



LOST OPPORTUNITY

Actor Zareen Khan says people of the film industry didn't give her a chance to prove her mettle

LEISURE P2



JULY SET TO BE WARMEST EVER

United Nations Secretary-general António Guterres says July 2023 is set to upend previous heat benchmarks

INTERNATIONAL P10



PRANNOY BEATS SRIKANTH

HS Prannoy comes from a set down to beat compatriot Kidambi Srikanth to advance to the Japan Open quarterfinals

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Matric examination from February 20

Bhubaneswar: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha Thursday announced that next year's matriculation (Class X) examination will commence February 20. A notification issued by BSE said the annual High School Certificate, Madhyama and State Open School Certificate Examination for 2024 will be conducted from February 20, 2024, to March 4, 2024. The details of the examination will be notified later. The BSE also said that the forms for the examination will be filled by candidates during October 2023 and the evaluation of answer sheets to be conducted from March 12 for a period of at least 12 days.

Manipur shame: CBI to take over probe

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will probe the case of sexual assault on two women who were stripped and paraded by a mob in Manipur and the government will seek its trial outside the state, officials said Thursday. The trial would be sought to be held in a court in neighbouring Assam, they said. The officials also said the Union Home Ministry is in touch with both Meitei and Kuki groups.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



ED director got a partial extension. What will happen to our war against the opposition... I mean corruption??

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	66266.82 ↓ 440.38
NIFTY	19659.90 ↓ 118.40
DOLLAR	82.19 ↑ ₹0.13
EURO	90.32 ↓ ₹0.52
GOLD	₹58,800 ↓ ₹661
SILVER	₹73,336 ↓ ₹1,988

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	32.2°C
TEMP MIN	26.0°C	25.5°C
Humidity	95%	97%
Rainfall	11.9mm	7.4mm

Forecast: Light to moderate rain



SLICE OF LIFE: Students of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya taking a tour of the Classical and Folk Instrument Museum inaugurated by state Culture Minister Aswini Kumar Patra in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

One-man show

Are we not giving a picture that there is no other person and the entire department is full of incompetent people, asks the Supreme Court to the Centre

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 27: The Supreme Court Thursday granted an extension of tenure to Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra till September 15 but lambasted the Centre for seeking an extension by stating if the entire department is 'full of incompetent people' except the incumbent chief. The apex court, however, made it clear that there will be no further extension.

"Are we not giving a picture that there is no other person and the entire department is full of incompetent people?" a bench headed by Justice BR Gavai told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The top law officer argued before the bench, also comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol, that the continuity of the ED leadership is necessary in view of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) peer review whose rating matters.

Mehta said Mishra is "not indispensable" but his presence is necessary for the entire peer review exercise.

Representing the ED, Additional Solicitor General SV



The govt informed the SC that continuity of the ED leadership is necessary in view of the Financial Action Task Force peer review whose rating matters

Raju said, "Some neighbouring countries want India to fall into FATF's 'grey list' and therefore, the ED chief's continuity is necessary."

The hearing on the Centre's application seeking the continuance of Mishra's tenure till October 15 is underway.

The top court had July 11 held as "illegal" two successive one-year extensions granted to Mishra and said the Centre's orders were in the "breach" of its mandamus in the 2021 verdict that the IRS officer should not be given further term. It had also curtailed Mishra's extended tenure to July 31 from November.

TIMELINE

- NOV 19, 2018:** Centre appoints Sanjay Kumar Mishra as ED Director
- Nov 13, 2020:** Centre modifies appointment letter and his 2-year term is changed to 3 years
- DEC 2, 2020:** NGO Common Cause moves SC challenging retrospective change in 2018 order appointing Mishra as ED head
- SEPT 8, 2021:** SC dismisses plea challenging retrospective change in the 2018 appointment order
- NOV 14, 2021:** Centre promulgates two ordinances by which the tenure of the directors of the CBI and ED can be extended by up to 3 years
- NOV 21, 2021:** PIL filed in SC against the two ordinances
- JUNE 20, 2022:** PIL filed in SC challenging the CVC (Amendment) Act, 2021
- NOV 17, 2022:** Centre extends Mishra's tenure by one year
- JULY 11, 2023:** SC holds as illegal two notifications by Centre granting extension to Mishra as ED Director
- JULY 26:** Centre moves SC seeking Mishra's continuance till Oct 15
- JULY 27:** SC grants extension to Mishra till September 15

₹1K-cr investment intent for state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 27: In what would give a big push to semiconductor ecosystem, US-based Silicon Power Group has proposed to set up a 150-mm silicon carbide manufacturing facility in Odisha with an investment of ₹1,000 crore. The investment will be made by the group's Indian Subsidiary, RiR Power Electronics, Odisha Chief

Minister's Office (CMO) said Thursday.

Harshad Mehta, promoter of the group and an electronics and semiconductor industry veteran with four decades of leadership experience, has submitted a letter of intent to the delegation of Odisha government, which is on an official tour to the US, it said.

Started in 1994 by Mehta and headquartered in the US, Silicon

Power is a major technology developer and solutions provider in the design, development, manufacturing and testing of high-power semiconductor devices and utility-applicable systems.

This will be a first-of-its-kind manufacturing facility in Odisha and will serve as a testament to the efforts the government of Odisha has put-in to develop a semiconductor ecosystem in the state.

OSSC paper leaked from printing press

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure/Bhubaneswar, July 27: The contentious JE (Civil) recruitment examination paper leak incident which has thrown the career of hundreds of job aspirants into jeopardy, took place at a printing press located outside the state, Balasure SP Sagarika Nath said Thursday.

The revelation came following the arrest of eight persons, including the mastermind, from across three states, Nath added.

However, the police didn't disclose the exact location of the printing press as the investigation is still in progress. They said it is located 'outside the state'.

The arrested were identified as Vishal Kumar Chourasia, 35, the mastermind, Bikash Kumar, 30, and printing press worker Virendra Singh, 53, from West Bengal, Gobinda Chandra Tripathy, 33, and Patta Sunil, 33, from Ganjam, Susant Kumar Sahu, 42, from Jajpur, Batakrushna Behera, 39, and Prasanjeet Sahu from Balasure. Ten mobile phones and some cash were seized from their possession. As many as 17 persons have so far been arrested in connection with the case.

Briefing the media in Balasure,

Nath said Virendra has handed over the question paper to the mastermind, who intimidated his close associates in Bihar about the question paper.

"After knowing that the question paper is from Odisha, they expanded their network to Odisha and were able to identify the candidates. They made a deal with the candidates to provide them the question paper July 15 night or July 16 morning. In return, the candidates will have to pay 50% of the amount if the question paper is found to be genuine and remaining 50% after selection," Nath said.

There was continuous communication between the mastermind and the printing press staff, whose brother belonged to the native place of the mastermind. July 11, the employee informed the mastermind about the availability of the OSSC question paper. On the next day, the main accused travelled to the place where the printing press is located and collected the question paper. Then, committed the crime, Nath said.

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

Bengal couple sells baby boy to buy iPhone

The incident came to the fore when some neighbours saw an iPhone in the hands of the couple that was struggling to make ends meet

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 27: In a bizarre incident, a couple from North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal allegedly sold their 8-month-old baby boy to purchase an expensive iPhone for creating Instagram reels. Sources said that the father of the boy also attempted to sell their seven-year-old daughter. Police rescued the baby boy, and nabbed the mother and the woman who bought the infant.

Meanwhile, sources said the baby's father, Jaydev, is absconding while others have quoted local councillor Tarak Guha as saying that the police have apprehended him. "Jaydev also tried to sell the girl Saturday midnight. We informed the



police as soon as we learnt about it. Police have arrested Jaydev," Guha has been quoted as saying. The incident came to the fore July 22 night when some neighbours in the Panihati Gandhinagar area came to know that the accused couple that was struggling to make ends meet, suddenly got an iPhone. This coincided

with the disappearance of their baby raising suspicion among the neighbours.

When the neighbours questioned the couple the latter claimed that the child was with a relative. The neighbours then alerted the local councillor, who promptly informed the police.

Later, when the police confronted the couple, the mother confessed that they sold the baby and used the money to travel to various parts of West Bengal to create Instagram reels. Police swung into action and rescued the baby from a woman in Khardaha area in the North 24 Parganas district.

West Bengal police has arrested the mother, identified as Sathi, and the woman who bought the baby, identified as Priyanka Ghosh

DSPL-166

Govt. of Odisha

World Hepatitis Day

28th July 2023

"Hepatitis is preventable. A little caution can save life."

Chief Minister, Odisha

Healthy Odisha Happy Odisha

- Hepatitis vaccine is given to the child within 24 hrs of birth. It is available free of cost in all Govt. health facilities.
- To protect yourself from Hepatitis :
 - Receive blood and blood products from authorised blood banks only.
 - Avoid unprotected sex.
 - Consume fresh food and safe drinking water.
- Hepatitis positive pregnant women should deliver in hospitals and the new born baby should be protected with Hepatitis Immunoglobulin injection.

Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha

Facebook: @HFWOdisha | Twitter: @HFWOdisha | Website: http://www.health.odisha.gov.in

OIPR-10003/13/0083/2324

leisure

'Didn't get chance to prove myself'

Mumbai: Actress Zareen Khan who made her debut in *Veer* said that comparisons with Katrina Kaif backfired on her career as the film industry didn't give her a chance to prove her individuality.

A fan asked Zareen on social media platform, "People compared you a lot with Katrina Kaif in your early days in Bollywood. How did it make you feel and did it have any impact on your career?"

To which the *Housefull 2* actress replied, "So when I entered this industry, I was literally like a lost child, since I don't come from a filmy back-

ground. So it made me feel really happy being compared to Katrina as I was her fan too, and found her really pretty. But it backfired on my career as the people of this industry didn't give me a chance to prove my individuality."

Zareen was last seen in *Hate Story 3*, Telugu film *Chanakya* and Punjabi film *Jatt*.



Oppenheimer: A masterful storytelling

THE BIOPIC IS NEARLY AS CAPTIVATING AS THE BIOGRAPHY, AMERICAN PROMETHEUS BY KAI BIRD AND MARTIN SHERWIN, IT IS BASED ON

"I am become death, the destroyer of worlds." These dreadful words are by now familiar to many. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the 'Father of the A-bomb', said he thought of this line from the *Bhagavad Gita* during Trinity, the first atomic test in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in July 1945. Vishnu assumes his many-armed form to convince Prince Arjuna to enter battle, and the image of a thousand suns occurs as well, a spectacle to rival the atomic fireball.

Oppenheimer, the son of wealthy German Jews from the Upper West Side, went to Felix Adler's Ethical Culture school as a boy, where he was taught to weigh each moral decision with grown-up sobriety. Much later, Oppenheimer learned Sanskrit in order to read the Hindu scriptures, drinking in their message about the fatedness of life. Arjuna must do his duty, terrible though it is. But the *Gita* also suggests that death is an illusion, given the reality of reincarnation. Oppenheimer enjoyed no such consolation.

Nolan's *Oppenheimer* is nearly as captivating as the biography it is based on, American Prometheus, by Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin. Bird and Sherwin produced a page turner, and made Oppenheimer's story thrilling in all its details. Nolan also captivates us, every step of the way. Oppenheimer is a relatively staid biopic, but it is masterfully arranged, and Nolan's quiet approach pays off.

This is an actor's movie. Cillian Murphy is entrancing as Oppenheimer. Every time Oppenheimer thinks something through, Murphy makes it exciting. Just as superb as Murphy is Robert Downey Jr., who gives the performance of his life as Lewis Strauss, who was both Oppenheimer's patron and, eventually, his enemy. Florence Pugh as Oppenheimer's communist lover, Jean Tatlock; Emily Blunt as his wife, Kitty; Matt Damon as General Leslie Groves, who picked Oppenheimer to run Los Alamos—all these actors are at their very best here.

Oppenheimer is far more interested in its actors than the earth-shaking grandeur of a terrible new weapon. Unlike Nolan's epic *Dunkirk*, *Oppenheimer* avoids spectacle. Oppenheimer loved the landscape of New Mexico, where he owned a ranch—though frail and underweight, he was an expert horseman, as well as a daredevil with a sailboat. But there are no breathtaking vistas in this movie. The much-ballyhooed depiction of the Trinity explosion, which comes more than two hours through this three-hour film, is gigantic enough, alright, but by no means sublime. The scene unfolds at a slow pace, soft-pedaling the shock and awe of the atomic blast. Despite the potential of 70 mm IMAX, Nolan avoids attention-grabbing cinematography, with just a few exceptions. He sometimes cuts away from shots of Oppenheimer to images of stars or quasars, an effect repeated a few too many times in this film. Nolan's most persuasive use of montage occurs when Oppenheimer, while giving a gung ho speech about the Hiroshima bombing

to the cheering men and women of Los Alamos, looks down at his foot and sees it stuck in a blackened corpse.

Nolan's best scene shows the delicious sparring between Oppenheimer and Groves during their first meeting, when Groves chooses him to direct the Manhattan Project. The verbal fencing between Oppenheimer and Tatlock, and Oppenheimer and Kitty, gives zest to Nolan's film, balancing out the exposition of scientific questions. Piquantly, a bare-breasted Tatlock makes Oppenheimer quote the *Bhagavad Gita* while mounting

Truman to describe Oppenheimer to Dean Acheson as a "cry-baby".

Oppenheimer, not usually self-thwarting, sometimes stumbled badly when he spoke to those in power. Truman knew that his own hands were far bloodier than Oppenheimer's and that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were necessary for a Japan that refused to end the war. The hundred thousand dead from the fire-bombing of Tokyo had only increased Japanese resolve. Japan ordered that its soldiers never surrender, imposing

It was months before Oppenheimer informed the military establishment that he had been asked to give secrets to the Russians, and he portrayed the request as a warning that spies were afoot, rather than an invitation to become a spy, which was how Chevalier clearly intended it. With astonishing arrogance, Oppenheimer in effect told the military intelligence officer Boris Pash that he knew who was a security risk and who was not. Even though Chevalier (whom he refused to name) had contacted two or three other faculty members to relay Eltenton's treasonous request, Oppenheimer was sure that Chevalier was not trying to extract information to be passed to the Russians. Oppenheimer was certain that Chevalier, a Communist Party member, would never share secret information with Russia, though this is exactly what Chevalier seemed to be proposing. Oppenheimer finally gave up Chevalier's name only after Groves ordered him to, in December 1943. Groves was not unduly concerned because he knew that Oppenheimer would never dream of committing treason. True, Oppie felt that the American work on the bomb ought to be shared with Russia through official channels, and he was not alone in this. But passing along secret information to another country was unimaginable to him.

The Chevalier affair would make Oppenheimer intensely vulnerable a few years later to a Cold War political climate in which any hint of espionage had to be reported instantly. His effort to protect his friend Chevalier made him a security risk. Oppenheimer's position, shared by Groves, was that former communists were welcome to work on the Manhattan Project. But in 1954, the atmosphere was different. Russia, which acquired the bomb in 1949, was our declared enemy.

