

New Delhi, July 19: The situation in Manipur and the Delhi services ordinance are set to dominate the Monsoon session of Parliament beginning Thursday with the Opposition gearing up to raise these issues to corner the government.

The session begins close on the heels of 26 opposition parties forming the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The Opposition has been raking up the issue of Manipur violence. The northeastern state is witnessing ethnic violence since May 3 that has claimed over 160 lives.

The other key issue which is likely to trigger a face-off between the government and the opposition is the Delhi services ordinance which will come up as a bill in the session. Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is opposing the ordinance on the transfer and posting of bureaucrats in Delhi brought by the Centre in May, virtually negating a Supreme Court verdict giving the elected government in Delhi the control over services matter.

**IRREGULAR** by MANJUL

VOTE FOR INDIA Time to take a bold

step, sir! Let's change the name of the country



NAIROBI UNREST: Riot policemen walk past a burning barricade during clashes with protesters in Kibera area of Nairobi, Kenya Wednesday. Kenyans were back protesting on the streets of the Capital Wednesday against newly-imposed taxes and the increased cost of living

# Death traps BLOT ON KHAKI: 2 COPS IN VIG NET

A 27-year-old sanitation worker dies falling into an open drain in Buxi Bazar area of the Millennium City – the second such



Locals, meanwhile, blamed the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) for the mishap and blocked the main road at Buxi Bazar seeking adequate compensation to the deceased sanitation worker's fam-

The saga of men in khaki receiving bribe from people continues unabated as two more policemen were caught receiving illegal gratification in Balasore district

POST NEWS NETWORK

cials, who laid a trap to nab the two police officers

mounted in the hills of Manipur after a May 4 video surfaced Wednesday showing two women from one of the warring communities being paraded naked by a few men from the other side, officials said here Wednesday.

The video was doing the rounds on the eve of a planned protest march announced by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) Thursday to highlight their plight.

According to a spokesperson of ITLF, the "despicable scene, which happened on May 4 in Kangpokpi district, shows men constantly molesting the helpless women, who cry and plead with their captors. The horrifying ordeal suffered by these innocent women is amplified by the perpetrators' decision to share the video, which shows the identity of the victims, on social media.' The police are looking into

the matter. While condemning the "sickening act", the spokesperson in a statement demanded that the central and state governments, National Commission for Women

and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes take cognisance of the offence and bring the culprits before the law.

# SHORT TAKES 15 electrocuted in Uttarakhand

Chamoli: Fifteen people were electrocuted and several injured in an accident at a power transformer at a Namami Gange project site on the banks of the Alaknanda river in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, an official said Wednesday. The dead included three police inspectors and three home guards, the official said. The injured were admitted at the district hospital.

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casualty in just four days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 19: It appears that the civic authorities have learnt no lesson from the past as open drains in the Millennium City here continue to claim precious lives. And, this time a sanitation worker died after falling into an open drain in Barapathar area of Buxi Bazar under Darghabazar police limits here, barely four days after another youth died falling into a drain in

Jhola Sahi area. The deceased was identified as P Narasingha, 27.

According to sources, some senior employees of a private agency had called Narasingha

> We will ensure adequate compensation to the next of the deceased kin. The agencies undertaking civic projects in the city will be asked to ensure safety of workers

SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH CUTTACK MAYOR

Wife and daughter of deceased Narasingha crying inconsolably

and his brother for some work, assuring payment of ₹1,000 per day. Sources said that Narasingha fell into the open drain following which his brother alerted the locals, who managed to pull him out and rush the 27-year old to SCB Medical College and Hospital here in a critical condition. But he was declared 'dead on arrival' by the doctors.

AGENCIES

said.

Germany, Italy and Spain were

tied in second place, with their

passport holders enjoying ac-

cess to 190 destinations.

ily. They also burnt tyres when police intervened.

This is the second death involving open drain here in the past four days.

A 21-year-old youth had lost his life after falling into an open drain at Jhola Sahi here July 15. The deceased has been identified as Rahul, who hailed from Rajasthan.

As per reports, Rahul had come to Cuttack to meet his relatives but died after falling into the drain. He was on his way to a teashop when the unfortunate incident occurred. Several lowlying parts of Cuttack were waterlogged following heavy rainfall on that day.

The incident had spread shockwaves in the area as this is the third such death to be reported in the past couple of months in the Silver City.

Cuttack Mayor Subhash Chandra Singh condoled Narasingha's death.

Balasore, July 19: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday nabbed the Chandipur police station inspector in-charge (IIC) Ganeswar Pradhan and assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Pradip Kumar Mohanty in Balasore district on charges of receiving illegal gratification of ₹50.000 from a licensed IMFL off shop owner.

The anti-corruption sleuths registered a case and arrested the duo, Balasore Vigilance superintendent of police (SP) Narahari Nayak said.

The accused were threatening to frame the licensed IMFL shop owner having shops at Balaramgadi under Chandipur Marine police station and at Patrapada in Balasore town if he does not pay them monthly bribe (extortion) of ₹50,000.

The shop owner was earlier paying them ₹10,000 but was irked after the cops escalated the monthly amount to ₹50,000. He contacted the Vigilance offi-

Singapore passport world's most powerful

The IMFL shop proprietor reached the police station at 3pm and handed over the bribe amount of ₹50,000 to ASI Mohanty in the presence of the

The Vigilance sleuths who were hiding nearby pounced on them and caught the two redhanded. The entire bribe money has been recovered from Mohanty, said a Vigilance official.

Following their arrest, simultaneous searches were undertaken at various locations of Pradhan, who is also holding the additional charge of Marine Police station IIC in Balasore district, and Mohanty in connection with disproportionate assents (DA). Balasore Vigilance police reg-

istered a case (18/2023) under various Sections of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 and Section-7 of IPC. Further investigations are on, the Vigilance SP added.

# 5 Indian students bag **Global Student Prize**

London: Five students studying in India have made it to the top 50 shortlist for the USD 100,000 Chegg.Org Global Student Prize 2023, selected from 3,851 applications from across 122 countries. The annual award goes to one exceptional student who has made a real impact on learning, the lives of their peers and on society beyond. In the running from India this year will be: Namya Joshi, a student at Sat Paul Mittal School, Ludhiana, Punjab; Vinisha Umashankar, a student at SKP Vanitha International School, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu; Gladson Vaghela, a medical student at Gujarat Medical Education and Research Society Medical College, Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Padmaksh Khandelwal, a computer science student at Sir Padampat Singhania School, Kota Rajasthan; and Ravinder Bishnoi, a information technology student at Chandigarh Engineering College, Landran, Mohali, Punjab.

# **POST-GODHRA RIOTS CASE Regular SC bail for Teesta Setalvad**

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 19: The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday granted regular bail to activist Teesta Setalvad in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence to frame innocent people in the 2002 post-Godhra riots cases.

A three-judge bench of Justices BR Gavai, AS Bopanna and Dipankar Datta set aside the order of the Gujarat High Court rejecting her plea for regular bail.

The top court said a chargesheet has been filed in the case against Setalvad and her custodial interrogation is not necessary.

"The passport of the appellant already surrendered will be in custody of session court.

The appellant shall not make any attempt to influence witnesses and shall stay away from them." the bench said.

The bench also granted the London, July 19: Singapore Gujarat Police liberty to directly has topped a ranking of the move the apex court if attempt world's most powerful passports, is made to influence witnesses toppling Japan from the top spot, says a report by Al Jazeera. in the case

Setalvad was taken into cus-Singaporeans enjoy visa-free tody June 25 last year along with entry to 192 destinations, more former Gujarat Director General than travellers of any other counof Police RB Sreekumar and extry, according to the latest Henley IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in a case Passport Index. registered by the Ahmedabad The Southeast Asian city-state Crime Branch police for allegedly last held the top spot in 2021, befabricating evidence to frame fore losing its position to Japan innocent people in the postthe following year, the report

Godhra riots cases. An Ahmedabad sessions court had July 30, 2022 rejected the bail applications of Setalvad and Sreekumar.

THE LATEST HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX RANKS INDIA'S PASSPORT AT 80TH SPOT, MOVING IT UP FIVE PLACES FROM ITS POSITION IN 2022



Japan, which ranked first in four out of the last five years, took the number three spot with 189 destinations, tied with France, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Luxembourg, and South Korea. The United States, which ranked first in 2014, dropped to

tions. tied with France, Austria. Finland. Sweden. Luxembourg, and S Korea The United States, which

eighth, its lowest position yet. Greg Lindsay, Urban Tech Fellow at Cornell Tech, said the US's continual decline in the ranking over the last decade could be due to the country's lack of visa reciprocity.

"The reason for the US's slump

is both easy to explain and confounding: it isn't trying," Lindsay said in an analysis accompanying the index.

"Of the 34 countries ranked between 1 and 10, the US boasts the smallest increase in the Henley Passport Index scores between 2013 and 2023, with additional access to only 12 countries. Singapore, by contrast, has seen an increase of 25 additional countries during the same period, propelling it upward by five places to the number 1 rank."

The ranking puts India's passport at the 80th spot, moving it up five places from its position in 2022. Indians can now travel to 57 destinations without a visa.

India's current rank ties it with countries like Togo and Senegal.

While Indian passport holders have visa-free access and visa-onarrival access to countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Rwanda, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka, they still need a visa to enter 177 destinations across the world.

Afghanistan was ranked as the country with the least powerful passport with visa-free access to just 27 destinations, followed by Yemen, Pakistan, Syria and Iraq.

Henley & Partners, a Londonbased immigration consultancy, compiles the annual ranking using data from the International-Air Transport Association (IATA).











# leisure



# **DYLAN SPROUSE, BARBARA** PALVIN MARRY IN HUNGARY

Actor Dylan Sprouse and model Barbara Palvin and longtime girlfriend, tied the knot in Hungary - Barbara's home country - July 15 after dating for 5 years and getting engaged in 2022.

# **CHRISTOPHER NOLAN CRITICISES QUENTIN TARANTINO'S DECISION**

Director Christopher Nolan has criticised veteran filmmaker Quentin Tarantino's decision to retire from directing, saying that the decision is a very purist one and it is the point of view of a cinephile who prizes movie history, reports Variety.



I DER BERNE

TT Drain

# FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

You are a literary person and today your power of expression will come in very handy. If you are trying to woo your beloved, an intimate conversation will prove beneficial. However, make sure not to avoid office duties, and complete you pending work before your superiors come checking.

# TAURUS

Ganesha sees you getting very impatient and restless this day. Thank the stars; in spite of that you will remain adequately steady and focussed on your work, and perform suitably and commendably as expected.. During the latter part of the day, your colleagues and superiors are likely to be more helpful and responsive

# GEMINI

A fruitful day loaded with opportunities awaits you. You will be able to complete all your tasks easily at the work-front. However, you will need to put in extra effort to satisfy others. You will be engaged in discussions with your family members and neighbours later on savs Ganesha

# 

Your intellectual prowess in the of-office will bring you happy tidings. You may give a new look to work culture in office. Ganesha advises you to think twice before embarking on new deals in the afternoon

# **LEO**

You will feel tired and lazy in the morning at work today, however later on you will feel a surge of energy. Your self-confidence and motivation too will increase Schedule all your important tasks and meetings in the afternoon, when you will be at your peak, says Ganesha

# VIRGO

Today you will be much more generous than most people realise that you can be, says Ganesha. Later on you will reap the benefits of the work you had carried out in partnership with some friends. The evening holds a promise of a mixture of work and pleasure.

# LIBRA Ganesha says that today

you will pay more attention to your family and family matters, keeping aside all other things. You will want to change the décor o

# SRK wanted to retire after 30

Mumbai: Actor Shah Rukh Khan once said he wanted to retire after 30 like Aamir Khan who is a better actor than him.

Both Khans are undeniably are the leading lights of the film industry at present. The mere announcement of their upcoming movies elicits frenzy among fans. They entered the film industry within a span of four years and have since maintained a complex relationship that has captured the attention of fans and media.

In the early years of their careers, Shah Rukh acknowledged Aamir's talent, stating, "If there's a superb actor in the country today, it's Aamir. I can't call him competition; he is a far better actor than me. I've heard that he wants to retire after 30 and turn director. I plan to quit at 30 too.'

In the interview, he further stated, "My talent. Some actors get on by their looks and their physique, some bank on their voice; my asset is my spontaneity, my ability to do a variety of roles.

When it comes to the work front, Aamir Khan is taking a break from the limelight, while Shah Rukh Khan eagerly anticipates the release of *Jawan* in

in

theatres September. AGENCIES



Mumbai: Shruti Hassan, sport-

ing a rebellious attitude, has

brings her much 100 The last couple of lines of the poetic rhyme reads, "I'm a proud weirdo, And I can't wait to show you.

has been misun-

derstood, the dif-

ference in herself

Shruti is also known for her singing talents as she is also a member of an alternative rock band The Extramentals. She regularly posts clips showcasing her daily life, new attire. music and

# Want to be an ambassador for romantic movies: Kiara

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani, who is currently basking in the success of her recently released film, Satyaprem Ki Katha, has expressed her desire to be the brand ambassador of romantic films.

During an interaction with media, a fan asked Kiara which was her favourite genre and which genre she was planning to do next in the

Sharing a light smile, the future. Shershaah actress said, "As an actor, I said ambition has come in there's a drive I want to do much more. I've never done an action movie so I feel like I'm ready for it. I want to push myself to do an ac-

a lot of genres that I have yet to work in. Earlier, the romance genre happens to be my go-to and most favourite to watch as an audience. Speaking about her favourite

genre, the actress expressed her desire to be the brand ambassador of romantic films as she said, "I'd happily be the brand ambassador for a romantic film because it's just my most favourite genre, like an intense soulful romantic movie." She also said that the romantic genre is her go-to and "most favourite" to watch as an audi-

Kiara is set to feature in ence.' Game Changer with Ram

Charan.

# Shruti says she is a proud 'weirdo' fashion sense that has gained her a massive amount of followers.

in 2009 with the film Luck. She was later seen movies like Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji, Ramayya Vasthavayya and Gabbar is Back. For her singing she has received much praise, garnering various awards and nomina-

# When Nargis lost control during a kissing scene

Mumbai: Emraan Hashmi is one of the actors who is known for his kissing styles and scenes in his movies, apart from his acting skills. His onscreen hot scenes are the ones that have created a massive buzz about his films. However, on an occasion, actress Nargis Fakhri couldn't stop kissing Emraan on the sets of Azhar?

In an old BTS video from the shooting floors of Azhar, Nargis could be seen immersed in the kissing scene that even after the director said cut, the actress couldn't let go of Emraan. While the actor looked a bit stiff, Nargis seemed super excited.

As she couldn't stop herself from kissing Emraan Hashmi for a few more seconds in the BTS video, she left the netizens in a frenzy. One wrote, "And we thought it is Emraan who is lusful. Another one commented, 'There is no shame in losing control when Emraan is the coactor.'

One of the comments can be read, "Emraan looks very uncomfortable .'

Another netizen penned slamming Nargis, "This is the actress who accused Emraan during Me Too

AGENCIES

home and for that you may buy antique artifacts or new furniture to decorate in your home.

# **SCORPIO**

The faucet of creativity will run wild today, especially when you try sorting things out with your siblings. Today, you shall bypass all incoming troubles with much ease. Your ingenuity will help you bag a job later, perhaps. In the evening, you will be the Good Samaritan and bring peace to someone, predicts Ganesha.

# **SAGITTARIUS**

Ganesha sees you being friendly and jovial through out the day. Planning a getaway with family will be on top of your todo list. Honours will be showered on you at your workplace. Be ready to receive much adulation, says Ganesha.

# CAPRICORN

Scepticism and lack of faith in others may have prevented you from entering into a partnership, but you are likely to do so today, in keeping with the interest of your enterprise. For those engaged in jobs, truckloads of appreciation will come your way for your exceptional performance. Students will make well-informed decisions concerning their career, says Ganesha.

# 

You have worked hard, and now you want to party harder. You catch up with some old friends, hang out with them and relax your mind. You are in a mood to celebrate and as a result, you will go out of your way to please your loved ones, foresees Ganesha.

# PISCES

You may find yourself unable to take critical decisions on a split-second basis today, and will probably keep second-guessing your self. Your family will be in focus today. Romance is in the air, and the evening should probably see you spend time with vour soul mate, says Ganesha



SUE ME ?! WOODSTOCK

WOULD NEVER DO THAT



CROSSWORD



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.

movement."

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# **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

HEAR YOUR

FRIEND HAS



YOU'RE TAKING AN AWFU

CHANCE TREATING HIN YOURSELF! WHAT IF

SOMETHING GOES WRONG HE COULD SVE YOU!



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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# **MEET ON CIVIC ISSUES**

CMC commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan preside over a meeting of the civic body in Cuttack, Wednesday



# 

# Naveen announces ₹56cr aid for kendu leaf workers

downtown

**OrissaPOS**T

THURSDAY | JULY 20 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced financial assistance of Rs 56.23 crore for over eight lakh kendu leaf beneficiaries in the third phase for 2022 crop year

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the beneficiaries would get the bonus and incentives in the current month, July. "While 7.75 lakh kendu leaf pluckers would be given 25 per cent bonus, 40,000 kendu leaf binders and casual workers would be given five per cent incentives in the third phase for

the 2022 crop year. In the first phase of 2022 crop year, Rs 83.34 crore was given as assistance to the kendu leaf beneficiaries. While Rs 1.000 was given to each kendu leaf plucker,

each binder and seasonal worker received Rs 1.500.

