



KANGANA'S REVELATION

Kangana Ranaut expresses concerns about the dark side of the film industry, highlighting its involvement in illicit activities

LEISURE P2



PRO-COUP PROTESTS IN NIGER

France warns that it will not tolerate any attack on its interests after pro-junta supporters in Niger stoned its embassy

INTERNATIONAL P10



WI BEAT INDIA

Batting audition of India's WC aspirants doesn't go as per plan as WI levelled ODI series

SPORTS P12

PM shows 'brazen indifference': INDIA

AGENCIES

Imphal, July 30: Stating that the government machinery has completely failed to control the Manipur ethnic conflict, which is lingering for nearly three months, Opposition bloc INDIA Sunday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'silence', showing 'brazen indifference' to the ongoing situation in the northeastern state.

In a memorandum submitted to Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey, the 21 Opposition MPs who signed the document demanded urgent rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected people to bring peace and harmony to the state.

"From the reports of incessant firing and arson of houses in the last few days, it is established beyond doubt that the state machinery has completely failed to control the situation for the last almost three months," the memorandum read. The continued internet ban for the last three months is aiding the unsubstantiated rumours, which is adding to the existing mistrust among the communities, the Parliamentarians said.

MANIPUR ETHNIC VIOLENCE

"Silence of Hon'ble Prime Minister shows his brazen indifference to the violence in Manipur," they added in the memorandum.

There is anger and a sense of alienation amongst all communities and it has to be addressed without delay, they said. "We earnestly request you to restore peace and harmony taking all effective measures, where justice should be the cornerstone. In order to bring peace and harmony, rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected persons is most urgent," the MPs told the governor.

The document also stressed that the "failure of both the central and state governments" to protect the lives and properties of the people of the two communities is apparent from the figures of more than 140 deaths (over 160 deaths as per official records), over 500 injuries, burning of more than 5,000 houses and internal displacement of over 60,000 people. The Opposition delegation had arrived in Manipur Saturday to assess the ground situation and meet victims of the three-month-long ethnic riots in the state. The team returned to the national capital Sunday evening.



STOCK-TAKING IN MANIPUR: Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, AAP MP Sushil Gupta, TMC MP Sushmita Dev and other members of a delegation of Opposition INDIA alliance MPs meet with Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey, at Raj Bhavan, in Imphal, Sunday

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our govt took action in women paraded naked case. It arrested the man who filmed the incident

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
MAX	34.0°C	34.6°C	
MIN	26.2°C	25.4°C	
Humidity	80%	79%	Forecast LIGHT TO MODERATE RAIN
Rainfall	Nil	1.2	

At least 44 killed in blast at Pak political rally

AGENCIES

Peshawar, July 30: A powerful blast triggered by a suicide bomber killed at least 44 people and injured nearly 100 others Sunday at a rally of a hardline Islamic party in a restive tribal district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

The explosion took place at 4 pm at the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers' convention in Khar, the capital of Bajaur tribal district.

Saad Khan, the district emergency officer in the Bajaur region, confirmed the death toll. He said that Maulana Ziaullah Jan, JUI-F's local leader, was also killed in the blast.

Rescue workers said they feared the number of casualties would rise.

Television footage showed panic-stricken people gathering at the site following the blast as ambulances arrived to move the injured to hospitals.

MORE P10

DOUBLE DILEMMA

The no-confidence motion against the Modi government and, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which seeks to restore the Union government's control over the bureaucracy in Delhi, are set to test the BJD's equidistance stand

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, July 30: When the Parliament convenes Monday, it won't be an easy ride for the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) as this week will have a crucial legislation and is likely to have a no-confidence motion to test the party's equidistance stand.

While the dates haven't been decided yet, the crucial legislation - the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 - which seeks to restore the Union government's control over the bureaucracy in Delhi will be introduced in both the Houses this week. It will be a convenient ride for the government to get the Bill passed in the Lok Sabha as it has a brute majority in the lower house.

However, the government will have to face an uphill task in the Rajya Sabha where it lacks absolute majority. The BJP and its allies have 102 members in Rajya Sabha while INDIA bloc



and BRS together have total 104 members, though, Opposition's ranks are depleted with three members unwell and one, Sanjay Singh of AAP, suspended.

For the passage of the Bill, the government will surely look for the support from parties like BJD and YSR Congress. The government would hope the parties to either support the legislation or stage a walkout. And

therein, the BJD will have to stand the test of time.

In 2021, the BJD had opposed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021, stating that it undermines the power of a democratically elected government and had staged a walkout in Rajya Sabha. The party didn't face much criticism then as the NDA was having enough numbers for the passage of the bill but now the BJD will have to face the litmus test. With nine members in Rajya Sabha, the BJD can turn the tides on either side.

Another uphill task for the BJD would be the no-confidence motion against the Modi government in Lok Sabha. The motion is likely to come up for discussion in the Lok Sabha this week. It was admitted July 26 and as per rules it has to be scheduled for discussion within 10 days. The government does not face any threat as it enjoys brute majority in Lok Sabha

and the Opposition too knows this but the reason behind moving this motion is to force Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make a statement on the Manipur violence.

In 2018, when the first no-confidence motion was moved against the Modi government by the Telugu Desam Party, after it quit the NDA alliance over the issue of special category states to Andhra Pradesh, the BJD had staged walkout stating that it was not relevant for Odisha. However, this time the issue is of ethnic clashes in Manipur, which has resulted in deaths of around 180 people and left thousands of people homeless. This is about the lives of tribal communities. Will the BJD stage a walkout again?

The regional party has kept its cards close to its chest on the no-confidence motion. According to a senior party MP the BJD will decide on the issue when it is scheduled for discussion in the Lok Sabha.

State among top 5 in missing women cases

MP tops the list among states and is closely followed by West Bengal, while among Union Territories, Delhi recorded the highest number of missing girls and women between 2019 and 2021

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: As many as 70,222 women and 16,649 girls went missing in Odisha between 2019 and 2021. This was revealed by Minister of State for Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ajay Kumar Mishra while answering a question in the Lok Sabha.

Odisha is among the top five states with highest number of women missing in the country during the three-year period.

According to the MHA data tabled in Parliament last week, more than 13.13 lakh girls and women went missing in the country in the three years between 2019 and 2021, with Madhya Pradesh accounting for the highest at nearly two lakh,

closely followed by West Bengal. As per the data, 10, 61,648 women above 18 years and 2,51,430 girls below that age went missing between 2019 and 2021 across the country. The data was compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

In Madhya Pradesh, 1, 60,180 women and 38,234 girls went missing between 2019 and 2021.

A total of 1, 56,905 women and 36,606 girls went missing from West Bengal in the same period. In Maharashtra, 1, 78,400 women and 13,033 girls went missing in the period, while as many as 49,116 women and 10,817 girls went missing in Chhattisgarh.

Among the Union Territories, Delhi recorded the highest number of missing girls and women. In the national capital, 61,054 women and 22,919 girls went missing between 2019 and 2021 while in Jammu and Kashmir, 8,617 women and 1,148 girls went missing.

The government informed Parliament that it has taken a number of initiatives for the safety of women, which include the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment), Act, 2013, for effective deterrence against sexual offences.

3 Indian-Americans vying to thwart Trump's Prez bid

FORMER SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY, ENTREPRENEUR VIVEK RAMASWAMY AND AEROSPACE ENGINEER HIRSH VARDHAN SINGH WILL CONTEST AGAINST TRUMP, WHO IS LEADING IN THE RACE FOR GOP'S NOMINATION FOR 2024

AGENCIES

Washington, July 30: Aerospace engineer Hirsh Vardhan Singh has become the third Indian-American vying for the Republican nomination for the 2024 US presidential race after former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

Singh, 38, introduced himself as a lifelong Republican and an "America First constitutional carry and pro-life conservative who helped restore the conservative wing of New Jersey's Republican Party starting in 2017" in a video message posted

on Twitter Thursday.

