



GOOF UP

Urvashi Rautela trolled on social media after she called co-actor Pawan Kalyan the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

LEISURE P2



COUP IN NIGER

The general who led a coup in Niger defends the takeover and asks for support from the nation and international partners

INTERNATIONAL P10



LAKSHYA IN SEMIS

Lakshya marches into semifinals to be the lone Indian survivor at the Japan Open Super 750 badminton tournament

SPORTS P12



TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY: Visitors from Gujarat at the Parliament House complex to witness the proceedings of the Monsoon session, in New Delhi, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Row over sacrifice

Alleging human sacrifice, angry villagers torch police vehicle, block road after recovery of minor's mutilated body

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, July 28: A suspected human sacrifice incident in Athmallik block of Angul district took a violent turn when angry locals staged a road blockade and torched a police vehicle, demanding justice to the bereaved family, Friday.

The mutilated body of Sanjeev Biswal, 13, who was missing since July 23, was found hanging from a tree in Bareni forest under Athmallik block Friday morning.

Sources said the Class VII boy of Subarnapur village under Kiakata police limits of Athmallik block was suffering from certain health issues for the past few days.

Sanjeev's mother, Basanti, had taken him to Mangala temple at Tusar village, a few kilometres away, to perform certain rituals for the boy's wellbeing July 22.

The mother-son duo slept on the temple premises after performing the rituals in the evening. However, Basanti could not find her son the next morning, sources said.

With no way out, Basanti ap-



proached the Kiakata police who registered a case (68/23) and launched a search operation to trace Sanjeev.

Alleging laxity, a few villagers had gheraoed the police station Thursday evening.

A few of them, who had been to Bareni forest Friday morn-

ing, were the first to spot Sanjeev's mutilated body hanging from a tree and alert his family members.

Soon, villagers staged a blockade near Bareni Square on Athmallik-Kiakata road demanding ₹20 lakh compensation to the bereaved family and arrest of the accused female 'tantric'.

Meanwhile, hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on either side of the road for hours.

"It's a clear case of human sacrifice for tantric rituals (black magic) as Sanjeev's body bore multiple injuries. The body was hanged after the rituals just to paint it as a case of suicide," an agitator said.

Kiakata police reached spot to placate the mob. However, the agitators torched the police van.

Soon after, Angul ASP Surendra Rayguru, Athmallik SDPO Balakrushna Kuanr, Athmallik Sub-Collector Taran Suna and Athmallik Tehsildar Jasbant Dehury reached the spot and managed to pacify the protesters after an hour-long effort.

Later, the body was sent for post-mortem.

SRIMANDIR DONATION BOX LOOTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 28: Cash from a donation box located at the southern gate of the Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri was allegedly looted late Thursday night.

According to sources, the miscreants allegedly broke open the donation box and decamped with the cash.

The matter came to light after some servitors found the empty donation box inside the temple and informed the Jagannath Temple Police (JTP) personnel, Friday morning. The JTP has handed over the donation box to the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

SJTA chief administrator Ranjan Das said an FIR will be lodged with the police in this regard.

Earlier, several loot incidents had been reported from the world famous temple.

Meanwhile, the locals have raised questions over the security arrangements at the 12th-century shrine.

Meanwhile, the ongoing stalemate over the Banakalagi ritual of Lord Jagannath and His siblings continued as it could not be resolved at the Srimandir Niti Sub-Committee meeting held Friday.

P4

SHORT TAKES

Girl gangraped in Sambalpur

Bhubaneswar: Odisha police detained three persons for allegedly gangraping a girl in Kuchinda area of Sambalpur district, Friday. "A 21-year-old girl alleged that three youths gangraped her Wednesday night. We have detained the accused in this case, which is being investigated by a DSP rank officer," said Amitabh Panda, SDPO, Kuchinda. The victim had gone to a bank Wednesday. When she was waiting to return home, two youths offered her a lift on their bike and gangraped her at different locations. Later, another youth allegedly raped her in a car.

SC bail for two Elgar case accused

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday granted bail to activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, noting that they have been in custody for five years. A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said Gonsalves and Ferreira shall not leave Maharashtra without the trial court's permission and surrender their passports. "Considering the fact that almost five years have elapsed, we are satisfied they have made out a case for bail. The allegations are serious, no doubt, but for that reason alone, bail cannot be denied to them," it said. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Follow Raj Dharma, Mr CM! Just stop those violent videos from leaking!!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	66160.20	↓ 106.62
NIFTY	19646.05	↓ 13.85
DOLLAR	81.98	↑ ₹0.13
EURO	90.70	↑ ₹0.52
GOLD	₹59,290	↑ ₹340
SILVER	₹ 74,000	↑ ₹253

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP: MAX	32.8°C	33.0°C
TEMP: MIN	26.2°C	26.5°C
Humidity	94%	89%
Rainfall	9mm	10mm

Forecast: Light to moderate rain

INDIA MPs in Manipur today

Opposition bloc to assess ground situation first-hand and make recommendations to government and Parliament on violence-hit state

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 28: A delegation of 21 INDIA bloc MPs will pay a two-day visit to Manipur beginning Saturday to assess the ground situation first-hand and then make recommendations to the government and Parliament for a solution to the problems in the violence-hit state.

Ahead of the visit, Congress' deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi called for an inquiry under a retired Supreme Court judge into the violence in Manipur.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress MP and whip in Rajya Sabha Naseer Hussain said the MPs from 16 parties would visit the affected areas and people both in the valley and the hills. They would also visit two relief camps in both the places and assess the situation themselves.

Sources said the Opposition bloc had written to Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who allowed the delegation to visit the state.

The delegation would be meeting Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey Sunday morning, Hussain said.

The Congress leader said the MPs have sought to use helicopters there and if allowed, they will be able to visit the far-flung areas of Churachandpur, where fresh violence has taken place.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the NDA have neither the will nor the ability to resolve the Manipur violence," he said, adding that ever since the Monsoon session of Parliament started, the Opposition has been continuously de-



manding a discussion on Manipur. "PM Modi should come to Parliament and give a statement and prepare a roadmap for peace in Manipur," he asserted.

The delegation will include Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress, TMC's Sushmita Dev, JMM's Mahua Maji, DMK's Kanimozhi, NCP's Mohammad Faizal, Jayant Chaudhary of RLD, Manoj Kumar Jha of RJD, NK Premachandran of RSP and T Thirumavalavan of the VCK.

JD(U) chief Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh, Aneel Prasad Hegde (JD-U), CPI's Sandosh Kumar, CPI(M)'s AA Rahim, Samajwadi Party's Javed Ali Khan, IUML's ET Mohammed Basheer, AAP's Sushil Gupta, Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-Uddhav Thackeray), D Ravikumar (DMK), Phulo Devi Netam and K Suresh (Congress) will also be part of the 20-member delegation which will leave Saturday morning and return Sunday afternoon.

INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY

Rising numbers, shrinking habitats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: With the number of tigers going up and their habitat shrinking, often bringing humans just too close to the big cats, the International Tiger Day, Saturday, calls for both celebration and concern.

In India, with 3,167 tigers according to the 2022 tiger census, about 75 per cent of the global numbers, the once elusive bright orange fur and distinct low rumbling roar is not so rare anymore. Scripting a remarkable story of conservation, Project Tiger started 50 years ago when the count was just 268.

However, it has come with increasing human interference in wildlife corridors, thinning prey density, a worsening quality of forest cover and change in policies, all of

which can offset the gains. "This achievement of conserving tigers, despite our population density and other pressures hasn't come easy and it's been a gradual process since the onset of Project Tiger. We can be justifiably proud that the tiger continues to thrive in India, even as it is unfortunately extinct in some range coun-



tries. This success can be attributed to our people's tolerance, political will and a strong legal and policy framework, one of the strongest in the world," wildlife conservationist Purna Bindra told PTI. Over the last few years, however, the legal framework is being "diluted," she alleged, citing the recent proposed amendments to Forest Conservation Act, 1980, or "passing of detrimental development projects in protected areas, mining in tiger habitats, and projects like the Ken Betwa river link in Panna tiger reserve."

"You can't say you are committed to conserving the tiger while allowing Panna to be drowned in a river linking project and there are a number of similar examples such as mines and linear infrastructure in the central Indian tiger landscape," Bindra said.

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NO SUCCESS OR ACHIEVEMENT IN MATERIAL TERMS IS WORTHWHILE UNLESS IT SERVES THE NEEDS OR INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE, AND IS ACHIEVED BY FAIR AND HONEST MEANS.

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leisure



THE EAGLES CO-FOUNDER RANDY PASSES AWAY

Singer Randy Meisner, the co-founder of the iconic American rock band *The Eagles*, best known for tracks such as *Take it to the Limit* has passed away at the age of 77. He died due to medical complications caused by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

MICHELLE YEOH MARRIES LONG-TIME FIANCEE JEAN TODT AFTER 19 YEARS

Oscar winning actress Michelle Yeoh has married ex-Ferrari CEO Jean Todt, 19 years after he proposed to her in June 2004. Yeoh, 60, and her long-time beau Todt, 77, married in an intimate ceremony in Geneva Thursday.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will be indecisive today, which is not usually the case with you. Ganesha says this could lead you to indulge in speculation, which is not so bad unless you risk all your money in it. Besides, when it comes to matters of the heart, you must exercise a great deal of caution.

TAURUS

All is not likely to go well during this day says Ganesha. Though you will sail smoothly most of the day, problems are very likely to come up. At the professional level you are not likely to face obstacles or difficulties. Your relations with your parents turn awkward and unpleasant.

GEMINI

You will be surrounded by conflicts today. However, you will come to realise within a short while the solutions required to troubleshoot your way out of your difficult circumstances. You will desire solitude and peace so much so that you will not find even your family members welcome company, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. And, that's a great thing to do, says Ganesha. Don't lose heart though, if despite the best efforts, the results of your efforts are not too forthcoming.

LEO

You need to keep your temper in check and guard against being aggressive today. You need to channelise your energies towards some productive pursuits, otherwise you may make someone the target of your anger. The good thing about the day is you will make satisfactory progress on work related issues.

VIRGO

You are renowned for your leadership qualities and today they will be much appreciated for the way you manage your team. You will get a long-due promotion, and will come in for some extra cash. Ganesha says you received all this by wisely balancing work and home, so be careful not to slip up on this front.

LIBRA

Ganesha says beware of overspending today. Those of you having close ties abroad may find them beneficial. Ganesha says you should always remain optimistic.

SCORPIO

Socially, you enjoy being in limelight as all the eyes are focused on you. However, beware of evil eyes that may not have good intentions towards you. You are a good soul and never hurt anyone. But, at times, it's important to know your foe's weakness to be on the safer side.

SAGITTARIUS

Brace yourselves; the day has a lot of uncertainties today. First being financial. You may have to shell out money for unexpected expenses. But, this may also teach you to be economically independent. Always look at the brighter side, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You will be a live wire, today. With amazing exuberance you have completed mammoth tasks and have spread the energy around. It will give you tremendous job-satisfaction, foresees Ganesha. Everything seems well and good the personal front, too. Spending some quality time your spouse will relax your mind and keep you in an upbeat mood.

AQUARIUS

You are a strong-willed person, and during the toughest of times you remain focused. A constant smile on your face and positive attitude will help you win the hearts and minds of people at work as well as at home. Such a feeling of contentment and happiness motivate you to do your best. Keep spreading the joy, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Today you will feel like sharing your innermost feelings with those that you are close to. You will find yourself communicating better and this will result in attracting intellectual people towards you. You will get an opportunity to work with very educated and well established people.

Actresses were earlier only arm candy: Kangana

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut reflected on the 'stereotype of actresses' in an old interview, and challenged the industry's expectations from women.

The *Manikarnika* actress said in an interview, "The stereotype of an actress is that she is dumb, somebody who will sit on your lap, giggle on stupid jokes, come to the van when she is being called, receive a call at 3am and come over to your house. So when a girl comes along and challenges this, people get uncomfortable. They feel something is wrong with her because she doesn't entertain any kind of stupidity. Yes, you make mistakes when you are young, fall for married men. But you don't do that anymore; you take a strong stand."

She further said, "They were arm candy, to show the romantic side of the hero for two minutes. Then, she would come back for a song, and in the climax, she would be back for the varmala. That was the role of the Indian heroine. But it is not that she, like the hero, did not have her own conflicts."

On the work front, Kangana was last seen in *Dhaakad* and will next be seen in *Emergency*, *Tejas*, *Chandramukhi 2* and few other films in pipeline.

AGENCIES



See women beyond their shelf life: Huma

Mumbai: Actress Huma Qureshi advocates for a transformation in the film industry's perception of age and rejects ageism, urging people to see women beyond their shelf life.

On her 37th birthday, the *Gangs of Wasseypur* actress says "I feel like actresses more so than men have this ageism thing thrown at them. People should realise that women are not commodities or something that have a considerable shelf life. It is an extremely sexist way of looking at women because I think as artists with each passing year, we

become well and we grow, transforming into a better version of ourselves. And that's how it should be seen."

Qureshi, who was last seen in *Tarla*, adds, "As I grow older, and hopefully wiser, the most significant lesson that I have learnt is just to be patient and to trust that sometimes life has something better in store for you than what you have in mind. I sure have changed because I think every few years I change as a person. Over the years, I've tried to be more fearless as a performer, I've tried to be a kinder and more patient person."

AGENCIES



Lisa questions influencers for supporting Barbie

Mumbai: Actress Lisa Ray has reacted to the viral Barbiecore trend and questioned 'young influencers' for supporting Barbie on Twitter.

Lisa took to Twitter and addressed the woke millennials as she wrote, "Genuine question to the Woke millennials and Gen Zers: how are you not only not up in arms over the Barbie movie - which is really a huge marketing push for an agent of female oppression cloaked as a movie - but many of you are also participating in Barbiecore and posting cute photos in hot pink?"

She further added, "How?! I see young influencers who raise the alarm against social inequalities and sexism and yet are fervently celebrating a movie that not matter how subversive, brings unwelcome Barbie standards and it's legacy to the next generation of girls."

Concluding her tweet, "I can only think that marketing budgets got to them. Please enlighten."

Greta Gerwig's *Barbie*, which released July 21, has received glowing reviews and a massive box office pull worldwide.

AGENCIES

Urvashi roasted!

Mumbai: Urvashi Rautela was mocked on social media after she called her co-actor Pawan Kalyan the 'esteemed Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh' on Twitter. The actor did not delete the tweet, which was still up on her page 15 hours later at the time of writing.

Rautela shared a picture with her co-stars Pawan Kalyan and Sai Dharam Tej on Thursday evening, promoting their upcoming film *Bro The Avatar*. She wrote in the caption, "Delighted to share screen space with the esteemed Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh @PawanKalyan in our film *Bro The Avatar* releases tomorrow 28th July.."

Many people on Twitter roasted Rautela for her post. "...this woman is surely a no beauty no brain contestant," wrote a netizen.

"Have some sense while tweet.. don't drink and tweet," another wrote.

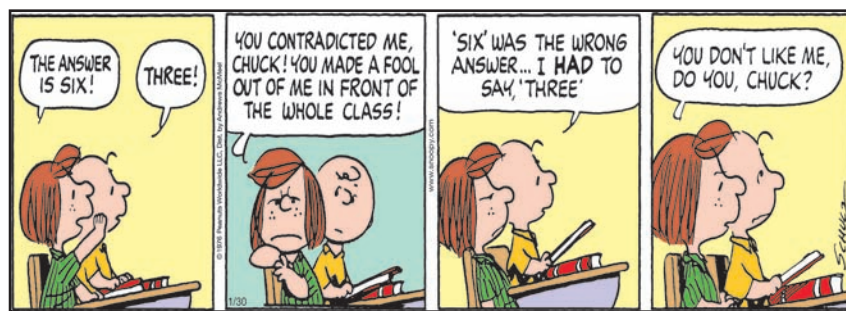
Yet another twitterati said, "...Ummm...who is going to tell her?"