Similarly, in the second phase of the 2022 crop year, Rs 1,360 financial assistance was given to each kendu leaf plucker and Rs 1.500 to binder and seasonal workers. A total of Rs 111.21 crore distributed to the

beneficiaries in the second phase. The state government has so far facilitated an alltime record Rs 250.78 crore assistance to kendu leaf beneficiaries in 2022

crop year. A sum of Rs 118.83 crore was distributed in 2021 crop year.

The kendu leaf beneficiaries were given 111 per cent more assistance for the crop year 2022 in comparison to the assistance given in 2021, CMO sources here said



YFAR'S FIRST: First floodwaters reach Johra in Cuttack, Wednesday

live electricity wire

October 20, 2022

vicariously liable for the negligent

act of its servant. In view of the

above observations, the com-

mission recommends a mone-

tary relief of Rs5 lakhs to the NOK

of the deceased Murali Parida.

Therefore, the Government of

Odisha through its Chief

Secretary is directed to pay the

# NHRC for ₹5L ex gratia in NGT notice on state over Deomali AGENCIES **Ganjam electrocution case** Murali Parida of G

### OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 19: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Chief Secretary to pay Rs 5 lakh ex gratia to the next of kin of a 42-year-old man who was electrocuted to death due to 'negligence of the authorities' in October last year. While hearing a plea filed by

rights activist Rabindra Kumar Mishra, the commission asked the Chief Secretary to pay the monetary relief and submit a compliance report along with the proof of exgratia payment with the NHRC within six weeks.

In his plea, Mishra had informed the commission that Murali Parida of G Nuagoan village under Belguntha police limits in Ganjam district died after coming in contact with a live electricity wire October 20, 2022. The petitioner had blamed the negligence of the electricity authorities for Parida's death



Taking cognisance, the NHRC served notices on the authorities in connection with the incident. After considering the reports of the Ganjam SP and Energy department, the commission observed that 'the mishap took place due to the negligence of the electricity authorities'

"The commission has proposed monetary relief of Rs5 lakh to the NOK of the deceased Murali to recommend a monetary relief of Rs 5 lakh in case of death of Parida and to submit a compliance Murali Parida. A clear case of report along with proof of pavment in the commission within violation of human rights of the deceased Murali Parida has been six weeks positively," the commade out. Therefore, the state is mission said.

Bhubaneswar, July 19: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has served notice on the state government over construction of cottages atop Deomali, the highest mountain peak in Odisha.

Hearing a plea filed by the Wildlife Society of Odisha (WSO) a Cuttack-based environmental pressure group, the NGT's Eastern Zone Bench in Kolkata also has asked Koraput administration and State Biodiversity Board to respond to the notice in four weeks. The next hearing is scheduled for August 23.

The Forest department has been constructing 10 cottages, using all-weather cement fibre boards, on the Deomali hilltop to provide night stay facilities to tourists at Pottangi.

The petitioner alleged that the project spread over 10.4 hectares of forestland required prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the construction was in violation of the Act. The WSO also pointed out that the state government had violated Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's policy for ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas by not involving posed, it added



local community or indigenous knowledge of making the house and household articles

Apart from the 10 cottages. parking area, pathway with nature trail leading to Deomali peak, grand entrance gate with security cabin and ticket counter, opening of dining with kitchen, store and pantry, driver's and staff dormitory, laundry and wash and reception, office with lounge and toilet are also pro-

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Sankar Pani, adding that it is reserve forest.

an adverse impact on the biodi-Notably, the Deomali project versity since Deomali is home to is included under the Centre's endemic species of flora and fauna. The department is also Swadesh Darshan Scheme for\_ the development of infrastrucplanting about 1,000 tropical pine saplings brought from ture to boost inflow of tourists. It is in addition to Rs 16 crore Assam for beautification of the landscape. We are also objectsanctioned by the Tourism deing to introduction of this foreign partment for integrated development of the hill species there," said lawyer



"Full-fledged construction is

on and the area is being con-

verted into a township. Such un-

controlled development will have

# **VLTD** installation deadline extended

# POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 19: The state government has extended the deadline for installation of vehicle location tracking device (VLTD) in specific vehicles due to lack of adequate infrastructure and enlistment of device suppliers.

In a bid to enhance security of women and children while travelling in buses and other public transport vehicles, the state government has made installation of VLTD mandatory for specified vehicles used in public transport.

The deadline to comply with the requirement of the fitment of VLTD and panic buttons for the new vehicles registered was May 31, 2023 and for other vehicles, it was August 31, 2023.

After reviewing the available infrastructure and device suppliers, the Transport department has extended the deadline. Now, the specified vehicles registered on or after October 1, 2023 will have to comply with the requirement at the time of registration while the previously registered vehicles will have to fix the device by December 2023.

Except auto rickshaws and e-rickshaws, all passenger transport vehicles, including both government and private buses, school and college buses and cabs/taxis will be equipped with VLT panic buttons for the safety of women and children.

All goods vehicles operating under the strength of National Permit and all goods vehicles transporting explosive and hazardous materials have to install VLT devices.



ANTLING ACT: Bhoi servitors dismantle Nandighosha chariot of Lord Jagannath on Grand Road in Puri, Wednesday

# Ex-IIC gets 4-yr RI for bribery

# AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 19: Special Judge, Vigilance, Dhenkanal Wednesday convicted Chittaranjan Behera, a former IIC, Nihalprasad police station in Dhenkanal district for demanding and accepting bribe and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for a period of four years.

The court also directed him to pay fine of Rs 20,000 and in default of payment of fine, to undergo RI for a period of six months more for the offence U/s 7 Prevention of Corruption Amendment Act, 2018.

The Special Judge also convicted his driver Prakash Mahalik and personal assistant

STUDY FINDINGS

Hospital in Finland and other institutes

women, with bipolar disorder during

Overall, 3,300 (7%) died over the

population excluding people having

monitoring period compared with

141,536 deaths in the general

Researchers from Niuvanniemi

from Sweden and the UK tracked 47,018 people, including 57 per cent

2004-2018

the condition.

Laxman Sethi and sentenced them to undergo RI for a period of four years and to pay fine of Rs 5,000 each and in default of payment of fine, to undergo RI for a period of three months for offence U/s 7/12 Prevention of Corruption Amendment Act, 2018. All the three were chargesheeted by Vigilance U/s 7 Prevention of Corruption Amendment Act, 2018 for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 6,000 from a complainant for not arresting the complainant, his son and spouse in a dowry torture case, were convicted to four years RI and fine, and sent to jail.

Vigilance will now move the competent authority for dismissal of Chittaranjan Behera, following his conviction.

# Bipolar disorder ups early death risk by sixfold

eople having bipolar disorder are six times more likely to die prematurely from external causes such as accidents, violence, and suicide than those not having the condition, according to new research published in BMJ Mental Health.

They are also twice as likely to die from physical illnesses such as heart and/or respiratory diseases, or cancer, with alcohol contributing majorly towards it, the Finnish population-based study found. People with bipolar disorder are known to face a heightened risk of premature death, However, the drivers behind this, especially the role of physical ill-

nesses, were unclear, which this study aimed to understand, researchers from Niuvanniemi Hospital, Finland, and other in-

stitutes from Sweden and the UK said. They tracked 47,018 people

with bipolar disorder, with an average age of 38 years at the start of the monitoring period (2004-2018). Their data was picked from nationwide medical and social insurance registers. More than half of those identified (57 per cent) were women.

Overall, 3,300 (7 per cent) died over the monitoring period compared with 141,536 deaths in the general population excluding people having the condition, the researchers found and calculated the heightened risk of death to be 6 times due to external causes and 2 times from physical illnesses. Average age at death was 50 years and nearly twothirds of the deaths were in men. Around 61 per cent of the 3,300



THE RESEARCHERS FOUND AND CALCULATED THE HEIGHTENED RISK OF DEATH TO BE SIX TIMES DUE TO EXTERNAL CAUSES AND TWO TIMES FROM PHYSICAL ILLNESSES

deaths (2027) were physically caused and 39 per cent (1273) were externally caused.

Of the physically caused deaths, alcohol was found to cause the most at 29 per cent,

or 595 deaths. Of these, liver disease accounted for nearly half, followed by accidental alcohol poisoning and alcohol dependence. Remaining physically caused deaths were found to be caused

by heart disease and stroke (27 per cent), cancer (22 per cent), respiratory disease (4 per cent), diabetes (2 per cent) and other causes (15-16 per cent).

Of the externally caused

deaths, suicide caused the most (58 per cent). Of these, nearly half were caused by overdose of prescribed mental health medications, including those used for treating bipolar disorder.

"A balanced consideration between therapeutic response, potential serious long term somatic (physical) side effects of different medicines, and risk of cause-specific premature mortality is needed, especially in younger persons," the authors wrote in their paper.

"Targeting preventive inter- ২ ventions for substance abuse will likely reduce the mortality gap both due to external causes and somatic causes. Suicide prevention remains a priority, and better awareness of the risk ofoverdose and other poisonings is warranted," they said.











# downtown

# **BMC unites for effective** solutions to waterlogging



### ARINDAM GANGULY, OF

**OrissaPOST** 

THURSDAY | JULY 20 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar, July 19: A significant meeting was held Tuesday at the BMC's headquarters to discuss the issue of short-term waterlogging within the BMC area. Chaired by the Mayor Sulochana Das, the meeting was attended by Deputy Mayor Manjulata Kanhara, Chairman of Standing Committee Biranchi Narayana Mahasupakara, Corporator, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta additional Kulange, Commissioner Laxmikanta Sethi, representatives from R&B, IDCO, WATCO, Prachi division and officials from the Fire department.

During the meeting, the Mayor emphasised the importance of addressing waterlogging areas and swiftly resolving the issue to prevent inconvenience to citizens as the rainy season has commenced.

### Initially, there were 70 sensitive waterlogging areas, which have now been reduced to 32. BMC has instructed preparations for water management through pump sets in these areas.

Mayor highlighted the need for cleaning drains not only under BMC's jurisdiction but also those managed by R&B, NHAI, and IDCO. She stressed the urgency of cleaning these drains, installing barricades, and covering them with slabs.

BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange directed Zonal Deputy Commissioners and engineers to conduct frequent field visits and review reports from staff members. He emphasized the importance of identifying areas requiring slab installations and barricades and physically verifying the cleanliness of drains. Instructed by the Commissioner, officials have been directed to promptly report any hazardous situations observed in drains under the management of NHAI, R&B, and WATCO to senior officials. It is essential to monitor the situation closely and take necessary actions in collaboration with the respective departments to address and mitigate any potential risks or issues that may arise.

The Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar has issued a notice forecasting an increase in rainfall in the coming days. In response, the Commissioner urged officials from BMC, R&B, IDCO, NHAI, and WATCO to remain vigilant. For those without a control room, nodal officers must be assigned to the control room of BMC to ensure an immediate response to grievances. Das gave clear instructions

to the officials from Prachi Division to prioritize the issue of inadequate cleaning of the Daya West Canal. She emphasized the importance of conducting thorough desilting activities and ensuring the proper disposal of the removed silt. strictly prohibiting any deposition on the canal or road sides.

With these concerted efforts and proactive measures, the BMC aims to effectively manage and mitigate the impact of waterlogging, ensuring the safety and well-being of the citizens.

he added.



ଶ୍ରମ ଆୟୁକ୍ତଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା OFFICE OF THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER, ODISHA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Sri Sathya Sai Prema Tharu Programme, an initiative to plant at least 10 lakh trees in Odisha by 2025 at the Kalinga Stadium Tuesday.

Expressing his happiness at the initiative, the Chief Minister said that trees play an important role in the preservation of human life. Being at the forefront of environmental preservation in India, Odisha will fur-



ther promote the environment and the well-being of the people by planting one million trees. Addressing the gathering, Sri

President Abhinav Krishna Jasthi said that considering the need to safeguard the environment from the perils of climate change, the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has taken an initiative to plant one crore trees across India by November 2025.

As part of the initiative, the Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Odisha has come forward to plant and maintain 10 lakh trees in Odisha by 2025. he said.

Jasthi mentioned that the state government is supporting the

initiative in the form of sapling supply and making vacant lands available in government schools, colleges and hospitals for plantation.

He further stated that each tree planted under this program will be considered an act of devotion to the divine creator and a sacred responsibility towards preserving Mother Nature.

The trees planted will be geotagged and uploaded on the website of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organizations, along with their photographs.

# Webinar by Thinkers' Club

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 19: The Thinkers' Club of the Twin City organised its 77th webinar over the 'Zoom Platform' recently in the City. Gitanjali Bastia, the advisor to the Mission Shakti program joined the meeting as the chief Guest. Suvadra Das, Vice President of District Council, Cuttack was there as the Chief Speaker. Barada Prasanna Das, the President of the Club coordinated the different aspects of the meet.

The objective of Mission Shakti scheme is to empower women through Self Help Groups (SHG). A SHG is an informal group of women, ideally 10 to 15 members. They need not be registered under any Act. The scheme covers both rural and urban areas of the state. A woman between the age group of 18 to 65 can be a member of a

A game of enhancing cognitive skills

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP Bhubaneswar, July 19:

Following the path of grandmasters, the younger generation of India has begun opting chess over outdoor games and digital engagements. Chess, which is one of the most ancient, intellectual and cultural games is an affordable and inclusive activity can be exercised anywhere and played by all, across the barriers of language, age, gender, physical ability or social status, said Pooja, a mother whose two sons are passionate about learning chess.

"Chess is a global game which promotes fairness, inclusion and mutual respect, and nothing in this regard can contribute to an

# WORLD CHESS DAY

lads", she said.

"A major observation that I could notice in my sons is that their personality developed a lot. They have been more focused, filled with patience and skillful in their everyday life. It is my suggestion to all the parents to let their kids to develop an interest towards chess rather than unnecessary digital engagement", she added.

"I started my chess journey in our sports-loving state Odisha and it has been my honour and



pleasure to win medals for mv state and country. We are seeing a lot of progress in all the sports in our state. There has also been a lot of interest in chess and I am sure we will see more development in coming future", said grandmaster Padmini Rout.

She further said, "Chess, as we all know, is not just a game; it's a field of intellectual combat that enhances your cognitive skills, strategic thinking and problem solving abilities. It teaches us that every move we make has consequences and it's our responsibility to anticipate and work through them.'

"Incorporating chess into the school curriculum is an initiative that can bear fruitful reSAI hosts investiture ceremony

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 19: SAI International School inducted its student council members for the academic session 2023-24 in the investiture ceremony held Wednesday at the school's Indraprastha Auditorium. Amitabh Thakur, Transport Commissioner, ADG-cum-IG of Prisons and Correctional Services graced the occasion as

The ceremony began with a soul-stirring rendition by the school choir. Delivering the keynote address, Thakur underlined the values of integrity.

dents in high school, as it nurtures leadership and discipline. Embrace this opportunity to make a positive impact, uphold integrity, and together, he said. The investiture ceremony in-

cluded the badge pinning ceremony, where the appointed student leaders received their badges, symbolizing their roles and responsibilities.

Arush Sarma and Fiona Debasmita Alone were declared as the head boy and the head girl of SAI International School for the academic session 2023-24. All the council members took the oath of responsibility, diligence, and commitment towards



ନିୟୋଜନ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ ଓ ନିସ୍କ DIBECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT AND EMPL

SHG, if not disqualified otherwise.

Swadesh Pattanaik from New Jercy, USA, Binode Mohanty from Oman, Dr Rajat Satpathy from Madhya Pradesh, Bishop D.B. Hridaya, Professor Umasankar Misra. Engineer Dr Nanda Nandan Das, Engineeer Sirish Sahoo from Bangalore, participated in the discussion. Purnima Singh, Engineer Sudhakar Patri, ipayan Pattanayak, Natyacharjya Chita Ranjan Satapathy from Delhi, Arpita Das, Sanjukta Mohanty, Sarat Behera, Kritik Bhanja, and many more participated in the web meet.

# **ILS pays tribute to Parida**

Bhubaneswar: Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) family paid tributes to its former Director Aiav Parida on his 1st death anniversary Wednesday, A memorial lecture was held at ILS Bhubaneswar to honour the memory of Parida. The memorial lecture was organised to remember his contributions to science and to reminisce about his life with those close to him. Parida was a well-established and internationally recognised leader. researcher and research administrator in the area of agriculture, food and nutrition security, plant molecular biology and advanced biotechnology. The event was attended by the scientific institute heads from all over the state.

atmosphere of intolerance and misunderstanding among people and nations", said **Satya Ranjan Pattnaik**, International chess coach and founder-secretary of SR Chess centre, Odisha. "Padmini Rout, Debasish Das and many others developed the grassroots learning from here,'

and has already played interschool state tournaments. He has attended more than 50 tournaments. My younger son Omish has bagged under 6 prizes in every tournament that he has attended. Satya Ranjan Pattnaik earns the credit of being the instructor and guide to the young

Pooja said, "Both my sons

Surya and Omish are more fo-

cused in chess and exploring

their limits than in academics.

My elder son Surya has been

learning chess since he was 2

sults in the cognitive development of students. I urge schools to establish chess clubs and conduct regular tournaments and incorporate chess lessons into their curricula. This will help kids learn strategy, foresight and patience and develop leadership skills," Padmini added.

discipline, and perseverance. He shared personal anecdotes. motivating the young leaders to strive for excellence and create a positive impact on society.

the chief guest.