He ran unsuccessfully for the US Senate in 2020, and the present bid is the fourth time the defence and aerospace industry executive is eyeing public office.

According to Singh, Americans face grave threats from the corruption of both, Big Tech and Big Pharma, and in addition, there is an all out attack on American family values, parental rights and open debate.

"While Big Pharma has made massive profits working with the government to compel everyone to take the experimental vaccines, Big Tech has become the Big Brother, who invades



Hirsh Vardhan Singh

our privacy and indulges in censorship of our political and contrarian viewpoints," he said in an over three-minute-long video.

Haley, Trump's first ambassador to the United Nations is the only woman in the Republican



Nikki Haley

primary contest. The 51-year-old daughter of Indian immigrants, who has never lost an election, has spoken proudly of her time in the Trump administration. But she has criticised her former boss' post-election



Vivek Ramaswamy

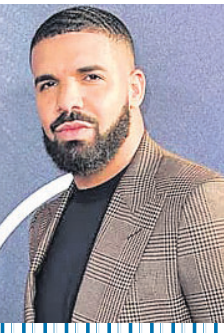
crusade to relitigate debunked claims of voter fraud that he falsely alleges cost him the 2020 election.

Entrepreneur Ramaswamy entered the US Republican presidential nomination contest as

an outsider in February but has now jumped to no. 3, behind just Trump and Florida governor Ron DeSantis. According to a Reuters-Ipsos poll, Ramaswamy has the support of 9 per cent of leaders within Republican Party. Trump commands a staggering 47 per cent, well above the 19 per cent for his rival DeSantis.

The three Indian-Americans join a crowded list of Republican candidates vying for presidency, which includes Trump, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence, Senator Tim Scott and businessman and pastor Ryan Binkley.

leisure



DRAKE FLAUNTS TUPAC SHAKUR'S ₹8CR. RING

Rapper Drake spent \$1.01 million (Rs. 8.20 crore) for a huge gold, ruby and diamond crown ring created and worn by Tupac Shakur. The *God's Plan* rapper, posted on his Instagram Story to show off the bling owned by the singer while promoting his new song with Travis Scott titled *Meltdown*, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

CARDI B TOSSES MIKE FROM STAGE AS FANS THROW DRINKS AT HER

Singer Cardi B, during a performance at Drai's Beach Club in Las Vegas, reacted to some audience members throwing drinks at her by tossing a microphone onto the stage, reports *the Daily Mail*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be impulsive today, and this may throw up unexpected results. In a rush of enthusiasm, you may finish pending work and even be left with enough time to plan long-term goals. You may also realise and make amends for your past mistakes, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
You may spend a majority of your time on your health and well-being today. Business lunch may see some pending negotiations reaching a successful outcome. Research work will progress better than expected, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, the bond that you share with your friends will get stronger. You are also likely to fall in love. If you are already in a relationship, you will plan to validate your bond either through an engagement or marriage. If you are a student, this is a good phase for you. Along with love, you will also get good grades. You are also likely to take part in extra-curricular activities.

CANCER
There is every possibility that today, you will be probing and prying about your future, predicts Ganesh. A visit to a well-known astrologer cannot be ruled out. Also, you are likely to consult a doctor. It is all due to your bad lifestyle and habits. You had better improve your lifestyle.

LEO
Fortune smiles on but a few, and when it does, it can take you to places you have never even dreamt of. Today is an exceptional day, in the sense that Lady Luck is backing you in all earnestness. So go with the flow and take your chances. You will find, much to your delight, that success is easy to achieve when you are willing to work hard and have luck guiding you.

VIRGO
Reflect on past glories and assemble the machinery for accomplishing more in the future. New relationships will mark the road to progress. Your easy-going nature will help you get along famously with people.

LIBRA
Today might be a good day to invest in that body armour you saw on the telly last night. At least find one that will shield you from being at the receiving end of your seniors and the daily grind of life. If you happen to be a job aspirant, be prepared to slog it out for your success. Put off auction bids and sealed tenders for a luckier day.

SCORPIO
House renovation is in the offing. You may furnish it with portraits and artefacts. Today, you may also feel like playing the stock market game and stake your bets, says Ganesh. Have a great time at home by hosting friends over.

SAGITTARIUS
Personal grooming will be on your mind today. A small fortune may be spent on enhancing the way you look, especially on a new hair-do. Retail Therapy is on the cards, and you may indulge spending on clothes and jewellery.

CAPRICORN
It's difficult to keep calm and have a control over your temper in times of distress, but today, you will prove all who surrendered to the whims of adversity wrong, foresees Ganesh. You will be unfaltering in dealing with problems, and will overcome them with ease. At home, you will be content and at peace, and this will also reflect in your work, adding to your already high efficiency.

AQUARIUS
The day seems normal as you are unlikely to encounter unpleasant situations, says Ganesh. The high point of the day will be your consummate skill with which you will handle mundane tasks. Ganesh reminds you of the saying, "Success is one percent inspiration and 99% perspiration."

PISCES
Fear is a part and parcel of life, and while it can not be eliminated, it can certainly be tamed, and that is what you will be doing today. All your suppressed audacity will be on full display, says Ganesh.

Kangana on showbiz's dark underbelly

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut recently revisited her alleged past with Hrithik Roshan on social media, revealing that she fell victim to a scam orchestrated by someone impersonating the Bollywood actor.

Through Instagram, the *Tanu Weds Manu* actress expressed her concerns about the dark side of the film industry, highlighting its involvement in illicit activities.

She disclosed that a well-known actor she once dated had accused her of being involved with his impersonator, who used fake identities and hacked accounts to communicate with her. Initially, she attributed his behavior to his divorce, but later realized it was unrelated to the situation.

The *Queen* actress shed light on the dishonest practices prevalent in the film underworld, including the purchase of fake bulk tickets and manipulation of collections to inflate their success unrealistically. She also claimed that her contracts and personal life were being exploited through spying and the acquisition of Whatsapp data.

In a veiled reference, she took a dig at Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, suggesting that another superstar pursued her while being involved with someone else. When she questioned this behavior, he allegedly resorted to using multiple numbers and accounts, leading her to believe that her devices were hacked.

The actress was appalled by the extent of moral corruption she encountered, including claims of a fake marriage and a baby used as a promotional tactic for a movie. She vowed to expose and take action against such individuals whom she considers as morally corrupt and likened them to demons.



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Bengaluru: Actress Dia Mirza known for films like *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein*, *Parineeta*, and *Bheed* says she chose to be a part-time actor so that she can devote more energy towards conservation and environmental causes.

"I was recently telling the head of UNEP in India that I act part time. Most of my time and energy is spent in conservation efforts and environmental action in the country. I do it because I feel responsible, I feel a sense of urgency I feel that the only way I can safeguard my children's present and future is if I contribute to solutions that make a difference," Dia told PTI in an interview. Citing the example of Oscar-winning documentary short *"The*

Elephant Whisperers", the actor said, "I think conservation efforts in cinema can be far reaching. There is no greater medium to impact change than the medium of storytelling."

"By just improving sustainable practices in the process of filmmaking, the way we tell stories can also be a big contributor to that change," she said.

"Whenever we produce, we try to ensure that we are sustainable. I am grateful that those values are now percolating. It is spreading far and wide now. More and more filmmakers are choosing to make films sustainable," added Mirza.

On the work front, Dia will be seen next in *Dhak Dhak*.



Nupur savagely shuts down troll

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon's sister Nupur Sanon who is all set to make her Bollywood debut has given a savage reply to a negative comment made about her and Kriti.

