

Singh said, "It will be for the first time, we are going to procure and sell tomatoes in retail markets. We have done that for onion. It is going to be a challenging task as tomato is a highly perishable commodity"

In Delhi-NCR, NCCF will sell tomatoes through its own outlets, mobile vans, Mother Dairy's Safal and



Kendriya Bhandar outlets. In other cities, both NAFED and NCCF will sell the kitchen staple at discounted rates through their own outlets or will have local tie-up for the same, Singh said.

According to him, the sale of

tomatoes at discounted rates will continue till prices cool down, which is likely in the beginning of August.

The ministry said the centres for release of tomatoes have been identified on the basis of absolute increase in retail prices over the past one month where the prevailing prices are above

the all-India average. Key consumption centres in states having higher concentration of the identified centres will be further selected for the intervention, it said.

As per the ministry's data, average all-India retail price of tomato was ₹111.71 per kg Wednesday.

The maximum increase in retail price was ₹203 per kg in Bathinda, Punjab while the minimum rate was ₹34 per kg in Bidar in Karnataka.

Among the metros, retail price of tomato quoted highest in Delhi at ₹150 per kg, followed by Mumbai at ₹137 per kg, Kolkata at ₹137 per kg and Chennai at ₹123 per kg Wednesday.

Other cities where prices are ruling high are Bengaluru (₹95-118/kg), Gurgaon and Patna (₹140/kg), Jammu (₹147/kg), Kanpur (₹120/kg), and Varanasi (₹120/kg).

Tomato prices normally come under pressure during July-August and October-November period, which are generally the lean production months. Supply disruption caused due to mon-

soon has led to further spike in the rates.

"July coinciding with the monsoon season, adds to challenges related to distribution and increased transit losses adding to price rise," the ministry said.

Currently, the supplies coming to markets in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and some other states are mostly from Maharashtra, especially Satara, Narayangaon, and Nashik, which is expected to last till this month-end, it added.

Madanapalle (Chittoor) in Andhra Pradesh also has arrivals in reasonable quantities. The arrivals in Delhi-NCR are mainly from Himachal Pradesh and some quantity comes from Kolar in Karnataka, it added.

The ministry said the new crop arrivals are expected soon from the Nashik district.

In August, additional supply is expected to come from Narayangaon and Aurangabad belt. Arrivals from Madhya Pradesh are also expected to start.

"Prices are anticipated to cool down in the near future, accordingly," the ministry said.

**NAFED and NCCF will purchase the kitchen staple from key producing centres of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra**

BAHANAGA TRAGEDY

# NHRC seeks reports from Railway Board, Chief Secy



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought action taken reports (ATRs) from the Railway Board Chairman and state's Chief Secretary within four weeks on alleged violation of human rights of those travelling in the ill-fated trains involved in the June 2 Bahanaga tragedy due to negligence and failure on part of the railway authorities.

The NHRC move came while hearing a petition filed by rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy.

The petitioner has alleged that many bodies are yet to be identified after one month of the tragedy. Still many people are

people could not get the whereabouts of their near and dear ones travelling in the accident-hit trains June 2 evening.

Adequate measures should be taken to address the issues of those searching for their family members. Many of them are still waiting for bodies of their kin. As many as 42 bodies are yet to be identified, the petitioner informed the commission.

He urged the apex rights body for preventive, compensatory and rehabilitating action with some permanent solution to prevent such incidents and urged the commission to monitor the case till the last victim gets justice.

"The authorities shall also intimate the commission, if any, notice, order has been received by him/them in the instant matter from the State Human Rights Commission. If yes, a copy of such order be also sent to the commission within four weeks," read the July 11 order of the NHRC.

The commission has also transmitted a copy of the order to the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Secretary, calling upon him to inform the commission the date of cognisance, if any, taken at their end in the instant matter within four weeks.

searching for their near and dear ones who were travelling in the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express and Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express June 2 evening.

The petitioner also alleged that rights of deceased/victims were violated by the state government/railways as the authorities had failed to give proper treatment to bodies before bringing it to the morgues of hospitals in Bhubaneswar and Balasore.

The bodies were not properly preserved till identification owing to lack of adequate facilities and space crunch, the rights activist said. He urged the NHRC to take steps for rehabilitation of injured who may not work in the future due to the accident.

Tripathy alleged that many



**JOURNALISM FOR A CAUSE:** Paediatrician Mamata Panda speaks, in presence of senior journalists Sandeep Sahu and Debendra Suar, at a workshop on 'air pollution and climate change reporting' organised by SwitchON foundation at Press Club of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

# Computational thinking soon for students

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** As a part of their curriculum, high school students from across 8,860 government schools of the state will soon learn about computational thinking as the initiative is all set to be rolled out in schools from August this year.



The training, part of the 'Kaushali club curriculum for computational thinking,' will be implemented under the inspirational 5T High School Transformation scheme.

"Classes will be held twice a week through the clubs. The course includes a 30 hour curriculum with 25 marks devoted to its assessment. One teacher from each school will be trained on the club approach and teaching methods. The training of

314 master trainers will begin July 13 and these trainers will later train teachers of 8,860 schools," informed a government official.

School and Mass Education department led the initiative to introduce the 'Kaushali club curriculum' while Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangthan supported its development. Along with computing and coding, the other clubs include:

Life skills through sports, science and literature and library.

The department invited experts from Quest Alliance, Learning Link Foundation, and Raspberry Pi Foundation to develop the curriculum, which will include concepts like computing systems and networks, software tools and creating media, design thinking, data and information, and coding, among others.

Highlighting the importance of computational thinking, Md Azim ud Doula, Senior Programme Manager at Quest Alliance, said, "The curriculum places a strong emphasis on computational thinking, a foundational skill that cultivates problem-solving abilities, logical reasoning, and algorithmic thinking in students. This will also help students become

21st century ready."

The effort to introduce computational thinking in schools has been supported by Amazon through their Amazon Future Engineer programme, which envisions making problem-solving and critical thinking skills accessible to government school students. As part of this programme, as many as 1,860 teachers and 1.28 lakh students have gotten exposure to block-based coding and have been a part of hackathons, enabling them to build problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Speaking about how computational thinking is essential for students now, Anil Kumar Sandha, a teacher at Janata High School in Jiranga, says, "Learning about computational thinking will help students apply it to their everyday lives."

# Berhampur varsity to host 24th OBPC

**Bhubaneswar:** The 24th session of Odisha Bigyan 'O' Paribesh Congress (OBPC) is scheduled to be held at Berhampur University this year from November 18 to 19. The two-day conference will be organised under the joint auspices of Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and Berhampur University on the theme 'Environmental Challenges: Role of Science and Technology'. There will be in-depth discussion on environmental problems such as pollution, decline in forest cover, loss of biodiversity, global warming, climate change and natural disasters engendered by them. As these challenges are blowing out of proportion progressively, discussion will be held on the application of science and technology for combating their awful impacts.

# CONG HOLDS 'MAUN SATYAGRAH'

**Bhubaneswar:** As part of the Congress's nationwide protest against the disqualification of senior leader Rahul Gandhi from the membership of the Parliament, party functionaries in Odisha staged a 'Maun Satyagrah' (silent protest) here Wednesday. Wearing black badges on their mouths, AICC general secretary and Odisha in-charge A Chella Kumar, state Congress president Sarat Pattanayak and several other leaders took part in the protest.

"We held a 'Maun Satyagrah' as a mark of solidarity towards our leader Rahul Gandhi as well as to protest against the central government's act of throttling the voice of Opposition both inside and outside Parliament," Chella Kumar told reporters. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of not listening to the Opposition. "The PM hardly comes to Parliament. Whenever he comes, he delivers speeches and does not listen to anyone," he said.



**FOR A GREEN FUTURE:** A plantation-cum-awareness programme was held recently by Mahan Knowledge & Charitable Foundation under its flagship initiative 'Connect to Nature' at Chitrotapala river basin near Bisweshwar Mahadev Peeth, Salipur in Cuttack district

# STATE BEGINS PROCESS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** The Finance department has initiated the process for preparation of the supplementary budget for the year 2023-24, which is likely to be presented in the Assembly either in the monsoon or winter session.

Director of budget, Satyapriya Rath has recently written a letter to all departments asking those to submit the proposals by July 31, 2023.

Proposals for inclusion in the supplementary statement of expenditure are required to be submitted to the Planning &

Convergence department and Finance department strictly in accordance with the guidelines, he said. Rath said the priorities of the state government in the medium-term still remains to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through faster reduction of poverty, increasing farmers' income by crop diversification and direct benefit transfers, providing piped drinking water to all, making available quality affordable health care facilities, enabling quality education and skill development, providing quality physical infrastructure for improving economic activities. The govern-

ment is also in mission mode to empower women in every sphere of economic activities, modernise the health facilities at primary level and building world class tertiary healthcare facilities in the state and providing quality primary education at the village level, so that the state could achieve an inclusive growth, he pointed out.

He said the GSDP growth of the state will be 8 per cent in 2023-24 as projected at the time of formulation of annual budget, 2023-24. The departments were asked to expedite the pace of expenditure particularly capital spending.

# CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit filed with Notary public, Bargarh, I, Shreya Varda Agrawal, D/o. Bijay Kumar Agrawal, W.No.5, Masjid Lane, Bargarh declare that in my Passport (No. S6350259) my father's name wrongly mentioned as Bijay Agrawal instead of Bijay Kumar Agrawal. That Bijay Agrawal and Bijay Kumar Agrawal is one and same person.

By virtue of an Affidavit, Before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, I, ANWARUDDIN ABDAL QUADRI, S/o GOLAM MOHIUDDIN, VII-BANKASAH, P.O./DIST-BHADRAK declare that, my original name is ANWARUDDIN ABDAL QUADRI. In my H.S.C.E. Certificate issued by B.S.E. Odisha, my name is wrongly quoted as ANWARUDDIN ABDUL QUADRI. ANWARUDDIN ABDUL QUADRI AND ANWARUDDIN ABDAL QUADRI is same and one person.

Sd./- ANWARUDDIN ABDAL QUADRI

# Costs to cut sickle cell risk beyond reach of most Indians: Lancet

The costs required to reduce the risk of sickle cell disease (SCD) is beyond the reach of most individuals in India and sub-Saharan Africa, where the disease is most prevalent, says a new Commission published in the Lancet Haematology journal.

The Commission publishes shortly after a recent study in the same journal found that the highest burden of sickle cell disease (SCD) disability was concentrated in western and central sub-Saharan Africa and India.

The authors of the Commission also noted that there is a shortage of healthcare and scientific professionals with expertise in SCD, as well as a lack of trials aimed at developing novel treatments in these countries.

SCD is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that affect

hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen through the body. The condition affects more than 20 million people worldwide.

The recent study suggested there were 3,76,000 (3.76 lakh) global SCD-related deaths in 2021, compared to 34,400 cause-specific deaths.

"Whereas the majority of major causes of death are decreasing, the number of deaths due to sickle cell disease is increasing globally," said chair of the Commission, Frederic Piel from Imperial College London, UK.

"The costs required to reduce the risk of sickle cell disease is beyond the reach of most individuals in sub-Saharan Africa and India where the disease is most prevalent - it needs to be directly funded by governments," said Piel. According to the Commission, reducing the burden of SCD requires substan-



REDUCING THE BURDEN OF SCD REQUIRES SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING DATA-COLLECTION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND TRAINING, AND DOING SO WILL POSITIVELY IMPACT THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PATIENTS AND FAMILIES WORLDWIDE

tial financial and political commitment to improving data-collection, diagnosis, treatment and training, and doing so will positively impact the lives of millions of patients and families worldwide.

With over half a million babies born with SCD in 2021, the

Commission highlights how newborn screening for SCD can lead to babies with the disease receiving life-changing treatment before symptoms develop and calls for all babies worldwide to be tested for SCD by 2025 to prevent long-term complications of the disease.

A recent study had found that the highest burden of sickle cell disease (SCD) disability was concentrated in western and central sub-Saharan Africa and India.

The authors also noted that there is a shortage of healthcare and scientific professionals with expertise in SCD, as well as a lack of trials aimed at developing novel treatments in these countries.

The authors also shine a light on the inequitable treatment of SCD. Penicillin, methods to protect against malaria, the drug hydroxyurea and blood transfusions all have good evidence to show they reduce deaths and long-term consequences of SCD, they said.

However, access and use of these treatments and reduction methods is poor, particularly so in low and middle-income countries where most people with SCD live, the researchers said.

"There is a shortage of healthcare and scientific professionals with expertise in SCD, as well as a lack of trials aimed at developing novel treatments," the authors of the paper said.

"This problem is particularly severe in most of sub-Saharan Africa and India, and the Commission argues there is an urgent need for trials specifically designed for people in these countries," they said.

The Commission says that in the context of increasing global inequalities, partly driven by racism, previous calls for action on SCD have been largely ineffective.

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# Jumbos vulnerable in Keonjhar as 11 die in 11 yrs on rly track

In the latest mishap, two elephants died after being hit by a goods train near Brahmanipal under Anandapur forest division in the wee hours of Tuesday



rangers and DFO are monitoring these squads. The squad members track the presence and movement of elephants in a particular area and send messages to avert any mishap or man-animal conflict.

As a result, forest officials working in various ranges get to know about the presence of elephant herd. People are alerted in advance if the herd is moving towards human habitat. The rail authorities are also alerted if the herd is on move towards railway track. On getting the information, the railway authorities immediately alert the loco pilots.

Accordingly, they control the speed of the train and cautiously move on the track by blowing horns in frequent intervals.

Similarly, the Forest department has identified elephant corridors in various areas. As most of the rail routes pass through forested areas, the forest officials identify elephant corridors and help the mammals cross the rail tracks safely. In several cases, trains are halted on the track if they happen to see elephants crossing the track.

The jumbo herd often loses sight of their way and strays here and there due to lack of food in the forests, rampant mining, illegal parking on the roads and highways due to high sounding horns, bright lights, movement of vehicles on national highways and railway tracks.

They get agitated when people try to drive them away from one village to another village. They also become aggressive when they fail to find a safe habitat.

May 19, 2022. Later, a female elephant had died on the railway track near Ramachandrapur village under Sadar block, November 22, 2018.

Another female elephant had died in train accident near Nilakantheshwar under Ghatagaon block, March 22, 2013. Four jumbos including two female elephants and a calf had died after being hit by a goods train near Bandhubeda village under Joda block, August 15, 2012.