I'm thrilled to see enthusiastic and resplendent faces in this auditorium. The student council holds great significance for stu-

their responsibilities.

SAI International School Chairperson Silpi Sahoo while addressing the students said, "Running for the student council isn't just joining a group; it's embarking on an unparalleled journey to become assertive leaders driving positive change."

# 'Kasturi' necessary for Srimandir rituals a rarity now

esearcher Anil Dhir suggested that steps should be taken for captive breeding of deer and explore technology for scientific extraction of musk pods without killing the deer for carrying out worship of trinity in Sri Jagannath temple in Puri.

Kasturi, a substance collected from the navel of the musk deer, is used for the various shingars of the Trinity.

It is used in the mukha shringar of the three deities during the Nabjauban Darshan and Hera Panchami. As a necessary shingar aid of the divinities, kasturi comes in handy at the time of gupta seva (secret service) during the Ansar rituals when the deities are taken sick ahead of the car festival.

In earlier years, after the ceremonies, the temple air used to be is thick with the sweet spicy

scent of musk. So intense was the smell, that even days after it had been applied, the scent pervaded the air inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.

Kasturi is supposed to be applied to the deities for mukha sringar every Wednesday, but over the years, due to its scarcity, it has become a monthly ritual. According to the shingaris, who have the honour of applying the paste on the deities, approximately five grams of the kasturi powder is mixed along with camphor, asafoetida and

other different herbs The paste is then applied to the faces and bodies of the three gods, as these help keep the wooden images insect-free. These rituals also have a scientific base apart from having religious significance.

For the last few years, there has been an acute shortage of the



rare and invaluable 'kasturi' at the shrine, giving sleepless nights to the temple servitors and authorities. The present shingaris have protested that since the last few years, just powder with artificial additive is being used instead of kasturi.

Tradition has it that Nepal's royal family, who enjoy special privileges at the Jagannath temple, arranged to have the much needed kasturi sent to Puri for the Lord. Since the fall of the monarchy in the Himalayan kingdom, Nepal's new rulers

have been unresponsive to the temple's request for the regular supply of this rare aromatic.

The once abundant stock of musk in the Jagannath temple depleted with each passing year as the supply from Nepal stopped completely.

Temple sources said the last official supply of musk from the Royals of Nepal was in 1999. In the 80's, King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya had visited the shrine with a huge stock of musk, which lasted for years.

In 2006, the temple authorities were surprised when a visiting mendicant gave a few pods to the Lord.

In 2013, just prior to the Rath Yatra, the Sankaracharya of Gobardhan Peeth, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, had written a letter to the centre, requesting the government to intervene and press officials in Nepal to provide the Kasturi needed for the Lord's worship.

Musk deer or the kasturi mrigya, the only source of musk, is found in the Himalayan region, including Nepal. It is an endangered animal and figures in the Red Data List of the International Union of Conservation of Nature.

The musk deer is a Schedule 1 animal and is protected under wildlife laws both in India and Nepal.

Musk is the name originally given to a substance with a penetrating odour obtained from a gland of the male musk deer.

To obtain the musk, the deer is killed and its gland, also called the "musk pod", is removed. The substance has been used as a popular perfume fixative since ancient times and is one of the most expensive animal products in the world.

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# state

# **MEMU TRAIN ESCAPES MAJOR ACCIDENT** Railways suspends SM, pointsman



## AGENCIES

Balasore, July 19: A station manager and a pointsman of the South Eastern Railways were suspended Wednesday after an MEMU train narrowly escaped accident near Nilgiri Road station, a railway official said.

The two-Nilgiri Road station manager Subas Sethy and pointsman Sheikh Mohammad Khalip - were suspended by the South

Eastern Railway's Kharagpur division on charges of negligence and dereliction of duty, the official said.

The MEMU train narrowly escaped disaster near Nilgiri Road railway station in Balasore district Tuesday due to the alertness of the loco pilot of Bhadrak-Balasore MEMU train.

The Bhadrak-Balasore MEMU train had entered a loop line Balasore. track, where maintenance work

This incident was reported just around 15 km away from the Bahanaga Bazar station, where a triple train tragedy occurred June 2 evening leaving at least 293 people dead

was underway. The loco pilot averted disaster when he detected an error in the track's endpoint and swiftly applied emergency brake. He then reversed the train towards Balasore.

"The train was travelling at a speed of 7-8 km per hour and the track had been set in the opposite direction due to the ongoing construction work," the loco pilot said.

After stopping at the site for nearly one hour, the train resumed its journey towards



INUNDATED: The Poteru bridge over NH-326 connecting Kalimela with the Malkangiri district headquarters was closed for traffic after over 2-feet rainwater overflowed on the bridge following incessant rainfall in Malkangiri district, Wednesday

# Millet hype not helping Rayagada farmers

Middlemen and agents are calling the shots in mandis and procuring millet from the farmers at Rs 25-30 per kg instead of the government-approved price of Rs 40

# POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, July 19: The Government of India has been promoting millet as a safe bet to enhance farmers' income and as a reliable grain to ensure India's nutritional and food security.

Its cultivation takes place in between June to August as high quality millet is produced during the kharif season. Seeds are sown like paddy crop and later the saplings are replanted in row cultivation methods.

However, despite all the hype over millet as a superfood, Odisha lags behind in millet production in comparison to other states in the country regardless of the favourable soil and weather conditions in the state.

According to data from the Agriculture department, out of the total millet produced in the country, Karnataka accounts for 66 per cent while Odisha's share is only 2.16 per cent of the total production. In the state, Koraput district stands first while Rayagada comes second in millet cultivation. The state government has been providing various benefits for the welfare of millet farmers through Odisha Millet Mission. However. the farmers have failed

procuring millet from the farmers at Rs 25-30 per kg instead of the government-approved price of Rs 40. The Agriculture department claims that 11-12 quintal of millet is harvested per hectare of land, which has been rejected by Indu Chandra Majhi, a millet

farmer from this district. Maihi claims that actually 8 to 10 quintal of millet is harvested per hectare of land. Farmers claimed they earn around Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 if the farmland is fertile but they have to spend around Rs 15.000 to Rs 18,000 if the soil is non-fertile

and fertiliser is used. They do not get the right



The bumper production of the crop helps the country to export it to foreign countries like USA, United Arab Emirates, Nepal and other countries. Sources from Odisha Millet Mission said that 12,654 farmers had cultivated millet last year. Reports from Agriculture de-

partment say that out of 11 blocks in Rayagada, millet was cultivated on maximum 7,355 hectare of land in Kashipur block and the lowest on 230 hectare in Ramnaguda. Accordingly, millet cultivation

70-YR-OLD CONVICTED

FOR MINOR GIRL'S RAPE

was carried out on 1,913 ha in Bissam Cuttack, 3,546 ha in Muniguda, 1.272 ha in Chandrapur, 567 ha in Gudari, 230 ha in Ramnagauda, 1,805 in Rayagada, 1,020 ha in Kolnara, 1,550 ha in Kalyansinghpur, 837 ha in Gunupur and 250 ha in Padmapur blocks.

A close analysis of the millet cultivation undertaken in the last five years reveals that the state government had targeted cultivation on 12,600 hectare of land in 2019 but it was done on 12.789 ha land. The total production was 11.465 metric tonne from this cultivation.

Similarly, millet cultivation was planned on 11,145 ha in 2020 but it was done on 11,340 ha. The total production was 11,465 metric tonne. In 2021, millet cultivation on 20,232 ha produced 22,599 metric tonne and in 2022, it was taken up on 20,245 ha and the production was 22,310 metric tonne.

When contacted, Manoj Kumar, district project manager (DPM) of Odisha Millet Mission said that the state government is providing incentives to the registered millet farmers.

Out of the total incentive of Rs 26,500 per hectare in five years, farmers have been provided with Rs 10,000 in the first year, Rs 7,500 in the second year, Rs 5,000 in the third year and Rs 2,000 each in the fourth and fifth years, he said. This is the only incentive available to the farmers through Odisha Millet Mission.

Farmers alleged that

# **COPS NAB 2 ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL IVORY TRADE**

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, July 19: Odisha police Wednesday arrested two ivory smugglers during a drive against poachers in Similipal National Park, Mayurbhanj SP B Gangadhar said.

Speaking to reporters, the SP said police have seized two country-made guns, three air guns and Rs 2.95 lakh cash from them

"The two accused have cases involving ivory trade. They might be using these arms to kill elephants to extract the tusks," he said.

The arrested were identified as Santanu Sahu (52) and Aswini Kumar Dey (50) of Sainkula village under Khunta police station.



Three platoons (1 platoon comprise 30 personnel) of policemen were deployed in Similipal Tiger Reserve after two forest officials were gunned down, he said.

Earlier, police have seized 11 country-made guns during search operations in Similipal National Park, the SP said.

# **MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:

Friday, 21st July, 2023; 6:30 pm onwards. at Hotel Brahmani, Jajpur Road, Jajpur - 755 019, Odisha For registration, please contact: Ashis Pattanayak, Mobile: 78944 07708. Registration is compulsory

The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event. No walk-ins will be allowed



# Rourkela man dies due to snakebite

Rourkela: A man died due to snakebite at a slum area located close to the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here late Monday night. The deceased has been identified as Sanjay Behuria, 48, a resident of NIT, Rourkela slum in the city. Sanjay was sleeping outside his home Monday night after dinner when he was bitten by a poisonous snake. When his condition deteriorated his family members rushed him to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) where doctors pronounced him brought dead on arrival.

# EAST COAST RAIL

ENGG/2023-24, Dated : 15.07.2023 e-Tender No. 17-eT-SDENC-SBP-23 NAME OF WORK PROVISION OF 16 UNITS TYPE-II STAFF QUARTERS NEAR HOLIDAY HOME AT HIRAKUD AND EXECUTION OF LEFT OVER CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS FOR 06 UNITS OF TYPE-II AND 05 UNITS OF TYPE-II QUARTERS HANDED OVER FROM

RUNNING ROOM IN SAMBALPUR SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approximate Cost of the Work ₹4,76,94,307.72, Bid Security 3,88,500/-, Completion Period for th Work : 12 (Twelve) Months

CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION NEAL

# Tender Closing Date and Tim 07.08.2023 at 1500 Hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier Fax or in person accepted against suc e-tenders even if these are submitted o irm's letter head and received in time. A such manual offers shall be conside valid and shall be rejected summar vithout any consideration.

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Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteer days before the date of closing of tend ote any changes / corrigenda for this tender. The tenderers/bidder must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or REPS Portal. Only registered tendere idder can participate on e-tendering. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) Sambalpur R-358/0/23-24

DEMAND

NOTICE

to get the right price for their crops due to the apathetic attitude of the concerned authorities. Middlemen and agents are call-

ing the shots in mandis and

as middlemen and agents call the shots in mandis and do the price fixation. They demanded the state government's intervention in order to solve their problem.

ernment has also made arrange ments for farm producers' group for preparation of various food items and snacks from millets but they are yet to get the benefits.

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on/key-know-how to know more about the process to red Mutual Funds, details of which v.in/intermediaries.html>). For any tor Relations Officers. Additionally, to invest in Mutual Funds. Inv If (IVC) requirement to mvess in nutual runns, investor a nouvery team in registeries means the set of the can be ve MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

# **Ex-accounts officer** held twice within 4 weeks for graft

### AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 19: A former accounts officer in Reamal block of Deogarh district was arrested by the Vigilance wing Tuesday for possessing disproportionate assets worth Rs 8.04 crore.

Rajendra Dash was arrested for the second time within just four weeks.

According to Vigilance sources, Dash was first arrested June 27, a day after he was caught red handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 6,000 from a complainant for processing release of his pending bills in connection with construction of Anganwadi centre. Dash was then released on bail.

Meanwhile, the Vigilance has conducted raids on the properties of the former accountant and detected assets worth Rs 8.04 crore, which is 514 per cent of his known sources of income, the Vigilance officials said.

The Vigilance officials detected eight buildings, three plots, bank deposits worth Rs 1.70 crore, two four-wheelers, two two-wheelers and jewellerv and household articles worth Rs 6.60 lakh from the possession of Dash.

Case has been registered against Dash and his spouse under different sections of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018.

### AGENCIES

Kendrapada, July 19: The Additional District & Sessions Judge -cum-Special Judge (POCSO) Kendrapada, Pranati Pattanaik, has convicted a septuagenarian and sentenced him to 20 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for raping a 16-year-old girl.

Adjudicating the case Tuesday, the court also asked the convict Rajib Malik alias Chotta (70) of Govindapur village under Aul police to pay a fine of Rs 25,000. The court directed that if the convict failed to provide the fine then he would have to undergo prison for one more year. Sources said Rajib Malik in 2022 had raped the minor daughter of his friend several times and impregnated her.

The family members August 25, 2022 lodged an FIR at Aul police station after medical report revealed that the girl was seven months pregnant.

Aul police registered a case u/s 376(2)(n), 376(3),506 of IPC; Section 6 of POCSO Act and arrested the accused septuagenarian person.

The court gave the judgement after verifying the evidence and cross examining the evidence along with the DNA report of the child of the victim minor girl to ascertain the biological parent, said Manoj Kumar Sahu, the special Public Prosecutor of the POCSO Court.

# Duo held on charge of gang rape

### PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, July 19: Kendrapada Town police station Wednesday arrested two youths on the charge of gangraping a Class-IX girl student after blackmailing her with her nude photos and videos.

Police identified the two accused as Happy of Badahat area and Samrat of Jajpur. Kendrapada Town police station IIC Saroj Sahu said a case U/S 376(D)(A), 506 of IPC, 6 POCSO Act has been registered and police have sent the victim for medical examination. Inquiry is going on.

The accused youths were produced before the SDJM court and they were remanded in judicial custody after their bail petitions were rejected by court.

Meanwhile, a raid is on to nab the third accused Babina alias Sudhanshu Behera of Thakurhaat area.

The arrest was made on the basis of the FIR lodged by the mother of the victim girl. The mother of the girl in her complainant alleged that she along with her family members had gone to her native village in Dhenkanal leaving her daughter alone at their rented house.

Finding her daughter alone, Happy and his friend Samrat July 10 forcibly entered her house, raped her daughter and took her nude photographs.

Later, Happy and Samrat came with their another friend Babina July 11, and raped her again by blackmailing her with the nude photos and videos of her daughter. They also threatened to make the photographs public in social media, kill her and her family members if she disclosed the matter to anybody.



# Bank of India Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

### Notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest

The Bank has granted following various credit facilities to the under mentioned Borrower/Directors/Guarantors & the amount outstanding dues mentioned below has not been paid in time. Therefore Demand Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower/Directors/Guarantors/Legal Heirs of the Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Branch but the same could not be served on the below mentioned parties. Therefore, the contents of the same including the amount outstanding, Loan amount and details of the secured assets are herein furnished below.

4									
BHUBANESWAR BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrower/Directors/ Guarantors/Legal Heirs	Nature / Limit	Date of NPA / Date of Demand Notice	Amount as per Notice under SARFAESI Act	Details of the mortgaged properties					
Borrower: M/s. Sea Gold Overseas Pvt. Ltd. / Directors: 1) Mr. Sandeep Anand, 2) Mr. Gorachand Mohanty / Guarantors: 1) Late Govind Chandra	stock /	28.11.2022	₹5,59,26,286.40 + Interest	1) Hypothecation of Stocks processed goods like shrimps and other sea foods, Receivables & NICL Claim Amount and Receivables, 2) EQM of Land & Residential					
Mohanty, 2) Mr. Gorachand Mohanty / All Legal Heirs of Late Govind Chandra Mohanty are : 1) Mr.	WCTL-GECL /	23.06.2023	expenses thereon	Building at Revenue Plot No.: 724 (Sabak), Revenue Khata No.: 2/61, GA Plot No.: 563, Area: Ac.0.071 Dec. (equal to 3092.76 sq.ft					
Gorachand Mohanty, S/o: Late Govind Chandra Mohanty, 2) Purnaprabha Mohanty, W/o.: Late Govind Chandra Mohanty, 3) Mrs. Pranati Mohanty, CD a/c (TOD) CD a/c (TOD) or thereabout), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar standing in the name of L Govind Chandra Mohanty, Kissam: Gharabari corresponding to settlem Khata No.: 190, Plot No.: 724, Area: Ac.0.071 Dec. (equal to 3092.76 sq.f thereabout) which further corresponding to GA Plot No.: 563 as per G									
D/o.: Late Govind Chandra Mohanty, All are at D-242, Manorama Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar-751010 Total: ₹ 5,85,00,000/-									
Cuttack Road, Bhubaneswar, Mouza: Bomikhal Unit No.: 12 (Kissam: Gharabari), Khata No.: 407/492, Plot No.: 382/1478, Area: Ac. 0.039Dec., Plot No.: 381/998/1491, Area: Ac.0.020Dec., Total Area: Ac.0.059Dec. Corresponding to Khata No.: 407/399, Plot No.: 382/1478, Area: Ac.0.039 Dec. corresponding to Khata No.: 407/332, Plot No.: 382, Area: Ac.0.039 Dec. out of Ac.0.195 Dec. which									

further corresponds to settlement Khata No.: 120 (Sub Plot / Duplex No.: 242) and Corresponding to Khata No.: 407/410, Plot No.: 381/ 998/1491, Area: Ac.0.020Dec. out of Ac.0.059Dec. which further corresponds to Khata No.: 25, Plot No.: 381/998, Area: Ac.0.020Dec. out of Ac.0.059 Dec., Bounded (as per Sale Deed) by North: Road, South: Sub Plot No.: 224, East: Sub Plot No.: 243, West: Sub Plot No. 206, 4) Equitable Mortgage of Land over Khata No.: 703/1805, Plot No.: 793/1805 corresponding to Mutation Khata No.: 703/246, Plot No.: 793/1984 further corresponds to consolidation Khata No.: 29, Plot No.: 793(P), Area: Ac.0.100 Dec. i.e. 4356 sqft out of Ac.0.300 Dec. under Mouza: Patrapada, Bhubaneswar, standing in the name of Mr. Gorachand Mohanty, Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 793/C, East: Road & Govt. Land, West: Plot No.: 793/A.