Oppenheimer infuriated Strauss, who by that time had become the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, when he tried to stand in the way of the next world-changing weapon, the hydrogen bomb, Edward Teller's brainchild. Oppenheimer swayed the AEC to oppose the H-bomb because he wanted to cement his reputation as the prophet of world peace. He was the proud father of the atom bomb, but he refused to bloody his hands further by championing an immensely more devastating invention. In the end, Oppenheimer failed to block the H-bomb, but he had made an enemy of Strauss.

Oppenheimer's ambivalence, which so enraged Strauss, was in fact his greatest gift, as Nolan's movie makes clear. He had little in common with Leo Szilard, the physicist who opposed dropping the bomb on Japan. But he also recoiled from the cold blooded use of game theory to determine which side would have the advantage after a nuclear holocaust. Nuclear war remained unthinkable for him, a fate to be dodged at all costs. This complex, soul-torn genius was punished by an American establishment in thrall to McCarthyite fanaticism, a blot on American history. Oppenheimer was a masterful, charismatic organizer and a lightning-minded researcher, but he was something more, too. As Nolan's movie argues, his heroic stature came from his misgivings and his dread of the atomic future. Divided at his core, this new Prometheus knew the costs of the alien fire he bestowed on humanity.



him during a sex scene (the shot has already incited the ire of some Hindu nationalists).

Oppenheimer shows us the passion of Oppenheimer's relationship with Tatlock, a Communist Party member who was training to be a psychiatrist, though the movie fails to convey Oppenheimer's commitment to her. The real-life Oppenheimer proposed to Jean three times, and she rejected him. Their affair continued sporadically after he married Kitty.

Oppenheimer, known affectionately as Oppie, was too mercurial to ever win the Nobel Prize. He was probably the most imaginative of physicists, and one of the most productive, publishing dozens of papers on a range of subjects during the '20s and '30s. One of his innovative articles, ignored at the time, planted the seed for the study of black holes decades later. Here Nolan indulges in anachronism: He shows Oppie's Berkeley students cheering his revolutionary work on black holes, a term invented many years later.

Oppenheimer's heroism resided in his ambivalence. But ambivalence was also his downfall. He was intensely proud of his role in making the bomb, and he exulted when the news came that it had been dropped on Hiroshima. But he also felt he had "blood on his hands," as he told President Harry Truman during their one meeting, a phrase that later led

maximum casualties on American forces on Okinawa, Peleliu, and Iwo Jima even at suicidal cost. Bird and Sherwin fudge this question in their monumental biography. But the movie gets it right: Dropping the bomb was the only way to end the war without an invasion of Japan that would have destroyed Japanese civilization, as well as requiring an endless slaughter of American GIs.

The atomic scientists, Niels Bohr among them, often said that the bomb would be a weapon of peace, so devastating that no country would go to war for fear that nuclear destruction would ensue. This was a self-serving delusion. Deep down the physicists knew that atomic weapons were not a means to advance world peace.

The main factor that led to Oppenheimer's downfall, the revoking of his security clearance in a closed hearing in 1954, was his role in the Chevalier affair. Haakon Chevalier, a professor of French literature and a Communist Party member, was Oppenheimer's best friend at Berkeley. (In Nolan's film, strangely, Chevalier becomes a mere acquaintance, not a close friend.) In 1943, Chevalier told Oppenheimer, who was in the process of mixing some martinis, that a man named George Eltenton, whom Oppenheimer had met briefly, was in touch with the Soviet Consulate, and had offered to transmit information on military scientific projects to Russia.

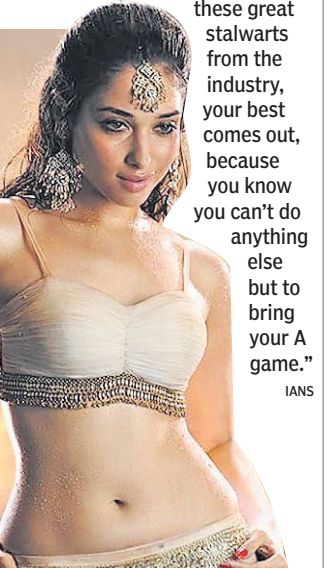
FILM REVIEW

DIRECTOR
Christopher Nolan

CAST
Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Florence Pugh, Rami Malek and others

I love ensemble cast: Tamannah

Mumbai: Actress Tamannah Bhatia says being a part of an ensemble is empowering and she doesn't feel insecure in a multi-star cast. Talking about younger generation avoiding ensemble, the *Himmatwala* actress said, "I think change is individual, I remember when *Baahubali* happened, my first successful Telugu film *Happy Days* happened, then I did a recent show titled *Jee Karda*, I've always been a part of ensemble films and I have never shied away from that because I think there is power when great bunch of creative people come together and I think I have always been a very secure actor." She went on to add, "I can say for myself that in fact when you are with



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

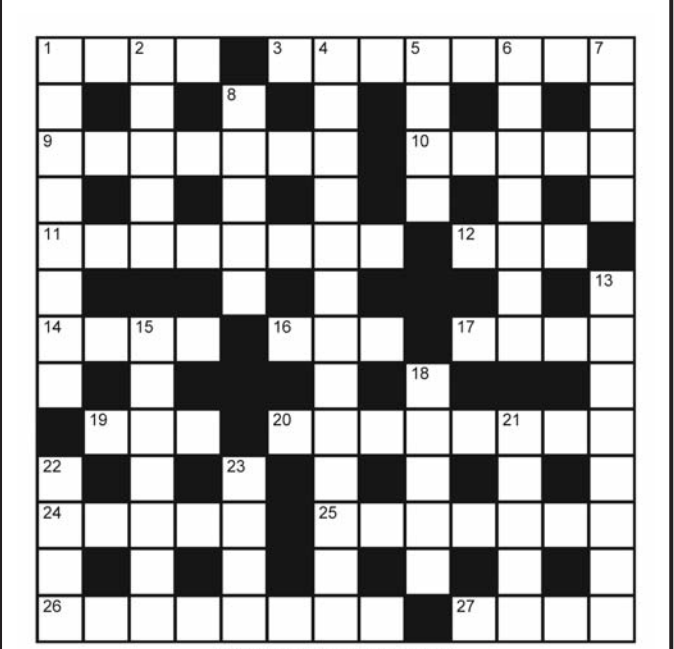


BREVITY



FUN post

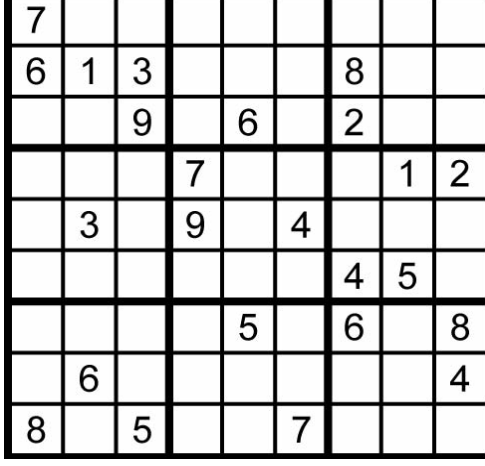
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Theatre group
 - 3 Greyhound look-alikes
 - 9 Circus performer
 - 10 Comet's path
 - 11 Really, really big
 - 12 Part of some uniforms
 - 14 Celestial bear
 - 16 Fall back
 - 17 Persian spirit
 - 19 Swindle
 - 20 Screamed and shouted
 - 24 Arum lily
 - 25 Delinquent, like some bills
 - 26 Singing voice
 - 27 Combustible heap
 - Down**
 - 1 Loud resonant repeating noise
 - 2 Bit of parsley
 - 4 Colourful flier, usually (3-3,7)
 - 5 Scheme
 - 6 Fond squeeze
 - 7 Location
 - 8 Durable wood
 - 13 Type of view (5-3)
 - 15 Movie plot warning
 - 18 Built for speed
 - 21 Lingerie item
 - 22 Healing sign
 - 23 Shopping place

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

COMB CROSSBOW
H I L E E A O
A N X I O U S C A N A L
R E N U O S F
C A R T E B L A N C H E
O L T D E S
A L L E Y S E F F E T E
L O H O I A
L I F E A N D D E A T H
S T A E D N O
C H E E R D E L I V E R
A R T G E I S
R E S I S T E D G L U E

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



'Pala' artistes met CM Naveen Patnaik to express their gratitude for enhancement of their remuneration at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

downtown

Change is the only unchanged process: President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 27: "Change is the only unchanged process in this world," said President Droupadi Murmu while addressing a gathering of 'Brahma Kumaris' after she laid foundation stone for the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya's (PBKIVV) 'Divine Light House' here, Thursday.



President Droupadi Murmu laying the foundation stone for the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya's 'Divine Light House', Thursday

The President made the observation while stressing that both material and spiritual development are necessary for humanity and, as the driver of change technology is unavoidable and necessary for this development.

Murmu also added that though materialistic changes can give happiness, one can only attain mental peace by following the spiritual path.

The President, who is on a three-day visit to Odisha, attended the PBKIVV programme here at Dasabatia, near Tamando, where she launched the organisation's theme for the year 'The Year of Positive Change' for conducting seminars and shared lunch with the 'Brahma Kumaris' before leaving for the national capital.

In her address, she also said that Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya is not just an organisation, but it is also a social and spiritual campaign run by women.

Similarly, speaking on the utility of Brahma Kumaris for making humanity more positive, the president said, "I have gone

through a very sorrowful phase in my life. I do not want to scratch those old wounds, but I would like to say that this organisation helped me restore faith in my life once again."

She was referring to the personal tragedies in her life when her two sons died in a very short span of time due to different reasons and also the death of her husband.

Murmu said she was happy that Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya is paving the way for spirituality through meditation and a disciplined lifestyle.

"From time to time, some negative thoughts disturb our minds. We start falling prey to negative thinking due to lack of introspection", the President said, adding that negativity will automatically disappear once positivity increases in human beings.

She said the biggest challenge

'PVTG members need handholding'

President Droupadi Murmu met members of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) at the Raj Bhavan here Thursday and asked the Odisha government to handhold PVTGs, whose number is very small in the state.

The PVTGs are the most backward and there is therefore the need for immediate government help to them for their uplift, Murmu said.

She urged the PVTGs to give "utmost" importance to education.

"There is special provision of seats for students from the PVTG community at the Eklavya Model

before people today is to get rid of negative thoughts and move towards positivity.



Audience listen to the President's address at the function

OP PHOTOS



Residential Schools, besides in the National Fellowship and Overseas Scholarship Scheme," the President said.

She asked Odisha Tribal Affairs Minister, who was present at the meeting, to lay emphasis on the education and skill development of PVTGs.

"Do not forget to send your children to school. Both girls

and boys must go to school and acquire education as only it can remove your problems," she told the participants.

The president expressed her happiness when she came to know that a girl from the PVTG community is a graduate and asked the ST and SC Minister to do something for her as she is unemployed.

Expressing happiness that the Centre has launched the Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission, she urged women of the community to take advantage of the various schemes, including the Tribal Women Empowerment Scheme.

In her speech, the President appreciated the Brahma Kumaris organisation's efforts

for making humanity aware and helping people move forward in a positive direction.

Focus on state's heritage at Bangkok Tourism Roadshow

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Leveraging the direct flight connectivity with Thailand, Odisha Tourism conducted second phase of its international tourism promotional campaign with a roadshow in Bangkok. Organised in association with FICCI, the "Tourism Roadshow" saw more than 130 tour and travel operators from Thailand networking with tourism industry stakeholders from Odisha.



porting the economy in both the destinations."

At the event, Indian Ambassador to Thailand Nagesh Singh delivered the keynote address and praised the strategic steps taken by the Odisha government. "This networking event will open more avenues for bilateral trade relations between the two regions. The many offerings of Odisha Tourism will surely attract people here in Thailand to visit India's best kept secret with the newly launched direct flights ensuring minimal travel time", he said.

Tourism Council of Thailand vice president Sompong Sachaphimukh and Indigo Airlines customer service supervisor Prapaporn Jummuenwai addressed the gathering which set the tone for a panel discussion among industry leaders from India and Thailand.

Belgadia Palace director Mrinalika Bhanj Deo, Vikash Eco Resorts managing director Srinivas Valluri, Swosti Group CMD JK Mohanty, Odisha Tour Operators Association secretary Yugabrata Kar, Mayfair Hotels and Resorts president Manoj Gouda and PMU Odisha Tourism head Lokesh Kumar participated as members in the panel.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Man arrested in ₹12.50L fraud case

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly duping a person of ₹12.50 lakh. The accused, identified as Rajendra Behera, is a resident of Old Town area under Shree Lingaraj police limits. Rajendra was arrested in connection with the case (151/23) registered May 18 on the direction of a local court. The victim, Sujit Kumar Sahu had reportedly sought the service of Rajendra for some office works few years back and both became good friends afterwards. Later Rajendra reportedly asked Sujit for financial help for the treatment of his ailing father. The complainant, relying on Rajendra's words, gave the latter ₹15 lakhs in different installments between 2021 and 2022. However, Rajendra failed to return the money within the promised deadline and even stopped answering Sujit's calls. Later Rajendra returned ₹2.5 lakhs through UPI and handed over a cheque of ₹12.50 lakh to Sujit. However, when Sujit went to deposit the cheque, he was shocked to find out that Rajendra had closed the account. Following this, Sujit approached the court seeking justice.

NHRC seeks ATR over tribal's killing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 27: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the state Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Superintendent of Police of Mayurbhanj district to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) in connection with the alleged death of a tribal by the Forest officials. In addition, the court has sought the inquest, post-mortem

examination report and copy of the magisterial enquiry report. The commission asked for the submission of the ATR and other reports within four weeks time while hearing a petition filed by Supreme Court Lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

Tripathy in his complaint alleged that 40-year-old Jagannath Hembram, belonging to a Scheduled Tribe, of Burudi village in Mayurbhanj district was allegedly killed by Forest de-

partment personnel May 31, 2023. The victim had reportedly gone in the Simlipal sanctuary area to search for missing buffalo when he was allegedly shot dead by the Forest officials, suspecting him to be a poacher. The perpetrators reportedly fled from the spot, leaving the body behind, alleged Tripathy.

The petitioner had approached the NHRC seeking an impartial investigation into the matter so that the bereaved family got justice.

Woman kills husband with minor son's help

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 27: In a shocking incident, a woman with help of her minor son allegedly stabbed her husband to death in Bhadrak district, police said Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Suresh Kumar Mahala (55).

The incident took place at Mahala Sahi of Banitia pan-

chayat under Bhadrak rural police station. Locals alleged that Suresh's wife Sanjulata and minor son stabbed him to death over a family dispute.

Suresh came out of his house screaming in pain and then fell on the road. After some time, he died on the spot, the locals said.

Later, the villagers tied the woman and her son to a tree and thrashed them. After getting information, police reached at the

spot, recovered the body and detained Sanjulata and her minor son. Accused woman Sanjulata and her minor son were also injured in the incident. So, both were under treatment, said an official of the Bhadrak rural police station.

The body was sent for post-mortem. The exact reason behind the murder will be known after interrogation of the mother and son duo, he informed.

Muharram holiday July 29

Bhubaneswar: The state government Thursday rescheduled the holiday for Muharram to July 29, an official order said. The holiday will be applicable to state government offices as well as Revenue and Magisterial Courts (Executive). "The Government of Odisha has been pleased to declare holiday on 29.07.2023 (Saturday) instead of 28.07.2023 (Friday) on account of Muharram for the state government offices as well as the Revenue and Magisterial Courts (Executive)," an official notification said.

