



REGARD FOR PROFESSION

Actor Vaani Kapoor says she respects the art of filmmaking and the purity that one needs to have towards acting

LEISURE P2



MOON MISSION

Chandrayaan-3, which was launched July 14, is making steady progress and is currently in a 71351 km x 233 km orbit around Earth, as per Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Monday. The premier space agency of India successfully performed the fourth orbit-raising manoeuvre of the spacecraft July 20.



AKSHAY TRIUMPHS

A 21-year-old Akshay Bhatia clinches his first PGA Tour title at the Barracuda Championship golf tournament

SPORTS P12

Parl logjam on Manipur

HOUSE SUSPENDS AAP MP SANJAY SINGH FOR REST OF THE MONSOON SESSION

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 24: Relentless protests from Opposition members demanding a statement from the Prime Minister Modi on Manipur issue Monday marred proceedings in both the Houses and Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh, one of the more vocal voices in Rajya Sabha, was suspended for the rest of the Monsoon Session for repeatedly 'violating' the directives of the Chair.

The suspension came after Leader of the House Piyush Goyal moved a motion in this regard and it was adopted by the House by voice vote. Before that, Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar named Singh for his 'unruly behaviour' and cautioned him. Opposition parties condemned the action against Singh and accused the government of trying to throttle their voice.

With protests ruling the day inside both Houses despite attempts by Dhankhar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to end the impasse, charge and counter-charges flew thick and fast outside Parliament as the two sides

targeted each other.

Since the session began July 20, little work has been done in Parliament. Opposition members have seized on the viral video of two women stripped and paraded by a mob from another community in the violence-hit state to corner the government. While the government has expressed its willingness to a debate on the situation in the BJP-ruled state, the Opposition has made a statement for Modi a precondition for any discussion on the issue, accusing him of insulting Parliament by speaking to the media on the matter and not in either of the Houses.

As slogan-shouting by Opposition members, many of whom were in the Well, continued in Lok Sabha, Shah spoke briefly, questioning their intent despite his willingness to debate. Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar also held a meeting with Opposition leaders in this regard as well. In Lok Sabha, the government succeeded in transacting some legislative business amid uproar, with three Bills introduced and one withdrawn.



MANIPUR SHAME: Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, along with other leaders of 'INDIA', stages a protest over ethnic violence in Manipur, during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Monday

Prez's 3-day state visit from today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: President Droupadi Murmu will visit Odisha for three days beginning Tuesday, an official said Monday.

On Tuesday evening, the President will interact with a group of medical students and lay the foundation stone for a new building of Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

The next day, Murmu will grace the valedictory function of 75th year celebrations of Orissa High Court in Cuttack. She will also address the annual function of SCB Medical College and Hospital in the Silver City and grace the convocation of National Law University Odisha (NLUO) in Cuttack.

On July 27, she will interact with the members of PVTGs at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

DOMESTIC STRIFE RISING

Bhadrak man kills spouse, minor son

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 24: A 45-year-old man strangled his wife and minor son to death over suspected family feud at Kushagadia village under Bhandaripokhari police limits in the district here late Sunday night, an official said, Monday.

Umesh Nayak, a truck driver, of Kushagadia village frequently quarrelled with his wife Kanchanbala Sethi, 32, over financial issues. He often came home drunk and beat his wife mercilessly, said a police official, quoting family members.

A neighbour was the first to spot Kanchanbala and her son Utkal, 7, lying lifeless in the house in morning and inform the police.

On being informed, Bhandaripokhari police reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

"The incident took place late Sunday night when the woman and her son were asleep. Umesh strangled the two to death and fled the place soon after. He was hiding atop a tree on the outskirts of the village. Villagers caught him and handed him over to police in afternoon," Bhandaripokhari inspector-in-charge (IIC) Tapan Pradhan said.

A case has been registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Kanchanbala's brother and probe is on into the incident, added the IIC.

Cuttack couple ends life in City

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

BHUBANESWAR: A 43-year-old man and his wife ended their lives by jumping before a speeding train in Bomikhal area of the City, Monday, an official said.

TRAGIC END

MAY 27, 2023: MAN KILLS WIFE OVER FAMILY DISPUTE IN BHANJANAGAR OF GANJAM DISTRICT

APRIL 27: MIDDLE-AGED MAN HANGS SELF TO DEATH AFTER KILLING WIFE OVER FAMILY FEUD AT PATRA SAHI IN MAYURBHANJ DISTRICT

JULY 15, 2022: COUPLE ENDS LIFE IN LAXMISAGAR AREA OF BHUBANESWAR OVER FAMILY DISPUTE

The couple initially resided in Bomikhal area and worked as house helps for around six months. Later, they moved to Shantipalli Slum here and earned a living by doing odd jobs. Locals of Bomikhal area, who spotted the duo taking the extreme step, informed the GRP. Police reached the spot and sent the bodies to Capital Hospital for post-mortem. "Two unnatural death cases (55/23 and 56/23) have been registered in this connection," said an official. During initial probe, it has come to the fore that family members of Mallick had refused to accept Bhoi as daughter-in-law as she belonged to a lower caste. Neighbours in the slum claimed that the two used to quarrel over family issues often.

The couple has tried to end lives by jumping before running trains on several times in the past as well. Bhoi had recently returned to the slum after leaving her eight-year-old son at her parents' house.

Maha ACP shoots wife, nephew dead before killing self

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, July 24: A 57-year-old assistant commissioner of police (ACP) allegedly shot his wife and nephew dead with a gun before shooting himself fatally at his home in Maharashtra's Pune city Monday, an official said.

The incident took place at around 3.30am at ACP Bharat Gaikwad's bungalow in Baner area. The reason behind the incident was yet to be ascertained, the official from Chaturshringi police station said.

Gaikwad was posted as ACP in Amaravati and had come home, according to police.

"At around 3.30am Monday, the ACP first allegedly shot his wife in the head. Upon hearing the gunshot, his son and nephew came running and opened the door. The moment they opened the door, he allegedly shot at his nephew, who got hit in the chest," the official said.

"Later Gaikwad shot himself in the head. All the three persons died on the spot," he said.

The other two deceased were identified as the police officer's wife Moni Gaikwad, 44, and nephew Deepak, 35, he said.

SC halts Gyanvapi survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

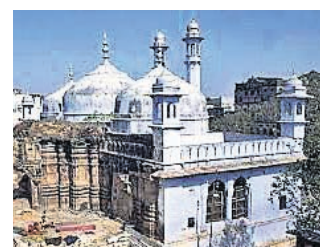
New Delhi, July 24: In a relief to the Gyanvapi committee, the Supreme Court Monday halted till 5pm July 26 a 'detailed scientific survey' of the ASI to determine if the mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi was built upon a temple, saying 'some breathing time' needed to be granted to appeal against the order.

Taking up the plea moved by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid (AIM) of the Gyanvapi mosque for an urgent hearing, the top court directed the Allahabad High Court to hear the appeal before its 'status quo' order expires Wednesday evening.

The apex court's order came at a time when a 30-member team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was inside the mosque complex to carry out the survey.

A Varanasi court directed the ASI Friday to conduct the survey -- including excavations, wherever necessary -- to determine if the mosque was built at a place where a temple existed earlier.

"We permit the petitioners to move the high court in the exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 227 of the Constitution or the appropriate proceedings to challenge the order of the learned district judge of Varanasi. Having regard to the fact that the order of the district court was pronounced at 4.30 pm on July 21 and the survey is in the process of being carried out, we are of the view that some breathing time should



be granted to the petitioners to move the high court, seeking appropriate reliefs.

"We direct that the impugned order of the district judge shall not be enforced till 5 pm on July 26. In the meantime, should petitioners move the high court with the petition or application under Article 227, the registrar-judicial shall ensure that it is placed before an appropriate bench according to the roster of work so that it can be heard before the order of the status quo, which has been granted by this court, comes to an end," ordered a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The bench directed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared in the court on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government, to immediately convey the order to the ASI officials working at the site.

At the outset of the day's proceedings, the plea was mentioned by senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, who was representing the mosque committee, for an immediate stay of the ASI work, saying that the task has been undertaken in a 'tearing hurry', without affording the time to the aggrieved party to file an appeal.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Are you a majority party? How dare you misbehave in the House?

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	66384.78 ↓ 299.48
NIFTY	19672.35 ↓ 72.65
DOLLAR	81.81 ↓ ₹0.17
EURO	90.60 ↓ ₹0.61
GOLD	₹59,144 ↓ ₹165
SILVER	₹74,215 ↓ ₹755

WEATHER		
BHUB	CTK	
MAX	33.7°C	34.6°C
MIN	25.6°C	26.0°C
Humidity	81%	89%
Rainfall	2.1mm	1.0mm
Forecast		Light to moderate rain

Married Indian woman travels to Pak for FB friend

'MOTHER OF 2 WILL RETURN HOME AUGUST 20 WHEN HER VISA EXPIRES'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar/Jaipur, July 24: In another cross-border story, a married Indian woman travelled to Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to meet a 29-year-old man whom she met on Facebook and allegedly fell in love with.

Anju, 34, was born in Kailor village in Uttar Pradesh and lived in the Alwar district of Rajasthan. She is now in the Upper Dir district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to meet her Pakistani friend Nasrulla. Nasrulla, who works in the

medical field, and Anju became friends on the social media platform Facebook a few months ago, ARY News reported.

An officer at Dir police station said Anju and her friend were initially in the police custody but were released after her documents were cleared by senior police officer Mushtaq Khab and Scouts Major.

Meanwhile, a team of Rajasthan police reached the home of Anju in Bhiwadi to enquire about her after the media reports.

Her husband Arvind told police that she left home Thursday

on the pretext of going to Jaipur, but the family later came to know that she was in Pakistan. "She left home saying she has to meet her friend. I talked to her on WhatsApp a few days ago and got to know that she was in Lahore," Arvind told police, adding that they married in 2007 and have been living together since then.

"Anju's husband said that she left home Thursday. She had a valid passport," Assistant Superintendent of Police Bhiwadi Sujit Shankar said.

He said that the family has not given any complaint regarding the matter. The couple works in private firms in Bhiwadi and has a 15-year-old girl and a six-year-old son.



Arvind told the media at his home that his wife told her sister that she was in Lahore and later he also spoke to her.

He said he will talk to her and will ask her to return, asserting that he was hopeful that she would return home.

He said her passport was issued in 2020 as she wanted to apply for a job abroad.

Arvind said he had no idea that she was in touch with anyone on social media.

A senior UP police official said Anju was born in Kailor village in Jalaun district located in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh but has nothing to do with the village. Kailor is located around 70 kilometres from the district headquarters in the Madhavgarh development block of Jalaun district.

Meanwhile, dismissing reports of any love angle, Nasrulla

said Anju will return to India August 20 when her visa expires.

There are striking similarities between the stories of Anju and Seema Ghulam Haider, a Pakistani mother of four, who sneaked into India to live with Sachin Meena, a Hindu man she got in touch with while playing PUBG in 2019.

However, unlike Seema who entered India without a visa via Nepal with her four children all aged below seven years, Anju has travelled to Pakistan legally from India via the Wagah-Attari border.

Seema, 30, and Sachin, 22, live in the Rabupura area of Greater Noida, near Delhi, where he runs a provision store, according to Uttar Pradesh Police.

leisure



SWIFT LAUGHS WHILE PERFORMING SONG ABOUT FORGIVING KANYE

Singer Taylor Swift couldn't help but laugh about her feud with Kanye West while performing a song about forgiving the rapper during Eras Tour. After singing the line, *Here's to you, cuz forgiveness is a nice thing to do*, the 33-year-old let out a hearty laugh as the crowd cheered along.

SELENA GOMEZ LEAVES RESTAURANT BAREFOOT

It is comfort over everything for singer-actress Selena Gomez as she chose to ditch the towering heels after an intimate dinner to celebrate her 31st birthday. She carried the shoes in her hands as she strolled to an awaiting vehicle outside.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will be inclined towards deep introspection. You will realise that it is important to understand your inner self. However, Ganesh says spontaneity is equally vital, and playing with children is a very good way to be spontaneous.

TAURUS

This is a great day for students and scholars, declares Ganesh. If you are pursuing higher studies or professional courses you will feel pleased and confident about the progress you are making. Do not, however, expect the atmosphere, or the arrangements to be the way you expect them to be.

GEMINI

You will attempt to be a part of your elders' or your friend's sorrows and try to lighten their burdens. Your kind and courteous nature, as well as your joviality will cheer them up. The later half of the day will be filled with entertainment and happiness.

CANCER

Ganesh counsels you to peruse thoughtfully before signing any document. As it is a day of financial loss, handle middlemen and agents deftly. New tempting offers are seen on the job front. So you may accept a new job.

LEO

You are destined to play the superhero, at least as far as trade and commerce are concerned. Ganesh feels that today, you shall be more tied up in your daily work than is usual. But the upshot of it all is that all your actions seem to get the desired approval as the day progresses.

VIRGO

Ganesh predicts an imaginative and fruitful day for you at the workplace. You will feel your professional best in the afternoon. With your elegance, you will manage to put your ideas across the table and win the approval of your boss. You may pamper your beloved lavishly later in the evening.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that you shall be attracted to the opposite sex today. Today during the afternoon, you will meet people who share the same ideas and thoughts as you do and you will be able to share your feelings with them. You will be interested in knowing new things on various topics. Your increased knowledge will likely lead you on to greater success.

SCORPIO

You take the adage 'slow and steady wins the race' as your life's mantra and act accordingly. It not only makes you stronger, but also takes you higher gradually. Home front too will be quite harmonious and peaceful as you enjoy the family unity.

SAGITTARIUS

It's raining money, literally as your bank accounts swell. When it comes to financial security, now, you are a happy man. However, Ganesh advises you to stay away from pessimistic people who may adversely affect your future.

CAPRICORN

You'll feel trapped and may feel as if everyone is trying to bog you down by hook or crook. Others may bully you and this may shatter your confidence. Do not worry though, as your luck is guarding you, assures Ganesh. Even if others are mean to you, their behaviour will not mar your health or image.

AQUARIUS

Pleasing your boss is more difficult than completing your assignments on time. But, to your surprise, your boss will give you a pat on your back for your efforts and sincerity. It is also a favourable day to begin anything new, be it in personal life or professional front.

PISCES

Other people will have high expectations from you. You will be required to co-operate with others and give your co-workers more of your time than is their due. However, your co-workers will also reciprocate in equal measure when the need arises. You will be determined to complete all your projects on time.

Vaani: Haven't taken shortcuts to shine

Mumbai: Actress Vaani Kapoor, who is known for films like *War*, *Befikre*, *Shuddh Desi Romance* and others, is all set to make her debut on OTT with *Mandala Murders* and has to tap into her knowledge bank as an actor.

The *Shamshera* actress said, "I was looking for something really clutter-breaking for my foray into OTT. I'm thrilled to be working with a mind like Gopi Puthran for *Mandala Murders*, a gritty crime thriller series that has pushed me to work my hardest in genre I've never attempted before."

Although the show has challenged the actor in her, she is taking it upon herself to rise above those challenges.

"I have always been an actor who has never taken any shortcuts to shine when it comes to my craft because I respect the art of filmmaking and the purity that one needs to have towards acting. *Mandala Murders* has truly pushed me as an actor to deliver a per-

formance that will hopefully be appreciated and loved. I had to tap into all the learnings that one had so far to deliver the vision that the makers had for my character and the project. I'm neck deep into the shooting of *Mandala Murders* currently and looking forward for the series to grip people's attention," she added.

Mandala Murders will soon drop on OTT.

'I've no horror stories from adult industry'

Mumbai: Before starting her journey in the entertainment industry in India, Sunny Leone had a flourishing career in the adult entertainment industry in the US. In a recent interview, the actor candidly discussed her experience in the adult film industry and emphasised her approach in maintaining control over every project she undertook.

Earlier, Mia Khalifa, who spent just three months in the adult entertainment industry before leaving in 2015, made a statement revealing that she made merely Rs 8.75 lakh from her projects while the producers continue to mint money from her videos.

In a conversation with a news portal, when Sunny was asked if she had a similar experience, she said, "No, not at all. I worked with the best people. I have no horror stories. I read through every contract and corrected every sin-

gle contract, so I was gaining something from it. I was in control of every single thing that I was doing. I saw it as a business. I saw it as a means to get to something else. It wasn't free for all in my world. Everybody's experiences are different, mine was totally different."

After more than a decade in the Hindi film industry, Sunny's hard work and dedication finally paid off when she landed a significant role in Anurag Kashyap's *Kennedy*. The

movie recently premiered at the esteemed 75th Cannes Film Festival, receiving widespread acclaim and a seven-minute standing ovation.

Hrithik turns director!

Mumbai: Hrithik Roshan has been in the Hindi film industry for more than two decades now and has cemented his standing with films like *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai*, *Dhoom 2*, *Jodha Akbar* and *War*. And now the buzz is that the actor has turned director, not for a film but for an advertising commercial.

As per a report, the good looking actor has gone behind the camera to shoot an ad for a premium menswear brand that he endorses.

The ad film also celebrates 25 years of Hrithik Roshan in the business.

In an interview with Mid-day.

Siddharth Anand, director of Hrithik's films like *Bang Bang*, *War* and *Fighter*, had said that Hrithik doesn't look at himself alone in a movie. He is a closet filmmaker but doesn't know it himself. Siddharth also said that he keeps telling him he should direct a film soon.

Hrithik will soon be seen in *Fighter* where he has teamed up with Siddharth Anand again after *War*. The film also stars Anil Kapoor and Deepika Padukone in the lead.

The film will be released in January next year. AGENCIES

Ameesha reveals the flipside of success

New Delhi: Actress Ameesha Patel made her debut with the blockbuster *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai* in 2000 and a year later she was seen in the mega blockbuster *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* in 2001, which she agrees was a game changer for her career but added that it had a flipside too.

With a runtime of two hours fifty minute film, *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* is the second most-watched Hindi film in India since the 1990s.

But all good things come with a price.