As the above mentioned Borrower/Directors/Guarantors/Legal Heirs of the Bhubaneswar Branch have defaulted in repayment of the principal loan/ facility in installments/interest/ both, the account has been classified as NPA, in accordance with the directions or guidelines ssued by the RBI. In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account, you have not discharged your liabilities. Hence, we are now constrained to make this publication of Demand Notice, required u/ s 13(2) of the said Act and Rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. You are here by called upon to pay the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, Incidental Expenses, Charges etc. within a period of 60 days from the date of Notice, failing which we will take necessary action under the provisions of sec 13(4) of the said Act. against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of your secured assets and sale them. If the dues are not fully recovered in the course of these actions against secured assets, then the Bank reserves the right to take action by filing recovery action against you before DRT/Court for recovery of the same. It may be noted that under the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, right of redemption is available to you, by paying the dues of the Bank together with all cost, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank at any time, till the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. Please take note that as per sub section (13) of the aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from transferring or creating any encumbrances on the aforesaid secured assets whether by way of sale, lease, license, gift, mortgage or otherwise. This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the Bank available under any other law.

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 20.07.2023

Chief Manager & Authorized Officer, Bank of India

# power post

# FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

**RAINING MISERY** 

Let us keep flaming in our heart the fire of progress. THE MOTHER



# Wake-up Call

limate change is no longer a future problem. It is here, and the effects are all around. Worse, today's extreme weather events are just a preview of the pain that awaits humanity in the coming decades, almost regardless of how fast we manage to decarbonise the economy this year or next.

Such sobering observations tend to provoke arguments about the importance of "climate optimism." Pessimism, after all, demotivates. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream, not a nightmare, for the future his children would inhabit.

I typically join these calls for optimism. The accelerating pace of the clean-energy race is heartening, as is the emergence of positive socioeconomic feedback loops to match all the negative ones associated with climatic tipping points. Still, while the pace of clean-energy deployment is faster than it has ever been, the world overall is racing in the wrong direction: global greenhouse-gas emissions are still rising. So, how should we talk about this challenge, with these two dy-

namics tugging in opposite directions?

One answer is to embrace the language of risks and uncertainties. Not too long ago, those resisting climate action were the ones playing up the issue of uncertainty. The "merchants"

of doubt" - marginal scientists and other commentators in hock to the fossil-fuel industry focused on our lack of complete knowledge to challenge the strengthening consensus around anthropogenic climate change. Uncertainty was their friend. But for the rest of us, it is public enemy number one. The unknowns and unknowables are what make climate change such an urgent problem.

Over the past few decades, advances in climate science and economics have helped to quantify more climate-related uncertainties. This progress has been both helpful and alarming, because it has further underscored just how dangerous those uncertainties truly are. Above all, it shows that we need climate action not only to keep relatively slow-moving averages from increasing further, but-even more importantly - to keep uncertainties in check. The floods, droughts, wildfires, and other extreme climate-driven phenomena are what make the problem so costly. Conversely, climate policymaking that cuts off the tail end of the extreme-weather distribution should be regarded as a major success.

Sometimes, this will literally mean taking out insurance against the worst phenomena. Insurance mandates, for example, would

compel homeowners to account for the cost of floods and wildfires when deciding where to live. As the price of homeowner's insurance rises in disaster-prone areas, mandates could become one of the most effective ways to encourage climate-change adaptation.

Similarly, investments in low-carbon energy sources are often best viewed as investments in resilience - and thus in decreased uncertainty. Lowering one's average carbon footprint ought to be valued and appropriately rewarded. But whether you are installing solar panels on your roof, using a battery pack as backup storage, or switching to a heat pump and induction stove, the biggest payoff comes in extreme circumstances, or the lack thereof.

The solar panels and battery packs will ensure that your lights stay on even if the grid goes down because of extreme weather. Similarly, a heat pump and induction stove will allow you to cut off your gas line and declare independence from future gas supply shocks that directly affect your heating bill. (The indirect effect via the electric bill points immediately back to solar panels and battery packs, and it further reinforces the urgency to decarbonise the overall electric grid.)

The cost of solar and all-electric appliances will only decline over time, whereas natural gas and oil markets will continue to fluctuate, owing to the vagaries of geopolitics and the global economy. A surefire way to prevent fossilflation is to get off fossil fuels altogether. What is true for homeowners also is true for whole economies. Less dependence on fossil fuels means less uncertainty. True, the cleanenergy transition also relies on potentially volatile commodities like copper, lithium, and other critical minerals. But there are crucial differences between these and fossil fuels. For one, the millions of tonnes of material going into clean technologies are orders of magnitude smaller than the billions of tonnes of fossil fuels being burned every year. And still better technologies with ever-lower costs are likely to emerge as we rapidly climb the learning curve on clean-energy solutions. The trend lines support a cautiously optimistic outlook on the cleanenergy future. But there are plenty of hurdles still to overcome, many of them erected and propped up by fossil-fuel incumbents trying to delay the inevitable. There is also plenty of climate-driven pain and destruction still in store. Things will get worse before they get better. But even if we can no longer prevent climate change, we can still mitigate it by minimising the accompanying uncertainties. We must embrace these uncertainties for what they are: a wake-up call to prevent the worst. Climate risk is financial risk, and climate action is an insurance policy – for the world as much as for individual companies and for us as individuals.



Gernot Wagner

Climate risk is financial risk, and climate action is an insurance policy – for the world as much as for individual companies and for us as individuals

Dhurjati Mukherjee **CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING THE** 

INDIAN **MONSOON SEASON MORE CHAOTIC AND UNPREDICTABLE** 

recent heavy rains across northwest India. The ongoing spell of extremely heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh Punjab, parts of Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and UP is due to the alignment of three weather systems -- western disturbance over western Himalayas, cyclonic circulation over north-western plains, and axis of monsoon trough running across Indo-Gangetic plains.

Northwest India is normally

limate change has been

identified as the cru-

cial factor behind the

the driest of the country's four regions. But this season it is the region that has received the maximum rainfall with a surplus of 65%. However, for the entire country since June rainfall has been deficient by 40%. Delving deep into the matter, one has to agree that global warming-led changes in monsoon patterns have made a difference. There has been a constant rise in both land and sea temperatures, which has increased the capacity of air to hold moisture for a longer time. Firstly, El Nino has taken shape, which is amplifying global temperatures. Secondly, wildfires have been in three times larger areas, releasing three times more carbon into the atmosphere. Thirdly, the North Atlantic is in a warmer phase while the Arabian Sea has warmed unexceptionally since January, infusing more moisture over north-northwest India. And lastly, the upper-level cir-

culation pattern is also unusual. which forces local surface circulations, bringing rains like the one we are witnessing across north and central India. Several reports and researches have already established the impact of

climate change on Indian mon-



India cannot afford to push the lower echelons of society into further misery with floods occurring every year and disrupting their lives and livelihoods

soon patterns. However, "it has also been tampering with atmospheric as well oceanic phenomena, which has further multiplied the implications of global warming," according to a paper compiled by Climate Trends.

One may mention here that a study by Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research had pointed out: "For every degree Celsius of warming, monsoon rains will likely increase by about 5%. Global warming is increasing the monsoon rainfall in India even more than previously thought." In fact, climate change is making the Indian monsoon season more chaotic and unpredictable.

What is really on the line is the socio-economic well-being of the Indian subcontinent. A more chaotic monsoon season poses a threat to agriculture and economy in the region and should be a wake-up call for policymakers to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions worldwide," the study warned.

While such extreme events monsoon system has drasti-

reside in areas which are prone to flooding almost every year, especially in mountainous terrain and near seas and rivers should be shifted. Himachal and Uttarakhand are prone to floods and construction activity in these states needs to stop. The repercussions of building roads to facilitate people visiting continue to occur, the tourist spots or for pilgrimage Intergovernmental Panel on are harsh. Climate Change (IPCC) in its The strategy of development fifth Assessment Report (AR)

cycle concluded that human in-

fluence on the climate system is

'clear." Since AR5, there has

also been an increased focus on

regional impacts, with scien-

tists improving their models

and understanding of what

global climate change impacts

will look like on a regional scale.

dicting more extremely wet

years, the threat looms large

over people's well-being, econ-

omy, agriculture, and food sys-

tem. These extreme weather

events are not only confined to

India but also found in parts of

Europe and China as well. "It is

no longer a developing coun-

try's problem alone, but it is

now hitting the industrialised

nations such as Germany,

Belgium, and the Netherlands,

lead author of the AR6 of IPCC,

The Indian subcontinent's

Dr Anial Prakash observed.

With various studies pre-

has to be reoriented and the rural sector should be a great priority. The urban bias in Indian planning has to give way to a rural-centric approach with the concept of neighbourhood building being given proper emphasis. This would necessitate less water-resistant technologies whether in power plants or in agriculture as a water crisis is imminent in coming years.

cally changed due to global

warming as is manifest in this

year's flooding. The obvious answer lies in adopting more

stringent measures to curb

global warming, the most im-

portant being curbing defor-

estation, more emphasis on re-

newable energy and stopping

expansion of thermal power

projects, lesser use of air-con-

Along with this, people who

ditioners as also plastics.

It goes without saying that natural disasters have to be prevented, whatever the cost. India cannot afford to push the lower echelons of society into further misery with floods occurring every year and disrupting their lives and livelihoods. More resources need to be earmarked to counter such emergencies.

The writer is Sr. Consultant & Guest Faculty at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata. **©INFA** 

# SPECTRUM DEVELOPMENT

# Why institutions matter

n trying to diagnose whether the regional development bicydevelopment strategies are delivering, social science researchers have been increasingly resorting to analysing the role of institutions in shaping outcomes of development interventions and subsequent economic development. Much of the debate today that is centred around policymaking revolves around examining the association of institutional quality or more specifically the quality of government with the efficacy of public investment which is a common form of development strategy. From devising context specific regional and local development strategies to facilitating deliberations and negotiations among local actors to infusing efficiency in the process of generating, pooling and alignment of resources, institutions - both formal and informal in nature - have assumed a central role in the "new paradigm" of regional development policy.

cle is equipped with two wellrounded wheels. The front wheel represents a tailor made development strategy with the back wheel representing efficient formal and informal institutions. Such a situation would facilitate a region to steer forward in terms of development and in opment interventions. Development strategies thus

need to be specifically tailored to

the potential of place-bounded in-

stitutions in order to make the

most of intervention in human

capital, infrastructure or inno-

vation. This implies that regional

development intervention should

be mainly concerned not with the

tutional intervention needs to adopt the form of principles or guidelines that can be moulded into a large diversity of place-\_\_\_ based development policies.

Hence, development strategies will need to be specifically tailored to the conditions of different regional institutional arrangements which shape the generation, reception, and absorption of high-quality human capital and innovation thus requiring an in-depth understanding of local conditions and an assessment of the feasibility of different types of interventions under current institutional circumstances. Theoretical literature in this domain argues for a strong case in favour of the fact that the best development strategies operating under the climate of poor institutions will inevitably fail to generate optimal returns. In a scenario of prevalence of weak institutions, just enhancing the degree or the quantum of investments especially in regions drawing greater levels of investment is akin to a "strategy of waste." Therefore, devising development strategies warrants a detailed understanding of local conditions while also assessing the viability of different forms of development interventions through the lens of existing place-based institutional conditions.

The writer is a Climate Economist at Columbia Business School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

# WISDOM CORNER

- Almost everybody is born a genius and buried an idiot. CHARLES BUKOWSKI
  - Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors where there were JOSEPH CAMPBELL only walls.
- We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy HELEN KELLER in the world.

# WORDS**WORTH**

# Makebate

You've almost certainly met makebates – though you probably don't know them by  $\mathbf{Y}$  that name – people whose chief aim or pleasure is to spread discord and disharmony. Sir Walter Scott was a great user of this word: Elsewhere he may be an useful and profitable member of the commonweal - here he is but a makebate, and a stumbling-block of offence (The Abbot. by Sir Walter Scott. 1820). Somebody who is a makebate is clearly making a bate. The second half survives today in abate and debate: it's from Latin battere, to beat or fight (the first sense of debate in English in medieval times was to guarrel or battle). As a noun, bate described discord that was severe enough to result in a fight. British readers might think they recognise in this another form of bate, a fit of rage or bad temper, an example of which appeared in the Daily Mail in January 2004: "Shrieking with simulated frustration. Clarkson flew into a bate, picked up a hammer and smashed his desktop to smithereens." But the evidence suggests that this derives from a nineteenth-century respelling of the verb bait, to persecute a person with persistent attacks, so that a person was said to be in a bate as a result of being baited. Among the other senses of bate, one in particular is known to falconers. A hawk that beats its wings in agitation and flutters off the perch is said to bate. This is ultimately also from Latin battere.



Arijit Dash **THE BEST** DEVELOPMENT **STRATEGIES OPERATING UNDER** THE CLIMATE OF **POOR INSTITUTIONS** WILL INEVITABLY **FAIL TO GENERATE** 

**OPTIMAL RETURNS** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

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

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

The importance of institutions is further encapsulated in the fifth cohesion report of the European Union, wherein it was stated that "poor institutions can act as a major roadblock in ensuring the effectiveness of regional development strategies' across nations.

While envisaging regional economic development as a bicycle, Rodriguez-Pose (2013) asserts that in an ideal situation of a 'well designed and well-functioning development strategy,"

the process minimise frictions between development strategies and institutions. Potential frictions between the two wheels would translate into three worse off scenarios.

Firstly, most regional economic development strategies rest upon a grand strategy that is reflected in the front wheel while undermining the institutional back wheel which takes a tiny shape. This leads to regional economic development operating in a "penny farthing" equilibrium. Secondly, a form of mismatch between institutional setting and development strategy can also lead to a "square wheels situation" resulting from the implementation of poor development strategies under weak institutional settings. Thirdly, poor institutions and an absence of a real development strategy results in the worst possible scenario of no development akin to a "bicycle frame." This provides crucial insights into the relevance of ensuring that development strategies are designed that best fit into the potential of place specific institutions thereby enhancing returns from devel-

institutional environment that shapes the unique character of any territory, but with the institutional arrangements which represent barriers for the efficiency of other factors influencing economic development. Specifically, development intervention will be more successful when it is concerned with the type and quality of institutions needed for any other type of development intervention to take hold. When local institutional arrangements hamper, for example, equal access to education, training and skills; when excessive social polarisation undermines the potential for entrepreneurship; when impacted information or principal-agent problems affect the smooth development of economic activity; when rent-seeking, insider-outsider problems and clientelism damage the economic development of a locality, dealing with the specific institutional bottlenecks which limit the potential of a territory is bound to be much more effective than concerns with the culture or the nature of a locality or region. As a consequence, regional insti-

The writer is a PhD Scholar in London School of Economics.

# Taj in danger

Sir, The water-level in Yamuna this year reached a new high when it touched the walls of Taj Mahal, Tuesday after 45 years. According to officials, the river's rising level has surged to a height of 497.9 ft, surpassing the 'low-flood level' of 495 feet. Heavy and continuous rainfall caused the river's alarming rise, leading to the flooding of the nearby Dussehra Ghat. The floodwaters also found their way into the outer sections of Itimad-ud-Daula's tomb. Concerns have been raised about the potential risks to other historical monuments like Rambagh, Mehtab Bagh, Zohra Bagh, Kala Gumbad, and Chini ka Rauza. However, officials from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have assured that these monuments have not suffered any damage thus far. They further stated that the floodwaters had not penetrated the basement of the Taj Mahal. The ASI officials explained that the architectural design of the Taj Mahal prevents water from entering the main mausoleum even during high floods. Prince Vajpayee, a conservation assistant at the ASI, elaborated: "The Taj Mahal was built in a manner that safeguards the main mausoleum from water intrusion, even during severe floods. The last time the Yamuna River touched the rear wall of the Taj Mahal was during the floods of 1978." This in fact is due to climate change. If humans do not solve this problem in time, then the day is not far when everything will be destroyed in water.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

# Battle lines drawn

Sir, "INDIA vs NDA" (Orissa POST, July 19) made an interesting reading. It's not "26 vs 38." It's not "INDIA vs NDA." It's also not "BJP-mukt" or "Congress-mukt Bharat." It seems to be a "khyamata-yukt" for the parties. Rather it should be "corrup-tion-mukt," "unemployment-mukt" and "development-yukt Bharat." To retain or attain power, at any cost, is the only motto of our politicians. As parliamentary elections fast approach, it's good to see that the Opposition parties have come together to form an alliance. Come summer 2024, the "alliance of 26" taking on the "mighty 38" will be interesting to watch.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR





# **EC begins 3-day public hearing** on draft delimitation in Assam

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 19: The full bench of the Election Commission of India (ECI) reached here Wednesday to hold a series of public hearings on draft delimitation proposals for Assembly and Parliament constituencies of Assam.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandev and Arun Goel along with senior officials of the ECI reached Guwahati this morning and started the three-day hearing at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra complex here.