Chirping of monsoon birds fills up Bhitarkanika

MORE THAN 14 SPECIES OF BIRDS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED AT THE RAMSAR SITE FOR LAYING EGGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, July 27: Water birds have made Bhitarkanika their temporary home this monsoon with thousands of winged species thronging the national park in Kendrapara district for their seasonal nesting and breeding, a forest official said Thursday.

The arrival of these birds has reestablished Bhitarkanika as one of the prominent heronries of the state, he said.

"With the commencement of the rainy season, migrant species have arrived in batches for seasonal nesting. They have built nests and laid eggs atop the mangrove trees. Their sojourn would last for at least three months from



now, after which they would start their homeward journey." Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Divisional Forest Officer Sudarshan Gopinath

Yadav said. More than 14 species of birds such as open-billed stork, little cormorant, little, medium and

large egret, purple and grey heron, darter, white ibis and cattle egret have already arrived in Bhitarkanika for laying eggs, the DFO said.

These birds have stepped up their nesting activities at Mathadiha, Durgaprasaddiha and Laxmiprasaddiha forests in Bhitarkanika during the monsoon season, he said.

There is food security for these winged species as the place criss-crossed by innumerable water inlets and nullahs is free from human interference, Yadav said.

Ideal climatic conditions, cool breeze and the river system here have helped the place become a suitable home for these chirpy winged species.

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ARIES

You will remain undecided today, which is quite unlike you, says Ganesh. This will lead to speculation, which is not a bad thing by itself...

TAURUS

People around you will be surprised to witness the considerate and compassionate side of you today, says Ganesh. Problems may come knocking but you, along with support from your loved ones, will handle them with brilliant tact...

GEMINI

Today, you are likely to focus on self-improvement, predicts Ganesh. Self-employed people may expect huge profits in their businesses. You may end up spending more time at work and less time with family...

CANCER

What good is life if it doesn't involve great fun and merrymaking. Keeping this in mind, you will set about planning your day. There may be no stopping you as you go about your day having a blast at every possible moment...

LEO

Call it the momentary re-ignition of the spark of brilliance and energy, this day finds you at the peak of your dynamism. Ganesh predicts a fantastic day for all, especially those in the freelancing business...

VIRGO

Today is the day when you'll be like the Iron Man: heart of gold, nerves of steel - minus the shiny body armour, though. Tolerance, optimism and exceedingly artistic talents will rule the roost...

LIBRA

You may not have been crowned 'Employee Of The Month', but do not let that distract you from the fact that today, you are the brightest star in office. Be prepared to get some special treatment at work...

SCORPIO

Ganesh warns you of a long, dreary day today. Though not completely at a loss, you may feel lost and desire to spend some time alone with yourself. The empty nest syndrome is likely to invade and hold your mental peace at ransom...

SAGITTARIUS

A balanced day is in store today. Find yourself as much at home as at your desk. You may engage in a time of fun and games with your buddies. But when it comes to family, something more practical, like re-arranging your house, is on the cards...

CAPRICORN

If you are a sports person, you will enjoy both good health and fame, while engineers will mull investing money in new business ventures, foresees Ganesh. But make sure you know what you are doing, a minor slip can cost you a fortune...

AQUARIUS

Money matters are very important, and your family will demand your presence in all financial dealings. At work, things will be more comfortable. You may also get new projects. Ganesh predicts a trip in the offing...

PISCES

Your inherent dynamism and energy will sparkle forth today. Freelancers will be struck with inspiration, and will conjure masterpieces. Pleasant surprises await you in the evening, says Ganesh.

Heavy rainfall likely in next 4 days: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Forecasting heavy rainfall in next four days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday issued yellow (be updated) warning for several districts.

According to IMD's Bhubaneswar Centre bulletin, the low pressure area formed Bay of Bengal now lies over south Odisha and adjoining north coastal Andhra Pradesh with associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 7.6 km above mean sea level.

The Monsoon Trough at mean sea level continues to pass through Bikaner, Kota, Raisen, Durg, centre of low pressure area over south Odisha and adjoining north coastal Andhra Pradesh and thence east-south-eastwards to East Central Bay of Bengal extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level, it said.

Under its impact, heavy rain likely to occur at few places of Nuapada, Bargarh, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhaj districts, Friday.

Similarly, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two over the districts of Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Angul, Boudh, Sonepur, Bolangir and Kalahandi, July 29.

Similar weather condition would continue to prevail in some parts of the state for another four days. The MeT office has also warned of squally weather with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph along and off Odisha coast, West central adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal in the next 24 hours. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into sea along and off Odisha coast, Northwest & adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal during this period.



IN SPATE: A man casts net as Kuakhai river swells with first floodwaters in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

FPOs playing vital role in millet productivity

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) is all focused on improving productivity of millet crops through Farmers' Producer Organisations (FPOs). By bringing together the government, academia, and community-based organisations, OMM has created a powerful platform aimed at promoting healthier dietary choices while supporting local agricultural practices.

FPOs, which play a vital role in the millet ecosystem of Odisha, strive to enhance farmers' growth and competitiveness in the face of emerging trends and challenges. OMM is committed to enabling and empowering these organisations, helping them carve out marketing opportunities, and providing funds for their daily operations in each block.

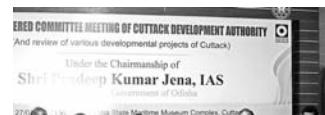
In cases where no FPO exists, women's self-help groups are encouraged to step up and register themselves as FPOs.

OMM collaborates with other civil society organisations and seasoned executives from successful FPOs to mentor and train budding leaders.

Equipped with business acumen and strategic insights, these leaders are ready to drive growth and prosperity.

It's no wonder that the number of FPOs working with OMM is increasing steadily, with 76 currently on board. Looking ahead, the mission aims to expand its support to a total of 142 FPOs.

CDA's 1st empowered committee meet held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 27: Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena chaired the 1st empowered committee meeting of Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) at Odisha State Maritime Museum Complex, Cuttack Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Housing and Urban Development Principal Secretary G MathiVathanan, Works Special Secretary Hemant Kumar Dutta, Tourism Additional Secretary Balamukunda Bhuyan, Culture Director Dilip Routray, Collector Bhawani Shankar Chayani, CDA Chairman Anil Kumar Samal and CDA Vice Chairman Nikhil Pavan Kalyan among others.

Anil Samal briefed the guests about the background of the Mahanadi water front development project that was announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, basing on five focus points like culture, technology, ecology, sports and recreation for the benefit of the citizens. He shared that a new master plan has been prepared as per the guidelines of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Ex-manager of ponzi firm gets 3 years RI for duping investors

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasore, July 27: Special judge of Odisha Protection of Interest of Depositors (OPID) court Biswajit Das Thursday convicted the former branch manager of a ponzi firm and sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and imposed a penalty of Rs 62,000 on him for duping innocent investors.

The convict identified as Rohit Sahu, a resident of Badabazar of Baripada town under Mayurbhanj district, was tried under section 420, 406, 120(b) and 34 of IPC and 4&5 of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (banning) Act 1978.

A case was registered against the convict and others in May, 2013 in Baripada police station following complaints from the investors.

The complainants alleged they were duped by the convict, who was the branch manager of 'Real Vision International Limited', a multi-level marketing company having its office at Station Bazar.

They alleged that the chit fund company had siphoned their



hard earned money promising lucrative offers including high returns against their deposits and other incentives.

However, subsequently they got neither dividends nor the principal amounts.

"The accused Rohit Sahu was tried under several sections of IPC and PCMCs (banning) Act.

The court holding him guilty sentenced different quantum of punishment under different sections after examining 13 witnesses and 26 exhibits.

"The jail terms would run concurrently. He would undergo three years RI besides a fine of Rs 62,000." Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said.

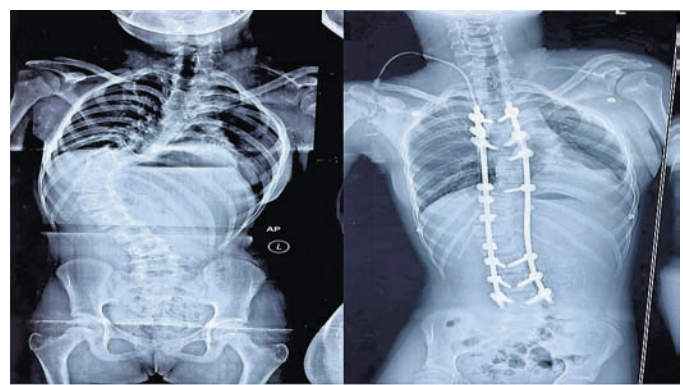
Girl's spinal deformity corrected by KIMS docs

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 27: Doctors at the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here have given a new lease of life to a teenage girl from Bhadrak who was battling a spinal deformity known as scoliosis. An abnormal curve in her spine gave it an 'S-shaped' appearance, threatening the promise of a bright future. However with their expertise, the doctors at the hospital were able to correct the position of her spine in a complex operation.

The ground-breaking surgery marks the first time a private hospital in the state has performed such a complex procedure, which was skillfully carried out by senior consultant and orthopaedic and spine surgeon Jitendra Kumar Rout along with anaesthetists Sanjeev Giri and Rajmohan.

Explaining the spinal deformity the girl suffered from, Rout said that it is known as 'idiopathic scoliosis,' a condition that



typically develops between the ages of 10 and 15 and if left untreated, can lead to severe deformities and significantly impact self-confidence and self-esteem of the patient. Such patients often become targets of ridicule due to their appearance. Correcting the deformity at an early age is crucial, as it becomes more challenging to treat it at an advanced age.

The girl's family visited several hospitals for treatment,

including AIIMS, but had lost hope until they arrived at KIMS. After studying the case in detail, the medical team proceeded with the surgery, which was covered under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) scheme.

Notably, Rout, who is also the secretary of the Spine Society of Odisha, accomplished the challenging operation in four hours, a procedure that normally takes 7 to 8 hours.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2023

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

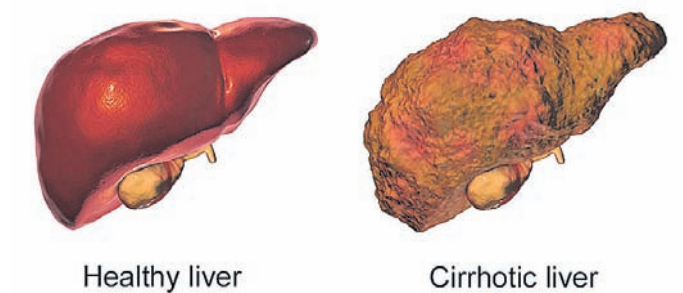
Bhubaneswar, July 27: With monsoon in its full fury, this is a time to stop your cravings for street food. Often those fried, spicy, and unhygienic junk, made using unsafe water and reused oil, can lead to factors that could play havoc with digestive health, resulting in infectious gastro diseases, including Hepatitis.

With a view towards creating awareness about the dangers of Hepatitis and ways to fight the deadly infectious disease, the 'World Hepatitis Day' is observed every year on July 28.

The theme this year 'One Life One Liver' throws a self-conscious message that life is precious. The celebration is a powerful call for people to broaden access to testing and treatment.

"One of the common infections during rainy season is Hepatitis A, an inflammation of

'Vaccination a must for healthy liver'



the liver that spreads through contaminated food and water or direct contact with the person suffering from the infection," said Dr. Baikunthanath Tripathy, in-charge, Antiretroviral Therapy Centre, Capital Hospital.

The disease can cause mild to severe symptoms. These have resulted in epidemics most often. Proper hygiene can help a lot towards reducing transmission.

Dr. Tripathy said the use of reused medical equipments dur-

ing surgery increases chances of transmission. "Hence these are also known as blood borne viruses. Hepatitis B is also transmitted through sexual intercourse just like HIV. Mother to child transmission is also a frequently diagnosed case. Everyone should go for vaccinations; it ends the chances of getting infected with the viruses. Once infected, it stays the whole life," he added.

Viral hepatitis is a silent killer that is to blame for frequent deaths

PREVENTION GOALS
Say no to self-medication
A nutritious diet while avoiding smoking and alcohol if you are infected with Hepatitis A virus
Spread of hepatitis A can be reduced by adequate supplies of safe drinking water and proper disposal of sewage
Individual hygiene practice such as regular hand washing before meals and after going to the washroom
Inactivated hepatitis A vaccines are available for above 1 year of age
Symptoms
Fever, loss of appetite, diarrhea, malaise, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark-colored urine and jaundice
In chronic cases, liver failure, cancer and scarring can occur
Although most people don't feel any symptom, people may experience depression and weight loss

every year. The problem is that the symptoms appear only once the disease is advanced. One can prevent the spread and deaths related to Hepatitis with the help of vaccines and effective treatments. "Staying focused on treatment, following healthcare provider's guidance, and not hesitating to seek support from

loved ones and medical professionals is a way towards recovering quicker", said Dr. Amitabh Prusty, Senior Surgeon at Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar. "Let us eliminate Hepatitis, ignite hope, raise awareness, promote prevention, and stand united against this global health challenge", he added.

Kishore promoted as IT chief commissioner

Bhubaneswar: J Krishna Kishore, an IRS officer of 1990 batch presently posted as Principal Director of Income Tax (Investigation), Odisha, was promoted Thursday as chief



commissioner of Income Tax, vide office order No. 179 of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Kishore has an outstanding track record and is known to be an officer of impeccable integrity. During his tenure, the Directorate of Investigation of Odisha achieved the best ever results in all parameters, including highest cash ever seizure and highest detection of concealed income in Odisha.

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1970s: No support for indigenous companies to withstand flooding of cheaper overseas products

1980s: Mysterious fire shuts down India's only VLSI, giving other Asian countries the edge

1990s: Policy paralysis hampers entrepreneurship



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FOCUS ECONOMIC POLICY

IDEAS AT CROSSROADS



The spirit of liberal democracy seems to have given way to the credo of market fundamentalism with disastrous consequences

Indeed, the saga of acute poverty in several parts has forced the attention of developing economies like India how to mitigate them. The SDG goals (1 & 2) aim at not only minimisation, but also elimination of hunger and poverty by 2030. In a comprehensive report, the World Bank (2000) came up with three prolonged strategies to mitigate poverty on a long-term basis. They include promoting opportunity, facilitating empowerment, and enhancing security. The opportunities would include economic ones like improving the asset base of the poor through land redistribution, human capability based by providing education and health, and financial security like ensuring access to credit at affordable rates. Empowerment can be facilitated by making the poor, part of the decision-making process and making institutions accountable to the poor. Enhancement of security will include firewalls against economic shock, financial shocks, natural disasters, crop failure, illness, and violence.

The present political dispensation in India, while publicly espousing development for all, eschewing income, caste, or religion, is in reality encouraging religious divide to garner a majoritarian vote. Distributive justice has been given a complete go by. The quality of public school education and basic health care remain dismal. Malnutrition among children remains as high as 33% as per the UNICEF's RSCOC survey of 2013-14. The hope of liberal democracy as the panacea for socio-economic justice for all is roiled by religious and market fundamentalism. The sane voices of sound economists seem to be stilled by politics of opportunism and populism.