In the latest mishap, two elephants died after being hit by a goods train near Brahmanipal under Anandapur forest division in the wee hours of Tuesday. The Forest and Railways authorities are conducting meetings in regular intervals and forming policies to avert mishaps on the track. However, death of the elephants is on the rise due to increasing mishaps on the railway track.

The Forest department has formed elephant squads to track the movement of the animals. Senior forest officials like forest



MONSOONAL DELICACY: Tribal women selling wild and colourful mushrooms collected from hills and forests in Keonjhar town, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## Man awarded 3-yr RI for bribery

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Phulbani, July 12:** Phulbani special vigilance judge Samarbilas Behera while hearing a bribery case, Wednesday, convicted the accused for bribery and sentenced him to 3 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) along with fine of ₹5,000.

In case the penalty amount is not deposited by the accused, he will have to serve an additional 6-month imprisonment, the judge ordered.

The accused was identified as Chaturbhujia Khamari, who was working as head clerk at Harabhanga community education office, Boudh.

As per reports, Koushalya Tamukia of Bhabapur village

under Harbhanga police limits had applied for a family pension in the name of her daughter-in-law Narmada in 2019. However, the head clerk had demanded ₹5,000 bribe for the same.

Koushalya then approached the Vigilance department and the sleuths laid a trap for Chaturbhujia. He was caught red-handed while receiving the bribe amount from Koushalya, December 4. Vigilance sleuths arrested Chaturbhujia and seized the chemical-laced notes from his possession. A case (33/19) was registered at Vigilance department, Berhampur. The judge delivered the verdict after hearing from 12 eyewitnesses. Special PP VV Ramdas was pleading the case from the government's side.

## 206 kg ganja seized from train's AC coach; 5 from UP held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, July 12:** Five smugglers were arrested here after seizure of 14 ganja-loaded bags weighing 206 kg from their custody in a train's AC coach, Wednesday.

The accused persons identified as Jaffruddin Mallick, Imran Khan, Aslam Khan, Taheer Khan and Adnan Mohammed are from Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. The approximate cost of the seized contraband would be over ₹20 lakh, said Excise superintendent Abhiram Behera.

As per reports, the contra-



band which was kept in 14 bags under different seats in AC coach number -1 of Visakhapatnam-Durg Express was being smuggled smartly by the five accused.

The bags after being loaded at Parvatipuram station in Andhra Pradesh were transported to Raipur in Chhattisgarh and from there, smuggled to Uttar Pradesh, the Excise de-

partment came to know after investigation.

The arrested smugglers were seated in different seats in the coach. During patrolling by the Railway Police led by ASI JS Narayan, the search team came to know about these 14 bags loaded with ganja and arrested the five smugglers inside the train. When the train reached Rayagada station the smugglers were handed over to the Excise department by the Railway Police.

The Excise department then registered three cases in this regard, bearing case numbers, (59/23, 90/23 and 48/23).

## Man dead, daughter critical in shooting

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Polsara, July 12:** A man was shot dead while his daughter sustained bullet injuries after a member of the latter's in-laws fired at the former here in Ganjam district, Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Bijay Kumar Behera, 55, of Komanda village under Polsara police limits, police said.

Bijay's daughter Gayatri Behera sustained critical injuries in the incident while trying to save her father, they added. Sources said that the deceased's daughter Gayatri was married to Santosh Behera of Sodak

village. Santosh was residing at Polsara and earning his livelihood by opening a tailoring shop.

Bijay had been to his daughter's house on some work, Wednesday, where a fight erupted among the family members over some issue. Later, Bijay's brother-in-law Prasant Kumar Behera barged into their house and shot dead Gayatri's father. Gayatri also sustained bullet injuries while trying to save her father. Family members admitted the two at Polsara hospital where doctors pronounced Bijay dead. Prasant went absconding after the incident. Later, police arrested him while he was trying to flee the area, police added.

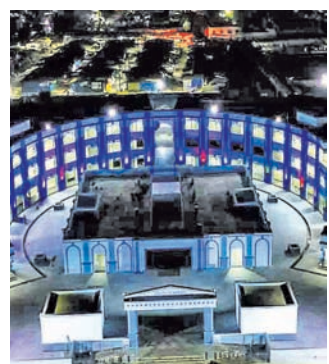
## 111 beneficiaries allotted shops at Panposh complex

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, July 12:** The Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has distributed shops to 111 beneficiaries in the ultra-modern shopping complex at Panposh. A piece of news in this regard was published in Orissa POST, June 19.

The beneficiaries got their shops in the first phase through a hurriedly called lottery, which was held Tuesday evening on the library premises of Udit Nagar. Four beneficiaries who opted out of this would get shops of their choice on the first floor soon. The lottery was done with total transparency in the presence of RMC Commissioner Subhankar Mohapatra and other senior officials. Either the owner or anyone authorised by him participated in the lottery.

The market complex was initiated by the then Congress government in 1985 with 36 shops on each floor of the building. But, given the quality of construction, the condition of the shops started deteriorating and became uninhabitable by the mid-90s. A new complex close to it was constructed by the then Janata government taking the number of shops to 150. However, due to



poor quality work and lack of maintenance, condition of the shops started deteriorating again. In fact, the 36 shops on the first floor became hazardous for any activity and some of them were abandoned.

The shopkeepers' association continued to draw the attention of the then Rourkela Municipality. Meanwhile, Rourkela became a part of the smart city project. Decision was taken to construct a modern shopping complex and it was said that top priority would be given to the original shopkeepers and then to others.

President of market committee Umakanta Pandey said, "We are happy that finally the beneficiaries have got their shops."

## Despite protests, construction of OAV begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, July 12:** Despite threats of hindrances, the construction of the Adarsha Vidyalaya here is progressing smoothly under heavy police protection. Initially there was apprehension that the displaced persons may resist the development of the school. However, it has fizzled out.

The Mining department of the state government is building the school. The school is meant for rural students, but is being built in an urban locality. The Odisha government has decided to empower rural kids in mining-affected areas with proper education. As a result, a decision has been taken to develop such Adarsha Vidyalayas. One school has already come up in Sundargarh while construction of another one will soon start in Keonjhar.

The construction of the Adarsha Vidyalaya here started three days back. It is being set up close to the OMFED factory just behind



the airport here. On the first day locals and displaced persons strongly protested against the construction of the school. "We will not allow the construction as long as our demands are not met," said a resident of the Luhakera village, which is incidentally an adopted village of the RSP. Similar sentiments were echoed by oth-

ers in the crowd, which numbered around a hundred.

The stiff opposition brought back memories of the development of the agriculture centre which had to be abandoned. Then Sundargarh MLA George Tirkey had orchestrated the protests which led to the project getting shelved. Tirkey had alleged that the dis-

placed persons were not getting their dues and were being neglected by the RSP.

The Mining department has been allocated 16 acres of land for the school by the state government. It will be for underprivileged kids from mining-affected areas and the local community. Despite the protests, the administration has adopted a tough stance. Since the last couple of days, heavy police deployments have been made and the construction of the boundary wall has started.

Speaking to media Rourkela tehasildar, Chandrakant Mallick said, "We will take strong action if anyone tries to interrupt work or tries to cause any kind of disruption. We have deployed a large posse of policemen for this only."

Mallick also pointed out that the school will be beneficial for the kids of those opposing the project. "These people should not get carried away by baseless instigations and accusations," Mallick opined.

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at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Champatimunda, Badakera, Angul - 759 132, Odisha.  
For registration, please contact: Ashis Pattanayak, Mobile: 78944 07708.  
Registration is compulsory.  
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.  
It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.  
No walk-ins will be allowed.

Visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-complete-a-one-time-know-your-customer-kyc-requirement-to-invest-in-mutual-funds>. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website ([www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html](http://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html)). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and/or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints on <https://scores.gov.in> if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMC's. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status.  
MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

**WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION**  
No. B-469: e-mail: [bhadrakrnbdivision@gmail.com](mailto:bhadrakrnbdivision@gmail.com)  
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) BDK-5/ 2023-24 No.4339/Dt.7.7.2023

- Nature of work - Building Works (Civil)
- Number of works - 2 Nos. Building Works
- Amount put to Tender - Rs.12,69,520/-, 12,28,528/-
- Class of Contractor - "C" & "D"
- Date & Time of availability - Dt.14.07.2023 at 11.00 AM of bid document in the portal
- Last Date / Time of receipt - Dt.21.07.2023 upto 5.00 PM of bid in the portal
- Date of opening of bid - Dt.24.07.2023 at 11.30 AM
- Name & Address of the Office Inviting Bid - Bhadrak (R&B) Division

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in". All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer Bhadrak (R&B) Division, Bhadrak OIPR-34079/11/0006/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BALASORE**  
e-Procurement Notice for Building Works  
Bid Identification No. e-procurement Notice No. 05/ EERW-II/IB/ 2023-24  
No. O-345: 1. Name of the work :- Building works, 2. Total no of works :- 01 No., 3. Estimated cost :-Rs.12.61 Lakhs, 4. Class of Contractor :- "D" & "C" Class, 5. Time of Completion :-01 (One Calendar Month), 6. Cost of Tender Paper through online:- Rs.6,000.00, 7. Other Details:-As per DTCN.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o. Executive Engineer, R.W.Divn-II, Balasore (Single Cover)
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Balasore	E-TCN No.05 of 2023-24	13.07.2023 at 05.00 P.M.	21.07.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	20.07.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.	24.07.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Balasore OIPR-25052/11/0007/2324

**भौतिकी संस्थान / INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS**  
(परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग का स्वायत्त अनुसंधान संस्थान, भारत सरकार)  
(An Autonomous Research Institute of Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. Of India)  
डाक घर : सैनिक स्कूल, भुवनेश्वर - 751005, भारत  
P.O: Sainik School, Bhubaneswar-751005, India, <http://www.iopb.res.in>

**पीएच.डी. में प्रवेश के लिए सूचना / Ph.D. ADMISSION - 2023**

भौतिकी संस्थान, भुवनेश्वर, भारत सरकार, परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग का एक स्वायत्तशासी अनुसंधान संस्थान है। संस्थान की अनुसंधान गतिविधियाँ संघनित पदार्थ भौतिकी विज्ञान, नाभिकीय भौतिकी विज्ञान तथा उच्च ऊर्जा भौतिक विज्ञान और अंतर-विषय क्षेत्रों जैसे कि जैविक भौतिक विज्ञान, जटिल प्रणालियाँ, नैनो विज्ञान, क्वान्टम विज्ञान आदि के क्षेत्रों में वैज्ञानिक एवं प्रायोगिक भौतिकी पर विस्तारित है। Institute of Physics Bhubaneswar is an autonomous research institution of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India. The research activities in the Institute span theoretical and experimental research in the areas of condensed matter physics, nuclear physics, high energy physics, and interdisciplinary areas such as biological physics, complex systems, nano-science, materials science, etc.

संस्थान अगस्त 2023 से शुरू होने वाले भौतिकी विज्ञान में डॉक्टरेल पाठ्यक्रम के लिए उन भारतीय नागरिकों से आवेदन प्रारम्भित करता है जो योर्गे निम्नलिखित अहर्तायें पूरा करते हैं / The Institute invites application for its regular Doctoral Programme in Physics starting from August, 2023. Indian nationals satisfying both the following criteria are eligible to apply :-

- एक वैध सीएसआईआर-जेआरएफ/यूसीसी-जेआरएफ फेलोशिप / A valid CSIR-JRF / UGC-JRF fellowship (अथवा OR) वैध जीएटीइ स्कॉर 500 तक रैंक / A valid GATE score with rank up to 500 (अथवा OR) जेईएसटी-2023 रैंक 500 तक (केवल पीएच.डी. के लिए) / JEST - 2023 rank up to 500 (for Ph.D. only)
- भौतिकी विज्ञान में स्नातकोत्तर सहित कम से कम 55 प्रतिशत अंक (कुल मिलाकर) अथवा उसके समतुल्य सीजीपीए सहित उत्तीर्ण (जो उम्मीदवार 2023 में एमएस.सी. की अंतिम परीक्षा में शामिल हुए हों और ऊपर उल्लेखित मानदंडों को पूरा करते हों वे आवेदन कर सकते हैं। हालाँकि, यदि उन्हें चुना गया तो उनका प्रवेश अनन्तिम माना जाएगा, न्यूनतम मानदंडों को पूरा करना होगा और एम.एस.सी. प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा) / M.Sc. in Physics with a minimum of 55% marks (in aggregate) or equivalent cumulative CGPA. (Candidates appearing for M.Sc. in 2023, and who satisfy the criteria mentioned above can apply. However, if selected, their admission will be provisional subject to satisfying the minimal criteria and submission of the M.Sc. certificate)

अधिक जानकारी के लिए और ऑनलाइन आवेदन के लिए कृपया संस्थान की वेबसाइट पर जाएं / For details and online application please visit <https://iopb.res.in/phd2023>.  
ऑन लाइन आवेदन पर स्वीकार करने की अंतिम तिथि / The last date of applying online is 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023. चयन के लिए अन्तिम तारीख है / Dates of selection are 31<sup>st</sup> July - 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2023. चयन लिखित परीक्षा एवं/अथवा साक्षात्कार पर आधारित होगा / The selection will be based on written test and interview.  
सभी शार्टलिस्टेड उम्मीदवारों से सलाह दी जाती है कि परिणाम घोषित होने के तुरंत बाद पीएच.डी. पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश के लिए तैयार हो कर आएँ। इसलिए, अपने साथ सभी मूल प्रमाण पत्र, मार्कशीट, आधार कार्ड, पासपोर्ट आकार की तस्वीरें और अन्य सभी संबंधित दस्तावेज ले कर आना होगा। 31 जुलाई-2 अगस्त, 2023 के दौरान (लिखित परीक्षा और साक्षात्कार के लिए) दस्तावेज सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं कराई जाएगी। / All the short-listed candidates are advised to come prepared for admission to the Ph.D. programme immediately after the declaration of results. Therefore, they need to carry all the original certificates, marksheets, AADHAR card, passport size photographs, and all other relevant documents with them. No accommodation will be provided during the period of 31<sup>st</sup> July - 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2023 (i.e. for written test and interview).  
किसी भी प्रश्न के लिए कृपया लिखें / For any query, please write to: [phd-2023@iopb.res.in](mailto:phd-2023@iopb.res.in)

निदेशक / Director



The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our own being.