An official of the election de partment told PTI that simultaneous hearings are taking place in three different halls. Kumar, Pandey and Goel are present in one hall each to hear the public suggestions

During this public hearing, the ECI will meet and hold discussions with various stakeholders, including political parties and civil society, over the draft proposals on the delimitation exercise

On the first day, suggestions for Kamrup Metropolitan, West Karbi Anglong, Chirang, Baksa, Dima Hasao, Kamrup, Udalguri, Karbi Anglong and Kokrajhar districts will be accepted.

Feedback on the draft for Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Karimganj, Darrang, Hailakandi, Cachar, South Salmara, Nagaon, Morigaon and Dhubri will be heard Thursday.

On the last day, ECI will listen to the prayers regarding Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur,



■ The draft delimitation document retains the number of Assembly seats in Assam at 126 and the Lok Sabha constituencies at 14

### The poll panel has also planned to alter the geographical boundaries of most of the constituencies, both Assembly and Lok Sabha, while eliminating some seats and creating a few new ones

Sivasagar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh Charaideo, Golaghat and Majuli districts.

The Chief Electoral Officer of Assam had Tuesday requested all public organisations to limit the number of representatives for each group to a maximum of five persons.

Following publication of the draft proposals, opposition parties and several social organisations slammed the ECI and alleged that the central poll body acted as a puppet of the ruling BJP. However, the ECI has not re-

acted to the allegations yet. Many political parties have also knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court against the entire delimitation exercise.

The ECI had June 20 notified the draft delimitation document by retaining the number of Assembly seats in Assam at 126 and the Lok Sabha constituencies at 14. The state has seven Rajva Sabha seats

season. As per the draft, the Assembly seats reserved for Scheduled Castes have been increased to nine from eight and for Scheduled

Tribes to 19 from 16. For the Parliamentary constituencies, two have been proposed under the ST category and one for the SC community The poll panel has also planned to alter the geographical bound-

aries of most of the constituencies, both Assembly and Lok Sabha, while eliminating some seats and creating a few new ones. An ECI team had earlier visited Assam March 26-28 and held interactions with political parties, public representatives, civil society members, social organisations, members of the public and officers regarding

the delimitation exercise. In total, representations from 11 political parties and 71 other organisations were received and considered during that visit of

**THE ONGOING FIRST** SPELL OF MONSOON **FLOODS IN THE STATE** HAS ALREADY **INUNDATED AT LEAST** HALF OF THE AREA OF **THE NATIONAL PARK** 

# INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, July 19: Monsoon floods are an annual phenomenon in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), where the wild animals almost always face a lot of trouble during the rainy

A large portion of the park gets submerged under the floodwaters, leaving shrunken spaces for the animals to take shelter amid the deluge.

Due to this, innumerable animal deaths have occurred over the last few years.

When a portion of the park gets flooded, animals cross the national highway and move towards the Karbi Anglong Hills in search of shelter.

There are nine designated animal corridors where a number of restrictions on vehicular movement are imposed for the safe passage of animals, Sivakumar Periyasamy, Chief Conservator of Forests and former Director of the KNPTR, said.

For overspeeding, there is a provision for a fine for the vehicle as high as Rs 5,000. Despite this, animals are often hit by speeding vehicles on the highway.

The state government has planned to build an elevated corridor on the national highway for uninterrupted animal movement while they move towards the Karbi Hills. The elevated cor-

ridors will ensure the safety of wild animals to a great extent as there are to-andfro movements of them between Karbi

hills and the national park as summer begins here, said Arun Vignesh, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Eastern Assam Wildlife Division.

After the elevated corridor comes up in the entire stretch of Kaziranga National Park, the animals can freely move through the underpass.

'It is a very good idea; however, this is a huge project and will take time to finish. Meanwhile, as of now, we are focusing on maintaining the restrictions on the animal corridors," Vignesh added. The ongoing first spell of mon-

soon floods in the state has al-

The elevated corridors will ensure the safety of ready inwild animals to a great extent undated as there are to-and-fro at least movements of them between half of Karbi hills and the national park the area as summer begins here of the national park. ARUN VIGNESH DFO, EASTERN

ASSAM WILDLIFE DIVISION

**KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK** 

Flood fury raises need of elevated corridors

As many as 49 forest camps have been submerged due to flood water.

"Although half of the park's area has already gone under the floodwater, we must still say that the effect of the flood is less this year. But the in and out movements of animals between Karbi Hills and Kaziranga have begun, and if the floodwaters increase their level, then the animals may stay for a longer time on the hills," Vignesh told IANS.

Kaziranga has a metapopulation of animals. It has a good number of one-horned rhinos, along with tigers. Though the total area of the

KNPTR is about 1,300 sq km,

earlier the authority had pos session of only 400 sq km.

"We had control only over the core area. But, over the last few years, we have gotten back a lot of land. In 2020, we recovered a major portion," Sivakumar said. Kaziranga now has 10 ranges compared to its earlier four. At present, it has three divisions.

Sivakumar mentioned "With this remarkable increase, we could bring a lot of change to the animal habitat, which included watershed management and others.

Following the acquisition of most of the encroached land, a major expansion of Kaziranga has occurred in the last couple of years.

However, the augmentation of the area has also raised the need for elevated corridors, as the authority claimed that the number of animals, including tigers, has increased in the park due to the freeing of encroached land

# UP govt to use AI for safety of women, kids AIMPLB sets up panel on UCC,

# INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 19: The Uttar Pradesh government is launch ing a new initiative under which it will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make cities safer and ensure the holistic development of women, children, senior citizens and the physically challenged

The integration of AI-based technology aims to achieve 100 per cent security for women, identify criminals, combat crim inal activities, and provide prompt assistance to women and children during emergencies.



# seeks time to meet CM Yogi

# INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 19: The All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has constituted a state-level seven-member committee to take forward the board's initiatives against the government's move to introduce Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

The committee has alread



state committee formed by the board and has agreed to oppose Uniform Civil Code along with the board at every level, he claimed. He said, "Why is it necessary for the country to have a Uniform Civil Code? The committee has been meeting organisations and political parties at the state level and having discussions on UCC

AIMPLB executive committee

members, meanwhile, said the

board has also deputed different

delegations to hand over mem-

orandums to political and so-

cial outfits across the country.

handed over to Bihar CM Nitish

Kumar, Telangana CM K.

Chandrashekhar Rao, Congress

president Mallikarjun Kharge,

Union minister Ramdas

Athawale, Sharad Pawar and

Uddhav Thackrey, to name a

Memorandums have been

Additionally, the initiative seeks to prevent suicides.

The helpline number, 112, will play a crucial role in this, connecting both government and private CCTVs.

AI enabled surveillance system will issue a warning immediately after sensing suspicious gestures such as someone holding a bottle or glass containing acid, according to the government spokesman.

When a similar warning is



received at the emergency helpline (dial 112), nearby police response vehicles (PRVs) would be directed to the scene to assist those needing help, and the local police station would be alerted too.

AI-based technology is also helpful in tracking stalkers, identifying drug peddlers near educational institutions, and monitoring as well as recording the activities of criminals accused of sexual exploitation who are

on parole or bail. The facial data of such individuals will be registered in the National Database, bolstering efforts to monitor their activities. Besides, AI-based technology will be used to identify groups

engaged in activities like smoking, traffic violations, and public drinking in areas frequented by women.

The technology is also useful in identifying those performing stunts on roads and locating missing persons through relevant databases. AI-enabled systems will also facilitate the analysis of road accidents, and identify the trend of suicide attempts on bridges, flyovers, and railway tracks, according to the handout.

met national presidents of various political parties and have now sought an appointment with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Maulana Mohammad Suleman of Kanpur, who is a member of the board's executive committee and a part of the seven-member team, said, "We are in touch with the chief minister's office for a response on the delegation's request for the meeting. Maulana Suleman claimed

that over 100 Muslim organisations and other outfits opposing UCC will gather at Jantar

Mantar in New Delhi July 26 and 27 to publicly denounce Centre's move to bring in UCC.

Maulana Suleman further said that the board's UP committee members, including Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali, Maulana Atiq Ahmed Bastavi, Aamna Rizwan had met SP chief and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and discussed with him the issue of UCC.

The SP chief is satisfied by the

few, AIMPLB member Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali said.



An idol of Lord Vishnu partially submerged in waters of the Brahmaputra river following monsoon rains, near Chakreshwar temple in Guwahati, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

# Yogi govt to beautify 948 heritage trees in UP

As many as 28 species of trees that are more than 100 years old have been designated as heritage trees

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 19: As part of its commitment to preserve the state's cultural heritage, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh will beautify 948 heritage trees of the state under the Heritage Tree Adoption Scheme

As many as 28 species of trees that are more than 100 years old have been designated as heritage trees.

These trees are spread over all the 75 districts of the state. There are a maximum of 99 heritage trees in Varanasi, 53 in Prayagraj, 37 in Hardoi, 35 in Ghazipur, and 34 in Unnao.

The Yogi Adityanath government is raising awareness among the general public by conserving the endangered tree species and trees connected to mythological or historical events, special people, monuments, religious traditions, and beliefs.

Guidelines have been given for the selection and documentation of heritage trees by department of environment, forest, and climate change.



and Tumal trees There are 363 trees of Banyan

species and 422 trees of Peepal species

In the heritage tree category, trees related to the spiritual and freedom movement have also been included.

In Gorakhpur, the hometown of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, 19 trees have been designated as heritage trees.

On the other hand, mother trees of Dussehri and Langra mangoes in Lucknow and

Varanasi, Bachan Imli in Fatehpur, Imli tree in Imlitala temple complex in Mathura, Karil tree in Pratapgarh, Adansonia tree located in Barabanki, Pakad tree located in Hapur and Sant Kabir Nagar, Bodhi tree of Sarnath. Peepal tree of Ambedkar Nagar, famous as Baba Jharkhand and Peepal tree associated with freedom movement at Ordinance Cloth Factory Shahjahanpur are included as heritage trees.

Apart from this, the banyan tree located in NBRI Lucknow and Mahamaya Devi Temple Complex, Ghaziabad, associated with the first freedom struggle, are included in the list.

Special heritage trees like the Adansonia tree of Jhunsi (Prayagraj) mentioned by the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang, the Peelu tree located in the Ter Kadamba temple complex, and Nidhi Van of Mathura, Akshayavat in the Prayagraj fort, Banyan tree located at Valmiki Ashram in Unnao district, places popular as Luv Kush-Birthplace and Janki Kund are also included.





More than 100 year-old trees,

belonging to 28 species, and sit-

uated in non-forest areas (com-

munity land) have been desig-

nated as heritage trees by the

Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity

Mango, Tamarind, Kaim, Karil,

Kusum, Khirni, Shami, Gamhar,

Gular, Chitwan, Chilbil, Jamun,

Neem, Adansonia, Pakad, Peepal,

Peelu, Banyan, Mahua,

Mahogany, Mysore Banyan,

Sheesham, Sal, Semal, Haldu

These include Aru, Arjuna,

Board.





# PHOTO POST



**OrissaPOST** 

THURSDAY | JULY 20 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Flood affected women and children receive food at a makeshift camp at Mayur Vihar area in New Delhi



Army personnel stand guard after a suspicious bag was found lying on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway outside an Army camp in Samba district, Jammu and Kashmir



Members of Bangiyo Sankhyalaghu Buddhijibi Mancha (BSBM) participate in a rally to protest against the central government over various issues in Kolkata, West Bengal





Visitors watch the North Korea side from the Unification Observation Post in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Wednesday. North Korea was silent about the highly unusual entry of an American soldier across the Koreas' heavily fortified border although it test-fired short-range missiles Wednesday in its latest weapons display



**P8** 

Men bag grain to sell at Dawanau International Market in Kano Nigeria. Nigeria introduced programs before and during Russia's war in Ukraine to make Africa's largest economy self-reliant in wheat production. But climate fallout and insecurity in the northern part of the country where grains are largely grown has hindered the effort

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan being welcomed by supporters upon his arrival at Suktara helipad in Seoni district



Ponies carry pilgrims at Sangam on their way to the holy cave shrine during Amarnath Yatra 2023 in Amarnath, Jammu and Kashmir. Ponies, porters and palanquins play an important role in making the 'Yatra' smooth and comfortable for pilgrims, specially for elder people PTI/AP PHOTOS











The BJP's only job is to create unrest. violence, and divide people on the basis of religion. They will get a decisive reply. The people will seek revenge by voting against them (BJP). INDIA will face the battle MAMATA BANERJEE BENGAL CM

# TOMATO PRICES SLASHED BY ₹10

The Union government has reduced prices of subsidised tomatoes to ₹70 per kilogramme from Thursday from ₹80 per kg now to provide relief to common man from high retail prices



# 10 BJP MLAs suspended uote

pended 10 of

them for the

remainder of

the session

We are working to unify all non-**BJP** parties ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The Patna opposition meet was attended

by 16 parties and there were 26 parties in Bangalore. Our numbers are increasing and the unity of the opposition parties is getting strengthened

NITISH KUMAR BIHAR CM

I have memories (of Chandy). When I went to Kerala, he was very kind to me. He took me around and I saw a lot of

places in Kerala because of him. I saw the work he did. The man has done so much work, he will never be forgotten

FAROOQ ABDULLAH NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

With the receding water levels in the Yamuna, many of those evacuated have started going back to their

residences. Now the most important priority is prevention of waterborne and vector borne diseases

ATISHI MARLENA DELHI REVENUE MINISTER

# SHORT TAKES

# Army officer killed in fire in Siachen

Siachen: An Army officer was killed while three soldiers were injured in a fire incident in the Siachen glacier in the early hours of Wednesday, officials said. The incident took place at the Siachen glacier at around 3 am Wednesday, the officials said. They said four Army personnel suffered injuries in the incident.

# Mothers' protest ends peacefully

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Imphal: Protests by women groups across Imphal valley passed off peacefully amid full-day curfew Wednesday. Responding to "Mothers' Protest" call by

Khwairamband Ima Keithel

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 19: The Karnataka Legislative Assembly Wednesday witnessed chaotic and unruly scenes as angry BJP legislators tore copies of bills and the agenda, and threw them at the Deputy Speaker, who was presiding, following which Speaker U T Khader sus-

tion BJP and JD(S) gave notice

of no confidence against Speaker

Khader to the Assembly

Secretary. The turn of events

unfolded following both the op-

position parties staging a protest

in the assembly against the

Congress government for al-

legedly "misusing" IAS officers

to work for the meeting of lead-

ers of 26 opposition parties,

which was held in Bengaluru

in the past two days. The 10 BJP

legislators who have been sus-

disrespectful conduct" in the House are -- C N Ashwath Narayan, V Sunil Kumar, R Ashoka, Araga Jnanendra (all former ministers), D Vedavyasa Kamath, Yashpal Suvarna, Dheeraj Muniraj, A Umanath Kotian, Arvind Bellad and Y

pended for the reminder of the

session for their "indecent and

Bharath Shetty. Karnataka Assembly They were sus witnesses chaotic scenes pended after the House In turn, MLAS of the opposi-

adopted a motion to this effect. The assembly session began on July 3 and is slated to end on July 21. A few of the suspended BJP MLAs were forcibly taken out of the assembly chambers by marshals. BJP legislators staged a protest against the Speaker's decision to suspend the 10 party MLAs, first outside his office and then at the Vidhana Soudha west gate. They were shortly joined by JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy



Mortal remains of former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy being taken to Kottayam from Thiruyananthapuram, Kerala

# LS polls: INDIA alliance parties look at resolving differences in states

# AGENCIES

Bangalore, July 19: As 26 opposition parties cleared their first hurdle of coming under a common banner, they brace for a bumpy road ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, from ironing out differences among constituents in states to seat sharing and choosing a leader for their INDIA alliance.

The alliance -- Indian National **Developmental Inclusive Alliance** (INDIA) -- has resolved to save the character of the republic "being severely assaulted in a systematic manner by the BJP" and safeguard the idea of India as en-

shrined in the Constitution. With challenges galore, sources said the leaders of these parties are looking forward at resolving them amicably as they all face the threat of turning irrelevant in case they fail to overcome them.

Though Congress president Mallikariun Kharge has admit-



# One doesn't change by changing name: BJP

New Delhi: With opposition parties naming their alliance INDIA, the BJP on Wednesday dismissed the move as "old wine in new bottle", saving a change in name does not change someone. BIP leaders also took a swipe at opposition parties over Samaiwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi comments on 'Vande Mataram'. with Union Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan saying the opposition

convenor of the alliance as it would clear the way for Tejashwi Yadav to succeed the JD(U) leader

in Bihar. The alliance is also aiming at fielding common candidates in most Lok Sabha seats to put up a united fight against the BJP and ensure votes do not get divided, sources said and added that the crucial issue of selecting candidates is an uphill task, but it can be done.

Most opposition leaders are seasoned politicians and have

# 4 members of family killed; relative held

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jodhpur, Jul 19: Four members of a family were allegedly killed Wednesday by a relative who hacked his victims with an axe and then set the bodies on fire in this district of Rajasthan, police said. Among them, a sixmonth child was hurled alive into the fire.

The incident took place early in the morning at Cheria village in the Osian area of the district, they said.

The assailant, identified as Pappuram (19), a nephew of the head of the victim family, has been arrested, Superintendent of Police (Jodhpur Rural) Dharemndra Singh Yadav said.