The fourth user's comment read: "Self proclaimed Miss Univer mass..Avenging the team by putting film plot and then trolling the hero as CM."

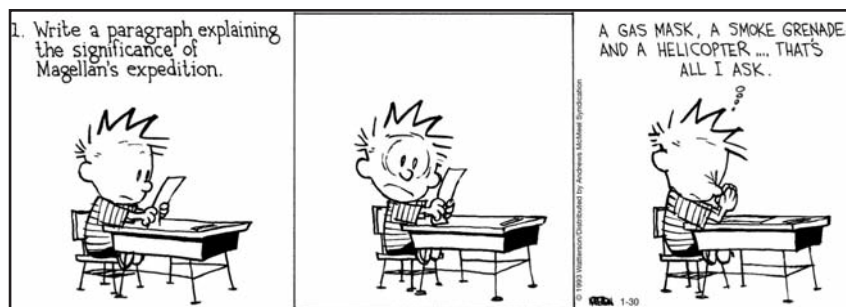
Coming back to the film, *Bro The Avatar* is a remake of the Tamil movie *Vinodhaya Sitham*. Samuthirakani, who directed the Tamil film, has helmed the upcoming film. The film is slated to release in theatres today, July 28.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

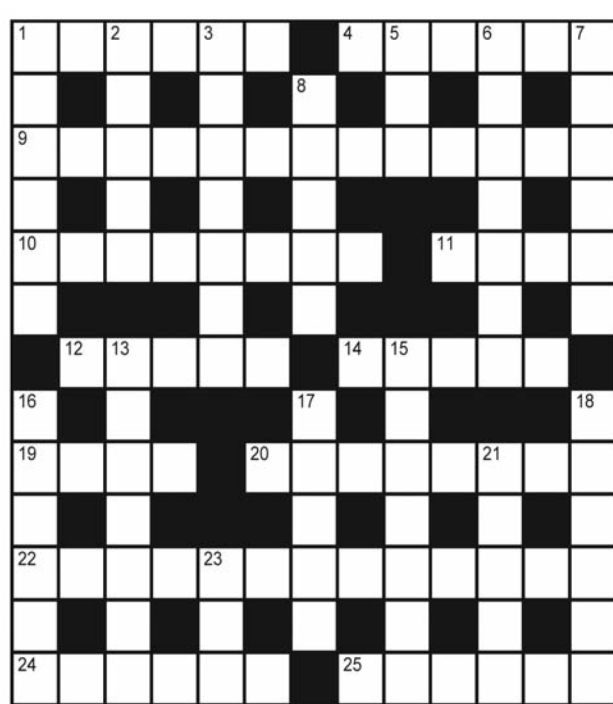


BREVITY



FUN post

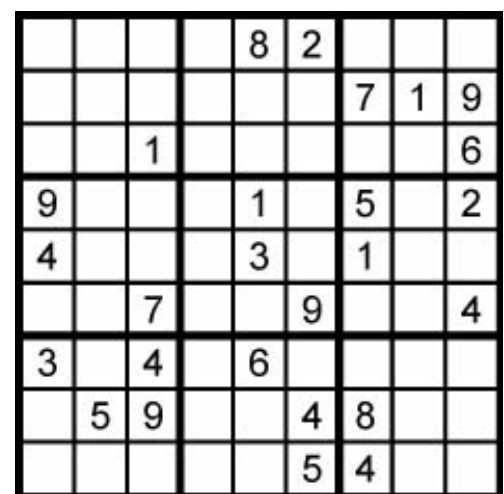
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Airport building
 - 4 Rarely
 - 9 Egadi Islands
 - 10 Kitchen items
 - 11 Icelandic epic
 - 12 Inclement
 - 14 Teatime treat
 - 19 Dethrone
 - 20 Mexican lid
 - 22 Salon (6,7)
 - 24 Cargo ship
 - 25 Pressure
- Down
- 1 Satire
 - 2 Prod
 - 3 Duchamp and Arp, e.g.
 - 5 Capt.'s prediction
 - 6 Elbe River city
 - 7 Book of instructions
 - 8 Fairy tale character
 - 13 Choose not to
 - 15 Night club
 - 16 Australian marsupial
 - 17 Two-door car
 - 18 Squirels away
 - 21 Lyric poem
 - 23 Little piggy?

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



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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Open a Gilt Account online through RBI Retail Direct Scheme

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WOMEN FIRST

RTOS ASKED TO ALLOW FEMALE PASSENGERS FIRST IN BUSES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: In a bid to break a discriminatory superstition, State Transport Authority (STA) Friday asked all the Regional Transport Officers (RTOS) to take action against bus owners who deny women as the first passenger in their vehicles.

Activist Ghasiram Panda had filed a petition before the State Commission for Women (SCW) alleging that women are not allowed to enter buses as first passengers. Panda alleged that a woman faced discrimination when she was prevented from boarding a bus as the first passenger at the Baramunda bus station here.

Acting on the petition, the SCW directed the Transport Commissioner to ensure that women are



RTOS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO CHECK PASSENGER VEHICLES REGULARLY AND WHENEVER THEY DETECT THE OWNER OR CONDUCTOR NOT ALLOWING WOMEN AS FIRST PASSENGERS, ISSUE AN E-CHALLAN AGAINST THE OWNER OF THE CONCERNED VEHICLE UNDER MV ACT, 1988

not prevented from boarding buses as first passengers.

Following the SCW direction, the STA secretary wrote to all RTOS in this re-

gard Friday.

The secretary said permits are issued by STA or RTA to stage carriages on different routes to carry passengers on payment of (bus) fare as notified by the offices. So, the owner or conductor of a stage carriage cannot deny any women as first passengers to enter buses, he said.

“Any deviation shall amount to violation of permit conditions and is punishable under Section 192A of MV Act, 1988,” the secretary warned.

The RTOS have been asked to check stage carriages regularly and whenever they detect that the owner or conductor is not allowing women as first passengers in a bus, to draw an e-challan against the owner of said vehicle under MV Act, 1988.

Puri ashram inmate bludgeoned to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 28: An inmate of Guru Krupa Ashram in Loknath Road area under Baseli Sahi police limits here was bludgeoned to death by his fellow inmate, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Narugopal Mishra, 58, and the accused Rabinra Jena, 40.

According to sources, Rabinra, who

came to ashram around 12:30pm, went to Narugopal's room and repeatedly hit him with a wooden stump.

As other inmates raised alarm, he also attacked Dayanidhi Das, another inmate, who has been admitted to the district headquarters hospital in a critical condition. Ashram's in-charge Krushna Chandra informed the police.

Rabinra was present at the ashram after committing the crime. Police

reached the spot and arrested him.

Puri additional superintendent of police told the media that at least three 'sadhus' were staying in one room of the ashram including the deceased and the killer. “What triggered the murder is yet to be ascertained. A case (165/23) of murder has been registered in Baselsahi police station. Investigation is on while the body has been sent for post-mortem,” the official said.

Knowledge on cultures enhances acceptability to diversity: Naveen



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Chairperson of SAI International Education Group Silpi Sahoo during the inauguration of Bijaya Indoor Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Friday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: Knowledge on diverse cultures and practices enhances acceptability to diversity, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said while addressing delegates at the opening ceremony of the 11th edition of SAI Model United Nations (SAIMUN) in SAI International School here, Friday.

Patnaik said SAIMUN conference is a unique opportunity to understand the world around, society and the people. “The knowledge on diverse cultures and practices enhances our acceptability to diversity. It helps us to find a common approach to global peace, harmony and growth. I believe the experiences you will receive here will help you to become global leaders and make meaningful contributions to humanity,” he added.

The two day (July 28-29) global gathering is witnessing convergence of over 800 delegates representing 10 nations - Sri Lanka, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bhutan, Kenya, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Mali, and India.

On the occasion, the CM inaugurated the 30,000 sq ft 'Bijoy Indoor Stadium' built in memory of the founder-chairman of SAI International School, the late Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, accentuating the signifi-

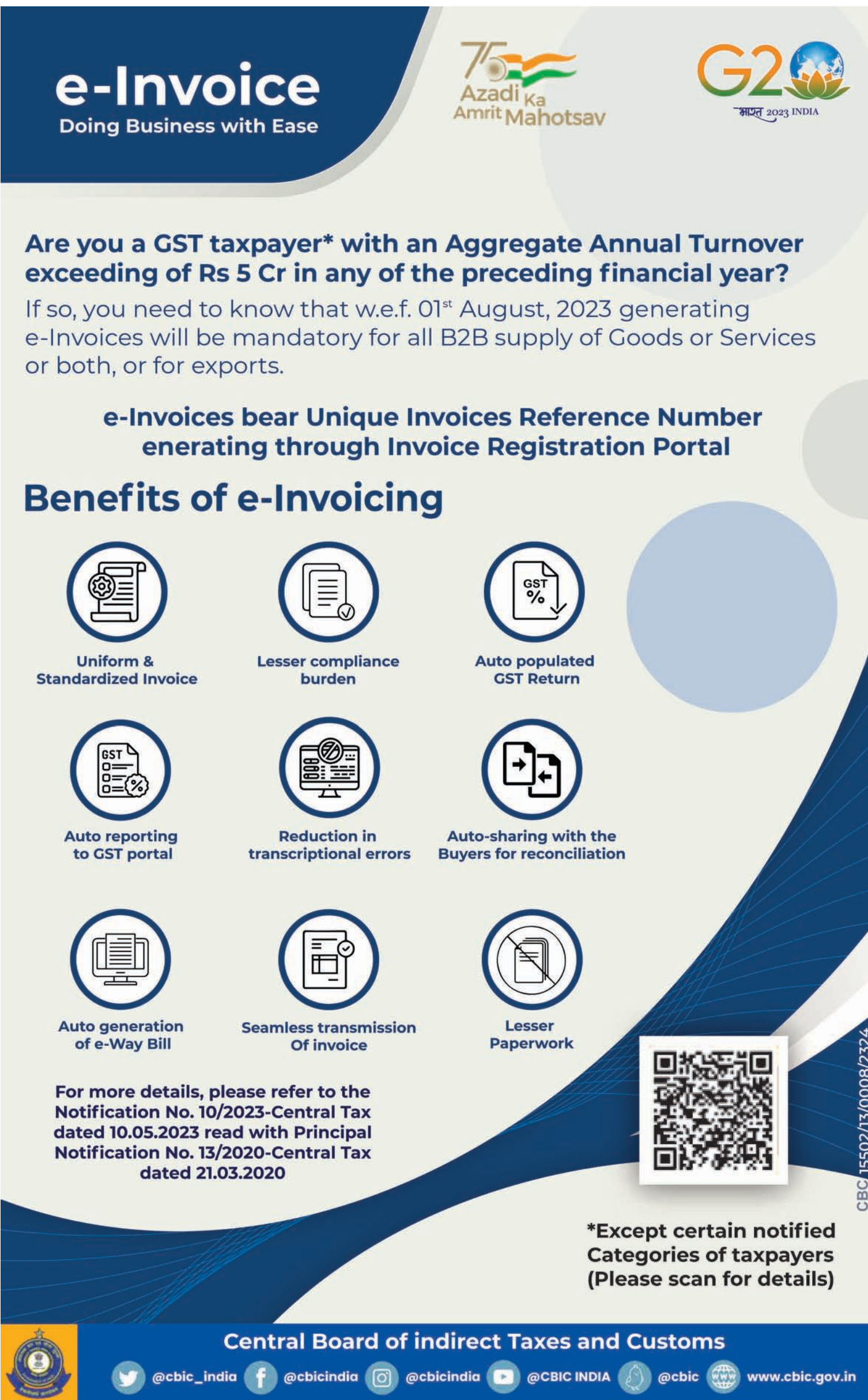
11TH EDITION OF SAIMUN KICKS OFF AT SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

cance of sports education within learning curriculum.

“I am also happy for the inauguration of the state-of-the-art 'Bijaya Indoor Stadium' here established in the memory of the founder of the school, the late Bijaya Kumar Sahoo. On this occasion, I pay my heartfelt tributes to him. He has made significant contribution to school education in Odisha by giving it a new direction,” the CM said while wishing the school to continue to scale new heights and help students realise their dreams.

Chairperson, SAI International Education Group, Silpi Sahoo, said, “I am filled with immense joy and gratitude as our dream - the Bijoy Indoor Stadium - is now a reality. It is the result of collective effort and determination. SAIMUN has always been a platform where students gather to explore and understand emerging global issues, engaging in meaningful discussions that shape their perspectives.”

Students from number of prestigious schools from abroad, including St. Andrew Kaggwa Gomba High School from Kawaala, Uganda, Gomba Junior School in Kikajjo, Uganda, and St. Anthony's Girls' College in Kandy, Sri Lanka are participating in the various sessions at SAIMUN.



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Benefits of e-Invoicing

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- Auto reporting to GST portal
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- Auto-sharing with the Buyers for reconciliation
- Auto generation of e-Way Bill
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- Lesser Paperwork

For more details, please refer to the Notification No. 10/2023-Central Tax dated 10.05.2023 read with Principal Notification No. 13/2020-Central Tax dated 21.03.2020

Central Board of indirect Taxes and Customs

*Except certain notified Categories of taxpayers (Please scan for details)

PRODUCER BOOKED FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Police launch probe, accused goes incommunicado

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The city police have launched a hunt for film producer Dayanidhi Dahima who has been accused by a popular Odia film actress of mental and sexual harassment.

Police said the accused has gone underground and incommunicado after news about the case came to the fore.

"We are investigating the case from all angles. We will soon issue a notice to the accused to appear before the investigating officer (IO). We tried to contact the accused over phone, but it was switched off," said P Shyam Sundar Rao, IIC, Laxmisagar police station where a case has been registered against Dayanidhi under various IPC sections and Information Technology (IT) Act on a direction of the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court here.

The actress had earlier approached the Bhubaneswar JMFC court seeking intervention in the case.

In 2019, the victim reportedly came across the accused who



introduced himself as an ad film maker.

"Both the producer and the actress developed a relationship after working together. However, later the producer objected to the actress working in other projects. He wanted to use my client's goodwill for his benefit and establish himself as a director in the industry," alleged Soumyajit Biswal, lawyer of the actress.

He said when the actress refused to comply with his demands, the producer started hu-

Producers fight at meet

An altercation broke out between two factions of film producers at a press meet organised by Utkal Cine Chambers of Commerce here Friday, prompting the Saheed Nagar police to intervene. The fracas erupted when a section of the producers accused some of them of bringing a bad name to the association by lodging fake complaints of misappropriation. The members alleged that the accused producers are defaming the Odia film industry.

miliating her publicly by creating fake social media accounts and also indulged in her character assassination by posting her intimate photos which he had captured clandestinely, the lawyer alleged.

In March this year, the actress lodged a complaint against the producer with the Laxmisagar police station. Though the director gave an undertaking to stop harassment, he continued his antics later and even extorted money from her," Biswal alleged.



PROTECTING PERSONNEL: Twin city Police Commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi among dignitaries attending a screening-cum-awareness programme organised by Gastro Liver Care Foundation for police officers on World Hepatitis Day at Commissionerate Police conference hall in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Stalemate continues over Banakalagi



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 28: The stalemate over Banakalagi ritual of Lord Jagannath and his siblings continued as it could not be resolved at Srimandiri Niti Sub-Committee meeting held Friday.

The Banakalagi ritual of deities has not been performed since Niladri Bije due to the rigid stand taken by Dutta Mahapatra Nijog, the servitors' body, and Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

Briefing media persons after the meeting, SJTA chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said, "The topic was thoroughly discussed in the meeting and we heard several opinions about it. Since the temple managing committee is the highest decision-making body, these will be pre-

The SJTA had asked Dutta Mahapatra servitors to perform Banakalagi ritual every Wednesday while the servitor body insisted upon continuing the practice Thursday

sented during its meeting August 1," said Das.