SRI AUROBINDO



## End the Cruelty

One day, we may look back on 2023 as the year when it became apparent that the gigantic industry of raising animals for food was heading the same way as the industry that for most of the twentieth century dominated how we record and store images. Is this year the equivalent, for animal production, of 1989, when the first digital camera aimed at the general public was launched?

There are signs that it might be, starting with the Israeli Ministry of Health's approval, in April, of a dairy product that does not come from cows or other lactating animals. Remilk, the manufacturer, is a company on an ambitious mission: "creating dairy that is a far superior version of itself."

Forty years ago, Genentech used then-novel recombinant DNA techniques to create genetically modified bacteria that would produce human insulin for diabetics that was better, and less expensive, than insulin obtained from the pancreases of pigs. In a similar manner, Remilk copies DNA from cows into yeasts so that they create a product that is, Remilk says, identical to cow's milk, minus the lactose that makes milk hard to digest for some people, and also free of cholesterol, antibiotics, and growth hormones.

Remilk claims that its dairy products are identical in taste, texture, and cost to traditional dairy products, while using only 1% of the land and 5% of the water, and emitting just 4% of the pollutants. (Cows are major emitters of methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas.) If that is not enough reason to try the product, consider that making dairy products without cows also eliminates the standard practice of impregnating cows every year and taking their calves away soon after birth so that the milk is available for humans.

Another momentous development came in June, when the United States Department of Agriculture approved two separate applications, one from Good Meat, a division of Eat Just, and the other from UPSIDE Foods, to sell chicken grown from chicken cells. Again, no living organism is involved, and the original cell sample can be taken without adding even one more death to the more than 70 billion chickens killed each year for their meat.

The US was not the first to approve cellular meat, also known as cultured or cultivated meat. Cultured chicken has been on sale in Singapore since 2020, but so far it has been unable to compete on price with chicken produced by the conventional method of crowding tens of thousands of birds into a shed, raising them for 6-7 weeks, and then slaughtering them. But with the much larger US market now beckoning, the hope is that economies of scale will drive down the price and drive up production.

Research and development in cultured meat is now a global phenomenon. The Dutch company Mosa Meat was the pioneer, demonstrating a cultured hamburger in 2013, but predicting that it would take a decade to bring the product to market. That prediction looks accurate, with Mosa opening an expanded production facility in May and expecting to begin sales in Singapore soon, and in other markets as it gains approval.

In May, the China Meat Food Comprehensive Research Center demonstrated its interest in cellular meat at a major forum for technological innovation in Beijing. The Beijing Daily reported that the Center's technology grows animal muscle cells in vitro and uses 3D printing to form them into steaks or chicken breast, with a nutritional content identical to that of meat from animals.

If even part of this R&D achieves its aims, the consequences will be far more significant than the displacement of the film industry. After all, raising animals takes up most of the world's agricultural land—including grazing land and the land used to grow feed crops—and it is also a major contributor to climate change. If the dramatic changes heralded by recent developments in meat and dairy production occur, most of the Earth's land surface will benefit, and cellular seafood could save the oceans from the depletion of many fish stocks.

Given that meat consumption continues to rise as countries become more affluent—with China the textbook example—a more efficient form of producing meat and other animal products is desperately needed. Vaclav Smil, a world authority on food, energy, and the environment, has listed five categories of "undeniable burdens" implied by reliance on growing crops to feed animals. They include monocultures for growing feed crops, with increased soil erosion; inefficient conversion of plants to animal products, especially in cattle; generation of huge volumes of concentrated animal waste that preclude adequate recycling to crops; greenhouse-gas emissions from feed crops and animal metabolism; and animal-welfare concerns related to the treatment of a vast number of confined animals.

Of course, if everyone just switched to a plant-based diet, we could eliminate all these burdens, and, as a recently released report shows, reduce the risk of new pandemics. Despite the encouraging rise in plant-based eating, however, a complete switchover doesn't seem likely to happen anytime soon. It will be easier to persuade people to avoid meat from animals if they can still eat meat and other animal products that taste like the products they know, but do not require raising, feeding, and killing a live animal. And that nourishes the hope that we will soon see the end of a cruel, inefficient, destructive, and dangerous industry.

The writer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the charity The Life You Can Save.

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### WISDOM CORNER

The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark. MICHELANGELO

Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold. LEO TOLSTOY

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life. VICTOR HUGO

### WORDSWORTH

#### Lukewarm

The word has been spelled in all sorts of different ways down the centuries, including low-warm, loo-warm (a necessity in our house), lewke-warm and luckwarm. The first part was mainly in dialect use and transmitted orally, so the spelling only settled down to our modern version in the eighteenth century. Luke has, of course, nothing to do with the given name. It comes from an Old English adjective hléow that has modern relatives in Dutch and German. It may be linked to hlō, shelter or lee, and also to another Old English word meaning debilitated that developed into lew, weak or wan. To be lukewarm is to be only weakly warm, tepid. An odd sidelight is that from the thirteenth century, luke by itself could mean lukewarm, as could lew (the English Dialect Dictionary reported a century ago that it was then very widely used in various spellings throughout England, Scotland and Ireland). So you could argue that lukewarm means "warm warm".

# JOB PROSPECTS BLEAK

## FOCUS ECONOMY

There is growing chorus over the economy's resilience and the new growth trajectory fired by public spending, reforms, digitisation and the like. This is bolstered further by the projection of the IMF that the country is the fastest growing major economy in the world. The resilience of the economy cannot be doubted, but the over-enthusiasm needs to be seriously considered due to certain developments such as inflation, inadequate consumption growth and the lack of job opportunities.



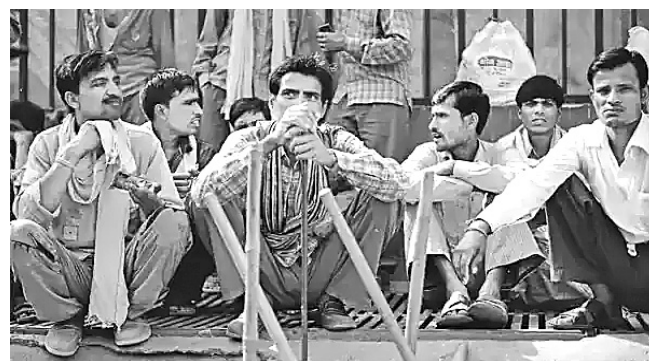
Dhurjati Mukherjee

**THE CONSUMPTION SLOWDOWN IS PART OF A LONGER TREND AND THIS, NO DOUBT, IS NOT CONDUCTIVE FOR A GROWING ECONOMY**

A Finance Ministry report rightly cautioned that it is no time to rest on laurels nor risk diluting the painstakingly and consciously achieved economic stability. Though the report stated that rural demand is also on the path to recovery with robust growth in two and three wheelers, this is possibly not the case in most parts of India.

Final consumption expenditure, adjusted for inflation, is slower at 4.5% on average compared to a corresponding pre-pandemic 6.2%, which itself had been a sharp fall from the successive annual growth of 8% before. What is surprising is that government consumption grew slower on average in the last three years at 1.9% contrasting poorly with the robust 7.5% three-year average growth recorded before the pandemic.

However, manufacturing has grown faster after the pandemic at an average 5% compared to 3.3% earlier. Also, construction segment increased pace by a similar magnitude. Apart from these sectors, the share of agriculture in overall value-added stands enlarged after the pandemic with an increase in workers' engagement in this sector. Though these are quite positive attributes, the quarterly GDP data displays signs of fading demand, mainly due to inflation. Private consumption



The trends that have been manifest over the years with centralised administrative machinery may not augur well for deprived sections that have little education or skill training

contracted -3.2% over the previous quarter, slowing down to almost half its rate of growth a year ago.

The consumption slowdown is part of a longer trend and this, no doubt, is not conducive for a growing economy. According to a recent RBI report, personal consumption is slowing down due to inflation and, as a result, businesses are not making significant investments despite increased capacity utilisation.

The not-very-encouraging role of the private sector vis-à-vis investments is also another area of concern. They are more interested in sectors such as education, health and construction where investments are sure to reap dividends. Added to all this is, of course, the global situation with prospects of increasing exports not bright and possibilities of the country not achieving the target remain.

Meanwhile, exports declined for the fourth consecutive month by 10.3% y-o-y to \$34.98 billion in May while the trade deficit widened to a five-month high of \$22.12 billion, according to Commerce Ministry. Further, the contribution of merchant

disse exports may waver as several of India's trade partners witness an economic slowdown. In such a scenario the projection of Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal that Indian exports are expected to reach US\$ 1 trillion by 2030 may not be a reality.

Despite lot of talk regarding investment and manufacturing, the fear of absorption of surplus Indians into the job market remains high on the agenda. A report indicated that jobs in the country's PSUs decreased from 16.90 lakh in 2014 to 14.60 lakh in 2022. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi questioned, and very rightly, that is it possible that employment opportunities decrease like this in a progressive country? He added that "those who made a false promise of creating two crore new jobs every year wiped out two lakh existing jobs"! Though statistics for the private sector are not available, the situation appears to be dark.

There are various reasons for the failure in tackling unemployment and underemployment. Primarily, it must be admitted that the country has not been able to create enough

manufacturing jobs in labour-intensive sectors. The type of education imparted in schools and colleges are yet to make desired changes to deliver employable graduates, barring a creamy layer. And finally the trend towards computerisation and adoption of advanced technology, both in administration and operations, has brought down the requirement of jobs.

At same time, though the RBI governor is optimistic about controlling inflation and recently stated that the central bank will strive to get headline inflation to its 4% target, he flagged El Niño as a challenge in its efforts. Das stated that the economy will grow at 6.5% in FY24 as estimated by the RBI though other agencies have put the figure at around 6.3%.

This optimism may hold well for the buoyant capital market but not for food inflation which has shown rapid increase, thereby putting a burden on the poor and marginalised sections of society. If El Niño affects the Indian sub-continent, even with 20% less rainfall, agricultural production would be affected, and food prices may further rise.

The positive trends in the economy after the pandemic have unfortunately not benefited all sections of population. It is only the upper and middle-income sections of society who have derived benefits from so-called reforms.

Though economists project that at 7% growth rate India will become by 2047 a \$19 trillion economy with a per capita income of over \$10,000, the moot question that arises is how much this will benefit the poorer sections. The trends that have been manifest over the years with centralised administrative machinery may not augur well for deprived sections that have little education or skill training. This needs greater attention.

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## SPECTRUM CULTURE

# Artificial boundaries of linguistic uniqueness

Eric Hobsbawm, a respected historian of modern Europe, while studying the relationship between history and nationalism noted the former is to latter what "poppy is to a heroin addict." To continue this analogy further, the present developments in India would testify that not only has the heroin addict gulped down the poppy seeds, but fantasies conjured thereafter have now been legitimised and are being regarded as history. In other words, the intellectual canvas of the country is now tainted by a specific kind of nationalist discourse that obfuscates a comprehensive view of historical events. Alongside this has also emerged a strong cultural sub-nationalism, which either stands against the dominant nationalist lines, or becomes an ally to it. However, at its root they are an attempt in propagating a disproportionately persuasive argument to build a common identity, and often so by omitting another. In the recent past such a re-emergence—specifically of cultural sub-national sentiments—has occurred in Odisha. Although the historical precincts which led to its formation in the year 1936 were a radical engagement with ideas of identity, as well as language, and raised defensible questions, its impact on the domain of literature in the recent years—more particularly for literary history—has the potential to stunt any imagination of a collective world that once existed.



Abinash Dash Choudhury

**THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF STUDYING LANGUAGES AS COMPETING ENTITIES, OR SOMETIMES EVEN ANTAGONISING ONE AT THE BEHEST OF ANOTHER IS A RESULT OF AN UNCRITICAL APPROPRIATION OF THE EUROPEAN MODEL**

The conceptual framework of studying languages as competing entities, or sometimes even antagonising one at the behest of another is a result of an uncritical appropriation of the European model. The European world of literature was weaponised to develop nationalist sentiments of "Englishness" or "Germanness." In the later part of nineteenth-century Europe, however, Hugo Meltzl—the Transylvanian comparatist—warned that such a system was based on a "national principle," which was a fall-out of literary jingoism and promoted an ideological function of superiority that was deplorable for any serious study of literature. The nineteenth-century linguistic growth in India, nevertheless, continued within such conditions which led to creation of artificial boundaries of linguistic uniqueness as well as a conscious purgation of "inferior" dictions to build a hierarchy amongst languages, some

of which were fit for literary creation, and some not.

But it is imperative to remember that this insular approach was not the norm only a few centuries ago. Let us turn to one such example to illustrate this case. Salabega, the seventeenth-century Bhakti poet, is well-known and much revered in the Odia consciousness. Sources reveal that he was the son of Lal Beg—alternatively, Jahangir Quli Khan—who officiated as the Subahdar of Bengal province for a very short period between 1607 and 1608, and married an unnamed Brahmin woman, by force, during a raid that occurred in Dandamukundapur village in the vicinity of Puri. Although Salabega has emerged as a celebrated figure of religious syncretism and pluralist ethos of the Odia world, the linguistic aspects of his oeuvre remain buried. In other words, it is barely known that the same Salabega—an exemplar bhakt of Jagannath—composed paeans not only in Odia, but also in Brajapoli and Bangla. Nilamani Mishra's authoritative biography of Salabega attests to the fact that it was only natural for him to have access to Hindi and Urdu as languages, too, due to his

Mughal association. However, the most obvious need for a comprehensive study of migratory practices under the Vaishnava influence can be found by completing the celebrated story of the celebrated halt of Lord Jagannath's chariot to facilitate Salabega's darshan. Mishra's study makes a conjecture that it was during Salabega's return from Vrindavan, where he has spent considerable time familiarising himself with the notions of Krishna's leela and gained a perspective on the worship of Vishnu, which would later bolster his Vaishnavite formulation of Lord Jagannath and reflect in the style of his songs.

The question that we need to settle, then, is can we at all know our own Salabega without crossing these artificial linguistic boundaries? My answer is a humble no. Our cultural archives can best make sense if we traverse the same path that Salabega himself did—a rather eclectic assemblage of ideas, places and languages.

The writer is a Ph.D. scholar. His work deals with comparative study of Bhakti literature in Eastern India, mainly Bengal and Odisha.

The writer is a Ph.D. scholar. His work deals with comparative study of Bhakti literature in Eastern India, mainly Bengal and Odisha.

