KATRINA'S YEARNING

Actor Katrina Kaif opens up on missing a father figure, feeling vulnerable due to her parents' separation



HINDU TEMPLE ATTACKED

A gang of dacoits attack a Hindu temple with rocket launchers in the Southern Sindh province of Pakistan

INTERNATIONAL P10



Indian eves suffer their first-ever ODI defeat against Bangladesh losing the rain-

curtailed tie by 40 runs

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY JULY 17 | 2023

Bear mauls man to death; son critical

13, ISSUE 107 | www.orissapost.com

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, July 16: In yet another case of man-animal conflict, a septuagenarian was mauled to death while his son sustained critical injuries in bear attack at Birunpadar village under Komna police limits in this district, Sunday. The deceased was identified as Ghanashyam Patel, 70, and his injured son as Chaitu Patel, 40.

The incident sparked tension among the local residents as they placed the body in front of Komna tehsil office and blocked National Highway-353 demanding to kill the bear or relocate it elsewhere. They refused to relent and continued with their strike for over five hours.

The villagers finally relented after Khariar DFO Sushil Kumar Tripathy and social activists Prasanna Kumar Padhi, Birendra Pradhan and Bhubaneswar Nayak intervened with the DFO submitting a written assurance. The DFO gave away an ex-gratia of ₹60,000 and promise to pay

₹6 lakh on submission of nec-

The injured Chaitu was promised a payment of ₹2.50 lakh and service to the next of their kin. The DFO also promised to relocate the wild bear elsewhere following which the villagers withdrew from the road blockade.

The incident occurred when the deceased had gone to take bath to a water body at Dabriguda with some co-villagers.

A bear strayed from nearby Bijakhaman jungle and attacked Ghanashyam. Hearing his screams, the villagers accompanying him ran back to the village to call more people. On being informed, his son Chaitu rushed to the spot and tried to save his father from the wild animal when the latter attacked him.

Several villagers rushed to the spot and managed to drive the bear away. However, Ghanashyam had already succumbed to his injuries by then. Chaitu has been admitted to a hospital in Raipur of neighbouring Chhattisgarh.



TOUGH TIMES: People carry their school-going kids on shoulders to cross a waterlogged road after the Yamuna river inundated the nearby areas, in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, Sunday

CENTRE TO SELL TOMATOES AT SUBSIDISED RATE OF ₹80/KG

New Delhi, July 16: The Centre will sell tomatoes at ₹80 per kg from Sunday, as against ₹90 per kg earlier, to provide relief to people from high prices of the key kitchen item in retail mar-

On Friday, the Centre started to sell tomatoes at a discounted rate of ₹90 per kg in Delhi-NCR through mobile vans. More cities were added Saturday.

'There has been a decrease in the wholesale prices of tomatoes due to the intervention of the government to sell it at a concessional rate of ₹90 per kg, at several locations in the country where the prices were ruling exceptionally high," an official statement said.

"After a re-assessment of the situation from across 500 plus points in the country, it has been decided to sell it at ₹80 per kg from today, Sunday, July 16th, 2023,' it added.

Sales started Sunday at several points in Delhi, Noida, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Patna, Muzaffarpur and Arrah through

cooperatives NAFED and NCCF, the statement said. The sale of tomatoes at discounted price will be expanded to

more cities

from Monday

depending upon the prevailing market prices at such locations

"The government of India is committed to provide relief to the consumers," the statement said. The National Cooperative

Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) are selling tomatoes on behalf of the Centre through mobile vans.

Prices of tomatoes in the retail market remain at an elevated level of up to ₹250 per kg across major cities due to monsoon rains and lean season.

The all-India average price stood at nearly ₹117 per kg Saturday, according to the government.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



pumps to drain out flood water

Interstate job scam busted; 9 arrested

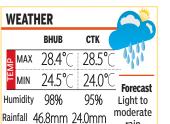
AGENCIES

Balasore, July 16: Police Sunday busted an interstate job racket and arrested nine persons including a woman from a lodge in Digha area in West Bengal.

Police seized a bus, five cars, 15 mobile phones, original certificates of the job seekers and some signed blank cheques from the racketeers. "Acting on a tipoff, police intercepted some vehicles over the Baruni bridge and interrogated the occupants, Balasore SP Sagarika Nath said.

On the basis of information given by them a raid was conducted by the Talasari Marine Police at a lodge in Digha where the racketeers were arrested. Police also rescued and let off 88 job aspirants who were brought to Digha and kept in the lodge by the scamsters. The job aspirants, who belong to different states, were to take up Combined Graduate Level (CGL) exam conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). The racketeers had provided them fake question papers.

The SP said among the nine people arrested by police one is from Bihar another is from Vishakhapatnam. She said the racketeers operate the racket across the country. They provide fake question papers of the exam to the job seekers before exams and collect between ₹8 to ₹16 lakh from each aspirant. "There is no question paper leak," SP Nath said.



Larger Oppn meet today

THIS WILL BE THE SECOND MEETING OF MORE THAN A DOZEN OPPOSITION PARTIES IN BANGALORE AS THEY SEEK TO CHALK OUT A JOINT STRATEGY TO TAKE ON THE BJP UNITEDLY IN THE 2024 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

AGENCIES

ers of 26 opposition parties including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are expected to attend the two-day brainstorming session in Bangalore from Monday where they are likely to start work on a common minimum programme and announce a joint agitational plan to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. According to sources, the lead-

New Delhi, July 16: Top lead-

ers are likely to hold discussions on issuing a joint declaration and move forward on their proposal of putting up common opposition candidates in a majority of the Lok Sabha seats.

The agenda for the talks would be finalised during discussions before a dinner meeting Monday evening, they said. There is a proposal to set up a

subcommittee for drafting a common minimum programme and communication points for the Opposition alliance for the 2024 general elections, the sources said. Besides, the sources said, the

plan is also to set up a subcommittee for chalking out the joint programme of parties that includes rallies, conventions and agitations. A plan to discuss the process for deciding seat sharing on a

state-to-state basis is also on the table. The opposition leaders may also discuss the issue of EVM and suggest reforms to the Election Commission, the sources said. The opposition leaders also plan to suggest a name for the alliance.

On the eve of the meeting hosted by it, the Congress stated that it will oppose the ordinance 26 Opposition parties' leaders likely to attend 2-day brainstorming session from today to take on BJP

Congress Parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi is also likely to attend this time

The Opposition meeting coincides with the NDA meeting convened July 18 in Delhi, where some new allies are likely to join the ruling BJP-led coalition

on Delhi administrative services in Parliament, a key condition put by the Aam Aadmi Party to attend the talks.

"Today, the Congress party cleared its position against Delhi Ordinance. We welcome the announcement. Along with this, AAP will attend the opposition meet in Bangalore," AAP leader Raghav Chadha said.

Fifteen parties attended the last meeting for opposition unity hosted by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna June 23.

"This time we are expecting leaders of 26 parties," a source said.

Sources said the MDMK, IUML, Kerala Congress (Joseph) and Kerala Congress (Mani) are among the political parties that will join the second opposition

meeting. Besides, the Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) of Krishna Patel and Tamil Nadu's Manithaneva Makkal Katchi (MMK) led by MH Jawahirullah are likely to join the front after an invite was

and JDU leader Nitish Kumar, DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, JMM leader and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Delhi

> former chief ministers Uddhav Thackeray and Lalu Prasad. The BJP hit out at the opposition parties, alleging that they are a "divided lot" and have no specific programme other than to defeat PM Narendra Modi.

sent to them too.

ing this time.

Congress Parliamentary party

Other top leaders include

Congress president Mallikarjun

Kharge, former party chief Rahul

Gandhi, NCP supremo Sharad

Pawar, TMC supremo and West

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee, Bihar Chief Minister

CM Arvind Kejriwal, besides

chairperson Sonia Gandhi is

also likely to attend the meet-

Meteorite hits French woman while sipping coffee on terrace

New Delhi, July 16: In an extremely rare astronomical event, a French woman was hit by a meteorite while having coffee on terrace with her friend, the media reported. According to French newspaper

Les Dernieres Nouvelles d'Alsace

(DNA), the woman was hit in the ribs by a mysterious pebble. "I heard a big 'Poom' coming from the roof next to us. In the second that followed, I felt a shock on the ribs.

I thought it was an animal, a bat! the woman was quoted as saving. "We thought it was a piece of cement, the one we apply to the ridge

tiles. But it didn't have the colour." To understand what stuck her she got the rock checked by a local roofer



The first confirmed case of a meteorite directly striking a person occurred in the US in 1954, where a woman was struck by a 3.6-kg stony

who suggested it to be a meteorite. Following this, she got the rock ex-

meteorite



Rebmann, who confirmed its extra-

terrestrial origins. The rock appeared to contain a mixture of iron and silicon, and could be a meteorite, Rebmann was quoted as saying to the local paper. All the pieces of the meteorite that have been recovered weighed more

than 100 gms, the report said. The geologist added that the phenomenon of people being struck by such objects is extremely rare. Meteorites are "space rocks" that survive their journey through the Earth's atmosphere and hit the ground.

These objects -- known as meteoroids when they are in space -range in size from dust grains to small asteroids. Almost 50 tonnes of meteoritic material is estimated to fall to Earth every day, according to NASA.

"It's very rare, in our temperate environments, to find them,' Rebmann was quoted as saying.

They merge with other elements. On the other hand, in a desert environment, we can find them more easily." The first confirmed case of a meteorite directly striking a person occurred in the US in 1954, where a woman was struck by an 3.6 kg stony meteorite that crashed through her roof, leaving her with severe bruising.



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of India (CSI)

■ Engineering and Technology Medical Sciences Management Sciences Pharmaceutical Sciences 8 Hospitality & Tourism

FACULTIES

Veterinary Science & /

Legal Studies

Happiness Recognized by QS I-GAUGE







leisure

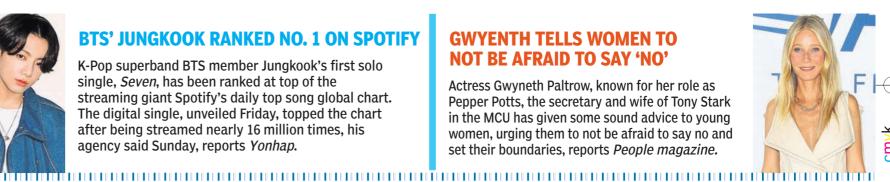


BTS' JUNGKOOK RANKED NO. 1 ON SPOTIFY

K-Pop superband BTS member Jungkook's first solo single, Seven, has been ranked at top of the streaming giant Spotify's daily top song global chart. The digital single, unveiled Friday, topped the chart after being streamed nearly 16 million times, his agency said Sunday, reports Yonhap.

GWYENTH TELLS WOMEN TO NOT BE AFRAID TO SAY 'NO'

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, known for her role as Pepper Potts, the secretary and wife of Tony Stark in the MCU has given some sound advice to young women, urging them to not be afraid to say no and set their boundaries, reports People magazine.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You are an imaginative and enterprising person, and today you may taste success. Ganesh says that you are ambitious but warns you not to take on more work than you can handle. You are positive about and have faith in God.

TAURUS

This is one of those days when not goes well, warns Ganesha. No matter how hard you try you may not be able to ns and difficulties at bay You may not be pleased or comfortable doing what has been assigned, or required, and could simply sit sullenly doing nothing.

■ GEMINI

Your mind will be uneasy and anxious due to some reason today. You will be unable to express your anxieties. You will be able to secure the love of your partner by sharing your feelings. You need to let go of the past and strive to keep on moving forward with confi-

CANCER

A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesha. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you

You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Gan

■ VIRGO

You will remain engrossed in personal matters at the cost of professionalism Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesha warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enter prising spirit, especially in the evening

Ganesha savs vou will showcase your ability and field and impress people. You will develop and express your inner love for art and artistic things and you will purchase a new work of art today. Ganesha showers you with all his blessings.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, you will be soaked in your work today. During the day, you may be loaded with duties and responsibilities, however, evening has a different story to reveal. Exciting as ever, a get away with friends may be liberating and relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS

A day to full of caution, warns Ganesha. There are chances that your heart wil find its partner, forcing you to fall in love. You may be cupid's next prey. However, watch your steps, as the initial stages of a relationship may be fragile and need to handled with care.

CAPRICORN Forced to some backbreak

ing work today, you will feel exhausted by the end of the day. It is a cut-throat competition when it comes to the business world. Your arch rivals are looking out for one small oppor tunity to damage your business and reputation. But, you are no less. You understand their moves. Ganesha predicts that you will be ready with the equally strong counter attack and fight back.

AOUARIUS

Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesha congratulates you for that. You will inspire and motivate a number of people, and may create a fan following, too. This, however doesn't mean that you throw your weight around. Keep a humane and humble approach towards others.

PISCES The day will be exceptional for working people as the planets seemed to be aligne perfectly, portends Ganesha, You will achieve all the expected results in the office and/or at work today.



father figure every time she faced an emotionally hard situation and

once talked about missing a

fessed that every time she hit a rough patch, she would think about people who have unconditional love from a male figure.

Her parents, mother Suzanne Turquotte and father Mohammed Kaif separated when she was little and shares a close bond with

her mother, has six sisters and a brother named Michael.

In an interview in 2019, Katrina was asked if she missed having a 'strong male influence'. The ZNMD actress replied, "Yeah. Not having a father figure does create a certain vacuum and makes any girl feel vulnerable. When I have kids, I want them to have the experience of being with both parents.

"Each time I've gone through something emotionally hard, I was compelled to reflect that it must be nice for those who have a strong fatherly support from a male figure, who loves you unconditionally," she said.

Katrina made her Bollywood debut in 2003 with Boom, which was a critical and commercial failure and later rose to fame after starring in Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya? (2005). On the workfront, Katrina will be next seen in Tiger 3, Merry Christmas and Jee Le Zaraa.

FUN

DOST



BLOODING NEW TALENT: The 29th batch of Satabdira Kalakar School of Acting presented Odia play Guest at Biju Natya Kendra (Nayanalli), Bhuhaneswar Sunday, Written by Darna Narayan Sethi and directed by Bibhuti Mohanty, the stage came alive with stellar performances by the freshers. Luminaries present on the occassion included Srijit Satapathy, acclaimed actor and director, noted film producer Basant Kumar Sahoo, and actor-director-producer Narendra

I've never paid heed to people's opinion: Kajol

Mumbai:

Actress Kajol who has a career spanning over three decades, in a new interview, talked about how her maternal lineage has helped her to become a strong person.

"I have never paid heed to 'log kya kahenge (what will people think)' in my life. I was raised by a wonderful mother. I was raised by a mother who did not give two hoots about society. Actually, I had a wonderful maternal lineage. From my great-grandmother to my grandmother and my mother, every one of them has always behaved and taught me by example that nobody else matters, your life is your responsibility and nobody else's opinion matters on that," the DDL_tI actress said.

"Firstly, take responsibility for your life...your actions are your own not dictated by society. Secondly, at the end of the day, society will have to accept what you

make out of your life and that's how my great-grandmother and grandmother lived their lives. Both of them had amazingly different opinions on life and the world. My mother literally lives her life till today. I am trying to live my life like them," she

and late director Shomu Mukherjee, in 2020 had dropped a beautiful collage on social media, throwing light on her family lineage which featured the actor, her mother Tanuja, late maternal grandmother Shobhna Samarth and late aunt Nutan. Who I came from... the true feminists! #strongwomen #live

tioned the post. On the work is being lauded for her per mance in

learnlove," she cap-

the web show The Trial - Pyaar Kaanoon, on Disney+ Hotstar.

AGENCIES

Kajol born to legendary actor Tanuja

front, Kajol

rently streaming

Alia to prioritise family over work Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt, recently talked about the changes in her life over the decade and recalled the time when she could sacrifice anything Alia entered the film industry in Student Of The Year and became a highly successful actress, marrying Ranbir Kapoor

> and becoming a mother during her successful career. The Badri ki Dulhaniya actress said, "After a decade in the film industry. my life has undergone significant transformations. There was a period when I was willing to sacrifice sleep and time with my family, tirelessly working and shooting. However. now that I have a family of my own-a daughter and a hus-

> > band—I vearn

to make up for

CROSSWORD

3 Spectre

6 Far-out

island

(4,3,4)

14 Laurels

15 Type of

17 Playful

5 Wooden pin

7 Fr. Polynesian

8 A mixed bag

cookware

16 Neutron star

19 Like a sprite

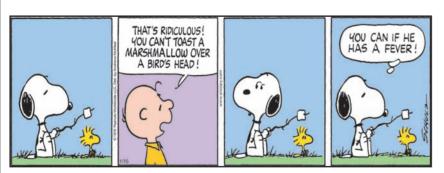
the lost time with my parents, sister, and friends in the past ten years.'