According to the police, Pappuram entered the victims' house on a farm at around 4 am and killed head of family Poonaram (60), his wife Bhanwari (55) and their daughter-in-law Dahpu (23).

The accused did not attack the child, Dahpu's six-monthold daughter Manisha, but threw her alive in the fire, he added.

Investigation revealed that there was a land dispute between



An injured being airlifted to AIIMS Rishikesh

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gopeshwar/Dehradun, July 19: Fifteen people were electrocuted and seven injured Wednesday at a sewage treatment plant of the Namami Gange project on the banks of the Alaknanda river in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, police said.

Superintendent of Police (Chamoli) Pramendra Dobhal said the police went to the spot to prepare a report on the electrocution late Tuesday of a person working on the project site. Around 11.30 am, a surge of electricity passed through a metal railing installed on the plant premises, killing 15 and injuring seven. It is still being ascertained how it happened, he added. Dobhal said police sub-inspector Pradeep Rawat and three home guard personnel were among the 15 people killed.

PTI PHOTO

announced a magisterial inquiry and a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of each victim and Rs 1 lakh each to the injured.

Ordering the inquiry, Dhami said strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

Following the chief minister's instructions, District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana nominated Additional District Magistrate Dr Abhishek Tripathi as the inquiry officer and directed him to file a detailed investigation report within a week.

Khurana has also asked Tripathi to include in his investigation the causes and the

Joint Coordinating Committee for Peace, women in large numbers hit the streets across the valley demanding implementation of NRC immediate convening of the Assembly session, maintaining territorial integrity of the state and objection to a separate administration.

# **AP: Six arrested for** urinating on tribal

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh police have arrested six . people including three juveniles for the shameful incident in which they humiliated a tribal youth by urinating on his face after brutally assaulting him. The incident that occurred in Ongole town of Prakasam district June 19 has come to light a month later with shocking visuals of at least three accused urinating on the badly injured youth circulating on social media.

ted to differences within the alliance, he has urged all parties to set aside their conflicts for the sake of the country and its people, and move forward unitedly to take on their bigger common enemy, the BJP.

The Congress and the Left are rivals in Kerala, the Left and the TMC in West Bengal, the AAP and the Congress in Punjab and Delhi, the Samajwadi Party and the Congress in Uttar Pradesh, and the PDP and the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir.

Many contentious issues remain unresolved but the first challenge before opposition alliance INDIA is that of resolving the leadership issue, sources said and added that the grouping may not announce their prime ministerial face ahead of the elections to avoid conflict among constituents.

continues to behave in the same old way. The BJP's reaction came after Azmi, while raising the Sambhaiinagar district riot issue in the Maharashtra assembly, said chanting 'Vande Mataram' was unacceptable to him.

They said it seems, opposition parties want to replicate the 2004 model when they had ousted the BJP government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and announced their prime ministerial candidate later.

On the convenor issue, sources said that JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and ally RJD supremo Lalu Prasad were keen that a convenor should be named at the meeting itself and were reportedly miffed after it was not done. They said that Prasad is keen on Kumar becoming the

immense experience, and they need to avoid one upmanship and clash of egos, another leader

said TMC day after the supremo and West Bengal opposition parties chief minannounced 'INDIA' as ister the name for their Mamata Banerjee alliance, they finalised and Congress "Jeetega Bharat" as leader the 26-member Rahul bloc's tagline Gandhi suggested and agreed on the

name INDIA for the alliance and most leaders concurred, they said

Sources said CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury suggested "We for India" while Bihar Chief Minister Kumar proposed "India's Main Front".

Poonaram and his brother (Pappuram's father). Besides, Pappuram's brother had died under suspicions circumstances in Surat, Gujrat, sometime back and he suspected Poonaram of being involved in his death, the police officer said. Poonaram had two sons -- while one was out for night shift at a stone cutter, the other lived with his family in Chamu, he said. The accused knew about this and thought he would not face any resistance and would comfortably execute the murders, Yadav said.

Earlier, Inspector General of Police, Jodhpur, Jainarayan Sher told PTI that a relative of the family was taken into custody and was being questioned. In Jaipur, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C P Joshi informed the House during Zero Hour that the state government will give a statement on the incident.

Several of the victims died on the spot. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who has left for the site to take stock of the situation and meet the victims' families, expressed grief. He has measures that can be taken to prevent such accidents in the future. Chamoli's Chief Development Officer Dr Lalit Narayan Mishra said the injured were sent to AIIMS-Rishikesh by helicopter. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also enquired about the incident from Dhami over phone. Director-General of Police Ashok Kumar prayed for peace for the dead and strength to the bereaved families.

# 5 terror suspects, radicalised by LeT operative; held

Bangalore: Five people radicalised to carry out terror attacks have been arrested with firearms and ammunition here, police said Wednesday. Seven pistols, 45 live cartridges, a bunch of walkie-talkies, some daggers and 12 mobile phones were seized by the Central Crime Branch from them. Provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act were invoked against them. The suspects were identified as Sved Sohel Khan. Mohammed Umar, Jahid Tabrez, Sved Mudasir Pasha and Mohammed Faisal. The five suspects were arrested near a place of worship in Kanakanagar area of Sultanpalva locality in the city Tuesday while planning a major conspiracy, according to police sources.

# 2 infiltrators killed

Srinagar: Two terrorists were killed at the LoC's Macchal sector in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district early on Wednesday as the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the BSF, in a joint operation, foiled an infiltration attempt. The Border Security Force (BSF), in a statement, said Wednesday that a successful ioint counter infiltration operation, code named Op Khaki, was conducted by it, the army, and police in Macchal sector, based on specific and credible intelligence developed by its Intelligence Wing. During the operation, multiple ambushes along the likely routes of infiltration were laid by the joint teams since July 17.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 19: Does a husband enjoy immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex? A three-judge bench of the

Supreme Court will examine this after constitution benches conclude hearing some listed pleas, said

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud when senior lawver Indira Jaising mentioned the matter for urgent listing.

The constitutional validity of an exception clause of Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is under challenge as it exempts a husband from being prosecuted for rape for having non-consensual sexual

intercourse with the spouse if she happens to be an adult.

We have to resolve the matters concerning marital rape," said the bench, which also comprised justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra. "My case deals with the child sexual abuse,' Jaising said told the court.

The CJI said these matters are to be heard by a three-judge bench and will be listed for hearing after the five-judge constitution benches conclude hearing some listed cases.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by the CJI is currently hearing petitions related to regimes on grant of driving licence for different kind of vehicles under the Motor Vehicle Act.

The petitions on abrogation of



MARITAL RAPE

Article 370 of the Constitution, which had provided special status to the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, are also scheduled

for hearing. The top court had January 16 sought the Centre's response to the petitions pertaining to criminalisation of marital rape and the IPC provision which provides protection to a husband against prosecution for forcible sexual intercourse if the wife is an adult.

The Centre, Under represented by Solicitor the exception General given in Section 375 Tushar of the IPC, sexual Mehta. had said intercourse or sexual the acts by a man with his issue has legal wife, the wife not as well as being minor, is social implications, not rape

and the government would like to file its response to the petitions.

One of pleas has been filed in relation to the Delhi High Court's split verdict of May 11, 2022 on the issue. This appeal has been filed by a woman, one of the petitioners before the Delhi High Court.

The concept of intelligible differentia distinguishes people or things grouped together from those that are left out. Another plea has been filed by a man against the Karnataka High Court verdict which paved way for his prosecution for allegedly raping his wife.

The Karnataka High Court had March 23 last year said exempting a husband from the allegations of rape and unnatural sex with his wife runs against-Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.





international



I think there's a lot of fighting left to go and I'll stay with what we said before: This is going to be long. It's going be hard. It's going to be bloody MARK MILLEY | CHAIR OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, US

# FROM 'HER MAJESTY' TO 'HIS MAJESTY

For the first time in 70 years. British passports bearing the title of "His Majesty" will start being issued this week in the name of King Charles III. UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman unveiled the new design update which changes the passport salutation from "Her Majesty" following the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September last year



Sunak apologises

for historic LGBT

ban in UK army

London, July 19: Prime Minister

Rishi Sunak Wednesday apolo-

gised on behalf of the UK gov-

ernment for the treatment of

LGBT veterans, saying a previous

ban on their deployment in the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



China is willing to work with Washington on reducing global warming as long as its political demands are met

HAN ZHENG VICE PRESIDENT, CHIN

India has supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in continuing the Black Sea Grain Initiative and hopes

for an early resolution to the present impasse RUCHIRA KAMBOL INDIA'S PERMANENT

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AMBASSADOR

I invite them (Russian spies) to do what others have done this past 18 months and ioin hands with us. Our door is always

open. Their secrets will be safe with us and together we will work to bring the bloodshed to an end RICHARD MOORE DIRECTOR, MIG

# SHORT TAKES

# 239 elephants killed in Lanka

Colombo: At least 239 elephants were killed across Sri Lanka up to July 14 this year, more than one death daily. according to new government data which indicated growing cases of human-elephant conflict in the island nation. According to data released by the Sri Lankan President's Media Division, 74 elephants have died due to unidentified reasons while 49 elephants were killed after being shot. Thirty-six elephants were also electrocuted, the EconomyNext news portal, reported Wednesday. "At least 239 elephants have been killed up to July 14 this year in Sri Lanka led by unidentified reasons followed by gunshots and electrocution have been the key cause of deaths," the data from the Department of Wildlife and Conservation showed.

# IMF flags Pak risks

.....

# HEAT AND FLOODS CLIMATE CHANGE GETTING REAL

REUTERS

The extreme weather, an increasingly frequent Rome, July 19: Italy put 23 occurrence in our warming cities on red alert as temperatures climate, is having a major impact on human health, could reach 46 Celsius (114 Fahrenheit) Wednesday, one of ecosystems, economies, the global hotspots as a wave of agriculture, energy and water extreme heat, wildfires and floodsupplies ing wreak havoc from the United

States to China. An intensifying heatwave has hit southern Europe during the peak summer tourist season, breaking records including in Rome and bringing warnings about an increased risk of deaths and heart attacks.

The World Meteorological Organisation, a United Nations body, said preliminary global figures showed the month of June to be the hottest on record. Wildfires burned for a third

day west of the Greek capital Athens, with air water bombers resuming operations at first light and firefighters working throughout the night to keep flames away from coastal refineries.

Fanned by erratic winds, the fires have gutted dozens of homes, prompted hundreds of people to flee and blanketed the in thick smoke. area Temperatures could climb to 43C Thursday, forecasters said.

In China, which this week was hosting US climate envoy John Kerry for talks, tourists defied the heat to visit a giant thermometer showing surface temperatures of 80C.

In Beijing, which set a new record as temperatures remained above 35C for the 28th day in a row, Kerry expressed hope that

cooperation to combat global warming could redefine troubled ties between the two superpowers.

A global pattern of heatwaves that have scorched parts of Europe, Asia and the United States this week have thrown that challenge into sharp relief. Temperatures remained high

across much of Italy Wednesday, with 45-46C expected on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia and some inland areas of Sicily likely to see temperatures in the mid-40s. The health ministry said it

would active an information hotline and teams of mobile health workers visited the elderly in

be subsiding in Spain, residents in Greece were left surveying the wreckage of their homes after the wildfires. Spain warned of the risk of wildfires in most of the country

Rome.

though residents were allowed to return to their homes in La Palma island where a blaze that raged for five days was stabilised in one sector, although it remained active elsewhere.

In Germany, the heatwave sparked an unlikely discussion on whether workplaces should introduce siestas for workers. In Spain, El Corte Inglés, one

of the country's largest depart-

# **Extramarital affairs rock** NKorea blasts two short-range missiles politically stable S'pore

# ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul. July 19: North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into its eastern sea early Wednesday in what appeared to be a statement of defiance as the United States deploys a nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea for the first time in decades.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said that from 3.30 to 3.46

**ITALY PUTS 23 CITIES ON RED ALERT RECORD TEMPERATURES SCORCH CHINA** FIRES BURN FOR THIRD DAY IN GREECE 'JUNE TO BE THE HOTTEST ON RECORD'

heavy rainfall have killed more than 100 people in the north of the country since the onset of the monsoon season June 1, where rainfall is 41% above average. The Yamuna river reached

the compound walls of the Taj Mahal in Agra for the first time in 45 years, also submerging several other historical monuments and gardens surrounding the 17th century, white-marble mausoleum. The same river flooded parts of the Indian capital including roads surrounding the historic Red Fort and Rajghat a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

The Brahmaputra river, which runs through India's Assam state, also burst its banks this month, engulfing almost half of the Kaziranga National Park home to the rare one-horned rhino - in waist deep water, prompting animals to flee to roads and human settlements in search of safe ground.

In China's western Xinjiang province, tourists with broadbrimmed hats and umbrellas braved scorching temperatures to take selfies by a giant thermometer that displayed a realtime surface temperature of 80C (176 Fahrenheit).

In recent days, temperatures in Xinjiang and other parts of Asia, as well as Europe and the United States have shattered records.

On Sunday, a remote township in the Turpan Depression registered a maximum air temperature of 52.2C, smashing China's national record of 50.3C set in 2015, also in the basin.

armed forces was an appalling failure of the British state. Sunak's apology in the House of Commons came as an independent review concluded that pre-2000 investigations into an individual's sexuality were intrusive and invasive, and for some caused long-lasting and severe impacts on the lives of veterans and their families.

"The ban on LGBT (lesbian. gay, bisexual and transgender) people serving in our military until the year 2000 was an appalling failure of the British state - decades behind the law of this land," said Sunak.

"As today's report makes clear, in that period many endured the most horrific sexual abuse and violence, homophobic bullying and harassment while bravely serving this country. Today, on behalf of the British state, I apologise, and I hope all those affected will be able to feel part of the proud veteran community that has done so much to keep our country safe," he said.

The independent review, chaired by Lord Terence Etherton and co-commissioned by the UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Office for Veterans Affairs, examined the experiences of personnel between 1967-2000 who were impacted by the ban on homosexuality in the armed forces

# Turmoil in Thai as rivals derail PM bid THAI PARLIAMENT BLOCKS LEADER OF PARTY THAT WON ELECTION FROM BEING RENOMINATED FOR PRIME MINISTER

REUTERS

Bangkok, July 19: The leader of Thailand's election-winning Move Forward Party met fresh obstacles in his prime ministerial bid Wednesday, as a court suspended him as a lawmaker and rivals successfully scuttled his re-nomination in parliament. US-educated liberal Pita

PETTERI TAALAS | SECRETARY-GENERAL, WMO

SCIENTISTS HAVE LONG WARNED THAT CLIMATE CATASTROPHE, CAUSED BY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

MAINLY FROM BURNING FOSSIL FUELS. WILL PUSH OUR PLANET TO A POINT OF NO RETURN

ment store chains, said sales of While the heatwave appears to air conditioning units had jumped, as had interest in cool-

ing pads for pets and horses. EXTREME HEAT, FLOODS IN ASIA In South Korea, heavy rain has pummelled central and south-

ern regions since last week Fourteen deaths occurred in an underpass in the city of Cheongju, where more than a dozen vehicles were swamped Saturday when a river levee collapsed. In the southeastern province of North Gyeongsang, 22 people died, many from landslides and swirling torrents.

In India, flash floods, landslides and accidents related to

Islamabad: Pakistan needs another IMF programme and support from other multilateral lenders beyond the coming election cycle and the ongoing standby arrangement, according to the Washington-based global lender. The Dawn newspaper reported that the International Monetary Fund said this in a 120-page report released on Tuesday, which analysed cashstrapped Pakistan's macroeconomic outlook. The report is based on the Memorandum of Economic and Fiscal Policies (MEFP) signed by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed.

# UK inflation falls

.....

London: Inflation in the UK has fallen by more than anticipated to a 15-month low. official figures showed Wednesday, a development that may ease the pressure for the Bank of England to raise interest rates sharply over the coming months. The Office for National Statistics said that inflation, as measured by the consumer prices index, fell to 7.9 per cent in the year to June from 8.7 per cent the previous month. Economists had expected a more modest decline to 8.2 per cent.

# Khan apologises

Islamabad: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan Wednesday again apologised for his controversial remarks against a female judge, saying he was sorry if he crossed the line. Just months after his ouster in April 2023, Khan in a fiery speech threatened Islamabad's top police officials and judge Zeba Chaudhry and said he would not "spare" them and file cases against them for "torturing" his party leader Shahbaz Gill.

### REUTERS

free politics.

Wednesday after admitting to

an inappropriate relationship, the

latest scandal to hit a country oth-

erwise used to stable and drama-

The Workers' Party (WP) said

member of parliament Leon

Perera and its youth wing pres-

ident Nicole Seah had handed in

letters of resignation after a

video circulated on social media

earlier this week showing the

Workers" Party requires candi-

The Constitution of the

pair holding hands.

late 2020 to early 2021.

Seah had also denied the relationship when asked by party Singapore, July 19: Two senleaders at that time, Singh said, ior members of Singapore's adding the pair's behaviour was largest opposition party quit

"unacceptable" This is the third scandal to rock Singapore's political landscape within a week.

Last week, the transport minister was arrested in connection with a graft investigation, and Monday two lawmakers, including the house speaker, quit because of an inappropriate relationship. All three were members of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP). Both the WP and the PAP have

in the past sacked members for extramarital relationships.