The SJTA attempted to persuade Dutta Mahapatra Nijog by referencing the laws and the Record of Rights. In order to put an end to this interference with the Lords' ritual, he said, "We are still open to discussions and are hopeful that the servitors would cooperate with the ad-

ministration." If Ekadasi or other rites fall Wednesday, they can be moved to Thursday. However, the temple management must also make this decision, he added.

The administration had asked the Dutta Mahapatra servitors to perform the ritual on every Wednesday of the week while the servitor body insisted upon continuing the ongoing practice to render their services Thursday. The Dutta Mahapatra servitors were issued notices twice asking them to perform it on every Wednesday but they did not do it. Das hoped that things would be resolved at the next Temple Managing Committee meeting.

On the other hand, Madan Dutta Mahapatra, the president of Dutta Mahapatra Nijog, said they went to the temple to perform Banakalagi seva but were prevented by officials. He said as per records and practice Banakalagi seva could be performed Wednesday or Thursday and questioned why the administration is rigid for Wednesday.

Instead of asking us to perform the seva on only Wednesday they should consider both Wednesday and Thursday, he said.

Now, all eyes are now at the Managing Committee meeting scheduled to be held August 1.

Ex-amin gets 3-yr RI for corruption

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 28: A special Vigilance court here Friday sentenced a former amin to undergo three years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) period of after pronouncing him guilty of taking bribe from a woman for submission of favourable survey report related to land records.

The convict, identified as Dhruva Charan Bhoi, was posted as an amin at the office of assistant settlement officer, Rental Colony area of the Capital City. "Complainant Snehalata Dash had applied for mutation of three landed properties she purchased in Shampur mouza at the office of assistant settlement officer in 2013. Dhruva was entrusted with the responsibility to conduct a survey of the plots and present a report for the issuance of patta or Record of Rights (RoR). However, Dhruva demanded ₹7,000 from Snehalata to submit a favourable report after the survey," special public prosecutor HK Swain said.

Snehalata later filed a complaint with Vigilance that laid a trap to nab the convict red-handed while accepting the bribe. The Vigilance had arrested him in 2013.

Ashish Ghosh, the new dir of IIIT Bhub

Bhubaneswar: Governor Ganeshi Lal Friday appointed Ashish Ghosh as director of International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bhubaneswar for five years, with effect from the date he assumes office or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Ghosh, now working as professor and project director of Technology Innovation Hub at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, has 28 years of teaching experience. He has authored 10 books and has successfully guided 10 PhD scholars.

NHRC seeks reports on schoolgirl death

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought reports from the Gajapati superintendent of police (SP) and district magistrate (DM) in connection with the death of a minor Dalit girl of a state-run ashram school in the district in May this year.

While hearing a plea filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC has asked the Gajapati SP to submit current status report of probe into the Class VIII girl's death. The DM was also told to submit a report on the payment of compensation to the next of kin of the victim.

The NHRC further ordered that the requisite report be submitted within four weeks, failing which it would be constrained to issue coercive process under Section 13 of the PHR Act, 1993.

In his petition, Tripathy alleged that the victim was found to be four-month pregnant. The school authorities, he said, did not inform the parents about her pregnancy earlier.

The rights activist urged the commission to intervene in the issue so as to ensure legal action against the wrongdoers, com-

pensation to the bereaved family and regular medical check-up of the students in state-run schools.

According to the petitioner, the Dalit girl, a Class VIII student of an ashram school in Gajapati district run by the ST/SC Development department, died allegedly owing to medical negligence while undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) May 6 this year.

The commission had earlier directed the Gajapati DM and the SP to submit action taken report (ATR) in the case.

The Odisha Human Rights Commission Secretary was also called upon to inform the NHRC about the date of cognizance taken, if any, at their end in the matter.

The commission was informed May 23 that as per the post-mortem report no foetus was found in the uterus and the victim minor girl was not found to be pregnant. The viscera of the girl were sent to SFSL in Rasulgarh and investigation of the case is still on.

The DM, however, did not submit any report.

The NHRC has again July 24 asked the DM to submit report on payment of monetary compensation to next of kin of the deceased.

CM's stress on living in harmony with nature

Bhubaneswar:

Sustainable management of natural resources and peace with nature are deeply linked to human health and better future Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said on the occasion of World Nature Conservation Day, Friday. Taking to his official social media account, the Chief Minister said, "Let's all learn to live in harmony with nature to protect our common home and ensure a healthy future for mankind." Regional Science Centre celebrated World Nature Conservation Day with an objective to raise awareness about preserving the environment.

OSSC paper leak: BJP seeks CBI probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 28: A day after the Odisha Police claimed to have arrested the mastermind in the OSSC exam question paper leak case from Bihar, opposition BJP Friday demanded that the investigation be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The demand was made by Odisha BJP unit president Manmohan Samal after Balasore SP Sagarika Nath said none of

the employee of the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) was found in the question leak case. She said the question of the OSSC's July 16 JE (Civil) Main Written Examination was leaked from a printing press located outside the state. The OSSC had ordered that press to print the question paper for the examination, Nath said.

However, the BJP suspected that the question leak was not possible unless there is involvement of OSSC employees.

"If the state government has the moral courage and wants to come clean, then the case should be handed over to the CBI without a minute's delay," Samal told reporters here.

Meanwhile, BJD spokesperson Goutam Buddha Das said that the kingpin in the question paper leak case was also involved in the Central Staff Selection Commission (CSSC) question paper leak case in the past. "Therefore, the BJP should refrain from doing politics in this case," he said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Mohammed Asim Ali, S/o. Mohammed Qaisar Iqbal Ali, Plot: N2/82, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751015 declare by this affidavit No. 34595, Dated: 26.07.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Mohammad Asim Ali for all future purposes.

I Mohammed Arhaan Ali, S/o. Mohammed Qaisar Iqbal Ali, Plot: N2/82, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751015 declare by this affidavit No. 34596, Dated: 26.07.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Mohammad Arhaan Ali for all future purposes.

LOST

I Sri Lalit Meher, S/o. Late Harihar Meher, R/o.: Village: Sagaripali, P.O.: Mallikmunda, Dist.: Subarnapur declare that on Dtd.15.05.2023 when I was coming from Sagaripali to Sonepur at that time my Original Regd. Sale Deed vide RSD No. 11661701513 Dtd.03.11.2017 has been missed away. In spite of my best effort I could not trace it out.

My kabala document No.10391703460, Khata No. 1006/ 283 has been lost in transit from Barabati Stadium, Cuttack. Who has find it please contact Gumanidhi Sahoo, Nimasahi, Buxibazar, Cuttack, 9439482447

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Odisha MPs raise women's quota, tribal issues amid din

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, July 28: Amidst Opposition's protest over Manipur violence, Odisha MPs put forth their long-standing demands for passage of Women's Reservation Bill and inclusion of left-out tribal communities of Odisha in the ST list of the state during the concluding week of the Monsoon session.

Both the houses witnessed ruckus everyday as the INDIA bloc, an alliance of 26 opposition parties, and other opposition parties protested against the Union government over the ethnic clashes in Manipur. The Opposition MPs moved several notices under rule 267 for discussion on Manipur crisis and also pressed for a statement

from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Union government agreed to hold a short duration discussion on Manipur violence under rule 176 but refused a statement by the Prime Minister.

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is in favour of a discussion on Manipur violence in the Parliament. Senior BJD MP Sasmit Patra conveyed the party's stand to the media stating that the regional party wants a discus-

■ BJD MPs Sasmit Patra and Niranjan Bishi raised Odisha's demand for inclusion of 169 left-out tribal communities in the ST list of Odisha

■ Patra also raised his party's long-standing demand for passage of the Women's Reservation Bill

■ BJD MP Niranjan Bishi highlighted the need for national children centric environmental policies

■ BJD MP Mamata Mohanta, who spoke on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022, attempted to draw the government's attention to Odisha's tribal communities



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

sion on Manipur. The BJD, however, did not clarify whether it wanted the discus-

sion under rule 267 as demanded by the Opposition or under rule 176. Significantly, the party always claims to maintain equidistance from national factions.

Amidst din, BJD MPs Sasmit Patra and Niranjan Bishi raised Odisha's demand for inclusion of 169 left-out tribal communities in the ST list of Odisha. The lawmakers spoke on the

Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 which seeks to include certain communities in the list of ST in Chhattisgarh. During their speeches, both MPs utilised the opportunity to highlight repeated requests of the Odisha government for inclusion of tribal communities in the ST list of the state. BJD MP Mamata Mohanta, who spoke on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022, also attempted to draw the government's attention to Odisha's tribal communities.

Patra also raised his party's long-standing demand for passage of the Women's Reservation Bill. He asserted that the passage of the Bill would be the truest empowerment of 66 crore

women of India.

Niranjan Bishi, on the other hand, highlighted the need for national children centric environmental policies. He urged the government to form national schemes that focus on education and are child centric. He also gave an example of Odisha state policy for children.

Meanwhile, BJD MP from Kalahandi Basanta Kumar Panda met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and brought to his notice several pending railway projects in Kalahandi district. He requested for increasing the railway connectivity in the area by extension of various trains and also requested for commencement of work of electric loco workshop in Kalahandi.

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Andhra continues with its brazenness

AP OFFICIALS HOLD MEETING IN KOTIA VILLAGE DESPITE PRESENCE OF ODISHA OFFICIALS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, July 28: Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh continues to display its highhandedness and brazenness in Kotia panchayat of Koraput district despite stiff opposition as Andhra officials conducted parallel meetings at Fatusineri village in the panchayat despite the presence of Odisha officials, Thursday.

Officials of both the states gave away assistance and benefits of various developmental schemes to the villagers. Koraput Zilla Parishad chairperson Sasmita Melka who was present on behalf of the district administration opposed such meetings organised by the officials of AP government.

However, that failed to have any impact and deter the AP officials. Officials of both the states organising parallel meetings at Fatusineri village in Kotia panchayat was witnessed Thursday evoking mixed reactions.

Reports said that officials of Pottangi block organised a meet-



ing to distribute old-age pensions, allowances, tri-cycles and crutches to the disabled and subsidised rice to the residents of Fatusineri village on the fringes of Andhra Pradesh.

Tehsildar Devendra Bahadur Singh Dharua who is also the block development officer (BDO in-charge), assistant engineer Biswanath Madali, APO Soumendra Nayak, BSSO Sudhir Sahu, PEO Kanda Golari, revenue inspectors Duryodhan Nayak and Pratikshya Goud at-

tended the meeting and gave away the assistance.

The officials gave away pension, bus pass, rice and other assistance to over 50 villagers of Fatusineri, Madkar, Harmandangi, Fagunsineri and Pankubalsa villages under Pottangi block.

They also spoke elaborately on various developmental schemes floated by the state government and explained how these schemes are going to benefit them.

However, notwithstanding the presence of Odisha officials, the officials of Salur block of Parvatipuram Manyam district in Andhra Pradesh reached the village and organised a meeting inside a church in the village. There they explained the benefits of Jagan Anna Surakhya Yojana floated by the AP government and gave away certificates of welfare schemes to over 233 villagers.

Meanwhile, Koraput ZP chairperson Melka, Pottangi zone-2 ZP member Laichan Khara and some BJD workers detained the AP project officer of ITDA C Vishnu Charan and questioned him on organising programme of AP government on Odisha soil.

They questioned the AP officials on their incursion into Fatusineri village and gave away 'Andhra go back' slogans. However, organising a programme in Kotia panchayat without inviting the zone-1 ZP member Tikai Gemel has sparked resentment.

Another life lost in man-croc conflict

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, July 28: In yet another case of man-crocodile conflict, one more life was lost in Kendrapara district.

According to locals, Baba Amulya Das, a sexagenarian of Kulasahi village, Thursday night went to the embankment of Brahmani river nearby to answer nature's call when a ferocious saltwater crocodile dragged him into the river.

The forest and fire brigade personnel on being informed about the incident launched a search and rescue operation but failed to trace the body of Amulya.

On Friday, the forest personnel with the help of fire tender personnel carried out a search and rescue operation.

However, after 17 hours the locals came across the mutilated head of the Amulya floating on the river water.

The mutilated body was retrieved in the presence of local magistrate and local IIC.

Pattamundai police later seized the body and sent it for autopsy. The forest personnel confirmed the death of Amulya in a crocodile attack.



Crocodile rescued from village pond

A 6.5 feet-long male estuarine crocodile was rescued by forest personnel from the pond of one Vanu Giri of Vekta village under Rajnagar police station limits in this district. The rescued crocodile was later released at Syamsuddin nullah within the Bhitarkanika National Park. The villagers Friday spotted the saltwater crocodile near the pond and informed the forest personnel of Kanika forest range. The forest personnel later rushed to the spot and rescued the reptile with the help of nets.



locals not to risk their life by entering into the crocodile infested water bodies.

He said very shortly, the bathing ghats, where man-reptile conflicts have been reported in the recent past, will be iron fenced.

Techie held for selling birds using YouTube



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 28: Forest officials have successfully busted a racket involved in illegal trading of wild birds and animals through social media.

The Forest department Thursday arrested one Saroj Kumar Badaik (32) at Bisra and recovered two common hill mynas from his possession. Badaik, an engineering graduate, was running an illegal animal selling racket using YouTube as the platform for this purpose.

Addressing the media-persons, Rourkela DFO Jasobant Sethi informed

that the department had received tip-offs about this activity. Badaik's source for collection of birds was Raipur and Ranchi. He had earlier brought turkeys and ducks from there and sold those to his customers. "He was using YouTube as the platform to attract customers. He would show these birds on his channel and would get contacted by the customers," informed the DFO.

Officials of the department established contact with him and asked for the two seized birds. And the deal was finalised for ₹14,000. ₹5000 was deposited to his account as advance payment and he asked the two officials to meet him near Biju Pattnaik Indoor Stadium. An unsuspecting Badaik was soon arrested with the two birds. The DFO informed that further investigation was underway to unravel more about the case and did not want to divulge any other information.

Naba Das murder: Gopal Das' polygraph report out

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 28: Suspended ASI Gopal Das, the main accused in the murder case of former health minister Naba Das, took the step out of fear that his life was under threat, his polygraph report revealed Friday.

Accused Gopal Das has revealed many important facts pertaining to the sensational murder of the health minister during the polygraph test.

During the test, he said a person named Manoj Bariya

had told him that Naba Das had been angry with him.

"Manoj told him that Naba Das might be angry with him for stopping his vehicle and reprimanding his supporters. Fearing a threat to his life from Naba Das, he started planning to eliminate the health minister," the polygraph report revealed.

Gopal revealed that if he had not killed Naba Das, then the latter would have eliminated him. Gopal also mentioned that he tried to kill Naba Das twice before but failed.

Admin tightens security in Sambalpur for Muharram

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, July 28: The Sambalpur district administration has deployed 22 platoons of police forces in the town as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward situation on the occasion of Muharram.

Police forces have been deployed at all major strategic and sensitive places in the town to ensure law and order in the town.

Such precautions were taken in view of community clashes that were reported during the Hanuman Jayanti Celebration procession April 12, Sambalpur SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo said. Two ASPs, 22 DSPs, 24 inspectors and 64 SIs and ASIs will be on duty to guide the forces, he said.




The district administration has banned all religious

processions in the town for one year till 2024 June.


During the recently concluded peace committee meeting with people of all religions, the administration conveyed its decision to all before the Muharram celebration.

Even the Muslim community accepted the instructions of the administration for the greater interest of the society. Hence, there would not be a mass procession on the day of Muharram. However, Muslim community has been asked to celebrate Muharram in their respective areas but without any procession, the police said.

On Friday, a flag march was conducted in the town by the police to send the message that no indiscipline would be tolerated by the antisocial elements.

BALASORE DISTRICT ON THE PATH OF PROGRESS WITH HELP OF MODERN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE



"Our Government is leaving no stone unturned to build next-generation infrastructure to ensure better mobility, connectivity, productivity, sustainability and safety."