Ameesha said that the benchmark that *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* set was too high that the success of her other

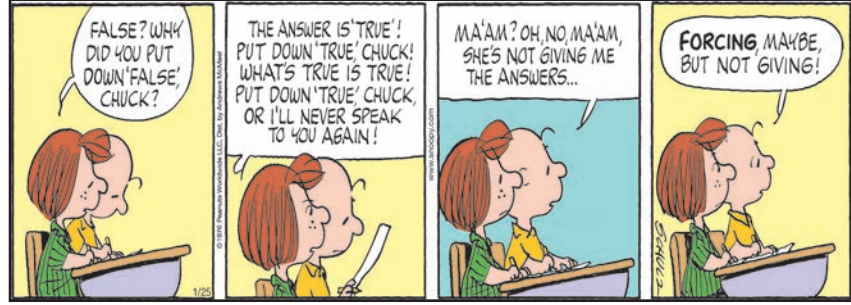
films paled in front of it. "Somehow the benchmark that *Gadar* set was so high that people's expectations I think from all of us not only me, but Sunny, Anil Sharma ji were at such a high level that all our other work failed in comparison to that or rather paled in comparison," the actress said.

"So people thought that was it. That was the flipside to seeing such a colossal monster of a success," added the *Humraaz* actress.

Gadar 2 is set in 1971, and Tara Singh returns to Lahore, Pakistan in the midst of an anti-India 'Crush India' campaign, to bring back his son Charanjeet.

The film will be released August 11.

PEANUTS



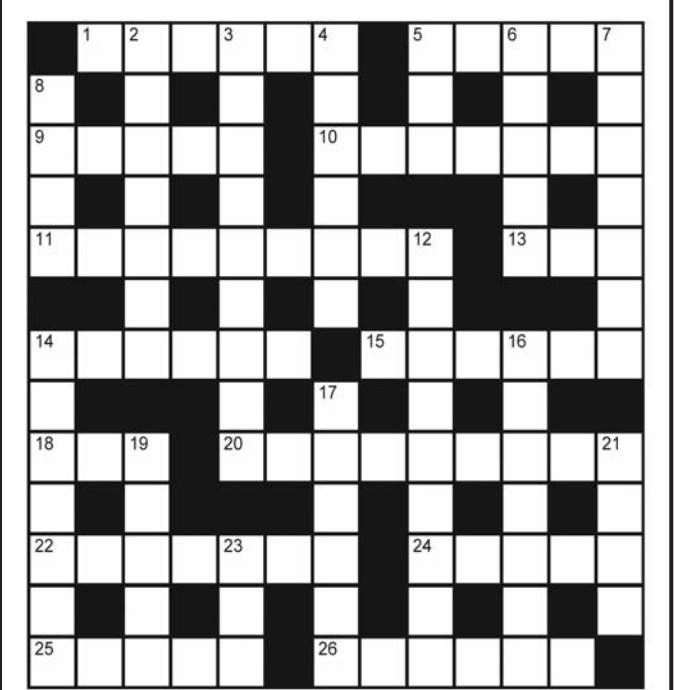
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



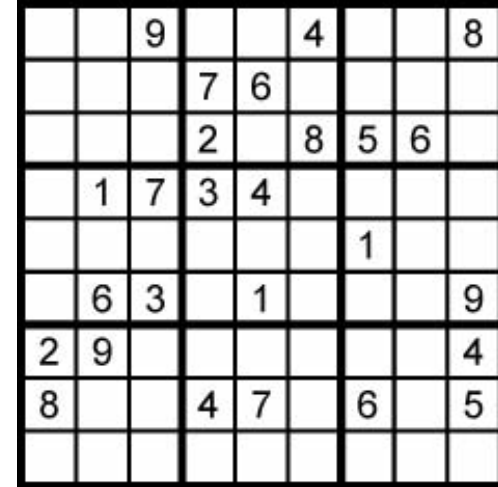
FUN post CROSSWORD



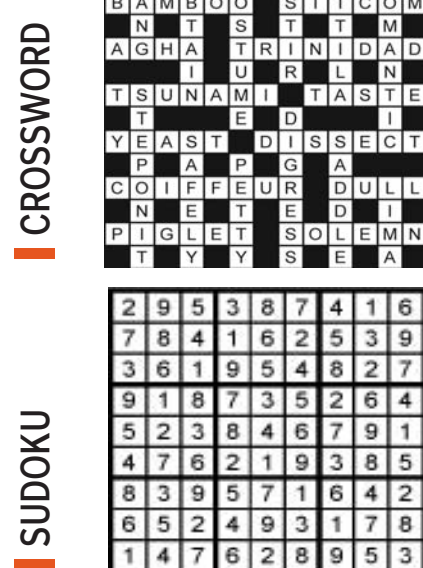
- Across**
- 1 Homes with domes
 - 5 Honkers
 - 9 Reserved
 - 10 Fencing cry (2,5)
 - 11 Theatre attraction (5,4)
 - 13 Swedish shag rug
 - 14 Drops by
 - 15 Unusual
 - 18 Séance sound
 - 20 Worm gatherer (5,4)
 - 22 Health profession
 - 24 Burger topper
 - 25 Greek Titan
 - 26 Cunning
 - Down**
 - 2 Furrows
 - 3 Lopsided (3-6)
 - 4 Sylphlike
 - 5 Harpoon
 - 6 Miscue
 - 7 Raise up
 - 8 Unguent
 - 12 Tonic symptom (5,4)
 - 14 Lanai, in Hawaii
 - 16 Tonic water
 - 17 Calamitous
 - 19 Jeopardy
 - 21 Musty
 - 23 Psyches

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SOULFUL MUSIC

A female singer performs at 'Barsha Utsav' organised by Bhubaneswar Sanskritika Parisad at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday



ONLINE PONZI SCAM

Look-out Circular issued against Chinese national

40-YEAR-OLD GUANHUA WANG IS A RESIDENT OF HANGZHOU CITY OF XIHU DISTRICT IN ZHENJIANG STATE OF CHINA



and Section 6 OPID Act. The case relates to the pan-India online Ponzi scam involving fraud and siphoning of hundreds of crores rupees out of India using a complex network of mule bank accounts, shell companies/firms and crypto-traders.

Bhubaneswar, Jul 24: The Bureau of Immigration (BOI) under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against Chinese national Guanhua Wang, one of the main accused in the mega online Ponzi scam.

Xihu district in Zhenjiang state of China.

In 2019, he formed a company 'Bettec Technologies Private Limited' at Bangalore's Dickenson Road.

EOW also claimed that he controls at least two other Bangalore-based companies through his mule directors 'Gamecamp Solutions Private Limited' and 'Byrontec Technologies Private Limited'.

Stating that Wang visited India 6 times between 2019 and 2020, the EOW said he is working/running this scam from China with the help of many India-based associates who look after the managing/arranging of mule bank accounts, shell companies/firm and crypto-traders, Whatsapp/Telegram group tutors/administrators, and also running advertisements using morphed photos of celebrities.

Initial investigations suggest siphoning of more than Rs 100 crore by his company using such methods. EOW has frozen around Rs 70 lakh from his company's account.

EOW has requested the FIU (Financial Intelligence Unit) to provide details of his other accounts.

In the last one year, EOW Odisha has found at least in 3 cases (including current case) of cyber-financial fraud by syndicates operated by Chinese nationals involving of crores of rupees.

LOC process starts for 2 more Chinese nationals

A top EOW official told **OrissaPOST** that the unit has started process for the issuance of lookout circulars against two more Chinese nationals in the multi-crore digital financial fraud case. The scammers used a similar modus operandi like Wang and opened bogus firms in Bangalore. Investigation so far has revealed that the bulk of money generated through the fraud was siphoned off to China using crypto currency. The Bureau of Immigration (BoI) has issued LOC against at least 11 fugitives wanted by EOW in various multi-crore financial frauds between 2022 and July 24, 2023.



FOOLPROOF SECURITY: Commissionerate Police conducts Carcade rehearsal ahead of President Draupadi Murmu's visit to the Millennium City, Monday

PRESIDENT'S VISIT: SECURITY BEEFED UP IN TWIN CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: The Commissionerate Police (CP) here has made elaborate security arrangements in view of President of India Droupadi Murmu's three-day state visit starting Tuesday. Speaking to mediapersons, DCP Prateek Singh Monday said the arrangements have been made as per the Blue Book protocols.

As many as three Quick Response Teams, two Special Tactical Units will be engaged for the security of President Murmu during her visit. This apart, CP has deployed 12 additional DCPs, 25 ACPs, 40 inspectors, 120 SIs and ASIs to supervise the security arrangements. Similarly, 160 traffic personnel and 150 home guards and Fire Services personnel will be deployed during the President's visit.

Singh said that arrangements have been completed for the deployment of police personnel for root lining, President's carcade, smooth traffic and parking in the city during the visit. 36 platoons of police force will be deployed for security arrangements in the city, he said.

The CP has made security arrangements at the programme venues in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar as per the protocols. The police Monday carried out a full carcade rehearsal from Biju Patnaik International Airport to Raj Bhawan and from Raj Bhawan to other programme venues.

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Silicon Valley to have Jagannath Temple



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: A delegation from Odisha Monday laid the foundation for a grand Jagannath temple in the Silicon Valley in the USA.

The delegation led by Electronics and IT Minister Tushar Kanti Behera is in the USA to join the Odia diaspora in their endeavour to strengthen the socio-economic and cultural ties between the USA and Odisha.

Development Commissioner Anu Garg, 5T Secretary VK Pandian, IT Secretary Manoj Mishra attended the program.

On an invitation, the officials visited the Jagannath Temple in Silicon Valley and offered prayers. Later, the delegation went to a new site where the foundation was laid for a grand Sri Jagannath Temple Complex and Cultural Centre on sprawling 9-acres of land.

To mark the occasion, the Minister and senior officers planted trees in the new site. The complex and the cultural centre will help the Odia diaspora connect stronger with Odisha.

Opposition slams govt over OSSC question paper leak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: Opposition BJP and Congress Monday slammed the state government over the OSSC question paper leak issue and demanded proper investigation to bring to book all involved in the racket.

The Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) had conducted the main written examination for recruitment of 1,008 JE (civil) Group-B posts in different offices of the government of Odisha July 16, 2023.

However, the examination was cancelled following the leak of the question paper and the OSSC decided to conduct a fresh exam September 3.

BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal asked how the question paper was leaked to the middlemen of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. "Did present OSSC chairman Abhay, who is a former DGP, not know the modus operandi to be followed when such a complaint was received," he further asked.

Questioning the role of the state government in the case, the BJP leader demanded an SIT probe and said OSSC officials involved in the scam be brought



ASPIRANTS STAGE PROTEST AT OSSC OFFICE

under the ambit of probe.

Speaking in a similar vein, state Congress president Sarat Pattanayak wondered how the question paper was leaked when the BJD government made tall claims about 5T and transparency.

"There is 5T but no transparency in the government. Someone from the OSSC must be involved there. Otherwise, how did the question papers get leaked," he asked.

Reacting on this issue, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said many such scams have been reported in BJD ruled states, but no action has been taken. "They are now politicising the issue when nine persons have already been arrested on the basis of the enquiry report of the gov-

ernment's agency," he said.

Meanwhile, irate JE (civil) job aspirants staged a protest before the OSSC office here and demanded strong action against all those, including officials, involved in the scam.

"We first waited for nearly a year for the examination. Now, after completion of the prelims examination, the question paper of the main exam was leaked. The exam got cancelled and a fresh date was announced. Who will ensure the question paper will not be leaked before the next examination date," asked a protestor.

The prelims exam for the post was held in June this year and over 5,000 students qualified for the main written test which was conducted July 16, he said.

The aspirants alleged that the question paper could not have been leaked without the involvement of OSSC officials. Therefore, all should be brought under the purview of investigation, they demanded.

The names of the students, who got the question paper prior to the exam, should be published and they should be banned from appearing the examination for three-four years, they demanded.

HC bench delivers 75 judgments in one day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, July 24: In a record of sorts, a division bench of the Orissa High Court (HC) Monday delivered 75 judgments in criminal appeal matters, mostly related to murder cases.

The feat was achieved two days before the court celebrates 75 years of establishment.

The bench comprising Justices Debabrata Dash and Sanjeev Kumar Panigrahi started functioning from 10.30 am through a hybrid arrangement in which the parties appeared both in virtual as well as physical mode.

By the evening, verdict of all the listed 75 cases were delivered, and the packed courtroom broke into thunderous applause.

The appeals were filed through State Legal Services Authority (SLSA).

"In my 32 years of practice in Orissa High Court, I had never seen judgments being delivered in such a large number of criminal cases on a single day. A record was created today and this rare feat will make the 75th anniversary celebrations of the High Court memorable," said advocate B K Ragad, who appeared in two cases during the



day.

The high court was established on July 26, 1948 with only four judges, including Chief Justice Bira Kishore Ray. The then Chief Justice of the Federal Court of India, H J Kania had inaugurated it. The strength of the Bench has since been increased to 28 in the last 75 years.

The appeals that were cleared on Monday were pending for several years.

In most cases, the court confirmed the sentences awarded by lower courts and in several other matters, death sentences were commuted.

The bench, in several cases, raised concern over the standard of investigation by the police and the faulty presentation of the case by the prosecution.

In one case holding a death to be homicidal, the convicts were set free because of incompetency on the part of investigating police officers.

CYBER CRIME

End Harassment, HRAO urges Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: The Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) has sought intervention of the state government in putting an end to the alleged harassment caused to hoteliers and tourists during investigation of cyber offences.

In a letter to Chief Secretary, Lifetime Chairman, HRAO JK Mohanty said cyber criminals are creating false websites in the name of various hotels and collecting money by confirming rooms without the knowledge of the real hotel management. "Tourists travelling to Odisha are being cheated by these false websites and when they arrive at the hotel, to their utter disappointment, they find there is no booking and, hence, they get very upset at the hotel management," he said.

However, when the tourists bring these incidents to the notice of the State / District Administration, suddenly an enquiry is conducted and local police get involved asking various records from the management of the hotels. "This is a two-way harassment," Mohanty said, while seeking a communication from the Chief Secretary to relevant authorities in order to bring an end to the ordeal.

He has also urged the state government to launch an awareness campaign to stop such fraudulent activities by cyber criminals.

CLIMATE CHANGE MAY BE CHANGING COLOUR OF OCEANS

Climate change has likely changed the colour of the Earth's oceans significantly over the past two decades, according to a study.

The research, published recently in the journal 'Nature', detected changes in ocean colour over the past 20 years that cannot be explained by natural, year-to-year variability alone.

These colour shifts, though subtle to the human eye, have occurred over 56 per cent of the world's oceans - an expanse that is larger than the total land area on Earth, the researchers said.

The team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, the National Oceanography Center in the UK and others found that tropical ocean regions near the equator have, in particular, be-

come steadily greener over time. According to the researchers, the shift in ocean colour indicates that ecosystems within the surface ocean must also be changing, as the colour of the ocean is a literal reflection of the organisms and materials in its waters.

It is not certain how exactly marine ecosystems are changing to reflect the shifting colour, the researchers said, adding, however, human-induced climate change is likely the driver.

"I have been running simulations that have been telling me for years that these changes in ocean colour are going to happen," said study co-author Stephanie Dutkiewicz, senior research scientist in MIT.

"To actually see it happening for real is not surprising, but frightening. And these changes



are consistent with man-induced changes to our climate," Dutkiewicz said.

The ocean's colour is a visual product of whatever lies within its upper layers. Generally, wa-

ters that are deep blue reflect very little life, whereas greener waters indicate the presence of ecosystems, and mainly phytoplankton - plant-like microbes that are abundant in upper ocean and that contain the green pigment chlorophyll. The team analysed measurements of ocean colour taken by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)

aboard the Aqua satellite, which has been monitoring ocean colour for 21 years. MODIS takes measurements in seven visible wavelengths, including the two colours researchers traditionally use to estimate chlorophyll.

The researchers carried out a statistical analysis using all seven ocean colours measured by the satellite from 2002 to 2022 together.

They first looked at how much the seven colours changed from region to region during a given year, which gave them an idea of their natural variations.

The team then zoomed out to see how these annual variations in ocean colour changed over a longer stretch of two decades. This analysis turned up a clear trend, above the normal year-to-year variability. P11

Heavy rains till Wednesday: IMD

DUE TO LOW PRESSURE AND SUBSEQUENT DEPRESSION SQUALLY WEATHER WITH GUSTY SURFACE WIND SPEED REACHING 45 TO 55 KMPH IS TO BE EXPERIENCED ALONG AND OFF ODISHA COAST BETWEEN JULY 25 AND 27

Bhubaneswar, July 24: With the formation of a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal, which is likely to intensify into a low pressure and subsequently get the shape of a depression, the IMD Monday forecast intense rainfall for two days from Tuesday. The cyclonic circulation lays over the Bay of Bengal off the coast of south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh. "Under its influence, a Low-Pressure Area is likely to form over the same region.... The system is likely to concentrate into a depression around July 26," the IMD said in its evening bulletin. The IMD bulletin said heavy rainfall (7 to 11 cm) is likely to occur in Malkangiri, Koraput, Nawarangapur, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam till Tuesday morning with light to moderate rain or thundershower at most places in the south interior Odisha. The IMD has also issued an Orange warning (Be Prepared) for the next two days. It said that on July 25, heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) may occur at



isolated places in Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada districts. It issued a Yellow warning (Be updated) of heavy rainfall in Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Bolangir, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Mayurbhanj districts. Light to moderate rain or thundershower is also a possibility at most places in south and coastal Odisha and at many places in other parts of the state, the IMD said. July 26, heavy to very heavy rainfall may occur at isolated places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapad and Balangir.