### Cyber menace

Sir, Cyber crimes are growing unabated by the day. Many customers are outsmarted by the deception of cyber fraudsters, hence losing their hard earned money in the twinkling of an eye. Gullible and guleless customers are hardest hit by cyber fraudsters. Greed and ignorance play havoc with customers who want to gain lots of money without hard work. In spite of awareness created by the Reserve Bank of India, many customers share their OTPs, bank details, CVV and debit card information to cyber cheats and fall prey to their allurement. They just go by gimmicks. Ponzi schemes, online gaming, investment in various dubious financial institutions and misleading advertisements ruin gullible investors. Cyber security is the demand of the day. Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

### Illegal extension

Sir, This refer to the news report "ED chief's extensions illegal: SC" (Orissa POST, July 12). I would like to comment that the people of India would have been happier if the apex court would have directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar to return his salary, he received in violation of the court's explicit order dated September 8, 2021, which prohibited his further extensions. I am at a loss why the Central government did not have to face the contempt of court for successive violations of the top court's order? If the Union Home Minister Amit Shah thinks it did not matter who the ED director was why the government was required to give extensions to Sanjay Kumar knowing full well of the apex court's prohibitory order? Was the government running short of competent officers for the post of ED chief or simply wanted its vested interests to be served? Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

### Chip concern

Sir, Taiwan-based electronic giant Foxconn's exit from the semiconductor joint venture with Vedanta is no surprise. Trouble arose for the joint venture when Foxconn started considering other Indian conglomerates as potential partners to advance their chip-making goals in India. The two companies had differences, and the government recommended Foxconn seek a different partner. The government assured that India's semiconductor journey and Make-in-India programme wouldn't be affected by the pullout, and both companies remain committed to this mission. NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rasulguru Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# Yamuna swells to record level in Delhi

### KEJRIWAL CALLS FOR URGENT EVACUATION; CRPC SECTION 144 IMPOSED IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 12: The Yamuna in Delhi swelled to 208.05 metres Wednesday, breaching its all-time record of 207.49 metres set 45 years ago, flooding many areas and prompting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to appeal to people living in low-lying areas to evacuate immediately.

Thousands of people have been shifted to safer areas as water gushed into their homes and markets near the river, causing them immense hardships.

Waterlogging on parts of the busy Ring Road, including on the stretch between Majnu ka Tila and Wazirabad, led to traffic congestion, officials said.

In view of the grave situation, the Delhi Police imposed prohibitory measures under CrPC section 144 in flood-prone areas of the city, preventing unlawful assembly of four or more people and public movement in groups.

Lt Governor VK Saxena has called a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Thursday over the rising water level of the Yamuna, Raj Niwas officials said.

According to the Central Water Commission's (CWC) flood-monitoring portal, the water level at the Old Railway Bridge crossed the 207-metre mark at 4am Wednesday, the first time since 2013. It rose to 208.05 metres at 10pm and is likely to touch 208.30 by 8am Thursday.

The India Meteorological



Department has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall to continue in Uttarakhnad in the next two days.

"I urge everyone living in low-lying areas to evacuate because the water level will rise suddenly and your life could be in danger," the chief minister said at a press conference.

As the water level rose to a record level, Kejriwal urged the Centre to intervene to ensure that levels of the Yamuna don't rise further.

In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, he requested that if possible the water from Hathnikund barrage in Haryana be released in limited speed and pointed out that Delhi is set to host the G-20 Summit meeting in a few weeks.

The news of flooding in the capital of the country will not send a good message to the world. Together we will have to save the people of Delhi from this situation, he said.

Kejriwal informed Shah that

Delhi did not receive any rain in the last three days, adding that the level of Yamuna in the national capital was not rising due to rain in the city but because of water released into the river from the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana.

The swelling of the Yamuna river led to waterlogging in the Delhi Transport Corporation headquarters area near ITO. Its employees waded through the waterlogged entrance to get into the office Wednesday.

# 31 Manipur MLAs urge Shah to hasten border fencing along Myanmar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, July 12: A total of 31 MLAs from Manipur have urged Home Minister Amit Shah to expedite the ongoing work of border fencing along the India-Myanmar border in the state to prevent cross-border movement of militants and hostile elements.

The MLAs through a unanimous resolution, adopted Wednesday, requested Shah to take strong and effective actions against armed insurgents and stop cross-border movement of militants who are creating serious troubles in Manipur.

"We are committed to initiate decisive measures against the armed groups that have violated the established ground rules of engagement. It is inconceivable for any conflict to persist for such an extended period without the support of armed factions," the resolution adopted by 31 MLAs from different political parties read.

The MLAs urged the Home Minister to take appropriate steps for lasting peace in the state, an official statement said, without naming the Kuki militants.

The legislators also urged Shah to replace three Assam Rifles battalions with other central security forces that are more inclined towards promoting unity



in the state. The MLAs added that there are concerns regarding the roles played by certain units of Assam Rifles, posing a threat to the cause of unity within the state.

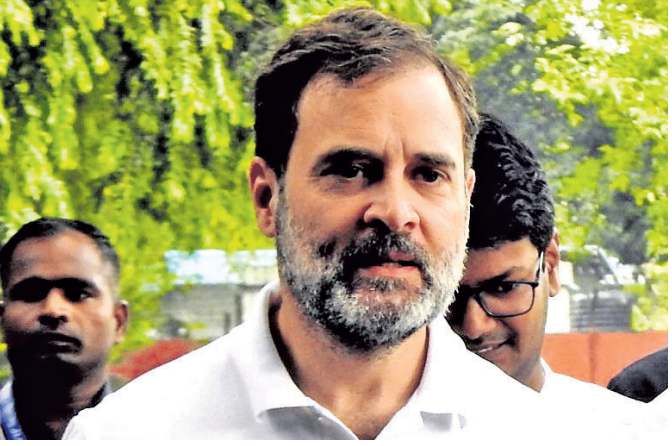
The resolution of the MLAs to be submitted to the Home Minister also mentioned that a comprehensive investigation must be conducted into the public display of firearms and ammunition during the peace march held by some organisations in Churachandpur July 5.

"It raises significant questions regarding the source of these arms and ammunition, as well as their continuous availability which plays a crucial role in the ongoing violence. The MLAs expressed their concern about the open display of illegal weapons," the statement said.

Noting that prevention of violence in the peripheral areas must ensue, the resolution said the central security forces must adopt a more proactive approach to ensure lasting peace.

Manipur has around 400 km of unfenced international border with Myanmar

# Rahul may shift to ex-Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit's house



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 12: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who vacated his official residence April 22 following his disqualification as an MP in the 'Modi surname' remarks case, is all set to shift to a new address, party sources said.

According to party sources, Rahul Gandhi is likely to shift to the residence of former Delhi Chief Minister and veteran party leader Sheila Dikshit in the Nizamuddin East area of south Delhi.

The three-time Delhi Chief Minister's son Sandeep Diskhit, a former party MP, has already vacated the resi-

dence for Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi has taken the property on rent for residing there. Upon vacating his official residence at 12 Tughlak Lane in central Delhi, Rahul Gandhi had shifted with his mother and former party chief Sonia Gandhi at the 10 Janpath in April.

The three-BHK house into which Rahul Gandhi will move belongs to the family of Sheila Dikshit, who spent the last years of her life there.

Sheila Dikshit passed away July 20, 2019. She stayed in this house from 1991 to 1998 and again shifted to the same flat after September 2014 when she resigned as Kerala Governor.

# Manipur Police warns rioters misusing commando uniforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, July 12: In a stern warning, Manipur Police has asked people to stop misusing its black commando uniform after reports suggested that armed rioters were wearing the outfit to create mistrust, officials said here.

They said information has been circulated throughout all formations to ensure that the Manipur Police Commando uniform, black in colour, is not misused and they have been instructed to intensify the vigil.

This comes after videos were found doing the rounds in which some of the armed assailants were seen wearing the black uniform, which seems to have been stolen during the uprising witnessed in the state from May 3 onwards.

The two groups -- Meitei and Kuki -- have engaged in armed conflicts with each other and the violence has claimed over 150 lives so far.

The police have been asked even to check any vehicle carrying security personnel, especially the India Reserve Battalion and Manipur Police, and their identity cards, the officials said.

There have been occasions where police uniforms have also been misused but such cases are less in number, they said, adding



This comes after videos were found doing the rounds in which some of the armed assailants were seen wearing the black uniform

there is a need to put an end to this practice as otherwise the other community feels that the law enforcing agency is biased.

The 45,000-strong Manipur Police was vertically split after the ethnic clashes, with Meitei personnel in the force moving to Imphal valley for safety and the Kuki personnel escaping to the hills.

THE 45,000-STRONG MANIPUR POLICE WAS VERTICALLY SPLIT AFTER THE ETHNIC CLASHES, WITH MEITEI PERSONNEL IN THE FORCE MOVING TO IMPHAL VALLEY FOR SAFETY AND THE KUKI PERSONNEL ESCAPING TO THE HILLS

While an assessment was being made about the stolen weapons by the police, efforts were also intensified for their recovery. In this connection, two people were arrested by the police with stolen police weapons which they had purchased from

the Imphal valley.

In a related development on better policing, Director General of Police Rajiv Singh, immediately after taking over, had identified that nearly 1,200 personnel were missing from duty, officials said.

His first task was identifying these people and completing the formalities of their joining back duty wherever they were comfortable.

The officials privy to the developments said nearly 1,150 personnel have reported back to duty and fresh instructions had been issued to withhold pays of those personnel who are not back.

Recently, the police chief had visited Khangabok area of Thoubal district where jawans of 3rd India Reserve Battalion had foiled an attempt by hundreds of rioters to loot the armoury. This district is known for Khongjom, where the last battle of the independence of Manipur was fought in April 1891 against the British army.

'Nakas' (checkpoints) are being erected by Manipur Police during which people are detained for violating rules, including movement during curfew, besides providing security to farmers from both the communities at the foothills.

# Nagaland taekwondo team etches name in Guinness World Records

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kohima, July 12: Breaking an 11-year-old world record set by the Chinese, a taekwondo team from Nagaland etched its name in the Guinness World Records, officials said Tuesday.

Dimapur-based 'Faith in Action' scripted the world record for "the highest martial arts kick (assisted)".

The 'Faith in Action' created the record with a 14 feet and 5 inches high kick against the Chinese record (in 2012) with a 14 feet and 2 inches high kick.

Congratulations the taekwondo team, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio tweeted, "I am happy to know that 'Faith in Action' from Nagaland created a new Guinness World Records for "the highest martial arts kick (assisted)" on the set of "India's Got Talent" in Mumbai July 5, 2023. Congratulations and best wishes for all future endeavours."

The coach of the 'Faith in Action' Deep Kumar Tuesday



'Faith in Action' scripted the world record for "highest martial arts kick (assisted)"

Deputy Chief Ministers - TR Zeliang and Yanthungo Patton - and many other dignitaries also congratulated the 'Faith in Action' for their feat.

Zeliang tweeted, "I extend my sincere congratulations to the Faith in Action Martial Arts Academy Nagaland, India, for achieving the @GWR for "The Highest Martial Arts Kick (Assisted)" on the set of @IGTonColors. A commendable feat, bringing laurels to the state in particular, a proud moment for all."

# Centuries old 'Ker Puja' celebrated in Tripura

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, July 12: The centuries-old 'Ker Puja' was held in Tripura Tuesday following several restrictions and customs.

As per the customs, death, birth or even recreations are prohibited in the notified areas of the 'Ker Puja' ground. Also held in few other northeastern states, as well as in the Chittagong Hill tracts in Bangladesh, this annual festival organised by the indigenous tribal population consisting of intricate, time-honoured rituals is aimed at the well-being of people and for warding off evil spirits.

Although the 31-hour-long rituals and preparatory work began late Monday night, the actual 'Ker Puja' was held Tuesday.

As per the strong conventions and customs of the ceremonies, no pregnant woman or critically-ill person is allowed inside the puja areas, notified by the concerned District Magistrates through a gazette notification and other campaigns.

According to the elderly tribal leaders, any person who violates



the customs is bound to pay a fine and the Ker Puja has to start afresh from the initial stage.

Sponsored by the state government, 'Ker Puja' and 'Kharchi Puja' are the two important traditional events in Tripura.

The Ker Puja is held seven days after the another centuries old festivity, 'Kharchi Puja', which worships 14 deities simultaneously in the erstwhile princely state's previous capital Purn Habeli, 7 km north of Agartala.

The literal meaning of 'Ker' in the tribal Kokborok language is specified area. The puja rituals started at 10pm Monday night and will continue uninterrupted

for more than 31 hours, the gazette notification said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda and many other leaders greeted the people of Tripura on the occasion of 'Ker Puja'.

Modi tweeted "Greetings on

the very special occasion of Ker Puja. I hope that this festival, which is marked with great enthusiasm in Tripura, fills everyone's lives with joy and prosperity. May there be happiness and harmony all around and may everyone be blessed with good health."