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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Laying of Foundation Stone by

NITIN GADKARI

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India

(through video conferencing)

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in august presence of

General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.)
Union Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation, Govt. of India

Sukanta Kumar Nayak
MLA, Nilgiri, Odisha

Pratap Chandra Sarangi
MP, Lok Sabha, Balasore

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लक्ष्मण 40 करोड़ घंटे प्रतिवर्ष के अमूल्य समय की बचत • लक्ष्मण 35 करोड़ लीटर प्रतिवर्ष ईंधन की बचत
लक्ष्मण 10 लाख टन कार्बन डाई ऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन में कमी से पर्यावरण संरक्षण
इसलिए FASTag अपनाएं... और देशहित में अपना योगदान दें...

Live within; be not shaken by outward happenings
SRI AUROBINDO



Midnight Shuffle

Amidst murmurs of impending changes in the Central government, there are rumours about Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman being dropped from the Cabinet, though it seems unlikely given that the next budget is only a vote on account, in practical terms. Such ridiculous talk likely stems from the exit of Vivek Singh as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the finance minister.

Singh's unexpected curtailment of tenure left many puzzled. An ABVP stalwart, wondering about the reasons behind it, particularly as it happened at midnight, is suggesting it as a sudden decision. Singh, a private person, has been at the helm of affairs and his premature departure makes it all the more surprising. But then, that's to be expected given the nature of this regime where transparency often remains elusive.

What adds to the intrigue is that Singh was appointed as OSD to Sitharaman in January 2022 for a four-year tenure. While some sources claim that Singh aspired to play a more active role in the upcoming elections, others assert he may not be interested in running for office. Regardless, it is said that he is expected to take up a new assignment in Jharkhand, coinciding with the election process.

Haryana steps up drive against corrupt babus

With about a year to go for the 2024 Assembly elections, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is seizing the opportunity to convey a strong message against corruption by holding senior officials in the state administration accountable. According to information, as many as 41 senior officers in the state are under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for their alleged involvement in corrupt practices.

The transformational shift in the fight against corruption began when Khattar renamed the State Vigilance Bureau as the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) earlier this year, headed by a senior IPS officer Shatruej Kapur. The move was a reaction to Opposition accusations that the government was soft on corrupt officers. Kapur has reportedly led a sweeping investigation that ensnared several government employees, including 12 IAS officers, two IPS officers, three IFS officers, 20 HCS officers and four HPS officers.

According to the ACB chief, several officials were arrested by his team for accepting bribes, and the bureau is pursuing cases seeking permission to prosecute them under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Sources have informed DKB that at least two senior IAS officers who are facing corruption charges have approached the state government challenging the ACB's action. Can Khattar succeed in his aim, and will it be enough to tip the electoral balance in the BJP's favour, is something we will have to wait and see.

The not-so-civil origin of the Indian babu

It is one of those fascinating historical 'double-engine' ironies that the East India Company, a relentless imperial juggernaut, invented the term 'civil servant'. The irony lies in the context of the term's origin. The East India Company relentlessly pursued the extension of British influence in India across two-and-a-half centuries. But it needed Indian compradors to maintain control over its dominions. The civil servant was imported from China, the only thing they brought to India, besides tea, in exchange for opium.

The concept of civil servants embodied a notion of impartiality and public service, even though the reality was often tainted by the company's colonial objectives. Over time, the term 'civil servant' evolved into a government official who works for the public good and administers state affairs, and in the Indian context, the humble babu! Back in the heyday of the Mughal era, 'babu' was the ticket to respect, the ultimate honorific for an Indian. The British picked up 'babu' along the way and decided it was the perfect way to address their trusty Indian assistants.

Today the 'babu' has quite the reputation, with a mixed bag of accolades and brickbats. It has weathered the ages, transforming from respect to ridicule, from honour to humour, and back. Babus are on a mission to rewrite the narrative. Along with administrative reforms, they are striving to redefine the term, emphasizing professionalism, accountability and public service. While the origins of 'civil servant' may be tied to a rapacious private enterprise, the transformation of its meaning reflects our complex history and the evolution of administrative systems.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

Kill not, cause no pain. Nonviolence is the greatest religion
LORD MAHAVIRA

You cannot believe in God until you believe in yourself.
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries
DALAI LAMA

WORDSWORTH

Astrobolism

It refers to the blasting of plants by the sun during high summer.

Etymologically, it's the result of being struck by a star, as it comes from the Greek astron (as in astronomy and many other words), plus bolis, a missile (which is also the source of bolide). The star is Sirius, the dog star; because it rises and sets with the sun during summer in the northern hemisphere, it has lent its name to dog days for the hottest part of the year in places north of the equator. The dog days are those from about the middle of July to the middle of August (though the exact dates vary depending on where you live). The thought behind astrobolism is connected to the old idea that this period of summer is under a malign influence, in which dogs run mad, the air is unwholesome, sunstroke is common, and all useful works stagnate for want of effort. It was first recorded in Nathaniel Bailey's Dictionary, dated 1721. Apart from very occasional appearances in other reference works, it has had almost no circulation at all.

Zoochosis

You're likely to find this word used by animal rights activists in reference to what they see as the degrading effect of zoos on the animals they contain. Many animals, especially the large carnivores, become deeply depressed, even psychotic, as the result of captivity. Symptoms of zoochosis include nervous pacing, head rocking, and self-mutilation. The problem is perhaps most acute with polar bears, which have proved especially difficult to keep sane, and which often show disturbed behaviour such as swimming for hours in small circles. (The Central Park Zoo in New York had to call in an animal psychologist to find ways to give its polar bear, Gus, a more varied and challenging environment.) The word, a blend of zoo and psychosis, seems to date from the early 1990s, but is still fairly specialist and hasn't - so far as I know - yet made it to any dictionary.



DK Giri

ANY VISION DOCUMENT THAT EXCLUDES THE LONG-PENDING TAMIL QUESTION WILL BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE AND BOTH NATIONS SHOULD TAKE THIS PERSISTING DILEMMA ON BOARD

FOCUS INDO-LANKA TIES

THE TAMIL QUESTION

The Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe was on a two-day official visit last week, his first since he became the President in July last year. The visit took place in the wake of celebration of 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries with the crux being to strengthen relations in multiple sectors. For Sri Lanka, it was reaching out to friends and allies in the quest of economic recovery after the financial collapse last year. For India, Sri Lanka is an important partner in her 'Neighbourhood First' policy and a push for the Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). However, the elephant in the room is the question of the Sri Lankan Tamils - their rehabilitation and autonomy etc.

Let us note that Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean has attracted attention from other countries, of late, from India's regional rival China. Beijing had somehow gained an upper hand against New Delhi in Sri Lanka by extending free-flowing loans and infrastructure investment. But the dramatic economic collapse last year, gave New Delhi chance to claw its way back into the Island country especially as China delayed its support for debt restructuring.

India had extended emergency financial support to the tune of \$4 billion mainly in terms of fuel and essential items. India is also a part of an official creditor's committee along with Japan and other Paris Club members. This committee is currently negotiating debt relief solutions for Sri Lanka.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the visit was the adoption of the Vision Document with the intent of boosting economic partnership. The Document is based on five pillars comprising connectivity in five sectors: maritime, air,



Prior to his departure to India, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe addressed the Colombo-based Indian CEO Forum and assured that the Indian currency would soon be accepted within the country

energy, people-to-people and UPI.

Maritime connectivity aims at consolidating local logistics and shipping with the joint development of ports at Colombo, Trincomalee and Kankesanthurai. The Document also refers to resumption of passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka and between Rameswaram (India) and Talaimannar (Sri Lanka). The air connectivity talks of expansion of flights between Chennai and Colombo in addition to exploring connectivity between Chennai and Trincomalee, Batticaloa and other possible destinations in Sri Lanka.

The energy and power connectivity led to: signing of a MoU on renewable energy for Sri Lanka covering 75 per cent of power from renewables by 2030; establishment of a high-capacity integrated power grid to enable electricity trading within BBIN initiative. The BBIN - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal - is a sub-regional structure created as South Asian Growth Quadrangle for unhin-

dered movements of people and cargo. This sector also included acceleration of Sampur Solar Power Project and LNG Infrastructure to explore green hydrogen; ongoing cooperation in Trincomalee Tank Farms for the development of industry, energy and economic activity; joint construction of a petroleum pipeline from India; and collaborating hydrocarbon exploration in offshore basins. The proposed distribution pipeline by Indian Oil Corporation would connect Nagapattinam in India to Colombo, the strategic city of Trincomalee on Sri Lanka's East Coast where India is helping restore World War-II era oil tanks.

People-to-people connectivity will encompass the promotion of awareness and popularisation of India's Buddhist circuit, and Ramayana trail as well as ancient places of Buddhist, Hindu and other religious worship in Sri Lanka towards enhancing tourism.

The fifth pillar is an agreement on acceptance of UPI payment system in Sri Lanka, signed by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Wickremesinghe.

The pending political solution to Sri Lanka's Tamils figured in the high-level meetings. Modi raised the issue with the Sri Lankan President. In response, Wickremesinghe presented a proposal for reconciliation and power sharing. He added that he had urged the Sri Lankan Parliament to reach a consensus and resolve the long-running conflict.

Wickremesinghe had recently met the Tamil political leadership and offered to implement the 13th Amendment, which followed the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987. This amendment provides for transfer of powers to North and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka without the police powers. The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) seemed to have rejected the proposal. Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) which is providing support to Wickremesinghe has suggested that the President does not have the electoral mandate to implement the 13th Amendment.

At any rate, the fact that Tamil question was not mentioned in the joint statement gives two loud messages. One, Sri Lanka would not like to encourage other countries including India to mix-up ethnic issues with trade and commerce. Second, India is perhaps making course-correction after New Delhi's alleged support to Madhes. New Delhi may not like to bring in a particular segment of population in its bilateral negotiations on trade, security and economy etc. Be that as it may, any vision document that excludes the long-pending Tamil question will be considered incomplete. Both Sri Lanka and India should take this persisting dilemma on board.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism
@INFA

SPECTRUM FOOD CRISIS

Food sovereignty increases food security



Kevin Watkins

ONE IN FIVE AFRICANS - SOME 260 MILLION PEOPLE, MOST OF THEM IN RURAL AREAS - ARE GOING HUNGRY

If you are looking for an argument in West Africa, try asking which country serves the best jollof. While Senegalese can claim to have invented the popular rice-based dish, Nigerians, Ghanaians, and others across the region will fiercely defend their own recipes as the tastiest. But one thing is not in dispute: Much of the rice now used in jollof is grown not by West African farmers, but in India, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Rice has been cultivated in Africa for more than 3,000 years, and it is now grown by more than 35 million farmers in 40 countries across the region. After maize, it is Africa's most important food staple. Yet Asian rice accounts for over 40% of consumption in the region, making Africa the world's largest import market for the grain. Though the Senegal River Valley was one of the world's earliest rice centers, Senegal's farmers now struggle to compete in the country's urban centers against imports from India.

This development is symptomatic of a wider loss of food self-reliance in Africa, owing to population growth, urbanization, and an expanding middle-class' increased demand for food. While smallholder farming and rural livelihoods still account for over half of employment on

the continent, African farmers have been pushed out of local markets, and the region's overall food import bill has risen from \$7.9 billion in 1993-95 to \$43.6 billion in 2018-20.

No region faces a more severe food-security crisis. One in five Africans - some 260 million people, most of them in rural areas - are going hungry. Progress toward the United Nations' goal of achieving "zero hunger" by 2030 stalled in 2014 and, following the supply-chain disruptions triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, has gone into reverse.

Climate change is only compounding the problem. We are already witnessing more protracted and intense droughts, less predictable rainfall, floods, and the climate-related spread of pests, like the plague of desert locusts that devastated crops in eastern Africa in 2019. Dependence on rain-fed farming systems is a risk multiplier for Africa. Modeling reported by the International Panel on Climate Change points to potential yield losses in the range of 10-30% for food staples like maize, sorghum, and millet.

Many of the policies and technologies needed to close Africa's yield gap and address climate threats are well-known. CGIAR, the world's largest global agri-

cultural research organization, has developed high-yield, climate-resilient, and pest-resistant seeds tailored for agro-ecological conditions across Africa. More than two million smallholder farmers are already growing drought-resistant maize varieties, raising their yields by 20-30%.

The African Rice Center has produced more than 80 new rice varieties. These include early-maturing seeds which provide a source of food with higher protein content than standard varieties in the pre-harvest hunger period. Yields are comparable to those in Asia. Evaluations find that farmers - many of them women - adopting these seeds are, in some cases, doubling their income. In Senegal, novel rice varieties are slowly clawing back market share from imported rice, creating new value-chains and rural jobs - and displacing imports used in jollof.

But new seed technologies can realize their full potential only if they are part of an integrated response. Farmers also need access to affordable capital, fertilizer, and productive infrastructure like irrigation, energy, and extension services. As matters stand, Africa's farmers - notably women - are poorly served in all these areas. And while the African Union's Comprehensive

Africa Agriculture Development Program, initiated in 2003, provides a plan of action, it has an abysmal delivery record.

Connecting the dots between food self-reliance and social protection can create win-win scenarios. As the School Meals Coalition points out, millions of African schoolchildren are unable to learn because of hunger. Providing them with nutritious food from local producers would simultaneously combat malnutrition, improve learning, and create predictable markets for farmers, attracting the investment needed to raise productivity. The Kenyan government has already set a benchmark, pledging to provide universal school meals by 2030.

At a food summit in Dakar, Senegal, earlier this year, African leaders pledged to build more self-sufficient, resilient, and equitable food systems, and to restore "food sovereignty." While Africa's farmers have heard such pledges before, let's hope that this time they will be implemented.

The writer is a visiting professor at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa at the London School of Economics.
@PROJECT SYNDICATE

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Russagar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Eat to live

Sir, Earlier, people used to be shy about eating non-vegetarian food and drinking alcohol, but now both have become fashionable. We can see more vegetarian acceptance among Westerners. They respect the belief and go to any extent to eat vegetarian food in meetings. Ironically, in India, we now practice the 'Living to Eat' dictum rather than 'Eating to Live'. Your food should bring you happiness and well-being, not rob you of them. Your food should make your life more enjoyable and less stressful, not the other way around. We should choose nourishing, healthy foods whenever we can because we know there will be special occasions when we will choose not to and instead indulge and enjoy them.
CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Gyanvaapi Survey

Sir, The Supreme Court imposed a two-day ban on Gyanvaapi survey. After this, Mathura case is still going on in court, whatever the decision is, it will probably be challenged in the Supreme Court. In our country, despite having a single book of law, the decisions of the lower courts and the Supreme Court differ. Religious matters are very sensitive. It is a matter of satisfaction that the people of the country have complete confidence in the courts. That's why, the court must make fair decisions.
A Nawas, KOLLAM

Counting chickens

Sir, With just 10 months left for general elections there is already a fight between the NDA and I.N.D.I.A is brooding up and people have doubts about a coalition government ruling the country. In the meantime, the ruling dispensation is counting on a third time in the wake of the poor stand of the so called Gathbandan. PM Modi, not mincing words, really put the victory platform on the table with just these four words, and he destroyed the hopes of the entire Opposition. He talked about his third term around six times. Brilliant oratory and psychology play. But the Opposition considers it as counting the chickens before they were actually hatched in a one to one fight. It reminds me of the dialogue from inception. Once an idea has taken root in the mind, it's almost impossible to eradicate it. Modi put that idea into the impressionable minds of 1.4 billion people as the election bugle has already blown to make things clear.
MR Jayanthi Subramaniam, CHENNAI

Himachal to re-green barren hills to prevent soil erosion

A task force will be constituted and maintenance of selected areas will be done for seven years, an official statement said, adding the work of plantation and maintenance will be outsourced, preferably involving local inhabitants



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Shimla, July 26: The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, in a meeting presided over by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, recently decided to launch the Mukhya Mantri Van Vistaar Yojna, a scheme that will re-green barren areas to prevent soil erosion. To ensure implementation of the scheme, a task force will be constituted under the chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. It was decided that the maintenance of selected areas will be done for seven years and the work of plantation and maintenance will be outsourced, preferably involving local residents. The Cabinet also decided to cre-

ate and fill additional 136 posts of nursing and para-medical staff to make the Trauma Centre and Emergency Medicine Department of IGMC in Shimla functional. It would ensure that all related six departments i.e. neurosurgery, radiology, plastic surgery, anaesthesia, orthopaedics and general surgery to function in three shifts round the clock. The Cabinet also decided to set up a project management unit in the Revenue Department to deal effectively with natural calamities, besides filling 14 posts of different categories. It was decided to create posts of Assistant District Attorneys for newly established civil courts at Dharampur and

Padhar in Mandi district and for newly established Additional District and Session Courts at Nurpur, Dehra, Palampur, Paonta Sahib and Rohru and seven posts of Deputy District Attorneys for POCSO courts and Special CBI Courts. A state cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu gave its nod to implement the Himachal Pradesh Nautor Rules, 1968, for a period of two years subject to conditions that the area should not fall within national parks, sanctuaries, conservation reserves, community reserves, demarcated projected forests and reserve forests. The Cabinet also accorded approval to the draft Himachal Pradesh Municipal Corporations, Municipal Council and Nagar Panchayat Maintenance of Pariwar Register Rules, 2023, for maintaining proper records of families residing in urban areas. It further decided to fill up 87 posts of different categories in various municipal councils and nagar panchayats in the state. It also decided to enhance the honorarium of special police officers posted in border areas of the state by ₹500 per month. A task force will be constituted and maintenance of selected areas will be done for seven years, an official statement said, adding the work of plantation and maintenance will be outsourced, preferably involving local inhabitants.