"I have made a deliberate decision to prioritize balance in my life by staying present and not constantly working or being on my phone. Though I occasionally struggle, I strive to avoid using my phone unnecessarily and focus on meaningful tasks instead," she added. Alia will

next be seen in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani and is also

lease of her debut international film, *Heart* of Stone, AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

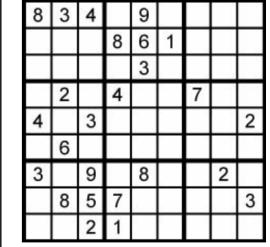


BREVITY



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





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

W X A E S L M A D M I S S I L E

SUDOKU

19 Farm female 21 Sad song CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Copyright @2023 PuzzleJunction.com

20 Tracking

device

22 Pompous

at

Down

bores (7,6)

Seven Dwarfs

brown colour

23 Take offense

24 One of the

1 Reddish-

2 Zoo heavy-

Across 1 Sudden

4 The start of

9 Deceptive

(4,3,6)

10 Fowl pole

12 Snack

13 Baccarat

18 Samovai

something

marketing tool

11 Roman sun god

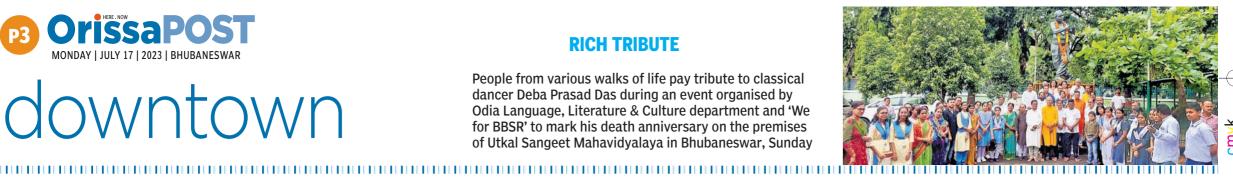
variation (6.2.3)



downtown

RICH TRIBUTE

People from various walks of life pay tribute to classical dancer Deba Prasad Das during an event organised by Odia Language, Literature & Culture department and 'We for BBSR' to mark his death anniversary on the premises of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



KANDHAMAL MIGRANT'S HANDS CHOPPED

NHRC notice on Mumbai top cop

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 16: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked Mumbai Police Commissioner to file an action taken report (ATR) within four weeks in connection with the brutalities inflicted upon a 22year-old migrant worker from Kandhamal in Mumbai.

The NHRC move follows a plea filed by rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. The petitioner informed that commission that Angad Mallick, a resident of Dahalapadi Sahi in Baliguda Notified Area Council (NAC) of Kandhamal district, was on way to Gujarat in search of work when miscreants chopped his hands off at Mumbai railway station.

About the turn of events, Tripathy said Rabi Sahani of Bhagmunda village offered work to Mallick in Gujarat and even paid an advance of ₹8,000 to him. 'Mallick left home without informing his family and boarded a Mumbai-bound train with Rabi April 27. After alighting at a railway station in Mumbai, Rabi was busy attending a phone call when miscreants assaulted Mallick leaving him unconscious," the petitioner said quoting Mallick's statement.

He added that the Mumbai GRP found Mallick in a critical condition and admitted him to a nearby hospital. "After re-

Railway Board asked to act against officials

The NHRC has disposed off a ase by directing the Railway Board Chairman to take appropriate action against the officials for their failure to A woman was

provide security to the found dead inside passengers after a woman was found dead inside coach in Dhanbad the toilet of a coach in Dhanbad Express April

Disposing off the case April 20 this year filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC also directed the authorities to pay suitable compensation to the kin of the deceased.

Tripathy alleged that a woman

Angad Mallick, a resident of Dahalapadi Sahi in Baliguda NAC of Kandhamal district, was on way to Gujarat in search of work when miscreants chopped his hands off at a railway station in Mumbai in April this year

he National Commission for Scheduled Tribes had served notices on Odisha Chief Secretary, DGP and RPF DG, seeking ATR in connection with the brutal incident

gaining consciousness, Mallick was shocked to find his hands chopped off from the elbow. Later, he was sent to an ashram in Gujarat's Kutch," Tripathy pointed out.

On the other hand, unable to contact Mallick, his family lodged a missing complaint with the was found dead inside the toilet of S-5 coach in Dhanbad Express at Bhubaneswar railway station

April 20 this year. The incident came into lime light when the sanitation worker while cleaning the train found the toilet of S-5 the body of the woman lying in a pool of blood Express at Bhubaneswar and informed the GRP.

According to the aurailway station topsy report, she was killed inside the train.

Tripathy said the incident occurred due to negligence of the TTE and RPF authorities and requested the commission to intervene into the matter.

Baliguda police April 29.

After learning Mallick's details like his house address June 22, the ashram authorities informed Baliguda police about the 22year-old's plight. Soon after, Mallick's family reached Gujarat and brought him back to Odisha June 30.

Earlier, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has served notices on Odisha Chief Secretary Director General of Police (DGP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) Director General (DG), seeking ATR in connection with the

The NCST has directed the Chief Secretary, DGP and RPF DG to investigate the barbaric incident and file ATR in its connection within 15 days.

Raj youth falls to death in **Cuttack drain**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 16: A 21-year-old youth from Rajasthan died after falling into an open drain at Jhola Sahi under Ward-26 of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) here, an official said,

The deceased was identified as Rahul Khatak, a resident of Rajasthan, who had come to visit his relatives residing in Neem Sahi here.

According to sources, Rahul was on his way to a teashop Saturday afternoon when he fell into an open drain overflowing with rainwater.

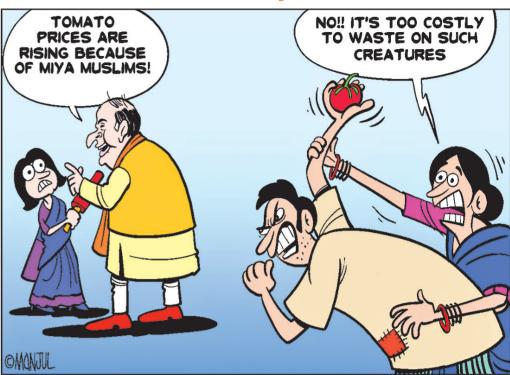
As it has been raining heavily since Friday, several low-lying areas of Cuttack were waterlogged making it difficult to distinguish the road from the open drains overflowing with water. The tragic incident has spread shockwaves across Cuttack.

Meanwhile, Rahul's father lodged a complaint with Purighat police here in connection with the incident, Sunday.

Narrating the incident, the deceased's father said, "I run a tea shop in Puri. I received a call around 3.30pm Saturday that my son fell into an open drain and was admitted to a hospital. Soon after receiving the news, I came to Cuttack and learnt about his death.'

Local corporator Gagan Ojha who accompanied Rahul's father to the police station said, "This is an instance of complete failure by the government and the CMC. I had personally taken the CMC commissioner to the spot and requested to cover the drain with slabs. They had even prepared an estimate of ₹1.4 crore for the work.'

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



IMD FORECASTS MORE RAIN

Bhubaneswar, July 16: Odisha, which has already been experiencing incessant rain for the last two days, will receive more downpour due to the formation of a low pressure area in the eastern region, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, Sunday.

The forecast has led the state administration to alert all Collectors, asking them to be prepared for any exigency caused by the heavy rainfall.

The IMD said that the low pressure area has been formed over northern Odisha and adjoining parts of West Bengal and

Jharkhand. In the last 24 hours, Kirmira in Jharsuguda district received the highest rainfall of 215 mm, followed by 184.8 mm in Laikera in Jharsuguda, 166 mm in Bhadrak, 160 mm in Kuchinda, 150 mm in Dhamnagar, 139 mm in Kolabira and 138 mm in Bhandaripokhari, as per the regional centre of IMD.

Heavy rain caused waterlogging in Bhubaneswar, throwing traffic out of gear, while many slums and low-lying areas were inundated. The IMD predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall of 7-11 cm for 24 hours from 8.30 am July 17 in Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Jharsuguda, from 8.30 am July 18 in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangapur and Nuapada. Special Relief Commissioner Satyabrata Sahu has written to the district Collectors, asking

Kandhamal, Bolangir, Sonepur,

Deogarh, Nabarangapur,

Koraput, Malkangiri, Kalahandi

and Bargarh. Similar amount of

rainfall may occur for 24 hours

them to remain vigilant and keep a close watch on the situation in areas for which orange (be updated) and yellow (be prepared)

Valedictory Ceremony of the National Conference on **Judicial History and Archiving** Professor Kishor Kumar Basa **Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar** The Hon'ble Judges Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa of the High Court of Orissa **Odisha Judicial Academy High Court of Orissa**

CURTAINS DOWN: Dignitaries including Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and National Monuments Authority Chairman Kishor Kumar Basa during the valedictory ceremony of History and Archiving' organised by Orissa HC at Odisha Judicial Academy in Cuttack, Sunday

ODISHA EOW NABS 46 FROM OTHER STATES IN 2 YEARS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch (CB) has arrested at least 46 accused persons from outside Odisha in the last two years, an official said Sunday.

Seven out of the 46 have been apprehended by the EOW sleuths in loan app fraud, while nine have been taken into custody in connection with various ponzi scams. The cases in which the other accused persons were nabbed include job frauds, online ponzi schemes, illegal Chinese loan apps, crypto frauds, YouTube/hotels frauds, liking/rating scams, work from home scams, courier scams, money earning apps, hawala related fraud, and share market related fraud, the EOW revealed Sunday

As many as eight accused were held in 2021 while the sleuths succeeded in arresting 27 fraudsters from different states during that period. The EOW has apprehended 11 such persons involved in various financial crimes so far in 2023.

"In recent times, EOW has de tected and investigated many cases where it has tracked down masterminds or bosses of some mega pan-India cyber-financial frauds operating from faraway places like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad etc. In some cases the fraudsters were running the syndicate from places like China, Hong Kong and Dubai," the EOW stated.

Following the request of the investigative agency, the Bureau of Immigration of India has also issued look-out circulars against fugitive accused persons.

Devpt of tourist amenities 'Babies enjoy live music than recorded events' at Pradhanpat waterfall

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 16: While visiting Deogarh to review progress of various development works, Sunday, 5T Secretary VK Pandian discussed with locals about the development of ecotourism and tourist amenities at Pradhanpat waterfall.

He interacted with college students and informed them the Chief Minister has approved transformation of all nineteen +2 colleges and nine degree colleges of Deogarh under the 5T initiative at a cost of ₹10.25 crore.

Later, the 5T Secretary attended public grievances at Bada Bagicha ground and heard individual as well as community grievances while assuring all of early disposal. He reviewed progress of the new 300-bedd district headquarter hospital being built at a cost of ₹115 crores and directed the concerned officials to complete it by October this year.

Special secretary to the Chief Minister R Vineel Krishna, RDC



Suresh Dalai, DIG Brijesh Rai, Deogarh Collector Somesh Kumar Upadhyay, SP Pramod Rath and other officials accompanied him on the visit

Pandian continued Sambalpur visit on second day and reviewed various developmental projects. He offered prayers at Maa visited the Huma Temple in Maneswar block and interacted with the temple committee, priests and public on development of the pilgrim facilities. He also visited Jagannath and Panch Khanda temples in Rairakhol NAC. He directed the district administration to prepare plans for development of facilities at these places.

Samaleswari Temple. Then he

The 5T Secretary then visited the Santkabi Bhima Bhoi Prapti Pitha in Madhupur in Rairakhol where he interacted with followers of Mahima Dharma and discussed development of facilities there. While visiting the Santkabi Bhima Bhoi Smruti Pitha in Kandhara, he discussed development of facilities for pilgrims.

Pandian inspected Kadaligad Mega PWS site to inspect the Water Treatment Plant, being built with an estimated cost of ₹108 crores the project aims to provide clean and safe drinking water to 115 villages.

Babies watching a live baby opera were significantly more engaged and their heart rates more in sync than those watching a recording of the same show identical to the live version, researchers have

The findings suggested that babies too feel the impact of being at a live show, through both musicians' interactions with an audience and the social experience of being in a crowd, the study from the University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada,

Baby opera is an online mashup of animation and live-action performances made especially for under four year olds.

"It speaks to the shared experience," said Laura Cirelli, assistant professor in the department of psychology and co-author of the study published in the journal Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the

"Their heart rates were speeding up and slowing down in a similar fashion to other babies watching the show.

"Those babies were dealing with all these distractions in the concert hall, but still had these



Socialisation is known to be crucial during childhood development as the infant's brain is laying the groundwork for future life skills and abilities as it grows

she said.

recording.

uninterrupted bursts of attention." she said, recalls moments when a calm would sweep over the babies, and other times when a change in pitch or vocal riff would excite them all.

Socialisation is known to be crucial during childhood development as the infant's brain is laying the groundwork for future life skills and abilities as it

Cirelli says music can play a powerful part in making those important bonds.

"This audience study shows

are already engaging more when it's delivered this way," said Cirelli.

that even in a community con-

text, infants are engaging with

the music and connecting to

their fellow audience members,"

The researchers examined the

responses of 120 babies aged six

to 14 months as they watched a

children's opera performed at a

concert hall. 61 babies watched

in-person, while 59 watched a

Their responses were recorded

using heart monitors and tablets

and then examined for when the

babies looked at the stage versus

That's not to say babies find virtual performances boring, the researchers said.

when they looked away.

The researchers found that the live performance captured

their attention for 72 per cent

of the 12-minute show while the

recording held their attention

for 54 per cent. The live show

also had them continually watch-

may not have experienced music

in a community context before

'Even little babies who may or

ing for longer bouts of time.

Studying babies watching

recordings at home over Zoom during the pandemic, they found that they paid as much attention as those attending the live event, but they were more likely to get distracted throughout and have shorter bursts of attention.

"The babies watching at home 🗦 didn't have the distraction of being in a new place, they were in their comfort zone. But even without distractions the quality of their attention was still not nearly as strong as the audience in the live condition," she said.

Exhibition in Chennai to promote state's tribal art



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 16: In a bid to promote state's tribal art, provide an opportunity to tribal artists to gain exposure and interact with artists of other states, Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi has been organising Odisha Tribal Painting Exhibition from July 16 to July 20 at Cholamandal Artist Village, Chennai.

Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Aswini

Kumar Patra inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest while department additional secretary Dillip Kumar Routray, eminent poet, art critic and translator from Chennai Indran Rajendran, sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik attended the inauguration event.

In his address, Patra said that the state government is taking steps to encourage the artists and foster creativity. "The initiative of Odisha Lalit Kala worthy. The exhibition is based on Odisha tribal culture especially on the cultures of Saura, Santal and Kandha paintings which are a part of their festive ceremonies," he said.

25 tribal artists, from different districts of the state like Rayagada, Malakangiri, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Jharsuguda and Dhenkanal are participating in the exhibition with their paintings drawn on 4ft into 3ft canvases with use of acrylic colours.

Artists Survalata Naik, Kartik Majhi, Basen Tudu, Jagannath Sabar, Maheswar Marndi. Sukumati Thiu, Biduraj Soren, Santosh Kumar Singh Khuntia, Samsan Gomanga, Dinesh Kumar Gamanga, Jitendra Hembram, Jitendra Dalabehera. Sanjaya Gomango, Ebal Sabar, Libistan Gamanga, Rabinath Sabar, Rajendra Laguree, Subash Sodi, Lata Jani, Soubhagya Manjari Mallick, Prakash Minz, Bharati Tudu, Sujanamati Eka, Banishree Hembram and Janmejaya Pradhan are participating with their paintings being exhibited at the venue.

Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi secretary Panchanan Samal welcomed the artists, guests and coordinated the inaugural function.



ENCHANTING PERFORMANCE: Artistes performing at 37th Srandhanjali Samaroh organised by Tridhara at GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar,

REVIEW MEETING HELD BY AGRICULTURE & FE MIN

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 16: In order to make an assessment of different schematic interventions, achievements and monitoring through digitised platform, Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain held a review meeting at Krushi Samiksha Kendra (KSK) Saturday.

In the meeting, department's Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee outlined the dif

ferent schematic interventions and initiatives.

Minister Swain emphasised on timely supply of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertiliser and other critical inputs to the farmers.

He also instructed the officials to facilitate the credit facility to the farmers in a time bound manner to expedite the agricultural operations in a more scientific and innovative ways.

Since Swain was apprehen-

sive about the climate aberrations which not only influences agricultural production in the state but also delays the agricultural operations, he reviewed the rainfall status of the districts and instructed the field functionaries to be in readiness

vailing dry spells. He also reviewed the crop coverage of different districts, prepositioning of inputs like seeds and fertilisers, green manuring under Dhanicha cultivation, de-

to arrest or to prevent the pre-

velopment and area coverage under Potato, vegetables and spices among other things.

The meeting was attended by Agriculture & FP Director, Horticulture Director, Soil Conservation & WD Director along with senior officers of the department. Besides, all district level officials from all three Directorates of the A&FE department joined the review meeting through OSWAN points from their respective district headquarters.

US Rotary Club honour for Odia entrepreneur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: Sita Kantha Dash, an entrepreneur and inventor who has helped shape the \$100 billion probiotic industry through his pioneering work, was recently honoured by the Rotary Club of Edina, Minnesota in USA with the prestigious membership in the Arch Klumpf Society.

The Arch Klumpf Society, named after one of Rotary Club's presidents, is a recognition given to people who have contributed at least \$250,000 to "do good work in the world.

In a special ceremony that was also heralded as India Day, community leaders spoke of the many contributions of Dash both locally and globally, from



supporting water projects around the world to launching a world class university in Odisha. 'We are honoured to recog-

nise the philanthropic work of Dash across the world," said Rotary Club Edina President, Shelly Loberg. President of India Association of Minnesota Tanwi Prigge sharing the wide-ranging contributions of Dash said "Dash has received numerous national and international awards for his accomplishments in the fields of probiotics, science, and technology."