Nupur wrote, "Happy birthday Kriti! @kritisanon So you deserve 2 posts this birthday instead of 1 'cause it's Hyphen's birthday too! So so proud of you!"

She further added, "Still feels like yesterday when I used to come into your room and get shocked seeing you sit between boxes and boxes of skin products! Only to keep trying and to keep understanding skin and every ingredient better."

And then I saw you dreaming to start something... you knew you were ready to do that."

While many fans extended best wishes to the actor and wished her a 'happy birthday,' one Instagram user

commented, "Flop sisters." In reply, Nupur wrote back, "And still you're following us."

On the other hand, Nupur made another birthday post for her sister actress. A part of the post read, "Happy Birthday to the most beautiful human-the bestest sister-the loyalest best friend-I can keep HYPHEN-ing the nicest things to you 'cause that's who you are!"

Perfect! When I was growing up ... I remember always have one question when I looked at you, my big sister- God, how is she so perfect? How can she be so beautiful, so loving, so kind, so responsible, so intelligent, so caring, so EVERYTHING all at once!"

Meanwhile, Kriti Sanon was last seen in *Adipurush*, her sister Nupur is set to make her Bollywood debut with *Noorani Chehra*.



Anil's revelation about colleagues

Mumbai: Actor Anil Kapoor who had made his mark in Hollywood, made an interesting revelation about the reaction of his colleagues to Tom Cruise. In a recent

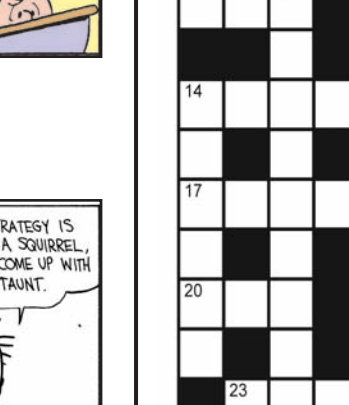
interview, he stated the industry was not too impressed with the Hollywood star, but their perception changed later. During a conversation with a media agency, the *Race* actor shared, "I look forward to Tom Cruise's films, the kind of action he's done. These are the people whom I really look up to. I was

very fortunate when I did (*Ghost Protocol*), and when I spoke to my then colleagues, they said 'Nahi nahi jaar, woh baat nahi hai.' I said, 'Pata chalega aapko.'

"Now everybody's a fan of *Top Gun: Maverick*," said Kapoor who also starred in *24* and *Stumdog Millionaire*.

In the same interview, "I told them International kaam bhi karo (try international projects), they said, 'Nahi hum India main theek hai (we are fine in India).' Later, I realized that

everyone secretly went to Los Angeles, everybody went to Netflix and Amazon," concluded the actor. On the professional front, Anil Kapoor was last seen in *The Night Manager part two*.



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PEANUTS



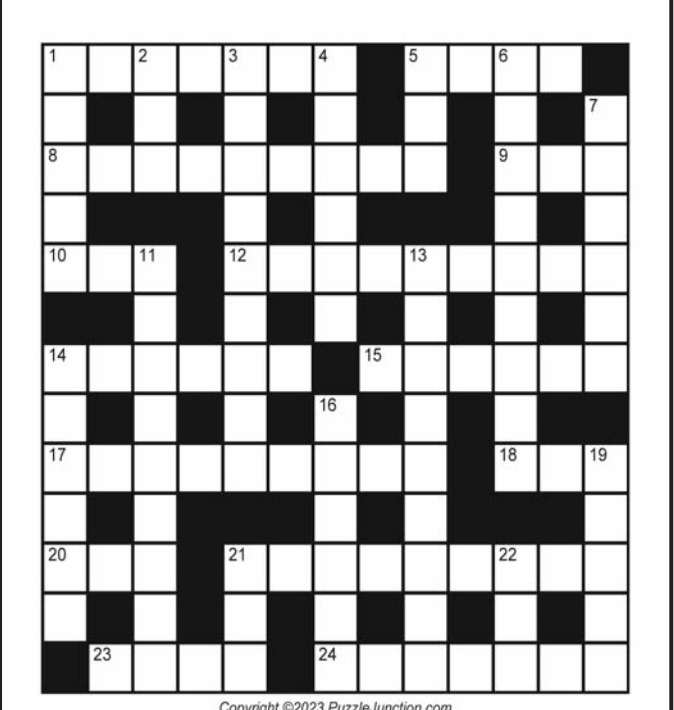
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



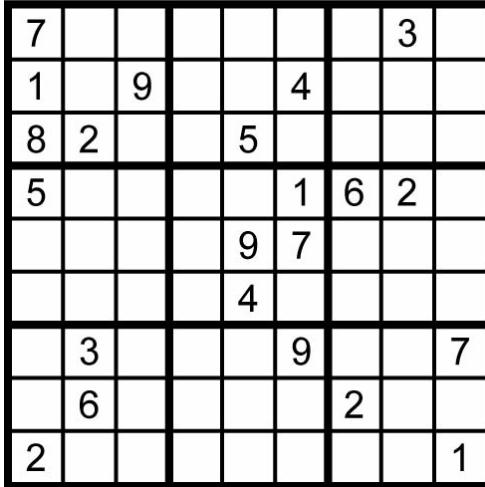
FUN post CROSSWORD



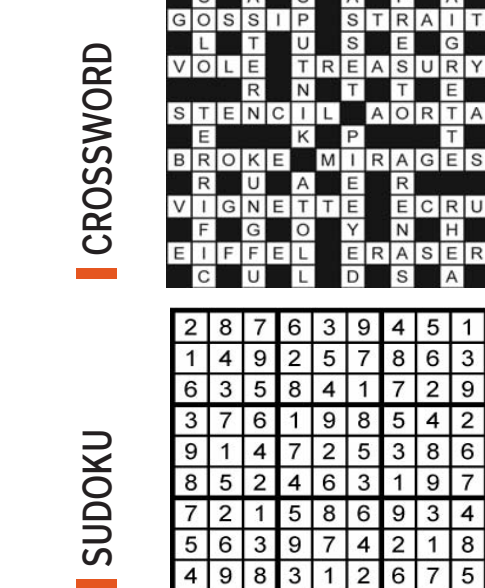
- Across**
- 1 Frozen dessert
 - 5 Etcher's need
 - 8 Boil, of sorts
 - 9 Title of respect
 - 10 Farm mother
 - 12 Sugar-glazed candy (5,4)
 - 14 Mideast V.I.P.
 - 15 Fight
 - 17 Music genre
 - 18 Swindle
 - 20 Twosome
 - 21 Sinai, for one
 - 23 Render speechless
 - 24 Shower down
 - Down**
 - 1 Religious splinter groups
 - 2 Bobble
 - 3 Work or casual wear (4,5)
 - 4 Fishing gear
 - 5 Map abbr.
 - 6 Scotland Yard officer
 - 7 Olympics medal
 - 11 Australian vacation, maybe
 - 13 Young horses
 - 14 Withdraw
 - 16 Picturesque
 - 19 Plucky
 - 21 Basic chess tactic
 - 22 One, in Portuguese

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



SCINTILLATING SHOW

Artistes perform Odissi during India International Dance Festival at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



SUICIDE BID AFTER KANGAROO COURT HUMILIATION

NHRC reminder to Commissionerate Police

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a reminder to the Commissioner of twin city Commissionerate Police seeking a 'status report' on the alleged suicide bid of a person following humiliation in a kangaroo court in the Capital city last year.

The NHRC issued the reminder while hearing a plea submitted by rights activist Rabinra Mishra.