National University of dates to be honest and frank in their dealings with the party Singapore political scientist and the people of Singapore,' Chong Ja Ian said as the ruling party Secretary-General Pritam party, the PAP had more to lose in light of the scandals engulf-Singh said, adding that Perera ing its members, and that voters had been untruthful when first asked about the relationship in would judge its actions at the polls, due by 2025.

am North Korea fired two shortrange ballistic missiles from an area near capital Pyongyang that flew about 550 kilometers before landing in waters east of the Korean Peninsula.

Those flight details were similar to the assessment of the Japanese military, which said the missiles landed outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone and that there were no immediate reports of damage from ships or aircraft in affected areas.

The flight distance of the North Korean missiles roughly matched the distance between Pyongyang and the South Korean port city of Busan, where the USS Kentucky arrived Tuesday afternoon in the first visit by a US nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea since the 1980s.

Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada told reporters that the North Korean missiles travelled on a low trajectory and possibly demonstrated "irregular maneuver" in flight.

Limjaroenrat has an extremely difficult path to the top job and must overcome fierce resistance from a royalist military at odds with his party's anti-establishment ambitions.

After more than seven hours of debate on a challenge to Pita's candidacy before a planned parliamentary vote Wednesday, lawmakers voided his nomination, with opponents arguing a motion for him to be endorsed as premier had already been rejected when he was defeated in last week's vote.

As the debate ensued, the Constitutional Court separately announced Pita had been suspended as a lawmaker over an allegation he violated election rules by holding shares in a media firm, taking on its second case against him in six days.

The suspension does not bar Pita from running for premier but it was not immediately clear whether his eight-party alliance would seek to re-nominate him, by filing a different motion.

TALIBAN SHUTTERS BEAUTY SALO

The 42-year-old had told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday that he was expecting "pre-planned" obstacles, describing efforts by the establishment to stop him as like a "broken record"

Thailand has been run by a caretaker administration since March and 65 days have passed since Move Forward's stunning triumph over military-backed parties in a May election, in what was widely considered a clear public rejection of nine years of government controlled by generals.

Thailand is not the same since May 14. We have come halfway from the people's victory and there is another half to go," a smiling Pita told the house as he acknowledged the court's suspension order, receiving fistbumps and applause.

Wednesday's drama was the latest twist in a two-decade battle for power between elected parties and Thailand's conservative military establishment, which has seen political bans, court interventions, two coups and huge, at times violent street protests.

A constitution drafted by the military after a 2014 coup and skewed in its favour ensured that Pita was blocked in the first vote by the junta-appointed Senate, which has served as a bulwark against elected politicians and can effectively torpedo at-

tempts to form governments. Hundreds of Pita's supporters gathered peacefully in Bangkok to protest against the efforts to stop him, some carrying signs denouncing senators.

# ATROCITIES **IN AFGHAN**

The bizarre move is the latest curb on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls, following edicts barring them from education, public spaces and most forms of employment

# ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kabul, July 19: Dozens of Afghan women protested a beauty salon ban Wednesday after the Taliban ordered their closure nationwide. Security forces used fire hoses, tasers and shot their guns into the air to break up the protest

The Taliban said earlier this month they were giving all salons in Afghanistan one month to wind down their businesses and close shop, drawing concern from international officials worried about the impact on female entrepreneurs. The Taliban say they are out-

lawing salons allegedly because they offer services forbidden by Islam and cause economic hardship for grooms' families during wedding festivities. The ruling came from the

Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. It's the latest curb on the rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls, following edicts barring them from education, public spaces and most forms of employment.



In a rare sign of public opposition to Taliban orders, dozens of beauticians and makeup artists gathered in the capital Kabul to protest the ban. "We are here for justice," said one protester who identified herself as Farzana. "We want work, food and freedom.'

The Taliban sprayed the women with water and shot their rifles into the air to disperse the

protesters

Farzana later said the women were going to the UN mission in Afghanistan, urging protesters to stay together.

One protester told The Associated Press the demonstration started at around 10 am in the Shar-e-Naw area of the capital. She did not want to give her name for fear of reprisals.

"The purpose of our demonstration was that they (the Taliban) should reconsider and reverse the decision to close beauty salons because this is about our lives," she said. "All of us, 50 to 60 women, participated. Our slogan was work, bread and freedom."

The protest continued into the early afternoon, when the Taliban arrived to break up the

crowd, she said. They used tasers on demonstrators.

"They put two or three of our friends in the car and took them," she said

Nobody from the Taliban-run government was immediately available for comment about the protest.

UN mission in The Afghanistan, UNAMA, criticised the Taliban's dispersal tactics.

"Reports of the forceful suppression of a peaceful protest by women against the ban on beauty salons - the latest denial of women's rights in #Afghanistan - are deeply concerning," it said in a tweet. "Afghans have the right to express views free from violence. —

De facto authorities must uphold this.'











# business



# **EUROPE'S BIGGEST CAR PLANT**

Tesla has requested approval from German local authorities to make sweeping changes to its factory near Berlin, a key next step in its ambitious plan to expand the site into Europe's biggest car plant





As a bank we don't expect rate cut status quo is likely to be maintained by the RB

DINESH KHARA CHAIRMAN, SB

Apparel imports into Japan have witnessed a positive mark in the last three years. Japan's total import from the

world, which was \$28.49 billion in 2018, has now risen to \$46.72 billion NAREN GOENKA CHAIRMAN, AEPC

Besides AI. cleantech is one of the few sectors still attracting VC interest. Demand due to the Inflation Reduction Act (in the US) is so strong that even interest-rate sensitive public markets and debt financing increased

RAJ PRABHU CEO, MERCOM CAPITAI

# SHORT TAKES

# **BoM net profit** rises 95% in Q1

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Wednesday reported a 95 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 882 crore for the June quarter helped by a decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income. The Pune based lender had posted a net profit of Rs 452 crore in the year-ago period. Total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 5,417 crore from Rs 3,774 crore in the same period a year ago, BoM said in a regulatory filing. Interest earned by the bank grew to Rs 4,789 crore over Rs 3,457 crore in June 2022. Net interest income of the bank increased by 38.80 per cent to Rs 2,340 crore. The bank's asset quality showed improvement as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 2.28 per cent of gross advances at the end of the June quarter from 3.74 per cent a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs or bad loans, declined to 0.24 per cent as against 0.88 per

# **DREAM RALLY AT D-ST Bull run continues**

RALLYING FOR THE FIFTH DAY RUNNING. SENSEX AND NIFTY SETTLED AT NEW CLOSING PEAKS

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 19: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty continued their upward move ment Wednesday, ending at fresh record high levels, driven by foreign fund inflows and optimism in the global markets.

Buying in index majors Reliance Industries and ITC also helped the markets maintain their winning momentum.

Rallying for the fifth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 302.30 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at its new record closing high of 67,097.44. During the day, it rallied 376.24 points or 0.56 per cent to reach its all-time intra-day peak of 67,171.38

The NSE Nifty gained 83.90 points or 0.42 per cent to end at its lifetime closing high of 19.833.15. During the day, it climbed 102.45

### points or 0.51 per SENSE) cent to hit a **JUMPS 302.30** fresh record POINTS TO SETTLE AT intra-day 67,097.44 peak of **NIFTY RISES 83.90 POINTS TO** 19.851.70

From

END AT 19,833.15 the Sensex IN THE PAST FIVE TRADING DAYS. BSE BENCHMAR

pack, NTPC, HAS RALLIED 2.60% Bajaj Finance. IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, ITC, Power

laggard Grid and Larsen & Toubro were the biggest gainers

IndusInd Bank climbed 2 per cent after the company on Tuesday reported a 30 per cent jump in consolidated net profit in April-June quarter at Rs 2,124.50 crore, helped by core income growth and lower bad loan provisions.

Tata Consultancy Services, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, Nestle and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

# **GQG** Partners buys 5.96% stake in Patanjali Food

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TOP GAINERS BSE Sensex revious day close 2.86 NTPC Change 🔿 +302.30 66,795.14 2.20 Bajaj Finance 2.07 IndusInd Bank 67.200 67,097.44 1.96 UltraTechCement 1.64 Bajaj Finserv TOP LOSERS -0.82 TCS Bharti Airtel 0.61 Maruti Suzuki 66,700--0.43 HUL 09:15 -0.36 Nestle India

Despite the current high levels, domestic investors have hardly lost confidence in the Indian economy. It is experiencing a broad based rally strengthened by encouraging domestic macroeconomic data and sustained inflows from FIIs

VINOD NAIR HEAD OF RESEARCH. GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

territory Tuesday.

\$80.11 a barrel.

Global oil benchmark Brent

The market capitalisation of

BSE-listed firms jumped to an all-

time high of Rs 304.53 lakh crore

crude climbed 0.60 per cent to

BSE-listed firms' shine

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.63 per cent and smallcap index jumped 0.61 per cent. Among the indices, utilities rallied 1.22 per cent. telecommunication

jumped 1.05 per cent, industrials (0.83 per cent), power (0.81 per cent), consumer durables (0.66 per cent), financial services (0.60

per cent) and energy (0.55 per cent). Teck emerged as the only

A total of 1,998 stocks advanced while 1,413 declined and 126 remained unchanged.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their buying activity Tuesday as they bought equities worth Rs 2,115.84 crore, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo

and Shanghai ended in the green while Hong Kong lowered. Equity markets in Europe were quoting in the green. The

US markets ended in the positive

Wednesday, buoyed by an unprecedented rally in equities. The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms set tled at a record Rs 3,04,53,859.15 crore Wednesday.

In the past five trading days the BSE benchmark has rallied 1,703.54 points or 2.60 per cent.

"Market's record breaking spree continued on Dalal Street as we are in the midst of a strong bull run backed by robust foreign fund inflows, strong growth prospects, monsoon distribution and stable corporate earn ings so far, which have increased the appetite for local stocks, said Shrikant Chouhan, head of research (retail) at Kotak Securities Ltd.

# Tata chooses UK for \$5bn Jaguar Land Rover plant

The announcement marks Britain's biggest move in the car gigafactory space as it seeks to keep up with US and EU in the race to develop green industries

# **Oilmeal exports** dip 35% in June

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 19: Oilmeal exports fell 35 per cent in June to 2,80,001 tonne, mainly due to lower demand of rapeseed meals from overseas, according to trade body SEA.

Exports of oilmeals stood at 4.29.616 tonne in the same month last year.

However, the overall exports of oilmeals rose 19 per cent to 12.10.045 tonne during April-June from 10.16.031 tonne in the corresponding period of the previous year.

In the first quarter of 2023-24 export of soybean meal rose to 3,64,611 tonne compared to 75,454 tonne in the year-ago period.

Exports of rapeseed meal fell to 6,20,738 tonne in April-June compared to 7,06,906 tonne in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Ricebran extractions export dipped to 1,25,582 tonne in the first quarter of this fiscal from 1,49,008 tonne in the year-ago period.

Castorseed meal exports increased to 90.750 tonne during April-June from 83,281 tonne in the corresponding period of the previous year.

# **BIZ BUZ**



# Business Strategy Meet of BOI Branch Heads

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India, a leading public sector bank, organised a 'Business Strategy Meet' of the branch heads of 78 branches under Bhubaneswar Zone at its Bhubaneswar Zonal office. Bikram Keshari Mishra, General Manager, NBG, Odisha, Bank of India presided over the meeting and highlighted the future role of the bank in the development of the society. Speaking on this occasion, Mishra spoke about the main goal of the bank which is to provide better banking services to all the people living at each corner of the state and make them aware about various banking and government sponsored schemes. The programme was successfully implemented under the direct supervision of S Malava Das. Zonal Head and Deputy General Manager of the Bank. Ashok Kumar Jena, Deputy-Zonal Head was present on this occasion. As per the assessment of various business parameters, Bank of India felicitated the best performing branch.

# Indo-Italian cooperation poised to reach a different level: Bodini

With the signing of the joint declaration between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, the bilateral relationship of the two countries has been elevated to the level of strategic partnership. Italian and Indian companies can count on a wide-ranging and updated policy framework. One of them is Mario Bodini, Managing Director of Sideridraulic System SpA, Brescia, Italy, a world-class specialist in innovative hydraulic and lubrication plants and water treatment plants, which are key components of any integrated steel or aluminium manufacturing facilities. Sideridraulic, which is operational in JSPL, Angul is a part of an exchange platform 'Indo-Italian Metal Hub', which was launched by Milan-based Art Valley under the guidance of Francesca Bruni and Alberto Cavicchiolo in 2014. This platform has been incessantly working towards enhancing technology, engineering, and other collaborations like academic and skill development

amongst the industrial metal networks. In an interview, Bodini shares his optimism regarding future business relations between Italy and India. Excerpts:

How do you visualise Indo-Italian business relationship in





# IOC signs \$7-9bn LNG import deal

cent in the year-ago period.

.....

New Delhi: India's top oil firm IOC has signed a \$7-9 billion deal to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the UAE's ADNOC Gas plc for 14 years beginning 2026, the UAE company said. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed the deal as also a similar pact with TotalEnergies of France during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France and the UAE last week. In a statement, ADNOC Gas said the agreement with IOC for the export of up to 1.2 million tonne per annum (mmtpa) of LNG is "valued in the range of \$7 billion to \$9 billion over its 14-year term. signifies a major step forward in the partnership between the two industry leaders." The deal with TotalEnergies Gas and Power Ltd (TotalEnergies) is for the import of 0.8 million tonne a year of LNG for 10 years starting 2026.

# Dunzo defers employee salaries

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New Delhi: Bangalore-based quick commerce startup Dunzo has deferred salary payouts for its employees again, according to sources. An internal mail was shared with employees in which the cash-strapped logistics firm, previously backed by Google and Reliance Retail, has stated that the remaining salary for June and July would be paid with the August salary payout in the first week of September, sources said. The company did not immediately comment on the development. Dunzo had previously delayed salaries of half of its 1000strong workforce till July 20, impacting their top management the most

New Delhi, July 19: US-based investment firm GQG Partners has bought a 5.96 per cent stake in edible oil firm Patanjali Foods, which is promoted by Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved.

GQG Partners has bought 2,15,64,517 equity shares of Patanjali Foods through Offer For Sale (OFS) route, according to a regulatory filing. This translates into a 5.96 per cent stake in

Patanjali Foods. Patanjali Foods share price closed at Rs 1,332.75 apiece Wednesday, up 4.64 per cent from Tuesday.

The market cap of Patanjali Foods stood at Rs 48,245 crore. At current valuation, GQG Partners' shareholding in Patanjali Foods is worth nearly Rs 2,900 crore.

Last week, Patanjali Foods announced that its promoter Patanjali Ayurved will sell up to 2.53 crore shares of the company through OFS in a bid to increase public float. The floor price was kept at Rs 1,000. The two-day Offer For Sale

(OFS) was launched July 13-14 by promoter entity Patanjali Ayurved to pare its total stake in Patanjali Foods by around 7 per cent to meet the minimum public shareholding requirement.

# REUTERS

London, July 19: Tata Group will build an electric vehicle battery plant in Britain to supply its Jaguar Land Rover factories, delivering a major boost for a car industry in need of domestic battery production to help secure its future. Tata said Wednesday it would

build its first gigafactory outside of India with an investment of 4 billion pounds (\$5.2 billion), creating up to 4,000 jobs and producing an initial output of 40 gigawatt hours.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government has declined to say how much financial support it promised in order to secure the investment and fend off Spain. which had also lobbied to win the project. The BBC said the government would provide subsidies worth hundreds of millions of pounds to Tata.

Britain has lagged European rivals in building electric vehicle (EV) battery gigafactories, with more than 30 planned or under construction across the EU. Britain currently has one small Nissan plant and another in the works.



The new plant is expected to be built in Somerset, south-west England, while Jaguar Land Rover's UK factories near Birmingham, in central England. Domestic production is vital

for automakers which rely on heavy batteries being built near their car plants.

Production is due to start in 2026 to supply JLR's future battery electric models, including the Range Rover, Defender, Discovery and Jaguar brands.

With an initial output of 40 gigawatt hours, Britain said the factory would provide almost half of the battery production needed by 2030. The Faraday Institution predicts Britain will need more than 100 GWh a year by that time.

### present context and future prospects?

India and Italy enjoy a very cordial relationship with vibrant diaspora on both sides. The bilateral trade between India and Italy has seen unprecedented growth in the last two years following the economic recovery post Covid-19 pandemic. A lot of credit should go to both the governments, Italian Ambassador, Vincenzo de Luca in New Delhi and his Indian counterpart in Rome. Consul General of Italy in Mumbai Alessandro De Masi and Consul General, Kolkata Gianluca Rubagotti and many well-wishers

### ■ What are your observations in recently concluded METEC Exhibition in Dusseldorf, Germany?

METEC is the largest International Metallurgical Trade Fair, where I met the three most important Indian steel players, especially Sajjan Jindal, Head of JSW; VR Sharma, Vice Chairman of JSPL group and TV Narendran, CEO, Tata Steel. I feel Indian steel industry cisions and investments are always taken within democratic decision-making processes. The other one is India is getting over the problems of not having easy access to credit. What is your Indian experience? We have established a subsidiary company called

has been growing at a faster rate as the country is set to create huge infrastructure in coming years. I could also see a growth trajectory in aluminium sector in India as well.

With the diplomatic and economic stops to the Russian steel market, the Indians have started to play an increasingly important role, becoming the second market in steel production right behind China. Do you see sustainability in India's new role?