There is also a forecast for heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) at one or two places in Rayagada, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Boudh, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Sonepur, and Bargarh. Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at most places in the state on this day. Due to low pressure and subsequent depression along with strong monsoon flow, squally weather with gusty surface wind speed reaching 45 to 55 kmph is to be experienced along and off Odisha coast between July 25 and 27. The weather office also asked fishermen not to venture into the sea during this period. The IMD warned of water logging in low-lying areas, poor visibility during intense spells of rain and traffic congestion in urban areas and the possibility of wall collapse of vulnerable kutcha houses. It also said that there is a possibility of landslides in vulnerable hilly areas of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts.



ANNIV DAY: Distinguished guests including Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Mora Bhupal Reddy on stage during the 164th Income-Tax Day celebrations at Income Tax office in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Webinar organised by Thinkers' Club

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP
Cuttack, July 24: The Thinkers' Club of the Twin City organised its 78th webinar over the 'Zoom Platform' Sunday. Eminent Literati Baishab Charan Samal presided over the meet. Barada Prasanna Das, the President of the Club coordinated the different aspects of the meet. In the meet, the participants demanded that the Idga ground near the shelter square be declared as the "Matru Puja

Mandap" and due respect be given to this historic memorial place and the selfless services of Kulabrudha Madhusudhan and his allies. Samal said, "This will be a right tribute to the unity and pride of the Odias in the millennium city. Samal expressed his unhappiness over the negligence of the administration in neglecting this holy land. He advised the President of the Club, to immediately send representations to the department of Culture, Chief Minister, the sec-

retaries of the 5T and other concerned departments. Bayamanu Charchi, joined the meet as chief speaker. He spoke elaborately about the inception of the "Utkal Sammilani", creation of separate state of Odisha, the problems of the people of Odisha in the isolated places and on the conspiracy of the neighboring states to grab some portions of the state. Jagannath Mohanty, the organiser of the "Madhu Surakhya Mancha" said, negligence in this

respect can't be tolerated and immediate steps need to be taken. Barada Prasanna Das, the President of the Club assured to the participants that, immediate steps will be taken to send memorandum and related steps. Rajat Satapathy, Professor Umansankar Misra, Monica Das, Bishop DB Hrudaya, Engr Siris Sahoo, Natyacharya Chitaranjan Satapathy, Advocate Soumyajit Pani, Binode Mohanty and Sudhakar Patri participated in the discussion.

CARE Hosp holds camp for kids with heart defects

Bhubaneswar, July 24: CARE Hospitals Bhubaneswar organised a specialised pediatric cardiac camp for children with congenital heart diseases at SONOSCAN, Balasore. The program was addressed by senior pediatric cardiologist Prashant Prakash Rao Patil from CARE Hospitals Bhubaneswar. It's a first-of-its-kind program organised for the children with heart defects in Eastern Odisha. Speaking on this occasion, Hospitals' Chief Operating Officer Kishlay Anand said that pediatric cardiac care in Odisha has grown



from the infancy stage to childhood. In delivering pediatric cardiac specialty, CARE Hospitals has taken the first step towards being making the state self-sufficient. With CARE being the household name for cardiac procedures in Odisha, we are aiming at establishing the same credibility for pediatric cardiac procedures. Over the next few months we will be also introducing pediatric cardiac surgery to deal with complex cases for children with heart defects. Patil said that pediatric cardiology is outgrown from the shadows of adult cardiology and cardiac surgery departments in India. It promises to be an at-

tractive and sought-after subspecialty of pediatrics, dealing with not only congenital cardiac diseases but also metabolic, rheumatic and host of other cardiac diseases. Lokanath Dash (AVP - BD) spoke about the importance of government health schemes like BSKY which has enabled patients from economically vulnerable families to avail high quality healthcare services. Amitabh Giri leading Sonologist of Balasore and neighbouring districts spoke about the rising importance and early diagnosis of heart defects in children.

Majority of youngsters seen hitting the clubs and bars in the areas of Patia, Chandrasekharpur and Infocity are increasing the demand for raising the deadline after 12am. "It surprises me to see the nightlife of a few youngsters in Bhubaneswar is pretty good. They come for clubbing after 12am and it amazes me how the clubs close their shutters and keep the young inside with booze and food", said Dev, a customer. Dev, a resident of Bhubaneswar and who are friends with the owner of a club confided that the club is employing young girls to gel with the crowd and attract customers. "It is a regular thing now; the employed girls are paid to vibrate with the customers and food and drinks are free for them", he added. "The excise department has allowed us an extra two hour window for any two days in a week", said Prashant Pradhan,

Youngsters seek extension of time limit for nightclubs

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP
Bhubaneswar, July 24: Various nightclubs in the Capital are striving to lure in more customers late at night and keep the vibe alive by employing young girls. In multiple attempts to ensure 'safe drive' launched by Commissionerate Police, the raids have controlled the late night crowd in clubs to some extent now. Majority of youngsters seen hitting the clubs and bars in the areas of Patia, Chandrasekharpur and Infocity are increasing the demand for raising the deadline after 12am. "It surprises me to see the nightlife of a few youngsters in Bhubaneswar is pretty good. They come for clubbing after 12am and it amazes me how the clubs close their shutters and keep the young inside with booze and food", said Dev, a customer. Dev, a resident of Bhubaneswar and who are friends with the owner of a club confided that the club is employing young girls to gel with the crowd and attract customers. "It is a regular thing now; the employed girls are paid to vibrate with the customers and food and drinks are free for them", he added. "The excise department has allowed us an extra two hour window for any two days in a week", said Prashant Pradhan,



official Rain The Club which is a dance bar. "On other days in the week we pull down the shutter by 12 and the timing has never been an issue for us. I believe all the nightclubs should obey guidelines that are set by the department of excise. That is how we can ensure safety of everybody in the city and leisure intact", he added. Although the officials are striving to ensure safety for the public, the young working mass is of the opinion that unlike other cities, clubs in Bhubaneswar shut earlier than usual. "Working in an IT sector and doing the regular 9am to 9pm job, doesn't leave a little patience left to relax. Hence we are in dire need of nightlife in

the city. The safe city drive is equally important to ensure safety and for that I think the people who drink on roadsides and in open spaces should be taken into custody," said Abhiram, an IT professional. Excise Department inspector in charge Bikash Nayak addressing the issue said, "The department and the commissionerate of police has permitted a time window of 12-12 and the clubs are allowed to open for another one and half hour post 12 only if they have deposited Rs 5,000 and taken permission from the government. With the receipt, they are flexible to open till 1:30am and another 10 minutes will be permitted to complete the clearance procedures."

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rupa Agrawal, D/o. Gopal Ram Tibrewal, Bhatli Chhaka, Saraswati Bihar, Bargarh declare that in my Passport (No. L6177148) my name wrongly mentioned as Rupa Devi Agrawal instead of Rupadevi Agrawal, Birth date mentioned as 11.01.1979 instead of 11.11.1979, address mentioned as Saraswati Bihar, Bhatli Chowk instead of Bhatli Chhaka, Saraswati Bihar.

I Amar Kumar Agrawal, D/o. Kishan Lal Agrawal, Bhatli Chhaka, Saraswati Bihar, Bargarh declare that in my Passport (No. J3705084) my name wrongly mentioned as Amar Kumar Agrwal instead of Amar Kumar Agrawal, D.O.B. mentioned as 30.10.1978 instead of 30.10.1981, address mentioned as Saraswati Bihar, Bhatli Road instead of Saraswati Bihar, Bhatli Chhaka.

We Sri Saumendra Chhualsingh & Sagarika Chhualsingh and our 2nd Female Child's Birth Certificate record as Sini and her School Certificate her correct name & Subha Priya Chhualsingh, vide Certificate No.-9921/2010 dtd. 24.06.2010, She known as Subha Priya Chhualsingh.

Transforming women through skill edu our goal: Chowdhury

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP
Bhubaneswar, July 24: To foster skill development and empower women in various sectors, FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), Bhubaneswar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rama Devi Women's University Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Aparajita Chowdhury said, "The MoU with FLO is a major step towards our goal of transformation of women through skill education. We are committed to providing opportunities for all

our students to acquire skills and find career opportunities." FLO Chairperson Poonam Mohapatra said, "We are delighted to partner with Rama Devi Women's University in this transformative initiative. Empowering women with specialised knowledge and skills is essential in today's world, and through this collaboration, we aim to equip them to excel in their chosen fields and become future leaders." FLO, Bhubaneswar, is the local chapter of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Rama Devi Women's University, as a leading women's university, strives to provide its students with comprehensive educational opportunities and enhance their employability. One of the primary objectives of FLO is to instil an entrepreneurial mindset among the young girls. To do so, FLO will equip the students with knowledge and expertise in diverse sectors, including beauty, wellness, bakery, agriculture, technology, branding and marketing skills along with mental and physical health awareness.

Eating planet-friendly foods can cut death risk by 25%

Eating more planet-friendly foods could help you live a longer, healthier life as well as reduce the risk of death by about a quarter, according to new research that called for a more environmentally sustainable diet. The study builds upon prior research that identified foods that are a win-win for both health and the environment -- such as whole grains, fruit, non-starchy vegetables, nuts, and unsaturated oils -- as well as foods that could be harmful to the environment and human health, like eggs and red and processed meats. The new findings suggest eating more planet-friendly foods can help reduce a person's risk of death from causes such as cancer, heart disease, respira-

tory diseases, and neurodegenerative diseases and also reduce impacts to the environment in terms of factors like water use, land use, nutrient pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. "We proposed a new diet score that incorporates the best current scientific evidence of food effects on both health and the environment," said Linh Bui, doctoral candidate in the department of Nutrition at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. "The results confirmed our hypothesis that a higher Planetary Health Diet score was associated with a lower risk of mortality," Bui added. With the new study, the researchers aimed to create a simple tool that policymakers and public health practitioners could use to develop strategies to im-



prove public health and address the climate crisis. "As a millennial, I have always been concerned about mitigating human impacts on the environment," said Bui. "A sustainable dietary pattern should not only be healthy but

also consistent within planetary boundaries for greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental parameters." To create their Planetary Health Diet Index (PHDI), researchers reviewed existing research on the relationships be-

The new findings suggest eating more planet-friendly foods can help reduce a person's risk of death from causes such as cancer, heart disease, respiratory diseases, and neurodegenerative diseases. With the new study, the researchers aimed to create a simple tool that policymakers and public health practitioners could use to develop strategies to improve public health. The data set included over 47,000 deaths during a follow-up period spanning over three decades from 1986-2018. Overall, they found that people in the highest quintile (the top one-fifth of participants) for PHDI had a 25 per cent lower risk of death from any cause

compared to those in the lowest quintile. Higher PHDI scores were associated with a 15 per cent lower risk of death from cancer or cardiovascular diseases, a 20 per cent lower risk of death from neurodegenerative disease, and a 50 per cent lower risk of death from respiratory diseases. However, Bui cautioned that the PHDI does not necessarily reflect all food items and their relationships with all major diseases in all countries, as it may vary with specific health conditions, religious restrictions, or food accessibility. The findings were presented at the ongoing NUTRITION 2023, the flagship annual meeting of the American Society for Nutrition held from July 22-25 in Boston, US.

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EQUIPMENT SHIFTED

Fate of cardiac care hosp pushed into uncertainty



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 24: Construction of a super specialty cardiac care hospital in Jharsuguda district has been pushed into uncertainty with shifting of the equipment installed in the hospital to other hospitals, a report said Monday.

The proposed super specialty cardiac care hospital was envisaged by former state health minister late Naba Kishore Das as part of an objective to provide quality healthcare services to Jharsuguda residents. The process for establishment of the super specialty hospital in Jharsuguda took off and private firms were roped in to run the hospital.

Notably, construction of the hospital was taken up near the district headquarters hospital in 2018 at a plan outlay of ₹78 crore. The deadline for completion of the project was 2020 but work got completed by March 2022. A high level team of the department of Health & Family Welfare visited the under-construction hospital building and assured that the new hospital will be dedicated for public use soon.

Various private companies expressed their interest and

The proposed super specialty cardiac care hospital was initiated by former state health minister late Naba Kishore Das

Hear patients from Jharsuguda district are dependent on VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla for treatment

came forward to run the hospital. The state government in assistance with the private company purchased various equipment and apparatus for delivery of healthcare services in the hospital. However, the private companies withdrew from the project after the hospital was not made operational.

The project has been pushed into uncertainty after equipment installed in the hospital building were seen being shifted to other hospitals. This has sparked resentment and anger among the residents as they stare at abrupt closure of the hospital even before it becomes operational.

Sources said heart patients from Jharsuguda district are dependent on VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) for treatment. Realising that heart patients need emergency and immedi-

ate treatment, efforts were launched for establishment of the cardiac care hospital in Jharsuguda.

As a result, over 100 equipment, big and small, were purchased for installation in the proposed hospital. It is alleged that supplying firms have taken back the equipment and machines as the state government did not clear their bill.

Locals also alleged costly machinery and equipment installed in the building have been shifted to VIMSAR, Burla and Rourkela. The vacant hospital building now stands as a mute testimony of the healthcare project that never saw light of the day.

The happiness and sheen that had gripped the district's residents following the announcement of the cardiac care hospital is no more visible and the initial euphoria over establishment of the hospital has started dying down.

When contacted, CDMO Dolamani Patel said that the hospital building was constructed and equipment purchased to run the hospital. However, the hospital failed to become operational as the agency receiving the contract failed to start work.

A new tender has been floated and nine companies are participating in the bid. The selection of the agency is being done at secretary level and the equipment have been shifted to other hospitals as they might develop snags for lying unused for a long time.

The selected agency will take up the management of the hospital and the state government will install new equipment. He assured that the hospital will start soon and patients will get healthcare services from the new hospital.



AWARENESS DRIVE: NDRF personnel performed a mock drill on disaster preparedness as part of community awareness programme at KGMN High School at Mahulpali under Jujumura block in Sambalpur district in association with the district administration, Monday

Maoist's body recovered; arms, Red articles seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 24: Body of a Maoist along with a huge cache of Red items was recovered during the two-day combing operation conducted by security forces in Bijapur district of Chhatisgarh along the border of Malkangiri district Monday.

As per reports, an exchange of fire occurred between the Maoists and the security forces inside Potenar forest under Bheramgarh police limits in Bijapur district, Saturday. No security personnel was injured in the crossfire but later during the combing operation, the body of an unknown Maoist cadre



along with a cache of arms, ammunitions and Mao articles were seized.

A rifle, six rounds of unused bullets, cordtex wire, gelatin sticks, fuse wire, Maoist uniforms, articles and other items were seized from the spot. After returning from the combing operation, the jawans said that

there might be three to four casualties as they noticed blood and marks of bodies being dragged on the forest ground.

However, Bastar IG Sundarraj P informed that the body of the Maoist recovered during combing operation has not yet been identified. Investigation to get the details is underway, he added.

Hirakud dam opens three more gates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 24: With opening of three more gates, the Hirakud dam authorities in Sambalpur district continued to release flood water for the second day Monday in order to control the rising water level in the reservoir owing to heavy downpour in the upper catchment area. This year's first flood water was released through five sluice gates, Sunday.

The flood water is being released through two floodgates on the right spillway of the dam and six on the left. The dam has been releasing 1,17,126 cusecs of water into the Mahanadi river to manage an inflow of 93,061 cusecs of water. Currently, the water level in the reservoir stands at 614.49 feet.

IGH conducts critical surgery successfully



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 24: The doctors of Ispat General Hospital (IGH) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant have carried out a critical orthopaedic surgery. The medical intervention proved to be a game changer for the patient from Jharsuguda. The patient was brought in an unconscious state to the hospital after he met a serious accident that resulted in multiple fractures in the tibia, femur, and intertrochanteric region of his right leg.

As soon as the patient arrived he was promptly admitted to the ICU for immediate medical attention. The medical team performed the operation under the guidance of Dr LK Biswal, CMO (Medical & Health Services), and Dr SK Tiwari, ACMO.

Over the course of the next ten days, the patient underwent four

The patient was brought to the hospital after he met a serious accident that resulted in multiple fractures in the tibia, femur, and intertrochanteric region of his right leg

major surgeries and received six units of blood transfusion. The collective efforts and expertise of the medical team allowed them to skillfully reconstruct and mend the fractured bones, leading to a successful surgery and effective post-operative care, which significantly aided the patient's recovery. The patient showed remarkable progress ultimately leading to his discharge Saturday.

Teacher awaits job regularisation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 24: A teacher engaged on temporary basis at a government high school under Tihidi block in Bhadrak district for the last two decades is at his wit's end due to alleged negligence of the state Education department.

The teacher identified as Jadumani Panigrahi is posted on ad-hoc basis at PSS Government High School in Chandrakatabindha village under Tihidi block of Bhadrak district. Apart from teaching, he is also a known writer and

contributes to various Odia dailies as a columnist. Panigrahi has been selflessly imparting education to the students since the year 2003. He started with the job at a meager salary of ₹1,000 which has been enhanced to ₹3,000 by the state government in the last phase.

However, in view of the increasing prices of commodities, he is finding it difficult to manage his family of four members with the scant salary.

Meanwhile, he has been left impaired and unable to move comfortably due to an accident.

At a time when the state government has launched efforts for regularisation of all the contractual and ad-hoc employees, the case of Panigrahi has been pushed to backburner. Locals have demanded that the case of Panigrahi may be considered on humanitarian ground.

Panigrahi had been duly appointed by the Parents - Teachers Association (PTA) in the year 2003. He has fulfilled all the requisite educational qualification that is B.A, Bed. before his appointment in the said post.

Dacoit gang busted

Rourkela: Sundargarh Police has arrested five persons, who belong to an inter-district gang of dacoits, in connection with a series of burglaries. As per sources, the modus operandi of the gang was very different as they were only targeting schools, panchayat offices and Anganwadi centres. The arrested dacoits were identified as Padman Patra (38) of Sambalpur, Sanjay alias Karan Kumar (45), Chitrasen Magar (37), Swarup alias Kanha Keshari (37), all belonging to Badgaon and Dushmanta Swain of Kujanga area in Jagatsinghpur. Police recovered electrical cutting machines, three 65-inch smart television sets, 16 inverter batteries, three fans, seven gas cylinders, seven wall-mounted fans, four inverters, two printers, one refrigerator, 26 solar panels, some electrical equipment and three bikes. Special teams led by the SDPO could establish similarities in all the burglary cases.