"Dash was recently honoured with the rotunda of the Minnesota History Museum named after him," said Nash Shaikh, Chief of Staff, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. 'We appreciate his efforts to lift up the Indian American community through supporting a book on the Indian diaspora to Minnesota, support for the Beyond Bollywood exhibit of the Smithsonian in Minnesota, and the annual celebration of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi and India Fest."

'Greenathon' organised for clean & safe environment



FOR A CAUSE: BMC Mayor Sulochana Das and Twin City Police Commissioner Soumendra Priyadarsi flagging off a 'Greenathon' at Forest Park in Bhubaneswar. Sunday

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 16: With an clean and safe environment, SAIL SeQR TMT Bars organised a 'Greenathon' in the Capital city Sunday.

The walk started from Biju Pattnaik (Forest) Park covering major parts of the smart city and large numbers of participants joined the noble cause to spread the imminent awareness of environment conservation.

The event was flagged off by BMC Mayor Sulochana Das and Twin City Police Commissioner Soumendra Privadarsi

Special Development Council Chairperson Pradip Majhi and Deputy BMC Commissioner Snehalata Acharya also graced the occasion.

Prior to walkathon, renowned Yoga Instructor of Health Ville conducted healthy yoga practices. A session to 'stay fit on any environment' was conducted by Apollo Hospital Chief Dietician Sunita Sahoo.

The event saw programme of Neelima Mishra from CEIBA Green, who sensitized all participants on the avoidance of plastic use.

Renowned Tree Man Antarjyami Sahoo, Dilip Srichandan and Amaresh Naresh Samanta were felicitated for their contribution towards saving nature. Ten Safai Mitras were also feted on this occasion. The event concluded with the eco-friendly message of plants distribution.

Non-Govt Aided, **Unaided teachers** threaten stir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 16: To press for their demand of government aid, the teachers of non-government aided and unaided colleges have decided to go for an indefinite strike in the City from

Speaking to media Sunday, the office-bearers of the Non-Government Aided and Unaided College Teaching and Non-Teaching (+2 & +3) Employees' Association said following their appointed by the management committees of the colleges in 2008, they have been working till now. Despite several letters and meetings with the Higher **Education Minister and officers** of the department, the government has not taken the step to provide aid to them, they claimed.

The Higher Education Minister held meeting with us to discuss our demand in 2018 and 2020. He assured of looking into our demand. The higher education directorate had written a letter to our colleges to furnish the total number of teachers and non-teachers serving in the institutions in 2023

2024 ELECTIONS

Oppn to focus on booth mgmt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, July 16: With the next Lok Sabha election approaching, the BJP is on mission mode to win the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats in the

Odisha has 21 Lok Sabha constituencies, of which BJP had won eight seats in 2019 while BJD got 12 seats and another went to the kitty of Congress.

BJP's LS seats in Odisha have been increased from one to eight in 2019. So, this has encouraged the party to work in a mission mode to further increase the number of Lok Sabha seats to a greater height in the 2024 elec-

While Union Ministers are frequently visiting various parliamentary segments under Lok Sabha Prabas Yojana, senior party leaders including state incharge Sunil Bansal are holding meetings to prepare strategy to strengthen base in the

constituencies. At the same time, the party has been giving emphasis on booth management. Two vistaraks from each assembly constituency in the state had joined PM

Narendra Modi's workshop held in Bhopal recently.

According to party sources, the BJP planned to retrain its eight LS seats with a focus on 13 Lok Sabha constituencies, where the party tasted defeat in 2019. The party has decided to prepare a specific strategy for each LS segment.

Recently, party in-charge of Odisha Sunil Bansal held a closed-door meeting with party leaders from 13 Lok Sabha constituencies. Bansal conducted the meeting after attending party's meeting in Guwahati which was held to discuss_ preparations and strategies for 12 eastern India states including Odisha for the 2024 general elections.

Besides, he also held meetings with Vistaraks and suggested strategies to reach out to voters at the booth-level.

"We are making plans and strategies to win all Lok Sabha seats in Odisha as people of the state are with us. Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan is going on while some new programmes will be taken up keeping the election in view," said BJP president Manmohan Samal.

NASA TO STUDY VOLCANIC ACTIVITY ON LUNAR SURFACE

ASA has selected a new scientific payload to establish the age and composition of hilly terrain created by volcanic activity on the near side of the moon.

The DIMPLE instrument suite, short for dating an Irregular Mare Patch with a lunar explorer, will investigate the Ina Irregular Mare Patch, discovered in 1971 by Apollo 15 orbital

While some 70 Irregular Mare Patches have been discovered by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, Ina remains the largest identified so far. Learning more about this mound will address outstanding questions about the evolution of the moon, which in turn can provide clues to the history of the entire solar sys-

tem, the agency said. DIMPLE is part of the PRISM (Pavloads and Research Investigations on the surface of the moon), which sends science investigations to the moon through a NASA initiative called CLPS, or Commercial Lunar Payload Services. The CLPS initiative is a key part of NASA's Artemis lunar exploration ef-

"This commercial payload delivery initiative is helping to provide a burst of lunar science and exploration," said Nicola Fox, associate administrator for science at NASA Headquarters in Washington, in a statement.

"DIMPLE will add to a growing body of knowledge about the moon, which in turn helps us understand the origins of Earth and other planets in the solar system. Additionally, the more we understand about our closest neighbour, the more we

can support long-term human exploration at the moon, and some-

day, Mars," he added DIMPLE will help determine whether Irregular Mare Patches formed from recent or ancient will make use of a CLPS-pro-

vided rover, a collection gripping instrument, and a spectrometer that **DIMPLE** can help deter-

mine composi-SHORT FOR DATING AN tion of the IRREGULAR MARE PATCH WITH lunar mate-A LUNAR EXPLORER, WILL rial INVESTIGATE THE INA IRREGULAR analyse the MARE PATCH, DISCOVERED IN 1971 age and BY APOLLO 15 ORBITAL IMAGES composition DIMPLE WILL BE ABLE TO COLLEC of samples AND ANALYSE ANYWHERE FROM collected THREE TO MORE THAN 25 from the sur-SAMPLES TO LEARN MORE face of Ina.

ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE

OLCANIC ACTIVITY THAT will be able to **FORMED THIS** collect and analyse anywhere from three to more than 25 samples to learn more about the timing of

DIMPLE

this feature. With the selection of DIM-PLE, we aim to definitively re-

the volcanic activity that formed

solve the debate on how recently the moon was volcanically active." said Joel Kearns, deputy associate administrator for exploration in NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

"Not only is this a scientifically intriguing enigma that will fundamentally change our understanding of lunar thermal evolution, but this is also the demonstration of an exciting technology that can be used to measure absolute ages of a variety of geologic terrains across the solar system," he added.

NASA said the cost cap for the payload suite is \$50 million, and the delivery date is set for the second quarter of 2027. The space agency expects to work on issuing a CLPS task order in 2024 to determine the launch services to deliver DIMPLE to the

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State's Subhashish, a part of Chandrayaan-3 launch



Shubhashish was recruited by ISRO as a technician in 2018. Four years later, he was involved in the Chandrayaan-3 project

POST NEWS NETWORK

Derabish, July 16: India successfully launched Friday its third lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3 from the Sriharikota Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh. The involvement of a young scientist from Odisha in such a prestigious mission certainly makes the en-

tire state proud. Shubhashish Nayak, a resident of Kendrapara district, is part of this project as a technician

Shubhashish was born into a deprived family in Mukundapur village. After completing his matriculation in 2009 from Banamali Brahmachari Model High School in Dohali, he pursued an ITI course in Cuttack's Jagatpur. Later, he studied at CTTC (Central Tool Room & Training Centre), Bhubaneswar for three years

After acquiring the necessary educational qualifications, Shubhashish was recruited by ISRO as a technician in 2018. Four years later, he was involved in the Chandrayaan-3 project.

Shubhashish's family is proud of him for his achievements. His father Malay runs a shop in Chandol Bazar in Kendrapara district. His mother Nirmala Nayak is a homemaker. Upon hearing the news of her son's remarkable contribution, she expressed joy and extended heartfelt congratulations.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 was launched by LVM3 rocket (Launch Vehicle Mark-III), and carries a lander and a rover. After landing on the moon surface August 23, the rover will then deploy and explore the lunar surface.



SPORTS MEET: Students of Sacred Heart English Medium School in Rayagada participating in a race event at their annual sports meet, Sunday OP PHOTO

ITI students build vintage mobike models from scrap



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 16: Students of Berhampur ITI, here have built some models of vintage motorcycles with automobile scraps, officials said Sunday. The matter came to the fore during an exhibition of motorcycle models built with scrap materials in the ITI premises on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day inaugurated. Saturday

The exhibition will continue till July 23, ITI principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi told mediapersons during the inauguration of the exhibition.

Students from various skill development institutes and schools and colleges can visit the exhibition and watch various models of vintage motorcycles Panigrahi stated.

This exhibition will motivate the students and youths and help them in honing their skills to develop more such beautiful models displaying their workmanship, he added.

The models of the motorcycles built by the ITI students from various trades can be used as interior decorations for houses, office and in other establishments, informed Panigrahi.

Andhra eyes another Odisha village

Failure to provide basic facilities enabling neighbouring state to lure villagers

OST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, July 16: With Andhra Pradesh allegedly trying to annex the land that belongs to Odisha, the lack of development in some villages close to the border is helping the neighbouring state. The Andhra Pradesh government has now set its eye on another Odisha village by promising sops for its residents. The inhabitants of Panasaput village under Nandapur block in Koraput district is allegedly the next target of the Andhra government.

The village in Ward No-9 of

Panthalung panchayat of the block is still deprived of basic facilities that are available to other villages in Odisha. A good road connecting with neighbouring villages, drinking water facilities, primary education, healthcare services, pensions and allowances and houses under 'Awas Yojana' still elude the villagers as the state government has failed in providing these facilities. The only development the village



Road to Panasaput village

has seen so far is power supply by the Odisha government. However, for drinking water, they have to depend on the

Andhra government.
Such lack of basic facilities has emboldened the Andhra Pradesh government to lure the villagers. There are approximately 150 inhabitants in the village. The Andhra government is providing the village with drinking water by constructing a tank in the village.

Ward member Bati Rampa alleged that they have to walk for over four kilometres on hilly

terrain to reach Andraguda village to buy necessary articles or attend to important work. They get an Anganwadi, school, health sub-centre and a market to buy their household goods only after reaching Andraguda village.

Similarly, they have to travel for 15km to Panthalum panchayat and 60km to Nandapur block file their complaints on the availability of subsidised rice or pensions. Over 80 per cent of the residents in the village do not know what is a district headquarter centre.

Not a single villager has been included in 'Awas Yojana' of the state government and the Centre. While the villagers are struggling to make both ends meet, some social activists representing Andhra Pradesh have provided ration cards, Aadhaar cards and opened bank accounts for some villagers while four to five children are receiving assistance for their education.

Lima Hantal, a widow is yet to get her pension even after the demise of her husband 12 years back. Similar is the plight of Naga Devi Hantal, whose husband passed two years back. More importantly, these two women still do not have the death certificates of their husbands which has deprived them of their rightful pension and other benefits. When contacted, Nandapur BDO Sujit Mishra said that the district administration has issued strict instructions to keep a close watch on the bordering villages. He said that officials will visit the Pansaput village soon and take necessary steps for the development of the villagers. He added that all benefits will be provided to the two widows.



EXPLORITE TYS ONLY. As polythalmologist chocking the gaps of a parson at a free our care and extra at treatment came agrained by Max Tarini Welliers!

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: An ophthalmologist checking the eyes of a person at a free eye-care and cataract treatment camp organised by Maa Tarini Walkers' Club at Baniapata in Keonjhar, Sunday

World PR Day celebrated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 16: To mark the 'World Public Relations Day' a seminar was organised by the PR department of Rourkela Steel Plant in association with the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI), Rourkela Chapter at Rourkela Club here Sunday. The topic of the seminar was 'Harnessing the power of Public Relations'.

KK Sengupta, CGM, RSP was the chief guest at the function while Prof Rohan Dhiman, Registrar, NIT, Rourkela was the guest of honour. Dr PK Sahoo, GM (Personnel), RSP was the keynote speaker of the seminar. Dhirendra Mishra, GM In-charge (Personnel – Works) and Archana Satpathy, GM (PR) & Chief of Communication (CoC) and chairperson, PRCI, Rourkela Chapter, were also present at the seminar.

Addressing the gathering Sengupta underlined the importance of intentional, credible and powerful communication for building the image of an organisation. He emphasised the basic tenets of PR by explaining '3T's that is truth, trust and transparency which help reap the benefits of strong PR. Sengupta emphasised upon the role of public relations for the success of any organisation.

Dhiman in his address said that in order to have good public relations one needs to develop a sense of belongingness, interest and decision which abbreviates to BIDS. "Maintaining Transparency, inquisitiveness, perception, punctuality and sincerity is key to balancing intricate valances," he added.

Sahoo in his keynote address touched upon excerpts from mythology and the Indian freedom movement to analyse their impact on the country and society to explain PR and its power. Satpathy introduced the topic through several case studies.

Man killed, wife hurt as wall collapses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandabali, July 16: A man was killed and his wife suffered serious injuries after a wall collapsed on them Sunday at Karanpalli village under Chandabali block in Bhadrak district.

Locals said that the accident took place when Kumud Mandal (80) and his wife Niharika were clearing the water which had accumulated inside the house due to incessant rains over the last couple of days. As they were cleaning the house, the mud wall collapsed trapping both of them. Hearing their agonising screams, neighbours rushed to help them and brought them out from the debris. They were rushed to the Basudevpur community health centre. However, doctors pronounced Kumud dead on arrival. As the condition of Niharika deteriorated, she was shifted to the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital later in the day.

Survey for Vedvyas hanging bridge completed

THE SURVEY WORK BEGAN JULY 9 AND WAS COMPLETED JULY 11

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 16: The Vedvyas hanging bridge project seems to have made some noticeable progress as survey for the same is over and now the approval of the state government is awaited.

The survey work began July 9 and was completed July 11. With the help of the Fire department personnel, the survey work was completed. Their help was taken given the rise in the water level of Brahmani river.

The demand and interest for the project grew when Sundargarh

MP Jual Oram had promised a ropeway for this important and famous Shaivite shrine. But, that project never saw the light of day. Soon after, the idea of hanging bridge was conceived and then MLA and now Labour Minister Sarada Nayak also took an interest in the project. However, it remained dormant for some time.

Speaking about the development the minister said, "This is the first step in that direction. And I am hopeful that soon a highlevel decision will be taken on this. The BJD government is keen on developing all such important places with historical and religious significance. So, Vedvyas

is no less in that case."

The project survey was handed over to hanging bridge expert



Ashok Kumar Basa. He and his team did the survey, which was supported by the PWD engineers here. Speaking on the survey, PWD executive engineer here Manoj Mahananda said, "This is the technical feasibility survey. We are waiting for the report to come." Speaking about the place from where it will originate, the EE said, "It will start from the

Panposh basti area and will end between the temple and grave yard area on the left. But, they have also looked into many other aspects." Regarding the involvement of the Fire department, he explained, "Brahmani is full of floodwater now. So, we brought this to the notice of our ADM, as he is the chairperson of the trust there and he made arrangements

for having fire personnel during the survey and that really helped."

the survey and that really helped. Vedvyas remains one of the most important tourist and religious attractions in this part of the state. This place has also remained a destination for shooting movies. Besides, every year during Shiv Ratri, a big fair, which is being held for the last 150 years, is organised here. Besides, this is among the top destinations for performing the tenth day post-death ritual. Besides, this area is known as the holy confluence of three rivers, Sankh, Koel and Saraswati with a very thin stream. Many come here for immersion of the ashes of the deceased. In addition to these, during the month of Shravan, over a lakh devotees throng here to pour water.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH

E-mail: eemisundargarh@yahoo.co.in 'e' Procurement Notice

Bid Reference No. SE MID SNG 04/2023-24
No.A-348:Bid documents consisting names of work, Estimated Cost,
Cost of tender paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor,
the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary docu-		
ments can be seen in e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.		
1	Name of the Works	Civil Construction Works
2	No. of Works	08 (Eight) Nos.
3	Estimated Cost	Varies from Rs.5.90 lakh to Rs.46.18 lakh (Approximately)
4	Period of Completion	03 (Three) to 04 (Four) Calendar Months
	Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal	From dt.20.07.2023 at 10.00 AM to dt.29.07.2023 upto 5.30 PM.
6	Last date/Time of receipt of	Dt.29.07.2023 upto 5.30 PM

Date of Opening of Bid

Name and address of the Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Sundargarh

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market

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M.I.Division,Sundargarh



Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom



Diplomat Modi

hree weeks after a state visit to Washington, Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed a visit to Paris 14 July. It would be wrong to term the PM's hurricane foreign tours as international recognition of Modi's diplomacy as his party, the BJP, has been trying to project with the Lok Sabha polls a few months away. The red carpet the Biden administration had rolled out for the PM is being used in domestic politics to refurbish the ruling party's sagging image tarnished by wrong handling of the economy and exacerbation of religious and social conflicts under the Modi regime. Fact is the trips to the US and France are rather a ratification and acknowledgement by the West of India's geopolitical weight, especially in counterbalancing China's challenge. Probably, the West perceives India as a tactical and populous country that is badly required for providing foot soldiers in the event of a Ukraine like situation in Asia, if China's ambitions keep growing.