RAIN WOES: The swollen Beas River flows in spate beneath a damaged bridge at Bhuntar after heavy monsoon rains in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh. PTI PHOTO

Heavy rains batter parts of Rajasthan

Jaipur, July 28: Heavy rains battered several places in the past 24 hours, causing waterlogging and traffic snarls in several cities such as Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur Friday. According to the Meteorological Department, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaipur, and Ajmer districts witnessed heavy rains Thursday night, leading to knee-deep water on the key road stretches in many cities and towns. Light to moderate rains with thundershowers occurred

at many places in the state in the past 24 hours, the MeT said. On Friday, the monsoon is expected to remain active in Ajmer, Jaipur, Bharatpur, and Kota divisions of eastern Rajasthan with the possibility of heavy rains at some places, a spokesperson of the Jaipur Meteorological Centre said. In the Jodhpur and Bikaner divisions, some parts could witness light rain while moderate to heavy rains have been forecast for one or two places, the spokesperson said. On Friday, Amta in Baran recorded the

maximum rainfall at 32.5 mm, while Kota recorded 32.4 mm, Alwar 24.4 mm and Ajmer 24.3 mm, weather data till 5.30 pm showed. In the past 24 hours ending at 8.30 am, Mount Abu in Sirohi was the wettest with 14 cm rainfall, followed by 12 cm at Railmagra in Rajsamand, 11 cm at Phalodi in Jodhpur, 10 cm at Kotputli in Jaipur, and 9 cm each at Behrod in Alwar and Raisingnagar in Sriganganagar 9 cm. Many other places recorded rainfall ranging between 8 cm and 1 cm, the data showed.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No.: MDCHBBSHemodialysis-SI-06
NAME OF WORK: OUTSOURCING FOR HEMODIALYSIS OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL/EAST COAST RAILWAY/MANCHESWAR/BHUBANESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (03) YEARS.
Advised Value : ₹ 2,13,37,344.00, EMD : ₹ 2,56,700/-, Tender Document Cost : ₹ 3,000/-, Period of Completion : 36 Months.
Bidding Start Date : 02.08.2023
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 16.08.2023.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Medical Director/CHMCSI/PR-392/O/23-24 Bhubaneswar

HP clocks record tourist footfall in first half of '23

Shimla, July 28: Himachal Pradesh witnessed a record tourist footfall of one crore six thousand in the first half of 2023 till June but heavy rains, floods and landslides in the state in July have led to a slump in the tourism sector. As many as 99,78,504 domestic and 28,239 foreign tourists visited the hill state till June this year, with the industry showing signs of recovery after the slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which virtually crippled the tourism industry. The tourist arrival during the first half was 89 lakh in 2018, 99.57 lakh in 2019, 22.04 lakh in 2020, 19.75 lakh in 2021 and 86.42 lakh in 2022 and a record was set in 2023, a statement issued here said. But the jubilation of attaining record numbers in the first half of 2023 may be short lived due to the vagaries of weather in July. The monsoon fury has stopped



the tourist inflow and the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) on Saturday offered up to 50 per cent discount to tourists on room rent. The tourism industry is contemplating to offer special packages and discounts for revival. Attributing the surge in tourist arrival in the first half of 2023 to the relentless efforts of the government to bolster the tourism infrastructure, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said Himachal Pradesh is emerging as an all-season destination and attracted travellers from across the globe to experience its enchanting landscapes.

Rajasthan's free food packet scheme to be implemented Aug 15: CM Gehlot

Jaipur, July 28: Rajasthan government's ambitious scheme to provide free food packets to beneficiaries will be implemented from August 15 onwards, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said. The Chief Minister said that welfare schemes are the responsibility of the government and the right of people. Gehlot made the announcement while addressing the beneficiaries of the Indira Gandhi Gas Cylinder Subsidy Scheme at the State Level Beneficiary Dialogue organised at the Chief Minister's residence. According to an official statement, Gehlot said that under the Annapurna Food Packet Scheme guarantee, distribution of free food packets to 1.06 crore families will start from August 15. He also said the Chief Minister's Kamdhenu Bima Yojana will also be implemented soon.

RAJ ASSEMBLY POLLS AAP will dent Cong more than BJP



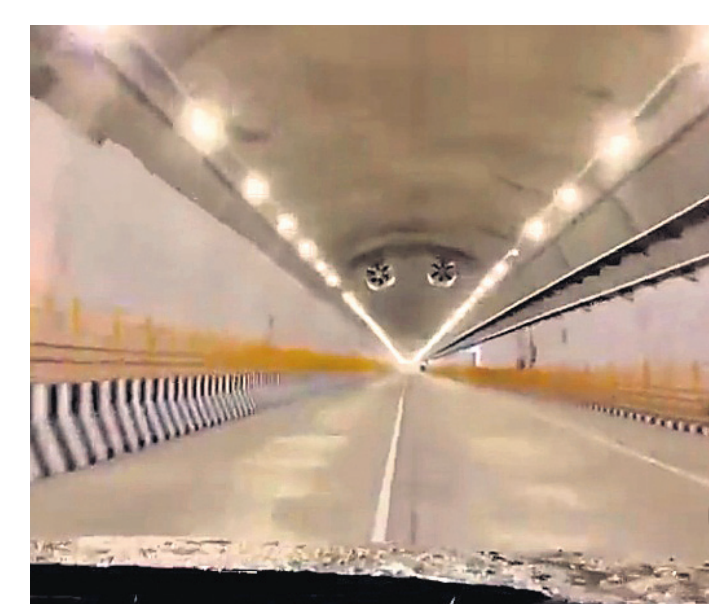
According to a survey, 46.5 per cent people feel that Congress will suffer while 27.2 per cent felt that BJP will suffer if AAP contests the Assembly polls later this year in the desert state

in Rajasthan. According to the survey, 46.5 per cent people feel that Congress will suffer while 27.2 per cent felt that BJP will suffer if AAP contests the Assembly polls later this year in the desert state. The survey also said that 21.7 per cent BJP people, 37.4 per cent Congress people and 23.3 per cent others feel that the saffron party will suffer if AAP contests in the elections later this year. The survey also said that about 54.8 per cent of BJP, 34.7 per cent of Congress and 49.3 per cent others feel that the grand old party will suffer if AAP contests in the elections. Meanwhile, 25.3 per cent said they don't know and cannot comment. The Assembly polls are scheduled later this year where the Congress is looking to break the tradition of alternate government. The BJP is also preparing to make a comeback in the state.

New Delhi, July 28: About 47 per cent people in Rajasthan feel that the Congress will suffer the most if the AAP contests the Assembly polls later this year, an opinion poll predicted Friday. The ABP-CVoter opinion poll, which was carried out between June 26 to July 25 in all the 200 Assembly seats of the desert state involving 14,085 people asked which party will suffer more if AAP contests the Assembly polls

HIMACHAL DELUGE Manali highway tunnels turn out to be saviour

Shimla, July 28: Five all-weather tunnels on the Manali four-lane national highway from Hanogi to Jhalogi, which lay between Mandi and Kullu towns in Himachal Pradesh, turned out to be saviour for the motorists, largely locals, as torrential rain that triggered flash floods in the Beas River has washed away a major portion of the old highway in this segment. Currently, the traffic on the highway between Pandoh and Aut, part of the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane highway project, is passing through the tunnels that were opened for the traffic May 20. They are yet to be formally inaugurated. Every year after heavy rainfall, the flooded Beas flows over the highway that has steep hills on one side and deep valleys of the river on the other. Officials told IANS a large stretch of the old 22-km-long highway between Pandoh and Aut has been washed away. So the traffic is passing through the newly constructed tunnels.

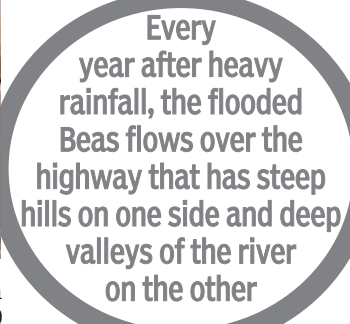


The twin tube tunnels built between Pandoh and Aut as part of the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane highway project, bypasses the landslide-prone stretch that passes via the Hanogi Mata temple.

Local vegetable grower Jeevan Negi said flash floods on July 8-9 have extensively damaged the highway from Jhalogi to Hanogi. "We are thankful to the Central government for completing these crucial tunnels well ahead of the

onset of monsoon. Otherwise, the transportation of vegetables and fruits by road would almost come to a standstill, impacting the local economy." The highway stretch near Tharot and 7 Mile, a few km ahead of Mandi town, was badly damaged. "In earlier years the river water reached up to the level of the road. This time the flash flood in the river has wiped out 300-400 metre

stretch of the highway and it took months to relay it." Work on the Pandoh bypass to Takoli, which is underway will provide round-the-year connectivity to Manali. It will become the largest cross-sectional tunnels in the region and reduce travel time from Mandi to Manali by 90 minutes, say officials. The Pandoh to Takoli stretch has four twin tube tunnels, two single tube tunnels, two major and nine minor Bridges, one elevated bridge and 19 km road. Even on normal days the motorists are advised to travel with precaution between Mandi and Kullu towns owing to landslide-prone, narrow and sinking stretches due to loose rock strata and vulnerable to being flooded by the Beas River that ran along the highway. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is executing the four-lane road project that will overall shorten the distance between Kiratpur in Punjab and Manali from 232 km to 195 km, reducing the travel time by three hours. The NHAI, which missed its deadlines in the past, now aims to complete the entire project by March 2024.



OFFICE OF THE SR. GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL)
UPPER INDRAVATI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, MUKHIGUDA,
DIST: KALAHANDI-766026, E-mail: sgmel_uhp@ohpcitd.com
ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
Regd. Office CSPT & WC Building, Venuvihar Chhatak, Jaspeth, Bhubaneswar-751022,
Tel: 91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545262, 2542826, Fax: 2542102,
E-Mail: ohpc.co@gmail.com / md@ohpcitd.com
WEB: www.ohpcitd.com, CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963

'e'-Procurement Notice
NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. UIHEP/25/2023-24 DATED 27.07.2023
No. CAD-1472: The Unit Head, UHP, Mukhiguda, Dist- Kalahandi invites percentage rate bids in double cover system i.e. Cover-I (Technical Bid) & Cover II (Price Bid) in Online mode from eligible contractors for the work as detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.) (online)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Bid document (in Rs.) (online)	Period of Contract
1	Renovation of Quarter No. CR-3 and CR-7 at Sector-I of Power House Colony, UIHEP, Mukhiguda	11,50,826/- (Excluding GST)	11,600/-	'D' & 'C' Class Civil Contractors registered with State Govt./ Central Govt./ MEST/ Railways	6,000/-+ GST @ 18% = 7,080/-	Three (03) months from date of signing of contract agreement

Availability of tender document in the portal From 03.08.2023 (10:00 Hrs) to 16.08.2023 (up to 13:00 Hrs). Last date & time of submission of tenders in the portal: 16.08.2023 up to 13:00 Hrs. The date & time of opening of the bid: 16.08.2023 at 16:30 Hrs (Only Technical Bid) The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen and tender document can be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

OIPR-04008/11/0031/2324 Sd./ Unit Head UIHEP, Mukhiguda

GOVT. OF ODISHA No. A-385:
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
JAJPUR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JAJPUR
Office Phone No. 06728-222022 Email - jpt.irrigation@gmail.com
'e'-Procurement Notice No. 07/ 2023-24

- Name of work : Restoration works
- Total No. of Packages : 5 (Five) Nos. of Packages only.
- Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs. 14.19 Lakh to Rs. 4.47 Lakh
- Mode of Payment of EMD (Bid Security) & Bid cost : The bidder shall transfer the required amount of EMD (Bid Security) and cost of Bid by Online through electronic payment as per Govt. of Odisha, WDOM No. 17254/AWE Dated 05.12.2017 as Mentioned in DTCN.
- Period of completion : Up-to 6 (Six) Calendar Months.
- Other details as follows:
I. Procurement Officer : Superintending Engineer, Jajpur Irrigation Division, Jajpur
II. Period of Online Bidding : Dt. 02.08.2023 from 10.00 Hrs. to Dt. 08.08.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.
III. Date, time & place of opening of both Technical & Financial bid for the work : Dt. 09.08.2023 at 11.30 Hrs. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Jajpur Irrigation Division, Jajpur
IV. Date of Transparent Lottery : Dt. 16.08.2023 at 11.00 Hrs. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Jajpur Irrigation Division Jajpur

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Sd./- Superintending Engineer Jajpur Irrigation Division
OIPR-32130/11/0010/2324

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BHADRAK
BHADRAK-756100 (ODISHA)
Tel. No. 06784-251519(O), Fax No. 06784-251221
E-mail: eobdkmunicipality@gmail.com
Letter No. 5135 Date: 26.07.2023

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No. C-930-1: Name of the work : "Hiring of Private 53 Nos. (Fifty Three) of Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) preferably TATA ACE/Force/Mahindra or Equivalent hydraulic Hopper tipper dumper of BS_VI vehicle emission compliance with capacity of 2 cum and above having two company built separate container of dry & wet waste compartments/ tipper body with mike announcement using pre-recorded voice / GPS tracking system including driver and one manpower each per vehicle for door to door collection of segregated waste from households in SWM work of Bhadrak Municipality on monthly hire basis."

- Date of sale of bid document : From 10.00 AM dt. 1.8.23 up to 5.00 PM of dt. 16.8.23
- Last date & time of receipt of bid documents : Upto 12.00 Noon of dt. 19.8.23
- Date and time of opening of bid documents : At 12.30PM of dt. 19.8.23
- Mode of deposit towards cost of Bid document & EMD : As per detailed quotation call notice
- Name and address of the Officer: Executive Officer, Bhadrak Municipality, Bhadrak.