3 wild bears enter into school in Nabarangpur

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 24: Three wild bears entered into a government-run high school in Nabarangpur district Monday morning after which the education facility was closed down for a day, an official said.

The students and teachers of Sadashiv High School at Dahana under Nandahandi block of the district spotted the three wild bears roaming inside the campus and informed the authorities.

Later, local forest officials reached the school and monitored

the movement of the wild bears. "One female and two cubs have entered into the old building of the high school. We have deployed forest officials there to send the bears back to the forest in the evening," said Dhanurjay Mohapatra, assistant conservator of forests (ACF), Nabarangpur.

For the safety of the students, the school authority has closed down the school for the day, he informed.

The school is close to a forest patch, which is home to wild bears. The forest officials suspect that the bears might have come from the forest area.

NITR registers record placement

24 STUDENTS SECURE A PACKAGE OF MORE THAN ₹50 LPA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 24: With three international placements, the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela (NIT Rourkela) has registered the highest-ever number of jobs offered during campus placements for the academic year 2022-23.

More than 330 companies visited the campus and made a total of 1,534 job offers. This resulted in the placement of more than 95 per cent of students from the flagship B. Tech program. In the branches like Electrical, Electronics and Instrumentation and Ceramic Engineering as well as dual degree in Mining and Ceramic



Engineering recorded 100 per cent placement of registered students.

In the process, 24 students secured a package of more than ₹50 LPA. Among them eight bagged the highest package of ₹52.89 LPA. There is also a significant surge in offers across diverse sectors reaching unprecedented levels. The average (overall) CTC jumped from ₹11.15 LPA in

2021-2022 to ₹12.95 LPA in 2022-2023 achieving an increase of more than 16 per cent. The average CTC of B. Tech for this year is ₹14.22 LPA.

Speaking about the placements, Director Prof. K Umamaheshwar Rao said, "I congratulate the students, faculty, and the Career Development Centre of NIT Rourkela for their efforts in achieving a successful placement season. NIT Rourkela's successful 2022-23 placement season is a testament to the bright talent our institute fosters. A good placement/internship rate reflects the quality of education and the skills developed by the students over the period in NIT Rourkela."

Govt. OF ODISHA
"e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. S.E. PKL(R&B)- 11 /2023-24
E-mail address- eepwd.pkl@rediffmail.com

No.B-530: Tender Call Notice

- Name of the work : Building works
- Numbers of work : 2 (Two Nos.)
- Estimated cost : Rs. 32.00 Lakh & Rs. 42.00 Lakh (Approx)
- Period of completion : 3 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 A.M. of dt.25.07.2023 to 05.00 P.M. of dt.04.08.2023
- Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 05.00 P.M. of dt.04.08.2023
- Date of opening of Bid : 11.30 A.M. of dt.05.08.2023
- Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Panikoiil (R&B) Division, Panikoiil

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Panikoiil (R&B) Division
OIPR-34067/11/0015/2324

GOVT. OF ODISHA No. O-438
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PATNAGARH
E-mail: eerrw_ptng@yahoo.in, Phone No.: 06658-222121

e-Procurement Notice
IFB IDENTIFICATION No. EEPTNG-Online-02/2023-24

1. Name of Work	Repair & Renovation of Building work for 2023-24		
2. Total No. of Work	2 (Two) Building Works		
3. Time for Completion	02 (Two) Calendar Months		
4. Approximate Estimated Cost	15.06 lakhs to 21.73 lakhs		
5. Mode of Submission of Tender	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in .		
6. Other details are as follow			

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn., Patnagarh	EEPTNG-Online-02/2023-24	27.07.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	11.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	10.08.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.	14.08.2023 at 10.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R.W. Division, Patnagarh
OIPR-25154/11/0002/2324

UCO BANK Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **UCO Bank, Khurda Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **UCO Bank, Khurda Branch** for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

Name and Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Sanjay Kumar Hota, 2) Mr. Hari Krishna Hota / Guarantors: 1) Mrs. Sailabala Hota, 2) Mr. Anjaya Kumar Hota, All are At: Chintamani Nagar, P.O/P.S.: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha.	₹ 7,92,342/- as on 31.08.2014 + further interest & other charges thereon	24.02.2015 / 21.07.2023	All that part and parcel of immovable property standing in the name of Mr. Sanjay Kumar Hota & Mr. Anjaya Kumar Hota , Mouza: Chhanaghara, SRO: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 1272/39, Plot No.: 2931/3278, Area: Ac.0.068Dec., Bounded by North: Road, East:

Pond Embankment, South: Road, West: Govt. Land.
Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 24.07.2023
Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

FOCUS JUDICIARY

WAIT FOR JUSTICE



One of the pernicious effects of pendency is on those who are in prison and are called 'undertrials'. These are all technically innocent people since they have not been proven guilty

During 2023, India became the country with the highest population in the world and will probably remain so for the next century and beyond, unless it breaks up into smaller nations. India having survived in one piece, despite its incredible diversity on every dimension, be it language, religion, cuisine, race, ethnicity, culture, and creed, is itself a miracle of the modern world. The Soviet Union broke up into 10 countries. Canada almost broke up in the 1960s due to the two-language diversity, French and English. Our own twin born on the same day, split into two. So, India's survival and progress as a unified nation state for 75 years is a major reason to celebrate. Should we also celebrate the fact that we are also the most populous nation? That is a double-edged sword. For a nation's development the most crucial resource is human capital. But the same demographic dividend can become a disaster if no investment is done in enhancing human capital and there are no productive opportunities for the young. This is the economic challenge. India's economy also crossed the \$3 trillion mark four years ago. It has been among the fastest growing major economies, and hence racing ahead. In 2023 it pipped the UK to become the fifth largest economy, and is expected to reach rank 3 in coming years, as boldly asserted by our Prime Minister in his speech before the US Congress last month. The fast growth will soon lead us to the major milestone of \$5 trillion. But there is another milestone that we crossed last month, of which we cannot feel proud. India now has more than 5 crore pending cases across all courts. Thanks to digitalisation, we can see a running ticker on the e-courts website. As on July 23, the pendency was 6.06 million cases in High Courts and 44.3 million cases in District and Taluka

courts. Three years ago, in a speech at NALSAR University, the Chief Justice said that total pending cases was 32.45 million. That implies a growth of nearly 18% every year. The economy is growing at 6%, the population at 0.8%, but the backlog of cases is growing at 18%. The aggregate caseload data can be broken up into how many cases are pending for less than one year, how many between 1 to 3 years and so on. A whopping 25% of all cases are pending for more than five years. As per a 2018 report from the PRS Legislative Research, one fourth of all cases with HCs were pending for more than 10 years. That aggregate number is more than one million. Allahabad HC had the highest pendency of more than 7 lakh cases. There is now detailed and extensive data in digital form with the National Judicial Data Grid. So, one can slice and dice the data and gain many such insights. There is delay in processing both civil and criminal cases. In the lower judiciary between 70 to 80% of pending cases are criminal ones, but the ratio becomes reverse in the HCs. One of the pernicious effects of pendency is on those who are in prison and are called 'under-

trials'. These are all technically innocent people since they have not been proven guilty. Nearly 4 of the 5 lakh people who are thus incarcerated are undertrials, i.e. held without a conviction. Their liberty has been denied since the judicial system is unable to process their cases. In an even more bizarre twist, there are people who have been in prison for a duration longer than the time they would have to serve had they been convicted as guilty. These are extreme examples and a blot on our democracy. But even the large pendency of all others is a black mark. Justice delayed is justice denied. The average time taken to dispose cases in India is 30 months as compared to 6 months in the European Union, as per the Economic Survey of 2019, published by the Union Finance Ministry. India's ease of doing business record is tarnished because of the shoddy speed of dispute resolution. So, what are the reasons for the increasing backlog? The first reason is the inadequate number of judicial officers. Across the board there are an average of 20% unfilled vacancies, and these are much more in higher judiciary. Just filling these posts can close the gap

between new caseload and disposal rate of existing caseload. The second reason sounds silly but is serious and was quoted by the CJI. In a speech last December, he said that 6.3 million cases have been considered delayed due to non-availability of counsel. And another 1.4 million cases are delayed as they await some kind of document or record. This is unacceptable inefficiency, especially when the whole system is being made digital. The third reason for piling up of cases is due to misaligned incentives, especially when a government officer is involved. For instance, if a lower tribunal gives an order against the income tax claims of the government, the officer involved will almost surely appeal even if it is an open and shut case. This is for fear of being accused of corruption or of collusion. A fourth reason for delay could be the arbitrary discretion in the listing order of cases. There is an impression that the elite can jump queues and get instant hearings while the masses have to wait. A fifth reason for piling of cases is the absence of arbitration and mediation as a credible first option. In fact, in developed countries like the USA (which is quite litigious), if a criminal case goes to trial, there is a 90% chance that the defendant will be found guilty, and that too in quick time. Hence many cases do not go to trial and end up with out of court settlements. In India thanks often to shoddy preparation, the cases going to trial offer a more than 50% of acquittal.

Judicial reform which can speed up the delivery of justice, give meaningful out-of-court settlement options for redress, and also fully use the power of digital and artificial intelligence is the need of the hour.

The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS



Ajit Ranade

THERE IS AN IMPRESSION THAT THE ELITE CAN JUMP QUEUES AND GET INSTANT HEARINGS WHILE THE MASSES HAVE TO WAIT

But there is another milestone that we crossed last month, of which we cannot feel proud. India now has more than 5 crore pending cases across all courts. Thanks to digitalisation, we can see a running ticker on the e-courts website. As on July 23, the pendency was 6.06 million cases in High Courts and 44.3 million cases in District and Taluka

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Governing the right to food

When I was a child, my father, who had witnessed the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, told me how common ground was sought around shared principles in a world fractured by the Cold War. The Declaration, adopted in 1948, upheld a series of basic rights, including to adequate food. States have the duty to protect, respect, and fulfill such rights and can be called to account if they fail to do so. UN membership grew rapidly in the 1960s, when many former colonies gained independence and subsequently pushed for greater equity in global governance. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, adopted by the UNGA in 1966, called on signatories to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need. The oil-supply shocks and stagflation of the mid-1970s shifted the momentum away from state-led, rights-based governance to neoliberalism as the dominant policymaking paradigm. This approach was based on the misguided beliefs that unfettered markets allocate resources most efficiently; economic globalisation benefits all countries; and the private sector provides goods and services more

effectively than the public sector. From the 1980s, the neoliberal structural-adjustment programmes imposed by the World Bank and the IMF on cash-strapped countries, coupled with the advent of the WTO, restricted the policy space of governments in the Global South. The adjustment programmes called for governments to roll back regulations that were deemed a hindrance to free trade and to open their markets to imports of subsidised food products. The resulting globalised, corporate-led industrial food system, which promised to improve food security worldwide, has been a dismal failure. Citizens have been left to pay the price for neoliberal policies: fragile supply chains, workers without rights, a worsening climate crisis, severely diminished biodiversity, reduced access to healthy food, unsustainable diets, and extreme economic inequality. With hunger and malnutrition on the rise, it is time for a radical course correction. Reforming the global industrial food system will be difficult, in part because it is characterised by an extremely high concentration of power in the hands of a few multinational agribusiness companies. Only a handful of firms dominate the

global grain and fertilizer markets, a position that has enabled profiteering when supply chains break down, as they did during COVID-19 and following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Backed by powerful commodity-exporting countries, neoliberal policies have promoted industrial production of export crops at the expense of domestic food production by smallholders, transforming Global South countries into food importers vulnerable to price spikes. Financial power also buys narrative power, which can be used to praise the latest food tech. In 2010, World Economic Forum launched what has come to be called a multi-stakeholder approach to governance in which everyone has a seat at the table. But this framework is far less inclusive than it sounds. When the roles, responsibilities, and interests of different actors are ignored, and power imbalances are disregarded, MNCs inevitably prevail over the less powerful, and government accountability and human rights are set aside. Inviting corporations to join the decision-making process tips the scales in favour of industrial, chemical-heavy monoculture—a move justified by the neoliberal narrative that we desperately need to harness corporate in-

vestment and innovation to increase food production. In reality, the world produces more than enough to feed everyone; the problem is unequal access, which requires political, not technical, solutions. The UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021 was the apotheosis of "multi-stakeholderism." Organised without a mandate from governments, and with strong participation by agrifood corporations and the Gates Foundation, the summit did not address the right to food and, in the words of Michael Fakhri, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, was disconnected from "people's real needs." Many civil-society organisations have contested both events. These groups prefer platforms like the UN Committee on World Food Security, which includes constituencies most affected by food insecurity, focuses on the structural causes of hunger and inequality, and promotes accountability by reserving voting for governments. Determining how to achieve adequate food for all is the right of citizens and the duty of governments. Those concerned with making profits should have no place at the table.

The writer teaches at Roma Tre University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Nora McKeon

DETERMINING HOW TO ACHIEVE ADEQUATE FOOD FOR ALL IS THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS AND THE DUTY OF GOVERNMENTS. THOSE CONCERNED WITH MAKING PROFITS SHOULD HAVE NO PLACE AT THE TABLE

UN membership grew rapidly in the 1960s, when many former colonies gained independence and subsequently pushed for greater equity in global governance. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, adopted by the UNGA in 1966, called on signatories to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need. The oil-supply shocks and stagflation of the mid-1970s shifted the momentum away from state-led, rights-based governance to neoliberalism as the dominant policymaking paradigm. This approach was based on the misguided beliefs that unfettered markets allocate resources most efficiently; economic globalisation benefits all countries; and the private sector provides goods and services more

Timely census crucial

Sir, The census, originally planned for 2021, has been postponed once again and is now slated to take place in 2024, coinciding with the parliament elections. This delay is expected to have negative consequences on various welfare schemes and socio-economic development initiatives that heavily rely on up-to-date population data. Additionally, the Bihar government's caste-based census plans have encountered legal complexities. Accurate data plays a vital role in shaping effective policies, and the reliability of statistical surveys heavily depends on census data. The postponement of the census has raised concerns about the accuracy of population estimates and the allocation of resources for government schemes. The delay also affects discussions about electoral boundaries and seat distribution among states. Consequently, the repercussions of postponing the census stretch to policy formulation, monitoring of government schemes, and statistical management for governance. It is imperative to stress the importance of conducting the census in a timely manner.

Bishal Saha, MURSHIDABAD

Mystic composer

Sir, Centuries have rolled by since the lifetime of one of the chief founding-proponents and the Pitamaha of Carnatic music Saint Purandara Dasa, but his birthplace still remains a mystery. In fact, to explore definitive archaeological evidence regarding the birthplace of this great composer, the Karnataka government, during the summer of 2020, undertook some field research. However, till date neither has there been any concrete evidence nor any update on this research work that would put an end to all speculations about the composer's birthplace. Inscriptional evidence strongly suggests that Purandara Dasa was born in 1484 CE at Keshavapura in Thirthahalli, Karnataka. Though there were theories that his native town was Purandaragad near Pune, it was later considered a historical mistake. Purandara Dasa was a wealthy diamond merchant from Karnataka who gave away all his material riches to become a Hindu monk. His compositions are mostly in Kannada and some are in Sanskrit too. These details add credence to Purandara Dasa's birthplace at Keshavapura and confirm that the mystic poet wholly belonged to Karnataka. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

The fly that touches honey cannot use its wings; so too the soul that clings to spiritual sweetness ruins its freedom and hinders contemplation.

SRI AUROBINDO



War of Wheat

Russia has hit back at the US-led West which has imposed tough sanctions on it for invading Ukraine in February 2022. This time, it has not used its war machine much. It has decided to cut off the food supply line, especially wheat, from Ukraine to Europe, Africa and China most of which sails through the Black Sea. The action has already affected grain exports, but what is of greater concern is the prospect of soaring grain prices across the world that is going to hit poorer countries hard in the coming days.

The new problems cropped up after Russia ended last week the Ukraine grain-export deal nearly a year into the agreement. The pact — brokered by the United Nations and Turkey — has ensured the safe passage of almost 33 million tons of crop exports via the Black Sea since it was signed in July 2022. It has helped world food and other commodity prices ease from the record levels reached initially immediately after Russia invaded Ukraine. However, in recent months it has been affected by red tape and slow vessel inspections by Russia. According to the terms of the agreement, Russia was to oversee the movement of ships to ensure weapons were not carried on board. Moscow had repeatedly threatened to leave the pact, citing obstacles to its own exports. It last agreed to a two-month extension in May, which ended last week. Russia's decision will affect supplies to countries such as Spain, Egypt and China, apart from having a chain reaction on the food situation in the rest of the world.

Moscow's explanation for pulling out of the deal is far from convincing. Russia has complained that it hasn't got its due out of this Black Sea agreement so far. Moscow also argues that strike by shippers in Crimea and uncertainty about insurance coverage have prompted it to take the decision. Right from the start of the agreement, Russia has been black-mailing the West. Soon after it was signed, there was a Russian strike in the port of Odessa. In November 2022, Moscow briefly suspended the deal following the attack on a Russian naval base in Crimea.

Food grains shipped from Ukraine under the deal helped world food prices come down by about 20 per cent, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). An estimated 43 per cent of the food-stuff exported from Ukraine during the past one year went to developed countries and 57 per cent to developing countries. These statistics indicate what leverage Russia can get by breaking this supply chain. Both the developed and developing countries will reel under soaring foodgrain prices after the supply is stopped.

Russia is also complaining about the impact of Western sanctions on its own agricultural exports, even though Russian agricultural products have been kept out of the purview of the sanctions regime. Moscow is demanding that the Agricultural Bank of the Russian Federation be reconnected to Swift, the service essential for cross-border payments. It demands the lifting of restrictions on marine insurance, which, according to it, affects its agricultural products. But, the whole purpose of the blackmail, it seems, is to put pressure on the West to ease the constraints imposed on Moscow, especially on its oil exports.