The West's Sino-phobia has assumed such proportions that criticism of Modi's autocratic tendencies and pseudo-nationalistic rhetoric of his party has been muted. This was evinced when US President Joe Biden did not make any public statement on religious conflict and social tension during the 9-year-long rule of Modi despite vociferous demands from many US organisations and former US President Barack Obama to do so. Similarly, France's decision to make Modi the guest of honour at the Bastille Day celebrations on 14 July is being questioned in France on the ground that Modi represents Right-wing politics in India that is inimical to liberal thinking and free speech and as such not in keeping with the symbolism of the occasion. The French government, however, tried to gloss over the dichotomy with the argument that the honour was a justified tribute to the Indian troops that had taken part in the First World War as celebrated by the magnificent parade of 240 Indian servicemen on the Champs-Elysées. But, no one is in doubt that this was an eyewash. The cherry on top of this cake was the purchase of drones from the US and few more Rafale jets and other weapons from France at exorbitantly high prices.

France's own huge commercial interests, just as America's, have prompted them to leave the question of whether a government and its leader that pits the Hindoo majority against the Moslem and Christian minorities is acceptable or not to intellectuals, social activists and the media. But, this is a great pitfall of democracy which endorses the West's attempts to thwart the ambitions of authoritarian regimes like Russia and China, but lets it cohabit with powers that are far from blemishes.

This is because the stakes of trade and commerce are too high. Modi's visit was crowned with a preliminary agreement on the sale of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft - the version compatible with aircraft carriers - and three Scorpene-class submarines, to supplement the 36 conventional Rafales and six submarines previously sold to India. This agreement, along with cooperation projects in space, energy and environment sectors, was also accompanied by a roadmap for French-Indian cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Apart from the economic engagements, India's Western partners are courting Modi because they need India, rather than any individual leader whatever his political affiliation, in a region where their priority is how to deal with the rise of Chinese power. This is the reason why New Delhi in the changed geopolitical matrix has become their ally numero uno.

Despite the propaganda, the process of strengthening economic and business ties between India and France started a quarter of a century ago. Of all the security partnerships that India has now with other countries, the one with France has been the most enduring. In 1998, France became the first country with which India established a strategic partnership, which has since been accorded to more than 30 countries. For decades, France and India have collaborated on space and civil nuclear programmes. From the 1960s, France provided technical assistance for the construction of the Sriharikota launch-pad. ISRO and the French Space Agency (CNES) have been carrying on various joint research programmes and collaborating in satellite launches.

Over the years, India and France have become reliable defence partners and this is expected to continue. France is the second largest supplier of arms (after Russia), accounting for 29 per cent of India's arms

Suppressing facts and glorifying the Modi regime despite its track record of systematically silencing and intimidating critics and rival politicians are the linchpin of today's politics. The hype over Modi's recent foreign tours and diplomatic engagements seem another attempt to project him as a leader of world stature while India burns and

WISDOM CORNER

To be happy is to be able to become aware of oneself without fright.

What's the use of happiness? It can't buy you money.

What really matters is what you do with what you have.

WORDS**WORTH**

Macilent

his word was marked as rare in dictionaries a century ago and has become even more so since, though it retains a niche in elevated or pretentious prose in the sense of something lean, shrivelled, or excessively thin. It's from Latin macilentus, lean. In 1851 a writer evoked with it a gaunt victim of tuberculosis: "of whom I could recollect nothing but a macilent figure, stretched upon a sofa and scarcely breathing". It can also have a figurative sense that refers to poor-quality or inferior writing. A reviewer of Britney Spears's album In the Zone in 2003 described it as "Britney's most personal statement. Because it's as lost and macilent and alluring and eager to please and disturbingly empty-eyed as she is." This is a slightly older example in a similarly figurative vein: Had no schoolmaster in moments of heroic enthusiasm attempted to pound a few rules of rhetoric through my incrassate skull? Had I never heard of taste? Was the word "style" outside my macilent vocabulary (Greener Than You Think, by Ward Moore, 1947)?

■ Magiric

Magiric is a fairly rare adjective that refers to cooking. Despite its form, it has nothing to do with magic, at least etymologically speaking. The earliest and perhaps best known appearance, which is cited in the Oxford English Dictionary, is an overwrought and rhapsodising nineteenth-century work: A magiric atmosphere enveloped the capital of the universe with its delicious fragrance, and the joyous free livers of Italy cultivated in their gardens plums of the most beautiful purple and gold, far superior to the much-extolled fruit from Damascus and Memphis (The Pantropheon: or History of Food and its Preparation, by Alexis Soyer, 1853). The word derives from the classical Greek mageiros, cook or butcher. Also from it are several other usefully obscure terms that include mageirics, the art of cooking, magirological, skilled in cookery, and magirologist, which the OED points out is equivalent in meaning to magirist, an expert in the art of cooking. Also known is mageirocophobia, a fear of cooking, a common affliction. Perhaps the rarest of all the derived words is magirology. There's no doubt that it's a word written about rather than used, as it turns up almost exclusively in books such as Word Nerd and The Endangered English Dictionary.

FOCUS PARIS SUMMIT

CLIMATE FINANCE FIASCO



Jayati Ghosh & Sandrine Dixson-Declève

THE FINANCIAL **SECTOR'S PREDATORY LENDING PRACTICES HAVE INCREASED THE DEBT BURDENS OF ALREADY-DISTRESSED COUNTRIES ACROSS THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

♥he recent Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact was touted by its organisers, including French President Emmanuel Macron. as a groundbreaking initiative to forge a "new contract" between Global North and South that would address climate change and foster sustainable development. The fact that most G20 leaders did not even bother to show up, however, casts doubt on the feasibility of the effort.

Despite participation of roughly 50 heads of state, highranking representatives of international institutions, private-sector executives, and climate experts, the summit did not live up to its lofty promises. It failed to introduce the necessary measures to narrow the climate-finance gap, provide lower-income countries with the fiscal space they need to weather the current debt crisis, and overhaul the global financial architecture.

Shockingly, the summit concluded without a single firm commitment. This can be attributed to the opaque and unequal preparatory process. which lacked adequate consultation with low-income countries and civil-society groups and thus failed to create the conditions for forging new global policy frameworks. Ahead of the meeting, the Club of Rome's Earth4All Transformational **Economics Commission pub**lished an open letter identifying four critical issues that leaders and policymakers must address. Unfortunately, there has been little progress on any of them.

Climate finance is a case in point. Rich-country leaders' ongoing failure to deliver on their 2009 pledge to provide developing countries with \$100 billion in annual climate financing has significantly delayed necessary investments and undermined global cooperation. The summit's concluding statement states that developed countries will finally meet their climate-financing target this year - a dubious claim, given that the conference ended with no new



A just transition to a low-carbon economy is the only way forward. But even as the planet continues to heat up and inequality and poverty rise. governments in the Global North are stalling

financial commitments.

In recent years, donor governments have overestimated their climate-finance spending, claiming to have mobilised \$83.3 billion in 2020 when the actual figure was closer to \$24.5 billion. Compounding the problem, most of this support was provided through loans rather than grants, exacerbating the debt burdens of low-income countries. Moreover, as a recent Reuters investigation has revealed, the vagueness of the term "climate finance," together with the absence of a system to track these funds and their impact, has allowed billions of dollars to be directed toward fossilfuel-related projects and other investments that have nothing to do with reducing emissions.

Although the ongoing global debt crisis has widened the climate-finance gap, the Paris summit failed to tackle the problem. With more than 70 developing countries either in dire need of debt relief or already in default, global leaders offered no concrete proposals for improving the IMF's Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable or the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments, both of which have not yielded the expected results. The only relevant development to come out of the meeting was the announcement of a \$6.3 billion debt restructuring deal between Zambia and its creditors that does not include any debt reduction. While failing to meet

their own obligations, global leaders overemphasised the private sector's role. Although private investors control more than \$210 trillion in financial assets, only a small fraction of this is invested in lower-income countries. Moreover, the financial sector's predatory lending practices have increased the debt burdens of already-distressed countries across the developing world.

These issues were conspicuously absent from the discussions during the Paris summit, perhaps because Macron's advisers included BlackRock and Amundi, two of the worst offenders. Both firms have consistently rejected requests for debt relief from countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Zambia, insisting on full repayment despite benefiting from higher interest rates.

A reallocation of special drawing rights, the IMF's reserve asset, offers a cost-effective way to provide lower-income countries with critical financing. While the Paris summit's organisers claimed to have achieved the target of recycling \$100 billion of SDRs from advanced economies to vulnerable countries, this statement is misleading. The US' pledge to contribute \$21 billion worth of SDRs, for example, is contingent on congressional approval.

The main channels for SDR recycling are expected to be the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST).

So far, however, neither fund has disbursed any recycled SDRs. While Rwanda, Costa Rica, and Barbados are supposed to receive disbursements from the RST soon, it will likely take years to re-channel the full \$100 billion. Meanwhile, summit participants barely discussed the SDR allocation process. which relies on outdated and unfair IMF quotas.

In the absence of alternative measures, lower-income countries have little choice but to raise taxes to boost government revenues. But the Paris agenda includes only a generic statement on promoting international cooperation to explore new avenues for international taxation and for combating illicit financial flows. Regrettably wealth taxation was excluded from official agenda, along with proposals for global taxes on financial transactions, windfall profits, and multinational corporations. Even the idea of a global tax on carbon emissions from shipping was ignored.

The Paris summit was supposed to catalyse the transformation of the international financial system. But its failure to address the urgent needs of the world's most vulnerable countries puts it in the same league as other recent missed opportunities, such as the IMF and World Bank's Spring Meetings and the G7 meeting in Hiroshima

A just transition to a low-carbon economy is the only way forward. But even as the planet continues to heat up and inequality and poverty rise, governments in Global North are stalling. As we approach the G20 meeting in New Delhi in September and COP28 in Dubai in November and December, we must hold governments and financial institutions accountable and demand urgent and radical climate action.

Jayati Ghosh is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Sandrine Dixson-Declève is Co-President of the Club of Rome. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SPORTS

How the cookie crumbles



Yajurvindra Singh

ONE IS SAD TO SEE THE STATE OF **WEST INDIAN CRICKET AT PRESENT**

here was a time when West Indies cricket was the epitome of the game. The carefree and calypso style of funloving and unconventional but skilful approach to the game was a treat to watch. The West Indians played to mesmerise and entertain the crowd without a care about the result. Genius was the word used by many of their players and it fit the bill perfectly especially for one of theirs, the greatest cricketer ever to play

the game, Sir Garfield Sobers. The Indian team touring the West Indies at present were privileged to shake the hands of the great man, one who could bat, bowl, field and even keep wickets at the highest level. The word "Bazball" has now become a mantra for the England side in their quest to play attacking and attractive cricket. It takes one back to the famous 1961 Test series between Australia and the West Indies Down Under. The two captains, Sir Frank Worrell and Richie Benaud decided to play positive and attractive cricket in their 5-match series.

The first Test itself proved to be a thrilling encounter as it was a tie. The first time in the history of the game. Although West Indies lost the series 2-1, the way in which they played the game made them heroes. They were paraded through the street of Melbourne and cheered by an enormous crowd on their departure.

One is sad to see the state of West Indian cricket at present. How the cookie crumbles is a wake-up call for ICC and many cricket-playing nations in the world. The 1st Test and the first day's play in Dominica between India and the West Indies was a pitiful sight. The loud, fun-loving crowd filled with retorts and the calypso band of music was missing. Empty stands showed that Test cricket was on the wane there. However, these stands seem to be bursting with people during a T20 encounter.

The West Indian batting was as limp as were their cricket followers. The players seem to have forgotten the very art of Test cricket. They lack the technique and understanding of a 5-day encounter and Indian bowlers should make hav while they can.

Cricket played by West Indians in past was filled with brilliant stroke play and lethal fast bowling. However, they had the skills and understanding as to when to employ them. The famous documentary "Fire in Babylon" made by the BBC as to how their captain Clive Lloyd transformed his 1970s West Indian team into champions is a tale that is far away from the present lot of their cricketers.

The immediate excuse is that cricket is not a good paving proposition for a sportsperson in the Caribbean islands and so many have gone to the US to play basketball, baseball and other sports professionally. However, if one scans the franchise base T20 cricket played, there are plenty of West Indian cricketers involved in it.

Quite understandably so, as the lure of making a comfortable life for the future is foremost in the mind of most individuals. The problem that West Indies cricket finds itself in is that it comprises players from different islands, each one a beautiful country in its own right. Clive Lloyd managed to bring about unity amongst them and pride to play as one team as did the great

Sir Frank Worrell.

Unfortunately, the team lacks a strong leader who can take charge and bring about a holistic change. One can also see the pride to play for West Indies is missing amongst their players. This naturally revolves around the meagre match fees and the lack of finance of their Cricket Board.

It takes one back to 1980 when India were to visit West Indies for a Test series. The tour was called off by them as Sunil Gayaskar refused to be a part of the team on personal grounds. West Indies Cricket Board did not feel they could host an Indian side sans Gavaskar as it would not be financially viable.

The tables have turned now as the Indian cricket side is the fulcrum on which world cricket is balanced. A truly proud and significant achievement for all involved in making India the top cricket-playing nation. India is the core centre for world cricket and the success of their Test team is essential to keep it alive and kicking. One does not want to see the cookie crumble.

The writer is a former India cricketer. ©IANS

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, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Lunar exploration

Sir, India's quest to conquer the moon continues with the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3. It aims to conduct in-situ scientific experiments on the moon's surface. It consists of a lander named Vikram and a rover called Pragyan. The lander has been upgraded with stronger legs to withstand landings at higher velocities, a valuable improvement from its previous version. Vikram carries four payloads, while Pragyan is equipped with two payloads, all designed to study lunar characteristics. With the lessons learned from the past, ISRO is determined to achieve a successful landing this time around. A successful soft landing on the moon's surface would be a significant moment for India, further establishing its prowess in space exploration. It would demonstrate India's technological capabilities and open up opportunities for further scientific discoveries. As ISRO's space programme continues to evolve, it contributes to the growing body of global knowledge about the moon and beyond. With each mission, India's space agency expands its capabilities and brings us closer to unravelling the mysteries of the universe. The world eagerly awaits the moment when Vikram and Pragyan touch down gently on the lunar surface, making history and propelling India into an elite group of lunar explorers.

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

Political realignment

Sir, Ajit Pawar and eight other Nationalist Congress Party leaders who switched loyalties to join the Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra were given major ministries in the state cabinet. Pawar, who was sworn in as deputy chief minister, must be having the last laugh at getting the all-important finance and planning portfolio. Devendra Fadnavis, the other deputy chief minister in Maharashtra's government, has been forced to give up key positions, including finance. Why the BJP agreed to this in order to placate Ajit Pawar may be exposed in the coming months when Maharashtra's political realignment settles. Pawar's preference for distributing funds to NCP strongholds while refusing them to Shiv Sena was mentioned as a main cause for Eknath Shinde's departure from the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi cabinet. It would be fascinating to observe how Shinde and his government colleagues deal with Pawar now.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

MONDAY | JULY 17 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Divided by violence, united by hope

Being paid ₹500 each for a month, the displaced are not ready to move to prefabricated houses being prepared by the state government at Kwata

Akampat (Manipur), July 16: S David, a constable with Manipur Police, and his family are among the 700-odd people staying at a relief camp here set up in a college where everyone has one hope - return home safely once the situation is normal.

They also went through the same trauma - explosions, rioting and mob violence before the Assam Rifles came to their rescue. As many as 238 families are lodged at the Ideal Girls' College here since the Assam Rifles, a paramilitary force under the operational command of the Army, brought them from Moreh and Churachandpur.

Th Chanchal, who is staying in the chemistry classroom of the college that has tin roofing, keeps herself busy teaching her kids who have taken admission in a government school.

Hailing from Moreh, a town located 107 km from the capital city of Imphal, Chanchal, belonging to the majority community, recalls her experience of May 3 when the entire family was sitting for dinner.

"We heard a mob ransacking everything. There were loud explosions and raining bullets,

"We somehow managed to reach the neighbouring police station for shelter. We were taken to the Assam Rifles camp in Moreh town and the force man-



aged our safe escape to Imphal city," she recalls, adding her entire family had left everything back at their home.

Running a small business in Moreh town, Chanchal hopes she would return to her home very soon. "Maybe not immediately, but I wish to be back there at my home, in my area where I have been born and raised, provided we are assured that we will be secure," she says.

Manipur has been witnessing ethnic clashes since May 3 between the majority Meitei community and Kukis. Meiteis have

over 160 lives. This camp, being run by Agriculture Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, has a common kitchen which is managed by three families among these displaced people.

concentrated in Imphal city

while Kukis have shifted to the

hills. The violence has claimed

David, the constable, flips through his smartphone to show his ransacked house. He says he had been staying in Churachandpur, 63 km from Imphal. "A mob came May 4 and burnt our house. We stayed at a BSF camp for eight days and later we were shifted to Imphal by the Army," he says.

Being paid Rs 500 each for a month, the displaced are not ready to move to prefabricated houses being prepared by the state government at Kwata.

"Churachandpur is our house and we will not stay anywhere else," says David. His views were echoed by Santosh, a farmer.

"A prefabricated home is not an answer to our miseries," 30year-old Santosh says. Hawai Bam Choaba, who runs a grocery shop in Moreh, also recalls how Assam Rifles saved him and other families. "But the desire to return home is in our heart and I am sure we will return one day," he says.