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA**  
 E-mail: eemijharsuguda@gmail.com  
**'e' Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No. SE MID JSD 04/2023-24**  
**No. 1033 // MID // date. 04.07.2023**  
 No. A-321- The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

1. Name of the works:	Civil Construction work
2. Total No. of works:	08 (Eight) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost:	Rs. 8.47 Lakh to Rs. 29.24 Lakh (Detail list of work annexed)
4. Class of Contractor:	As mentioned against work
5. Period of completion:	As mentioned against work
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in Portal:	17.07.2023 to 31.07.2023 during office hour
7. Last date/Time for receipt of Bid in the Portal:	31.07.2023 during office hour
8. Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid:	01.08.2023 at 10.00 AM. at Office of the S.E., M.I. Divn., Jharsuguda
9. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid:	Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda
10. Mode of Payment of Bid Cost & Bid Security:	Online

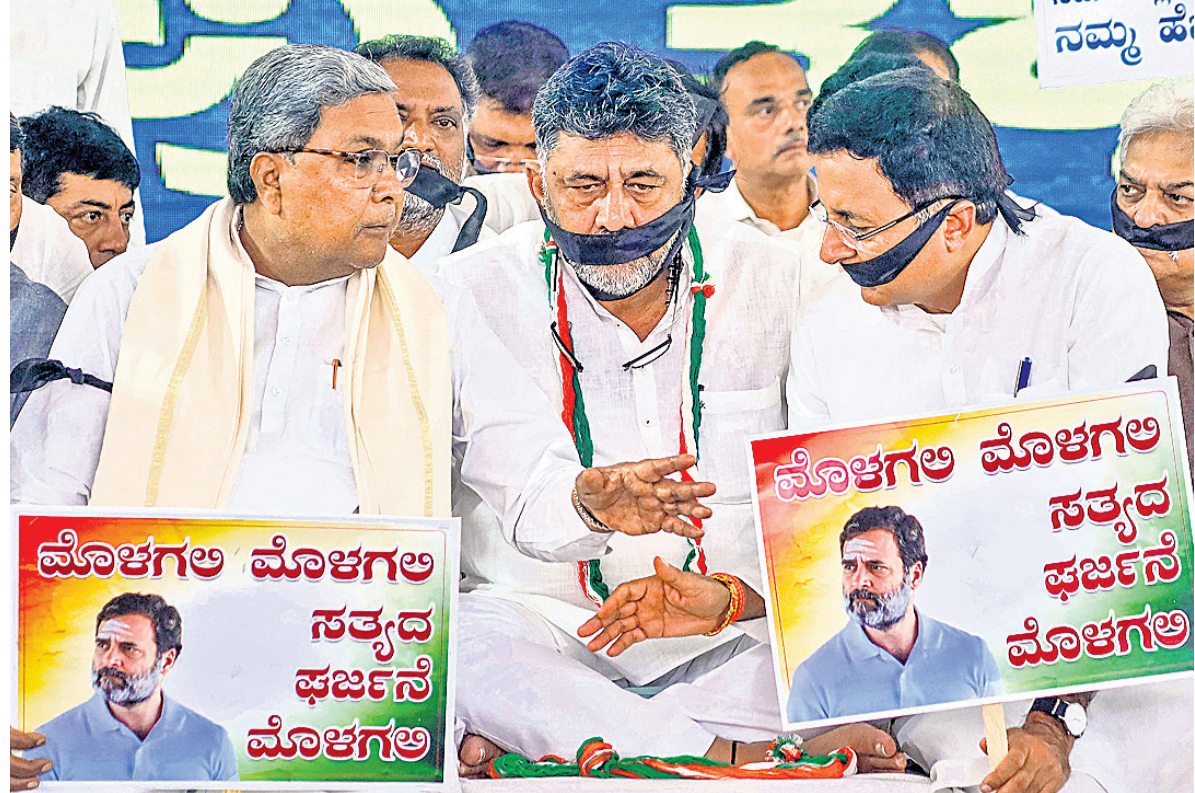
**Sd./ Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jharsuguda**  
 OIPR-3229111/0005/2324



People from low-lying areas around the Yamuna river help one another relocate to a safer place after their houses were submerged in the swollen river in New Delhi



Damaged vehicles after a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Manali, Himachal Pradesh



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala and other party workers during a 'Maun Satyagraha' (silent protest) in solidarity with party leader Rahul Gandhi, at Freedom Park in Bangalore, Karnataka



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav with party leader Mohammad Azam Khan and others during his visit to meet mango farmers, at Malihabad in Lucknow district, Uttar Pradesh



An effigy being burned during a protest of Shiv Sena (UBT) workers against Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis in Nagpur, Maharashtra



Union Minister Anurag Thakur pumps water with a hand pump at Debring village near the Manali-Leh Highway in Ladakh



People stage a candlelight march to protest over the violence during West Bengal Panchayat polls in Kolkata



A private aircraft after it made an emergency landing due to a technical snag with its nose landing gear, at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport in Bangalore, Karnataka



# national

## of the day quote

We were happy that she became the Chief Minister. But what happened to her after that? She had gone steps ahead of the CPI (M) leaders in her expression of autocratic attitude. Why is she following this path of autocratic politics

Already, the TDP leaders are on bus yatra to take the schemes to the people and we are planning a special campaign on the women's welfare programmes... the details of which will be announced July 14

Our government has issued disaster relief numbers to help the people of Uttarakhand who are stranded in different places of the state and in Himachal Pradesh

## SHORT TAKES

### Assailants barge inside bus, shoot dead man

**Jaipur:** Around a dozen men barged inside a Rajasthan Roadways bus on Wednesday and shot dead a murder accused who was being escorted by a police team for a court hearing in Bharatpur, officials said. Another murder accused was injured in the firing and is admitted in a hospital in a critical state, they said. According to police, the bus was stopped near Amoli toll plaza under Halena police station of Bharatpur by around 12 men who came in a car and two motorcycles. They entered the bus and hurled chilli powder on the policemen and started firing on Kuldeep Jagheena and Vijaypal.

### 1 killed, 22 hurt as bus falls into gorge

**Mumbai:** A woman was killed and 22 persons were injured when a bus operated by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) fell into a deep gorge in Nashik district Wednesday morning, an official said. The incident took place around 5.45 am near a Ganesh temple at Vani on the Saptashrungi Garh ghat section in Kalwan taluka, the official said. The injured were first taken to the rural hospital at Vani. Later, most of them were shifted to the District Civil Hospital in Nashik. On Tuesday night, the MSRTC bus had come to Saptashrungi Garh from Khamgaon in Buldhana district.

### 2 HC CJs elevated as top court judges

**New Delhi:** Days after their names were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, two high court chief justices were Wednesday elevated as judges of the Supreme Court. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the appointments of judges Ujjal Bhuyan and S Venkatanarayana Bhatti on Twitter. The names of Justice Bhuyan, the chief justice of the Telangana High Court, and Justice Bhatti, his counterpart in Kerala, were recommended for elevation to the top court by the Supreme Court Collegium July 5.

### IAF rescues seven trekkers

**New Delhi:** Seven trekkers were rescued from near the Chandratl glacial lake in Himachal Pradesh, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said Wednesday. The IAF also tweeted a picture of the rescue work.



The north Indian states which did not implement the population control scheme properly have recorded an increase in population and will get more Lok Sabha seats. The BJP is trying to implement this system only to take revenge on the south Indian states which did not vote for it. The party thinks that it can be implemented if it wins the next elections

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

## AIR INDIA SHOCKER

A male flyer assaulted crew and some other passengers while also damaging the lavatory door aboard an Air India flight from Toronto to Delhi July 8, the airline said Wednesday. The Nepalese citizen was handed over to security agencies on arrival at the airport here in New Delhi



## WB RURAL POLLS

# TMC SCRIPTS THUMPING WIN

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, July 12:** As expected, the ruling Trinamool Congress scripted a thumping victory in all the three tiers of the panchayat system in West Bengal which went to the polls July 8.



In Bhangore in South 24 Parganas, three persons including two activists of the Indian Secular Front (ISF) were killed and several others injured in a clash which took place outside a counting booth late Tuesday night

BJP finished a distant second in all the three tiers -- zilla parishad, panchayat samiti and gram panchayat. However, what will worry the saffron camp is the massive decline in its vote share as compared to the 2021 Assembly elections. From 38 per cent in 2021, BJP's vote share dropped to 22 per cent this time.

On the other hand, despite being in the third position in terms of number of seats, the silver lining for the Congress, Left Front and All India Secular Front (AISF) combine is the significant improvement in vote share as compared to the 2021 Assembly polls. The vote share of the trio has more than doubled this time, from 10 per cent in 2021 to 21 per cent now.

ALTHOUGH WEST BENGAL HAS A LONG HISTORY OF VIOLENT RURAL POLLS WITH 40 PEOPLE KILLED IN ONE SINGLE DAY OF POLLING DURING THE 2003 PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS, THIS YEAR'S VIOLENCE WHICH WAS COVERED EXTENSIVELY BY THE MEDIA AND FOCUSED NATIONAL ATTENTION ON IT

ALLEGATIONS OF VOTE TAMPERING AND VIOLENCE BY VARIOUS PARTIES FORCED THE SEC TO ORDER RE-POLLING IN 696 SEATS MONDAY, WHICH PASSED MORE OR LESS PEACEFULLY

INTERVENTION BY THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT HAD SEEN THE DEPLOYMENT OF CENTRAL POLICE FORCES ON BOTH ELECTION AND COUNTING DAYS

Trinamool has wrested majority in all the 22 zilla parishads, the highest tier in the panchayat system, winning as many as 760 seats, followed by the BJP at 29, Congress at 11, while Left Front and others bagged two seats each. In the panchayat samitis, the

second tier, Trinamool has maintained its supremacy by winning as many as 7,166 seats, followed by BJP at 1,007, Congress at 277, Left Front at 175 and others, which include AISF and Independents, at 151. In the lowest tier of gram pan-

I am saddened at the loss of lives in sporadic incidents of violence (during the rural polls). They are victims of circumstances... The polls were held in 71,000 booths, but violence took place in not more than 60 booths

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

chayats, Trinamool has bagged 42,622 seats, followed by BJP at 9,777, Left Front at 2,988, Congress at 2,576 and others at 2,579. There had been a tie in as many as 350 seats, where the toss of coin would decide the winner at a later stage.

Trinamool has credited the victory to the mass development works carried out at the grass-roots level in rural Bengal as well as the effect of the two-month long mass outreach programme undertaken by the party's national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee before the rural polls.

However, the opposition parties are claiming that the results do not reflect the true sentiment of the people amid the massive violence which claimed 44 lives since the polling date was announced June 8.

## PM Modi to visit UAE on his return journey from France

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Abu Dhabi July 15 during which he will hold wide-ranging talks with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Abu Dhabi, to take forward bilateral ties in key areas of energy, food security, and defence.

Modi will visit Abu Dhabi after concluding his two-day visit to Paris.

The Prime Minister is visiting France July 13 and 14 at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Modi will be the guest of honour at the Bastille Day parade July 14 in Paris where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent would be participating. The MEA said President Macron will host a state banquet as well as a private dinner in honour of the Prime Minister.

The two leaders will also hold wide-ranging talks. He will separately interact with the Indian diaspora in France, CEOs of Indian and French companies, and prominent French personalities.

At least three Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force are also expected to take part in the fly-past over the Champs Elysees on the occasion along with French jets.

## CBI chargesheet against journo, ex-Navy commander

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** The CBI Wednesday filed a charge sheet against freelance journalist Vivek Raghuvanshi and former Navy commander Ashish Pathak for the alleged clandestine procurement of sensitive defence-

### SPYING CASE

related information and sharing it with foreign intelligence agencies, officials said.

In its charge sheet filed before a special court here, the CBI has named Raghuvanshi and Pathak as accused in the

alleged violation of the Official Secrets Act and related offences, they said.

Raghuvanshi, who was listed as India correspondent of a US-based portal on defence and strategic affairs on its website, and Pathak were arrested May 16.

## 24 parties invited for Opposition meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** The opposition grouping to take on the BJP in the next Lok Sabha polls is set to expand with more parties joining in at the second meeting being convened by the Congress next week in Bangalore. Leaders of 24 non-BJP parties have been invited for the meet June 17 and 18, the first edition of which saw the participation of 15 parties.

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi is also expected to attend a dinner meeting July 17 where leaders of these parties will be present. There will be a more structured formal meeting the next day, where the opposition front would further strategise its plans to take on the BJP in the next Lok Sabha elections. Among the new political parties expected to at-

tend the meeting are the MDMK, KDMK, VCK, RSP, Forward Bloc, IUML, Kerala Congress (Joseph) and Kerala Congress (Mani). The 24 parties have together around 150 Lok Sabha members.

The first such meeting of opposition parties was held in Bihar's Patna June 23. Sixteen parties were invited of which 15 had attended. RLD's Jayant Chaudhary could not attend due to a family function.

Despite its difference with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the latter also been invited for the Bangalore meeting. The Kejriwal-led outfit had asked the Congress to make its stand clear on the Delhi ordinance at Patna before the next meeting. The AAP had said that if the Congress did not publicly support it on the Ordinance issue, it would not attend the next meeting.

# Focus shifts to rescue efforts in north India

As heavy rain choked almost all of north India, the Army and National Disaster Response Force have stepped in to intensify the relief and rescue operations in the affected states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** As the weather improved in parts of north India, which was pummeled by heavy rains for days, authorities Wednesday worked on a war footing to rescue stranded tourists, restore vehicular traffic on arterial roads and prevent floodwaters from entering new areas.

In Punjab and Haryana, at least 15 people have died in rain-related incidents, according to government data.

As many as 2,000 tourists stranded in Himachal Pradesh's Kasol were evacuated and more than 300 tourist vehicles stuck in



Lahaul following landslides and flash floods left for their respective destinations, the state government said. Embankments are being constructed in low-lying areas to prevent the entry of floodwaters into other parts of the capital in case the Yamuna water level rises further.

However, the situation in Delhi is unlikely to improve anytime soon with the India Meteorological Department

(IMD) predicting light to moderate rain in the city on Wednesday and intermittent rains over the next four to five days.

The IMD said heavy to very heavy rainfall activity is likely to continue over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Madhya Pradesh during the next two days and decrease thereafter.

In Himachal Pradesh, about 2,200 stranded vehicles crossed Kullu after the Kullu-Manali

road was opened on Tuesday evening.

Over 2,000 people stranded in Kasol have been successfully evacuated. Teams are working tirelessly to clear the Dunkhara landslide on the Kasol-Bhuntar road. The district administration is coordinating the relief efforts, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said in a tweet.

Light to heavy rains lashed parts of Himachal Pradesh Wednesday with Dhaula Kuan recording 144.5 mm of rainfall, Renuka 87 mm, Reckongpeo 42 mm, Kotkhai 30 mm, Hamirpur 16.5, Shimla 13.5, Dharamshala 13 mm and Kalpa 10 mm, according to the local meteorological department.

The weather office has issued a 'yellow' warning for heavy rain, thunderstorm and lightning on July 15 and 16 in the state.

In Haryana, one person was electrocuted while wading through a waterlogged street in a residential colony in Ambala Cantonment and three bodies were found floating in water in

## 4 terrorists get 10 yrs of jail for 2012 attacks

Special Judge Shailender Malik awarded the punishment Danish Ansari, Aftab Alam, Imran Khan and Obaid-Ur-Rehman under various sections of the IPC and the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** A Delhi court Wednesday sentenced four Indian Mujahideen (IM) operatives to 10 years in jail for hatching a criminal conspiracy to wage war against the government by carrying out terrorist attacks across the country in 2012.

The judgement, however, paved the way for their release as all of them have already served as much time in jail.

The court, which had convicted the four July 10, noted they had pleaded guilty to all the charges against them July 7.

The special judge for terrorist cases noted the convicts were arrested in 2013, and directed the authorities concerned to release them against the period they have already served in prison, if their custody was not needed in other cases.

The NIA had lodged a case against them in September 2012 under Sections 121A (conspiracy to wage war against government of India) and 123 (Concealing with intent to facilitate design to wage war) of the IPC.