Further details can be had from the website www.bhadrakmunicipality.nic.in from 10.00 AM of dt. 1.8.23 to 5.00 PM of dt. 16.8.23 or from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days.
Sd./- Executive Officer Bhadrak Municipality
OIPR-13152/11/0004/2324



Waves crash over a fishing boat at Muthalapozhi harbour in Thiruvananthapuram



Troops of India and Mongolia in action during the joint exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2023' in Mongolia



Shia Muslim devotees take a boat ride during the ninth Muharram procession at the Dal Lake in Srinagar



Students participate in a programme on the eve of International Tiger Day in Moradabad



An Indian Air Force helicopter drops relief packets for flood-hit people in Mulugu district of Telangana



Godavari river flows above the danger mark at Bhadrachalam, Andhra Pradesh



Workers walk past confiscated and impounded vehicles at Mahalakshmi during rainfall in Mumbai

national

of the day quote

The alleged discrepancies in the data collected for the Haryana government's flagship scheme of issuing property identity cards has adversely affected the lives of more than one crore people living in 88 cities of the state

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | CONGRESS LEADER

101 medical colleges have been approved in the last five years under a centrally-sponsored scheme for the establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Some people went to meet the (Irshalwadi) survivors in a van and some like me walked in the mud. We are the people who work in the field and not work from home

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

IndiGo fined

Mumbai: Aviation watchdog DGCA Friday imposed a Rs 30 lakh fine on IndiGo for certain systemic deficiencies with respect to documentation pertaining to operations, training and engineering procedures. The country's largest airline witnessed four tail strike incidents on A321 aircraft within a span of six months this year, following which the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) carried out a special audit in June. In a statement, IndiGo said it is examining the DGCA order and will respond to it in due time.

K'taka Governor denied boarding

Bangalore: Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot was Thursday denied boarding on an Air India subsidiary AIX Connect flight over alleged "delay" in reporting. The Governor's office lodged a complaint over "breach of protocol" and the airline on Friday expressed regret over the incident. The flight took off from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport here without allowing the Governor on board.

SC nixes LOC against Abhishek

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday ordered withdrawal of the Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira in connection with the money laundering cases against them linked to an alleged coal smuggling scam in West Bengal. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which the apex court had pulled up at the last hearing for issuing LOC against the high-profile couple, told a bench of Justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia that necessary orders will be issued to facilitate their travel abroad if they inform the anti-money laundering agency a week in advance.

Professor held for molestation

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police have arrested a professor from Patna who allegedly molested a woman doctor board a Delhi-Mumbai IndiGo flight earlier this week, officials said here Friday. The accused, identified as 47-year-old Rohit Shrivastava, and the 24-year-old woman were seated next to each other on the flight that took off at around 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning from New Delhi.



A country which does not respect its women can never progress. In the greed for power, the BJP is playing with both the respect of women as well as the self-respect of the country

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

FLIGHT RETURNS TO DELHI

A Paris-bound Air India flight returned to the national capital shortly after the take-off on Friday afternoon, following a sighting of suspected tyre debris on the runway after departure



Oppn preps for fight on Delhi services bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: From issuing whips to arranging ambulances for their ailing leaders, opposition parties from the newly-formed INDIA bloc are making all-out efforts to ensure that they get 100 per cent attendance of their MPs in the Rajya Sabha to give the BJP a tough fight on the Delhi services bill next week.

Sources said former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (90), who is ill, is likely to come to the House in a wheelchair, while former Jharkhand chief minister Shibu Soren (79), who is also unwell and has largely withdrawn from public life, has already arrived in the national Capital in anticipation of the voting on the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Soren is likely to be brought to the House just before the voting. Another ailing MP, JD(U)'s Bashistha Narain Singh, 75, is likely to arrive in Parliament in an ambulance, sources said. The Bill seeks to replace an ordinance negating a Supreme Court order giving the op-



position parties time to formulate their stand on it. They also informed him that there were many senior leaders who would come to the House only to vote.

Among various parties, the Congress and the Janata Dal (United) have already issued whips to their respective members to be present in the House. O'Brien and some other opposition leaders have already written to the Rajya Sabha chairmen that the ordinance was a serious issue and requested him to let them know in advance about the Bill. They also urged him to ensure that it is not

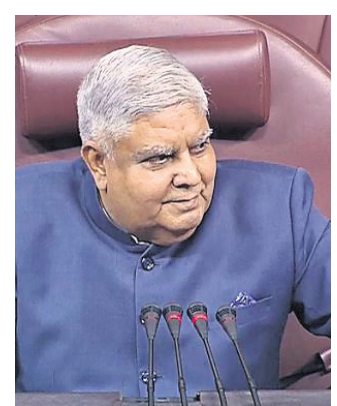
brought in a supplementary list of business.

"If this Bill springs up in the List of Business, there will be no way to ensure that there is enough opportunity for thorough debate and scrutiny of this important legislation." Also, it will not allow all parties to ensure that ALL members (including those with serious medical conditions restricted to a stretcher or wheelchair and have to be transported by ambulance from hospital or residence) are present in Rajya Sabha on that day. An informal one-day notice will be appreciated so that we can bring these members to the chamber for voting," O'Brien said in his letter.

The INDIA bloc, sources said, has decided that they want a discussion on the Delhi services bill and they plan to use all the time allotted for discussion. "Win, lose or draw, we are going for a vote. Let parties stand up and show us whether they are with the Constitution or doing deals with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," O'Brien said on being asked about the numbers in Rajya Sabha.

Dhankhar, O'Brien spar in Rajya Sabha

Dhankhar was interrupted by the TMC MP who thumped the desk to make a point over non-admission of notices given by Opposition members under Rule 267 to discuss the Manipur situation, prompting him to adjourn proceedings



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar Friday abruptly adjourned the House for the day after a spat with TMC leader Derek O'Brien who was pressing for discussion on the Manipur situation.

Dhankhar was interrupted by the TMC MP who thumped the desk to make a point over non-admission of notices given by opposition members under Rule 267 to discuss the Manipur situation, prompting him to adjourn proceedings.

As many as 47 MPs from parties, including the Congress, Left parties, TMC, SP, AAP, NCP and DMK, had given notices Friday under the rule that calls for suspension of the listed business and taking up the issue being raised. A visibly perturbed Dhankhar termed O'Brien's behaviour "theatrics" that would not be tolerated.

"We can't suffer this," he said and adjourned the proceedings for the day. The House had met for just 27 minutes during which birthday greetings were extended to two members, farewell accorded to retiring Vinay Dinur Tendulkar (BJP), official papers were laid on the table and business listed for the next week.

Dhankhar then read out names of the 47 MPs who had given notices under Rule 267. Similar notices had been given right since the start of Monsoon session on July 20. Many opposition MPs have been given 267 notices, none of which have been accepted. Fifty such notices were given on July 25.

Dhankhar said he has already

agreed to a short duration discussion on the issue and asked members to rise above partisan interests and agree to discuss the matter under that rule.

"We in this House are to exemplify our actions that are nationally acclaimed, that inspire and motivate people at large. Having this scenario everyday with the same situation does not evoke the kind of respect to which otherwise we should be entitled," he said.

Actions of members of the Upper House "have to be so exemplified that people at large are motivated to emulate them", he said. "I get input from all over. They indicate worrisome, alarming concern." According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, Rule 267 relates to suspension of rules. A short duration discussion, on the other hand, is a brief discussion not exceeding two-and-a-half hours under Rule 176.

"Everyday, including the last session and the session before that, we had a number of notices under 267. If I go into the precedence of it, in this century, in the last 23 years, the House is fully aware how many such notices have been admitted," he said. He went on to list the importance of Question Hour, where MPs put questions to the government. "Question Hour is the heart of parliamentary working," Dhankhar said.

At this point, O'Brien said, "We are aware of this" and sought to press for the motion that opposition parties have been seeking to move since the start of the Monsoon Session of Parliament last week.

MP SHOCKER: GIRL RAPED, ASSAULTED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Satna (MP), July 28: A 12-year-old girl was raped, bitten multiple times and brutalised allegedly by two men working for the trust managing a famous temple in Maihar town of Satna district in Madhya Pradesh, police said Friday.

The two men, who have been arrested, also allegedly inserted a hard object in her private parts on Thursday, police sources stated, but a senior official said this can be confirmed only after her medical examination report is received.

The profusely bleeding girl was admitted to a hospital at the divisional headquarters Rewa for advanced medical care, said the police, adding the accused were identified as Ravindra Kumar Ravi and Atul Bhadoliya.

"I am not denying that a stick or some other object was inserted into the 12-year-old's private parts by accused Ravindra Kumar Ravi and Atul Bhadoliya. But this is something that can only be confirmed only in a medical report. We are still awaiting her medical report. Yes she was bleeding and doctors are monitoring her health," Satna Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Gupta said. "Her body bore bites and injuries which pertain to sexual assault," he said.

Asked about the condition of the girl, the SP said a panel of doctors treating her said her condition was 'okay' at his point of time. "We are taking legal action against the accused," Gupta said. The accused, both aged 30, were on Friday produced in a local court which sent them in 14-day judicial custody, Gupta said.



Pedestrians amid rain in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

ELGAR PARISHAD CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: The Supreme Court Friday granted bail to activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, noting that they have been in custody for five years.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said Gonsalves and Ferreira shall not leave Maharashtra without the trial court's permission and surrender their passports. "Considering the fact that almost five years have elapsed, we are satisfied they have made out a case for bail. The allegations are serious, no doubt, but for that reason alone, bail cannot be denied to them," the bench said. Imposing a number of condi-

Top court grants bail to activists



Supreme Court building

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said Gonsalves and Ferreira shall not leave Maharashtra without the trial court's permission and surrender their passports

tions, the apex court directed the two activists to use one mobile phone each and let the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the case, know their addresses. The apex court also directed that the mobile phones of the activists should be charged and active round-

the-clock. "They shall keep location status of their mobile phones active 24 hours a day and their phone shall be paired with NIA's IO to enable him to identify their exact location any time. They shall also report to the investigating officer once a week," the bench said.

It also granted liberty to the NIA to seek cancellation of their bail if there is any violation of the bail conditions. The activists had moved the top court against a Bombay High Court order rejecting their bail pleas. The case pertains to the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017 which, according to the Pune police, was funded by Maoists. The inflammatory speeches made there led to violence at the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial in Pune the next day, police had alleged.

The activists had challenged a December 1, 2021 order passed by a high court bench that granted default bail to lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj, a co-accused in the case, but the same relief to eight other accused.

Man kills woman with iron rod in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: A 23-year-old woman was allegedly killed with an iron rod by a man in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area Friday for turning down his marriage proposal, police said.

The victim and accused were first cousins, with their mothers as sisters, they said. The victim, identified as Nargis, was attacked by a 28-year-old Irfan when she was with him in a park near Delhi University's Sri Aurobindo College, police said, adding, the accused has been arrested.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted slamming the state of law and order in the city and urged the Union Home Minister and the Lieutenant Governor to take strict measures in that direction.

"Another daughter was brutally murdered in Delhi, it is very sad. Law and order has become a serious issue in Delhi. It is a request to the LG and the Home Minister; make the police a little active. The safety of the daughters of Delhi and the people of Delhi is very important," he said.

Police said they got the information at 12:08 pm that a man hit a woman in her head in the Vijay Mandal Park in Shivalik A Block of Malviya Nagar and fled. The woman's body was found under a bench with her head bleeding and an iron rod lying near her, Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Chandan Chowdhary said.

According to police, Nargis and Irfan were in a relationship earlier and there were also talks about their marriage, but Nargis's family finally disapproved of it.

Kerala women buy ₹250 lottery, win ₹10cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malappuram (Kerala), July 28: They had to go Dutch to buy a lottery ticket and are now laughing all their way to the bank.

Eleven women workers belonging to a plastic waste segregation unit of the local municipality here paid less than Rs 25 each to buy a lottery ticket worth Rs 250 and won a jackpot of Rs 10 crore.

On Wednesday, the 11 women were wearing their faded green overcoats, rubber gloves and segregating plastic waste collected from households in the Parappanangadi Municipal godown when the big news came.

The Kerala Lottery Department announced that the



ticket purchased by the women after pooling money, because none of them could afford a Rs 250 ticket, was awarded the monsoon bumper- a whopping Rs 10 crore.

A large number of people flocked to the municipal godown premises here Thursday to meet the lottery winners and congratulate them. One of the winners, Radha, said, "The excitement and happiness knew no bounds when we finally came to know that we hit the jackpot. All of us are facing hardships in life and the money will be a relief to some extent to solve our problems."

The women earn salaries between Rs 7,500 and Rs 14,000 as per the nature of their work with Haritha Karma Sena - a green initiative undertaken by the Parappanangadi Municipality. Haritha Karma Sena is engaged in the collection of non-biodegradable waste from households and establishments, which is sent to shredding units for recycling.

Sheeja, the chairperson of the Haritha Karma Sena consortium at the Municipality, said Lady Luck had smiled on

the most deserving people this time. She said all the prize winners are very hard working and are the breadwinners of their families.

"Many have debts to pay...Have daughters to marry off...Or have to meet the treatment expenditure of near and dear. They are living in very humble households, fighting the harsh realities of life," she said. Interestingly, this was the second time the women had pooled money to buy a ticket.

"We had bought the Onam bumper last year after pooling money in the same way and received Rs 7,500. We shared the amount equally among us. It gave us the confidence to buy the monsoon bumper ticket this year," one of the winners said.

international



What really does Japan mean to India? Japan is a natural partner in India's modernisation process

MOURNING DAY OF ASHOURA Millions of Shiite Muslims in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and around the world Friday commemorated Ashoura, a remembrance of the 7th-century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, that gave birth to their faith



of the day quote

In some countries there is a perception that the Swedish state is behind or condone this. We don't

TOBIAS BILLSTROM | SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER

Russia will always be a responsible international supplier of agricultural products and will continue to support the countries and region in need by offering free grain and other supplies

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

It is possible that at a time like this they (Israel's enemies) will try to test the frontiers, our cohesion and our alertness

TOMER BAR | COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE

SHORT TAKES

S'pore hangs first woman in 19 yrs

Kuala Lumpur: Singapore conducted its first execution of a woman in 19 years Friday and its second hanging this week for drug trafficking despite calls for the city-state to cease capital punishment for drug-related crimes.

Philippine ferry was overloaded

Manila: The skipper of a Philippine ferry which flipped over in a lake in an accident that killed 27 passengers decided to sail despite knowing that his boat was filled beyond capacity, the coast guard chief said Friday.

Environmental groups sue FAA

Cape Canaveral (US): Wildlife and environmental groups sued the Federal Aviation Administration Monday over SpaceX's launch last month of its giant rocket from Texas.

Pak police avert major terror attack

Lahore: Police in Pakistan Friday arrested 10 terrorists who were plotting a major terror attack on foreigners, including on Chinese nationals, and planning to sabotage the Muharram commemorations in the Punjab province.

H-1B VISA

'2nd lottery round to be held this year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, July 28: A second round of random lottery selection for the much sought-after H-1B visas for fiscal 2024 will soon begin after it was determined that "additional registrations" need to be selected to reach the numerical allocations, the US federal immigration agency has announced, a decision that could benefit more Indian professionals.

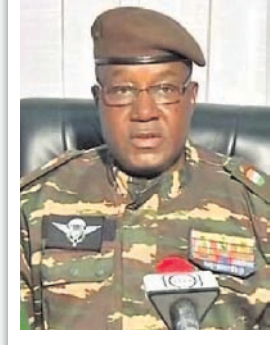
selected registrations for FY 2024 are eligible to file H-1B cap-subject petitions. The initial filing period for those with selected registrations for FY 2024 was from April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023.

Niger general asks for support

Various factions of Niger's military have reportedly wrangled for control since members of the presidential guard detained President Mohamed Bazoum, who was elected two years ago in Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence from France

AGENCIES

Niamey (Niger), July 28: The general who led a coup in Niger defended the takeover on state television Friday and asked for support from the nation and international partners, as concerns grew that the political crisis could set back the country's fight against jihadists and increase Russia's influence in West Africa.