Citing media reports, the complainant has alleged that Birabhadra Parang, 23, a resident of Baramunda village here, attempted to end his life December 9, 2022 after he was publicly hu-



BIRABHADRA PARANG, HIS FATHER AND RELATIVES WERE MADE TO KNEEL DOWN HOLDING THEIR EARS FOR TWO HOURS BY GRAM SABHA IN BARAMUNDA VILLAGE UNDER KHANDAGIRI POLICE LIMITS

iliated in a Gram Sabha. The victim was subjected to the humiliation on account of the alleged eve teasing of schoolgirls in the locality by his cousin brothers.

Parang, his father and other relatives were made to kneel down holding their ears for two hours by residents of Baramunda under Khandagiri police limits,

alleged Mishra. A case (591/22) under Sections 341, 323, 355 and 34 of the IPC has been registered at the Khandagiri police station in this regard.

The commission had earlier asked the Khurda district Superintendent of Police (SP) to submit an action taken report (ATR) in the case.

The Khurda SP as well as the

Khurda ADM later sent the copy of the order to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Bhubaneswar UPD and subsequently intimated the NHRC. However, the DCP, Bhubaneswar is yet to submit status report in the case.

"In view of same, let fresh reminder be issued to Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Odisha for filing of requisite current status report in the matter within four weeks. It is therefore, requested that the additional/comprehensive report as directed by the Commission in the matter be sent latest by 04/09/2023, for further consideration by the Commission," read the NHRC order.

Odisha launches drive to up oil palm cultivation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Several states in India, including Odisha, along with oil palm processing firms, have launched a mega drive till August 12 to increase the area under oil palm cultivation in the country, the Agriculture Ministry said Sunday.

The major oil palm growing states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka, Goa, Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh will be participating in this initiative, it said.

The mega plantation drive commenced July 25 and will continue till August 12, the ministry said in a statement.

Oil palm cultivation is being promoted under the central scheme, National Mission for Edible Oils- Oil Palm, which was launched in August 2021.

Under this mission, the Centre aims to increase the oil palm production area to 10 lakh hectare and boost the crude palm oil production to 11.20 lakh tonnes

by 2025-26.

Three major oil palm processing companies - Patanjali Food Pvt Ltd, Godrej Agrovet, and 3F - are actively promoting and participating with the farmers in their respective states towards area expansion.

According to the ministry, the oil palm plantation drive in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Goa and Karnataka continue till August 8, where 7,000 hectare will be covered out of which the target is to cover 6,500 hectare in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

In the North-Eastern Region (NER) states such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram, and Nagaland, the drive continues till August 12 and covers more than 750 hectare of area.

The Assam government aims to cover more than 75 hectare in eight districts till August 5 during the mega drive, while Arunachal Pradesh is targeting to cover an area of almost 700 hectare across 6 districts, the ministry added.

RESIDENTS BATTLE CITY'S POTHOLES

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Thirty-year-old Nilima Rout had a harrowing experience recently while she was on her way to drop her daughter at school.

The homemaker from Jagannath Nagar in Jharpada and her daughter were left with bruises after the scooter they were travelling on slipped while negotiating the pothole ridden road.

"Both of us suffered bruises all over. We could not make it to the school. We fear taking our vehicle out as it gets stuck in muddy potholes", said Nilima nursing her wounds, literally.

In fact, such accidents have become a norm across the Capital city these days on account of roads filled with potholes following the first burst of seasonal downpour. Citizens continue to struggle in streets dotted with craters, potholes and puddles, making commuting a nightmare experience.

It has become a common sight to see vendors struggling everyday to make their way to various vending zones of the Capital. "We take this route every day and often face difficulties while commuting. We struggle to move



our material loaded trolleys on the potholed roads. With buildings mushrooming everywhere we expected the city's roads to undergo a makeover on a priority", said Dheeraj Sahu, a fruit seller from Saheed Nagar.

"Development should start from grassroots. The sleek motorable roads and parking areas

It has become a common sight to see vendors struggling everyday to make their way to various vending zones in the City

that are being constructed at a rapid pace in the city's prime locations are nothing but a mere hogwash. The outskirts are in pathetic condition, especially its roads", said Subrat Das, a resident of Panchasakha Nagar.

Residents of Jagannath Nagar, Jharpada alleged that the pothole problem is not new. They

have been dealing with the perennial issue for more than a year now due to the indifferent attitude of the authorities. The damaged roads with multiple potholes in the inner pockets of the city also go unnoticed.

Rhea Tripathy, a resident of the area said, "The entire city is facing the hassles of damaged roads every year, and the development under the cloak washes away with just a first few showers of monsoon".

"The potholes are being fixed now. The work should have been over during summer because the present repair work is only causing accumulation of mud in those potholes", she said.

The awful condition of roads run throughout the city but Panchasakha Nagar, Hanspal, Jagmohan Nagar, Lakshmi Nagar, Old Town and Jagannath Vihar require immediate attention.

Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Vijay Amruta Kulange claimed that the corporation has stepped up efforts to address the issue. "Potholes will be eventually identified and repaired. Heavy vehicles commuting within the city limits are causing damage to roads," Kulange reasoned.

Injured Puri ashram inmate dies in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 30: An inmate of Guru Krupa Ashram in Loknath Road area under Baseli Sahi police limits here, who had sustained critical injuries after being attacked by a fellow inmate Friday, died while undergoing treatment in Cuttack Sunday, an official said.

The deceased was identified as Dayanidhi Das, 65.

According to Baseli Sahi police, Das had suffered multiple injuries when he tried to rescue Narugopal Mishra, 58, from the wrath of Rabinra Jena, 40.

"Following a heated argument, Jena hit Mishra with a wooden plank, leading to his instantaneous death. While attempting to rescue Mishra, Das suffered multiple injuries. He was initially rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital in Puri and later to AIIMS in Bhubaneswar. As his health deteriorated, the 65-year-old was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, where Das succumbed to his injuries Sunday afternoon," an official of Baseli Sahi police said.

Jena has already been arrested after Mishra's death, the official pointed out.

Short bursts of intense exercise linked to reduced risk of cancer

Just 4.5 minutes of vigorous activity that makes people huff and puff during daily tasks is associated with a lower risk of some cancers by up to 32 per cent, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal JAMA Oncology, used data from wearable devices to track the daily activity of over 22,000 'non-exercisers'.

Researchers at the University of Sydney in Australia then followed the group's clinical health records for close to seven years to monitor for cancer.

They found that four to five minutes of vigorous intermittent lifestyle physical activity (VILPA) was associated with a substantially lower cancer risk compared to those who undertook no VILPA.

Short bursts of activity -- around one minute each -- includes activities like vigorous housework, carrying heavy shopping around the grocery store, bursts of power walking or playing high-energy games with the kids. Adults who don't exercise are at increased risk of developing certain cancers like breast, endometrial or colon, but until recently the impact of less structured forms of vigorous physical activity was unable to be measured, the researchers said.

"We know the majority of middle-aged people don't regularly exercise which puts them at increased cancer risk but it is only through the advent of wearable technology like activity trackers that we are able to look at the impact of short bursts of incidental physical activity done as part of daily living," said lead author Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis.

"It is quite remarkable to see that upping the intensity of daily tasks for as little as four to five



In a study sample of 22,398 people with an average age of 62 who did not exercise in their leisure time, researchers found 2,356 new cancer events (1,084 in physical activity related cancer) over an average follow-up of 6.7 years

minutes a day, done in short bursts of around one minute each, is linked to an overall reduction in cancer risk by up to 18 per cent, and up to 32 per cent for cancer types linked to physical activity," Stamatakis said.

In a study sample of 22,398 people with an average age of 62 who did not exercise in their leisure time, the researchers found 2,356 new cancer events (1,084 in physical activity related cancer) over an average follow-up of 6.7 years.