It seems like apart from getting the Western sanctions loosened, Russia wants to disrupt world grain prices. After a record 2022 harvest, Russia is awash with stock. As a result, in case of disruption of wheat supply, Russia would not be as affected as the rest of the world. Such a situation could offer Russia the opportunity to try and force the West to at least scale down its sanctions.

It is a cynical game that Russia is playing. But, everything, as the bard said, is fair in love and war.

WISDOM CORNER

- Civilization is the progress toward a society of privacy. The savage's whole existence is public, ruled by the laws of his tribe. Civilization is the process of setting man free from men. AYN RAND
- He who is not everyday conquering some fear has not learned the secret of life. RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome. ISAAC ASIMOV

WORDSWORTH

Malarkey

Malarkey is meaningless talk, nonsense or foolishness. It's still known in the US and to a lesser extent in the UK and elsewhere, but where this odd-looking word comes from is decidedly uncertain. What we do know is that it began to appear in the US in the early 1920s in various spellings, such as malaky, malachy, and mullarkey. Its first known user was the cartoonist TA Dorgan, in 1922, but it only began to appear widely at the end of the decade. By 1930, Variety could pun on it: "The song is ended but the Malarkey lingers on." Various theories have been advanced. Eric Partridge pointed to the modern Greek word malakia but he formed a group of one. His later editor, Paul Beale, noted the London expression Madame Misharty, the personification of sales talk, exaggerated claims, and wild predictions, a name that was supposedly that of a fortune teller. But this is stretching a possible linguistic link to breaking point and, in any case, we know it started life in North America. Others point to the family name Malarkey, though who the eponymous member of the tribe might have been whose Irish-derived gift of the gab could have given rise to the name remains unknown. Jonathon Green likewise suggests a Irish origin in mullachan, a strongly-built boy or ruffian, though this, too, seems a stretch of meaning. We'll just have to settle for the unsatisfactory "origin unknown".

Mallemaroking

Mallemaroking was the carousing of seamen on board Greenland whaling ships. You must agree that no true student of the English language can afford to be without this choice specimen of exact usage. Not, you will note, just any seamen aboard any ships, but whalers in the Greenland waters, who were — it seems — always ready for a bit of merry-making in between hunting the Greenland right whale. The whale's name was another term from the same fishery, too mundanely derived to deserve much attention from word historians, since it was merely the whale found around Greenland that was the right one to hunt, mainly because it floated when dead. Mallemaroking owes its survival almost entirely to its curious form and peculiarly precise nature. There is small chance that you will find it unselfconsciously used as the right word in the right place. It is the preserve almost solely of those wordsmiths who write about weird words, a sad degeneration of status in whose reduction my own small part is all too obvious.

LOL

Installing carpet

A carpet layer had just finished installing carpet for a lady. He stepped out for a smoke, only to realize he'd lost his cigarettes. In the middle of the room, under the carpet, was a bump. "No sense pulling up the entire floor for one pack of smokes," he said to himself. He proceeded



to get out his hammer and flattened the hump. As he was cleaning up, the lady came in.

"Here," she said, handing him his pack of cigarettes. "I found them in the hallway." "Now," she said, "if only I could find my parakeet."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

'This is your right': TN CM on ₹1,000 aid for women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharmapuri, July 24: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Monday inaugurated a camp here to facilitate registration of applications by women to avail the Rs 1,000 monthly basic income scheme, a flagship programme of the ruling DMK regime set to be launched in September.

Launching the registration exercise, Stalin described the scheme as revolutionary that would lead to a new renaissance in the lives of crores of women. The Rs 12,000 payout per annum would be great support for women, a symbol of development. It would help them improve their standards of living, lead a life of self-respect and eradicate poverty.

The government had announced that the scheme would be implemented from September 15, the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and Dravidian icon CN Annadurai, also the founder of the DMK.

The Chief Minister said these goals embodied the ideals of the Dravidian model good governance inspired by reformist leader Periyar E V Ramasamy, Dravidian icon CN Annadurai and late Chief Minister Karunanidhi, after whom it has been named.

The Rs 1,000 Kalaingar assistance scheme would be a re-



markable initiative among all the social justice schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu, Stalin reiterated. For the scheme, Rs 12,000 crore would be set apart next year.

Stalin, also the chief of ruling DMK, referred to the Opposition criticism vis-a-vis the scheme.

"They (AIADMK) said DMK captured power through false assurances. We would have given (Rs 1,000 assistance) after assuming power. However, the state finances were in bad shape

and the country was gripped by the coronavirus pandemic," the CM said.

Now, the scheme is set to be launched September 15 after corrective action on the fiscal front to an extent, he underlined, apparently blaming the previous AIADMK regimes (2011-21). The CM, without naming anyone said some were involved in false propaganda against the scheme and asserted that it would be implemented.

In order to recognise and give respect to the hard work of women for their families, the DMK had promised Rs 1,000 monthly assistance for them. The scheme registration event symbolised the commencement of fulfillment of the assurance made to the people.

"You should remember that this is your right; you need not regard this as assistance provided by the government," he said.

Following the launch, the amount would be credited (DBT) to the bank accounts of beneficiaries and there is no scope for 'any wrongs' at all. "I firmly believe that

charge as the chief minister, the first official file he signed was the scheme to provide fare-free travel to women in state-run town buses.

"Every day, 36 lakh women use the fare-free bus services and so far women have used the services for 283 crore times," he said adding the free service helped women save Rs 800-Rs 1,000 per month and that is the most significant aspect.

He also listed a slew of other welfare schemes like the Rs 1,000 monthly aid scheme for girl students, the breakfast plan for government school students.

July 7, Stalin, in a review meeting here advised officials to ensure that not a single eligible person is left out of the scheme's ambit. District collectors should ensure that marginalised sections of society such as those living on streets, tribals and sanitary workers are benefitted.

Even if prospective beneficiaries do not have requisite documents like ration and Aadhar cards, facilitation should be extended to them to get such documents.

The other aspects in respect of eligibility is the stipulation that applicants should have completed 21 years of age and only one woman/woman-head from a family that has a ration card could apply to avail the Rs 1,000 monthly support.

THE ₹12,000 PAYOUT PER ANNUM WOULD BE GREAT SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND HELP THEM IMPROVE THEIR STANDARDS OF LIVING, SAYS STALIN

through this great scheme, the socio-economic status of women in Tamil Nadu will develop to a huge extent," Stalin said.

He recalled that in 2021, immediately after assuming

Conspiracy on to topple K'taka govt: Shivakumar

AGENCIES

Bangalore, July 24: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar Monday said a conspiracy has been hatched 'outside' to topple the Congress government in the state.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "We will see. We too have certain information. It is their strategy. Instead of doing it in Bangalore, they are doing it outside."

"Sitting in Singapore, the plan is being made to ensure the fall of the majority government. He is strategising from Singapore as per the inputs I have got. Instead of making plans in Bangalore, a foreign land is preferred."

According to sources, Shivakumar made the remarks in reference to former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy, who is currently on a trip to Singapore for a medical check-up.

"I am very well aware of the conspiracy against our government. I also know about what is going on."

He was replying to a question that there was some conspiracy being hatched to topple the Karnataka government.

State Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda backed the claim of Shivakumar.

"They have toppled many elected governments. Against



I am very well aware of the conspiracy against our government. I also know about what is going on

DK SHIVAKUMAR | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

this backdrop, we have to be alert. They (BJP) have no sense of good or bad. What all anti-democratic activities they have done is before us and that is what the Deputy Chief Minister would have meant. He might also have some other information," Byregowda said.

The Revenue Minister claimed that the BJP is an expert in bringing down governments elected by the people across the country.

He also alleged that the BJP at the Centre is misusing its power.

Tamil Nadu has 22 coastal erosion spots, says research

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

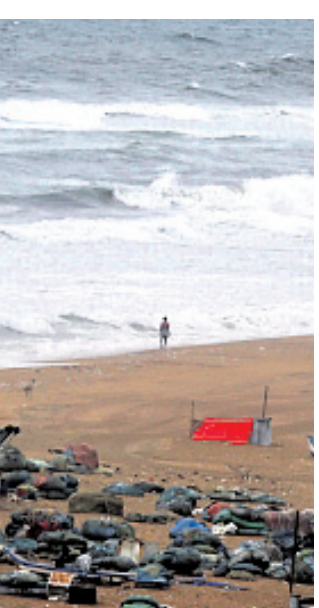
Chennai, July 24: The National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) which has done a comprehensive study on the erosion of Tamil Nadu coast has found that there are 22 hotspots in the state vulnerable to erosion.

The study also revealed that Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts of the state are most vulnerable to sea erosion.

Of the 22 hotspots vulnerable for erosion, in Tamil Nadu, eight are in these two districts. The study also found that districts like Nagapattinam, Ramanathanapuram, Tiruvarur, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari are losing the coast line in a fast manner. Tamil Nadu is in the process of preparing a comprehensive shoreline management plan on the basis of the study by the NCCR.

NCCR has used the inputs from IIT, Madras, Public Works Department and the Tamil Nadu state fisheries department for preparing the comprehensive study on erosion in the state coast. According to highly placed sources, the NCCR will be recommending different solutions to prevent erosion that include hard structures like groynes and seawalls in CRZ-2 or developed areas. Soft and nature based solutions will be used in CRZ-3 areas (undisturbed areas).

It may be noted that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given a stay order against construction of any hard anti-erosion structures till there is an approved shoreline management plan. The NCCR is also cautious on the construction of hard structures like groynes as this would lead to the shifting of problem from one spot to another spot.



Threat to kill HC judges in Karnataka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 24: The Central CEN Crime Police Station here has registered a First Information Report against unknown suspects after the press relations officer of the High Court of Karnataka lodged a complaint about threats to the lives of several judges, besides himself, police said Monday.

K Muralidhar lodged a complaint July 14. He had received messages on the WhatsApp messenger from an international number at around 7 PM on July 12. His mobile number is the one provided to him officially by the High Court.

The message in Hindi, Urdu and English allegedly threatened to kill Muralidhar and six judges of the High Court including Justice Mohammed Nawaz, Justice HT Narendra Prasad, Justice Ashok G Nijagannavar (retired), Justice HP Sandesh, Justice K Natarajan and Justice B Veerappa (retired)



through a 'Dubai gang', police said.

The message also had five suspicious mobile phone numbers and contained the threat.

The FIR registered July 14 states that the threat message demanded a ransom of Rs 50 lakh to be paid to a bank account in Pakistan.

After registering the FIR under Sections 506, 507 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 75 and 66(F) of the Information Technology Act, the police have submitted it before the 1st Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, they said.

Karnataka stares at floods

With rivers and rivulets in spate, many waterfalls have come alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 24: The active southwest monsoon has created a flood scare in Karnataka with many small streams overflowing following the downpour.

In the wake of heavy rainfall, authorities Monday announced holiday for schools and colleges in nine districts -- Belagavi, Dharwad, Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Hassan, Shivamogga, Udipi, Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu, official sources said.

Meteorological Department has sounded a red alert in all the three coastal districts of Udipi, Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada.

The department said that there will be temporary disruption of electricity in some areas, minor traffic snarls and possible damage to 'Kuccha' and unsecured structures.

Orange alert has been announced for Chikkamagaluru,



Kodagu, Shivamogga, while Belagavi, Haveri, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura and Hassan are on yellow alert.

With rivers and rivulets in spate, many waterfalls have come alive attracting tourists.

A 23-year-old youth, Sharath Kumar from Bhadravathi in Shivamogga district, who went to Arishinagundi waterfall at Byndoor in Udipi district to make an Instagram video, was swept away as he stood on a rock just at the edge of the waterfall and slipped. Search operations are underway to trace him.

As heavy rains continued to lash different parts of the twin districts of Dakshina Kannada (DK) and Udipi, water-level in many rivers in the region kept rising in the last two days submerging low-lying areas.

Water levels in Nethravati, Phalguni and rivulets in many parts of DK district are posing threat to people living near the river banks. A few families have been shifted to safer places in Bantwal taluk, official sources said. A large area of areca nut plantations have also been submerged in the taluk causing con-

cern to the farmers.

The bathing ghat of Kukke Subrahmanya temple has been submerged with the level in Kumaradhara river rising to the danger mark and devotees have been asked not to visit the shrine till the rain subsides.

Manjeshwar-Subrahmanya state highway remains flooded disrupting movement of vehicles on the route. Copious rains have also been reported from Addahole, Kollamogru, Subramanya and Bisile in DK.

Sources said a landslide that occurred on a hill at Karvalu area in Udipi district is posing threat to a high-tension electricity tower which carries 110 KV KPTCL overhead line.

However, officials said necessary precautions have been taken. If the tower gets damaged, there are chances of power supply getting affected in areas including Manipal, Brahmavar, Kunjibettu and Udyavar. Officials said that as a precautionary measure, the old line of Manipal-Hiriadka has been activated and installation is in progress from Sunday itself.

2024 LS polls: DMK rides on smaller parties for Dalit votes

STALIN HAS ALREADY CALLED FOR THE ALLIANCE TO WIN ALL THE 39 SEATS IN TN AND THE ONE SEAT IN PONDICHERRY WHICH IS WITH THE AIADMK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 24: Coalition politics is now the order of the day, both nationally and state-wise. In Tamil Nadu, two major coalition groups have already been formed -- the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on one side and the DMK-led alliance on the other side -- in view of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The DMK-led alliance can either be the Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) that fought the 2021 assembly elections victoriously or the newly formed national level alliance, Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

The picture of NDA is becoming clearer with the principal opposition party of Tamil Nadu, AIADMK part of the alliance. The BJP national leadership has already invited the powerful Vanniyar political party, Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and the Tamil Manila Congress led by former Union Minister GK Vasan, the son of towering Congress leader, late GK Mooppanar.

In the DMK-led alliance, there are more political parties including the Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), CPI, CPI-M, IUML, All India Forward Block, MDMK, Manithaneya

Makkal Desia Katchi (MMDK), Kongunadu Makkal Desiya Katchi.

Interestingly in the DMK alliance, the political parties like Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi and the Left parties have deep inroads in the Dalit hamlets of the state. Being bigger parties, the DMK and the Congress would derive power and energy from the strength of smaller parties like the VCK, MDMK, Left parties and also the Muslim political parties like the Indian Union Muslim League and Manithaneya Makkal Desiya Katchi.

On the other hand in the National Democratic Alliance of Tamil Nadu, BJP has gained the support of the powerful Dravidian party, the AIADMK which has ruled Tamil Nadu several terms.

The BJP national leadership is trying to rope in the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) which is the political arm of the powerful Vanniyar group that has a major say in many districts of Tamil Nadu.

It is to be noted that PMK was an ally of the BJP in the 2021 assembly elections but in the local body polls, it snapped ties with the saffron camp and contested the polls alone. However in the recent NDA meet in New Delhi, PMK attended the meet and this



has boosted the prospects of NDA highly.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the DMK-led alliance had won majestically bagging 38 of the 39 seats. The one seat that was won by the AIADMK was Theni constituency where the son of former Chief Minister, O. Panneerselvam (OPS), O. Raveendranathan won the seat.

However now, OPS and his son are expelled from the AIADMK.

The massive win in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and the 2021 victory in the assembly polls have given the DMK the much needed advantage in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, MK Stalin has already called for the alliance to win all the 39

The DMK alliance and Stalin are in high spirits as the performance of the state is comparatively good with the government taking initiative to implement several socially relevant schemes

While both the Dravidian parties, DMK and AIADMK are having strong vote bank in the state, the smaller parties that have their own strong holds will act as the support base for these major parties

BJP, which was a non-entity in Tamil Nadu politics, won four seats in the 2021 assembly elections after the alliance with the AIADMK

children in government schools, health at door steps, skill development programme, bridge courses for students who drop out of schools.

The state government has also announced Rs 1000 monthly aid to women head of families under the Kalaingar Magalir Uрмаi Thittam (Kalaingar Women's Entitlement Scheme) that fall under the BPL bracket. The scheme will be rolled out from September 15 and the state government has allocated Rs 7000 crore for this project.

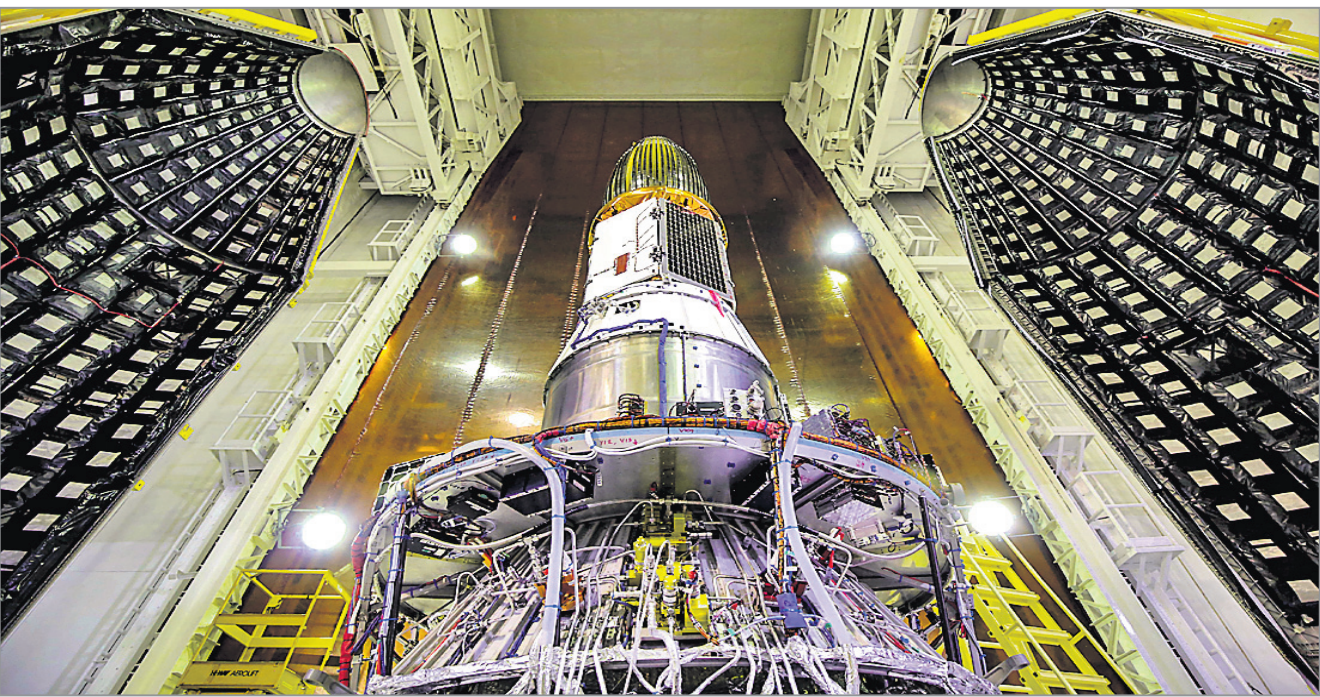
While both the Dravidian parties, DMK and AIADMK are having strong vote bank in the state, the smaller parties that have their own strong holds will act as the support base for these major parties.