At another relief camp in Manipur College, which houses 172 people from six hill districts, things are much more organised. Run by Khemchand Singh, former Speaker of the legislative assembly, a proper chart is being maintained at this camp.

S Gandhi, a resident of Serou village in Kakching district, recalls his horror story: "May 27, our village was cordoned off by the other community who started firing indiscriminately, killing one of the residents besides torching 500 houses.

"For the next three days, we along with other families stayed at the house of local Congress MLA RK Raniit before Assam Rifles rescued us and moved us

to Imphal," says Gandhi, a

He was joined by other villagers at the relief camp who expressed desire to return but were scared that their village would be surrounded by Kukis. "We feel helpless," was the common view expressed.

The Army and Assam Rifles, which have been watching the situation, had kept 17 columns ready on May 3 to respond to any contingency on short notice. These personnel rescued nearly 24,000 at their regular units and makeshift camps.

In view of the magnitude of tragedy evolving in Manipur, the Army and Assam Rifles lifted more troops to Manipur and the number of columns was raised to 170 as on date.

On the first night, within Imphal, 2,300 civilians were evacuated from violence-hit areas of Langol, Lamphel and Mantripukhri with another approximate 1,700 in Tengnoupal district, officials said.

In Churachandpur, on the first night alone, 4,600 locals were rescued from Khumujamba, Hmar Veng, Saikot and Mantop Leikai, they said. "Pro-active deployment facilitated faster reaction in de-notified areas of Imphal as also in villages of Tengnoupal and Churachandpur districts where Assam Rifles does not have any company operating base in vicinity," said a

Bommai hints at alliance with JD(S) ahead of 2024

■ Recently, there have been enough indications from leaders of BJP and *ID(S)* about both parties coming to an understanding ahead of Lok Sabha polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hubballi, July 16: Senior BJP leader and former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai Sunday hinted at talks regarding the JD(S) joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Bommai said the results of the discussion would determine the future political developments.

Claiming that their allegations over JD(S) being the 'Bteam' of BJP is now proven, the ruling Congress in the state took a dig at the developments calling the regional outfit an 'opportunistic party', which is ready to join hands with anyone for the sake of power.

In response to a question on the possibility of $\overline{\mathrm{JD}(S)}$ joining the NDA, Bommai said, "That is for the discussion between our leadership and JD(S) president HD Deve Gowda.'

Speaking to reporters here, he said JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy has expressed certain feelings and the discussions will continue in that direction. "The future political developments will be based on the result of those discussions," he

added. Recently, there have been enough indications from leaders of BJP and JD(S) about both parties coming to an understanding ahead of Lok Sabha

BJP veteran BS Yediyurappa

had said his party and the JD(S) would fight the Congress government in the state together. Kumaraswamy, on his part,

had said a decision on an electoral understanding for the Lok Sabha polls will be taken when the situation arises.

It was also stated that Kumaraswamy during his recent visit to New Delhi had met some senior BJP leaders.

The BJP swept the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka by winning 25 of the total 28 seats in the state, while an independent backed by it won in one constituency. The Congress and JD(S) secured one seat each.

'Gruha Lakshmi scheme' launch may be delayed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 16: The launch of 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme, one of the Karnataka government's poll guarantees, could be delaved as the ruling Congress wants its national leaders to in-

Addressing a press conference here Saturday, state Woman and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said if the Congress national leaders do not come Monday Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will launch the scheme Wednesday. "We want our national leaders to launch it. We have written to them. If they agree then we will launch it Monday at 5pm at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha. If they do not find time, then the CM will launch it July 19," the minister

Under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, women heads of households across the state would receive Rs 2,000 every month. Those possessing APL/BPL and Antyodaya cards can avail the benefit. However, the income tax and GST payers cannot, the minister told reporters.

The registration of the scheme can be done at Karnataka-1, Bengaluru-1, Grama-1 or Bapuji Seva Kendra centres. Women head of the families should approach these centres with the APL/BPL/Antyodaya card and Bank linked Aadhaar card. If someone does not have their bank account linked with Aadhaar, then they can produce a passbook, she said adding, those willing to avail the benefit will also have to carry with them Aadhaar linked mobile phone to the centres. "The details of the passbook will be fed into the system. If the information of the beneficiary on the passbook matches with that on the ration card, then the software will immediately approve it," the minister explained. Arrangements would be made to issue orders. And the department would send the order copy through the CDPO or Anganwadi workers.

The beneficiaries would also receive an SMS containing details of time and place to enroll for the scheme, she said. If the beneficiaries miss the appointment. then they can visit the same centre after 5 pm to get themselves registered. "There is no deadline for the enrollment of the scheme because it is a continuous process," she said.

For any clarification, people can SMS to 8147500500 or can call the helpline number 1902.

PM's silence on Manipur unforgivable: Congress



New Delhi, July 16: The lence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the over twomonth long violence in Manipur as 'unforgivable', and vowed that the party's northeastern state committees will continue to raise their voice for Manipur demanding a quick resolution to end the violence there.

In a statement, Congress leaders from Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Sikkim, after a meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, expressed grave concern over the situation in Manipur and underlined their

support and empathy for the people of trouble-torn state.

They said that the entire ongress party stands in solidarity with them.

'The inaction and silence of the Prime Minister and the BJP government on the situation in Manipur is unexplainable, unforgivable and criminal. The Government of India has abdicated its responsibility for the people of Manipur in particular, and the whole of northeast in general," the statement

It added that the Congress, especially all the northeast state Congress committees, will continue to raise the voice of the people of Manipur and demand quick resolution for ending the violence there.

Uprooted poles, GI pipes converted into weapons ■ The uprooted electric poles were used to manufacture indigenous cannon also known as 'pumpi' or 'bampi' filled with scrap iron and other metallic items which act as bullets or pellets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Sugnu (Manipur), July 16: Guns fabricated from parts of

uprooted electric poles or galvanized iron (GI) pipes formed a major chunk of arms seized by security forces during search operations to recover weapons

looted from police armouries in

Manipur, officials said. Besides these guns, the nal of the warring group from the hills has other regular weapons like AK rifles and

INSAS rifles, they said. Officials in this town located in Kakching district in southern Manipur said on the condition of anonymity that the people of this hill community are traditionally hunters and have the ability to improvise and make deadly weapons.

Recently, in remote villages here as well as in neighbouring Churachandpur district, some electric poles were seen missing and water pipes uprooted.

These were enough indication that they have been used



in making of arms that are used to fire at the other community during the clash, the officials said. This community traditionally used swords, spears, bow and arrows. Later, they started using muzzle guns and bullets also known as 'Thihnang', the officials said.

The uprooted electric poles were used to manufacture indigenous cannon also known as 'pumpi' or 'bampi' filled with scrap iron and other metallic items which act as bullets or pellets. These are manufactured by village blacksmiths also known as 'Thih-Kheng Pa' who often render free service to defend their community, the officials said.

The hill community is also known for its techniques in guerilla warfare and often defend itself by carrying out sudden attacks of approaching people or ambushing them by rolling

down huge stones in steep areas. The electric pole converted 'bampi' is given an electric charge and is operated from a distance as the fear of the pipe or the electric pole bursting in the middle cannot be ruled out, the officials said. Against the backdrop of ethnic clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities that erupted May 3, the security forces have been collaborating with civil authorities to contain the violence in the state that has claimed over 160 lives.

There was apprehension from the majority Meiti community that Kuki militants, who had made an agreement of cessation of violence in 2008 popularly known as Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement, had taken their weapons back in view of the ethnic clashes.

Participatory art practices usher in better living for women

ALLI SERONA, A COLLECTIVE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, CREATORS, AND THINK TANKS, USES PARTICIPATORY ART PRACTICES **TO LEVERAGE SOCIAL CHANGE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 16: The colourful wall murals at the slum board colony in Marthahalli in suburban Bangalore have not only changed its dreary surroundings instantly, they have also empowered the women living there.

A year ago, the slum board colony, home to people from different corners of India who come to bustling Bangalore to make a living, was like any other informal settlement. The divide. on the lines of caste and language, was too pronounced for people to come together as one.

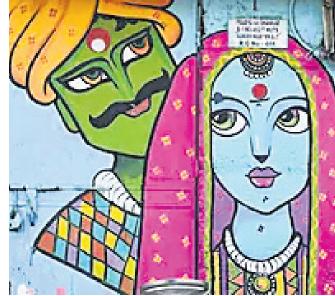
That changed to a larger extent with Alli Serona, a collective of civil society organisations, creators, and think tanks, which uses participatory art practices to leverage social

Tanisha Arora, a senior creative strategist and key spokesperson for the initiative, told PTI, "The efforts made by other NGOs here already helped us immensely. Once we could get them all together by breaking the ice with participatory art, we could straight away start on talking about issues that matter the most to them. Here in Marthahalli, we focussed on mobility challenges.

According to Arora, although the effects of climate change are first felt by informal settlements, their voices are often absent in decision-making spaces and processes.

"Alli Serona movement is an attempt to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable stake-

PAINTING A REVOLUTION



holders are not only heard but also amplified," added Arora.

quilt-making and block printing

to wall painting and rangoli, bringing women from different communities together. Thus started a series of workshops, ranging from kawdi or

"In just a year, Alli Serona has successfully demonstrated how

participatory art practices can empower even the most underserved women and help them transcend language barriers, cultural differences, and social divides.

What worked for the collective is that the women, denied any kind of public space, were looking for a platform that would give them a respite from the daily grind and offer them. what Arora terms as, 'a shared opportunity for dialogue, selfexpression, and mutual con-

Arora said Marthahalli is just the beginning. The plan is to recreate its success in many other such settlements. "We have already started our work in 20 colonies. The idea is to work together with whoever interested in bringing about a change. For instance, the work in Marathahalli was done in partnership with Aravani Art Project. They were already working with the trans community living here," added Arora.

To bring about awareness and more such collaborative efforts, the success story of Marthahalli,

made into a documentary called 'Alli Serona-Together in Art' by Falana Films, was screened July 13 at the Alliance Françoise in Bangalore.

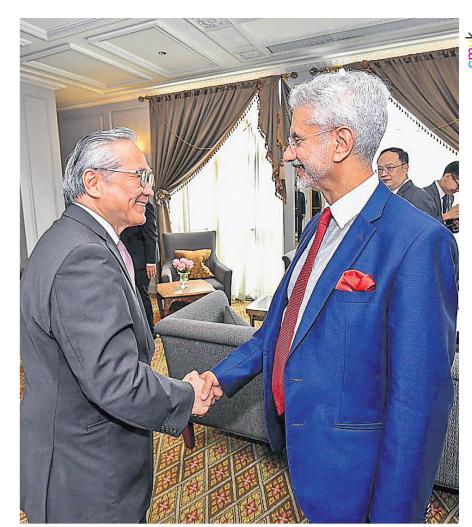
The 15-minute film, besides explaining about the concept of Alli Serona, celebrates the resilience of women like Parvathamma and Chand Bi who now regularly steal a little time for themselves from their busy schedules. Says Manjula. a resident of the Marthahalli slum board quarters, in the film: "I don't worry about my household problems when I'm engaged in these workshops. And there is this sense of satisfaction.

The evening also saw a panel discussion on how participatory art can be leveraged for social change by Bindu Chandana, founder of Ficus Ideas, which stresses on innovative learning, Shanthi Muniswamy, a mural artist from Aravani Art Project, Indu Anthony, an artist based out of Bangalore, Netra, co-founderand principal architect of Studio Sorted along with Arora.

PHOTO POST



Villagers use a boat to travel at a flood-affected area in Morigaon district of Assam during a meeting, in Bangkok



India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Don Pramudwinai





Women adorned with flowers during Teej festival celebrations to welcome monsoon at the Durgiana temple, in Amritsar



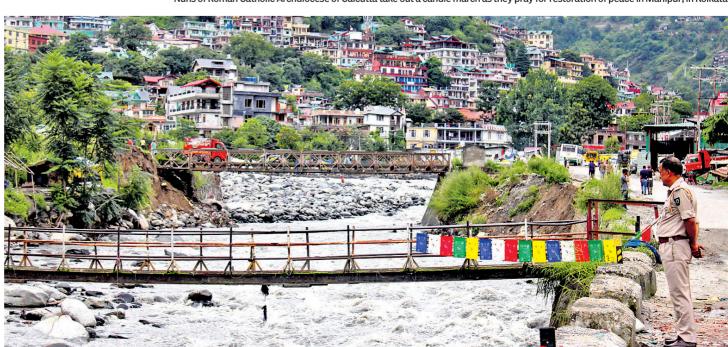
Locals during the commencement of the operations of the Kurtha-Bijalpura section of the cross-border Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail line connecting India and Nepal, in Nepal



Nuns of Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta take out a candle march as they pray for restoration of peace in Manipur, in Kolkata



Activists of Tahafuz-e-Namoos-e-Risalat Mahaz, a religious group, chant slogans during a rally to denounce the burning of 'Quran' that took place in Sweden, in Lahore, Pakistan



A policeman watches the flow of Sarwari river during the monsoon season in Kullu

national



That Mr Narendra Modi has been at the helm of the BJP and the central government for 10 years is not a strength but a weakness. Mr Modi's hands are bare and he has not delivered on his promises P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

RAJBHAR RETURNS TO NDA

In a boost to the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, OBC leader Om Prakash Rajbhar announced Sunday his return to the ruling National Democratic Alliance following a meeting with Home **Minister Amit Shah**





equations have to be formed in politics. Looking at the development (carried out by his Pawar too has backed our

EKNATH SHINDE MAHARASHTRA CM

Over the last appointment letters, have given out appointment letters

to more than 55,000 youths YOGI ADITYANATH UP CM

The all-round development of including road, education, medical employment agriculture, water, electricity and industry, is taking place in the state

ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

6 killed in collision

Sagar: At least six persons were killed and another was injured when the SUV they were travelling in collided with a truck near Sagar city in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday evening, police said. The incident occurred near Bamori Doodar on the Sagar-Jabalpur Road under Sanodha police station limits, some 20 km from the district headquarters, Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Ashoka Chourasia said. He said out of seven persons travelling in the SUV, six were killed on the spot while another is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

12-yr-old boy dies Gwalior: A 12-year-old boy

died in a hospital here on Sunday as he fell ill after allegedly being beaten up by a teacher at a private school in Madhva Pradesh's Gwalior. police said. The boy's family has alleged that he died after teacher for not completing his homework on July 12, an official said. The Class 8 student died during treatment at a hospital here this morning. The family members have alleged that the boy was beaten by a teacher of a private school, following which he fell ill. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rishikesh Meena said.

Body found

Kolkata: The body of an elderly BJP worker was found hanging inside his house in West Bengal's Malda district on Sunday morning, triggering protests among a section of villagers who accused local Trinamool Congress leaders of abetment. Police said the body of 62-year-old Buran Murmu was found hanging inside his room at Bamangola, adding that he lived in the same house with his son and daughter-in-law. Murmu's daughter-in-law had contested the recent panchayat elections on a TMC ticket but lost to the BJP, following which Buran was assaulted by his son and other Trinamool supporters, the protesters alleged. Police said Murmu's son Biplab will be interrogated.

Four drown

Chandrapur: Four persons drowned while taking a selfie at a lake in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district Sunday, police said. The incident took place at Ghodazeri lake, some 106 km from the district headquarters, around 4.30 pm, an official said. A group of eight youngsters from Shegaon village in Warora tehsil went for a picnic to the lake, where four of them slipped while taking a selfie and drowned, he said.

Weren't alerted, got little help: Delhi flood victims

Many of those affected by the floods in Mayur Vihar and old Yamuna bridge areas have been sleeping in the open with just a tarpaulin over their heads, defecating in the open and waiting for the water levels to recede

efforts of 20 years went into vain

in just three days."I have been

working as a househelp for the

last 20 years and spent every penny of my income for my

house and my children. The ef-

forts and hard work of 20 years

She claimed that they have re-

ceived no help from the govern-

ment except for plastic tarpaulins

and a packet of milk and that

they were not alerted beforehand

alert us before floods but this

time no one even prompted to

move out of our houses and the

whole of the slum is submerged

in water now. The government

says a lot of things but gave us

"Earlier the police used to

about the rising water levels.

went into vain in just three days,'

a tearful Seema said.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal interacts with people at a flood relief camp following monsoon rains, at Mori Gate in New Delhi, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: As floods hit the low-lying areas in the national capital, slum dwellers whose houses got submerged claimed that they were not alerted beforehand and many others alleged that help was not forthcoming from the adminis-

Many of those affected by the floods in Mayur Vihar and old Yamuna bridge areas have been sleeping in the open with just a tarpaulin over their heads, defecating in the open and waiting for the water levels to recede.

Pointing towards the submerged house under the Yamuna bridge, Seema, a 39-year-old woman, grieved about how her

nothing. We only received one tarpaulin and a packet of milk. They came and wrote our names on Saturday, took all details but nothing has been done so far,' Seema said.

"The government talks about providing homes to the slum dwellers but all they do is try to move us away from here," she alleged. The water level of the Yamuna river on Sunday was recorded at 205.98 metres, down from a peak of 208.66 metres at 8 pm on Thursday.

The water level in Yamuna on Saturday showed signs of receding, but the relief was short-lived as late evening showers caused further waterlogging of several roads. Recalling floods in 2013 in Delhi. 45-year-old Ashok who lived near the banks of Yamuna river in Mayur Vihar alleged lack of any government support.