A minimum of around 3.5 minutes of daily VILPA was associated with up to 18 per cent reduction in cancer incidence, they said. About 4.5 minutes of

daily VILPA was associated with up to 32 per cent reduction in physical activity-related cancer incidence, according to the study.

The steepest gains in cancer risk reduction were seen in people who did small amounts of VILPA compared to those who did none, however, benefits continued with higher levels of daily VILPA -- particularly for physical activity-related cancers.

The study is observational, meaning it is not designed to directly explore cause and effect.

However, the researchers saw a strong link and refer to previous early-stage trials showing that intermittent vigorous physical activity leads to rapid improvements in cardio-respiratory fitness, which may provide a possible biological explanation for reduced cancer risk.

Other likely contributors include physical activity's role in improving insulin sensitivity and chronic inflammation, they said.

"We need to further investigate this link through robust trials, but it appears that VILPA may be a promising cost-free recommendation for lowering cancer risk in people who find structured exercise difficult or unappealing," Stamatakis added.

3 SNATCHERS NABBED IN CAPITAL CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The twin city Commissionerate Police Sunday arrested three persons in connection with snatching valuables in the Capital City.

The accused were identified as Sk Sonu, 22, of Maka Masjid New Colony in Bajrakabati Road area under Mangalabag police limits, Pintan Kumar Dalei, 27, of Banki area and Sajad Khan, 31, of Gopalpur Muslim Sahi under Mahanga police limits in Cuttack district.

While Dalai and Sonu were residing in Saheed Nagar area, Khan was staying in Nemalo area of Cuttack. At least 12 cases are pending against Dalai with Kharvelnagar, Saheed Nagar and Banki police, it is learnt.

Similarly, Sonu is involved in seven criminal cases registered with Chandaka, Saheed Nagar and Badambadi police. At least three cases are pending against Sajad with Balianata, Bharatpur and Capital police of the City.

The police crackdown came while probing a snatching case of July 24.

"Manas Mohanty, a banker, was walking home July 24 morning when the trio snatched away his gold chain near Palasuni haat. The desperadoes again targeted Mohanty July 27 and snatched away his mobile phone near Rasulgarh Square," an official of Mancheswar police said, quoting Mohanty's complaint.

A motorcycle, a gold chain weighing about 11gram and five mobile phones were recovered from the trio. They were produced before a local court that sent them to judicial custody, it is learnt.



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IMD issues orange alert for 10 dists August 1 & 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: At least one or two places in four districts are likely to witness heavy rainfall during the next 24 hours due to the prevalent monsoon trough and a low pressure area formed in the Bay of Bengal (BoB), the India Meteorological Department said Sunday. The MeT regional centre also issued an orange warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall in some districts during the next four days. The orange alert has been issued for Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Kendrapara, Angul, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Jajpur, and Bhadrak for August 1 and 2. These regions are likely to receive 70 mm to 200 mm of rain during the period. In its evening bulletin, the



IMD regional centre said, "The low pressure area over north Odisha and adjoining West Bengal coasts now lies over the northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of north Odisha and West Bengal coasts between 0.9 and 3.1 Km above mean sea level. Meanwhile, sporadic rains have occurred by the impact of low-pressure areas formed in the Bay of Bengal in the last few weeks. The state recorded 461.9 mm of rain between June 1 and 29. However, 12 of 30 districts have witnessed less than normal downpours during the period."

Patna, and Bankura, the centre of a low-pressure area over the north-west Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Odisha and West Bengal coasts and thence southwards to east-central Bay of Bengal. A trough runs from north west Bihar to the cyclonic circulation associated with the low-pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of north Odisha and West Bengal coasts between 0.9 and 3.1 Km above mean sea level. Meanwhile, sporadic rains have occurred by the impact of low-pressure areas formed in the Bay of Bengal in the last few weeks. The state recorded 461.9 mm of rain between June 1 and 29. However, 12 of 30 districts have witnessed less than normal downpours during the period.



HONOURING EXCELLENCE: Editor Dharitri and Orissa POST Tathagata Satpathy, Chairman Pandav Jena Foundation Santosh Kumar Jena, Dean NISER-Bhubaneswar Pranay Swain and Adviser NSS Odisha Madhusudan Das during the 16th edition of a function to felicitate talented students organised by Sanskriti Suraksha Samiti at Agrawala Dharmashala in Jatni, Khurda, Sunday

2-day workshop for women entrepreneurs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Startup India, in collaboration with Startup Odisha, conducted a two-day workshop exclusively for women entrepreneurs in the state. The workshop, which offered the women entrepreneurs a unique platform to learn, network, and seek guidance from industry leaders, concluded Sunday. Startup Odisha kicked off the first day with an informative discussion focused around the journey to building a robust startup ecosystem in the state. Startup India followed it by highlighting its programs and efforts, such as the 80-IAC Tax Exemption and DPIIT Recognition. A number of sessions focused on the importance of digital marketing as well as financial modelling for startups.



Women founders also conducted sessions on their individual business path and the value of strong female role models. The day came to a close with a presentation on "How to Raise Funds for Your Startup" by SEA Fund Founder and Managing Partner Manoj Agarwal and Unicorn India Ventures Managing Partner Anil Joshi. A session for selected women entrepreneurs on pitching to investors and incubators was overseen by many eminent leaders during the workshop. A presentation was also done on harnessing the NITI Aayog's women entrepreneurship platform. The program's objective was to encourage and promote women entrepreneurs in Odisha.

INIFD ORGANISES FASHION SHOW 'NAVYATA'

Bhubaneswar: International Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD) hosted here Sunday the annual design show Navyata 2023. The event was attended by Bollywood actor Aman Verma along with global CEO of INIFD Anil Khosla and architect professor Rajkunwan Nayak. Among other dignitaries former MP Pradeep Kumar Majhi and Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board chairperson Shreemayee Mishra were present at the event. The evening witnessed a stunning display of talent as more than 200 students specializing in fashion and interior designing showcased their creations. The event provided an exclusive platform for the alumni to exhibit their innovative designs.

Denizens' candle march for peace in Manipur



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Members of several civil society groups took out a candle light march to express their solidarity with people in violence-hit Manipur at Master Canteen here Sunday. At the 'Light a Candle for Peace' march, the participants emphatically called for bringing an end to the cycle of violence in the north-eastern state and restoration of peace immediately. "Globally we are seen as a country with diversity which promotes non-violence and peace and follows Gandhian path. But incidents like this break that image and raises questions," said Bhagwan Prakash founder of Odisha Nagarika Mancha. Manipur is burning and that affects us also as it is a part of our country, said Padmacharan Nayak, a Gandhian. As per reports, at least 150 people have been killed in clashes

between the Meitei and Kuki ethnic groups in Manipur so far. Fake news about a Meitei woman's rape in a Kuki-dominated area provoked a violent reaction from the Meitei community. A video went viral online July 19 showing a mob of Meitei men parading and groping two naked Kuki women on a rural road before taking them to a field, where one of them was reportedly raped. The video triggered outrage throughout India, with protests organised in various cities. The violence broke out in Churachandpur, a town just south of the state capital Imphal, May 3, following a Kuki-led tribal solidarity march in ten of the state's sixteen districts. As the Meitei organised counter-protests and blockades, clashes spread across Manipur. Thousands were injured and more than 60,000 displaced in the violence, and more than 12,000 fled to the neighbouring Mizoram state.

5th-century city discovered near Odisha border

Excavations and remains found at Benisagar confirm that it must have been under the rule of the king of Odisha as the temple architecture can be compared to the Rekha Deula type of architecture prevalent in Odisha

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar/ Ranchi, July 30: Hundreds of artefacts excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from Benisagar, a village near Odisha border, suggest continuous human habitation from the fifth century AD to 16-17 century AD. ASI has included Benisagar in the list of 100 most prominent archaeological monuments of the country.