Niger is seen as the last reliable partner for the West in efforts to battle jihadists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in Africa's Sahel region, where Russia and Western countries have vied for influence in the fight against extremism

France has 1,500 soldiers in the country who conduct joint operations with the Nigeriens, and the United States and other European countries have helped train the nation's troops

Prigozhin hails coup

MOSCOW: Wagner mercenary boss Yevgeny Prigozhin, who remains active despite leading a failed mutiny against the Russian army's top brass last month, has hailed Niger's military coup as good news and offered his fighters' services to bring order.

ing to mediate left shortly after arriving, and the president of Benin, nominated as a mediator by West Africa's regional bloc ECOWAS, had not arrived. The bloc scheduled an emergency meeting for Sunday in Nigerian capital of Abuja.

Japan worried over China's military, Taiwan tensions

The 2023 defence white paper, approved by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Cabinet, is the first since the government adopted a controversial new National Security Strategy in December, seen as a break from Japan's postwar policy limiting the use of force to self-defence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, July 28: The Japanese government stepped up its alarm over Chinese assertiveness, warning in a report issued Friday that the country faces its worst security threats since World War II as it plans to implement a new strategy that calls for a major military buildup.



Russian and Chinese delegates joined North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in North Korea's capital for a military parade that showed off the country's latest drones and long-range nuclear-capable missiles

Korean leader Kim Jong Un in North Korea's capital for a military parade that showed off the country's latest drones and long-range nuclear-capable missiles.

India assumes Chair of 62nd Session of UN Commission for Social Development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, July 28: India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, has assumed the chairmanship of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social



Development, the first time in nearly 50 years the country has held this position within the UN agency. "India takes immense pride in assuming this Chairmanship and remains steadfast in its commitment to leading with its core principles, working diligently for the welfare and prosperity of the global community," Kamboj said in a tweet Thursday as she assumed the Chair for the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development on behalf of India.

Moscow blames Kyiv for a missile attack in southern Russia

AGENCIES

Moscow, July 28: Russian forces Friday pounded a key village that Ukraine claimed to have recaptured in its grinding counteroffensive in the country's southeast, while Moscow accused Kyiv of firing a missile at a city in southern Russia that officials there said wounded 15 people.

Rostov regional Gov. Vasily Golubev said on Telegram that another missile was intercepted by air defenses elsewhere in the region. He didn't provide any details.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, meanwhile, marked Ukraine's Statehood Day by reaffirming the country's sovereignty — a rebuke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who used his claim that Ukraine didn't exist as a nation to justify his invasion.

Earlier in the day, a Ukrainian drone was shot down outside Moscow, the Defense Ministry said, in the third drone strike or attempt on the capital region this month.

The Russian Defence Ministry said it shot down a Ukrainian missile in the city of Taganrog, about 40 kilometers (about 24 miles) east of the border with Ukraine, and local officials reported 15 people were injured.

The ministry said there were no injuries or damage in the latest incident, and it didn't give an exact location where the drone fell. Since the war began, Russia has blamed Ukraine for drone, bomb and missile attacks on its territory far from the battlefield's front line.

GREEK WILDFIRES

Exclusion zone set up around military base

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athens, July 28: Authorities are maintaining an exclusion zone around an air force base in central Greece where wildfires have triggered powerful explosions at an ammunition depot.

The blasts late Thursday at the 111th Combat Wing base facilities — among the largest in the country — shattered windows in nearby towns and prompted an evacuation of more than 2,000 people, while fighter jets nearby were moved to another base. A civilian traffic ban and evacuation order remained in effect in a 3-kilometre (2-mile) radius of the blast site.

of the day quote

We've been extremely pleased with the reception that the X440 has received since launch, with pre-orders exceeding initial expectations from launch



JOCHEN ZEITZ | CEO, HARLEY-DAVIDSON

In terms of sales bookings, we had our best ever first quarter. Our sales bookings increased 17 per cent to ₹3,350 crore



ABHISHEK LODHA | MD AND CEO, MACROTECH DEVELOPERS

By making EV charger components domestically, we aim to contribute to the Make in India initiative while ensuring availability of technologically advanced charging infrastructure for electric vehicle users



RAMAN BHATIA | FOUNDER & MD, SERVOTECH POWER SYSTEMS

Q1 RESULTS

Bol surges 3 times

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of India (BOI) Friday reported a nearly three-fold jump in net profit to ₹1,551 crore in the June quarter due to a decline in bad loans. The Mumbai-based lender had posted a net profit of ₹561 crore in the year-ago period. The total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to ₹15,821 crore as against ₹11,124 crore in the same period a year ago, Bank of India said in a regulatory filing. The lender's interest income also increased to ₹14,359 crore from ₹9,973 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

UCO net rises 80%

New Delhi: State-owned UCO Bank Friday posted an 80 per cent jump in net profit to ₹223 crore in the April-June quarter, mainly due to a decline in bad loans. The Kolkata-based lender had posted a net profit of ₹124 crore in the year-ago period. The total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to ₹5,857 crore against ₹3,797 crore, UCO Bank said in a regulatory filing. The lender's interest income also increased to ₹5,224 crore from ₹3,851 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

IOC swings to black

New Delhi: India's top oil firm IOC Friday reported a net profit of ₹13,750 crore in three months to June 30 - the highest in a decade - as margins on petrol and diesel turned positive on softer oil prices. Standalone net profit of ₹13,750.44 crore, or ₹9.98 per share, in April-June compared with a loss of ₹1,992.53 crore in the same period a year back, according to a company's stock exchange filing.



The UK will be the first country with which we are going to have a comprehensive FTA which we have not signed with any other developed country as such

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

BYD JUNKS \$1BN INDIA EV PLAN

China's BYD has told its India joint-venture partner it would shelve plans for a new \$1-billion investment to build electric cars after its investment proposal faced scrutiny from New Delhi, two people with knowledge of the discussions said



India's chip dream on steady path

DESPITE BEING A LATE ENTRANT, THE GOVT HAS BEEN COURTING INVESTMENTS INTO INDIA'S NASCENT CHIP SECTOR TO ESTABLISH ITS CREDENTIALS AS A CHIPMAKING HUB

PM: 50% financial help to firms for setting up plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar, July 28: Technology firms will be given 50 per cent financial assistance for setting up semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday, as he announced that his government has rolled out the red carpet for semiconductor industries.

Speaking after inaugurating the Semicon India 2023 conference in Gandhinagar, Modi said every industrial revolution that the world has witnessed was driven by the aspirations of people at different times. The PM said he believes that the fourth industrial revolution being witnessed now is driven by India's aspirations.

Modi said India is establishing an entire ecosystem for the semiconductor industry to grow in the country.

"We were offering incentives as part of the Semicon India programme. It has been increased, and now technology firms will get 50 per cent financial assistance to set up semiconductor manufacturing facilities (in India)," Modi said.

The semiconductor industry will witness exponential growth in India, Modi said.

"A year ago, people used to ask why they should invest in the Indian semiconductor sector.

Now they ask why not invest in India," he added. Modi said 300 colleges in India have been identified for starting courses on semiconductor design.

"Today the world is becoming witness to Industry 4.0. Whenever the world has passed through any such industrial revolution, its base has been the aspirations of the people of a particular region. The same relation was seen between the first industrial revolution and the American dream," he said.

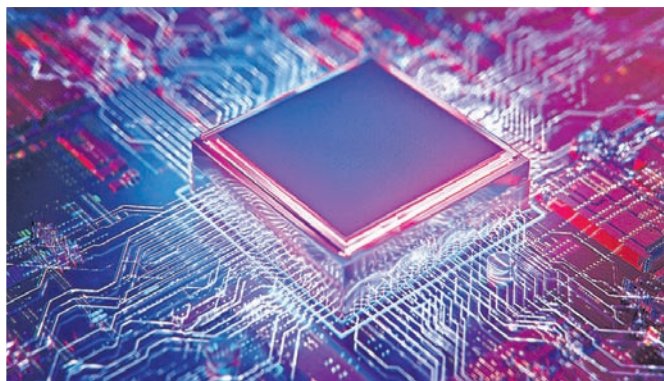
India is becoming a grand conductor for investments in the semiconductor sector. The world needs a trusted and reliable chip supply chain

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

"Today I see the same relation between the fourth industrial revolution and Indian aspirations," said Modi, who shared the dais with some world leaders of the semiconductor industry.

The PM said Indian aspirations are driving the country's development and have made it a nation that has rapidly eradicated extreme poverty and seen a fast rise of the "neo-middle class".

Modi said India understands its "global responsibility"



INDIA'S CHIP MARKET IS SET TO REACH ABOUT \$64BN IN 2026, TRIPLE OF WHAT IT WAS IN 2019

THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED \$10BN OF FISCAL INCENTIVES FOR UNITS SETTING UP FACTORIES

Taiwan and China. The government has offered \$10 billion of fiscal incentives for units setting up chip-making factories in the country.

AMD set to invest ₹3,300cr in 5 yrs

New Delhi: High performance adaptive computing major AMD Friday announced an investment of \$400 million (about ₹3,300 crore) in India over five years, and opening of a 500,000-square-foot R&D campus in Bangalore, which it said is its largest in the world. The new AMD campus is expected to open before the end of 2023 and will feature extensive lab space, advanced collaboration tools and seating configurations for teams. "Our India teams will continue to play a pivotal role in delivering the high-performance and adaptive solutions that support AMD customers worldwide," AMD's Chief Technology Officer Mark Papermaster said.

'Vedanta's made-in-India chip in 2.5 yrs'

New Delhi: Vedanta group chairman Anil Agarwal Friday said that first phase of its semiconductor project will involve \$5 billion investment of the overall \$20-billion outlay, and the venture will be ready with made-in-India chip in two and a half years. Vedanta is talking to three companies to rope them in as technology partners for its mega plans entailing foundry, chip manufacturing, and packaging and design. "In 2.5 years, we will give you Vedanta made-in-India chips," Agarwal told reporters on the sidelines of SemiconIndia 2023 event. The first phase of its semiconductor investment will be to the tune of \$5 billion, which is being structured.

BIZ BUZZ

MCL gives 10 EVs to women SHGs



Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has provided 10 electric vehicles (EVs) to Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) for waste collection through women Self-Help Groups (SHG), a one-of-its-kind sustainable initiative under CSR for women empowerment besides encouraging environment-friendly cleanliness drive. The EVs were launched for public service by SMC Commissioner Vedbhushan, IAS, and General Manager (Civil/CSR) RK Panigrahi. Waste management in urban areas has long been a pressing challenge in India, especially in smaller cities with narrow lanes and by-lanes like oldest city in western Odisha. In response to this critical issue faced by the municipality, MCL came forward to support Sambalpur district administration to turn in reality this idea of sustainable and effective waste management in the municipal area. MCL extended financial assistance of ₹45 lakh under CSR initiative, enabling the procurement of ten Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs), which will be used for door-to-door garbage collection, making a substantial contribution towards environment and women empowerment. The introduction of these EVs mark a significant milestone in waste management for the SMC area, aiming to achieve a garbage-free environment by ensuring timely collection of waste from the most challenging lanes, besides reducing the carbon footprint associated with conventional vehicles. Breaking gender stereotype, women EV operators of three SHGs will be piloting and managing the vehicles provided under CSR by MCL, which seeks to foster economic and social empowerment of underprivileged segment of the society. Nearly four lakh residents in approximately 85,000 households in the municipality area will be benefitted by the cleanliness and green initiative.

Indian cos can go for overseas listing: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 28: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said domestic companies can now go in for direct listing on foreign exchanges and the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Ahmedabad.

The provisions for direct overseas listing were approved by the government, as part of the Covid relief package announced in May 2020, but the rules in this regard are yet to be notified.

The direct overseas listing will allow Indian companies to access foreign funds on various exchanges overseas.

"A direct listing of securities by domestic companies will now be permissible in foreign jurisdictions. I'm also pleased to announce that the government has taken a decision to enable the direct listing of listed and unlisted companies on the IFSC exchanges," Sitharaman said here.

A senior government official said the rules for direct overseas listing of Indian companies will be notified in a few weeks.

To begin with, Indian companies will be allowed to list on the IFSC, and later, they will be permitted in specified seven or eight foreign jurisdictions, the official said. Sitharaman made the announcement about the di-

EXISTING MARKET NORMS MANDATE A DOMESTIC FIRM LOOKING FOR OVERSEAS FLOAT TO MAKE A SECONDARY LISTING ON THE DOMESTIC EQUITY BOURSES OR FIRST GOING FOR A DOMESTIC FLOAT



This is a major step forward. This will facilitate access to global capital and better valuation

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

rect overseas listing of domestic companies while speaking at an event to launch a corporate debt market development fund, which is a bailout facility for debt funds.

The facility will act as a backstop facility for specified debt funds during periods of stress in debt markets, and this was announced by Sebi last month. Its function will involve purchasing investment-grade corporate debt securities when debt markets face a crisis.

The move is likely to bolster the confidence of mutual funds and investors in the corporate debt markets while also im-

proving secondary market liquidity in corporate debt securities. SBI Funds Management will serve as the investment manager of the CDMD.

Currently, overseas listings by domestically listed entities are carried out through American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs), which companies like Infosys and Wipro have done. The new policy could be a shot in the arm for unicorns or start-ups valued at more than \$1 billion, and the digital unit of conglomerate Reliance, which is eyeing a US listing after raising more than \$20 billion from

investors, such as KKR, Google and Facebook, among others.

Earlier, media reports said the government was considering allowing foreign listings in seven countries initially, including Britain, Canada, Switzerland and the US.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had previously recommended a framework within which such direct listing will be facilitated, and it is expected that the Sebi framework will be the basis for future regulation in this area.

Sebi had proposed allowing listings on stock exchanges in ten "permissible jurisdictions" with strong anti-money laundering regulations, including the NYSE, Nasdaq, the LSE and Hong Kong, along with other major exchanges in Japan, South Korea, France, Germany, Switzerland and Canada.

Meanwhile, the corporate debt market development fund will act as a backstop facility for specified debt funds during periods of stress in debt markets, and this was announced by Sebi last month.

Sitharaman also launched repo clearing for asset management companies which is billed as a limited purpose clearing corporation backed by Sebi and funded by mutual funds.

LS passes Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill

GOVT OPENS DOORS FOR PRIVATE FIRMS TO GIVE LITHIUM MINING AMBITIONS A SHOT IN THE ARM

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 28: The Lok Sabha Friday passed the mines and mineral amendment bill which seeks to open up mining of deep-seated and critical minerals for the private sector.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, also empowers the central government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite licence for certain critical minerals.

Deep-seated minerals include gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, nickel, cobalt, platinum group of minerals, diamonds, etc, which are difficult and expensive to explore and mine as compared to surficial or bulk



minerals.

"Thus share of deep-seated minerals in total mineral production is meagre at present. The country is mostly dependent on imports of these minerals. The proposed exploration licence would facilitate, encourage and incentivize private sector participation in all spheres of mineral exploration for critical and deep-seated minerals,"

according to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi piloted the bill in the Lok Sabha amid continuous slogan shouting by opposition members over the Manipur issue.

"The amendments in the bill will be a game changer. So far we were granting only 2 kinds of licences -- composite and

mining licence. Now we have brought in exploration licence through transparent auction route," Joshi said.

The minister further said India will produce 1 billion tonne of coal this year which will make the country self-sufficient in the energy sector.

"Earlier we were talking only about coal imports, now we are thinking that by 2025-26 we will stop import of thermal coal," he added.

The minister also informed the House that the mining of beach sand minerals will be reserved for public sector undertakings. Beach sand minerals include ilmenite, rutile, leucosene, garnet, monazite, zircon and sillimanite.

FII OUTFLOWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 28: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for a second day in a row Friday due to selling in IT and banking shares amid foreign fund outflows and weak trends in the US markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 106.62 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 66,160.20. During the day, it declined by 388.17 points or 0.58 per cent to a low of 65,878.65. The NSE Nifty declined 13.85 points or 0.07 per cent to finish at 19,646.05.