They were also charged under sections 17 (raising funds for terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy to commit terror act), 18A (organising terrorist camps), 18B (recruiting persons for terrorist act) and 20 (being member of terror organisation) of anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The counsel appearing for the convicts submitted they belonged to poor families and urged the court to take a lenient view while passing the order on sentence, besides keeping in mind the time they have already served and the fact that they have pleaded guilty.



HEALTH IS WEALTH: G20 delegates perform yoga in Hampi, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

## Main accused, two associates arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, July 12:** Three men, including the main accused, were arrested Wednesday a day after the gruesome double murder of two senior executives of a private firm here, police said.

Police are also on look out for the fourth person Arun Kumar, whom they suspect, would have allegedly instigated the trio to commit the crime. Amruthahalli

### BANGALORE DOUBLE MURDER

police arrested three people involved in the murder of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Managing Director (MD) of internet broadband service provider Aeronics Media Pvt. Ltd. At Pampa Extension near Amruthahalli, a residential area here, on Tuesday evening.

The three men have been identified as main accused Shabarish alias Felix (27), along with Vinay Reddy (23) and Santosh alias Santhu (26).

# international



Now is an absolutely opportune moment to maintain high dynamics in the development of bilateral Russian-Chinese relations  
DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESMAN, KREMLIN

**TALIBAN SUPPORTS TWITTER**  
In an unexpected turn of events, Taliban leader Anas Haqqani has waded into the social media war between Twitter and Threads, and stated that he prefers Elon Musk's platform due to its commitment to freedom of speech



## of the day quote

Unfortunately for the second, the third generation there is a sort of regression toward their origins, their ethnic origins  
BRUNO RETAILLEAU | HEAD OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP, FRANCE

We would immediately ban the import of aquatic products from Fukushima and other Japanese prefectures if Tokyo discharges treated radioactive wastewater into the sea  
TSE CHIN-WAN | SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY, HONG KONG

There will be consequences from increased interest rates I'm afraid because that, from a monetary policy perspective, is why we have to do it  
ANDREW BAILEY | GOVERNOR, BANK OF ENGLAND

## EU passes nature law after political backlash

The decision comes after months of political negotiations with some nations warning that Europe is pushing through too many environmental laws as part of its overall green agenda

and 13 abstentions. Lawmakers and member countries will now negotiate the final text, aiming for a deal before EU Parliament elections in 2024. "We have won. It is a social victory: for scientists, for young people, for a lot of companies and businesses, for the agricultural sector," Cesar Luena, the parliament's lead negotiator on the law, told reporters after the vote. The new legislation will require countries to introduce measures restoring nature on a fifth of their land and sea by 2030. The aim is to reverse the decline of Europe's natural habitats - 81% of which are classed as being in poor health. The European People's Party (EPP), the EU Parliament's biggest lawmaker group, led a campaign to reject the plan on the grounds it would harm farmers and endanger food security. That's despite Ursula von der Leyen - the head of the European Commission, which proposed the nature law - being from the EPP party. "We fear that this law will be counterproductive and have sig-



Restoring nature brings numerous benefits to farmers such as revitalising soils, supporting pollinators and buffering them from the worsening impacts of climate change. It is as simple as this: we cannot grow food on dead soil  
MOHAMMED CHAHIM | LAWMAKER, EU

nificant social and economic consequences," the EPP group said in a tweet. "This law is not against anybody," Luena said. "This is a law on behalf of nature, not against any person whatsoever." Luena thanked the scientists and young people who had supported the law - among them, Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who attended the EU assembly Wednesday to watch the vote. Brussels has already passed dozens of CO2-cutting laws to deliver the EU's overall green agenda, including its goal to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. But recent environment proposals have hit resistance - particularly those that would require changes from farmers to tackle environmental pollution and the collapse of bee and butterfly populations.

## Former SL Prez pays ₹15mn to victims of 2019 Easter attacks

Colombo, July 12: Ahead of a deadline set by Sri Lanka's Supreme Court, former President Maithripala Sirisena has paid the first instalment of 15 million Sri Lankan Rupees as compensation to the victims of the Easter terror attacks in 2019, according to media reports Wednesday. In January, Sirisena, 71, was ordered by the apex court to pay SLRs 100 million as compensation to the victims for his negligence in preventing one of the country's worst terror strikes despite having credible information of an imminent attack. Sirisena was Sri Lanka's President and Defence Minister at the time of the attacks when nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three Catholic churches and three luxury hotels on April 21, 2019, killing nearly 270 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500. The court ordered Sirisena to pay a compensation of SLRs 100 million, former police chief Pujith Jayasundara and former state intelligence services chief Nilantha Jayawardene to pay a compensation of SLRs. 75 million each, former defence secretary Hemasiri Fernando to pay a compensation of SLRs. 50 million. Ahead of the July 12 July set by the Supreme Court, Sirisena paid SLRs 15 million as compensation on June 28 and filed a motion requesting that he be allowed to pay the remaining sum in 10 instalments of SLRs 8.5 million from June 30, 2024, to June 20, 2033. Sirisena said in January that he will collect money from his friends to pay the compensation. He also insisted that he did not receive information prior to the attacks in April 2019. He said that the defence authorities did not inform him of a plot to carry out the attacks.

## NATO MEMBERSHIP

# Ukraine's wait looms

PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY DEcries NATO'S REFUSAL TO OFFER AN INVITE OR TIMETABLE FOR UKRAINE'S ENTRY INTO THE ALLIANCE

Vilnius, July 12: NATO leaders gathered Wednesday to launch a highly symbolic new forum for ties with Ukraine, after committing to provide the country with more military assistance for fighting Russia but only vague assurances of future membership. US President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts sat down with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the new NATO-Ukraine Council, a permanent body where the 31 allies and Ukraine can hold consultations and call for meetings in emergency situations. The setting is part of NATO's effort to bring Ukraine as close as possible to the military alliance without actually joining it. On Tuesday, the leaders said in their communique summarizing the summit's conclusions that Ukraine can join "when allies agree and conditions are met." "Today we meet as equals," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday at a joint news conference with



The results of the summit are good, but if there were an invitation, that would be ideal  
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

dedented and absurd". "NATO needs us just as we need NATO," he said alongside Stoltenberg. Ukraine's future membership was the most divisive and emotionally charged issue at this year's summit. In essence, Western countries are willing to keep sending weapons to help Ukraine do the job that NATO was designed to do - hold the line against a Russian invasion - but not allow Ukraine to join its ranks and benefit from its security during the war. Ukraine has been pushing for rapid NATO membership while fighting a Russian invasion unleashed in February 2022 that has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions. On Wednesday, Zelensky was holding bilateral meetings with the United States, Canada, Germany, Britain, Japan and the Netherlands on the sidelines of the second day of the NATO summit in Vilnius to secure more arms for his counteroffensive. "More weapons for our warriors, more protection of life for the whole of Ukraine! We will bring new important defence tools to Ukraine," he said.

## China lashes back at NATO criticism

Beijing, July 12: Beijing lashed back at NATO's accusation that China challenges the bloc's interests and security, and opposed any attempt by the military alliance to expand its footprint into the Asia-Pacific region. In a strongly worded communique issued midway into a two-day summit in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on Tuesday, NATO said the People's Republic of China (PRC) challenged its interests, security and values with its "ambitions and coercive policies". "The PRC employs a broad range of political, economic, and military tools to increase its global footprint and project power, while remaining opaque about its strategy, intentions and military build-up," NATO heads of state said in their communique. "The PRC's malicious hybrid and cyber operations and its



confrontational rhetoric and disinformation target Allies and harm Alliance security." The Chinese mission to the European said in a statement Tuesday the China-related content of the communique disregarded basic facts, distorted China's position and policies, and deliberately discredited China. "We firmly oppose and reject this," it said. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters at the summit that while China was not a NATO "adversary", it was increasingly challenging the rules-based international order with its "coercive behaviour".

## SHORT TAKES

### Raisi visits Africa

Nairobi: Iran's president has begun a rare visit to Africa as the country, which is under heavy US economic sanctions, seeks to deepen partnerships around the world. President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Kenya Wednesday is the first to the African continent by an Iranian leader in more than a decade. He is also expected to visit Uganda and Zimbabwe and meet with the presidents there. Africa is a "continent of opportunities" and a great platform for Iranian products, Raisi told journalists in a briefing. "None of us is satisfied with the current volume of trade," he said.

### Sudan fight rages

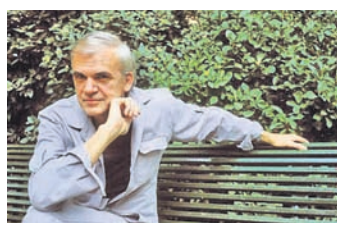
Cairo: A raging conflict in Sudan has driven more than 3.1 million people from their homes, including over 700,000 who fled to neighbouring countries, the United Nations said Wednesday, amid growing concerns that the country is sliding into a "full-scale civil war." Sudan has plunged into chaos since mid-April when monthslong tensions between the military and its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

## North Korea fires first ICBM in three months

Seoul, July 12: North Korea fired its first intercontinental ballistic missile in three months Wednesday, two days after it threatened "shocking" consequences to protest what it called provocative US Reconnaissance activity near its territory. Some experts say North Korea likely launched its development, road-mobile Hwasong-18 ICBM, a type of solid-fuel weapon that is harder to detect and intercept than its liquid-fuel ICBMs. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un previously called the Hwasong-18 his most powerful nuclear weapon. The missile fired from North Korea's capital region around 10 am flew about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) at a maximum altitude of 6,000 kilometers (3,730 miles) before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan,

according to South Korean and Japanese assessments. They said the missile was launched on a high angle, in an apparent attempt to avoid neighboring countries. South Korea's military called the launch "a grave provocation" and urged North Korea to refrain from additional launches. Chief Japanese Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno denounced North Korea's repeated missile launches as "threats to the peace and safety of Japan, the region and international society." In a trilateral phone call, the chief nuclear envoys of South Korea, Japan and the US agreed to sternly deal with North Korean provocations and boost their coordination to promote a stronger international response to the North's nuclear and missile programs, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry.

## 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being' writer departs



Kundera's personal collection, said he died in his Paris apartment Tuesday after a long illness. Kundera won global accolades for the way he depicted themes and characters that floated between the mundane reality of everyday life and the lofty world of ideas. Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said his works "reached whole generations of readers across all continents" while President Petr Pavel called him a "world-class writer".

Prague: Czech-born writer Milan Kundera, author of the novel "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" who lived nearly five decades in Paris after emigrating from his Communist-ruled homeland, has died at the age of 94. The Moravian Library (MZK) in the Czech city of Brno, which houses Kundera's personal collection, said he died in his Paris apartment Tuesday after a long illness. Kundera won global accolades for the way he depicted themes and characters that floated between the mundane reality of everyday life and the lofty world of ideas. Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said his works "reached whole generations of readers across all continents" while President Petr Pavel called him a "world-class writer".



STAR BIRTH: The first anniversary image released Wednesday, July 12, 2023, by Space Telescope Science Institute Office of Public Outreach, shows NASA James Webb Space Telescope displaying a star birth like never been seen before. The subject is the Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex, the closest star-forming region to Earth  
PTI PHOTO



## QURAN BURNINGS UNHRC passes motion on religious hatred

There has been widespread anger and condemnation across the Islamic world after an immigrant, in an act of protest supported by the Sweden government, burned the Quran outside a mosque on the festival of Eid al-Adha

Geneva, July 12: The United Nations Human Rights Council Wednesday approved a disputed resolution on religious hatred in the wake of the burning of a Koran in Sweden, prompting concern by Western states who say it challenges long-held practices in rights protection. The resolution, introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the 57-nation Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), calls for the UN rights chief to publish a report on religious hatred and for states to review their laws and plug gaps that may "impede the prevention and prosecution of

acts and advocacy of religious hatred." It was strongly opposed by the United States and the European Union, who say it conflicts with their view on human rights and freedom of expression. While condemning the burning of the Koran, they argued the OIC initiative was designed to safeguard religious symbols rather than human rights. India also voted in favour of a draft resolution tabled in the UN Human Rights Council that condemns and strongly rejects recent "public and premeditated" acts of desecration of the Holy Quran. An Iraqi immigrant to Sweden burned the Koran outside a



Stockholm mosque last month, sparking outrage across the Muslim world and demands by Muslim states for action. The vote's outcome marks a major defeat for Western countries at a time when the OIC has unprecedented clout in the council, the only body made up of governments to protect human rights worldwide. Twenty-eight countries voted in favour, 12 voted against, and seven countries abstained.

Representatives of some countries clapped after the resolution passed. Marc Limon, director of the Geneva-based Universal Rights Group, said the outcome showed "the West is in full retreat at the Human Rights Council." "They're increasingly losing support and losing the argument," he said. Michele Taylor, the US Permanent Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council,

These and other incidents appear to have been manufactured to express contempt and inflame anger; to drive wedges between people; and to provoke, transforming differences of perspective into hatred and, perhaps, violence  
VOLKER TURK | HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, UN  
said the United States' concerns about the initiative "were not taken seriously." "I believe with a little more time and more open discussion, we could have also found a way forward together on this resolution," she said. After the vote, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Khalil Hasmi, accused the West of "lip service" to their commitment to prevent religious hatred.

# business

## of the day quote

The India startup ecosystem is beginning to unveil its full potential. The series will shine a spotlight on Indian innovation and grass root innovators

SUSHANT SREERAM | DIRECTOR, PRIME VIDEO

As the first conjugate vaccine to safeguard against the five predominant causes of this deadly disease, MenFive offers hope for a future free from annual outbreaks and epidemics in the African meningitis belt

ADAR POONAWALLA | CEO, SII

Through our battery recycling expertise, we aim to support Altgreen in their commitment to circular economy practices and contribute to the overall growth of the EV industry

RAJAT VERMA | FOUNDER AND CEO, LOHUM

## SHORT TAKES

### TCS net rises 17%

**Mumbai:** The country's largest software exporter TCS Wednesday reported a 16.83 per cent jump in its June quarter net profit at Rs 11,074 crore. The Tata Group company had reported a net profit of Rs 9,478 crore in the year-ago period and Rs 11,392 crore in the preceding quarter. Its revenue from operations increased 12.55 per cent on a year-on-year basis to Rs 59,381 crore and was marginally up from the preceding March quarter's Rs 59,162 crore. The company's total expenses rose to Rs 45,789 crore from Rs 40,771 crore a year ago and Rs 44,946 crore in the preceding March quarter. It can be noted that with headwinds in its key markets, the \$250 billion Indian IT sector is widely expected to report volatility in the near term.