"It flooded in 2013 but it wasn't this bad. Water entered our homes after Diwali too last year but it receded very soon. This time, the water level was so high that it even touched the bridge. All slums went under water. There's no supply of drinking water too. We received no help from the government - no food, no ration or water. We didn't even receive tarpaulins. After the water recedes, we have to go back there and fix everything on our own," Ashok said.



A devotee dances during Bonalu festival celebrations at Simhavahini Mahankali temple in the old city of Hyderabad, Sunday

Released during Covid, AJIT MEETS SHARAD PAWAR 43 prisoners go missing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 16: Forty-three prisoners, who were released during the Covid pandemic, have not returned to the jail.

Several prisoners were released on parole to prevent the infection from spreading since most jails in Uttar Pradesh are overcrowded. After the pandemic got over most of the prisoners returned but 43 have gone missing from Lucknow jail. The concerned jail administration has written several letters for their arrest, yet the police have not been able to catch the missing prisoners for one and a half years.

The jail authorities have, again, started the exercise to arrest the missing prisoners and letters have been sent to the concerned police officials to search for the missing prisoners. It may be recalled that during the pandemic, the Supreme Court had directed the state governments to release on parole the convicted prisoners who were imprisoned for up to seven years.

Therefore, on the recommendation of the High-Power Committee constituted in the government, on May 20, 2021, a total of 122 prisoners lodged in the state capital's district jail were released on parole for 90 days.



Later, due to the increasing Corona, the parole period of the prisoners was extended. On the other hand, while going on parole, the jail administration gave strict instructions to the prisoners that after parole is over, everyone will have to return to jail as soon as the order is issued by the government.

The government issued an order and directed everyone to return to jail by July 20, 2021. Only 79 prisoners returned to Lucknow jail after completion of parole period while 43 prisoners are missing. On the report of the Jail Administration, for the arrest of the missing prisoners, instructions were given to the police several times from the government to arrest the prisoners.

Jailor of District Jail Lucknow. Rajendra Singh said that along with the government, a letter is being written to the Superintendent of Police of the concerned district for the arrest of the missing prisoners.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 16: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar of NCP and some ministers from his camp met party president Sharad Pawar here on Sunday and requested him to keep the Nationalist Congress Party united, party leader Praful Patel said.

Patel said the NCP chief listened to them quietly but didn't give any reaction. This unscheduled meeting between Sharad Pawar and the Aiit Pawar camp was the first one after he rebelled against his uncle and joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government on July 2.

Besides Ajit Pawar, ministers Hasan Mushrif, Chhagan Bhujbal, Aditi Tatkare, and Dilip Walse Patil met the Pawar senior at the Y B Chavan Centre in south Mumbai.

Sources from the Sharad Pawar camp said NCP state president Jayant Patil and chief whip of NCP (Sharad Pawar camp) Jitendra Awhad also reached the Chavan Centre.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, NCP's Rajya Sabha member Praful Patel, who belongs to the Ajit Pawar camp, said Sharad Pawar is like an idol to us and they met him to seek his blessings.

Maharashtra Deputy CM Aiit Pawar along with other party leaders after meeting NCP president Sharad Pawar, at YB Chavan Centre, in Mumbai

We also asked him to think about our request over the next some days and guide us. He listened to us quietly but said nothing," Patel

He said the ministers of Ajit Pawar camp did not take Sharad Pawar's prior appointment

they came to know that he was present there.

"We requested him (Sharad Pawar) to keep the NCP united. their leader. There is nothing

AJIT PAWAR,
MINISTERS HASAN
MUSHRIF, CHHAGAN
BHUJBAL, ADITI TATKARE, AND
DILIP WALSE PATIL MET THE WAR SENIOR AT THE Y B CHAN CENTRE IN SOUTH MUMBAI but came to the NCP'S RAJYA SABHA MEMBER Chavan centre PRAFUL PATEL, WHO BELONGS TO THE AJIT PAWAR CAMP, SAID SHARAD PAWAR IS LIKE AN IDOL TO US AND THE directly after

HIM TO SEEK HIS Commenting on the meeting, BJP's Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar said, "The Aiit Pawar faction still considers Sharad Pawar as

wrong in meeting a senior leader". Notably, Ajit Pawar on Friday visited Silver

Oak, the residence of the NCP founder, to meet the latter's wife Pratibha Pawar after she underwent surgery at a hospi-

> tal here. Ajit Pawar is known to be close to his aunt Pratibha.

In 2019, she reportedly played a crucial role in bringing him back to the NCP fold

after he and Devendra Fadnavis formed a short-lived government after the Assembly polls.

the party leaders claimed that he had died in a brutal lathicharge by the police, the district administration in Patna had come out with a brief statement asserting that "no injury marks" were found on his body.

DEATH OF BJP LEADER

Plea in SC seeks

SIT or CBI probe

New Delhi, July 16: A petition

has been filed in the Supreme_

Court seeking either constitution

of a special investigating team

(SIT) headed by a retired apex

court judge or a direction to the

CBI to probe the July 13 inci-

dent at Patna in which a BJP

leader died while taking part in

a march against the Nitish

from Jehanabad district, had

died while taking part in a

"Vidhan Sabha march". While

Vijay Singh, a party leader

Kumar government.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The "Vidhan Sabha march", which was organised in support of agitations against the state government's teacher recruitment policy, had commenced



from Patna's Gandhi Maidan and was stopped a couple of kilometres away from the assembly

The plea filed in the apex court by Bihar resident Bhupesh Narayan has also sought to investigate the role played by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and other officials, including Bihar's Director General of Police, in allegedly "protecting the real perpetrators of the incident dated July 13 during peaceful procession organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party".

'The police is under a constitutional obligation to uphold the rule of law and maintain law and order," said the plea, drawn by advocate Barun Kumar Sinha, adding, "In a democratic country, peaceful procession or march or demonstration againstthe government policy is a well recognised method of protest."

Search for new ED director begins

With the Supreme Court curtailing the tenure of Enforcement Director S K Mishra to July 31, 2023, the search for his successor has begun. Topping the list of probables is Nitin Gupta. chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) who is a favourite of the current dispensation. He has been at the helm of affairs in the Income-Tax department: first as Member (Investigation) and later became Chairman CBDT by superseding a couple of board members. His tenure will end in September 2023, Pravin Kumar who is also a Member, CBDT is also in the fray. He is one batch iunior to Nitin Gupta. But nothing stalls his chances as seniority alone cannot be the criteria in such a sensitive position. Former Director of Financial Intelligence Unit Pankai Kumar Mishra and Simanchala Dash, a former

Principal Special Director in the ED are also being mentioned for the key post.

Shinde worried over Ajit entry

With the entry of Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP entering the BJP-Shinde Sena alliance in Maharashtra government, the fate of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has become uncertain. There is no dearth of speculation that Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde may be disqualified sooner than expected and Devendra Fadnavis will become Chief Minister with Ajit Pawar as Deputy as was the case in 2019. The Supreme Court had sent the MLAs disqualification case to the Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narvekar who will take his own sweet time to decide on the issue. The SC will step in only after a decision is pronounced by the Speaker.

Third fronts in states worrying Congress

After being snubbed by the Congress at the Patna conclave, the Aam Aadmi Party is exploring tie-ups with other regional parties in states. A new alliance may take shape in Maharashtra where AAP may join hands with the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) headed by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. There are already reports that Prakash Ambedkar headed Vanchit Bahuian Aghadi (VBA) may also ioin hands with KCR and Kejriwal. Interestingly, the AIMIM is already in alliance with BRS in Telangana and possibility of a tacit understanding with Asaduddin Owaisi can't be ruled out in Maharashtra too. BRS is also keen to contest Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh. There are reports that Lok Sabha MP and Rashtriva Loktantrik Party

(RLP) leader Hanuman Beniwal and BSP may join hands in Rajasthan in the Assembly polls with AAP chipping in. If this happens, this alliance may corner 15-20 Assembly seats out of 200. There are also reports that a third front in Chhattisgarh may also emerge within the next couple of months. If this happens, the Congress may find going tough.

Akhilesh's formula for Lok Sabha polls

rrespective of statements made by Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav in public, it is almost certain that he will contest the next Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the Congress and other parties. The RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary may not have attended the Patna conclave of the Opposition parties. But he will go to Bangalore. Akhilesh Yadav has not given up his efforts to woo Jayant Chaudhary and may agree

to give him more LS seats in 2024. It is also emerging that the Dalit group, Azad Samaj Party (ASP) led by Chandra Shekhar Azad 'Ravan', may finally enter into seat sharing arrangements with Akhilesh Yadav. It is now emerging that the SP will contest 50 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP leaving rest for the allies including the Congress and others. The SP had won a maximum of 36 Lok Sabha seats since its inception. Therefore, the SP will share the rest of 30 seats with other parties.



international



Just as East Asia, including countries like Japan, Korea and China, witnessed significant growth 75 years ago, it is now India's turn, along with the **Indian Ocean region** RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

IRAN'S MORALITY POLICE RETURN

Iranian authorities Sunday announced a new campaign to force women to wear the Islamic headscarf and morality police returned to the streets 10 months after the death of a woman in their custody sparked nationwide protests. The morality police had largely pulled back following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini last September





I will use peace situation, I will brave the winds and the

WILLIAM LAI VP, TAIWAN

Stressed the importance of

expediting projects that have faced challenges in the recent past. especially the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highwav



important start. I am eager to build on the groundwork that we laid in Beijing to mobilise further action



S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Iraq PM in Syria

Baghdad: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani held talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus Sunday in the first such visit by an Iragi premier since the outbreak of the Svrian war in 2011. Assad and Sudani discussed securing their shared 600km border from security threats, including Islamic State militants, and agreed to enhance cooperation to reduce drug smuggling, they said during a joint news conference. Sudani said they also discussed ways to combat drought conditions in both countries caused by a reduction in rainfall, climate change and upstream damming by Turkey.

UK Min to resign

London: UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said in an interview Saturday that he will step down at the next cabinet reshuffle and not contest the next general election. Ben Wallace, 53, has been a leading figure in Western allies' support for Ukraine against Russia. "I'm not standing next time," he said.

Birkin passes away

Paris: British-born actress and singer Jane Birkin, a 1960s wildchild who became a beloved figure in France. has died in Paris aged 76. The French Culture Ministry said the country had lost a "timeless Francophone icon". Birkin had a mild stroke in 2021 after suffering heart problems in previous years. Birkin was best known overseas for her 1969 hit in which she and her then-lover. the late French singer and songwriter Serge Gainsbourg, sang the sexually explicit "Je t'aime...moi non plus".

CLIMATE CHANGE Blistering heat bakes nations

In global warming red alert, record 40 degrees heat sizzles countries from US to Japan to Europe triggering health warnings

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Rome, July 16: Tens of millions were battling dangerously high temperatures in the United States Saturday as record heat forecasts hung over Europe and Japan, in the latest example of the threat from global warming. A powerful heatwave stretch-

ing from California to Texas was expected to peak as the US National Weather Service warned of an "extremely hot and dangerous weekend".

Daytime highs were forecast to range between 10 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit above normal

In Arizona, one of the hardesthit states, residents face a daily endurance marathon against

State capital Phoenix recorded 16 straight days above 109F (43 degrees Celsius), with temperatures hitting 111F Saturday en route to an expected 115F.

California's Death Valley, one of the hottest places on Earth, is also likely to register new peaks Sunday, with the mercury possibly rising to 130F (54C).

Temperatures had already reached 48C by midday Saturday and even overnight lows could exceed 38C.

The Las Vegas weather service warned that assuming high temperatures naturally come with the area's desert climate was "a dangerous mindset! This heatwave is not typical desert

Southern California is fighting numerous wildfires, including one in Riverside County that has burned more than 3,000 acres (1,214 hectares) and prompted evacuation orders.



eatwave will intensify from Monday, with temperatures reaching 44C in most European

Europe's highest recorded temperature of 48.8C, registered in Sicily two years ago, could be exceeded in the coming days

Further north, the Canadian government reported that wildfires had burned a record-breaking 10 million hectares this year, with more damage expected as the summer drags on.

HISTORIC HIGHS FORECAST

In Europe, Italy faces weekend predictions of historic highs with the health ministry issuing a red alert for 16 cities including Rome, Bologna and Florence.

The weather centre warned Italians to prepare for "the most intense heatwave of the summer and also one of the most intense of all time"

The thermometer is likely to hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in Rome by Monday and even 43C Tuesday, smashing the record of 40.5C set in August 2007.

The islands of Sicily and Sardinia could wilt under temperatures as high as 48C, the European Space Agency warned - "potentially the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Europe'

The Athens Acropolis, one of Greece's top tourist attractions, will Sunday close during the hottest hours for the third day

In France, high temperatures and resulting drought are posing a threat to the farming industry, earning Agriculture Minister Marc Fesneau criticism from climatologists Saturday for having brushed aside conditions as "normal enough for summer".

This June was the secondhottest on record in France, according to the national weather agency, and several areas of the country have been under a heatwave alert since Tuesday.

There is little reprieve ahead for Spain, as its meteorological agency warned Saturday that a new heatwave Monday through Wednesday will bring temperatures above 40C to the Canary

Islands and the southern Andalusia region. **KILLER RAINS**

Parts of eastern Japan are also expected to reach 38 to 39C Sunday and Monday, with the meteorological agency warning temperatures could hit previous records.

Relentless monsoon rains have reportedly killed at least 90 people in India, after burning heat.

The Yamuna river running through New Delhi has reached a record high, threatening lowlying neighbourhoods in the megacity.

Major flooding and landslides are common during monsoons, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity.

Authorities slated for abovehave been average temperatures this sounding the alarm, weekend advising people to with highs of 47C in some avoid outdoor

Morocco was

provinces -activities in the more typical of August daytime and than July -to be wary of sparking concerns for water dehydration shortages, the meteorological service

While it can be difficult to attribute a particular weather event to climate change, scientists insist global warming -linked to dependence on fossil fuels -- is behind the multiplication and intensification of heatwaves.

The EU's climate monitoring service said the world saw its hottest June on record last

JUDICIAL OVERHAUL

Protests in Israel enter 28th week

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, July 16: Tens of thousands of protesters packed the streets of Tel Aviv Saturday night, marking the 28th straight week of demonstrations against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to overhaul the country's judiciary.

Protest leaders promised further "days of disruption" lie ahead. Netanyahu's government gave

initial approval to a key portion of the overhaul earlier this week, breathing new life into the grassroots movement. The bill still needs to be ap-

proved in two more votes, expected by the end of the month, before it becomes law. Saturday night protests have

become a mainstay of the grassroots movement — but this week was larger than usual

In Tel Aviv, protesters unrolled a massive banner reading "SOS." They threw paint powder into the sky, streaking it pink and orange.

On Tuesday, protesters blocked major highways and disrupted operations at the country's main international airport after Netanyahu's parliamentary coalition advanced a bill that is part of the overhaul.

Organisers said they would hold another "day of disruption" Tuesday if he continues to move ahead with the plan.

The mass protests have taken place since Netanyahu's far-right government presented the overhaul plan in January, days after taking office.

The protests led Netanyahu to suspend the overhaul in March, but he decided to revive the plan last month after compromise talks with the political opposition collapsed.

PUBG LOVE STORY

Dacoits attack Hindu temple in Pak Prez Putin brags about

The attack comes days after dacoits in the Kashmore and Ghotki riverine areas had threatened to attack Hindu places of worship and community members in retaliation to Seema Haider Jakhrani's PUBG love story

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, July 16: A Hindu temple was attacked with rocket launchers by a gang of dacoits in the Southern Sindh province of Pakistan Sunday, in the second such incident of vandalism of a place of worship belonging to the minority community in less than two days.

The assailants attacked the small temple built by the local Hindu community and adjoining homes belonging to members of the minority community in the Kashmore area of the Sindh province.

The attack came after the Mari Mata Temple in Karachi's Soldier Bazar was razed to the ground by bulldozers in the presence of a heavy contingent of police force late Friday night

The temple believed to be nearly 150 years ago was demolished after being declared an old and dangerous structure in Karachi, the provincial capital of Sindh province.

The assailants fired indiscriminately at the temple Sunday, prompting a police unit led by Kashmore-Kandhkot SSP Irfan Sammo to reach the scene.

They fired "rocket launchers" at the place of worship, which was closed during the attack, the police official said, adding that the temple opens annually for religious services conducted by the Bagri community.

"The attack happened in the early hours of Sunday. They fired indiscriminately and fled when a police party reached the spot. We are conducting a search



operation in the area," Samoo

The police officer estimated that eight or nine gunmen were involved in the attack. Dr Suresh, a member of the Bagri community, said that the "rocket launchers" fired by the dacoits failed to explode, resulting in

He called on the police to protect the community, saying the incident had left the residents in a state of panic. The attack comes days after da-

coits in the Kashmore and Ghotki riverine areas had threatened to attack Hindu places of worship and community members in retaliation to Seema Haider Jakhrani's PUBG love story. Seema, a Pakistani mother of

four, left her country and entered India to live with a Hindu man she befriended and fell in love with while playing on online gaming platform PUBG in 2019. Seema, 30, and Sachin Meena,

22, live in the Rabupura area of Greater Noida, near Delhi, where he runs a provision store, ac-

cording to Uttar Pradesh Police. While Seema was arrested July 4 for illegally entering India without a visa via Nepal with her four children, all aged below seven years, Sachin was put behind bars for sheltering the illegal immigrants. They were released

CONTROVERSIAL ARMS

cluster bombs stockpile_

Russia has 'sufficient stockpile' of cluster bombs, says Putin, as Ukraine receives US cluster bombs



Moscow, July 16: President Vladimir Putin said Russia had a "sufficient stockpile" of cluster bombs and reserved the right to use them if such munitions, the use of which he said he regarded as a crime, were deployed against Russian forces in Ukraine.