From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, Tata Motors, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Axis Bank, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra and Maruti were the major laggards.

NTPC, Power Grid,



Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, ITC and Reliance Industries were among the gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.55 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.49 per cent.

Among the indices, utilities rallied 2.61 per cent, power jumped 2.57 per cent, realty (1.92 per cent), services (1.01 per cent), FMCG (0.85 per cent) and com-

modities (0.56 per cent). Teck fell by 0.69 per cent, IT declined 0.67 per cent, oil & gas (0.28 per cent) and telecommunication (0.12 per cent).

"Markets traded in a narrow range and ended almost unchanged, in continuation of prevailing consolidation phase," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.42 per cent lower at \$83.89 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth ₹1,023.91 crore.

The BSE benchmark had plunged 440.38 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 66,266.82 Thursday, while the Nifty declined 118.40 points or 0.60 per cent to close at 19,659.90.

LAKSHYA enters semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, July 28: Ace Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the semifinals to be the lone Indian survivor at the Japan Open Super 750 badminton tournament following the ouster of compatriots HS Prannoy and doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy here Friday.

World No.13 Sen registered a 21-15, 21-19 victory over local player Koki Watanabe, ranked 33rd, to make his third successive semifinals, following his exploits in Canada and the United States. The reigning Commonwealth Games champion will play fifth seed Indonesian Jonatan Christie in the semifinals.

World No.10 Prannoy too could have joined Sen in the last four but he squandered an opening game win and a 7-1 advantage in the second to eventually suffer a heart-breaking 21-19, 18-21, 8-21 loss against World No.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

Men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty too went down fighting 15-21, 25-23, 16-21 to Olympic champions Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lan of Chinese Taipei to end their 12-match winning streak.

A 2021 World Championship

bronze medallist, Sen, who had won the Canada Open Super 500 early this month, opened up a 5-3 lead early on before moving to 11-7 at the break.

The Indian didn't have much problem negotiating the Japanese and soon sealed the opening game with two cross-court returns on both sides of the court.

After the change of sides, Watanabe tried to inject some pace in the rallies but Sen looked in control and moved to 3-2 with a lovely cross-court drop. A 42-shot rally ended with Sen's backhand crashing into the net as Watanabe turned it around to lead 5-3 before consolidating it further at 7-3.

The Japanese strengthened his defense and things seemed like going downhill for

Sen, who trailed 7-14. However, the Indian scripted a turnaround, drawing his opponent to the net and using the drop shots to good effect. He soon turned the tables at 18-17 with a cross court smash.

With two returns on his opponent's backhand, Sen gained one-match point before producing another precise return at the back-line and then threw his



Prannoy, Satwik-Chirag pair bow out of Japan Open badminton tournament

racquet in celebration.

The Axelsen vs Prannoy duel lived up to the expectations with the two producing some mindboggling rallies. Prannoy, who had beaten the Dane twice in the last three meetings, slowly fought his way back to clinch the opener and also conjured up hopes of an upset as he raced to an overwhelming 7-1 lead, only to run out of steam in the end.

The decider started on an even keel at 4-4 but slowly Axelsen broke away with a run of seven straight points as Prannoy looked tired, making him more error-prone. His shots started going to net and out as Axelsen zoomed to 16-6 in a jiffy.

Another steep straight smash, followed by a cross-court jump smash took Axelsen closer to the win. A Prannoy smash marginally missing the backline gave 12 match points to the Dane, who converted it after the Indian pushed one to the net.

INDIA AIM TO CLINCH SERIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barbados, July 28: The Indian team will be expected to return to its set batting order as they aim to put up a much-improved show with the willow and take an unassailable lead in the three-match series when they face a below-par West Indies in the second ODI here Saturday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid did face a minor hiccup while trying out the middle-order batters upfront on a track that became a raging turner during the second session but a meager target of 115 meant that things were smooth for the better part.

However, one can vouch with a degree of certainty that even if India once again chases a small target, Rohit Sharma will indeed come out with Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli will be seen padded to come at one down.

Ishan Kishan, despite his impressive fifty, will have to bat in the middle order, a place he will have to vacate during Asia Cup in Sri Lanka if KL Rahul happens to make a comeback.

With 11 more matches left before the opening World Cup game against Australia in Chennai October 8 (as per the current schedule), India would aim at a settled combination and hence too much experimentation might not be what the doctor would order.

The Kensington Oval in Barbados is home turf for the late Malcolm Marshall and the 'Big Bird' Joel Garner where visiting side batters would get mentally psyched out even before the 'Big Four' (Andy Roberts and Michael Holding) had the red cherry in their hands.

But Thursday, the legend of Kensington track seemed like an oxymoron as Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav made

the Caribbean batters look very silly with the turn and bounce that was on offer.

Even Hardik Pandya, with the new ball, looked very skiddy and was able to hurry the batters along with Umran Malik, who bowled a number of pacy deliveries.

gone are those golden days of West Indies cricket and the popularity of cricket in the islands has hit an all-time nadir after its non-qualification for the ODI World Cup in India.

The propensity to play T20 game in a 50-over contest was very much on show with the kind of indiscreet shot selections that got them into a tangle against Jadeja and Kuldeep.

The track used for the second ODI might not be the same one but nature could be identical and hence Indian team shouldn't mind the challenge of batting first.

Facing Gudakesh Motie's orthodox left-arm spin and Yannic Cariah's leg-breaks won't be the most difficult proposition but not the easiest one either.

The Indian batters haven't exactly set the stage on fire when facing spinners on turners and this won't be a bad test for the team if the conditions of first ODI are replicated.

Places like Chennai and Lucknow – venues for the World Cup games against Australia and England – will aid spinners and it is always good to get some simulation in overseas conditions, which are pretty similar to what one can expect at home.

MATCH SCHEDULE

India vs West Indies
2nd ODI

Time: 7 pm

Telecast: DD Sports

Stream: Jio Cinema & FanCode



India men hold England to draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barcelona, July 28: The Indian men's hockey team came up with a spirited performance to hold England 1-1 in their third match at the ongoing 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation – International Tournament here Friday.

While Sam Ward scored an early goal for England in the fifth minute, India bounced back to level the scores in the 29th minute through Harmanpreet Singh. The draw meant India are out of contention for the final Sunday.

After losing to the hosts and drawing with the Netherlands in their previous matches, India were looking for an elusive win and a spot in the final. The team will next play the placing match against the losing team of the next league match.

Harmanpreet to play Asiad final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Temperamental Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur will only be able to play in the Asian Games if her team reaches the final of the mega event starting September 23 in Hangzhou.

Four teams in both men's and women's events – India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh – will be directly playing from the last eight stage, courtesy the ICC T20I ranking June 1. All the matches will have official T20I status.

Harmanpreet, who has been slapped with a two-match ban for her public outburst after an ODI game against Bangladesh recently, is ineligible to play the quarter-final which will surely be against an associate nation followed by the semifinal against a full member nation.

Even the Rituraj Gaikwad-



led men's team have got a direct entry into the quarterfinal on the basis of their ICC T20 ranking June 1. The men's event will comprise 18 teams while women's event will have 14 outfits.

The women's competition will start September 19 and end with the gold and bronze medal matches September 26. The men's event starts September 28 and the final will be played October 7, two days after the men's ICC 50-over World Cup starts in Ahmedabad. If the Indian cricket team

qualify for the final, they will have to play on three back-to-back days – October 5 (quarter-final), October 6 (semifinal) and October 7 (final).

In all likelihood, India's quarterfinal will be against a second-string Afghanistan or Bangladesh team, as the first teams of both nations will be in India during that time for the World Cup.

It is unlikely that the men's team will be reporting to the Games Village before the start of the opening ceremony as there will be nearly two weeks time before their campaign starts.

Also the BCCI hasn't yet confirmed whether the cricket teams will stay in the Games Village or at a five-star facility in the city.

In all, 32 matches across men's and women's event will be held at the Hangzhou Games, with the women's event accounting for 14 games and the men's event having 18.

Pakistan team get NOC for ACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, July 28: The Pakistan hockey team have got the green signal to travel to India for the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) slated to be held in Chennai from August 3.

Pakistan Hockey Federation secretary Haider Hussain confirmed Friday that the Sports Board has got the NOC from the ministry of interior. "The contingent will leave Tuesday via the Wagah border and travel to Amritsar from where they have been booked on a domestic flight for Chennai," he said.

Haider said they were still awaiting visas for 3 officials including the newly appointed consultant of the team, Shahnaz Sheikh.

Pakistan are scheduled to play their first match against Malaysia August 3. They will lock horns with arch-rivals India, August 9.

Brij Bhushan to convene meeting to nominate his panel for WFI elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 28: Outgoing Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has convened a meeting Sunday to nominate his panel, which will contest the upcoming WFI elections to elect the new office-bearers.

Though Brij Bhushan and his son Karan are not part of the electoral college for the elections, the BJP leader's son-in-law Vishal Singh is a representative from Bihar in the polls and could likely contest for a top position.

Outgoing WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar confirmed that a meeting had been scheduled by Brij Bhushan July 30, though he did not specify the venue.

"Yes, the outgoing president has convened a meeting Sunday. It has not been decided where the meeting will take place. The meeting will likely be attended by all those (state body officials) who support him (Brij Bhushan)," said Tomar.

"The presidents and secretaries of the various state associations will likely come for the meeting to discuss the candidates for the elections. The venue for the meeting has not been decided as yet," added Tomar.

The last date for filing nominations for the August 12 elections is July 31. Brij Bhushan is not eligible to contest as he has



already completed 12 years as an office-bearer, which is the maximum term allowed as per the National Sports Code.

The day-to-day affairs of the WFI are currently being managed by the Indian Olympic Association-constituted ad-hoc committee led by Bhupender Singh Bajwa.

Punjab Wrestling Association secretary Ranbir Kundu said on Friday that so far his state association had not received invite from any quarter or candidate to attend their meeting.

"So far, we have not received any invite. We are not going to field any candidate in the upcoming elections for the top posts. However, we will vote for truth and the betterment of wrestling in the country," said Kundu.

Incidentally, the Punjab Wrestling Association's president, renowned former grappler Kartar Singh, was a secretary-general of the WFI until he was removed in 2013. Two representatives from each state unit will be allowed to vote.

Maharashtra and Tripura will not have any representatives at the elections as the Returning Officer deemed claims of both factions from the former "ineligible" while Tripura has remained disaffiliated since 2016. The WFI elections are taking place after several postponements.

The scrutiny of the nominations will be conducted August 2 and a final list of the candidates will be published August 7. If election is required, voting will be conducted August 12.

Aussies eke out narrow 1st innings lead

REUTERS

London, July 28: Australia led England by 12 runs at the end of a tense and fluctuating second day to leave the final Ashes Test at The Oval on a knife-edge Friday.

Steve Smith's patient 71 (123b, 6x4) was the backbone of Australia's 295 in reply to England's 283 and a ninth-wicket partnership of 49 between Pat Cummins (36, 86b, 4x4) and Todd Murphy (34, 39b, 2x4, 3x6) edged the touring side ahead.

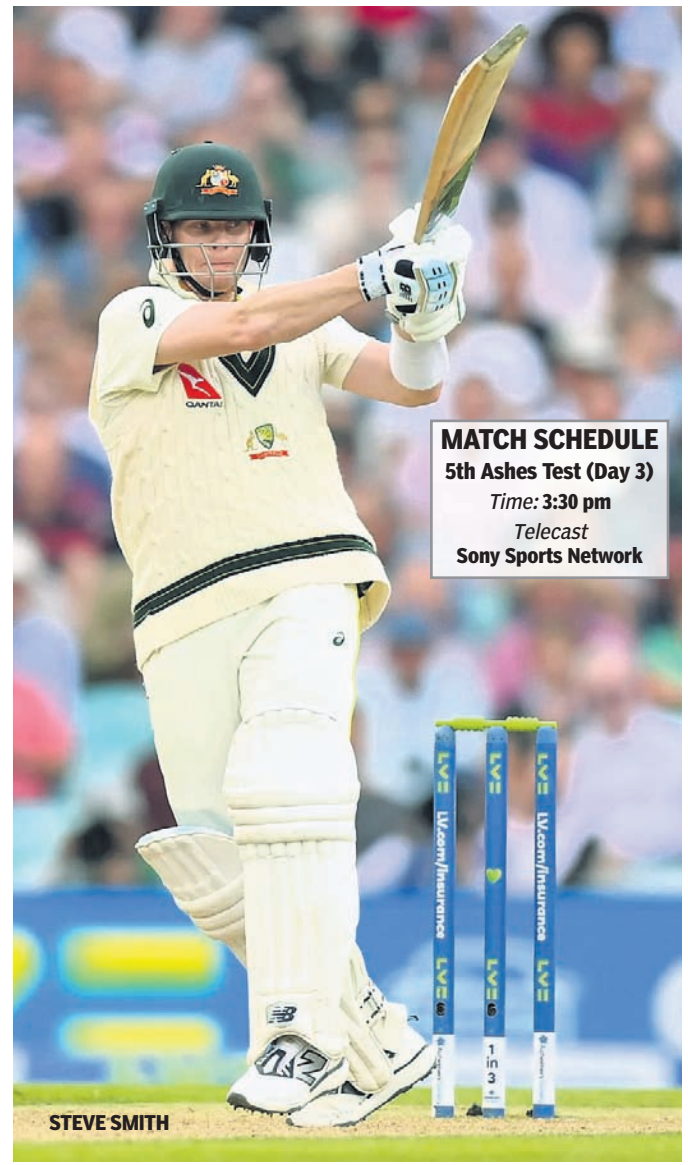
Australia, 2-1 up in the series and bidding to win the Ashes in England for the first time since 2001, were bowled out just before the close.

Resuming the play on 61/1 Friday Usman Khawaja (47, 157b, 7x4) and Marnus Labuschagne (9, 82b) had adopted a no-risk approach, adding only 21 runs in the first 12 overs before the latter was brilliantly caught by Joe Root at first slip off Mark Wood (2/62).

Labuschagne edged Wood between wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow and Root who dived to his left and plucked the ball out of the air one-handed.

England captain Ben Stokes did not have the option of using his main spinner Moeen Ali, who sustained a groin injury while batting, but his quick bowlers produced disciplined spells to keep the hosts in the game as Australia reached 115/2 at lunch.

Stuart Broad (2/49) struck twice after the interval and



MATCH SCHEDULE

5th Ashes Test (Day 3)

Time: 3:30 pm

Telecast

Sony Sports Network

England dominated the afternoon session. The 37-year-old Broad trapped Khawaja lbw and Travis Head, on four, edged the fast bowler to Bairstow as England sensed an opportunity to seize the initiative.

James Anderson (1/67) claimed his first wicket when Mitchell Marsh, on 16, dragged the ball on to his stumps and Alex Carey lifted Root (2/20) for six before perishing next ball when he mis-cued a drive into the hands of Stokes at short extra cover.

Mitchell Starc fell to a short ball from Wood for seven, Ben Duckett taking a simple catch at long leg, and Australia were reeling at 186/7 at tea.

Smith, who narrowly avoided being run out for 42 when the third umpire decided Bairstow had not gathered the ball cleanly before breaking the stumps, reached another Test fifty before trying to sweep Chris Woakes (3/61), the ball flying high off the edge of his bat and Bairstow running back to take a good catch.

Australia's tail wagged hard, however, and Murphy hit Wood for three sixes, his first in top-level cricket, before Woakes returned to dismiss him lbw. Cummins was the last man out, superbly caught by Stokes on the boundary to end another dramatic day in an enthralling series.

BRIEF SCORES: England 283; Australia 295 (Steve Smith 71, Usman Khawaja 47, Pat Cummins 36, Todd Murphy 34; Chris Woakes 3/61, Joe Root 2/20). Match to continue.