The writer teaches Macro Economics. Views are personal

enig as the real panacea to fight the demon of spiraling inflation and stagflation. Volcker as Fed Governor adapted this policy to tame inflation. US did not witness high inflation since then except when fiscal stimulus during COVID triggered it yet again. Friedman also resuscitated the free market philosophy of Smith by giving primacy to economic freedom over economic equity and minimal government, as a forerunner of market fundamentalism.

Prof. Joseph Stiglitz responding to the global economic crisis in 2007-08 has observed how the free market has only helped unscrupulous bankers, stock brokers, and credit rating agencies; destroying the well-being of a large number people due to the contagion effect. The world after the end of socialist ideology seems to embrace market economics even in sectors like primary education and health care. This has made the poor particularly vulnerable to the vagaries of market forces. The spirit of liberal democracy seems to have given way to the credo of market fundamentalism with disastrous

consequences. Rising income inequality as brought out by Thomas Piketty in his seminal book: 'Capital in the 21st Century' is reflective of a public policy that clearly favours the very rich without using tax rate for distributive justice. Reaganomics has turned FDR's idea of distributive justice on its head. Most of the world economies, including India have been practicing such pro-rich, entrepreneur-centric public policy. There is a conspicuous lack of empathy for the plight of a large number of citizens who do not have a minimum entitlement to food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education.

Denis Goulet called them the need of self-esteem where citizens have freedom from want, ignorance, and squalor. Prof. Amartya Sen harps upon capability development and the need to renounce unfreedoms like undernourishment, poor health, and economic insecurity. The growth theorists like Robert Solow believed that a rising tide will lift all boats. The trickle-down theory was based on the false premise that growth trajectory is class neutral.

Alan Greenspan, who was the longest serving Federal Reserve Bank Governor (1987-2006) had told President Bill Clinton that "Economics does not explain everything in the world. But no aspect of the global problem can be understood without an adequate understanding of economics." He was a professor who combined economic principles with enormous pragmatism. Yet the global financial crisis happened after he demitted office, largely due to the spectre of shadow banking and risky derivatives that skirted proper regulation. Even with all the forecasting techniques of econometrics, the models could not predict the looming financial crisis. JK Galbraith had wittily observed "economic forecasting often makes the job of an astrologer look respectable!"

After the path breaking work of Adam Smith in Wealth of Nations underlining the importance of free market as precursor to wealth maximisation, Keynes became the saviour of economic depression with his magnum opus "General Theory of Employment" that firmly planted the concept of a welfare state. Public employment, spurring demand and priming the pump of private investment became the buzzwords in public policy. FD Roosevelt's successful adaption of Keynesian ideas through the 'New Deal Programs', whittling down unemployment from 24.9% (1933) to 1.9% (1944), making the USA the unchallenged hegemon of the world at the end of World War II, has been the most endearing contribution of any economist, so far.

The challenge to Keynes's fiscal policy came when his policy prescription failed to tackle soaring inflation in the USA in 1970s. This brought Milton Friedman to the centerstage as the apostle of monetary tight-



Satya Narayan Misra

THE WORLD AFTER THE END OF SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY SEEMS TO EMBRACE MARKET ECONOMICS EVEN IN SECTORS LIKE PRIMARY EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE



Laura Tyson & Lenny Mendonca

The 2024 election cycle will be critical for American democracy. All eyes will naturally be on the presidential race and the contest for control of Congress. But the fight to protect - or subvert - democracy will be no less important at the state and local levels

Threat to Democracy

As Texas swoons under an unprecedented heatwave, its governor has signed a "preemption" bill to strip cities like Houston and Dallas from setting standards for local workplaces - including guaranteed water breaks for outdoor workers. The "Texas Regulatory Consistency Act" bars municipal governments from enacting policies that go beyond state law in eight broad areas and voids existing city and local laws that do so. Cities will be subject to lawsuits and damages for discrepancies between their policies and those of the state.

That means the interests of voters in the state's predominantly Democratic-leaning cities are being trampled by Republican state-level leaders and their business supporters. Worse, the Texas bill is merely the latest in a series of measures by states to preempt the authority of local governments and overrule their voters.

The aim here is both to eliminate specific laws and to decimate local governments' ability to regulate areas traditionally under their remit. Around the country, preemption is being used to force a deregulatory ideology onto liberal-leaning cities, with the number of such bills having soared from 140 in 2017 to more than 1,000 in 2022 (the number for this year has already hit 650).

The targeted cities represent the majority of voters on key issues like abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, gun control, criminal-justice reform, the minimum wage and fair working conditions, and voting rights. In Texas, for example, a majority of voters believe that local governments should control matters of economic justice.

But, as in other Republican-controlled states, extremists, business groups, and special interests have prevailed over the will of the people. According to the Center for Public Integrity, more than 10,000 bills introduced in statehouses between 2010 and 2018 were "copied" from templates provided by special interests, with over 20% becoming law.

Republicans and their donors and allies are also pursuing a coordinated effort to restrict citizens' rights by limiting the use of ballot initiatives (measures proposed and endorsed directly by citizens), which are currently allowed in 27 states. As of June 2023, the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center counts "50 measures that would impact or weaken the ballot initiative process in 14 states," 45 of which "have been filed through the legislature."

Likewise, new legal and regulatory challenges are intended to restrict the ballot process, such as by increasing the number of signatures required to qualify an initiative, or by raising the voter-approval threshold (ballot initiatives often pass with slim majorities). For example, Arizona adopted a 60% approval requirement (through a ballot initiative) in 2022, and Missouri is considering a proposal to raise the threshold to two-thirds. It would join nine other states that already have supermajority requirements.

But the most egregious attack on the ballot-initiative process is coming in Ohio, where a coalition of lawmakers and special interests has successfully lobbied to hold a special election (on August 8) to prevent Ohioans from voting on a proposed reproductive-freedom amendment. Clearly, successful ballot initiatives to protect reproductive rights in several states - including heavily Republican-controlled ones - in 2022 have rattled the party's legislators.

The preemption strategy is most disturbing in states with heavily gerrymandered districts (those apportioned to favor a certain party), where an unrepresentative group of elected officials wield disproportionate power relative to their voting populations. Of the ten most gerrymandered states, nine have Republican-controlled statehouses and elected officials who are intent on pursuing an agenda that the majority of their citizens oppose.

Fortunately, in a surprise verdict, the US Supreme Court recently ruled that Alabama's congressional maps, which were redrawn after the 2020 census, violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act by diluting the influence of the state's Black voters. That said, the fight has only just begun. The rise of preemption measures, ballot restrictions, gerrymandering, and attacks on voting rights increasingly threatens American democracy at the state and local levels.

We must ensure that these efforts fail. In Arizona, where the Republican-controlled legislature is bent on undermining free and fair elections, the Democratic governor, Katie Hobbs, has vetoed more than 100 measures just six months after taking office.

Another defence is to campaign against ballot measures that would create supermajority requirements for future initiatives or increase signature requirements. To that end, the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center has developed a helpful strategic framework to identify new threats, rightly focusing on communities that have been excluded from power historically.

Another important tactic is direct action by nonprofit organisations to develop ballot initiatives on issues that matter to the majority. The Fairness Project, for example, has won 31 of 33 ballot measures since 2015 with an annual budget of less than \$10 million, giving an estimated 18 million citizens the opportunity to exercise their Tenth Amendment rights by voting directly on matters that are important to them.

As of June, 40 statewide ballot measures have been certified for inclusion on ballots for the 2024 election cycle. Some of these are pro-democracy, like a proposed ranked-choice voting rule in Nevada and a no-excuse absentee-voting requirement in Connecticut. But many others threaten to erode democracy. These include a measure in Arizona to increase ballot-signature requirements, and a ludicrous requirement in North Dakota that ballot initiatives be approved twice.

The 2024 election cycle will be critical for American democracy. All eyes will naturally be on the presidential race and the contest for control of Congress. But the fight to protect - or subvert - democracy will be no less important at the state and local levels.

Laura Tyson is a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. Lenny Mendonca is chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for. **JOSEPH ADDISON**
- Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather. **JOHN RUSKIN**
- Be still when you have nothing to say; when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it hot. **DH LAWRENCE**

SPECTRUM FINANCE

Underlying perils of derivatives trade

Recently, there has been a lot of negative news regarding the so called 'finfluencers' - financial influencers. A lot of retail investors have lost their hard-earned money on the pretext of very high returns. The Finance Minister, in one of her interviews, has also addressed this concern of the retail investors.

There are multiple investment opportunities for retail investors ranging from mutual funds, stocks, bonds, gold, and real estate. Within stocks, there is intraday trading, commodities, currency and derivatives. Investing in derivatives - forwards, futures and options can be a both tricky and risky. Hence it is imperative for us to understand the derivative products in totality before investing into them. In the modern world, a huge variety of derivative products are available. They are either traded on organised exchanges (called exchange traded derivatives) or agreed directly between the contracting counterparties over telephone or through electronic media (called over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives). A few complex products are constructed on simple building blocks like forwards, futures, options

and swaps to cater to specific requirements of customers. Market participants must understand that derivatives, being leveraged instruments, have risks like counterparty risk (default by counterparty), price risk (loss on position because of price move), liquidity risk (inability to exit from a position), legal or regulatory risk (enforceability of contracts), operational risk (fraud, inadequate documentation, improper execution) and may not be an appropriate avenue for someone of limited resources, or limited trading experience, or with low risk tolerance.

A futures contract is an agreement made through an organised exchange to buy or sell a fixed amount of a commodity or a financial asset on a future date at an agreed price. In simple terms, futures are standardised forward contracts that are traded on an exchange. The clearing corporation associated with the exchange guarantees settlement of these trades. A trader, who buys futures contract, takes a long position and one who sells futures, takes a short position.

An option is a contract that gives the holder of the option the right, but not an obligation, to buy or sell the underlying

asset on or before a stated date/day, at a predetermined price. This right can be bought for a price known as the option premium. The party taking a long position i.e., buying the option is called buyer/holder of the option and the party taking a short position i.e., selling the option is called the seller/writer of the option. The option buyer must pay the premium to the option seller upfront, i.e., at the time of buying the option. The option buyer or holder has the right but no obligation with regards to buying or selling the underlying asset, while the option writer has the obligation in the contract. Therefore, the option buyer will exercise his option only when the situation is favourable to him. On the other hand, the option writer is legally bound to honour the contract whenever the option buyer decides to exercise his option.

Trading in derivatives - futures and options can have an emotional bearing on the subconscious mind. Before embarking into derivatives trading, one must realise the importance and requirement of large capital. Trading in options is like a lottery ticket. Once you win a lottery in our lifetime, you

tend to be inclined and infatuated towards it. Similarly, when you have a winning trade in options, you tend to take 'long' or 'short' calls. But when you have a lesser capital, you tend to exit quickly by booking profits.

From a model asset allocation perspective, one should have only 1-2% of the portfolio exposed to derivatives. There are multiple strategies such as spread strategies, straddles and strangles, and chart analysis.

Many people trade in derivatives due to the impact of their peers. When they hear the stories of mammoth profits within days and weeks, they feel the temptation to take the plunge themselves. They fail to realise the fact that their peers will never reveal the actual losses they have made. The aspirational crowd wants to make money quickly and in fact double their investments. The underlying objective may be materialistic gains or genuine reasons like clearing education loan, addressing medical expenses of any family member. Such category of investors must definitely stay away from investing in derivatives.

The writer is an investment banker. Views are personal.



Sourajeet Pradhani

THE ASPIRATIONAL CROWD WANTS TO MAKE MONEY QUICKLY AND IN FACT DOUBLE THEIR INVESTMENTS

Sweet success

Sir, It is indeed very sweet to know that India's indigenous sweet snack the 'Mysore pak' has been placed 14th by the world-famous food guide 'TasteAtlas' in its latest ranking of top fifty best street food sweets in the world. Along with Mysore pak, a sweet which has its origin from Karnataka, kulfi and kulfi falooda are the other two that find place in the list. History has it that Mysore pak was first made at the Mysore Palace by the royal chef Madappa who experimented on a sweet dish combining gram flour, ghee and sugar. It was in the form of a thick syrup and by the time the King had his lunch the mixture solidified and this when King Krishna Raja Wodeyar tasted, just melt in his mouth making him love its extraordinary taste. When asked for its name, the chef said it is the 'Mysore paka'. Mysore pak soon was proclaimed the royal sweet. The sweet now comes with various flavours and colours but its mouth watering taste remains the same just as our rich heritage and culture that remain the same and shall remain so forever.

Safety concern

Sir, In recent years, India has experienced a concerning surge in the cases of car and motor vehicle thefts giving rise to growing concerns about public safety. The increase in organised crime, inadequacy of efficient and reliable public transportation options and lack of vehicle parking spaces are considered to be the driving factors behind this alarming trend. Stolen vehicles have been misused for criminal activities, including transporting contraband and individuals as well as to carry out heinous crimes. Criminals exploit these stolen vehicles to deceive authorities and perpetrate further offenses. One of the major factors for the rising theft cases is the weak enforcement of law, which has allowed criminals to operate with impunity. To address this issue effectively, law enforcement agencies must implement proactive measures. Additionally, stringent laws and regulations are urgently required. The rise in vehicle-related crimes underscores the necessity for enhanced measures to ensure public safety.

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
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M Pradyu, KANNUR

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

Maha farmers to launch agitations from August

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 27: Various farmers' organisations will launch a series of agitations for four months starting from August in Maharashtra to press for their various demands, a top official said here Thursday.

President of the All India Kisan Sabha, Ashok Dhawale said that the Maharashtra chapter of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), which spearheaded the national farmers' agitation two years ago, will also be launched here next month.

At a preparatory meeting held here, the SKM Maharashtra said that along with the central demands like legal guarantee of MSP at 1.5 times the comprehensive cost of cultivation, complete liberation from debt and a monthly Rs 5,000 pension to



farmers and agriculture workers aged above 60, a comprehensive crop insurance scheme and other burning issues of the state farmers will be taken up. On August 9, the 'Quit India

Day' anniversary, farmers will mark an 'Anti-Corporate Day' and demonstrate all over the state, on August 14 and public meetings will be held to highlight their causes.

President of the All India Kisan Sabha, Ashok Dhawale said that the Maharashtra chapter of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), which spearheaded the national farmers' agitation two years ago, will also be launched here next month

On August 9, the 'Quit India Day' anniversary, farmers will mark an 'Anti-Corporate Day' and demonstrate all over the state, August 14 and public meetings will be held to highlight their causes

Independence Day will see a series of Tricolour processions taken out in the state with massive participation from the farmers and tillers, said Dhawale. In September-October, the state SKM will organise foot-marches

and processions at the grass-roots levels, and from November 26-28, a 72-hour 'Mahapadav' will be held in Mumbai, with participation by all state and central trade unions and farmers groups.

Explaining the significance, Dhawale said that November 26, 2020 was the day when the historic struggle of the farmers started in Delhi and north India against the three anti-farmers laws and also the nationwide strike of central trade unions, while November 28 is the death anniversary of the champion of peasants and anti-caste reformer, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule.

An 11-member coordination committee of the SKM with major farmers groups was elected and more organisations will join subsequently, besides a 10-member committee to prepare for the upcoming four-month agitations.