### HCL profit up 7%

**New Delhi:** IT services firm HCL Technologies Wednesday reported a 7 per cent rise in its June quarter net profit on the back of new order wins. Consolidated net profit of Rs 3,534 crore in April-June, or Rs 13.05 a share, was up from Rs 3,324 crore, or Rs 12.13 per share, in the same period a year back, according to a company's stock exchange filing. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the net profit fell 11 per cent, when compared to Rs 3,983 crore earnings in January-March. The company's revenue at Rs 26,296 crore was down 1.2 per cent quarter-on-quarter but up 12.1 per cent year-on-year.

### Adani's big target

**Mumbai:** Adani Group is aiming to close its planned up to \$4 billion fundraising before the end of 2023, and is actively talking to global investors about participating, a source with direct knowledge of the matter said Wednesday. The group's flagship, Adani Enterprises, and Adani Green have board approvals to raise around \$1.5 billion each, while Adani Transmission is eyeing \$1.03 billion through share sales, the three companies have told Indian exchanges in the past few weeks. That totals around \$4 billion.

### Musk's new AI firm

**Washington:** Elon Musk launched his long-teased artificial intelligence startup xAI Wednesday, unveiling a team made up of engineers from the same big US technology firms that he hopes to challenge in his bid to build an alternative to ChatGPT. The startup will be led by Musk, the CEO of Tesla and owner of Twitter, who has said on several occasions that the development of AI should be paused and that the sector needed regulation.



A stage has come today that we cannot imagine rural economy without NABARD. It should fix targets for financing agriculture sector and rural development for the next 25 years when India will complete 100 years of Independence

AMIT SHAH | COOPERATION MINISTER

## WIPRO COMMITS \$1BN FOR AI

IT services provider Wipro Ltd said Wednesday it planned to invest \$1 billion into artificial intelligence (AI) over the next three years. The investments will focus on the expansion of AI, big data, and analytics solutions, as well as developing new research and development and platforms, it said



## HIGHER FOOD PRICES

# Retail inflation marginally up

Surging food prices accelerated annual retail inflation rate in June, snapping four months of easing and erasing any chance of a rate cut by the central bank this year

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, July 12:** Retail inflation rose to a three-month high of 4.81 per cent in June, mainly on account of hardening prices of cereals and pulses, though it remained within the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation moved northwards after declining for four months since February. The RBI, which will be announcing its next set of bi-monthly monetary policy early next month, mainly factors in the retail inflation while deciding the benchmark interest rate (repo).

Retail or CPI inflation stood at 4.31 per cent (revised upward from 4.25 per cent) in May and 7 per cent in June 2022. The previous high CPI was in March at 5.66 per cent.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the inflation in the food basket was at 4.49 per cent in June, higher than 2.96 per cent in May. The food basket accounts for nearly half of the CPI.

## Industrial output grows 5.2% in May

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

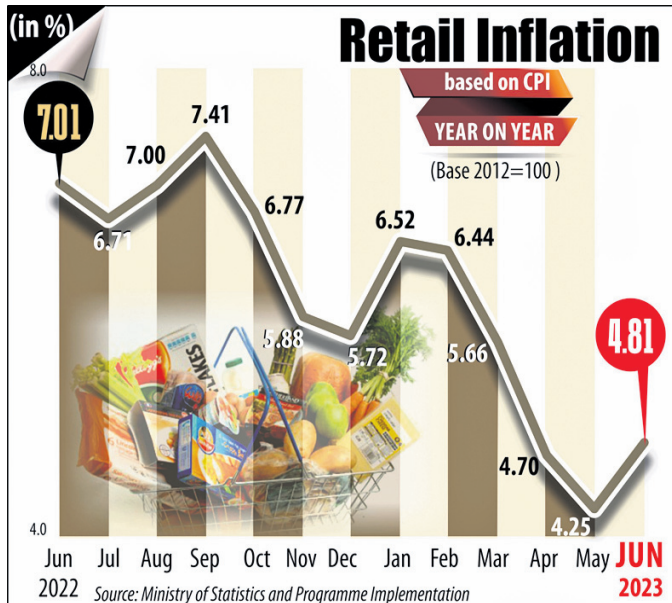
**New Delhi, July 12:** India's industrial production rose to 5.2 per cent in May from 4.5 per cent in April 2023, mainly due to good performance by the manufacturing and mining sectors, according to the official data released Wednesday.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 19.7 per cent in May 2022, mainly due to a lower base effect. "The growth rates over corresponding period of previous year are to be interpreted, considering the unusual circumstances on account of Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020," an official statement explained.

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 5.7 per cent in May 2023 against a 20.7 per cent expansion a year ago.

Power generation rose 0.9 per cent in May 2023 compared to a growth of 23.5 per cent a year ago.

Mining output rose by 6.4 per cent during the month under review against an 11.2 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.



- June CPI 4.81% vs 4.31% in May
- June food price inflation 4.49% vs 2.96% in May
- June core CPI 5.1%-5.4% vs 5.02% in May

The data revealed that annual rate of price rise was 19.19 per cent in case of spices, 12.71 per cent in 'cereals and products', 10.53 per cent in 'pulses and products', and 7 per cent in eggs. Fruits too were marginally costlier in June year-on-year.

However, there was a decline in inflation in 'oil and fats' (-18.12 per cent) and vegetables (-

0.93 per cent). Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head-Research and Outreach, ICRA, said the spike in vegetable prices is set to push the CPI inflation to an uncomfortable 5.3-5.5 per cent in July 2023.

"We expect the vegetable price shock to result in the Q2 FY2024 CPI inflation exceeding the (RBI's) Monetary Policy Committee's last forecast of 5.2 per cent.

"Accordingly, we anticipate that the Committee will retain its hawkish tone in August 2023, keep the repo rate unchanged and signal that a pivot to rate cuts remains distant," she said.

## FOXCONN SPLIT Vedanta to enter chip mkt this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** Days after Vedanta group's Taiwanese partner pulled out of a \$19.5 billion semiconductor-making project, company chairman Anil Agarwal Wednesday said partners have been lined up for the venture and Vedanta will begin foray into chip making this year.

Agarwal however did not identify the partner. Hon Hai

Technology Group, also known as Foxconn, earlier this week pulled out of the chipmaking joint venture with Vedanta and said it intends to apply for incentives under the government's semiconductor production plan. Just last week, Vedanta had said it will acquire semiconductor and display glass units from a group company.

Most of the world's chips are manufactured in a handful of

countries and India, which expects its semiconductor market to be worth \$63 billion by 2026, is a late entrant. Semiconductors find wide applications and are used in devices such as mobile phones to refrigerators and in cars. Speaking at Vedanta's annual shareholder meeting, Agarwal said there was a huge opportunity in the electronics sector as India imports \$100 billion worth of electronics every year.

# Domestic PV sales up 2% in June YoY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales witnessed a 2 per cent year-on-year rise to 3,27,487 units in June, as demand remained strong, especially for the entry-level utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said Wednesday.

Passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers in June 2022 stood at 3,20,985 units.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers President Vinod Aggarwal said the passenger vehicle segment continues to perform well on the back of strong demand.

The only weak spot is the drop in sales of hatchbacks, where buyers are migrating to entry-level sports utility vehicles, he said. The total two-wheeler sales rose by 2 per cent to 13,30,826 units last month, as against 13,08,764 units in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the performance of the segment, Aggarwal said the sales have started to pick up but it still remains below the previous peak level. Last fiscal, the total two-wheeler sales stood at 1.56 crore units, which remains low as compared to the peak level of 2.1 crore units a few years back, he added.

"We expect the rural economy to pick up and it would also be positive for the overall two-wheeler segment," Aggarwal said. Total three-wheeler wholesales saw a nearly two-fold jump in sales to 53,019 units in June,

There is no concern whatsoever with the overall PV segment as it is holistically doing well. Demand has also picked up in rural areas and that should further aid it. Going forward it looks like a very positive scenario as far as PV sales are concerned

VINOD AGGARWAL | PRESIDENT, SIAM

as compared to 26,701 units in June 2022, it added.

During the April-June quarter, passenger vehicle sales rose to 9,95,974 units, up 9 per cent, as against 9,10,495 units in the same period of the last fiscal, the data showed.

Total two-wheeler sales during the June quarter rose by 11 per cent to 41,40,964 units, as against 37,24,533 units in the year-ago period. Commercial vehicle sales, however, declined to 2,17,046 units, from 2,24,488 units in the same quarter last year.

Total three-wheeler dispatches rose to 1,44,475 units in April-June quarter, as against 76,293 units in the same period last fiscal. Total sales in the June quarter rose to 54,98,602 units, as compared to 49,35,910 units in April-June period of the last financial year.

Elaborating further, SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said the sales of passenger vehicles in April-June quarter has been the highest-ever with a growth of 9.4 per cent, compared to the previous year.

## NABARD celebrates 42nd Foundation Day

BIZ BUZZ

**Bhubaneswar:** On the occasion of its 42nd Foundation Day, NABARD reiterated its commitment to rural prosperity of the nation and to Odisha in a function Wednesday. Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary and Chief Development Commissioner, Govt of Odisha was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He congratulated NABARD on the commencement of 42nd year of its service to the nation. In the address, he appreciated NABARD for its consistent endeavors, initiatives and contributions to rural development and constant support and active involvement in the development of rural sectors in Odisha. He stated that NABARD through its initiatives like Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF), Self Help Group - Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP), National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) and others is complementing the developmental initiatives of the state government. BB Sahoo, General Manager, NABARD, highlighted the major achievements of NABARD in recent years. He thanked the stakeholders for the excellent cooperation and support which has resulted in fabulous performance of NABARD in the state. NABARD's financial support to the state government, banks and corporations in Odisha has touched Rs 31,095 crore in 2022-23. He indicated that the thrust areas for 2023-24 are remunerative activities Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, modernization and strengthening of cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations, SHGs to SMEs, doubling of bank credit to the SHGs, doubling of farmer's income, climate change and promotion of handloom and handicraft OFPOs.



## BoI GM holds customer review meeting

**Bhubaneswar:** Bank of India GM NBG ODISHA Bikram Keshari Mishra along with Srijit Shankar Behera, Zonal Manager, Sambalpur Zone visited Berhampur cluster. He conducted an interactive session with 30 customers from different branches of the cluster where many projects

to the tune of Rs 100 crore were sanctioned to finance in pisciculture, poultry, cashew processing units, piggery and goaterly farm. A total of Rs 20 crore were sanctioned to different SHG groups. The GM categorically conveyed his plans to foray into other segments, to reach out to more people and to be the front runner in being the helping hand to entrepreneurs. The bank is keen to be a part in shaping the economy of the state. He awarded the top performing branches which have performed well in CASA, deposit mobilisation, retail finance, MSME finance and NPA recovery after the review meeting.



# Global accounting firms set up shop in India's smaller cities

FOR DECADES, LARGE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS HAVE RUSHED TO INDIA'S BIGGEST METROPOLISES, CHIEFLY MUMBAI, DELHI AND BANGALORE, TO SET UP MASSIVE OPERATIONAL CENTRES THAT EMPLOY MILLIONS, LURED BY VAST, LOW-COST TALENT POOLS, PARTICULARLY IN IT

REUTERS

**Bhubaneswar, July 12:** The world's major accounting firms are stepping up investments in new Indian facilities away from bigger cities as global demand for cheaper back office operations grows and smaller towns move up the economic value chain.

Business service exports have become a critical part of India's economy but the sector has been hit by a slowdown in global demand for software and challenges in big urban centres such as rising costs, high attrition and slow progress in getting workers to return to the office after the pandemic.

A report by Ernst & Young in June said it expects multinationals to set up "global capability centres" for all types of industries in tier-2 cities such as Jaipur, Vadodara, Kochi, and Chandigarh. The number of such centres could expand to 2,400 by 2030 from 1,600, adding 2.6 million jobs and over \$100 billion to the economy.

That means more professional opportunities and potentially higher salaries in areas away from more globally connected business centres.

Diksha Mehta, 27, a mathematics graduate from the north Indian city of Patiala is among thousands of new hires, who re-



Global giants are finding it easier and more competitive to shift work to small locations in India

DEBASISH MISHRA | CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER, DELLOITTE SOUTH ASIA

cently joined Deloitte's cyber security team - providing consultancy for an Australian bank and retail clients in Europe.

"I was preparing for a career in academics but was delighted when I got a job offer along with four classmates," she said at Deloitte's Gurugram office, on the outskirts of New Delhi, where

hundreds have joined in recent months.

Rising wages, declining accounting graduates in developed countries after the pandemic and amid visa restrictions have helped India emerge as a powerhouse for global business services like taxation, data analytics, cybersecurity and customer

management. India is among the world's top exporters of services, doubling its share in global services trade to over 4% from 2% in 2005, according to WTO estimates.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a service exports target of \$400 billion for the current fiscal year, about 25% more than the previous year.

Sunil Talati, president of government-aided Services Export Promotion Council, said total services exports could overtake goods exports in the next five years to \$750 billion.

## RISING WAGES

In Bhubaneswar, the capital of the eastern state of Odisha, Deloitte, PwC, and IBM have opened offices to serve Indian and global clients.

Swagatika Parmanik, 25, left her job as a software professional to join Deloitte as a consultant in Bhubaneswar, a city of about 1 million built around mining and farming. "The salary hike helped me invest and buy medical insurance for my parents," she said.

The new offices have also encouraged educational institutions to start new courses and property developers to launch building projects.

A report by Knight Frank consultancy last week said demand for office space has risen sharply in smaller cities, driven by expanding operations of global accounting and multinationals, pushing up rents by up to 10%.

Domestic accounting firms are also moving to smaller towns and raising wages.

The Services Export Promotion Council's Talati, whose audit firm employed around 400 auditors and consultants in Gujarat, said many firms faced a shortage of certified accounting professionals.

"Retaining good employees is not an easy task as big companies are doubling the salaries," said Kshitij Patel of Manubhai & Shah LLP, an Ahmedabad-based accounting firm, working for local and overseas clients. "With the Big Four and other global firms coming to our cities, we are going even deeper to open offices in smaller cities."