India has been considered the promised land for over a decade now, even with its mixed growth trends. It won't be a "China 2" because there

Sideridraulic India Private Limited in Mumbai in 2014 and are waiting for this growth to take shape. We are currently working on two major projects for JSW in Toranagallu in Karnataka and for JSPL group in Angul, Odisha. We are working on two water treatment facilities for two big rolling mills with a 5 million tonne production capacity each. They are investing in Hazira as well as for a similar project at former Essar Steel, now ArcelorMittal. I am associated with major business associations and bodies in Italy and the general feeling there is to create a stronger bond with India by collaborating in business, trade, industry, technology, academic and research.

# ADB RETAINS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST FOR FY24

# **UPBEAT DOMESTIC DEMAND TO DRIVE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN FY24**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 19: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Wednesday retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.4 per cent for FY24 on recovery in consumption demand in both rural and urban areas, but said suppressed exports due to global slowdown will be a drag.

The Indian economy grew 7.2



In an update to its Asian Development Outlook (ADO), ADB lowered its inflation projection for current fiscal year (FY24) at 4.9 per cent, from 5 per cent pegged in April, on softening crude oil prices, even though it estimated core inflation to remain "stubbornly high"

"Assuming normal rainfall and other weather factors, and



no further geopolitical shocks, India is expected to grow by 6.4 per cent in FY2023 (current fiscal) and 6.7 per cent in FY2024,

as projected in ADO April 2023," ADB said.

In current fiscal year, consumption demand in India is expected to recover with improvement in both rural and urban demand as reflected in such indicators as consumer confidence, urban unemployment, and motorbike sales.

Investment growth will remain robust, underpinned by strong bank credit growth and demand for housing, and supported by fewer interest rate hikes by the central bank.

"However, the global economic slowdown has suppressed merchandise trade, which will be a drag on growth. On the supply side, growth will be buoyed by manufacturing as input prices cool," ADB said in its July update to the outlook for Asia.

With regard to inflation, ADB said as food and oil prices moderated, inflation eased below the 6 per cent upper tolerance level of the monetary policy.

Retail inflation has remained

above 6 per cent for most part of 2022. As per latest data, it was 4.81 per cent in June 2023. "Expected softening of Brent

crude prices in 2023 should lower headline inflation, but core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, is expected to be stubbornly high," ADB said.

It further said that developing economies in Asia and the Pacific are expected to grow at 4.8 per cent in 2023, as robustdomestic demand continues to support the region's recovery.









# OrissaPOST THURSDAY | JULY 20 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# Jemimah show sinks Bangla

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mirpur. July 19: Jemimah Rodrigues made a career-high 86 (78b, 9x4) before taking four wickets (4/3) with her part time off-spin to set up a series-levelling 108-run win for India in the second women's ODI against Bangladesh here, Wednesday,

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (52, 88b, 3x4) and Jemimah forged a 73-run stand off 91 balls for the fourth wicket to take India to 228/8 after being put in to bat, a much improved batting effort following a shock loss in the first ODL

Bangladesh made a poor start to the run chase before a 68-run stand off 92 balls between Ritu Moni (27) and Fargana Hoque (47, 81b, 5x4) raised the prospect of a rare series win over India. However, they both fell in quick succession and from 106 for three, Bangladesh collapsed to 120 all

### out in 35.1 overs.

Jemimah ended with remarkable figures of four wickets for three runs in 3.1 overs while leggie Devika Vaidya struck thrice (3/30).

The two set Bangladesh batters, Ritu and Fargana, were both stumped off Devika and Jemimah respectively. Pacer Meghna Singh, playing her first ODI since September, removed opener Murshida Khatun (12). Smriti Mandhana captained the side when Bangladesh were bat-

ting. Earlier, the 22-year-old Jemimah finally returned to form and it was her strokeplay which helped India up the ante after a slow start at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium here.

**FULL SCHEDULE** 

**GROUP STAGE** 

Multan

Kandy

Kandy

Lahore

Kandy

Lahore

Lahore

Colombo

Colombo

Colombo

Colombo

Colombo

Colombo

PAK vs NEP

BAN vs SL

**IND vs PAK** 

BAN vs AFG

**IND vs NEP** 

SL vs AFG

**SUPER 4s STAGE** 

A1 vs B2

B1 vs B2

A1 vs A2

A2 vs B1

A1 vs B1

A2 vs B2

FINAL

Jemimah kept dealing in boundaries, sending the ball nine times across the fence, while Harmanpreet returned at the fag end to complete her fifty. She

the pitch.

using the feet.

BRIEF SCORES India Women 228/8 (Jemimah Rodrigues 86, Harmanpreet Kaur 52, Smriti Mandhana 36; Nahida Akter 2/37, Sultana Khatun 2/41) beat Bangladesh Women 120 all out (Fargana Hoque 47, Ritu Moni

27; Jemimah Rodrigues 4/3, Devika Vaidya 3/30) by 108 runs.

had three fours in her 88-ball knock.

At the start of the innings, India found the going tough with Bangladesh bowlers bowling a good line and length. Opener Priya Punia was the first to go with Marufa Akter cleaning her up in the fifth over, while Yastika Bhatia was unfortunate to get out after she was run out in the 11th

over. It was a straight hit by Mandhana which found the hands of Marufa and hit the stumps at the non-striker's end with Bhatia out of the crease. Harmanpreet then joined Mandhana but runs were difficult to come by with the spinners bowling in tandem extracting turn and bounce from

Soon runs dried up as the

duo managed 28 off 66 balls

when Mandhana was sent pack-

ing by leg-spinner Rabeya

Khan, leaving India at 71/3.

Harmanpreet seemed to strug-

gle to connect with her sweep

shots but once Jemimah joined

her in the middle, things started

to change as the duo started

The duo dealt in singles and

waited for bad deliveries, while

Bangladesh gave long spells to

their bowlers to keep the pres-

sure. The duo brought up their

50-run partnership in the 32th

over. Jemimah completed her

half century with her third four

in the 41st over off Marufa.

why we never sided with them. old Sujeet, who trains in Sonepat



exemptions from trials, that's hails from Hisar, and 21-year-

# Prannoy through, Sindhu loses

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yeosu (Korea), July 19: The inform HS Prannoy progressed to the second round with a fine show but PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth's inconsistent run continued as they made opening round exits in the Korea Open Super 500 tournament here Wednesday.

Fifth seed Prannoy, the only Indian singles player in the elite top 10, registered a 21-13, 21-17 win over Belgium's Julien Carraggi. The 31-year-old will face either Lee Yun Gyu or Lee Cheuk Yiu next. Sindhu, who slipped to World No.17 this week, lost to 32-year-old World No.22 Pai Yu-Po of Chinese Taipei 18-21, 21-10, 13-21 in the women's singles opening round. The contest lasted 58 minutes.

Srikanth, on the other hand, squandered a match point advantage in the second game to go down 21-12, 22-24, 17-21 to former World No.1 Kento Momota from Japan.

It was Srikanth's 15th loss and 12th successive defeat against the two-time World Champion, who has fallen to World No.53 after struggling with form for the last few years.

India's Priyanshu Rajawat, however, advanced to the second round with a straightgame win over local player Choi Ji Hoon in the men's singles competition. The World No.32 Rajawat saw off Choi 21-15, 21-19 in 42 minutes

to set up a clash with top seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan.

The mixed pair of N Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor made it to the second round with a 21-17, 21-17 win over Philippines' Alvin Morada and Alyssa Ysabel Leonardo. The Indian duo will face Chinese fourth seeds Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping next.

Kiran George, however, failed to cross the opening round hurdle, going down to Chinese Taipei's 29th ranked Wang Tzu Wei 17-21, 9-21 in another men's singles match.

Aakarshi Kashyap, Tasnim Mir, Tanya Hemanth, Mithun Manjunath and Ashmita Chaliha - all were

Hyun in their mixed doubles opening round. The BWF World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300. One other category of the tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also



ousted from the tournament in the first round, underlining the huge gulf in quality in the second batch of Indian shuttlers.

While Kashyap lost 12-21, 17-21 to China's World No.20 Zhang Yi Man, Mir went down 11-21, 18-21 to Korea's World No.19 Kim Ga Eun and Tanya lost 11-21, 17-21 to 32nd ranked Saena Kawakami from Japan. National champion Mithun was no match for Malaysia's World No.23 Ng Tze Yong and Ashmita lost to Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei 13-21. 12-21.

B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa too suffered a 21-23, 21-13, 12-21 loss to Korean pair of Song hyun Cho and Lee Jung

offers ranking points.

RAHANE LOOKS FOR RUNS IN HISTORIC TEST MATCH

party and have been

# India to open campaign vs Pak in Kandy, Sept 2



# Antim, Sujeet move Delhi HC WRESTLERS CHALLENGE TRIAL EXEMPTION GIVEN TO BAJRANG.

VINESH BY IOA AD-HOC PANEL FOR ASIAN GAMES

New Delhi, July 19: Wrestlers Antim Panghal and Sujeet Kalkal Wednesday challenged in the rennial showpiece.

Sharma, who listed the matter for Thursday.

cate Hrishikesh Baruah and

though India skipper Rohit Sharma said it will be a big occasion, his team will be expected to dominate the West Indies like it did in the series opener in Dominica.

Thursday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, July 19: Ajinkya

Rahane will be aiming to pile

on the runs to extend his inter-

national career and lead India to

a series sweep against a feeble

West Indies when the second and final Test begins here

The game will mark the 100th

Test between the two teams and

After the game at the Queen's Park Oval. India play their next

leaving the likes of Rahane one

more opportunity to make it ex-

tremely hard for selectors to

overlook him for the away se-

In his first Test in 18 months,

which happened to be the World

Test Championships final last

month, Rahane was the stand

out India batter but he would

be ruing the missed opportu-

nity on a slow and turning pitch

in Dominica where the visitors

There is a strong chance that

India will again bat only once and

Rahane will need to make it

count with Shreyas Iyer, who is

undergoing rehab after a back

surgery, expected to be available

for the South Africa tour. Batting

coach Vikram Rathour said in the

needed to bat only once.

ries against the Proteas.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The joint petition of the two

The petition, moved by advo-

Delhi High Court the exemption granted to Vinesh Phogat and Bairang Punia for the Asian Games trials, demanding a fair selection process for the quad-

wrestlers was mentioned before Chief Justice Satish Chandra

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 19: India will open their Asia Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan in Kandy September 2 while meeting the neighbours in a Super 4 clash in Colombo September 10. as per scheduled released by Asian Cricket Council (ACC), Wednesday.

The six-team ODI tournament, which is a pre-cursor to the ICC World Cup will start August 30 in Multan where hosts Pakistan takes on Nepal.

The Asia Cup is being played in 'Hybrid Model' as four matches will be held in Pakistan while nine other games including the final will be held in Sri Lanka's Kandy and Colombo. The final will be held at the Premadasa Stadium September 17. While India, Pakistan and Nepal constitute group A,

# Smith stabilises Oz innings after shaky beginning

# REUTERS

3

Manchester, July 19: Steve Smith helped Australia overcome a shaky start to recover to 107/2 at lunch on day one of the fourth Ashes Test Wednesday, after England had made early inroads at Old Trafford.

Stuart Broad caused the most problems early on, removing opener Usman Khawaja in the fifth over. That wicket took Broad to 599 in Tests. Chris Woakes then got rid of David Warner, after he had played well to get to 33

Smith offered up a chance with a big shot early in his innings, but steadied the ship to remain not out on 33, alongside another batter with plenty to prove this series, Marnus Labuschagne, who is unbeaten on 29.

Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are in group B.

The release shared by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president Jay Shah said Pakistan will remain A1 and India will remain A2 irrespective of their positions after the first round. If either of them does not qualify, Nepal will take their position.

Similarly, in Group B, Sri Lanka will remain B1 and Bangladesh will remain B2. If any of these teams do not make it to Super 4s, Afghanistan will take their position.

While Pakistan were originally scheduled to host this year's Asia Cup, the Indian cricket board's refusal to send a team across the border. Pakistan will thus host a total of four matches while the remaining nine matches will be played in Sri Lanka.

Akshay Kumar, demanded that the directive issued by the IOA ad-hoc committee with regards to the two categories (men's freestyle 65kg and women's 53kg) be quashed and the exemption

granted to Bajrang and Vinesh be set aside. The petition demanded that the trials should be held in a fair manner, without granting any exemption to any wrestler and the whole process be videographed.

"These wrestlers had said during their protest at Jantar Mantar that their fight is for justice and for the cause of junior wrestlers and now they want to sideline the junior wresters, so we had to move court against this decision." Davanand Kalkal, father of Sujeet, told this news agency. "Since the beginning of their protest, the intention was to get

People were blind and could not see what their intention was.

"If these celebrity wrestlers beat the upcoming wrestlers and go, no one will complain. It indeed is a matter of pride that our kids get to compete against such accomplished athletes. There must be a fair trial," he added.

Much to the exasperation of their competitors in the categories where Bajrang (65kg) and Vinesh (53kg) compete, the IOA ad-hoc panel decided to exempt these two wrestlers from the trials July 22-23.

As per the ad-hoc panel directive, the trials will be conducted in all 18 weight categories, including the 65kg and 53kg but the winners will not compete in the Asian Games, rather they will be standby options.

The 19-year-old Panghal, who

questioned the ad-hoc panel decision through separate videos.

Panghal asked what was special about Vinesh that she got exemption, exuding confidence that she can beat her in the trials. Sujeet also said there are at least 5-6 wrestlers in the country in the 65kg category who are capable of beating Bajrang.

WFI elections The much-awaited Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections will be held August 7 following a series of postponements, according to sources in the parent body.

The WFI elections were earlier scheduled to be conducted July 11 but the Gauhati High Court had stayed the polls, following Assam Wrestling Association's (AWA) plea seeking right to participate in the poll process.

Test only on the tour of South Africa in December-January

lead up to the game that India would need an in-form Rahane for the South African sojourn.

Following an innings and 141run victory in three days, no major changes are expected in the playing eleven but it remains to be seen if left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat gets another opportunity. With another turner on the cards considering the West Indies replaced batting allrounder Ramon Reifer with spin all-rounder Kevin Sinclair, Axar Patel might be included.

> MATCH SCHEDULE 2nd Test, Day 1 Time: 7:30 pm Telecast: DD Sports Streaming: Jio Cinema

# Rohit re-enters top 10, Ashwin retains top spot and out-of-competition testing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, July 19: India captain Rohit Sharma re-entered the top 10 batters list of the ICC men's Test player rankings after his 10th century while Ravichandran Ashwin strengthened his top position among bowlers.

The skipper climbed three slots to reach No.10 on the list. India's debutant, 21-year-old Yashasvi Jaiswal entered the batters list for the first time in 73rd place. Rishabh Pant slipped one slot to 11th place, while Virat Kohli remains in 14th place.

Ashwin cemented his place ২ as No.1 in the Test bowlers list on 884 points, enjoying a 56-point lead over No.2 Pat Cummins. Ravindra Jadeja, has risen three slots to seventh. Jadeja also remains the top-ranked all-rounder, -( 87 points ahead of No.2 Ashwin.

# WADA finds 'clear evidence' on NADA's inefficiency

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Montreal, July 19: The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has found "clear evidence" that India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is not doing its job properly, identifying 12 positive tests and 97 whereabouts failures involving 70 athletes during an investigation.

WADA's independent Intelligence and Investigations (I&I) Department Tuesday published a report following an investigation into allegations that elements of NADA's testing programme were not in accordance with the WADA Code and the International Standard for

Testing and Investigations (ISTI). "WADA I&I's long-running investigation, known as 'Operation Carousel', was launched in 2018, and uncovered evidence that NADA did not carry out adequate testing on

some athletes in NADA's registered testing pool (RTP) while also failing to put in place appropriate monitoring of athletes' whereabouts information.

"The investigation monitored select sports and athletes within India and, as a result, in cooperation with NADA, 12 positive tests (Adverse Analytical Findings) and 97 whereabouts failures of 70 athletes were identified. These are now subject to results management processes as appropri-

ate," said the WADA report. WADA noted that there was clear evidence NADA was lacking in resources. "Since 2016, WADA has been working with NADA to improve its anti-doping program, providing various corrective actions to address non-conformities with the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards," said WADA I&I director, Gunter Younger. "In parallel and in response to

WORLD ANTI-DOPIN

tips coming through our confidential information platform, 'Speak Up!', WADA I&I launched 'Operation Carousel', which uncovered clear evidence that NADA's lack of resources meant it was not carrying out a sufficient level of testing and it did not have satisfactory oversight and management of whereabouts filings by athletes in the registered testing pool.'

The report though said that

"Since 'Operation Carousel' began to engage openly with NADA in late 2022, NADA has strengthened its testing program by improving internal processes and bringing in significant additional resources, both human and financial. As a result, both the collection of blood samples

since 'Operation Carousel' was launched, NADA is trying to take corrective measures and strengthen its resources.

(urine and blood) has increased. Even though NADA contin-

ues to receive help in strengthening its anti-doping programme, WADA will continue to monitor the progress, the report added. In 2019, NADA was suspended by the world body for six months

due to non-conformities with the international standard of laboratories (ISL). 'Operation Carousel' had ticked off NADA for staffing is-

sues way back in 2017, when it pointed out a "severely understaffed" national anti-doping body in its audit report.

In 2020, WADA again issued a second CAR to NADA, identifying the non-conformities in several testing related areas. 'Operation Carousel' also pointed out last year that India was also not testing all the 131 elite athletes in its reserve testing pool (RTP), which was of concern to WADA.

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