Ukraine said Thursday it had received cluster bombs from the United States, its biggest military backer, which says the munitions are needed to compensate for shell shortages faced by Kyiv's forces at a time when they are mounting a counteroffensive.

Cluster munitions are banned in more than 100 countries because they typically release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately over a wide area. Some of them inevitably fail to explode and can pose a danger for decades, particularly to children.

Kyiv has said it will use cluster bombs to dislodge concentrations of enemy soldiers when trying to take back its own territory, but will not use them on Russian territory.

Putin told state TV Moscow would respond in kind if nec-

"I want to note that in the Russian Federation there is a sufficient stockpile of different kinds of cluster bombs. We have

the Russian Federation there is a sufficient stockpile of different kinds of cluster bombs. We have not used them yet. But of course if they are used against us, we reserve the right to take

I want to note that in

reciprocal action VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

not used them yet. But of course if they are used against us, we reserve the right to take reciprocal action.

Putin said he regarded the use of cluster bombs as a crime and that Russia had so far not needed to use them itself despite having suffered its own

ammunition issues in the past. Human Rights Watch says both Moscow and Kyiv have used cluster munitions. Russia, Ukraine and the US have not signed up to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans the production, stockpiling, use

and transfer of the weapons.

Putin also told state TV he saw nothing wrong in Russian specialists examining captured Western military equipment and missiles, such as the Storm Shadow missiles Britain supplied to Ukraine, in order to see if there was anything usefulthat could be used in Russia's own military hardware.

US SETS GRIM MILESTONE OF MASS SHOOTINGS

SIX MONTHS. 181 DAYS. 28 MASS KILLINGS. 140 VICTIMS. ONE COUNTRY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, July 16: Slain at the hands of strangers or gunned down by loved ones. Massacred in small towns, in big cities, inside their own homes or outside in broad daylight.

This year's unrelenting bloodshed across the US has led to the grimmest of milestones: The deadliest six months of mass killings recorded since at least From January 1 to June 30,

the nation endured 28 mass killings, all but one of which involved guns. The death toll rose just about every week, a constant cycle of violence and grief. Six months. 181 days. 28 mass killings. 140 victims. One country.

"What a ghastly milestone," said Brent Leatherwood, whose three children were in class at a private Christian school in Nashville March 27 when a for-



mer student killed three children and three adults. "You never think your family would be a

part of a statistic like that.' Leatherwood, a prominent Republican in a state that hasn't strengthened gun laws, believes something must be done to get guns out of the hands of peo-

ple who might become violent.

The shock of seeing the bloodshed strike so close to home has

'You may as well say Martians have landed, right? It's hard to wrap your mind around it," he

people are slain, not including the

prompted him to speak out.

A mass killing is defined as an occurrence when four or more

Never imagined records like this. We used to say there were two to three dozen a year. The fact that there are 28 in half a year is a staggering statistic JAMES ALAN FOX | CRIMINOLOGY

PROFESSOR, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

assailant, within a 24-hour period. A database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University tracks this large-scale

violence dating back to 2006. The 2023 milestone beat the previous record of 27 mass killings, which was only set in the second half of 2022.

But the chaos of the first six months of 2023 doesn't automatically doom the last six months. The remainder of the year could be calmer, despite more violence over the July Fourth holiday weekend.

"Hopefully it was just a blip," said Amy Barnhorst, a psychiatrist who is the associate director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California, Davis. "There could be fewer killings

later in 2023, or this could be part of a trend. But we won't know for some time," she added. Experts attribute the rising

bloodshed to a growing population with an increased number of guns in the US Yet for all the headlines, mass killings are statistically rare and represent a fraction of the country's overall gun violence.

But the mass violence most often spurs attempts to reform gun laws, even if the efforts are not always successful.

Nearly all of the mass killings in the first half of this year, 27 of 28, involved guns. The other was a fire that killed four people in a home in Monroe, Louisiana.

business



We hope that the **G20 continues** exploring the options to further strengthen the global architecture to fight financial crime and assist jurisdictions in enhancing their law enforcement capacity NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

FRENZY OF FREE TRADE PACTS

With a number of countries approaching India for negotiating bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) to boost economic ties, the commerce ministry is looking at ways to increase its bandwidth for undertaking these time and human resource consuming talks, a senior official said. India at present is negotiating several FTAs with countries including the UK, Canada and European Union





to thank income tax return filers as ITR filing has been at a much faster pace than last year. I would advise them to file their tax

return at the earliest because the deadline of July 31 is

SANJAY MALHOTRA | REVENUE SECRETARY

We at Mahindra believe it is one of the bold steps by the Ministry of road transport and we welcome the



TECHNOLOGY), MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA



generative AI capabilities is insufficient; responsible innovation must take precedence

ARUN KUMAR PARAMESWARAN | SENIOR VE AND MD, SALESFORCE

SHORT **TAKES**

Debt of top eight realty firms dips

New Delhi: The net debt of top eight realty firms fell 43 per cent to ₹23,000 crore last fiscal, from around ₹40,000 crore in 2019-20, as their cash flow improved on strong housing sales, according to Anarock. Real estate consultant Anarock noted that the unfettered demand for housing across the country has enabled the country's leading large and listed developers to reduce their debt. Anarock analysed financial performances of the top eight developers engaged in the development of residential real estate. These developers are DLF, Macrotech Developers (Lodha brand). Godrej Properties, Prestige Estates Projects, Sobha, Brigade Enterprises, Puravankara and Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd.

Investors pump in ₹11K-cr in MFs

New Delhi: Mutual funds focused on small-caps have emerged as the winner with a net inflow of close to ₹11,000 crore in April-June quarter, as fund managers struggle to create alpha in the large-cap space, and the trend is expected to continue for some time. On the other hand, largecap space, which is yet to pick up momentum, witnessed an outflow of ₹3,360 crore during the quarter under review, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed. Apart from the June quarter, small-cap funds logged an inflow of ₹6,932 crore in three months that ended in March.

Credit card spends hit record in May

Spending hits all-time high of ₹1.4 lakh crore while cards in use stand at 87.4 million



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 16: Credit card spending has hit a record high of ₹1.4 lakh crore in May, the latest data from Reserver Bank of India showed.

The total spending or outstanding dues on credit cards, which remained range-bound throughout the year in the previous fiscal, have been rising by 5 per cent month on month this year.

Similarly, the number of cards in use has also jumped by more than 5 million since January and crossed 87.4 million in the reporting month, making this also an all-time high in May, according to the RBI data.

Of the new additions, as much as 2 million were used in the first two months of the current fiscal alone.

In January 2023 there were

SBI CARD AT SECOND PLACE FOLLOWED BY ICICI BANK,

NUMBER OF CARDS IN

CIRCULATION

HDFC BANK HAS MAXIMUM

■ NUMBER OF CARDS IN USE HAS JUMPED BY OVER 5MN SINCE JAN

82.4 million active cards in the country. The number has been growing steadily and reached 83.3 million in February, 85.3 million in March and 86.5 million in April, the data showed.

Credit card spends were in the range of ₹1.1-1.2 lakh crore throughout FY23, but reached an all-time high of ₹1.4 lakh crore in May this year, according to the RBI data, which also showed that the average spend on a card

scaled a new peak of ₹16,144. Market leader HDFC Bank has the maximum number of cards in circulation at 18.12 million in May and the bank also leads the market in terms of outstanding dues with 28.5 per cent of the total industry-wide dues.

SBI Card is a close second with 17.13 million cards in circulation, followed by ICICI Bank at 14.67 million. Axis Bank is the fourth largest with 12.46 million and its recent takeover of the retail portfolio of Citi has helped it close the gap with ICICI Bank. Citi had 1,62,150 active card users when it sold to the portfolio along with retail banking to Axis in 2022.

Meanwhile, indicating the rising stress level among individuals, a Transunion Cibil report last week said delinquencies in the credit card portfolio of banks have been rising and have jumped by 66 basis points to 2.94 per cent in March 2023

The report, which comes amid heightened concerns on the riskier unsecured loan portfolios from the regulator, also said that products like credit cards and personal loans grew the fastest.

On the asset quality front, credit card balances unpaid for over 90 days stood at 2.94 per cent, which is a 0.66 per cent jump over the year-ago period, while the same for personal loans improved by 0.04 per cent to 0.94 per cent, Cibil said.

From a loan growth perspective, outstanding balances on credit cards grew 34 per cent in the year to March 2023, and personal loans were up 29 per cent.

FPIs continue to bet on equities, infuse ₹30,600cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) flow into the Indian equity market remained unabated as they invested over ₹30,600 crore in the first fortnight of this month, driven by the country's robust economic growth and strong corporate earnings.

If this trend continues, investment by FPIs in July will exceed the figures recorded in May and June, which were ₹43,838 crore and ₹47,148 crore respectively.



With this, inflow in the equity market reached ₹1.07 lakh crore so far this year, data with the depositories showed.

According to the data, FPIs have been continuously buying Indian equities since March and infused ₹30,660 crore this month (till July 14). Before March, overseas investors pulled out ₹34,626 crore collectively in January and February.

Apart from equities, overseas investors injected ₹1,076 crore into the Indian debt market during the period under review.

In terms of sectors, FPIs continue to invest in financials, automobiles, capital goods, realty, and FMCG.

FPI buying sprees in these sectors have contributed to the surge in prices of stocks in such sectors and the Sensex and Nifty scaling record highs

BIZ BUZZ

MONETARY CRISIS

Automobile exports nosedive 28% in Q1

Maruti Suzuki India secured the top slot followed by Hyundai Motor, Kia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: Automobile exports from India declined 28 per cent in the April-June period this year hit by monetary crisis in Africa and various other developing countries, according to the latest data shared by industry body SIAM.

Overall exports stood at 10.32.449 units in the first quarter ended on June 30, 2023 as compared with 14,25,967 units in the same period of last year.

"All vehicle segments have seen a drop in exports in the first quarter, as there has been a devaluation of currencies in many destinations of exports, especially in Africa and other developing countries," Society of Automobile Indian Manufacturers (SIAM) DG Rajesh Menon told PTI.

These countries have been facing challenges of availability of foreign exchange, which is limiting the sales for vehicles and countries are focusing more on imports of essential items. though the demand for vehicles from consumers exists in these markets, he added.

Total passenger vehicle shipments stood at 1,52,156 units in the June quarter, down 5 per cent from 1,60,116 units in April-June period of 2022.

Passenger cars shipments dropped to 94,793 units in the



period under review from 1,04,400 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, utility vehicle shipments saw a marginal decline to 55.419 units in the first quarter this fiscal as against 55,547 units in the same period of last year.

Maruti Suzuki India secured the top slot with shipments of 62,857 units in the June quarter. It had exported 68,987 passenger vehicles in the April-June quarter of the last fiscal.

It was followed by Hyundai Motor India which shipped 35,100 units in the first quarter as against 34,520 units in the yearago period. Kia India came in at third po-

sition with overseas shipment of 22,511 units. It had exported 21,459 units in the June quarter last fiscal. Two-wheeler exports declined

31 per cent to 7,91,316 units in the April-June period from 11,48,594 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, commercial vehicle shipments dipped to 14,625 units in the first quarter, down 25 per cent from 19,624 units in the April-June period of 2022-

AD REVENUE DIPS 50%

Twitter's cash flow still negative: Musk

REUTERS

Washington, July 16: Twitter's cash flow remains negative because of a nearly 50% drop in advertising revenue and a heavy debt load, Elon Musk said Saturday, falling short of his expectation in March that Twitter could reach cash flow positive by June.



'Need to reach positive cash flow before we have the luxury of anything else," Musk said in a tweet replying to suggestions on recapitalization.

This is the latest sign that the aggressive cost-cutting measures since Musk acquired Twitter in October alone are not enough to get Twitter to cash flow posi-

tive, and suggests Twitter's ad revenue may have not recovered as fast as Musk suggested in an interview in April with the BBC that most advertisers had returned to the site.

After laying off thousands of employees and cutting cloud service bills, Musk had said the company reduced its non-debt expenditures to \$1.5 billion from a projected \$4.5 billion in 2023. Twitter also faces annual interest payments of about \$1.5 billion as a result of the debt it took on in the \$44 billion deal that turned the company private.

It is unclear what time frame Musk was referring to by the 50% drop in ad revenue. He has said Twitter was on track to post \$3 billion in revenue in 2023, down from \$5.1 billion in 2021.

Twitter has been criticized over lax content moderation, followed by an exodus of many advertisers who did not want their ads appearing next to inappropriate content.

Prestige unveils first showroom in Rourkela



ROURKELA: Prestige, one of the leading kitchen and home appliances brand of the country, has opened its premium showroom for the first time in Rourkela at Harvana Bhavan in Daily market. Ankit Kumar and Prabin Kumar Patra, ex-branch managers of Prestige were invited as chief guest for the inauguration. The exclusive showroom has all the variety of kitchenware and small appliances ranging from modern items like double induction, smart rice cooker, Wi-Fi kettle, flip-on pressure cooker and visible gas stove. The store has announced free home delivery service and easy EMI facility to attract customers. There is also an attractive gift for the first 50 customers who will purchase any item from the showroom, Chandulal Gupta and Sumit Gupta have taken charge as manager of the newly unveiled showroom. Soumvadeep Roy, Sujit Kumar Nayak, Amit Kumar Bhuyan and Brundaban Barik along with other employees of the company were present in the inauguration function.

TPWODL CEO felicitated

BURLA: The office bearers of Western Odisha Bidyut Shramik Mahasangh, Hirakhand Bidyut Karmachari Sangh, Western Odisha Bidyut Karmachari Maha Sangh, OSEB Employees Union, All Odisha Bidyut Sharmik Mahasangh, Hira GTD Bidyut Karmachari Sangh and OSE Employees Federation under the banner "Ekata Manch" called on Gajanan Kale, CEO of TPWODL at corporate office, Burla to felicitate him for the dynamic employee friendly decisions he has taken during last two years Saturday. It is to be noted that, in last two years the management of TPWODL has taken several decisions to benefit the employees and paid their financial dues. The members of the employees' unions while expressing their appreciation to the management also promised the CEO to cooperate and support the management in providing consumer service and also in achieving the objective of the company. Kale on this occasion addressing the members of the unions, stated that as a TATA group company, we always try to live up to the expectation of the employees, they are the human assets of the organisation and it will always be the managements' endeavor to look after the requirements for their safety and well being. Cosmos Lakra, Head of Human Resources of TPWODL was also present during the meeting.



China, Vietnam's share in steel import basket up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 16: The share of countries like China and Vietnam in India's 4.84 LMT steel import basket during June 2023 has increased on a year-onvear (v-o-v) basis, according to official data.

At 4.84 lakh metric tonne (LMT), India's overall steel import registered a 5.9 per cent increase on a month-on-month (mo-m) basis and 7.6 per cent over June 2022, the Ministry of Steel said.

"Share of China, Japan, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Nepal and the USA increased in total steel imports of India in June 23 as compared to June 22...," it said.

In June 2022, the import from China was 26.1 per cent and Vietnam was 1 per cent.

However, in June 2023, the import from China contributed 37.1 per cent and Vietnam's share was 4.8 per cent in India's steel import basket.

The development assumes significance as India has set an ambitious target to increase its steel making capacity to 300 million tonne and Indian players eyeing for a significant share in the global steel markets.



While India's export of finished steel fell to 5.02 LMT in June, posting a fall of 27.6 per cent over May 2023, and 21.3 per cent

Russia, Italy, Portugal and Nepal in India's steel exports basket increased in June 2023, the data

that the prices of the steel making raw material were at-₹3.900/tonne in June, unchanged from its May 2023 level.

Xiaomi bets big on India retail stores amid Samsung rivalry

XIAOMI'S OFFLINE PUSH COMES MONTHS AFTER IT LOST ITS LEADERSHIP POSITION TO SAMSUNG WHICH HAD A MUCH BIGGER PORTFOLIO OF PREMIUM PHONES NOW IN VOGUE

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 16: China's Xiaomi will focus on boosting its India sales from retail outlets after years of big bets on e-commerce, its India president said, as the company seeks to revive smartphone sales after falling behind South Korea's Samsung.

E-commerce sales in India via Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart have surged in recent years, helping Xiaomi and others expand in one of the world's fastest-growing markets, with 600 million smartphone users.

But while 44% of India's smartphones sales are now online, the brick-and-mortar segment remains the bigger play

'Our market position in offline is substantially lower than what it is online," Xiaomi's India head, Muralikrishnan B, said in an interview Fridav. Just 34% of Xiaomi's

India unit sales this year have come from retail stores, with the rest through websites that have long been its dominant sales generator, data from Hong Kong-based Counterpoint

and Xiaomi expects it to grow

Research shows.

Samsung, in contrast,

Offline is where you have other competitors who have been executing fairly well and have a larger market share

Xiaomi plans MURALIKRISHNAN B | HEAD, to expand its store network beyond the current

gets 57% of its

sales from

18,000 and increasingly partner with phone vendors to offer other products, such as Xiaomi TVs or security cameras, where Muralikrishnan said competition is less intense

He said Xiaomi found some

The South Korean giant has a 20% market share in India, while Xiaomi, which historically focussed on budget phones, has 16%

partner stores that put its bright orange branding outside shops were displaying rival brands more prominently inside, a marketing issue the company would

Xiaomi's offline push comes months after it lost its leadership position to Samsung, which had a much bigger portfolio of premium phones now in vogue. The South Korean giant has a 20% market share in India, while Xiaomi, which historically focussed on budget phones,

"Offline remains a key plat-

miumisation trend," said Counterpoint analyst Tarun Pathak. "Consumers spending more would like to have the look and feel of the premium product." Xiaomi plans to hire more store promoters - salespeople

form as India embraces the pre-

lets. It targets tripling the count to 12,000 promoters by the end of next year from early 2023 levels, Muralikrishnan said. Another significant India challenge for Xiaomi is a federal agency's \$673 million freeze on its bank assets since last year. The agency alleges Xiaomi made illegal remittances to foreign

entities in the name of royal-

ties. The company denies wrong-

who lure, pitch and sell phones

to prospective buyers inside out-

doing "We'll continue to be confident ... that ultimately our position will be heard and validated," Muralikrishnan said.



over June 2022. The share of the UK, Mexico,

On prices of iron ore, it said

SHORT TAKES

Sable qualifies for Paris Olympics

Silesia (Poland): Ace 3,000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable became Sunday the first Indian track athlete to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics after finishing sixth with his second career-best time in the Silesia Diamond League meet here. The 28-year-old Sable clocked 8 minutes 11.63 seconds, just outside his national record time of 8:11.20, but that breached the Paris Olympics qualifying mark of 8:15.00 by a fair margin. The Olympics qualification period began July 1, 2023 and will continue till June 30, 2024. Moroccan World and Olympic champion El Bakkali Soufiane won the race in a meet record time of 8:03.16s while Kenyans Abraham Kibiwot (8:08.03) and Leonard Kipkemoi Bett (8:09.45) finished second and third respectively. Sable thus became only the sixth Indian to qualify for the Olympics track and field event.

James to don original number

Los Angeles: LeBron James is not only coming back for a 21st season, he's coming back in his original uniform number. James will return to No. 23 next season, a move the Los Angeles Lakers revealed Saturday by tweeting a picture of his back with James' name and number showing on the gold iersev James has alternated between No. 23 and No. 6 after wearing 23 when he entered the NBA in 2003 with the Cleveland Cavaliers. He was in No. 6 while becoming the NBA's career scoring leader last season, a number now retired by the league following the death of Boston Celtics 'Hall of Famer' Bill Russell.

Coyle back with CFC

Chennai: ISL club Chennaiyin FC (CFC) announced Sunday the return of Owen Coyle as their head coach ahead of the 2023-24 season on a multi-year deal. The experienced Scotsman, who has won 'Premier League Manager of the Month Award' thrice, is quite a popular

name in the Indian football circuit and has had a successful stint with the Chennaivin FC last time when he led the club to the final of ISL 2019-20 with eight wins. "We're delighted to have Owen back in Chennaiyin colours. Owen is no stranger to India and we've all seen what he can do here. He's the right man to lead our young team forward and we're glad to have him back home," said Chennaiyin co-owner Vita Dani,

Record PL deal

London: England midfielder Declan Rice has completed his transfer to Arsenal, the club announced Sunday, for what is reportedly a record fee between two British clubs of 105 million pounds (137.5 million dollars). Hours earlier the 24-year-old said in a letter to West Ham supporters that his desire to play at the 'very highest level' lay behind his decision to move to Arsenal, who are spending heavily in a bid to challenge for the Premier League title next season.

It's finally official

Fort Lauderdale (US): Lionel Messi has finalised his deal to join Major League Soccer (MLS), and after years of planning and pursuing, Inter Miami has landed a global icon. Messi's contract became official here Saturday, a little more than five weeks after he declared that he would be coming to Inter Miami. The team will introduce him Sunday night at its stadium here and the first home match of the Messi era could be as early as Friday in a Leagues Cup match against Cruz Azul. "BIENVENIDO 10," the team posted Saturday Twitter. "Welcome, Messi," the club added.

Shooters shine

New Delhi: Talented shooters Shubham Bisla and Sainyam gave India a golden start at the ISSF World Junior Championships, winning Sunday the men's and women's 10m Air Pistol competitions in Changwon, Korea. While it was Shubham's first gold at the ISSF junior level, Sainyam backed up her win in the Suhl Junior World Cup last month, with an encore in Changwon. India, as a result, won both golds on offer on day one of the competitions. Shubham was the first to fire for India when he shot 244.6 in the men's air pistol final, leaving China's Bu Shuaihang, who shot 239.6, way behind. Earlier, Shubham had shot 578 to qualify in second place behind Bu, who topped the qualification charts with a 585. Sainyam was also in a league of her own in the women's final, shooting 242.2 to the silver winning Korean Oh Ye Jin's 239.4.

Wimbledon has a new king

SPANIARD CARLOS ALCARAZ WEATHERS DJOKOVIC STORM TO BAG THE MEN'S SINGLES CROWN

London, July 16: A few days back, possibly after winning the quarterfinals, Novak Diokovic had cheekily said, "I am not here to lose and I am the man to beat." Well his worst fears came true Sunday as World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz defeated the Serbian 1-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 to win his first Wimbledon title and herald the beginning of a new era. The boy, who had come to Wimbledon and the Centre Court with dreams in his eyes, finally turned those into reality. The boy is now the 'KING' of tennis.

In a match of pulsating fortunes where the pendulum swung from one side to another at the drop of hat, the 20-yearold Alcaraz emerged the stronger person against his 36year-old legendary rival. Djokovic was gunning for an eighth title at Wimbledon, a feat only achieved by the great Roger Federer before. Now it looks that the Serbian will have to wait for some time.

The turning point of the match was probably the second game of the fifth set with Alcaraz serving. Djokovic had a breakpoint after deuce, but he hit and easy forehand into the net with the Spaniard completely out of position. Had that come off, who knows what would have happened, but then that is another tale.

Alcaraz not only recovered from that situation, but went on to break Djokovic the very next game and ultimately it proved the most crucial for him in the match. After that Alcaraz just held his serve and did not allow Djokovic any chance of a comeback.

On grass, Djokovic was the favourite and it looked like he



ON A HIGH: Carlos Alcaraz is all pumped up after winning a point against Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon, Sunday

would steamroll his younger opponent when he won the first set 6-1. However, Alacaraz was not one to give up easily. He kept his composure as she scripted an amazing turnaround playing some shots that the commentators described as 'atrocious' and 'unbelievable' and sometimes even kept quiet. Alcaraz showed on the day he could hit winners from impossible angles, could chase down anything that Djokovic threw at him and in

Carlos Alcaraz bt Novak Djokovic 1-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4

the end that made the difference between the victor and the vanquished.

The No. 1-ranked Alcaraz prevented Djokovic from what would have been a record-tying eighth title, and fifth in a row, at the grass court tournament. Djokovic also was kept from claiming his 24th career major.

However, this was a match that will go down the echelons of tennis history as one of the greatest played on the Centre Court grass. A match that lasted 17 minutes short of five hours and in the end had both the players drained both physically and mentally. However, the Spaniard showed that he has come to end the era of the 'Fab Four' and emerge as the next big thing on

First-ever ODI loss for Indian women against Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mirpur. July 16: The Indian women's team continued their embarrassing batting show to suffer their first-ever ODI defeat against Bangladesh as they lost the opening game here Sunday by 40 runs.

Debutant seamer Amanjot Kaur's (4/31) impressive bowling spell restricted the hosts to 152 all out in 43 overs. However, the bowling effort was completely undone by the batting unit as India folded for 113 in 35.5 overs. It was a 44-over per side game due to rain and India's target was revised to 154 via Duckworth-Lewis method.

India's batting has been dismal to say the least in the preceding WT20I series where they were restricted to 95 in the second game but somehow managed to win it. Bangladesh also strangled them in the third and final game which India lost and the poor form seemed to have continued from the shortest format. Deepti Sharma (20) was the highest scorer for India. Leg-spinner Rabeya Khan (3/30) destroyed the Indian middle-order while new-ball bowler Marufa Akter (4/29) did heavy damage.

"We didn't take responsibility and bat well. In bowling also, we were not up to the mark. skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said after the game. "Sometimes some bowlers bowl very well, overall

BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh 152 in 43 overs (Nigara Sultana 39, Amanjot Kaur 4/31) beat **India 113 in 35.5 overs** (Marufa Akter 4/29, Rabeya Khan 3/30) by 40 runs (D/L method).



DREAM DEBUT: Amaniot Kaur celebrates with teammates after dismissing a Bangladeshi batter

we are not batting up to the mark and not bowling according to our strengths. We have done well in ODI cricket and we have to back ourselves,"" Kaur added.

While Kaur (5) was dismissed quickly, India lost the match in the middle overs where Jemimah Rodrigues (10 off 26 balls), Deepti (20 off 40 balls) and debutant Amanjot (15 off 40 balls) batted nearly 18 overs among them but could score only 45 runs.

While Amanjot can be excused as it was her debut and she doesn't have enough experience at this level, same can't be said about Rodrigues (23rd game) and Deepti (80th game).

Earlier, debutant Amanjot had a dream outing as her spell put India in command after the rain-hit game was reduced to 44 overs per side. She was well supported by Sneh Rana (none for 11 off eight overs) and Deepti (1/26 off nine overs).

Fit-again Bumrah all South Zone clinch Duleep Trophy set to tour Ireland

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 16: India pacer Jasprit Bumrah is close to regaining his full-fitness and is likely to make his highly-anticipated return to action next month during the tour of Ireland.

According to a report in a national news website. Bumrah. who underwent a back surgery in March and had resumed bowling last month after successfully undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore, has been gradually increasing his workload.

The pacer is continuing his rehab programme under the watchful eyes of NCA chief VVS Laxman and he is bowling full throttle at the nets. Sources said that he is bowling eight-10 overs at a stretch.

While the selectors and the team management were looking to include Bumrah for the Asia Cup in September, the progression he has made in the last couple of weeks means he could travel to Ireland next month with a second-string India team. The decision on his travel would be taken in the coming days.

The report further said that Bumrah is being handled with



extra care given the nature of injury he suffered and has missed the competitive cricket since

last September.Bumrah isn't showing any discomfort at the nets, where he is training on a daily basis. There are indications that Bumrah could even play a few practice matches at the NCA, where camps are underway," the report said.

The development comes as a big boost for the Indian cricket team ahead of major events such as the Asia Cup and the ICC ODI World Cup, the latter to be hosted by India in the months of October and November.

Meanwhile, another pacer Prasidh Krishna, who underwent surgery for a lumbar stress fracture is recovering well and has resumed bowling.

The 27-year-old pacer had missed the IPL 2023 with injury and last featured in a competi-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 16: South Zone applied finishing touches to their superiority across the last four days, defeating West Zone by 75 runs to clinch the Duleep Trophy here Sunday. Chasing 298 to win, West Zone, overnight 182/5, were bowled out for 222. Left-arm spinner Sai Kishore (4/57) and pacer Vasuki Koushik (4/36) were the pick of the bowlers for South Zone, sharing eight wickets among them.

in the Duleep Trophy, and they will also count this as a sweet revenge. In the 2022 final, West had beaten South by 294 runs.

Priyank Panchal (95), who started the day on 92, was the biggest stumbling block in South's march to the title, and he could add only three runs Sunday morning. Panchal edged pacer Vidwath Kaverappa, who was later adjudged man of the match, to Ricky Bhui behind the stumps as West slipped to 189 for six. The dismissal also ended West's realistic chances of turning the match around.

There were moments of artificial excitement too. Atit Sheth and Dharmendra Jadeja, who have a history of turning it on against South teams, added 23 runs for the eighth wicket to



South Zone players in a jubilant mood after winning the Duleep Trophy final Sunday against West Zone at Bangalore

give West a glimmer of hope. The 54-minute stand helped West to go past the 200-run mark and they might have secretly hoped for a miracle.

But there was none this day. Washington Sundar settled nicely under the ball as Jadeja skied spinner Sai Kishore in his effort to clear the boundary. Thereon, it was just a matter of time. South's moment of glory came when Sheth lofted Sai Kishore straight into the hands of Washington at long on.

South skipper Hanuma Vihari had special praise for the troika of Karnataka bowlers Kaverappa, Vijayakumar Vyshak and Koushik who took 16 of the 20 West wickets to fall.

"All three Karnataka fast bowlers who played knew the wicket very well. I had said earlier as well that having bowlers who know the conditions is an advantage to us," Vihari said after the game.

BRIEF SCORES

South Zone 213 and 230 beat Wst Zone 146 and 222 (Priyank Panchal 95, Sai Kishore 4/57, Vasuki Koushik 4/36) by 75 runs.

Vingegaard holds on to 10 seconds lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc (France), July 16: Jonas Vingegaard kept intact his 10second overall lead in the Tour de France as Dutch veteran Wout Poels soloed to victory after a tough trek in the Alps with a mountaintop finish.

Poels, who was part of an early breakaway in Sunday's 15th stage, took advantage of a short but very steep ascent located just before the final seven-kilometre (four-mile) climb leading to the finish line to move away. Wout van Aert finished second, more than two minutes behind, with Mathieu Burgaudeau completing the stage podium.

Locked in a pulsating fight for the yellow jersey since the start of the race, Vingegaard and twotime Tour winner Tadej Pogacar once again stayed together throughout the day in the group of main contenders.

Pogacar tried to sprint away from his rival 900 metres from the line but Vingegaard, the defending champion, immediately jumped on his wheel and did not lose any time. Their duel will resume in Tuesday's time trial

Monday is a rest day and should be a welcome break for the

Unheralded Khatua stuns all with silver in shot put

INDIA FINISH 3RD IN TALLY WITH 27 MEDALS AT ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, July 16: Unheralded Abha Khatua (in pix) equalled the women's shot put national record of 18.06m while winning silver in a surprise performance, while Jyothi Yarraji and Parul Chaudhary clinched their second medals in the Asian Athletics Championships here Sunday.

The 28-year-old Khatua made a huge improvement of nearly a metre - 93cm - from her earlier lifetime best of 17.13m as she sent the four kilogram iron ball to a distance of 18.06m in her fourth throw to finish second behind Song Jiayuan (18.88m) of China. Her second-best throw

of the day was 17.10m. Veteran Manpreet Kaur, whose



national record Khatua equalled Sunday, took the bronze with a first-round throw of 17.00m.

Yarraji, who had become the first Indian to win a 100m hurdles gold Thursday in the Asian Championships, added a 200m silver to her kitty with a time

Ace Indian long-distance runner Parul Chaudhary won her second medal of the championships with a silver in 5,000m. Chaudhary, who had won gold in 3,000m steeplechase Friday, clocked 15 minutes 52.35 seconds to finish second behind Yuma Yamamoto (15:51.16s) of Japan in the 5,000m final. The 28-yearold Chaudhary holds the 5,000m national record of 15:10.35s. Ankita won the bronze in 16:03.33s as India secured two

medals from the event. In men's javelin throw, DP Manu added a silver medal with a best throw of 81.01m while Gulveer Singh picked up a bronze in 5,000m race with a time of 13 minute and 48.33 seconds.

Indian challenge ends as Lakshya loses in semifinal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Council Bluffs (US), July 16: Ace Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen fought hard before going down in three games against reigning All England champion Li Shi Feng of China in the men's singles semifinals of the US Open badminton tournament here Saturday. Lakshya lost 17-21, 24-22, 17-21 against secondseed Feng in a gruelling lastfour match that lasted 76 minutes.

It was a close fight between World No 7 Feng and Lakshya, ranked 12th, in all the three games. However, Lakshya was guilty of making some crucial mistakes in both the first and the third games and that led to his ouster from the event. In both the game, he committed the errors when the score stood at 17-all.

Indian lifters sign off with 20 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Greater Noida, July 16: Lovepreet Singh and Purnima Pandey finished on the podium on the final day as hosts India wrapped up the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships with a rich haul of 20 medals here Sunday. The Indian weightlifters won a silver and a bronze medal on the last day of the competition. Overall India finished with nine gold medals, the same number of silver ones and two bronze medals.

Having clinched the silver in the last edition, Punjab lifter Lovepreet finished second best once again in the 109kg weight class after lifting a total of 341kg (154kg+187kg), which was below his 355kg (163kg+192kg) medalwinning effort during the

Birmingham Commonwealth Games last year.

The CWG bronze medallist could have logged a better total had he not failed in his two snatch attempts of 158kg. The 25-year-old, a former junior Asian bronze medal winner, just about managed to edge past Englishman Andrew Griffiths 340kg (155kg+185kg), who heaved a kilogram less than Lovepreet The gold went to Taniela Tuisuva Rainibogi 363kg (163kg+200kg) of Fiji The other Indian lifter in ac-

tion, last edition's champion ঽ Purnima bagged the bronze medal in the women's +87kg category. Purnima lifted 227kg (102kg+125kg), two kilograms less than her 2021 total, to grab the last spot on the podium. The gold went to a Fiji lifter.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159