UP to set up disaster relief training centre



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 27: The Uttar Pradesh government will set up a disaster relief training centre to address the problem of availability of skilled and qualified personnel to carry out rescue work in times of disasters.

According to a state government spokesman, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the availability of qualified and skilled personnel is the primary requirement for relief work. The more skilled the personnel, the more effective is the relief work, he said.

Another important direction he issued was to set up early warning systems in all 75 districts within the next three months. In 2022-23, a total 301 people died in 52 districts due to natural calamities while this year 174 casualties have been reported in 36 districts so far.

"These deaths can be stopped with the help of technology. Today, the technology has improved so much that a lightning strike can be detected three to four hours before it occurs, while the exact location can be known an hour before. If people get in-

formation in time, there will be no loss of public money. Digital platforms like Damini App, Meghdoot developed by the Government of India should also be widely publicised," the Chief Minister said.

He further directed that Emergency Operation Centres in all districts should be integrated with the integrated command and control centres, and asked officials to install public address systems linked with early warning systems in all gram panchayats and urban bodies. The state government will be providing land to the NDRF for its Regional Response Centres in Bareilly and Jhansi.

The Chief Minister also encouraged officials to use the end-to-end computerised relief management system through which the entire process from beneficiary selection, digital approval and transfer of funds to their account has become paperless. Uttar Pradesh is the first state to implement this. Highlighting the role of Aapda Mitras in times of disaster, Yogi said that the state is highly prone to disasters and therefore, Aapda Mitras should be appointed in all districts at the earliest.

Heart airlifted from Nagpur, transplanted into air warrior

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, July 27: A harvested human heart was airlifted from Nagpur to Pune in an IAF plane and later transplanted into a recipient admitted to the Army Institute of Cardio-Thoracic Sciences (AICTS) in the western Maharashtra city.

The live heart, retrieved from a woman declared brain dead, was successfully transplanted into the recipient, a male air warrior at the Pune-based AICTS. The vital organ was sent through a green corridor created by the civil administration before being transported to Pune, more than 700 km from Nagpur, on an Indian Air Force (IAF) AN-32 aircraft in the "most expeditious" manner, said a defence release here.

The flying time was around 90 minutes, said an official. A separate press release issued by the zonal transplant coordination centre here said the donor of the heart was a 31-year-old



woman, Shubhangi Gannarpawar, who resided in Nagpur with her husband and one-and-a-half-year old daughter.

The woman was admitted in a private hospital in Nagpur on July 20 after complaining of severe headache and was later diagnosed with severe blood clotting in the brain, said the release. She was declared brain dead and convener of zonal transplant coordination centre Nagpur, Dinesh Mandpe, spoke with her family members for donation of organs, it said.

With the consent of Shubhangi Gannarpawar's husband and brother, the heart, liver and two kidneys were donated to four recipients -- one in Pune and three in Nagpur.

UP prisoners to get skill trained

The Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission and Prison Administration and Reform Services have joined hands to train prisoners across the state in various skills to make them self-reliant



self-reliant.

Director, Skill Development Mission, Andra Vamsi said: "We have partnered with the prison department for training of prisoners in eight sectors including making of apparels, carpets, electrical works, construction and plumbing."

"We have already trained at least 1,129 prisoners in 11 jails of the state. Efforts are on to train the inmates of other jails. We have registered 3,914 prisoners from remaining jails," Vamsi said

only those prisoners should be named for training who have at least three months left for release so that they can be ac-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 27: When a prisoner comes out of a jail in Uttar Pradesh, he will no longer be dependent on his family for survival and will be able to fend for himself.

The Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission and Prison Administration and Reform Services have joined hands to train prisoners across the state in various skills to make them

IRSHALWADI LANDSLIDE

7,000 PEOPLE SHIFTED TO CAMPS IN RAIGAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Alibag, July 27: Nearly 7,000 persons have been shifted to 51 camps from 103 landslide-prone villages in Maharashtra's Raigad district, the action coming after the Irshalwadi tragedy on July 19 in which 27 persons were killed and 57 are missing, an official said Thursday.

Keeping in mind the 'red alert' for heavy rains issued by the India Meteorological Department over the next three days, a total of 6,968 persons from 2,040 families have been shifted to safety, with 534 persons from 177 families opting to stay with their kin and 6,434 from 1,863 families being lodged in 51 camps, he said.

This includes 128 persons from 31 families in Alibag,

which has seen average rainfall of 189.5 mm in the past few days, 285 persons from Pen, where the rainfall figure is 193.4 mm, and 825 persons from 236 families in Khalapur, which has seen 133.4 mm of rain and where the ill-fated Irshalwadi village is located.

The official said 2,810 persons have been shifted in Mahad. Raigad district received 162.3 mm rain in the last 24 hours, and has got 67 per cent of its annual average rainfall this monsoon, the official informed.

All six rivers in the district, namely Savitri (Mahad), Aamba (Roha), Kudalika (Roha), Patalganga (Khalapur), Ulhas (Karjat) and Gadhi (Panvel) are, however, flowing below the danger level at present, the deputy irrigation engineer said.



A commuter rides a two-wheeler on a waterlogged road during rainfall in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

FIRST IN COUNTRY UP Assembly to have new rule book

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 27: When the monsoon session gets underway on August 7, the Uttar Pradesh Assembly will emerge as the first in the country to replace the archaic Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 1958, with a new rule book.

Finance and Parliamentary Affairs minister Suresh Khanna confirmed that new rules and procedures would replace the archaic Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, 1958.

The Assembly has decided that it would be prudent to bring in a new rule book instead of making amendments to the existing one as it would be a tedious process. Known for doing away with obsolete traditions and introducing new initiatives, UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana was of the



view that new rules were the need of the hour.

He had formed a 10-member committee to prepare a draft of new rules and procedures. The drafting committee, headed by principal secretary, Vidhan Sabha, Pradeep Dubey, included retired officer from law department, SN Srivastava, and retired special secretary, finance, Shankeshwar

Tripathi, as members.

"The need for replacing old rules was felt after e-Vidhan was introduced in the legislature," Khanna said. For instance, earlier there was a provision that the House would be convened on a notice period of not less than 14 days. However, in the era of technological advancements, dissemination of any information is

just one click away. Hence, the notice period to convene the House would now be around seven days.

"The Vidhan Sabha will also have digital screens on pillars. The screens will display various government schemes along with the details of MLAs which will include his constituency and for how many terms he/she has been a member of the House," principal secretary, Vidhan Sabha, Pradeep Dubey said.

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that at least 13 ordinances will also be tabled in the House in the monsoon session. However, the UP government might not present any supplementary budget this time as, according to sources, there is "no urgent requirement for it".

Recently, the Union government had sanctioned a special capital assistance of Rs 17,939 crore to the state. Special sanction

will be given to energy, PWD, transport and home departments that will also include funds for the ongoing police reforms. This will be the second session of this year in which the state government is expected to push a host of legislative measures.

UP may raise doctors' retirement age to 65 yrs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 27: To address the shortage of doctors in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government is considering a proposal to increase the retirement age of government doctors from 62 years to 65 years.

Currently, there are 14,000 doctors working across 19,000 sanctioned posts in the state. "We need more doctors for which the proposal to increase the retirement age from the present 62 years to 65 years has been made. But those doctors opting to work till 65 years of age will not be given administrative charge after age 62 years," said a senior health official.

In January, a panel was set up to evaluate the proposal for increasing the retirement age from 62 to 65 years of age.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-23, Dt.: 20.07.2023

NAME OF WORK: PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF MEDHA MAKE ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEMS AT NINE (09) STATIONS-TUREKELA (TRKR), HARISHANKAR ROAD (HSK), LAKHNA (LKNA), JIJOMURA (JJA), KANTABANJI (KB), CHARMAL (CHAR), LOISINGHA (LSX), BALANGIR (BLGR) & SAMBALPUR (SBP) OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR 3 (THREE) YEARS.

Tender Value: ₹ 2,66,00,916.18, EMD: ₹ 2,83,000/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 11,800/-

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1100 hrs. on 14.08.2023.

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders. Even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receipt in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.irops.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.

Div. Signal & Telecom Engineer (Signal), PR-396/O/23-24 Sambalpur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DHENKANAL
E-mail: eerwdivisiondhenkanal@yahoo.co.in
e-Procurement Notice No.02/Road Works/ 2023-24

- Name of the Work : Road Works
- Total No. of Works : 1 (One) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.15,484 Lakh
- Class of Contractor : "D" & "C" Class
- Period of Completion : 2 (Two) Calendar Months
- EMD Required : As mentioned in the Annexure at Column-04
- Online for Bidding : 04.08.2023 at 11.00 AM to 14.08.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : 11.08.2023 upto 4.00 PM
- Date & Time of Opening of Tender (Technical) : 16.08.2023 at 11.00 AM

Other details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R.W.Division, Dhenkanal

OIPR-25101/11/0002/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-479:
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, NAYAGARH
E-mail: nayagarhrw2@yahoo.in
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification No.Online Tender/04/RWD-II/2023-24

- Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total Number of Works: 8 Nos. 3. Approx. Estimated Cost: Rs.5.07 Lakh to Rs.21.16 Lakh. 4. Class of Contractor: B, C & D Class of Contractor. 5. Period of Completion : Sl.No. 1 to 6 = 2 Months. Sl.No.-7 to 8 = 3 Months. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for Bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date and Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nayagarh	Online Tender/04/RWD-II/2023-24	Dt.02.08.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	Dt.14.08.2023 upto 5.00 PM	Dt.14.08.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.	Dt.16.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

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

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R.W.Division-II, Nayagarh

OIPR-25144/11/0005/2324



Local women at Lalambung in Imphal West district raise slogans during a demonstration over the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur



Women police personnel ride their two-wheelers during a rehearsal ahead of the dedication ceremony of the police vehicles in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



Shia Muslims participate in the 8th Muharram procession in Srinagar



Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande during a visit to pay homage to martyrs at the Siachen War Memorial



Locals being rescued from the floodwaters after monsoon rains in Bikaner, Rajasthan



Artists perform during the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Rajkot, Gujarat



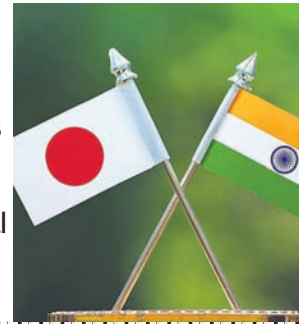
Kites rest on the statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi



A team of INDIA is visiting Manipur. It'll do good. Let them go and see the situation themselves, talk to the people there, and listen to them
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

BOOSTING TIES

India and Japan explored possible collaboration in critical and emerging technologies such as semiconductors, besides ways to expand cooperation in areas of defence equipment and technology. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi emphasised the crucial role of a strong and enduring partnership between India and Japan in ensuring a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific



of the day quote

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is a popular and heavyweight leader and he will get an opportunity to become the Chief Minister



PRAFUL PATEL | NCP'S RS MEMBER

There was a time when the Princess of Ayodhya travelled through waterways to South Korea. However, in course of time, the sector was neglected



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

Rahul Gandhi made efforts to mislead the country with his remarks about the BJP and the RSS and he continues to do so even today



SAMBIT PATRA | BJP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

Gunfight breaks out in Bishnupur

Manipur: A gunfight broke out between two groups of people in Manipur's Bishnupur district Thursday, officials said. At least one house was also torched during the shootout which took place in Phoubakchao Ikhai area, around 50 kilometres from the state capital Imphal. As the two sides were engaged in the shootout, the police personnel intervened to disperse the mobs, officials said. The house located at nearby Tera Khongsangbi was set on fire during the attack. It was not clear whether there was any casualty.

Goods train derails in Ch'garh

Janjgir/Bilaspur: Eight wagons and the brake van of a goods train were derailed at Akaltara railway station of Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district Thursday, railway officials said. No injuries were reported in the incident but the movement of trains on the Howrah-Mumbai up and down line was disrupted, they said. A brake van is a coach from which the guard can apply the brakes. The incident took place around 3 pm at Akaltara railway station yard on the Mumbai-Howrah route when the empty freight train was heading to Korba from Bilaspur, they said. A team of railway officials from Bilaspur and Korba were sent to the spot and efforts are on to restore the movement of trains, a railway official said.

3 dead as truck falls into Sutlej

Shimla: Three persons were killed after the pickup truck in which they were travelling veered off the road and fell into the Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, police said Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday night when the pickup truck, carrying four people, fell into the river on Jani Link road in the Nichar area, they added. The driver Jeevan Singh, his wife Champa Devi and another woman Anita Kumar were swept away in the river while Rajkumari fell out of the rolling vehicle and got stuck in the hills, the police said.

Woman stripped

Giridih (Jharkhand): A 26-year-old woman was tied to a tree after being thrashed and stripped in Jharkhand's Giridih district over a love affair, police said Thursday. The woman was later rescued by the police and admitted to a local hospital. Four accused, including her lover, his father, mother and step-mother, have been arrested, a police officer said. The incident took place in a village in Sarika police station area around 11 pm Wednesday. After being rescued, the woman narrated the incident to the police.

CBI to probe Manipur sexual assault case



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 27: The CBI will probe the case of sexual assault on two women who were stripped and paraded by a mob in Manipur, a top government functionary said on Thursday, asserting that no effort will be spared to ensure stringent action against the accused in all heinous crimes in the state hit by ethnic violence. The government will seek the trial of the case, the details of which came out in the open last week through the leak of the video of the horrific incident, in Assam, the official said.

The person who filmed the incident has been arrested and his mobile phone seized, the official said, adding the recovery of the mobile will also establish the sequence of events, including the leakage of the video

The person who filmed the incident has been arrested and his mobile phone seized, the official said, adding the recovery of the mobile will also establish the sequence of events, including the leakage of the video. The Government is also likely to move the Supreme Court on Friday for holding the trial outside Manipur. The official also said that the Union Home Ministry is in touch with both Meitei and Kuki groups and talks are in an advanced stage to restore normalcy in the state.

Over 600 Meiteis leave Mizoram

Aizawl: More than 600 Meiteis have left Mizoram due to fear of tension after two tribal women being paraded naked by a mob in Manipur surfaced online recently, a senior police officer said Thursday. Superintendent of Police, Crime Investigation Department, Special Branch, Vanlalfaka Ralte told PTI that the Meitei people left the state for fear of being attacked after an ex-militant organisation issued an advisory after the viral video of two women paraded naked by a mob in Manipur. The SP said that the Meiteis also felt "insecure" due to the solidarity march organised by civil society groups Tuesday.

According to the official, nearly 150 people have died during the three-month-long ethnic violence. The probe into five of the more serious cases involving the Manipur clashes has already been handed over to the CBI, according to the official. Three cases have also been handed over to the NIA. The video of the May 4 incident sparked nationwide outrage and has become a polarising political fault line between the ruling BJP and the opposition bloc INDIA. The opposition also seized the opportunity to corner the Modi government over the issue which has rocked the Monsoon session of Parliament since it began July 20.