BJP, which was a non-entity in Tamil Nadu politics, won four seats in the 2021 assembly elections after the alliance with the AIADMK, and with the PMK and the Tamil Manila Congress also becoming part of the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the NDA is expecting to fare well.

Interestingly, the BJP has set its eyes on Tamil Nadu and the Union Home Minister Amit Shah had during the last month visit to the state called upon the NDA cadres to win 25 out of the 39 Lok Sabha seats from the state.



A goods train carrying essential commodities arrives at Khongsang railway station in violence-hit Manipur, in Tamenglong district



Preparations underway for the launch of ISRO's PSLV-C56 carrying Singapore's DS-SAR satellite along with 6 co-passenger satellites. The launch is scheduled for July 30



Students take part in a morning assembly after schools reopened following summer vacation in Jammu



A local man stands on a rock attempting to catch fish by spreading net in the flooded Musi river after continuous rains, in Hyderabad



Commuters make their way through a waterlogged road after monsoon rains in Jalandhar



Fuel tank of a fighter plane at a paddy field after it fell near Bakhira Jheel, in Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

national

of the day quote

Our Dalit, tribal and backward class citizens of Madhya Pradesh have been facing humiliation under BJP's misuse for decades. The BJP's 'Sabka Saath', confined only in advertisements, has become a mere slogan and PR stunt!

The temple of democracy is disturbed and disrupted when the prime minister refuses to make a statement on Manipur or answer questions

The water level of the Yamuna in the national capital has started receding from Monday morning and there is nothing to worry about

SHORT TAKES

Four dead in building collapse

Junagadh: Four bodies were recovered from the rubble of a two-storey dilapidated building that collapsed Monday afternoon in Gujarat's Junagadh city and the search and rescue operation to locate more people who may be trapped was underway, officials said. The building on Datar Road collapsed at around 1pm, the incident coming two days after the city saw very heavy rains that caused widespread flooding. "Four bodies have been recovered so far from the rubble. The search and rescue operation is underway. We cannot say how many people are feared trapped in the debris," Inspector Nirav Shah of A Division police station said.

Meghalaya CM's office attacked

Shillong: At least 5 police personnel were injured when an agitated crowd attacked the Chief Minister's secretariat in western Meghalaya's Tura town Monday, officials said. Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma was present at the office holding discussion with representatives of the Achik Conscious Holistically Integrated Krima (ACHIK) and the Garo Hills State Movement Committee (GHSMC) on their demand that Tura be declared the winter capital of the state, when a mob gathered outside the office and started pelting stones. The police drove away the demonstrators, using tear gas shells and a lathi charge. In the melee a few policemen were injured.

Menstrual hygiene: SC warns states

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday warned the states, which are yet to submit their response to the Centre on forming a uniform national policy on menstrual hygiene for girls studying in schools, it will take recourse to the "coercive arm of law" if they failed to do so by August 31. The warning came after the Centre informed the apex court it has so far received the response of only four states. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud directed the states and Union Territories (UTs), which have failed to submit their responses, to do so positively by August 31.

Asiatic lion dies

Amreli: An Asiatic lion, which was injured after being hit by a goods train in Gujarat's Amreli district three days ago, died while undergoing treatment, an official said Monday. An Asiatic lion was killed and another injured after they were hit by a goods train near Uchhaiya village of Rajula taluka in Amreli in the early hours of July 21.



India attracts global attention for its cultural prosperity as well as its technological advancements. India has shown to the world that technology and traditions can go hand in hand

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

LAKSHADWEEP BANS GLUE TRAPS FOR RODENTS

The Lakshadweep administration has banned the use of deadly glue traps for catching rodents in the Union Territory. The move follows an appeal from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India



SC refuses to put Assam delimitation exercise on hold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: The Supreme Court Monday refused to stay the ongoing delimitation of Assam's 14 Lok Sabha and 126 assembly seats by the Election Commission and sought the response of the Centre and the poll panel on a batch of petitions on the issue.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, however, agreed to examine the constitutional validity of Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 empowering the Election Commission to undertake the delimitation of constituencies.

"At this stage when delimitation has commenced, having due regard to issuance of the draft proposal on June 20, 2023, it would not be proper to interdict the process at this stage. Hence while reserving the constitutional challenge, we are not issuing any orders restraining the Election Commission to take any further steps," the bench said in its order.

The top court sought the replies of the Centre, the Election

The top court sought the replies of the Centre, the Election Commission and the Assam government on three petitions in three weeks and said the petitioners can file their rejoinders in two weeks after that

Two other pleas are also pending before the court on this issue. The petitioners have specifically challenged the methodology adopted by the poll panel and its proposals notified on June 20, 2023

Commission and the Assam government on three petitions in three weeks and said the petitioners can file their rejoinders in two weeks after that.

The bench took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was appearing for the political parties which have filed the petitions, that now all states will follow suit and take steps since the way has been cleared for the delimitation exercise for states like Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

"We will list this immediately after the Delhi services ordinance case," the CJI said. Ten leaders representing nine op-

position parties in Assam-Congress, Raijor Dal, Assam Jatiya Parishad, CPI(M), CPI, TMC, NCP, RJD, and Anchalik Gana Morcha- recently filed a plea in the top court challenging the ongoing delimitation process.

Two other pleas are also pending before the court on this issue. The petitioners have specifically challenged the methodology adopted by the poll panel and its proposals notified on June 20, 2023. One of the pleas challenged section 8A of the Representation of People Act, 1950, based on which the poll panel exercised its power to conduct the delimitation process in Assam.

NIA to probe Ram Navami violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a plea by the West Bengal government challenging the Calcutta High Court order handing over the probe of incidents of violence in March and April this year during Ram Navami celebrations in the state to the NIA.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud noted the validity of notification issued in May by the Centre under section 6(5) of the NIA Act has not been challenged in the matter. Section 6 (5) of the NIA Act says if the central government is of the opinion that a scheduled offence has been committed which is required to be investigated under this Act, it may, suo motu (on its own), direct the agency to investigate it.

The bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, observed that at this stage, the court is not called upon to either decide on the sufficiency of the allegations or their veracity. "The remit of this court would be to determine as to whether exercise of its jurisdiction by the Central government under section 6 (5) is so completely extraneous to the powers conferred upon it by section 6 (5) so as to warrant intervention by this court," the bench said.

Ruckus over 'red diary' in Rajasthan Assembly



Congress MLA Rajendra Gudha who was recently sacked as a minister of Rajasthan govt. reacts as he speaks with the media after the Rajasthan Assembly was adjourned, in Jaipur

In Delhi, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat accused the Congress government in Rajasthan of "breaking all records of corruption", claiming the political existence of many leaders will be under threat if the contents of the "red diary" spill out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur/New Delhi, July 24: Sacked Rajasthan minister Rajendra Gudha was suspended from the state assembly Monday after it saw unruly scenes - including pushing and shoving - over a "red diary", which he claimed held details of financial irregularities damning the Ashok Gehlot government.

Along with Congress MLA Gudha, BJP's Madan Dilawar was also suspended by Speaker C P Joshi for the remainder of the assembly's term over the ruckus he created when the House later adopted a resolution over the ethnic violence in Manipur.

The House was adjourned thrice during the day, and at one point Gudha was forced out by marshals. BJP MLAs stormed the Well of the House repeatedly, brandishing their own "sym-

bolic" red diaries. Gudha waved the diary he had brought to the House, and later said it was snatched from him.

In Delhi, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat accused the Congress government in Rajasthan of "breaking all records of corruption", claiming the political existence of many leaders will be under threat if the contents of the "red diary" spill out.

"Everybody in Rajasthan wants to know the mystery of the red diary. Why are the government and its head so nervous about it?" the BJP leader from Rajasthan told reporters. Gudha was sacked Friday as a minister after he publicly criticised his own Congress government over law and order in the state.

Outside the House, the ex-minister claimed that the red diary was retrieved by him during a raid by the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax Department at the home of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation chairman Dharmendra Rathore.

He alleged that CM Gehlot had asked him to go to Rathore's home to secure the diary during the raid. Gudha claimed that the diary, allegedly written by Rathore, held details of the money given to MLAs and mentioned Ashok Gehlot as well as his son Vaibhav Gehlot.

When the ex-minister reached the assembly during Zero Hour BJP MLAs had already raised the issue of the diary, which Gudha had talked about a day earlier.

He moved towards Speaker Joshi's chair waving a red diary. Joshi objected to his behaviour and asked him to meet him in his chamber. Then, as Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal got up to speak, Gudha aggressively moved towards him and struck at his microphone.

Congress MLA Rafiq Khan immediately pushed Gudha. Minister Ram Lal Jat and other Congress MLAs also moved forward and surrounded him. They were seen pushing and shoving him. Marshals removed Gudha from the House, and the Speaker adjourned the assembly till 2 pm.



People displaced due to ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, at a relief camp in Phayeng of Imphal West, Monday

PTI PHOTO

'OPPENHEIMER' CONTROVERSY

Anurag seeks explanation on CBFC nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Taking serious note of an objectionable scene in Christopher Nolan-helmed "Oppenheimer", Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has sought an explanation from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and asked it to take corrective action.

Thakur is understood to have asked the CBFC to get the scene where Oppenheimer appears to indulge in a sexual intercourse while reading verses from the Bhagavad Gita deleted from the movie.

He has also asked the Board to fix accountability on persons responsible for clearing the movie with the scene in question. Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar had written an open letter to Nolan, terming the scene

a "disturbing attack on Hinduism" and appealed to the film director to remove the scene worldwide.

In the film, Oppenheimer - played by Cillian Murphy - is shown having intercourse with psychologist Jean Tatler (Florence Pugh) as she asks him to read a verse from what appears to be a Sanskrit book, whose title or cover is not visible. On Tatler's insistence, a confused Oppenheimer reads out the verse she points at: "Now, I am become Death, destroyer of the world".

According to reports, the CBFC gave the film a U/A rating, making it suitable for viewers above 13 years, after studio Universal Pictures cut some scenes to reduce its length. In the United States, the movie has been rated 'R-Restricted', which means viewers under 17 would require accompanying parent or adult guardian.

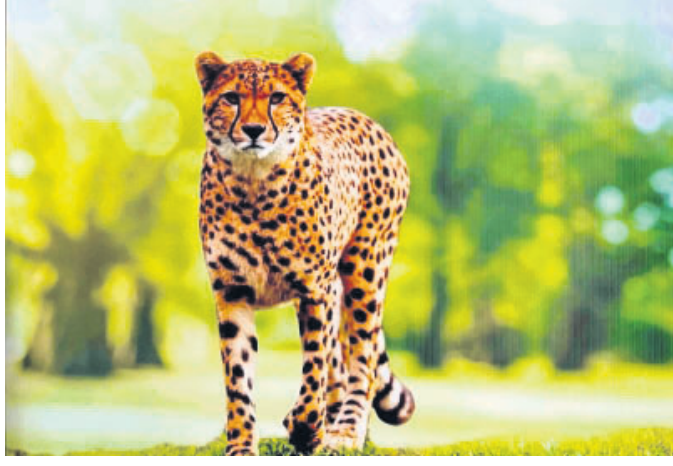
Vets, African experts to examine Kuno cheetahs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, July 24: The radio collars of six cheetahs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh have been removed for their "health examination" by KNP veterinarians and experts from Namibia and South Africa, officials said Monday. Notably, five adult cheetahs and three cubs have died at KNP in Sheopur district since March this year.

"So far, the radio collars of six cheetahs have been removed by KNP veterinarians and experts from Namibia and South Africa on the ground of health examination," an official release said. Madhya Pradesh's chief wildlife warden Aseem Shrivastava said a total of 11 cheetahs (six male and five female) are currently inside the boma (enclosure) and efforts are on to bring four more to the boma for their health examination.

"We are carrying out this en-



tire operation under the guidance of our veterinarian team and experts from Namibia and South Africa," he said. He said the radio collars of only those cheetahs are being removed whose health examination is necessary under the guidance of the team of veterinarians.

When asked about the reason behind the removal of radio collars, Shrivastava said, "It is entirely in the domain of the team and everything is being done as per their guidance." Queried on the likely cause behind the cheetah fatalities in KNP, he said, "I have no information as I have not

seen their reports. It has not yet come to me from there (KNP)".

He said all the cheetahs are healthy. The cheetahs whose radio collars have been removed are identified as Gourav, Shourya, Pavan, Pavak, Asha and Dheera, the release said. "For the purpose of health examination by the veterinary team of Kuno along with experts from Namibia and South Africa, radio collars of six cheetahs have been removed," stated the official release issued on Saturday.

Under Project Cheetah, a total of 20 radio-collared animals were imported from Namibia and South Africa to KNP. Later, four cubs were born to the Namibian cheetah 'Jwala'. Out of these 24 felines, eight including three cubs have died.

However, officials are not counting the lone surviving cub among the cheetahs. According to them, the current number of cheetahs in KNP is 15.

JUDICIARY STILL REMAINS THE LAST HOPE!

The law may be an ass but it kicks butt. Thus it was that a bunch of flog-happy cops who last October played God to handsome applause from their political bosses find themselves staring down the wrong end of the justice dispensing barrel now.

The Gujarat High Court was not a wee bit amused when a contempt of court application filed by some members of the minority community, arrested for stone pelting and allegedly flogged in public came up before it this month. "The application cannot be rejected without verification of facts", a division bench of Justices A.S. Supheia and M.R. Mengdey said while ordering an inquiry by the chief judicial magistrate of Kaira district and directing that a pen drive containing

video and photographs of the incident be made available to the judicial officer. They had been arrested for allegedly pelting stones at a garba in a village.

A subsequent inquiry by the Inspector General of Police had, prima facie, brought out involvement of six of the 13 cops but was silent about the role of the rest. The report has to be filed in three weeks and the matter comes up for hearing on August 8. Soon after a video of the flogging incident went viral, Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi had appreciated and praised the state police for their action. "The Gujarat police has done a nice job and the people should express their gratitude towards it on social media", he has been quoted as



saying in media reports. BJP general secretary, Pradipsinh Vaghela opined likewise. "If such things happen, the police should act similarly", he went on record stating. Former IPS officer Kiran Bedi who was also Pucherry Lt. Governor till 2021, however slammed the Gujarat police for the public flogging. "The police cannot take the law

into their hands", she articulated on record. The utterance of the Home Minister, who is a constitutional post holder, is also fraught with a potential recoil effect if it comes within the ambit of a judicial evaluation.

This is not the sole case of public flogging by the Gujarat cops involving the minority community members. Last week (July 17), the Gujarat High Court issued notice to the state government for its reply on a PIL seeking an inquiry into a June 16 incident of public flogging of alleged rioters in the Junagadh mob violence.

The PIL by Lok Adhikar Manch and Minority Coordination Committee through advocate Anand Yagnik seeks registration of an FIR against police personnel and officers responsible for

the incident and for ransacking of moveable property of suspects allegedly involved in the violence.

Violence broke out in Junagadh on June 16 following the issuance of demolition notice by local civic body to certain Islamic religious places on the ground that they were encroaching on public roads. Stone pelting erupted. A bystander was killed and some policemen injured. Arrests were made and videos of the flogging of people in front of the dargah were circulated.

Whether it be the high handedness of the cops or the pursuit of a partisan agenda by the party in power, the judiciary still remains the last port of call for the distressed in search of justice.

international



I've got a bold plan to support more families onto the housing ladder whilst protecting Britain's countryside
RISHI SUNAK | BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

GRETA THUNBERG FINED

Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg was fined Monday for disobeying police at a rally last month, but said she acted out of necessity due to the climate crisis. The 20-year-old appeared in court in the southern Swedish city of Malmo after 11 am (0900 GMT) Monday, without responding to questions from reporters



of the day quote

Adults know what slavery really involved. It involved rape. It involved torture. It involved taking a baby from their mother. It involved some of the worst examples of ... depriving people of humanity in our world
KAMALA HARRIS | US VICE PRESIDENT

A lot of people including myself, my group, The Black Archives, and the Black Manifesto say that (an) apology is not enough. An apology should be tied to a form of repair and reparatory justice or reparations
MITCHELL ESAJAS | DIRECTOR, BLACK ARCHIVES

Safety of the staff at India's diplomatic mission in the country is paramount
JAMES CLEVERLY | UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

PIO killed in Canada

Toronto: A 24-year-old Indian student, who worked as a food delivery driver in Canada, died after he was violently attacked during a carjacking incident, police said. Gurvinder Nath from Punjab's Karimpur Chahwala village, was lured by his attackers in the area of Britannia Road and Creditview, Mississauga, on the pretext of placing a food order earlier this month.

9 killed in a plane crash

Cairo: A civilian plane crashed after taking off from an airport in eastern Sudan, killing nine people, including four military personnel who were aboard the aircraft, the military said, as the conflict in the northeastern African country reached the 100-day mark Monday with no sign of abating.

Boat accident leaves 15 dead

Jakarta: An overloaded passenger boat capsized off Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing 15 people, rescuers said Monday. Authorities said that the 33 other passengers survived. The vessel was traveling from Lanto village in Buton Central regency in Southeast Sulawesi province to nearby Lagili village when it capsized just after midnight Monday, local search and rescue agency head Muhammad Arafah said.

Israeli Parl passes law to limit judicial power

THE CONTROVERSIAL REFORMS HAVE POLARISED ISRAEL, TRIGGERING ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS DOMESTIC CRISES IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY

Jerusalem, July 24: Israeli Parliament Monday approved a contentious law that prevents judicial checks on political power and forms a key part of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to reshape the country's justice system, after weeks of unprecedented protests that have crippled the Jewish state.



Multiple last-minute attempts within the Knesset to amend the bill or to come to a broader procedural compromise with the opposition failed. A series of ideas for unilaterally softening the legislation, discussed by Prime Minister Netanyahu and key coalition leaders even as the Knesset was preparing to vote, also led nowhere. The vote followed almost 30 hours of continuous floor debate that began on Sunday morning. During that period, hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets, both for and against curbing judicial checks on political power. The Times of Israel newspaper reported.

According to the law's text, courts are prohibited from exercising any scrutiny over the "reasonableness" of cabinet and minister decisions, including appointments and the choice to not exercise vested authorities, it said. The protesters have been demanding that the government shelve its contentious judicial overhaul initiative that will curtail the power of the courts to oversee the executive and legislative branches' decisions. The "reasonableness" bill would remove the power of the Supreme Court to overturn government decisions which it deems to have gone too far. Prime Minister Netanyahu, 73, was discharged from the hospital Monday after undergoing a successful procedure to implant a pacemaker, just ahead of a critical vote in the Knesset. Congratulating coalition party leaders, Justice Minister Yariv Levin after the final vote, said that it was the "first step" towards correcting the judicial system. "In an extraordinary move, we took the first step in the historical process of correcting the judicial system and restoring the powers taken from the government and the Knesset over many years," Levin said. Twenty-thousand protesters were demonstrating outside the

- Bill limits Supreme Court power to quash govt decisions
- Political groups, labor federation plan challenge to changes
- Protest has spread to military
- The bill passed with 64 votes in favour and zero against it, with the opposition boycotting the final vote on the bill in protest
- It is the first major bill to pass in the government's judicial overhaul



2 protesters burn Quran outside Iraq embassy in Denmark

Copenhagen, July 24: Two protesters set fire to a copy of the Quran, Islam's holy book, in front of the Iraqi embassy in the Danish capital Monday, risking a further deterioration of relations between the two countries. Protests have raged across Iran and Iraq after Denmark and Sweden allowed the burning of the Quran under rules protecting free speech. Protesters in Iraq set alight the Swedish embassy in Baghdad Thursday. The two protesters were from a group that calls itself "Danish Patriots", which held a similar demonstration last week and livestreamed the events on Facebook. Several thousand Iraqis



JOVIAL MOOD: Palestinians enjoy the beach in a hot day in Gaza City

Musk reveals new 'X' logo to replace Twitter's blue bird

London, July 24: Goodbye Twitter. Hello X. Elon Musk has unveiled a new "X" logo to replace Twitter's famous blue bird as he follows through with a major rebranding of the social media platform he bought for USD 44 billion last year.



The X started appearing at the top of the desktop version of Twitter on Monday, but the bird was still dominant across the smartphone app. In response to questions about what tweets would be called when the rebranding is done, Musk said they would be called Xs. It's yet another change that Musk has made since acquiring Twitter that has alienated users and turned off advertisers, leaving the microblogging site vulnerable to new threats, including rival Meta's new text-based app Threads that directly targets Twitter users. Musk had asked fans for logo ideas and chose one, which he described as minimalist Art Deco, saying it "certainly will be refined."

MOSCOW DRONE ATTACK Russia talks of retaliation

Moscow, July 24: Russia spoke of taking harsh retaliatory measures against Ukraine after two drones damaged buildings in Moscow early Monday, including one close to the Defence Ministry's headquarters, in what it called a brazen act of terror.

Nobody was hurt in the attack, of which a senior Ukrainian official said there would be more, but one drone struck close to the Moscow building where the Russian military holds briefings on what it calls its "special military operation", a symbolic blow which underscored the reach of such drones. Roads nearby were temporarily closed, windows on the top two floors of an office building struck by a second drone in another Moscow district were blown out, and debris was scattered on the ground, a Reuters reporter who saw the aftermath of the incident said.

A third "helicopter-type drone" which was not carrying explosives fell on a cemetery in a town outside Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement in which it vowed that all those responsible would be found and punished. Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, now deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said Moscow needed to broaden the range of targets it struck in Ukraine, adding what he called high-impact unexpected and unconventional ones.

The Kremlin said it would press on with its campaign in Ukraine and meet all the aims of an operation which Kyiv and much of the West say is a brutal war of conquest. The Moscow drone attack, though not serious in terms of its human cost or damage, was the most high-profile of its kind since two drones reached the Kremlin in May. A swarm of 17 drones also launched attacks overnight on Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, the Russian Defence Ministry said, adding it had used anti-drone equipment and air defences to bring them down. The Russian-installed head of Crimea said an ammunition warehouse had been struck and a residential building damaged.

"We regard what happened as yet another use of terrorist methods and intimidation of the civilian population by the military and political leadership of Ukraine," the foreign ministry said of the Moscow and Crimea drone attacks.

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, now deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said Moscow needed to broaden the range of targets it struck in Ukraine, adding what he called high-impact unexpected and unconventional ones.



A view shows a damaged building following the reported drone attack in Moscow, Russia

North Korea fires ballistic missile

Seoul, July 24: North Korea fired at least one ballistic missile into its eastern sea, South Korea's military said Tuesday, adding to a recent streak in weapons testing that is apparently in protest of the US sending major naval assets to South Korea in a show of force. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff did not immediately say where the weapon was launched from and how far it flew. The launch came hours after South Korea's navy said a nuclear-propelled US submarine — the USS Annapolis — arrived at a port on Jeju Island. The arrival of the USS Annapolis adds to the allies' show of force to counter North Korean nuclear threats. Last week, the USS Kentucky became the first US nuclear-armed submarine to come to South Korea since the 1980s. North Korea reacted to its ar-



rival by test-firing ballistic and cruise missiles in apparent demonstrations that it could make nuclear strikes against South Korea and deployed US naval vessels. Also Monday, the American-led UN Command said it has started a conversation with North Korea about a US soldier who ran into the North last week across one of the world's most heavily fortified borders. Analysts say North Korea may wait weeks or even months to provide meaningful information about King to maximise leverage and add urgency to US efforts to secure his release.

Tourists flown home as wildfires rage on Greek islands

GREECE IS OFTEN HIT BY WILDFIRES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS BUT CLIMATE CHANGE HAS LED TO MORE EXTREME HEATWAVES ACROSS SOUTHERN EUROPE, RAISING CONCERNS THAT TOURISTS WILL STAY AWAY

Rhodes, Greece, July 24: Tour operators flew home nearly 1,500 holidaymakers at the start of a mass evacuation from wildfires raging on the Greek island of Rhodes Monday and officials said the threat of further fires was high in almost every region of the country. Fires burning since Wednesday on Rhodes forced the evacuation of 19,000 people over the weekend as an inferno reached coastal resorts on the island's southeast. A wildfire also forced evacuations from the island of Corfu. Rhodes and Corfu are among Greece's top destinations for tourists mainly from Britain and Germany. The army was also helping to set up temporary accommodations on Rhodes, where schools and sporting facilities were opened to help with the effort.



Tourists wait for departing planes at the airport

"For the next few weeks we must be on constant alert. We are at war, we will rebuild what we lost, we will compensate those who were hurt," Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis told parliament. After leaving hotels and resorts, tourists spent the night on Rhodes airport floor, waiting for repatriation flights, the first of which came overnight. From Sunday until 6 a.m. Monday, 1,489 tourists were flown back, mainly to Britain, Germany and Italy, Greek government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis said, describing the evacuation as the largest un-

WILDFIRES BURN FOR 7TH DAY ON RHODES. HIGH RISK OF NEW OUTBREAKS
NEARLY 1,500 TOURISTS FLOWN HOME, MAINLY TO UK, GERMANY, ITALY
HOLIDAYMAKERS SPEND NIGHT ON AIRPORT FLOOR
EVACUATION ON CORFU, BUT SOME RETURN TO HOTELS

WILDFIRES KILL 15 IN ALGERIA

Algiers: Wildfires raged across Algeria killing 15 people and injuring 26 others, state media reported Monday. APS news agency quoted the Interior Ministry as saying that at least 1,500 people were evacuated but did not provide details. Wildfires, some spread by strong winds, moved across forests and agricultural areas in 16 regions causing 97 blazes in the north African country. The largest and deadliest fires ravaged parts of Bejaia and Jijel — in the Kabyle region east of the capital, Algiers — and Bouira, about 100 kilometres southeast of Algiers. Operations to tamp down the fires continued with some 7,500 firefighters and 350 trucks on the ground as well as air support. flights already operating between the island and Gatwick.

of the day **Quote**

Supported by the dynamism of its tech-based new economy enterprises and the expanding digitisation across sectors, India's growth momentum continues to strengthen

Mahindra Group is delighted to announce a dedicated platform in the US—a decisive step aimed at enhancing global manufacturing and supply chain solutions for American companies

We are looking at a very fast-growing trajectory in the next few years with increased infrastructure expansion, investment in new talent and medical equipment and technology

Q1 RESULTS

Canara net shines

New Delhi: State-owned Canara Bank Monday reported a 75 per cent rise in net profit at ₹3,535 crore in the June quarter, helped by decline in bad loans and growth in interest income. The Bangalore-based lender had posted a net profit of ₹2,022 crore in the year-ago period. Total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to ₹29,828 crore, from ₹23,352 crore in the same period a year ago, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest earned by the bank improved to ₹25,004 crore over ₹18,177 crore in June 2022.

IDBI profit surges

New Delhi: LIC-promoted IDBI Bank on Monday reported a 62 per cent rise in net profit to ₹1,224 crore in the June quarter due to a decline in bad loans. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹756 crore in the year-ago period. Total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to ₹7,712 crore, from ₹5,774 crore in the same period a year ago, IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest earned by the bank improved to ₹6,860 crore over ₹4,634 crore in June 2022.

TVS Motor jumps

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Monday said its consolidated net profit increased by 42 per cent to ₹434 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023, on account of robust sales. The company had reported a net profit of ₹305 crore in the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal. Total income rose to ₹9,142 crore in the June quarter as against ₹7,348 crore in the year-ago period, TVS Motor Company said. The company said its overall two-wheeler and three-wheeler sales including exports grew by 5 per cent to 9.53 lakh units in the quarter ended June 2023 as against 9.07 lakh units registered in the same period of 2021-22 fiscal.

Tata Steel plunges

New Delhi: Tata Steel Monday posted over 93 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹524.85 crore for the April-June quarter of 2023-24 on account of higher expenses. It had posted ₹7,714 crore net profit in the corresponding period of 2022-23, according to a company filing to exchanges. Total income also declined to ₹60,666.48 crore from ₹63,698.15 crore in the year-ago quarter, a fall of 4.75 per cent. Expenses soared to ₹58,553.25 crore in the first quarter of FY24 as against ₹51,912.17 crore a year ago.



The government has instructed all banks, both public and private, that harsh steps should not be taken when it comes to the process of loan repayment and they should approach the matter with humanity and sensitivity in mind
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

JLR INDIA SEES RECORD Q1 SALES

Jaguar Land Rover India Monday said it has recorded its best ever first quarter sales in the country in April-June 2023. The company said its retail sales rose 102 per cent to 1,048 units in the June quarter as compared with the same period last year



More than 4cr ITRs filed for FY23 so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: More than four crore income tax returns (ITRs) have been filed so far for fiscal 2022-23 and more than half of them have been processed leading to issuance of 80 lakh refunds, CBDT chairperson Nitin Gupta said Monday.

Gupta also said that the “shortage of manpower (in the department) at every level was impeding our efforts to give even better results” as he urged the Union finance minister for a “quick approval” of the department’s cadre restructuring proposal.

He was speaking at an event held here to mark the 164th Income Tax Day. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the administrative authority for the I-T department.

Gupta said the direct tax collection, that includes personal income tax and corporate tax among others, has been making “remarkable” strides as the department collected more than ₹16.61 lakh crore in taxes during 2022-23 fiscal and this was 17.67 per cent higher as compared to the preceding year.

This collection “surpassed” both the budget and revised estimates set by the government for revenue collections under the direct taxes category and this is a testament of the hard work of our cadre, he said.

“We are currently growing at the rate of 16 per cent (for direct tax collection) over the last year. We had 7.78 crore income tax returns filed during 2022-23 financial year and this was an increase of 6.5 per cent over the previous year,” the CBDT head said.

The deadline for filing ITRs for different categories of taxpayers is a week away at July 31.



ITC to hive off hotels biz

THE CONGLOMERATE WILL SPIN OFF ITS HOTEL BUSINESS INTO SEPARATE COMPANY, SPLITTING IT FROM ITS CIGARETTES AND FOOD UNITS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Diversified entity ITC Ltd Monday said it will demerge its hotels business by incorporating wholly-owned subsidiary ITC Hotels Ltd, paving way to attract appropriate investors and strategic partners.

With the company’s hotels business maturing over the years, the company said the vertical is ready to chart its own growth path as a separate entity in the fast-growing hospitality industry.

“The Board of Directors of ITC Ltd at its meeting held on July 24, 2023, evaluated and discussed various alternative structures for the hotels business. After due consideration, the board accorded its in-principle approval to the demerger of hotels business under a scheme of arrangement,” the company said in a regulatory filing.

Its board has also approved the incorporation of the wholly-owned subsidiary ITC Hotels Ltd, which will handle its hotels and hospitality business.

ITC said it will hold about 40 per cent stake in the new entity and the balance shareholding of about 60 per cent would be held directly by the company’s shareholders proportionate to their shareholding in it.

The scheme of arrangement shall be placed for approval of the board at its next meeting to be convened August 14, 2023.

ITC said, “The demerger will help the new entity in attracting appropriate investors and strategic partners/collaborations whose investment strategies and risk profiles are aligned more sharply with the hospitality industry.”

Besides, it said, “The proposed reorganisation would ensure continued interest of the company in the hospitality business,



Creation of a hospitality focused entity will engender the next horizon of growth and value creation by harnessing the exciting opportunities in the Indian hospitality industry. In the proposed reorganisation, both ITC and the new entity will continue to benefit from institutional synergies
SANJIV PURI | CHAIRMAN, ITC

ITC WILL HOLD A 40% STAKE IN NEWLY FORMED ENTITY, TO BE NAMED ITC HOTELS LTD

THE DEMERGER TO GET FINAL APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD AUGUST 14

provide long-term stability and strategic support to the new entity in its pursuit of accelerating growth and sustained value creation as also enable leveraging of cross synergies between the company and the new entity.”

It further said, “This move by the company also reinforces the sharper capital allocation strategy put in place in recent years, manifest in the pivot to ‘asset-right’ strategy in the hotels business.”

Launched in 1975, ITC Hotels, India’s premier chain of luxury hotels, has 120 hotels and 11,600 keys across 70-plus locations.

The company said over the last two decades or so, its hotels business has scaled up significantly in terms of room inventory, revenue and profits, operating brands such as ‘ITC Hotels’ in the luxury segment, ‘Welcomhotels’ in the premium segment, ‘Fortune’ in the mid-market to upper-upscales segment and ‘WelcomHeritage’ in leisure and heritage category.

It added two new brands,

2ND DAY OF FALL

Equity benchmarks on correction path



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 24: Benchmark Sensex declined by nearly 300 points while Nifty closed below the 19,700 mark Monday, extending their losses for a second straight session due to massive selling in heavyweight stocks following below-expectation quarterly results.

Foreign fund outflows and surging crude oil prices also weighed on equity markets even as traders were awaiting the US Federal Reserve’s monetary policy decision to be announced this week.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 299.48 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at 66,384.78. During the day, it touched the intra-day peak of 66,808.56 and hit the lowest level of 66,808.56.

The NSE Nifty fell by 72.65 points or 0.37 per cent to end at 19,672.35. The broader index moved between the range of 19,782.75 and 19,658.30.

Among Sensex stocks, hotels-to-FMCG conglomerate ITC dropped the most by 3.87 per cent after the company announced the demerger of its hotels business into a separate entity ITC Hotels Ltd.

Kotak Bank declined by 3.8 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 2.8

Both the indices had settled more than 1 per cent lower in the previous session Friday, snapping their six-day record-breaking rally

per cent and Reliance Industries by 1.92 per cent. JSW Steel, Tata Steel, HUL and Maruti were also among the losers.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, PowerGrid and Bajaj Finserv gained up to 2.01 per cent. In all, 18 of Sensex stocks advanced while 12 declined.

BSE Midcap went up by 0.30 per cent to 29,634.85 while BSE Smallcap index inched up 25.37 points or 0.07 per cent to 34,172.03 points.

Among sectoral indices, BSE FMCG fell the most by 1.74 per cent, followed by metal (0.62 per cent), energy (0.58 per cent) and oil & gas (0.56 per cent).

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.73 per cent higher at \$81.66 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market Monday as they off-loaded shares worth ₹82.96 crore, according to exchange data.

EPF INTEREST RATE FOR FY23 AT 8.15%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: The government has ratified the rate of interest at 8.15 per cent rate on deposits under the Employees Provident Fund scheme for the financial year 2022-23.

Retirement fund body EPFO March 28, 2023, had marginally raised the interest rate on employees’ provident fund (EPF) deposits to 8.15 per cent for 2022-23 for its over six crore subscribers.

As per an official order issued Monday, the EPFO has asked the field offices for crediting the interest at 8.15 per cent on EPF for 2022-23 into the accounts of members.

The order came after the finance ministry’s concurrence to the EPF rate of interest approved by EPFO trustees earlier in March this year.