Benisagar, 85 kilometres from Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, is close to Odisha's Mayurbhanj and has been of interests for archaeologists who are continuously researching and studying sculptures, stone figures found around there.

In 2003, the ASI carried out excavation at the place for the first time, which was named Benisagar because of a huge



pond of size 300 by 340 meters, about which a legend is prevalent in the local areas that it was built by a king named Beni or Benu. Excavations carried out towards the south-east and eastern embankment of this tank have brought to light many sculptural remains including two Panchayatana temple complexes, images of Surya, Bhairava, Lakulisha, Agni, Kubera etc. Professor Ajay Rawat, head

of the department of history at AP College of Mayurbhanj, says that many kings ruled for many decades this region adjacent to Odisha. Excavations and remains found at Benisagar confirm that it must have been under the rule of the king of Odisha. The temple architecture here can be compared to the Rekha Deula type of architecture prevalent in Odisha. Apart from sculptural remains, a stone seal has also been found

from the site, which has the inscription 'Priyangu Dheyam Chaturvidya (Chaturvidya)', indicating there was a person named Priyangu, who was well-versed in the four Vedas. The script of the inscription is Brahmi and the language is Sanskrit. Some scholars are of the view that the seal recovered from Benisagar shows that it was a centre of learning, where four Vedas were taught. Moreover, the recovery of stones denoting Kama and copulation scenes indicate that sex education was not a taboo during that time. Historians also believe that Benisagar must have been an area under the influence of Tantrism and Shaivism. According to the ASI website, from the epigraphic point of view, it can be considered to be belonging to 5th century.



SOAKED IN DEVOTION: A 'Samuhik Rudrabhishek' ceremony held at Gopal Krishna Goshala in Naya Bazaar in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Boosting cognitive function through hot water baths

As we explore innovative and holistic approaches to health and wellness, the ancient practice of hot water baths emerges as a remarkably therapeutic and simple solution. For centuries, cultures worldwide have acknowledged the healing benefits of immersing oneself in warm water, and modern science substantiates these age-old claims. The healing power of hot water baths lies in the principle of hydrotherapy, a practice that uses water temperature and pressure to rejuvenate the body. Several scientific studies highlight that water temperatures in the range of 100.4 to 105.8°F are therapeutic. Warm water enhances cognitive function, potentially due to its ability to dilate blood vessels

and improve blood circulation to the brain. Studies have revealed that people who frequently take baths in warm water experience a reduced risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease compared to those who did not. When immersed in warm water, blood flow to the skin and underlying muscles increases, promoting better oxygen and nutrient delivery to vital tissues. This improved circulation helps remove waste products from the body and accelerates the healing process in case of injuries or inflammation. Another benefit of a hot water bath is its ability to alleviate muscle tension and pain. Warm water aids in relaxing tense muscles, reducing stiffness, and releasing knots and trigger points



that may have accumulated due to stress or physical exertion. A 2017 study found that soaking in an hour-long hot bath burned around 140 calories, which is approximately the same as those burnt during a 30-minute walk. As the heat permeates the muscles, it stimulates the pro-

duction of endorphins - the body's natural painkillers and leads to a profound sense of relaxation and relief from discomfort. For athletes or individuals who engage in regular exercise, hot water baths can be particularly beneficial since post-workout immersion in warm water can accelerate muscle recovery. Practicing stretching and movement while immersed in warm water also offers a gentle and low-impact exercise option to alleviate muscle, joint, and bone discomfort. As we age, the synovial fluid that lubricates our joints and reduces friction gradually depletes, leading to stiffness and limited mobility. A soothing hot water bath stimulates blood flow to the joints through gentle heat, enhancing the supply of nutrients and promoting the production of synovial fluid. This rejuvenating process helps maintain joint flexibility and mitigates discomfort from conditions like arthritis. Apart from these direct phys-

iological benefits, hot water baths are a powerful stress reliever. The relaxing experience of soaking in warm water calms the mind, reduces cortisol levels, and fosters an overall sense of tranquility and well-being. The therapeutic qualities of warm water foster a sense of mindfulness and self-care, allowing individuals to find respite from the overwhelming demands of modern life. A peaceful bath before bedtime can be particularly effective in promoting better sleep quality, which is crucial for the body's recovery and repair processes. Regular indulgence in this self-nurturing ritual can lead to reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression, and improved emotional well-being.

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By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary Nayagarh, I, Bainshidhar Sahoo, S/o- Arjun Sahoo, At/PO.-Balugaon, PS.-Nayagarh Sadar, Dist-Nayagarh, Odisha do hereby by declared notified for the information that in my father's name Arjun Sahoo Stands one original Sale deed No.-471 dt.11.02.2002 has actually been lost on the way on dt.20.06.2022. Bainshidhar Sahoo

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SCANTY RAIN HITS FARMING

Loss of green cover in Jajpur district resulting in reduced rainfall



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 30: Loss of forest cover for rampant mining of black stones has led to variation in rainfall pattern in this district which in turn has proved to be a bane for the farmers here as rain water is essential for paddy cultivation, a report said Sunday. The month of July is important for paddy cultivation in the kharif season. However, rain has eluded the farmers this July in Jajpur district. The normal precipitation should be 350.9 mm by July 20 but the district has recorded only 203.12 mm of rainfall during this period which is 42 per cent less.

What is more surprising is that Dharmasala block has experienced only 98 mm rainfall, the lowest in the district owing to rampant black stone mining being done by denuding the forest cover.

Dharmasala experiencing the lowest rainfall has surprised the environmentalists. They apprehend that the day is not far off when the area will turn into a desert if mining goes on unabated and unchecked.

Sources said that farmers' dependence on rains to irrigate their farmland has increased with time mainly due to lack of any viable irrigation facility in the district. The facilities that are available in the district are sub-standard and of no use to the farmers' irrigation needs.

The mega lift irrigation points have failed to resolve the irrigation woes of the farmers. Moreover, the state government has failed to use water of Brahmani and Baitarani, two

major rivers flowing through the district, for irrigation with over 90 per cent water of these rivers flowing straight into sea.

The state government is aware of this fact but is yet to establish an irrigation project upstream of these two rivers. While farmers have no way to make use of the two rivers' water, industrial plants exploit it abundantly.

As a result, the district's farmers are forced to depend on rainfall for irrigation. However, rain continues to play hide and seek with the farmers due to acute pollution, rampant stone mining and the resultant loss of green cover impacting the rainfall pattern in the district.

Loss of green cover due to stone mining is so glaring that vast tracts of forest in Balarampur reserve forest, Bichhakhandi, Kusunpur, Mukundpur, Nischanta sanctuary, Dankari, Malgoda, and Rahadpur spread till the border of Dhenkanal district are now on the verge of extinction.

Stone extraction through blasting of explosives is taking place on a daily basis due to lack of necessary action on part of the state government or the district administration. This has contributed to atmospheric pollution which further leads to change in climate and reduced rainfall in the district.

The common people and farmers are the worst sufferers of stone blasting and only a handful of political and government personnel are benefiting.

Dharmasala Assembly Development Committee (ACDC) had promised stringent action against looting of minor mineral but

- ◆ The district has recorded only 203.12 mm rainfall by July 20 which is 42 per cent less than the normal precipitation of 350.9 mm
- ◆ Dharmasala block has experienced only 98 mm rainfall so far this monsoon, the lowest in the district
- ◆ State government has failed to use water of Brahmani and Baitarani, giving rise to irrigation woes in absence of functional facilities
- ◆ Loss of green cover due to stone mining is so glaring that vast tracts of forest once spread till the border of Dhenkanal district are now on the verge of extinction

it has turned out to be fluke. It is alleged that the political representatives, in connivance with revenue officials, are promoting rampant black stone mining to collect money for the upcoming elections.

Rules mandate that entering the reserve forest area, taking vehicles inside or carrying out any illegal work there is a punishable offence under Section-27 of Forest Act.

However, the rule has been thrown to the winds in Dalijoda forest range area under Cuttack forest division as black stone mining and transportation is taking place daily in complete violation of norms.

Locals held the greed and bribery of some senior forest officials responsible for the illegal stone mining going overboard and resultant denudation of the green cover in Dalijoda forest range. They alleged that police and revenue officials are also assisting them in this loot.

Illegal mining has claimed the lives of many but police and revenue officials are covering up such incidents to shield influential politicians.

When contacted, Cuttack DFO Ajit Satapathy said he will order a probe to ascertain the nature of the forested area. The Forest department will take action under Section-27 if it is a reserve forest area but the tehsil officials will have to take action if it is a revenue forest, he said.



SIT AND DRAW COMPETITION: Children participate in an art competition organised by Paschimanchal Ekta Manch at Sakhipada in Sambalpur, Sunday ahead of the celebration of Sambalpuri Day, August 1

Another jumbo injured in train accident succumbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 30: Another elephant injured in the train accident that took place July 11 near Balidanda Sahi in between Sagadapata-Tangriapala station under Brahmanipal range of Anandpur wildlife division died Sunday. The corpse of the 8-year-old female jumbo was buried under the ground after conducting post-mortem. The pachyderm death toll now stands at three as two elephants died July 11.

As per reports, the elephant was injured after a goods train hit her while her herd was crossing the railway line at 9:30pm, July 11. After the accident, the



injured elephant fled to Rebana protected forest. Forest department treated the elephant inside the forest but she succumbed to her injuries. It is alleged that the elephant could not be saved due to late treatment.

In this regard, DFO Abhaya Kumar Dalei said that the elephant was inside the Daitari forest and died while being treated.

Many steps are being taken for their safety and currently, a total of seven elephants are residing in the forest, he added.

A case has been registered by the Forest department and notices has been sent to the loco-pilot and goods guard of the train. Steps will be taken after getting answers to the notices, said the ACF Prafulla Kumar Mallick.

Sambalpuri Din fete Aug 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 30: The Paschim Odisha Sanskritika Parishad (POSP) here is going to celebrate 'Sambalpuri Din-2023', August 1, Tuesday.

"We are going to celebrate this on the 1st of August," said POSP president Swaroop Panigrahi during a walk from Udit Nagar Mini Stadium to the Joggers' Park in front of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) building. Majority of the socio-cultural organisations of the city participated in this well-attended walk. It started around 7:30am and ended around 9am in the morning.

Speaking about the initiative, Panigrahi said, "The main objective of organising this walk is to create awareness about Sambalpuri Din. We are doing this to spread our language and culture among all so that people will come to know about it." Elaborating on the activities to be held Monday he said, "We will have many cultural events depicting the rich cultural heritage of Sambalpur region and also try to attract the present generation towards it."

"Nowadays, you see a kind of cultural renaissance taking place in our country so this is an effort in that direction. We urge all to use Sambalpuri handloom and also the schools to have uniforms in Sambalpuri clothes. This will also help the local weavers. Similarly, other such artisans who are busy making different kinds of artefacts will also get a boost and a definite change will come in their lives," he added.

Former principal Kishori Dash said, "This is a unique opportunity to exchange the rich cultural ethos of our country. We invite all to participate and understand the richness of Sambalpuri culture." Professor Shyam Sundar Dhar will deliver his talk on Sambalpuri language and culture. The main programme will be held at Rourkela Club.

Railway overbridge impasse continues



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 30: The fate of the much-awaited Kukuda Gate railway overbridge proposed on Howrah-Mumbai rail route, one of the busiest railway links in the country, remains mired in uncertainty. Sources said delay in land acquisition has pushed this overbridge project to cold storage.

The tender process was completed sometimes back and work also began on one side. However, delay in land acquisition on the other side of the railway track is causing inordinate delay in the completion of the project.

A sizeable population spread across an equally sizeable land mass depends on this road which passes over this vital railway track. People traveling to Barbil, Keonjhar and even Koiria take this route which links to Jharkhand. Besides, all the panchayats under Bisra and Nuagaon blocks depend on this particular road.

Apart from Howrah-Mumbai, this railway track also links Rourkela to Ranchi and Barsuan. Iron ore from Barsuan is transported to Rourkela Steel Plant on this route. At the peak hours during the day, the gate at the level crossing remains closed for more than 40 minutes causing immense inconvenience to the commuters.

this overbridge was planned and the land acquisition process started in 2019.

Speaking to the media, Manoj Kumar Mahanand, executive engineer of PWD here said, "The total cost of the overbridge is ₹32 crore. The approach road to the bridge is almost complete from the Bisra side. However, on the other side no progress has been made due to issues in land acquisition."

Notably, 10 families of Kapatmunda and Barabasa are going to lose 1.282 acre of land. It was decided that the affected families would get ₹69.86 lakh as compensation. "Fund has been allocated for a combined survey to construct a railway underpass for the benefit of the locals," informed Mahanand.

On the other hand, Demo Oram, who is leading the displaced persons' movement said, "It is unfortunate that the administration did not consider the views of the gram sabha when the constitution stipulates this. The motion accepted in the gram sabha is not being implemented."

"We are not against any developmental projects including this one. Our ancestors have given hundreds of acres in the past. But, our just demands such as compensation and rehabilitation should be taken into consideration," he said.

Fresh paper leak charge hits OSSC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 30: Another alleged question paper leak incident has hit the crisis ridden Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) whose credibility appears to be at stake in the wake of the unprecedented JE question paper leak scandal which is currently under investigation.

As many as 21 candidates, appearing for the post of 'Accountant' in Housing and Urban Development department, walked out of an examination hall Sunday alleging tampering of packets containing question papers prior to the beginning of the test.

The incident reportedly took place at an examination centre in Bhadrak (Autonomous) College. The two-hour test was scheduled to begin at 10 am. The candidates alleged that the ques-



tion papers arrived at the centre 10 minutes late.

They said when they tried to open the question paper, they found the seal broken. On noticing the breach, the candidates brought the matter before the invigilator and soon pandemonium ensued. Suspecting foul play as many as 21 candidates boycotted the exam and staged a walkout.

Later, the agitated students staged a protest at the college gate demanding the cancellation of the examination.

The agitating candidates alleged that 'some vested inter-

ests' are responsible for the foul play as it fetched them big bucks. They further alleged that jobs were being sold in exchange of money depriving poor candidates of their due.

Sub-collector Manoj Patra and DSP Anshuman Dwivedi reached the spot and pacified the candidates with an assurance to inform authorities in OSSC about the issue.

When contacted, principal Subodh Chandra Mishra denied the charges and said that the question paper arrived at the examination centre from the district treasury at 9:35 am. The misunderstanding was on account of a 'slight cut' in the seal of question papers which might have occurred during transportation.

Around 700 candidates had come to appear the examination at the Bhadrak (Autonomous) College.

Total implementation of NEP '20 at NIT Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 30: With the completion of three years of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, NIT Rourkela has decided to implement this new system fully starting this academic year. Meanwhile, a programme was organised at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi July 29 and 30, where the Akhil Bharatiya Siksha Samagam (ABSS) was held to mark the occasion.

Interacting with media, NIT, Rourkela Director Professor Umamaheswari Rao explained about the salient features of the NEP-2020 and how this will benefit the students. Dean (Academics) S Chakraborty, Registrar Rohan Dhimian and Chairman PPRC Himansu Sahu were also present with him.

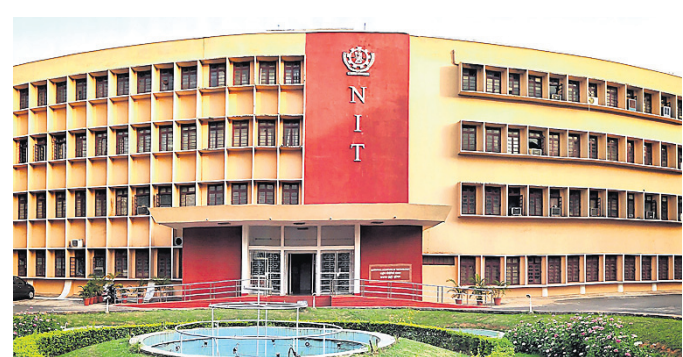
"The point is we want to tell you how much we have realised about the NEP-2020 which was unveiled three years ago," said the Director. This premier institute of the country invited academics of repute for interaction and discussion for smooth implementation of the same. He informed that a huge framework

was being prepared to implement the new policy at NIT, Rourkela.

One of the most important features of the NEP-2020 is the national credit framework (NCF). "The NCF is nothing new. However, it was very much teacher-centric before. Now it is more student-centric. Now, the student has the independence to choose his own credit system according to his choice," informed Prof Rao.

He further explained, "Globalised education has no boundary. It goes beyond the political boundary of a country. Now we see globalisation, digitalisation and finally horizontalisation of education."

Much more emphasis is being laid on the digitalisation of education due to globalisation. "But, the most important aspect now is horizontalisation. Horizontalisation is when the student can opt for enhancing his educational qualification through a horizontal choice of subjects of his interest along with his main subject. Here everything is interconnected. The student-centric system has no inade-



quacy. Earlier it was more theoretical and now it is more open and practical."

Elaborating his point further he said, "Sundar Pichai is the best example. His specialisation is metallurgical engineering but now see where he is and what he is doing. These days, companies want different graduates. Earlier, the new GETs would undergo training periods and then get confirmed. But, now the companies want that the new entrants should run from the first day and must be shop floor ready. And this system is going to prepare versatile talents not just single dimensional."

The student will definitely pass out with 160 grade points at the end of four years. But, the new system would allow the student to add more grade points along with his main subject. So any student passing out through this system would have at least a minimum of 20-30 more grade points. The student would have a dual degree depending on his preferences during the total educational journey. And this journey would end at the end of eight years depending on the student's preferences to do courses. The journey could include inter/multi/trans-disciplinary courses.

"A student can go out of the in-

stitute at the end of first year and we will give him a foundation in engineering certificate to join a job or course elsewhere and come back to join after completing that. One can also do the same at the end of 2nd year and we will give him a diploma certificate and then he can come back and join after one year and join the 3rd year. And it depends on him to join the institute of his own choice provided we have an arrangement with the institute. And during this period he would also earn valuable credit points," said the Dean (Academics) S Chakraborty.

NIT Rourkela has already signed MoUs with IIT, Bhubaneswar, IIT, Hyderabad and NIT Raipur. This year 10 NIT, Rourkela students are going to join IIT, Hyderabad. Another important point is the lifelong learning process, which allows anyone to pursue academics at any age. "Here in NIT Rourkela, our oldest student is a retired GM from Rourkela Steel Plant and he is joining us for a PhD programme in humanities at the age of 74 and his name is Balbir Singh, through LLP," he said.

FOCUS ECONOMY

UNFOUNDED OPTIMISM



Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, every instance of economic progress – the crux of which is sustained productivity growth – has been associated with investments in human capital and higher female workforce participation

especially in electric vehicles. China is also better prepared for future opportunities. Seven Chinese universities are ranked among the world's top 100, with Tsinghua and Peking among the top 20. Tsinghua is considered the world's leading university for computer science, while Peking is ranked ninth. Likewise, nine Chinese universities are among the top 50 globally in mathematics. By contrast, no Indian university, including the celebrated Indian Institutes of Technology, is ranked among the world's top 100.

Chinese scientists have made significant strides in boosting the quantity and quality of their research, particularly in fields such as chemistry, engineering, and materials science, and could soon take the lead in artificial intelligence. As the figure shows, Chinese researchers, both in academia and industry, are rapidly generating high-quality patents. Since the mid-1980s, Indian and international observers have predicted that the authoritarian Chinese have would eventually falter, and the democratic Indian tortoise would win the race. Recent events – China's harsh zero-COVID restrictions, rising youth unemployment, and the adverse repercussions of the Chinese authorities' ham-handed efforts to rein in the country's overgrown real-estate sector and large tech companies – seem to support this view.

But while China, with its deep well of human capital and greater gender equality, stands poised at the frontiers of both the old and the new economies, Indian leaders and their international counterparts tout an ahistorical ability to leapfrog over a fragile human foundation with shiny digital and physical infrastructure. China has a plausible path through its current muddle. India, by contrast, risks falling into blind alleys of unfounded optimism.

The writer is a Visiting Professor at Princeton University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

In March 1985, the Wall Street Journal showered India's new Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, with its highest praise. In an editorial titled "Rajiv Reagan," the newspaper compared the 40-year-old Gandhi to "another famous tax cutter we know," and declared that deregulation and tax cuts had triggered a "minor revolution" in India.

Three months later, on the eve of Gandhi's visit to the US, Columbia University economist Jagdish Bhagwati was even more effusive. "Far more than China today, India is an economic miracle waiting to happen," he wrote in the New York Times. "And if the miracle is accomplished, the central figure will be the young prime minister." Bhagwati also praised the reduced tax rates and regulatory easing under Gandhi.

The early 1980s marked a pivotal historical moment, as China and India – the world's most populous countries, with virtually identical per capita incomes – began liberalising and opening up their economies. Both countries elicited projections of "revolution" and "miracle." But while China grew rapidly on a strong foundation of human-capital development, India shortchanged this aspect of its growth. China became an economic superpower; projections of India as next are little more than hype.

The differences have been long in the making. In 1981, the World Bank contrasted China's "outstandingly high" life expectancy of 64 years to India's 51 years. Chinese citizens, it noted, were better fed than their Indian counterparts. Moreover, China provided nearly universal health care and its citizens – including women – enjoyed higher rates of primary education.

The World Bank report highlighted China's remarkable strides toward gender equality during the Mao Zedong era. As Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn note in their 2009 book Half the Sky, China (particularly its urban areas) became

"one of the best places to grow up female." Increased access to education and the higher female labour-force participation rate resulted in lower birth rates and improved child-rearing practices. Recognising China's progress in developing human capital and empowering women, the Bank made an unusually bold prediction: China would achieve a "tremendous increase" in living standards "within a generation or so."

Rather than tax cuts or economic liberalization, the World Bank report focused on a historical fact recently emphasised by Brown University economist Oded Galor. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, every instance of economic progress – the crux of which is sustained productivity growth – has been associated with investments in human capital and higher female workforce participation.

To be sure, market liberalisation greatly helped Chinese and Indian growth. But China built its successful development strategy on the twin pillars of human capital and gender equality, areas where India has lagged far behind.

Even after it became more market-oriented, China invested impressively in its people, outpacing India in raising education and health standards to levels necessary for an internationally competitive work-

force. The World Bank's 2020 Human Capital Index – which measures countries' education and health outcomes on a scale of 0 to 1 – gave India a score of 0.49, below Nepal and Kenya, both poorer countries. China scored 0.65, similar to the much richer (in per capita terms) Chile and Slovakia.

While China's female labour-force participation rate has decreased to roughly 62% from around 80% in 1990, India's has fallen over the same period from 32% to around 25%. