



KATRINA'S YEARNING

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

LEISURE P2



HINDU TEMPLE ATTACKED

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

INTERNATIONAL P10



SHOCKING LOSS

Indian eyes suffer their first-ever ODI defeat against Bangladesh losing the rain-curtailed tie by 40 runs

SPORTS P12

Bear mauls man to death; son critical

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 necessary papers. 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 Bijakhama 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 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 markets. 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



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Interstate job scam busted; 9 arrested

AGENCIES

Balasure, 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 tip-off, police intercepted some vehicles over the Baruni bridge and interrogated the occupants," Balasure 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

New Delhi, July 16: Top leaders 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 leaders 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

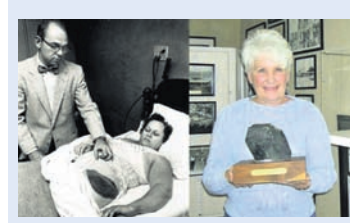
- 26 Opposition parties' leaders likely to attend 2-day brainstorming session from today to take on BJP
- Congress Parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi is also likely to attend this time
- The Opposition meeting coincides with the NDA meeting convened July 18 in Delhi, where some new allies are 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, KDMK, VCK, RSP, Forward Bloc, 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 Manithaneya Makkal Katchi (MMK) led by MH Jawahirullah are likely to join the front after an invite was sent to them too. Congress Parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi is also likely to attend the meeting this time. 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 and JDU leader Nitish Kumar, DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, JMM leader and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, besides 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.

Meteorite hits French woman while sipping coffee on terrace

AGENCIES

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 saying. "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 meteorite

who suggested it to be a meteorite. Following this, she got the rock examined by geologist Dr Thierry

Rebmann, who confirmed its extraterrestrial 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 a 3.6 kg stony meteorite that crashed through her roof, leaving her with severe bruising.

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- Rank 301-350 Times Asia University Rankings, 2023
- Rank 301-350 Times Young University Rankings, 2023
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WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.4°C	28.5°C
TEMP MIN	24.5°C	24.0°C
Humidity	98%	95%
Rainfall	46.8mm	24.0mm

Forecast: Light to moderate rain

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

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ARIES
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 your capabilities, so work sincerely and have faith in God.

TAURUS
This is one of those days when not goes well, warns Ganesh. No matter how hard you try you may not be able to keep problems 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 confidence, says Ganesh.

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

LEO
You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters today. You need to patiently listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today. Your self-confidence may take a beating today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Ganesh.

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

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will showcase your ability and skills today in your work 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. Ganesh showers you with all his blessings.

SCORPIO
According to Ganesh, 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 of full of caution, warns Ganesh. There are chances that your heart will 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 be handled with care.

CAPRICORN
Forced to some back-breaking 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 opportunity to damage your business and reputation. But, you are no less. You understand their moves. Ganesh predicts that you will be ready with the equally strong counter attack and fight back.

AQUARIUS
Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesh 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 aligned perfectly, portends Ganesh. You will achieve all the expected results in the office and/or at work today.

When Katrina longed for male guidance in her life



Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif once talked about missing a father figure every time she faced an emotionally hard situation and con-

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 work-front, Katrina will be next seen in *Tiger 3*, *Merry Christmas* and *See Le Zaraa*.

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

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 added.

Kajol born to legendary actor Tanuja 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! #strong-women #live-learnlove," she captioned the post.

On the work front, Kajol is being lauded for her performance in the web show *The Trial - Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha*, currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

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 *DDLJ* 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

THEATRE TREAT



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

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 for work.

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.

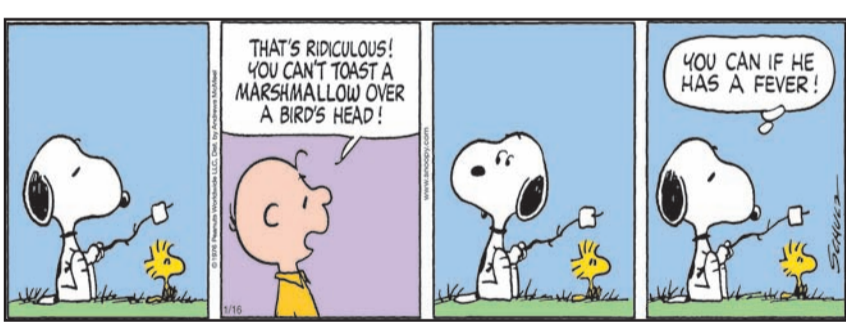
The *Badri ki Dulhaniya* actress said, "After a decade in the film industry, my life has undergone significant transformations. There was a period when I was willing to sacrifice sleep and time with my family, tirelessly working and shooting. However, now that I have a family of my own—a daughter and a husband—I yearn to make up for

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

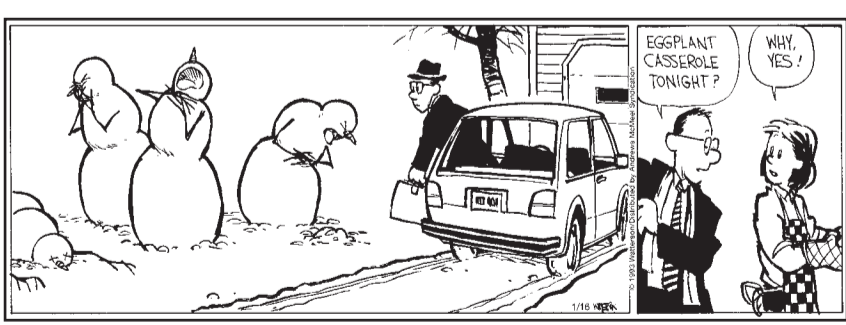
"I have made a deliberate decision to prioritize balance in my life by staying present and not constantly working or being on my phone. Though I occasionally struggle, I strive to avoid using my phone unnecessarily and focus on meaningful tasks instead," she added.

Alia will next be seen in *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* and is also awaiting the release of her debut international film, *Heart of Stone*.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

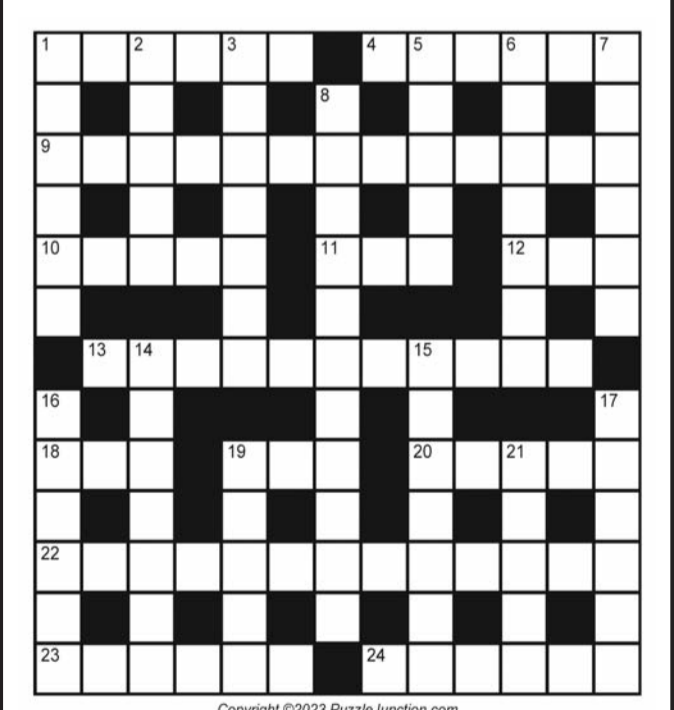


BREVITY



FUN post

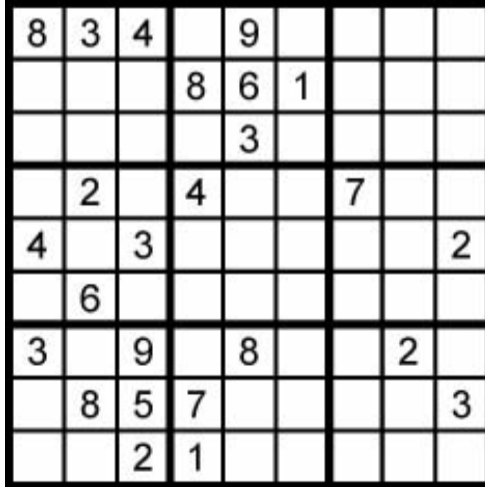
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Sudden
 - 4 The start of something
 - 9 Deceptive marketing tool (4,3,6)
 - 10 Fowl pole
 - 11 Roman sun god
 - 12 Snack
 - 13 Baccarat variation (6,2,3)
 - 18 Samovar
 - 19 Farm female
 - 20 Tracking device
 - 22 Pompous bores (7,6)
 - 23 Take offense at
 - 24 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 - 3 Spectre
 - 5 Wooden pin
 - 6 Far-out
 - 7 Fr. Polynesian island
 - 8 A mixed bag (4,3,4)
 - 14 Laurels
 - 15 Type of cookware
 - 16 Neutron star
 - 17 Playful
 - 19 Like a sprite
 - 21 Sad song
- Down**
- 1 Reddish-brown colour
 - 2 Zoo heavy-weight

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

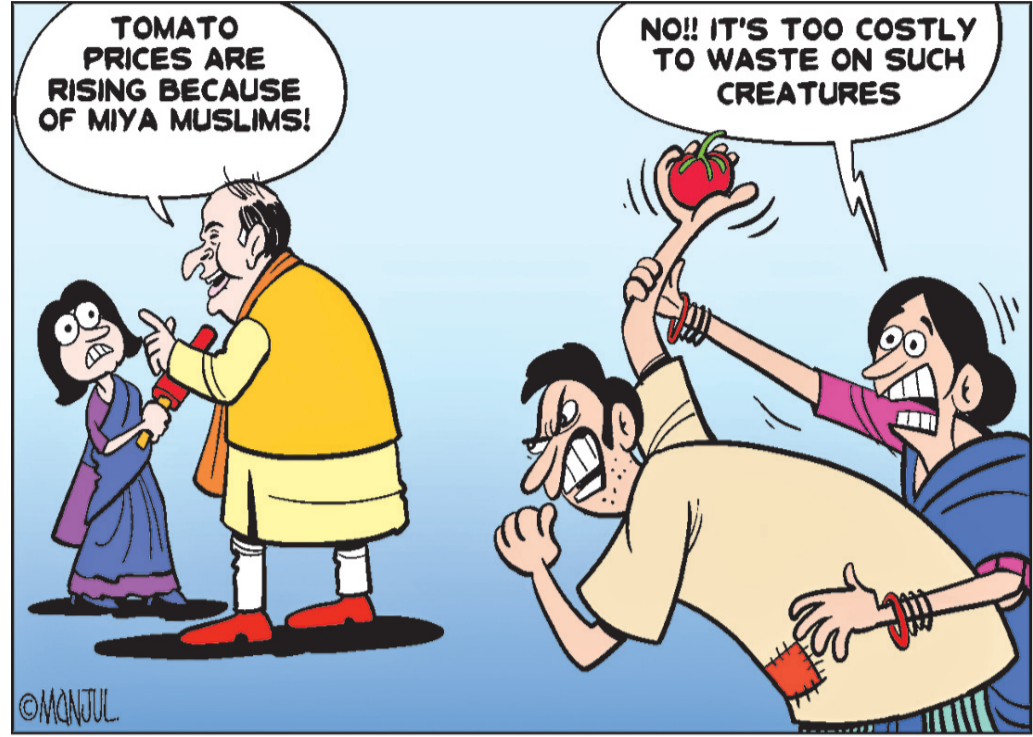
downtown

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



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



IMD FORECASTS MORE RAIN

AGENCIES

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, Sambalpur, Nuapada,

Kandhamal, Bolangir, Sonepur, Deogarh, Nabarangapur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kalahandi and Bargarh. Similar amount of rainfall may occur for 24 hours 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 them to remain vigilant and keep a close watch on the situation in areas for which orange (be updated) and yellow (be prepared) alerts have been issued.

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 the Mumbai Police Commissioner to file an action taken report (ATR) within four weeks in connection with the brutalities inflicted upon a 22-year-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 case by directing the Railway Board Chairman to take appropriate action against the officials for their failure to provide security to the passengers after a woman was found dead inside the toilet of a coach in Dhanbad Express April 20, 2023.

Disposing off the case 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

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 body of the woman lying in a pool of blood and informed the GRP.

According to the autopsy 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 22-year-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 incident.

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.

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

The 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

Valedictory Ceremony of the National Conference on Judicial History and Archiving

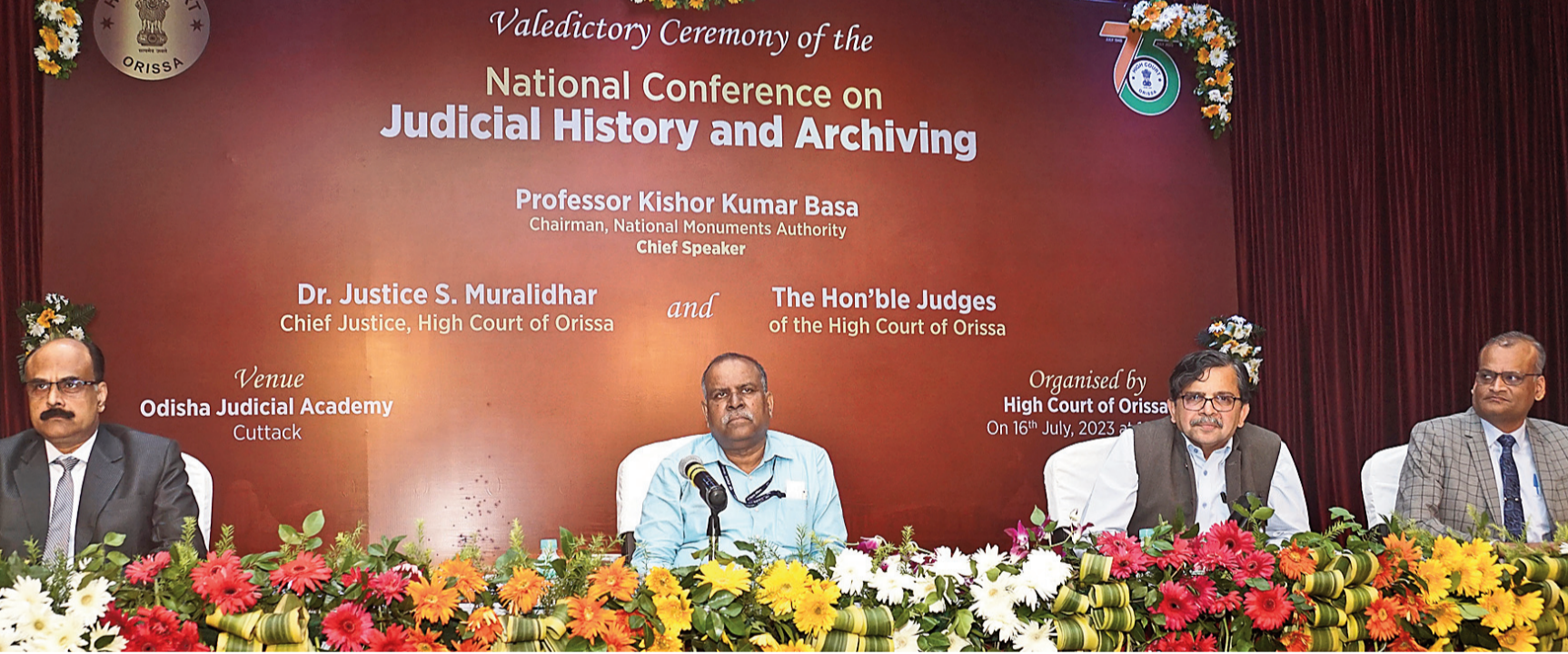
Professor Kishor Kumar Basa
Chairman, National Monuments Authority
Chief Speaker

Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar
Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa

The Hon'ble Judges
of the High Court of Orissa

Venue
Odisha Judicial Academy
Cuttack

Organised by
High Court of Orissa
On 16th July, 2023



CURTAINS DOWN: Dignitaries including Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and National Monuments Authority Chairman Kishor Kumar Basa during the valedictory ceremony of 'Judicial 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 detected 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 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-bed 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

Samaleswari Temple. Then he 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.

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 enjoy live music than recorded events'

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 found.

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, said.

Baby opera is an online mash-up 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 Arts*.

"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

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 grows.

Cirelli says music can play a powerful part in making those important bonds. "This audience study shows

that even in a community context, infants are engaging with the music and connecting to their fellow audience members," she said.

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 recording.

Their responses were recorded using heart monitors and tablets and then examined for when the babies looked at the stage versus

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 watching for longer bouts of time.

"Even little babies who may or may not have experienced music in a community context before are already engaging more when it's delivered this way," said Cirelli.

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

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



Akademi in this regard is praise 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, Malakngiri, 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 Suryalata 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 Gomanga, Ebal Sabar, Libistan Gomanga, 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, Sunday

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 to arrest or to prevent the prevailing dry spells.

He also reviewed the crop coverage of different districts, pre-positioning of inputs like seeds and fertilisers, green manuring under Dhanicha cultivation, de-

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 recognise 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 aim to promote awareness about clean and safe environment, SAIL SeQR TMT Bars organised a 'Greenathon' in the Capital city Sunday.

The walk started from Biju Patnaik (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 Priyadarsi.

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 Srirachandan 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.

NASA TO STUDY VOLCANIC ACTIVITY ON LUNAR SURFACE

NASA 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 images.

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 system, the agency said.

DIMPLE is part of the PRISM

(Payloads 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 efforts.

"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 someday, Mars," he added. DIMPLE will help determine

whether Irregular Mare Patches formed from recent or ancient volcanic processes. The mission will make use of a CLPS-pro-

vided rover, a collection gripping instrument, and a spectrometer that can help determine composition of the lunar material to analyse the age and composition of samples collected from the surface of Ina. DIMPLE will be able to collect and analyse anywhere from three to more than 25 samples to learn more about the timing of the volcanic activity that formed this feature.

"With the selection of DIMPLE, we aim to definitively re-

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 moon.

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 state.

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 elections.

While Union Ministers are frequently visiting various parliamentary segments under Lok Sabha Prabas Yojana, senior party leaders including state in-charge 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.

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



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

Jagatpur. Later, he studied at CTC (Central Tool Room & Training Centre), Bhubaneswar for three years.

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

Subhashish'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.

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

Subhashish 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



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

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-

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 media-persons 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

POST 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 hus-

band 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 Panasaput village soon and take necessary steps for the development of the villagers. He added that all benefits will be provided to the two widows.



Water tank set up by Andhra Pradesh



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 OP PHOTO

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. Dharendra 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 im-

portance 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 high-level 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."

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 Shrawan, over a lakh devotees throng here to pour water.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**
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2 No. of Works	08 (Eight) Nos.
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Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom.

SRI AUROBINDO



Diplomat Modi

Three 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-Élysées. 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 imports.

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 drowns.

WISDOM CORNER

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

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

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

WORDSWORTH

Macilent

This 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 inrascable 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, magirollogical, skilled in cookery, and magirolgist, 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 magirolgy. 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*.

CLIMATE FINANCE FIASCO

FOCUS PARIS SUMMIT

The 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.



Jayati Ghosh & Sandrine Dixon-Declève

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

Despite participation of roughly 50 heads of state, high-ranking 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 published 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 fossil-fuel-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 Dixon-Declève is Co-President of the Club of Rome. #PROJECTSYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SPORTS

How the cookie crumbles



Jayurvindra Singh

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

There was a time when West Indies cricket was the epitome of the game. The care-free and calypso style of fun-loving 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 hay 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 paying 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 Gavaskar 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

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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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 Fadnis, 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



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Akapat (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.



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

concentrated in Imphal city while Kukis have shifted to the hills. The violence has claimed 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.

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," 30-year-old Santosh says. Hawaii 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 Ranjit before Assam Rifles rescued us and moved us

to Imphal," says Gandhi, a farmer.

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.

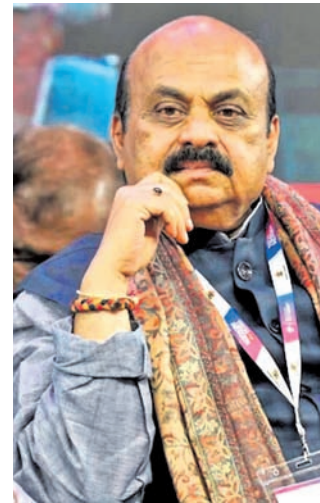
On the first night, within Imphal, 2,300 civilians were evacuated from violence-hit areas of Langol, Lamphel and Mantripukhri with another approximate 1,700 in Tengnoupal district, officials said.

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 senior official.

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

Recently, there have been enough indications from leaders of BJP and JD(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.

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

Claiming that their allegations over JD(S) being the 'B-team' 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 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 polls.

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 delayed as the ruling Congress wants its national leaders to inaugurate it.

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 said.

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



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 16: The Congress Saturday termed the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the over two-month 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 Congress 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 north-east in general," the statement said.

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 arsenal 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 indications 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 'Thihngang', 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 of-

ficials 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

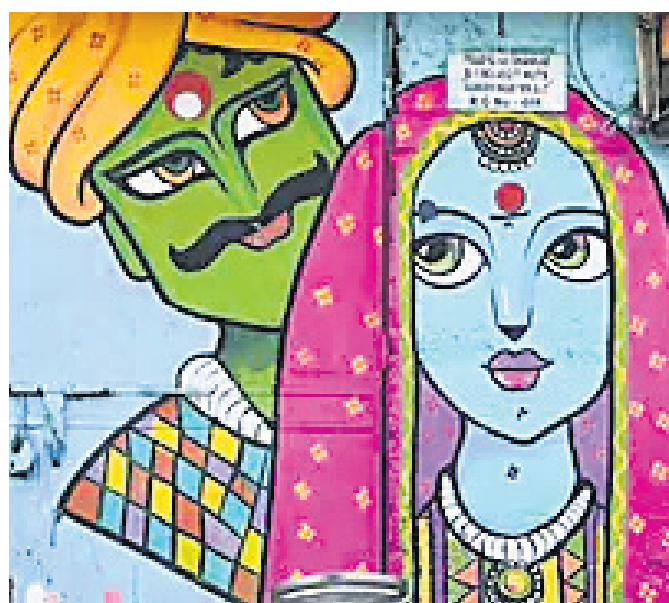
practices to leverage social change.

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.

Thus started a series of workshops, ranging from kawi or quilt-making and block printing

to wall painting and rangoli, bringing women from different communities together.

"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, self-expression, and mutual connection'.

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 Marthahalli 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,

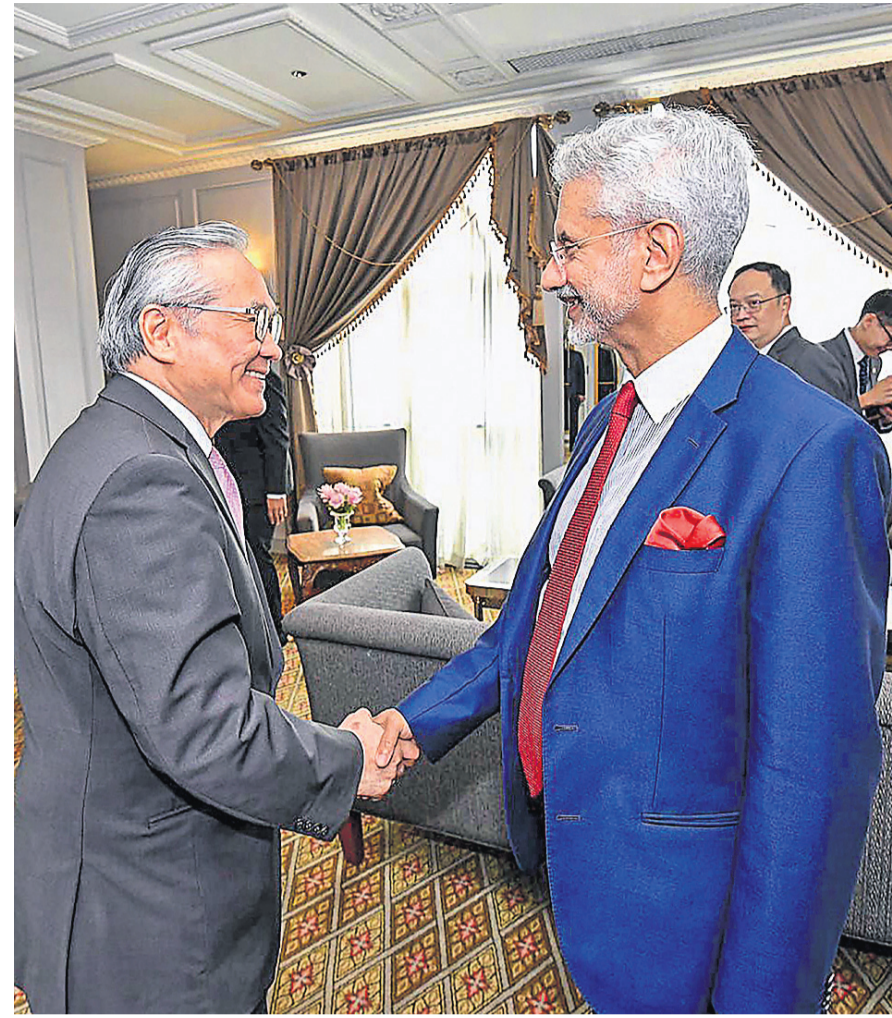
made into a documentary called 'Alli Serona-Together in Art' by Falana Films, was screened July 13 at the Alliance Françoise in Bangalore.

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-founder and principal architect of Studio Sorted along with Arora.



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



India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Don Pramudwinai during a meeting, in Bangkok



A woman wades through a flooded road as floodwater of the swollen Yamuna river continues to recede, at Yamuna Bazar in New Delhi



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

of the day quote

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

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

Over the last 1.5 years, we have organised 17 programmes for the distribution of appointment letters, during which we have given out appointment letters to more than 55,000 youths

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

The all-round development of every sector, 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 Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, police said. The boy's family has alleged that he died after he was severely beaten by the 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 Banganga, 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 Bipalab 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.



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



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



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 administration.

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

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 efforts and hard work of 20 years went into vain in just three days," a tearful Seema said.

She claimed that they have received no help from the government except for plastic tarpaulins and a packet of milk and that they were not alerted beforehand about the rising water levels.

"Earlier the police used to 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

nothing. We only received one tarpaulin and a packet of milk. They came and wrote our names on Saturday, 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, 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 graph of 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.

AJT MEETS SHARAD PAWAR

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 Ajit 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 Bhujaal, 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.

"We requested him (Sharad Pawar) to keep the NCP united.



Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit 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 said.

He said the ministers of Ajit Pawar camp did not take Sharad Pawar's prior appointment but came to the Chavan centre directly after they came to know that he was present there.

Commenting on the meeting, BJP's Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar said, "The Ajit Pawar faction still considers Sharad Pawar as

their leader. There is nothing 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 hospital 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 Fadnis formed a short-lived government after the Assembly polls.

BESIDES AJIT PAWAR, MINISTERS HASAN MUSHRIF, CHHAGAN BHUJAL, ADITI TATKARE, AND DILIP WALSE PATIL MET THE PAWAR SENIOR AT THE Y B CHAVAN CENTRE IN SOUTH MUMBAI

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

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 junior 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 Pankaj 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 Fadnis 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 Rashtira Samithi (BRS) headed by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. There are already reports that Prakash Ambedkar headed Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) may also join 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 Rashtriya 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

In respective 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.



DEATH OF BJP LEADER

Plea in SC seeks SIT or CBI probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 incident at Patna in which a BJP leader died while taking part in a march against the Nitish Kumar government.

Vijay Singh, a party leader from Jehanabad district, had died while taking part in a "Vidhan Sabha march". While 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.

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 premises.

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 against the government policy is a well recognised method of protest."