# India take command

ASHWIN TAKES TWO, WHILE SHARDUL, JADEJA GET ONE SCALP EACH TO REDUCE WEST INDIES TO 68/4 AT LUNCH ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE FIRST TEST



JUST THE USUAL: Indian players celebrate after Ravichandran Ashwin (L) dismisses a West Indies batter

At the time of going to the press, West Indies were 129/8 in 55 overs. Rakheem Cornwall was batting on 2 and Kemar Roach yet to face a ball. Post lunch, R Ashwin bagged 2 more wickets, while Ravindra Jadeja had 1 more scalp to his name. Md Siraj also opened his account, dismissing Jason Holder.

West Indies skipper Brathwaite, easily the best Test batter in the side over the last five years, was increasingly getting frustrated as Ashwin bowled slightly quicker at times to him. He did try to hit out of trouble with a slog swept boundary but the canny operator fired one across the line, inducing Brathwaite to go for a mindless bottom-handed slog over mid-on. However the mistimed slog only became easiest skiers for skipper Rohit Sharma stationed at cover.

Left-handed Raymon Reifer (2 off 18 balls) never looked in control as Siraj softened him up with some short balls. So when Shardul, who is a notch slower came into the attack, he wanted to come on front-foot and get his cover drive going. Shardul quickly slipped one across the stumps and the thick outside edge was snapped by a diving Ishant Kishan behind the stumps.

**BRIEF SCORES:** West Indies 68/4 at lunch (Kraig Brathwaite 20, Jermaine Blackwood 14; Ravichandran Ashwin 2/25, Ravindra Jadeja 1/6, Shardul Thakur 1/7) vs India. Match to continue.

**MATCH SCHEDULE**  
**1st Test day 2**  
**Time: 7:30 pm**  
**Telecast**  
DD Sports (only on free cable networks, not on DTH)  
**Live stream**  
Jio Cinema & FanCode

Ravichandran Ashwin became only the fifth bowler and first Indian in Test cricket history to dismiss a father-son duo. Ian Botham, Wasim Akram, Mitchell Starc and Simon Harmer had already achieved the feat. The off-spinner joined the rare list after dismissed Tagenarine Chanderpaul. He got the wicket of the West Indian opener's father - Shivnarine - in his debut Test.

Ashwin also overtook legendary Anil Kumble as the Indian with the most bowled dismissals in Test cricket. He got his 95th scalp, overtaking Kumble (94) and is followed by Kapil Dev (88) and Mohammed Shami (66).

(12, 44 balls) and Kraigg Brathwaite (20 off 46 balls) went into a shell during the first hour as both Siraj (0/17 in 8 overs) and Jaydev Unadkat (0/7 in 5 overs) settled down to a nice fuller Test match length, beating the outside edge of both openers on multiple occasions.

The pressure created by the pace duo did reap dividends as Ashwin (2/25 in 10 overs) slowed the pace of his deliveries, used the available drift to a good advantage to make life uncomfortable for the two openers. There was a nice

loop and he did challenge both inside and outside edge during the second hour.

Tagenarine's stance and trigger shuffle from leg to off-stump does have an uncanny resemblance with his illustrious father Shivnarine although he is slightly more side-on compared to his 'Old Man'.

Sensing his shuffle, Ashwin got one to hang in the air and drift into the southpaw, who played inside the line only to find it beat his outside edge after pitching and there was a death rattle.

# Jabeur exacts sweet revenge

Tunisian beats defending champion Rybakina; Alcaraz, Medvedev in semis

REUTERS



London, July 12: Tunisian Ons Jabeur gained revenge for her defeat in last year's Wimbledon final when she surged back from a set down to beat third-seeded defending champion Kazakh Elena Rybakina 6-7(5-7), 6-4, 6-1 Wednesday to reach the semifinals.

A year ago Jabeur looked on course to become the first Arabic and African female champion before fading to lose in three sets but the dream is still on in 2023 after the sixth seed mounted a spirited comeback having looked distraught after the first set tie-break went against her.

Jabeur upped her game after that, remaining positive and going for the big shots as Moscow-born Rybakina's big serve faltered and the on-fire Tunisian won eight of the last nine games.

She will play second seed Aryna Sabalenka in the semis after the Belarusian beat American Madison Keys in straight sets earlier.

**SABALENKA THROUGH**  
Belarus' Sabalenka reached the semifinals for the second straight time, with a one-year break in between because she was banned from the tournament in 2022 because of the war in Ukraine.

The second seeded Belarusian advanced Wednesday by beating Madison Keys 6-2, 6-4 on No.1 Court. Sabalenka had lost to runner-up Karolina Pliskova in 2021. The victory improved Sabalenka's record to 17-1 at major tournaments this year. She won the Australian Open and reached the semifinals at the French Open before her five wins so far on the grass at Wimbledon.

**ALCARAZ EASES PAST RUNE**  
Carlos Alcaraz beat Holger Rune in straight sets to reach the semifinals. The World No.1 won 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 against his childhood friend to reach the last four in SW19 for the first time, where he will face Daniil Medvedev.

Despite his serve faltering in the final game, the Spaniard fought through in a close battle between

two rising talents, both aged 20. Only Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg have won the Wimbledon men's singles as a younger age.

**MEDVEDEV ENDS EUBANKS RUN**  
Third seed Medvedev curtailed American debutant Christopher Eubanks' extraordinary Wimbledon adventure as he weathered a ferocious storm to come through their quarterfinal 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6(7-4), 6-1, Wednesday.

Eubanks, bidding to emulate American great John McEnroe by reaching the semi-finals on his first appearance, cut a dejected figure in the deciding set as his dream faded away.

**BOPANNA, EBDEN IN SEMIS**  
Top Indian doubles player Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden continued their dream run to advance into the men's doubles semifinal with a hard-fought 6-7(6-3), 7-5, 6-2 win over Dutch duo of Tallon Griekspoor and Bart Stevens.

For the 43-year-old, this will be his third appearance in a

Wimbledon semifinal and first since 2015. The sixth seeded Indo-Australian duo will now be up against the top-seeded Dutch-British pair Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski in the last four stage.

**DJOKOVIC BEATS RUBLEV**  
As Novak Djokovic pursues more history-making victories and more milestones, he is well aware that every opponent he faces would love nothing more than to stop him. He reached his 46th Grand Slam semifinal to tie Roger Federer's record for men.

His 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Andrey Rublev was the 33rd in a row at the All England Club for the Serb, moving him closer to a fifth consecutive championship and eighth overall there - which would pull him even with Federer on both counts.

Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia, is also pursuing a 24th career major trophy. He already set the men's mark in that category by collecting No.23 at the French Open last month, pulling ahead of Rafael Nadal. Federer is next on the list with 20.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gyaneshwari claims gold, Jhili bags silver

**GREATER NOIDA:** Star lifter Mirabai Chanu was not there but Gyaneshwari Yadav gave the audience something to cheer for by clinching the women's 49kg gold at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships here Wednesday. The 20-year-old from Chhattisgarh recorded personal bests in the snatch as well as the clean and jerk section. Gyaneshwari lifted 176kg (78kg+98kg) to stand atop the podium. She staved off a challenge from compatriot Jhili Dalabehera, who had finished ahead of Gyaneshwari at the Asian Championships in October last year. The Odisha eve, who had a best effort of 169kg (75kg+94kg), had won the silver medal in the last edition as well. Komal Kohar earlier took the top honours in the women's 45kg event.

### Tour de France: Philipsen wins 11th stage

**MOULINS:** Jasper Philipsen cemented his status as this year's sprinting star when he claimed his fourth stage win in the Tour de France, Wednesday. The Belgian was a cut above the rest in the 11th stage, a 180km ride from Clermont Ferrand, beating Dutchman Dylan Groenewegen and German Phil Bauhaus to take his career tally of wins in the world's greatest race to six. He has now won six of the last seven bunch sprints on the Tour. Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard of Denmark retained the overall leader's yellow jersey. He leads second-placed Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia by 17 seconds with Australian Jai Hindley in third place, 2:40 off the pace as there was no major change in the top positions of the general classification.

### Bronze for Pal at Asian Athletics C'ships

**BANGKOK:** Abhishek Pal opened India's medal account in the Asian Athletics Championships with a bronze on the opening day of competitions here Wednesday. Pal clocked 29 minute 32.36 seconds to finish behind Ren Tazawa (29:18.44) of Japan and Koech Kimutai Shadrack (29:31.63) of Kazakhstan. The 25-year-old Pal from Indian army pushed hard in the last lap of the race to cross the finish line in 29:33.36 seconds to win first medal for the Indian contingent. While experienced javelin thrower Annu Rani missed the podium, she finished fourth with a throw of 59.10m. Middle distance runner Lili Das too missed the podium in the women's 1500m. She clocked 4:27 to finish seventh.

## Hockey eves depart for European tour



SCHEDULE (TIME IN IST)	Indian Tour of Germany	100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament	Telecast: Fans in India can watch matches of 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament on Olympics.com and Watch.Hockey
July 16: India vs China, 7:30 pm	July 25: India vs Spain, 9:30 pm		
July 18: India vs Germany, 2:30 pm	July 27: India vs Republic of South Africa, 4:30 pm		
July 19: India vs Germany, 9 pm	July 28: India vs England, 2:30 pm		

Spain July 25. Up next for the Indian Team will be Republic of South Africa July 27. They will play their last group match against England the next day.

The team will be led by goalkeeper Savita while Deep Grace Ekka has been named her deputy. The Indian squad has been training at the National Coaching Camp at SAI Centre here.

Speaking ahead of the Indian team's departure, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Savita said, "We are really looking forward to this tour. Playing against quality sides in the lead up to the Asian Games will give us a good learning experience. These matches will be really important for us as we prepare for the upcoming Asian Games. Having worked on our strengths and weaknesses in the last few months, we will aim to give our best in Germany and Spain."

Meanwhile, Deep Grace said, "We have carried out rigorous training sessions over the last few weeks. The preparations have been really good, and our previous performances will be a massive confidence booster for the players. We will look to replicate the same in our matches in Germany and Spain."

## Indo-Pak matches to be held in Dambulla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** The much anticipated Asia Cup games between India and Pakistan will be held in Sri Lanka as agreed upon by the previous dispensation of host PCB, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal confirmed Wednesday.

Dhumal, who is in Durban for the ICC Chief Executives Meet (CEC), informed that BCCI secretary Jay Shah and new PCB management committee chairman Zaka Ashraf met ahead of ICC Board meeting Thursday to finalise the Asia Cup schedule.

Ashraf, who took charge earlier this month, had expressed his displeasure over the hybrid model accepted by the previous regime under Najam Sethi. PCB has the hosting rights for the tournament to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 31-September 17.

"Our secretary met PCB head Zaka Ashraf and the Asia Cup schedule was finalised and it is on course as it was discussed earlier. There will be four games of league stage in Pakistan, followed by 9 games in Sri Lanka including both India versus Pakistan game and a third game if both teams reach the final," Dhumal told PTI.

Dhumal rubbished reports emerging from Pakistan media that India will travel to the neighbouring country as its sports minister Ehsan Mazarri had been claiming.

"There was no such discussion held. Neither India is travelling to Pakistan nor our secretary will be travelling contrary to reports that have surfaced. Only the schedule was finalised," Dhumal added.

India, in all likelihood, will play Pakistan in Dambulla just like 2010 edition. Pakistan's only home match in their country will be against minnows Nepal. The other three games are Afghanistan versus Bangladesh, Bangladesh versus Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka versus Afghanistan.

Recently, Pakistan sports minister Mazarri was quoted as saying that unless India come to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, Pakistan will not travel to India for the ODI World Cup.



A senior BCCI official said perhaps the Pakistan sports minister was "blissfully unaware" about the earlier meetings of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) where the all powerful executive committee had passed the hybrid model suggested by former chairman Najam Sethi.

"We aren't concerned about the internal happenings of PCB. All that we know is that PCB is a signatory to the Hybrid Model which was proposed by their representative and passed at ACC's highest body," a senior ACC board member present during that meeting told PTI.

"And just to refresh Pakistan's honourable sports minister's memory, it was PCB that had issued an official press release accepting that 4 games will be held in Pakistan and rest of the games in Sri Lanka," he added.

As far as the World Cup is concerned, the PCB is bound by ICC's Members' Participation Agreement (MPA) which was signed by the full members in 2015 for an eight year period ending 2023.

"Once you have signed an MPA, you are contractually bound to play an ICC event at a venue decided by the global body. Obviously security measures and other determining factors are always taken into account. But if a country pulls off even if security is not an issue, there could be legal and financial implications," the ICC member said.

However, the same MPA doesn't hold for the 2025 Champions Trophy which is scheduled to be held in Pakistan.

## When wife took Kumble's 'Jumbo act' as a joke

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 12:** Chethana, Anil Kumble's wife, thought he was "probably joking" when the Indian spin great, with a bandaged face and a broken jaw, decided to challenge the likes of Brian Lara during the Antigua Test in 2002.



Anil Kumble reacts after getting a wicket with broken jaw in 2002 Antigua Test

Kumble rates Lara as one of the toughest batters he had bowled to, as the Prince of Trinidad has three shots for one delivery. But Lara's feared reputation was not good enough to stop Kumble from producing one of the bravest acts in cricket, as he sent down 14 consecutive overs and dismissed the batting legend with a wired jaw.

"I told my wife, Chethana and I called her up. When we spoke, I said, look I know I have to come home because I just need surgery. So, she arranged for all of that in Bangalore.

"And as I dropped off the call, I just told her that look I'll go and bowl, but she thought probably I was just joking," Kumble reminisced during an interview with JioCinema. "I don't think she even took it seriously. What's she saying?"

The former India captain said

even after breaking his jaw he felt it was his responsibility to get some wickets for the team. "So, when I went back to the dressing room, I saw Sachin bowling because he was the only guy in the team who could bowl and then Wavell Hinds, I think was playing I don't remember some-



body else was batting," Kumble said.

"And I thought it was my chance. I have to go and get a couple of wickets. If we can get West Indies three or four down,

end of day two or three. I think if you can get them out, then maybe, we have a chance to win the game. That was the only thought. So, I told Andrew Leips - get me out there."

Kumble was due to fly back to Bangalore the following day for surgery, and he said at that time, "At least I can now go home with the thought that I tried my best."

Batting at No.7, Kumble was hit by a Mervyn Dillon short ball. He spat out blood but batted on for another 20 minutes in the fourth Test of that series more than two decades ago. The high-scoring match ended in a draw after both teams notched 500-plus totals in their first innings.

Asked about the toughest batters he had bowled to during his illustrious career, he picked Lara, Saeed Anwar, Jacques Kallis, and Aravinda de Silva among others.