The BJP has condemned the incident in strong words but at the same time questioned the timing of the video being made viral which happened a day before the Monsoon session of Parliament. The court of Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker also ordered that the stay on the ASI survey will continue till August 3. The high court was hearing the plea filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, which manages the mosque. Appearing for the state of Uttar Pradesh, Advocate General Aja Mishra said the state gov-

8 dead in rain-related incidents in T'gana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 27: Eight people lost their lives in various rain-related incidents since July 22 in Telangana even as the state continued to see heavy downpour on Thursday leading to inundation of low-lying areas and damage to roads and agricultural crops. The state has been witnessing rainfall over the last week and the downpour has been heavy to very heavy during the past few days, paralysing normal life at several places. In its daily weather report for Telangana (at 8.30 am on July 27), the Met Centre said exceptional heavy rainfall occurred at several

places in Hanumakonda and at a few places in Mulugu, Jayashankar Bhupalpally districts and at isolated places in Jangaon, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Karimnagar, and Warangal districts of Telangana. According to the report, Chityal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district received 62 cm rainfall, followed by Regonda (47) in the same district. Parkal in Hanumakonda district received 46 cm of rainfall. The IAF carried out a daring rescue of six people stranded atop an earthmoving and construction equipment machine in flood-stricken Nainpaka village in Jayashankar-Bhupalpally district.



DENGUE SCORE: Patients suspected of dengue undergo treatment at Santipur Hospital in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

GYANVAPI MOSQUE SURVEY

Allahabad HC to give verdict August 3

The Allahabad High Court had put the survey on hold Wednesday over doubts about the process, especially after the lawyer for the Hindu group pointed out that at a later stage, excavation under the mosque might be necessary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj (UP), July 27: The Allahabad High Court on Thursday reserved till August 3 its verdict on a plea against a Varanasi district court order directing the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a survey to determine if the Gyanvapi mosque was built upon a temple.

The court of Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker also ordered that the stay on the ASI survey will continue till August 3. The high court was hearing the plea filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, which manages the mosque. Appearing for the state of Uttar Pradesh, Advocate General Aja Mishra said the state gov-



ernment is there to maintain law and order and that it has no concern with the survey. The counsel for the Hindu side, Vishnu Shankar Jain, submitted that the district court had ordered for the ASI survey to come to a "logical conclusion regarding existence of deities and nature and age of the struc-

STAPLED VISAS TO ARUNACHAL PLAYERS

India lashes out at China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: India Thursday described as "unacceptable" China issuing stapled visas to a few sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh and asserted that it reserves the right to "suitably respond" to such actions. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India has lodged its "strong protest" with the Chinese side on the matter and there should be no discrimination on the basis of domicile or ethnicity in the visa regime for Indian citizens. People familiar with the matter said the visit of a 12-member

team of Wushu players to China's Chengdu to compete at the World University Games was called off Wednesday night as three players from Arunachal Pradesh in the group were given stapled visas. The decision to put on hold the team's travel was taken after the government examined the matter. "It has come to our notice that stapled visas were issued to some of our citizens representing the country in an international sporting event in China," Bagchi said. "This is unacceptable and we have lodged our strong protest with the Chinese side reiterating our consistent position on the

matter and India reserves the right to suitably respond to such actions," he said. Bagchi said this at a media briefing while responding to a question on the matter. While other members of the team received normal visas, the players from Arunachal Pradesh were given stapled visas, the people cited above said. In the past too, there were instances of China issuing stapled visas to Indians from Arunachal Pradesh that drew sharp reactions from New Delhi. China has been laying claims over Arunachal Pradesh saying it is part of Southern Tibet.

MANIPUR CRISIS

Oppn boycotts Rajya Sabha Business Advisory Committee

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 27: Opposition alliance INDIA Thursday boycotted a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the Rajya Sabha to protest Prime Minister Narendra Modi not making a statement on Manipur violence in Parliament, a senior leader said. The Rajya Sabha BAC has 11 members, including the Vice-President who is its ex-officio chairman.

Three MPs from the 26-member opposition front INDIA are on the BAC committee - Jairam Ramesh (Congress), Misa Bharti (BJD) and Derek O'Brien (TMC). They and BRS's Keshav Rao gave

the meeting a miss. This was the latest in a slew of meetings that members of the opposition bloc either walked out of or boycotted over the last few weeks. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Thursday met some leaders of political parties as he worked on deciding the date on which the debate on the no-confidence motion will be held. Parliamentary sources said a decision will be taken later. The Chair had said the speaker has to decide the date of the debate within 10 days and had rejected their objections. On Wednesday, opposition members walked out of a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on



Information Technology headed by Shiv Sena (Shinde) MP Prataprao Jhadav opposing the adoption of a report on the new Personal Data Protection Bill.

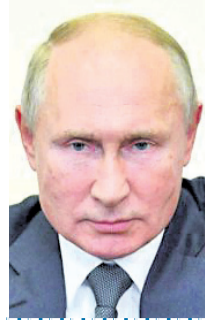
They argued that the bill was never formally referred to the committee and that a report cannot be framed based on informal discussions. The draft re-

'INDIA' to hold next meeting in Mumbai

New Delhi: Opposition parties will hold the next meeting of their 26-member INDIA coalition in Mumbai August 25 and 26, sources said Thursday. The third meeting of the bloc will be hosted jointly by the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP's Sharad Pawar faction, with support from the Congress, they said. This is the first time that the opposition meeting will be held in a state where no member of the INDIA bloc is in power. While the first meeting of opposition parties was hosted by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) in Patna, the second was held in Bengaluru and hosted by the Congress. The Mumbai Summit - as it is being called by INDIA bloc parties - is significant as discussions regarding seat sharing are expected to be taken up.

port was circulated on the eve of the meeting and the members argued that none of them were told that such a report was in the works. Amid high drama, seven opposition MPs and eight MPs from the BJP and allied parties engaged in a bitter exchange for

nearly an hour. Leaders of the Congress and other opposition parties including the Left, TMC, DMK, RJD, NCP, and AAP walked out of the meeting as their protest in writing was not accepted by the chairman.



Our country will continue supporting needy states and regions, in particular, with its humanitarian deliveries. We seek to actively participate in building a fairer system of distribution of resources. We are taking maximum efforts to avert a global food crisis
VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

MACRON TO VISIT LANKA

French President Emmanuel Macron will arrive in Colombo Friday, marking the first-ever French presidential visit to Sri Lanka. Macron will meet President Ranil Wickremesinghe for bilateral discussions during his visit



of the day quote

The heatwave is a difficult time and Biden is treating climate change with the urgency it requires



KARINE JEAN-PIERRE | WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

The United States is not seeking permanent basing on Papua New Guinea but would help the country expand its military capability, modernise its forces and increase their interoperability with the US military



LLOYD AUSTIN | US DEFENCE SECRETARY

China has rolled over a USD 2.4 billion loan to Pakistan for two years to help the cash-strapped country shore up its foreign exchange reserves



ISHAQ DAR | PAKISTAN FINANCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Four killed in helicopter crash

MOSCOW: A helicopter crashed in the Siberia region of Russia Thursday, killing four of the people on board and injuring 10, Russian emergency officials reported. The Mi-8 helicopter caught fire as it was landing in southern Siberia's Altai Republic and brushed against a power line, the Altai branch of the Russian Emergency Ministry said.

Kuwait executes five prisoners

DUBAI: Kuwait said Thursday it executed five prisoners, including an inmate convicted over the bombing of a Shiite mosque in 2015 that killed 27 people and was claimed by the Islamic State group. The inmates were hanged at the Central Prison, Kuwait's Public Prosecution said in a statement. Prosecutors said the five include the man convicted in the mosque attack, Abdulrahman Sabah Idan, three people convicted of murder and a convicted drug dealer from Sri Lanka. One of the convicted murderers was Egyptian, another was Kuwaiti.

Israeli military kills 14-yr-old boy

JERUSALEM: Israeli military fire killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, Palestinian health officials said, as an ultranationalist Israeli Cabinet minister visited a sensitive Jerusalem holy site that has been a flashpoint for violence between Israel and the Palestinians. The visit by Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir to the disputed hilltop compound comes during a period of heightened Israeli-Palestinian violence in the West Bank for the past year and a half and threatens to inflame already surging tensions.

Captive Niger President defiant after coup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Niamey (Niger), July 27: Niger's president defiantly declared Thursday that democracy would prevail, a day after mutinous soldiers detained him and announced they had seized power in a coup over the West African country's deteriorating security situation.

While many people in the capital of Niamey went about their usual business, it remained unclear who was in control of the country and which side the majority might support. A statement tweeted by the army command's account declared that it would back the coup in order to avoid a "murderous confrontation" that could lead to a "blood-bath." It was not possible to confirm that the statement was genuine.

Meanwhile, President Mohamed Bazoum — who was elected in 2021 in Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since its independence from France and is a key ally of the West — appeared to have the backing of several political parties.

"The hard-won achievements will be safeguarded. All Nigerians who love democracy and freedom will see to it," Bazoum



While many people in the capital of Niamey went about their usual business, it remained unclear who was in control of the country and which side the majority might support. Western countries have poured aid into Niger, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited in March, seeking to strengthen ties

tweeted early Thursday morning. Foreign Minister Hassoumi Massoudou issued a similar call on news network France 24, asking "all Nigerien democratic patriots to stand up as one to say no to this factious action."

He demanded the president's unconditional release and said talks were ongoing. The Economic Community of West African States regional grouping Benin President Patrice Talon to lead mediation efforts.

Bazoum is a key ally in the West's efforts to battle jihadists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in Africa's Sahel re-

gion. Extremists in Niger have carried out attacks on civilians and military personnel, but the overall security situation is not as dire as in neighbouring nations.

The fight against extremism in the region has become a major arena in which the West and Russia have vied for influence. Bazoum was seen by many as the West's last hope for partnership in the Sahel after Mali turned away from former colonial power France and instead sought support from the Russian mercenary group Wagner. Wagner appears to be making

N Korea's Kim shows banned missiles to Russian minister



REUTERS

Seoul, July 27: Russia's defence minister accompanied North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to a defence exhibition that featured the North's banned ballistic missiles as the neighbours pledged to boost ties, North Korean state media reported Thursday.

The Russian minister, Sergei Shoigu, and a Chinese delegation led by a Communist Party Politburo member arrived in North Korea this week for the 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, celebrated in North Korea as "Victory Day".

The nuclear-capable missiles were banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted with Russian and Chinese support. But this week they provided a striking backdrop for a show of solidarity by three countries united by their rivalry with the U.S. and as a revival of what some analysts see as their Cold War-era coalition.

Shoigu's visit was the first by a Russian defence minister to North Korea since the 1991 break-up of the Soviet Union. For North Korea, the arrival of the Russian and Chinese delegations marks its first major opening up to the world since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shoigu gave Kim a letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean media reported. "(Kim) expressed his views on the issues of mutual concern in the struggle to safeguard the sovereignty, development and interests of the

two countries from the high-handed and arbitrary practices of the imperialists and to realise international justice and peace," North Korean media said.

KCNA did not refer to the war in Ukraine but North Korea's defence minister, Kang Sun Nam, was reported as saying Pyongyang fully supported Russia's "battle for justice" and protection of its sovereignty. State media photographs showed Kim and his guests at a display of some of the North's ballistic missiles in multi-axle transporter launchers. Another image showed what analysts said appeared to be a new drone.

"We've come a long way from when North Korea would avoid showing off its nuclear capabilities when senior foreign dignitaries from Russia and China were in town," said Ankit Panda of the U.S.-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, calling the tour "remarkable".

"The personal tour for Shoigu - and Shoigu's willingness to be photographed with Kim in the course of this tour - is evidence that Moscow is complacent with North Korea's ongoing nuclear modernization," he said.

Kim also met Chinese Communist Party Politburo member Li Hongzhong for talks and was handed a letter from Chinese President Xi Jinping, North Korean media reported. The visit by Li's delegation showed Xi's commitment to the North Korea-China friendship, Kim was quoted as saying by the North's KCNA state news agency.

Greek wildfires reach outskirts of Athens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rhodes (Greece), July 27: Wildfires reached the outskirts of Athens Thursday as strong gusts of wind caused flare-ups around Greece, disrupting highway traffic and rail services.

The fires have raged across parts of the country during three successive Mediterranean heat waves over two weeks, leaving five people dead, including two firefighting pilots, and triggering a huge evacuation of tourists over the weekend on the island of Rhodes.

Water-dropping helicopters and a ground crew scrambled early Thursday to a blaze in Kifissia, just north of Athens, which was quickly put out. Near the central city of Volos, a wildfire burned on two fronts, forcing a section of Greece's busiest highway to close for several hours, while national rail services passing through the area were delayed.



Greek firefighters also battled flames on Rhodes for a 10th successive day, while flare-ups were reported on the island of Evia. A European Union disaster response agency announced that it was sending two more firefighting planes, provided by France, to Greece. As Southern Europe fights extreme heat and wildfires, parts of central Europe have been hit with winter conditions. Subfreezing temperatures, frost and snow have been reported in the Tatra mountains, which run through Poland and Slovakia.



Taiwan's military holds drills of the annual Han Kuang military exercises that simulate an anti-landing operation near the coast in New Taipei City, northern Taiwan

July set to be world's hottest month on record

REUTERS

Washington, July 27: July 2023 is set to upend previous heat benchmarks, U.N. Secretary-general Antonio Guterres said Thursday after scientists said it was on track to be the world's hottest month on record.

The U.N. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service also said in a joint statement it was "extremely likely" July 2023 would break the record. "We don't have to wait for the end of

the month to know this. Short of a mini-Ice Age over the next days, July 2023 will shatter records across the board," Guterres said in New York.

"Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning," he told reporters, adding "the era of global boiling has arrived". The effects of July's heat have been seen across the world. Thousands of tourists fled wildfires on the Greek island of Rhodes, and many more suffered baking heat across the U.S. Southwest. Temperatures in a northwest China township



soared as high as 52.2C (126F), breaking the national record.

While the WMO would not call the record outright, instead waiting until the availability of

all finalised data in August, an analysis by Germany's Leipzig University released on Thursday found that July 2023 would clinch the record.

This month's mean global temperature is projected to be at least 0.2C (0.4F) warmer than July 2019, the former hottest in the 174-year observational record, according to EU data. The margin of difference between now and July 2019 is "so substantial that we can already say with absolute certainty that it is going to be the warmest July", Leipzig climate scientist Karsten Haustein said.

21 dead as boat overturns

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, July 27: At least 21 people died and 40 others were rescued after a Philippine passenger boat overturned on Thursday when it was lashed by strong winds in Laguna Lake southeast of Manila, police said.

Police said rescue operations were continuing, but did not immediately provide figures for the total number of people on board the MBCA Aya when it capsized in Rizal province. The boat capsized when its passengers moved to one side of the boat in panic when it was battered by fierce winds about 46 meters (about 150 feet) from Kalinawan village in Binangonan town, the coast guard said.

The Rizal provincial police said it immediately launched a search and rescue operation with the help of the coast guard and other local authorities and at that least 40 people were saved but 21 others drowned.

"The operation is still ongoing for the possible rescue of other passengers," the Rizal police said in a statement. It did not provide other details like how many passengers and crewmembers were onboard the boat when it overturned, but police promised to provide updates.

Typhoon Doksuri moved away Thursday after battering the northern Philippines and enhancing seasonal monsoon rains in a large swath of the archipelago. The boat sinking brought the death toll from stormy weather to at least 30.

Now, Chinese lady goes to Pak to meet her Snapchat lover

THE WOMAN, IDENTIFIED AS GAO FENG, ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD LAST WEEK BY ROAD FROM CHINA VIA GILGIT ON A THREE-MONTH VISIT VISA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar, July 27: In yet another cross-border love story, a Chinese woman has travelled to Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to marry the man whom she befriended and fell in love with on social media, police said Thursday.

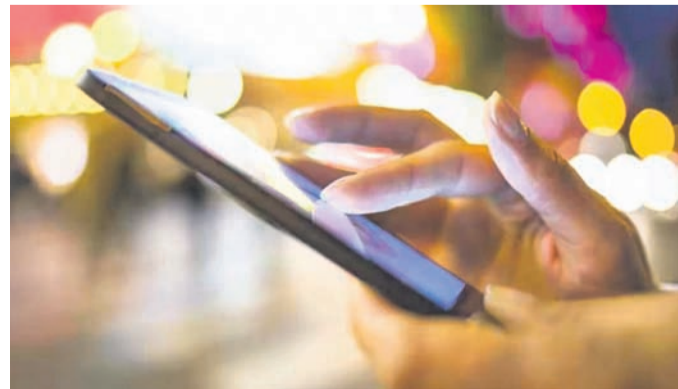
The woman, identified as Gao Feng, arrived in Islamabad last week by road from China via Gilgit on a three-month visit visa. The 21-year-old was picked up by her 18-year-old friend Javed, a resident of Bajaur tribal district bordering Afghanistan, they said.

Javed took the woman to his maternal uncle's home in Samarbagh tehsil of Lower Dir

District instead of his hometown due to the security situation in Bajaur District bordering Afghanistan. According to police, both were in contact through Snapchat for the last three years and the friendship developed into a love affair.

Gao married Javed Wednesday after converting to Islam and her new name is Kiswa, the man's maternal cousin Izzatullah Khan said. Izzatullah said Gao arrived in Islamabad on July 20 where he and Javed received her. From there they came to Lower Dir District on July 21 where Gao stayed at Izzatullah's residence in Samarbagh.

Javed and Gao performed nikkah on Wednesday and then left for Islamabad after the local



police and district administration convinced them that her stay in the district was not safe due to security reasons and the Holy Month of Ramadan, Izzatullah said.

Izzatullah further said that Javed is pursuing a Computer Science course at Bajaur Degree College and will do a court marriage with Gao in China. Police have also confirmed these de-

tails. While Gao will return to China in a few days, Javed will stay back in Pakistan, Izzatullah said. Javed will go to China after completing his education in Pakistan which will take almost a year, he added.

Earlier, during Gao's stay in Samarbagh, the District Police Officer of Lower Dir District Ziauddin told the media that she was provided full security. However, she is not being provided free movement due to Muharram and security concerns in the area.

The travel documents of the Chinese woman are in order, police said. The news of the Chinese girl travelling to Pakistan for the pursuit of love came at a time when in a similar incident,

a 34-year-old married Indian woman Anju from Rajasthan travelled to the Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to meet her 29-year-old Pakistani friend Nasrullah whom she met on Facebook. Anju later married Nasrullah after converting to Islam and now has a new name, Fatima.

In another similar incident, Seema Ghulam Haider, a 30-year-old Pakistani mother of four, sneaked into India to live with Sachin Meena, a 22-year-old Hindu man she got in touch with while playing PUBG in 2019.

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

business

of the day quote

We are on track to do in the next 10 years with these \$10 billion, what countries like China took 25-30 years and could not succeed

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

We are witnessing an impressive growth and resilience of the luxury housing segment. This surge signifies the strong demand and positive momentum in the luxury housing market.

ANUSHMAN MAGAZINE | CHAIRMAN, CBRE

Despite the strong operating performance, our results have been impacted by foreign exchange headwinds

OLUSEGUN OGUNSANYA | CEO, AIRTEL AFRICA

SHORT TAKES

Nestle net surges

New Delhi: FMCG major Nestle India Ltd Thursday reported an increase of 36.86 per cent in its net profit at Rs 698.34 crore for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The company, which follows the January-December financial year, had posted a net profit of Rs 510.24 crore in the same period a year ago, Nestle India said in a regulatory filing. Nestle India's net sales rose 15.02 per cent to Rs 4,619.50 crore during the period under review, as against Rs 4,015.98 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, the company said.

NDTV sees Q1 loss

New Delhi: News broadcaster NDTV Ltd Thursday reported a consolidated loss after tax of Rs 8.08 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023, impacted by lower revenue. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax of Rs 25.81 crore in the first quarter of the last fiscal, NDTV said in a regulatory filing.

Foxconn in talks for \$200mn plant

Chennai: A Foxconn subsidiary is in talks with India's Tamil Nadu state to invest up to \$200 million to build a new plant for electronic components in the southern region, two sources with direct knowledge told Reuters Wednesday. Brand Cheng, CEO of Foxconn Industrial Internet (FI), and other company representatives last week met Tamil Nadu officials including its chief minister to discuss investments in the state, the government said in a statement after the meeting, without elaborating.

11TH YEAR IN A ROW

Parle: India's top FMCG brand

FOUR NEW BRANDS - BALAJI, LUX, SUNSILK, AND NIRMA JOINED THE BILLION CRP CLUB IN 2022

Mumbai, July 27: For a record 11th year in a row, Parle leads the charts as the most chosen in-home FMCG brand, according to Kantar's 11th edition of its annual Brand Footprint India report.

Parle holds the top spot with a CRP score of 7449 million followed by Britannia, Amul, Clinic Plus and Tata Consumer Products. Consumer Price Points (CRP) considers the actual purchase made by consumers and the frequency at which these purchases are made in a calendar year. Four new brands - Balaji, Lux, SunsilK, and Nirma joined the Billion CRP club in 2022. Overall, consumer reach points have increased almost 50 percent in last five years. Over the last 5 years, the number of brands in the billion CRP club has in-

'ECONOMY TO BE 3RD LARGEST BY '27'

INDIA IS CURRENTLY THE FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 27: Economists at the country's largest lender SBI Thursday advanced their estimate on the Indian economy becoming the third largest in the world by two years to 2027.

In a note that comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended confidence of winning a third term and India galloping to being the third largest till 2029, SBI economists said India's real GDP will grow at over 6.5 per cent in FY24.

"The path taken by India since 2014 reveals that India is likely to get the tag of the third largest economy in 2027 (or FY28) based on actual GDP data as on March 2023, a movement of 7 places upwards since 2014, when India was ranked 10th and two years earlier than our previous forecast of 2029," the economists said in the note.

The RBI estimates the real GDP to grow at 6.5 per cent, which is one of the highest estimates by any watchers. At present, India is the fifth largest economy in the world.

The SBI report said the GDP will grow at 8.1 per cent in the



With the world facing growing economic instability and political tensions, volatility in geoeconomic and geopolitical relations between major economies is likely to result in global upheavals over the next six months

ELISSA CAVACIUTI-WISHART | HEAD OF GLOBAL RISKS INITIATIVE, WEF

EARLIER THAN ESTIMATED



first quarter of FY24, which ensures that the overall expansion surpasses 6.5 per cent. It also added that growing at 6.5-7 per cent is the new normal for the country.

Stating that the economy is in a "sustained goldilocks" period, the economists at the state-owned lender said becoming the third largest economy will be a "remarkable achievement by any standards" for India.

The incremental increase of \$1.8 trillion estimated in the economy's size during 2022-27 will be more than the current size of the Australian economy, the economists said.

India's share in the global GDP will be 4 per cent by 2027, they said, adding that the economy will add 0.75 trillion to its overall size every two years.

SBI economists opined that the pace of GDP expansion will make India a \$20 trillion economy by 2047 when the nation will be celebrating a century of its existence as a free state

A nominal growth of 11-11.5 per cent or a real growth of 6.5-7 per cent per annum will help India's compounded annual growth rate come to 8.4 per cent, it said, adding that such a growth is "eminently possible".

Among states, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh will breach the \$500 billion mark on their re-

MICROSOFT IN EU CROSSHAIRS

Microsoft found itself the target of an EU antitrust investigation over the tying of its chat and video app Teams with its Office product, putting it at risk of a hefty fine. The US tech giant has racked up 2.2 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) in EU antitrust fines in the previous decade for practices in breach of EU competition rules, including tying or bundling two or more products together



GDP to grow 6-6.3% in FY24, says Deloitte

New Delhi: India is likely to grow 6-6.3 per cent in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, Deloitte India said in its economic outlook, forecasting growth surpassing 7 per cent over the next two years if global uncertainties recede. With the probability associated with a recession in major industrial countries this year trimming, several economic indicators such as the tight labour markets and reduced risk spreads post the US banking crisis suggest that downside risks to global growth are subsiding. Yet, there remain significant uncertainties around the actions of the central banks of major economies and the oil price movements, the economic outlook said. "Amid continuing global uncertainties, India continues to see strong economic activity," it said. "Keeping in view the resilience shown by the economy, Deloitte is op-

India enjoys a Goldilocks moment currently. Our growth forecasts for FY 2023-24 remain similar to our April forecast, except that higher-than-expected growth in FY2022-23 has raised our base for comparison. That said, we have raised our lower limit of the range given the buoyancy in the economy

RUMKI MAJUMDAR | ECONOMIST, DELOITTE INDIA

timistic about the outlook and has put out its expectation for this year and the next. Deloitte expects India to grow between 6 per cent and 6.3 per cent in FY 2023-24, and have a stronger outlook thereafter." If global uncertainties recede, growth is expected to surpass 7 per cent over the next two years, it said.

spective GSDP by 2027, the report said, adding the Yogi Adityanath-ruled northern state is the "land of the midnight sun".

The note also said that PM Modi's recent visits to the US and France will deliver signifi-

cant long-term economic gains for India in areas of onshoring of chip manufacturing, defence relationship, climate transition and climate finance, trade disputes and creation of special economic zones.

BEARS GROWL Sensex sinks on profit-booking



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 27: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under heavy selling pressure Thursday as investors pared exposure to bellwether stocks HDFC Bank, M&M, Nestle and Reliance Industries amid a mixed trend in global markets.

Besides, the interest rate hike by the US Fed failed to boost sentiments in the domestic market, which saw a steep decline led by banking and auto stocks, traders said.

After opening with gains of over 125 points, BSE Sensex plunged 440.38 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 66,266.82, while Nifty declined 118.40 points or 0.60 per cent to close at 19,659.90. M&M was the biggest loser

in the Sensex chart, falling 6.39 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Nestle India, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, ITC, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank and RIL. On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, L&T and Infosys were among the winners, rising up to 2.10 per cent.

The rupee gained 9 paise to close at 81.92 against the US dollar Thursday.

Profit booking was the order of the day as investors preferred to book profit after the US Fed delivered a 25 bps rate hike yesterday. Breaking its three-session losing run Wednesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 351.49 points or 0.53 per cent to settle at 66,707.20. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 97.70 points or 0.50 per cent to end at 19,778.30.

Pvt lenders grab brisk biz at cost of soaring attrition

REUTERS

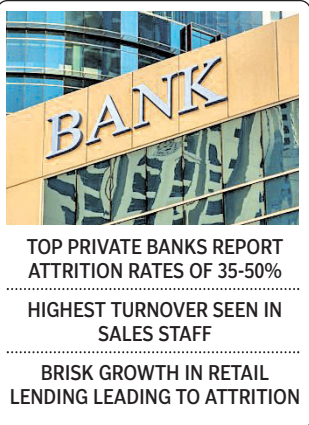
Mumbai, July 27: India's private lenders are contending with soaring attrition amid strong demand for loans and the rush to capture a larger share of the crowded market.

Credit demand grew 15% last financial year and is seen expanding 10-12% this year, driven by retail loans. This growth is mounting pressure on the front-line staff and a jump in employee turnover raising risks of mis-selling and service disruption.

HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, saw its employee turnover rate over the last year rise to 34%, while Axis Bank was at nearly 35%. Kotak Mahindra Bank's attrition surged to about 50%, with smaller peer Yes Bank in toe at 43%.

"It is a problem the entire industry is grappling with," said Axis Bank CEO Amitabh Chaudhry on the lender's earnings call Wednesday.

The bank is exploring various options, including career progression and training, to retain employees, Chaudhry said. "We are seeing attrition mostly



on the sales side which is a trend across the banking industry," Yes Bank CEO Prashant Kumar said in an earnings call over the weekend. The bank is working towards controlling it and would "not like to see an overall attrition of more than 25-30%," he said.

An entry-level relationship manager with up to two years of experience typically earns between Rs 30,000-35,000 (\$792.66) a month, including incentives linked to the revenue they can generate.

Remuneration in the category

has grown 8-10% annually over the past year, in line with the broader job market, Teamlease's Chakraborty said. "But staffers will try to maximize gains in a growing market by switching jobs if they have the opportunity," she added.

Exits are not just for salary upgrade but also for perks like flexibility in working conditions, said another banker who declined to be named. Most exits happen within six months of joining, this person added.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, which has seen the sharpest jump in attrition, saw the worst churn at junior levels, it said.

While the bank is seeing about 10% attrition at the senior level and 20% at the mid-level, attrition is nearly 50% at the junior level, said Shanti Ekambaram, whole-time director at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

High employee turnover can pose significant operational risks to banks including disruption in customer services and ethical issues, MK Jain, a deputy governor at India's central bank said in a speech in May. Jain has since retired.

Digital payments grow 13% YoY at March-end 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 27: Digital payments across the country registered a growth of 13.24 per cent in a year through March 2023, as per RBI's index that measures the adoption of on-line transactions.

RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) stood at 395.57 at end-March 2023 compared to 377.46 in September 2022 and 349.30 in March 2022.

"The RBI-DPI index has increased across all parameters driven by significant growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period," Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement Thursday.

The central bank had announced the construction of a composite RBI-DPI in March 2018 as a base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The index comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of the deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.

These parameters are Payment Enablers (weight 25 per cent); Payment Infrastructure - Demand-side factors (10 per cent); Payment Infrastructure - Supply-side factors (15 per cent); Payment Performance (45 per cent); and Consumer Centricity (5 per cent).



7 airlines closed down in 5 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: A total of seven airlines, including Heritage Aviation and Air Odisha Aviation, have been closed down in the last five years, the government said Thursday.

Currently, there are 11 scheduled operators and 5 scheduled commuter operators in the country, according to data provided by Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

As per the data, seven airlines have been shut down in the last five years till July 21, 2023. Two airlines - Heritage Aviation Pvt Ltd and Turbo Megha Airways Pvt Ltd - were shuttered in 2022.

Three carriers - Zexus Air Services Pvt Ltd, Deccan Charters Pvt Ltd and Air Odisha Aviation Pvt Ltd - were shut down in 2020.

In 2019, Jet Airways (India) Ltd and Jet Lite (India) Ltd were closed down, as per the data.

Jet Airways, which was issued an Air Operator Certificate (AOC) February 13, 2022, stopped flying April 17, 2019, due to a financial crunch.

MORE HIKES AHEAD

Fed raises rates to 16-yr high

REUTERS

Washington, July 27: The Federal Reserve raised interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point Wednesday, citing still elevated inflation as a rationale for what is now the highest US central bank policy rate in 16 years.

The rate hike, the Fed's 11th in its last 12 meetings, set the benchmark overnight interest rate in the 5.25%-5.50% range, and the accompanying policy statement left the door open to another increase.

"The (Federal Open Market) Committee will continue to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy," the Fed said in language that was little changed from its June

statement and left the central bank's policy options open as it searches for a stopping point to the current tightening cycle.

As it stated in June, the Fed said it would watch incoming data and study the impact of its rate hikes on the economy "in determining the extent of additional policy firming that may be appropriate" to reach its 2% inflation target.

Though inflation data since the Fed's meeting in June has been weaker than expected, policymakers have been reluctant to alter their hawkish stance until there is more progress in reducing price pressures. The US economy accelerated

unexpectedly to a 2.4 per cent annual growth rate from April through June, showing continued resilience in the face of steadily higher interest rates resulting from the Federal Reserve's 16-month-long fight against inflation.

ECB HIKES RATES

The European Central Bank raised interest rates for the ninth straight time in its yearlong campaign to stamp out painfully high inflation, coming as worries about recession fuel speculation that Thursday's hike could be its last.

ECB President Christine Lagarde had all but promised the quarter-percentage point increase and left the door open to future hikes, saying data would determine one decision to the next. "We have an open mind as to what the decisions will be in September and in subsequent meetings," she told reporters.

SPINNERS SET UP EASY WIN

Oz take command of 5th Test

REUTERS

London, July 27: Australia dominated the day one play of the fifth and final Ashes Test as they reached 61/1 at stumps after dismissing the hosts for 283 in the first innings at the Oval here, Thursday.

England's situation could have been worse had Harry Brook (85, 91b, 11x4, 2x6) not stood tall. However, he missed out on a well-deserved century. In response, the visitors carefully negated 25 overs of play losing David Warner's (24) wicket off Chris Woakes. They are still 222 runs behind England's total, having Usman Khawaja (26 batting) and Marnus Labuschagne (2 batting) at the crease.

Earlier, the hosts lost the last three wickets in 4.4 overs adding just 33 runs to their total post tea as they were 250/7 at tea. Brook had led a counter-attack after England had slipped to 73/3 after being put in to bat in helpful bowling conditions. But he fell for 85 as England lost four wickets for 28 runs on a gloomy day at The Oval with the floodlights switched on.

With the Ashes already retained by Australia following the rain-marred contest at Old Trafford last week, the visitors, who lead 2-1, are seeking a first series win in England since 2001.

Unsurprising was the way in which England's openers, Ben Duckett (41) in particular, went about their business, scoring at virtually a run a ball in the opening hour. He had a let-off on Cummins' first ball of the day when he slashed at a wide one to first slip but David Warner spilled a routine catch. Crawley was then dropped by Steve Smith in Mitchell Marsh's first over, although it was a sharp chance.

The missed opportunities were not too costly for Australia. Crawley went for 22, getting a thick leading edge to a full-length delivery from Cummins that veered back in, Smith holding on for a record 55th catch in Ashes series.

When Joe Root chopped on to Hazlewood, England were reeling and Brook was dropped by Carey on five off Cummins. Brook made the most of his reprieve with a flurry of attacking strokes.

His fifth boundary brought up England's 100 and with lunch looming he cut loose, thumping Mitchell Starc (4/82) for successive fours before clearing the ropes with a six over fine leg. Brook and Moeen Ali, who was struggling with a leg injury, continued the assault after the interval with one Cummins over going for 19 runs, including a Moeen six over mid-wicket.

Off-spinner Todd Murphy's second ball was dispatched to the boundary by Moeen. Then the England wheels came off as they slumped from 183/3 to 212/7.

Moeen was bowled for 34 by Murphy to end a 111-run fourth-wicket stand before Ben Stokes (3) had his off stump flattened by Starc and Jonny Bairstow (4) played on to a ball by Hazlewood. Brook then tried to thrash Starc to the boundary but only succeeded in edging to Smith who took a sharp catch. Chris Woakes and Mark Wood steadied the ship to take England to the interval with no further loss.

Brief scores: England 283 (Harry Brook 85, Ben Duckett 41, Moeen Ali 34, Mitchell Starc 4/82, Todd Murphy 2/22); Australia 61/1 (Usman Khawaja 26 batting). Match to continue.

MATCH SCHEDULE

5th Ashes Test (Day 2)
Time: 3:30 pm
Telecast: Sony Sports Network



Mitchell Starc reacts after dismissing an England batter, Thursday

Siraj rested for ODIs as precautionary measure

NEW DELHI: India pacer Mohammed Siraj has been rested for the ODIs against the West Indies as a precautionary measure due to a sore ankle, the BCCI said Thursday. Siraj, who led the pace attack with aplomb in the Tests against the West Indies in the absence of seniors such as Mohammed Shami, flew back with the rest of the Test returnees – Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane, KS Bharat and Navdeep Saini – after India's 1-0 series win. "Mohd Siraj has been released from Team India's ODI squad ahead of the three-match series against the West Indies," a BCCI media release read. "The right-arm pacer has a sore ankle and as a precautionary measure has been advised rest by the BCCI medical team," the release added. India have named a replacement for Siraj for the three-match ODI series starting in Bridgetown, Barbados, Thursday. In Siraj's absence, India's pace attacks now comprises Jaydev Unadkat, Umran Malik, Shardul Thakur, and Mukesh Kumar, who made his debut Thursday. "Siraj has been continuously playing since the IPL. Since then he has bowled in three successive Tests. He will now directly join the Asia Cup camp in NCA for tune up to World Cup," a BCCI source said Thursday. As reported by PTI, none of the first-team regulars, who are in the scheme of things for the World Cup, will be travelling to Ireland for a three-match T20I series.

lembut but the wicket did offer a lot of turn apart from bounce which made life difficult for batters from both sides. Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie (2/26 in 6.5 overs) did ask a few probing questions but the total didn't allow him to challenge the Indians more.

For India, skipper Rohit came in as late as No.7 and Kohli didn't even come out to bat. The idea was simple. Neither Rohit nor Kohli would gain anything by getting another half century

against a team like West Indies but giving a chance to check Kishan as the third/reserve opener or Suryakumar as one of the middle order options, provided Shreyas Iyer fails to recover in time, would give them requisite confidence. In the end, Jadeja (16 not out) also got 20-odd balls to bat and Rohit hit the winning runs.

The ability to experiment with batting line-up was laudable but one would expect that Rohit and Kohli will bat in their usual po-

sitions if India opt to make or is forced to make first use of the track in the next game. This series will be used for experiments and rightly so.

After putting West Indies to bat, Jadeja tightened the noose and Kuldeep went for the final kill in just 23 overs of bowling. Hardik Pandya (1/17), starting with the new ball alongside debutant Mukesh Kumar (1/22), set the tone with a tight first spell before Jadeja and Kuldeep finished the innings in a jiffy.

Skipper Shai Hope's 43 was the top score for the hosts as only two other batters were able to cross the double digit mark.

Once Jadeja and Kuldeep operated in tandem, the West Indies team didn't have the quality to survive on a track that had extra bounce to trouble the batters.

Kuldeep's googlies (one that turns away from right handers) was unplayable for most of the Caribbean batters. Most of the bowling changes made by Rohit worked wonderfully well.

BRIEF SCORES: West Indies 114 (Shai Hope 43, Alick Athanaze 22; Kudeep Yadav 4/6, Ravindra Jadeja 3/37) lost to India 118/5 (Ishan Kishan 52; Gudakesh Motie 2/26) by 5 wickets.

SATWIK-CHIRAG PAIR'S SPLENDID RUN CONTINUES AS THEY TOO REACH LAST EIGHT STAGE AT JAPAN OPEN BADMINTON

PRANNOY, LAKSHYA IN QUARTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, July 27: India's HS Prannoy prevailed in the match of compatriots after Lakshya Sen and the in-form men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty sailed into the quarterfinals of the Japan Open badminton here on Thursday.

The 21-year-old Birmingham Commonwealth Games gold medalist Sen advanced to the quarters with a convincing 21-14, 21-16 pre-quarterfinal win over Japanese shuttler Kanta Tsuneyama in straight sets.

Fresh from their triumph in the Korea Open, the Indian men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj and Chirag too secured progress to the last-eight stage with their dominant win over the Danish pair of Lasse Molhede and Jeppe Bay. Satwiksairaj and Chirag won 21-17, 21-11.

Then, in the match between compatriots Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth, the former emerged victorious with a 19-21, 21-9, 21-9 win to advance to the quarters of the Super 750 tournament.

However, the Indian women's pairing of Gayatri Gopichand



and Treesa Jolly suffered an exit despite their valiant efforts against Nami Matsuyama and Chiraru Shida in their round-of-16 outing. They lost 21-23, 19-21.

Sen's win over the 27-year-old Japanese shuttler took 50 minutes and, having cruised to win in the opening game, the man from Almora never let slip the advantage and grabbed the match

quite comfortably.

Prannoy lost the opening game to Srikanth but fought back strongly to claim the next two games and progress to the next stage of the tournament.

For the duo of Satwik and Chirag, it turned out to be an easy outing as they won in straight games. The reigning Asian champions won the Korea

Open (Super 500), Swiss Open (Super 300) and Indonesia Open (Super 1000) titles this season.

The BWF World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300. One other category of the tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking points.

Bumrah fully fit, might go to Ireland, says Jay Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: India will be sending a second string squad for the T20I series in Ireland but a fit-again pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is expected to be tested during the three matches in Malahide, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said Thursday.

Bumrah is currently doing his extensive rehabilitation at the NCA post surgery to cure his lower back stress fracture and is expected to play a couple of warm-up games before a final call is taken.

"Bumrah is totally fit and he may go to Ireland," Shah told reporters here during a media conference. He also said that with 12 ODIs left before the World Cup, the endeavour will be to have a consistency in selection.

"There will be consistency in selections apart from Ireland tour," Shah added, making it clear that save Bumrah, who will be making a comeback, none

of the World Cup bound senior players, including T20 captain Hardik Pandya will be selected for the three-match series which starts within six days of completion of the five T20Is against West Indies in the United States. Shah also said that it is the duty of BCCI to see that other cricket boards are also in pink of health and hence there is so much of international cricket happening. "For survival of other boards, we have to tour everywhere. Injuries will happen as there is so much of cricket. We need look after other boards also."

India 'A' tour

After the end of the World Cup, the shadow tours which last happened in December 2022 will start with India 'A' travelling to South Africa before the senior team's full tour while England Lions will be coming to India before their five-Test series against the 'A' side.

CHANGES IN ICC WORLD CUP SCHEDULE ON CARDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: Three full board members have written to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a change in schedule of their matches in the ODI World Cup in India, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said Thursday. The World Cup starts October 5.

Speaking after a meeting with the associations hosting World Cup games, Shah said the issue of scheduling will be sorted in the next three-four days.

"Three members have written to the ICC for a schedule change. Only the date and timings will be changed, venues will not be changed. If there is a six day gap between games, we are trying to reduce it to 4-5 days. Picture will be clear in three-four days. Changes will happen in consultation with the ICC," Shah said.

It was reported earlier that the much awaited India versus Pakistan schedule could be

rescheduled as October 15 happens to be the opening day of Navratri celebrations in the city and security officials will be already working overtime.

A change in schedule of one game is likely to have a domino effect on the overall schedule. There was talk about shifting the game to October 14 but already two games have been scheduled on the day and there can't be a triple header on a single date.

Asked about the rescheduling of the big ticket World Cup game between India and Pakistan in Ahmedabad October 15, Shah, without referring to the marquee clash, said: "As I have said before, few member boards have written to the ICC and decision will be taken soon."

Asked if there are any security concerns for the high profile game, Shah said: "Security is not an issue at all." He also did not specify the name of the ICC full members who have requested for a schedule change.

India eves draw 2-2 against Spain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27: Navneet Kaur struck twice to help the Indian women's team register a come-from-behind 2-2 draw against hosts Spain in their second match of the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation – International Tournament here Thursday.

Navneet was on target in the 14th and 29th minutes after Xantal Gine (13th) gave Spain the lead. The second goal for the home team was scored by Laia Vidosa (26th).

The first quarter began with Spain using the home advantage to put pressure on the Indian defence. A long pass from a Spanish player allowed Marta Segu to penetrate inside the circle and go one-on-one against Savita. But, the Indian goalkeeper stood tall to avert the danger.

Late in the first quarter, Spain launched a counter-attack and Gine converted a goal to give hosts the lead. But Navneet managed to make the most of a long pass inside the circle and equalised straightaway for India.

With the scores levelled, both India and Spain started searching for a quick goal. Deepika broke through Spain's defence to enter the circle and managed to get a shot away. The ball went just above the nets, giving the opposition a respite.

With just a few minutes left in the quarter, Spain made the most of a penalty corner as Vidosa struck the ball into the nets following a save from the Indian goalkeeper Savita.

But Navneet again came to India's rescue and restored parity a minute from halftime, showcasing her individual brilliance as she dribbled past the Spanish defence to sound the board.

The second half started with the Indians showcasing their intent straightaway to get the lead. Vaishnavi Phalke dribbled past the Spain defence, causing them to commit an error and earning India a penalty corner but Spain goalkeeper Clara Perez thwarted the danger.

With Neha Goyal dominating mid-field, India maintained possession and kept pushing inside Spain's half. But Perez kept stopping the shots on target and managed to hold off India.

India will next play England in their third game of the tournament Friday.

Asian Games football groups announced



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, July 27: The Indian men's football team has been clubbed with China, Bangladesh and Myanmar for the Hangzhou Asian Games in a relatively easy Group A, while the women have Thailand and Chinese Taipei in Group B. The draw was conducted here Thursday.

The Asian Games will be held from September 23 to October 8. The Indian men's and women's football teams' participation at the quadrennial extravaganza was confirmed after the Sports Ministry decided to relax the existing selection criteria.

There are six groups in the men's competition. The top two teams from each group and four best third-placed teams will advance to the round of 16.

As far as the women's competition is concerned, the top three teams from each group and the three best second-placed teams will progress to the quarterfinals.

"Host nation China is going to be a very competitive game for our youngsters and I expect that this match will decide the winner of the group. With all the respect to Bangladesh and Myanmar, which are similar to us having many, many youngsters in the senior national teams already, we need to outplay them on the pitch. I expect us to win the first position against China, and I expect our youngsters to do a brilliant job for India," Indian men's team coach Igor Stimac said on Twitter.

For the women's competition, 17 teams have been divided into five groups where Group A, B and C has three teams each while



Group D and E has four teams apiece.

Like the men's event, the women's competition shall also consist of two stages; group stage in a single round robin league system and knock-out stage will consist of the quarterfinals, semifinals, bronze medal match and gold medal match, all in single round knockout system.

Indian women's side head coach Thomas Dennerby said after the draw, "It's a very interesting draw. We definitely have a good chance against both teams. But our preparation time is the key. We need to work very hard for the next eight weeks."

India enjoyed early success in men's football in the Asian Games, winning gold in the inaugural edition in 1951 and repeating the feat in 1962.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had earlier refused to clear the Indian football teams for the Games on the ground that they were not ranked in the top 8 in Asia. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) then made an appeal to the Sports Ministry to allow the two sides to take part in the prestigious event. Stimac also sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in the matter.