Now the EPFO field offices



will start the process of crediting the interest into subscribers’ accounts.

In March 2022, Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had reduced the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2021-22 to a four-decade low of 8.10 per cent from 8.5 per cent in 2020-21.

This was the lowest since 1977-78, when the EPF interest rate stood at 8 per cent.

MCL will surpass target of 204MT: CIL Chairman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 24: Expressing his confidence on Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), PM Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Limited said MCL would surpass its annual production target of 204 million tonne (MT) for financial year 2023-24, asserting that not only Coal India, but entire country has high hopes on Odisha-based subsidiary company for energy security.

Prasad, who was on his maiden visit to MCL after assuming the charge of Chairman, Coal India, toured Ib Valley Coalfields in Jharsuguda district Sunday and later in the evening chaired a review meeting of the company at the headquarters.

“MCL has performed exceptionally well in the past couple of years, and not only Coal India, but the entire country has high hopes on MCL,” the Chairman said, asserting that the leading subsidiary would successfully achieve its target of 204 MT production for the current fiscal.



JK Bohra, Director (Technical/Operations), AK Behura, Director (Finance) and AS Bapat, Director (Technical/Projects & Planning) were among senior officers present at the review meeting, while Area General Managers from Ib Valley coalfields and Talcher coalfields joined through video-conference.

Prasad, who inspected coal mining and despatch operations as well as upcoming infrastructure projects in Ib Valley coalfields July 23, emphasised on diversification initiatives, like setting up of more solar power

plants and achieving net-zero emission target.

Stressing on all out efforts to ensure that the country gets an adequate quantity of coal, the Chairman advised MCL to work on feasibility of underground projects and making them viable sources of energy.

Earlier, Prasad chaired a meeting of the Corporate Joint

Consultative Committee (JCC) of MCL and visited an upcoming Ib Valley Coal Washery under Lakhanpur Area, the largest non-coking coal washery of 10 MTPA in Coal India. He also inspected the under-construction New Y-curve Railway Siding, which will help increase coal despatch from Samaleswari OCP of Ib Valley Area.



Paper industry cuts water usage by 80%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: The paper industry in the country has cut down water consumption by 80 per cent and looks to reduce it further as investments of ₹25,000 crore have been made in sustainable production processes in the last few years, an industry body said Monday.

The Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) in a statement said that several industry players have taken environment-friendly measures to reduce their carbon and water footprint.

The players have deployed modern technology solutions and captive power generation to achieve water and energy efficiency, it said in a statement.

“Integrated paper mills have reduced water usage to 40 cubic meters to produce a tonne of



paper from the earlier 200 cubic meters. There is a concerted effort to bring it down further,’ IPMA President Pawan Agarwal said.

Industry has invested to the tune of ₹25,000 crore in sustainable production processes and capacities in the last few years,” Agarwal said. Agarwal said the paper industry has

TO REDUCE CARBON AND WATER FOOTPRINT, THE INDUSTRY HAS INVESTED ₹25K-CR IN SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES

reduced power consumption and integrated plants are producing 40 per cent of electricity by utilising the biomass from the pulping process.

The IPMA president claimed that the paper industry has been one of the top-performing sectors under the government’s PAT (perform achieve trade) scheme under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).

On sourcing of key raw material, wood, Agarwal said the paper industry has tuned ‘wood positive’ as more trees have been grown than harvested for pulp making.

“The industry has worked incessantly with over 5 lakh marginal farmers over the last several years and has successfully brought 12 lakh hectares of largely degraded land under plantations,” the IPMA said.

Byju’s, creditors agree to amend \$1.2bn loan terms

REUTERS

Bangalore, July 24: India’s Byju’s and its lenders, who own more than 85% of the edtech startup’s \$1.2 billion term loan, have agreed to work towards amending that loan by August 3, the steering committee of the creditors group said Monday.

The successful execution of the loan amendment would “immediately” solve for the loan’s acceleration and end all open litigation and avoid further enforcement actions, the steering committee said in a statement.

The news comes a month after the embattled startup had filed a lawsuit against Redwood, an investment management firm that is part of this group of lenders, to challenge its acceleration of



the term loan B facility and disqualify it for “predatory tactics”.

“We look forward to completing the loan amendment over the next two weeks and are committed to doing our part to deliver on our agreed upon timeline,” the steering committee said.

Separately, Byju’s has cut down on its office spaces in Bangalore, two sources told Reuters Monday, as it tries to cut costs and shore up liquidity after letting go of thousands of employees this year.

Hussain backs Anderson

Mukesh opens up on 'surreal feeling'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 24: Former England captain Nasser Hussain has said he would play veteran fast bowler James Anderson in the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval starting from Thursday unless he thinks that his time in international cricket is over.

Anderson was rested for England's three-wicket win at Headingley but returned to their side for the fourth Test at Manchester to pick figures of one for 81 in 37 overs. In the ongoing series, Anderson has taken just four wickets in three matches at an average of 76.75.

"What I do know is that Anderson has had two or three average games this summer and, over the course of his career, he has tended to bounce back from such displays, so I would play him unless he himself feels that he is finished at international level. Only the individual knows when the time is right to retire, whether they are physically and mentally done."

"Yes, Anderson's wickets cost 32 runs apiece there, considerably more expensive than his career mark of 26 — but four months ago he was the No.1-ranked bowler in the world and although it might be the oldest cliché, class is permanent," wrote Hussain in his column for Daily Mail.

Anderson will be facing tough competition from Ollie Robinson or Josh Tongue to hold on to his place in the playing eleven for The Oval Test, during which he will be turning 41.

"There are only so many times you can go to the well, only so many times you get out of bed, strap those bowling boots on and go again."

"That point will come for



Anderson, but I don't see in his body language that he's running on empty. He's just performing a bit below par. When a great is a bit below par, it would be very unfair — wrong, in fact — to leave him out. Great cricketers just deserve that little bit more, in keeping with their mighty efforts," added Hussain.

In 182 Test appearances, Anderson has picked 689 wickets. Hussain feels Anderson could have made an impact if he was

played at Headingley. "But I do know that in this series, the first two pitches were unresponsive, with no lateral movement. I couldn't think of a worse combination for someone like Jimmy."

"Remember, he missed out on the spiciest pitch of the series at Headingley. I don't see a massive drop-off in his pace, he just hasn't done as much with the ball this year as in previous years and I cannot put my finger

on why. Maybe it's not a summer of swing."

"My gut feeling looking at him is that he is not a cricketer who is done, but the England selectors should pick what they believe is their best team and avoid any thoughts of heading down the romantic route. Now they must pick their best side, in the knowledge that for the last 15 years Anderson has always been in it," he concluded.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, July 24: Having watched Virat Kohli's on-field exploits with awe all these years, it was a surreal feeling for Mukesh Kumar when the former Indian captain rushed to hug him after the Bengal seamer got his maiden Test wicket.

Making his Test debut a few months before his 30th birthday, the man from Bihar's Gopalganj is a late bloomer and has had to come up the ranks proving his mettle right from Bengal U-23 to India A in last seven years.

"When I got the wicket, Virat bhaiya ran up and hugged me. I was in a different world. The man I have watched all these years on TV and looked up to is hugging you. It felt great," a beaming Mukesh told his senior pace bowling partner (younger in age though) Mohammed Siraj in an interaction for BCCI.TV.

Mukesh had an impressive debut on a flat lifeless deck with figures of 18-6-48-2 to show for his efforts. "When you (Siraj) and JD (Unadkat) bhai were bowling, Rohit bhai said 'it's not a pitch where you can get wickets instantly. You need to work hard'. I had to set up the batter with consistent bowling," said Mukesh, who was picked by former Bengal seamer Ranadeb Bose, during an open trial back in 2013-14 season under the ambitious 'Vision2020' project.

Although he was mentally ready, having gone through the paces in the nets, the moment he was told at the team meeting a day before, it took some time to sink in.

"When I came to know that I will be playing, I was shocked and



actually completely zoned out. Whether I play or not, I am always prepared, so I went to attend the team meeting, keeping in mind that I need to follow my process. But there was some gut feel that I might play."

His mother was emotional and all those associated in this journey were very happy. "So when it's morning over here, its evening in India. So by evening, when I reached hotel, I spoke to my mom, that's a special feeling that 'Maa main desh ke liye khel raha hoon (Mom, I am playing for the country). All my relatives and all those who supported me from start are happy," he told Siraj.

Siraj backs Ashwin Siraj was confident spinner Ravichandran Ashwin will prove to be more than a handful for the West Indies batters on the final day of the second Test here Monday and help the visitors make a clean sweep of the two-match series.

The Caribbean side, chasing 365 to win, still had to score 289

runs to achieve an improbable win Monday with the wicket-assisting spinners. "The way the wicket is behaving, Ashwin, I feel, will run through the West Indies batting... The ball is turning," said Siraj at the end of day's play.

Siraj also disclosed that it was India's strategy to bat aggressively in the second innings and set a big target quickly for the home side. India batters, especially, Ishan Kishan played T20-style cricket notching up 52 off just 34 balls.

"Yes, Ishan is an aggressive batter. Rishabh Pant is not there, so as a wicketkeeper, he (Ishan) is able to fill in for Pant's loss to a certain extent, if not completely. He has the ability to hit the ball long and hard. He has the ability to hit all around the ground. We had enough runs on the board (first innings lead), so our plan was to score as many (runs in the second innings) in a short period and then (after declaration), we would be able to get more overs to bowl out the West Indies."

Indian men, eves' teams aim to excel

Sindhu, Prannoy keen to regain lost touch

Rain delays start of 5th day's play at Port of Spain



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: The Indian men's and women's hockey teams are determined to produce their best at the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation – International Tournament to begin Tuesday in Terrasa, Spain.

The tournament will see the Indian men's hockey team playing against formidable rivals England, the Netherlands and host nation Spain. The women's side will also take on England and Spain.

The tournament will be particularly crucial for the Indian men as it will serve as a preparatory event for them ahead of the much-awaited Asian Champions Trophy to be held in Chennai from August 3 to 12, ahead of Hangzhou Asian Games.

"The tournament in Spain presents an ideal platform for us to fine-tune our strategies and measure our abilities against formidable opponents. This crucial event will serve as a litmus test, enabling us to identify areas for improvement, ultimately playing a pivotal role in our preparations for both the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy and the highly anticipated Asian Games," India men's team captain Harmanpreet Singh said.



"We hold a strong belief that this valuable exposure will elevate our performance and fortify our readiness to tackle the forthcoming challenges."

On the other hand, the Indian women will look to get off to a good start in the tournament by winning the first game. The 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation – International Tournament will provide the Indian women's hockey team a perfect opportunity to work on their shortcomings ahead of the all-important Asian Games.

"The Spain tour is an excellent opportunity for us to bounce back and demonstrate resilience and determination. Throughout the tour, our primary focus will be on fostering a cohesive team spirit and executing our strategies," India women's team skipper Savita said.

"Our ultimate goal is to stay true to our unique playing style and leverage the invaluable lessons learned from the previous tour. Moreover, this tour bears immense significance in our pursuit of success at the forthcoming Asian Games. It will offer us invaluable insights into our strengths and areas of potential growth, propelling us toward elevating our overall performance."



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, July 24: Fresh from their Korea Open triumph, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will look to continue their dream run, even as the focus will be on the struggling PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy in the Japan Open Super 750 badminton tournament, beginning here Tuesday.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games-winning Indian doubles pair of Satwik-Chirag Sunday stunned World No.1 pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in a hard-fought final to extend their winning streak to 10 matches.

They have been in the form of their career, winning the Swiss Open, Asian Championships and Indonesia Open this year as the third-seeded Indians face Leo Rolly

Carnando-Daniel Marthin of Indonesia in the opening round. Exactly a year before the Paris Olympics, the biggest talking point in the Indian badminton circuit has been that of the wobbly form of Sindhu. The two-time Olympic medallist and former World Champion has been a shadow of her past post her injury rehab and has dropped to World No.17 following her first round exits in six of the 12 BWF World Tour events this year.

The latest was in Korean Open last week where she lost to lower-ranked Pai Yu-Po under the guidance of her high-profile new coach Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, the 2003 All-England champion.

Sindhu has been error-prone and struggling to finish points even against lower-rung players. She will have to work on her fast, attacking game to up the



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ante against her rivals. This time, Sindhu's opening round hurdle will be Zhang Yi Man, against whom the Indian won in the Malaysian Open quarters, en route to her semi-final finish in May this year.

With the latest win, Sindhu has a 2-2 win-loss record against the 20th ranked Chinese, and she would look to make up the lost ground. But should Sindhu overcome the first round hurdle, she is likely to be up against her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying who has beaten the Indian nine times in a row in recent past in her 19-5 win-loss record.

Prannoy, who won his maiden BWF World Tour title at the Malaysia Masters in May, remained India's top-ranked player but dropped two spots to 10th. Prannoy, who lost in the second round at the Korea Open last week, is seeded

eighth and pitted against unseeded Li Shi Feng of China.

Kidambi Srikanth is up against Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. If they overcome their respective opening round hurdles, Prannoy and Srikanth will clash in the battle for the quarterfinals where either of them may face the toughest test, up against top-seeded Viktor Axelsen.

The tournament will also mark the return of ace youngster Lakshya Sen, who took a break and skipped Korea Open after winning the Canada Open earlier this month.

Upcoming youngster Priyanshu Rajawat and Sen are up against each other in an all-Indian opening round clash. Should Sen get past Rajawat, he may face a tough test in second-seeded Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia in the next round.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, July 24: Torrential rain delayed the start of the fifth day's play in the second and final Test between India and the West Indies here Monday.

A rain-marred fourth day saw India pick two wickets to leave West Indies at 76/2 in their second innings, having set an imposing target of 365 runs to win the match and level the two-match series, which is part of the World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

As and when the match starts, a stronger India will fancy their chances of winning the game and completing a 2-0 whitewash of the hosts. Jermaine Blackwood (20) and Tegenarine Chanderpaul (24) were out in the middle at the close of fourth day's play. To make matter worse at the Queen's Park Oval, it rained overnight.

On the fourth and penultimate day, India had given themselves the best chance to win the Test with an ultra-aggressive batting approach after lead pacer Mohammed Siraj produced career-best figures of 5/60.

Siraj's spell in the morning session allowed India to bowl out the West Indies for 255 in their first innings. In the series opener, India defeated the West Indies to secure their first win of the WTC 2023-25 cycle.

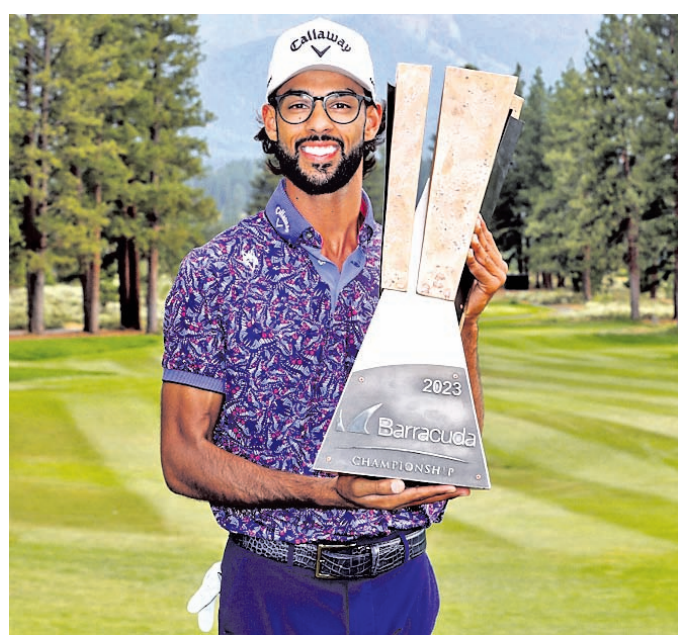
AKSHAY CLINCHES HIS FIRST PGA TOUR TITLE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Truckee (California), July 24: Akshay Bhatia birdied the closing hole in regulation, then capitalised in sudden death when Patrick Rodgers found a divot in the fairway to win his first PGA Tour title at the Barracuda Championship Sunday.

The 21-year-old Bhatia, who turned pro at 17, earned full status on tour and a spot in the FedEx Cup playoffs. He had been playing under special temporary membership since his runner-up finish at the Puerto Rico Open in March.

"It's obviously been a really tough road. I've had a lot of up, a lot of down. A lot of good, a lot of bad," Bhatia said. "But I knew I was going to get here. It was just matter of time. For it to happen this year with special temporary membership and now to get to play all these events and



to get it done today was, I can't even describe it."

Bhatia converted a birdie from about 15 feet on the par-4 18th

hole at Tahoe Mountain Club to finish with 40 points under the modified Stableford scoring system that awards five points for eagle and two for birdie while deducting a point for bogey and three for double bogey. The slender left-hander had nine points on Sunday. He made double bogey on the par-4 fifth hole, then made six birdies without a bogey from there.

That was good enough to match Rodgers, who missed a birdie attempt from roughly the same distance on the 18th. Rodgers scored six points in the final round, with one birdie and two bogeys on the back nine for zero points.

In the playoff, Rodgers' tee shot on the 18th settled in a divot and he chucked his approach. His pitch was well short and he two-putted for bogey. Bhatia left his birdie putt just short and tapped in for the victory.

HISTORIC FINISH

Hoylake (UK): India's Shubhankar Sharma produced the best-ever result by an Indian at golf's oldest Major, the Open Championships, as he finished tied-eighth here Sunday. Sharma, playing his third Open, was the only player on the final day logging a bogey-free round of 1-under 70 for a total of 5-under 279. He finished Tied-eighth, earning a recall to the Open in 2024 also. Sharma's result was also the second best by an Indian in any Major behind the T-5 by Anirban Lahiri at the 2015 PGA Championships. Jeev Milkha Singh was also T-9 at the 2008 PGA Championships. The previous best by an Indian at an Open was T-27 by Jyoti Randhawa in 2004 at Royal Troon, where the Open returns next year. The runaway winner was the short left-hander from the United States, Brian Harman.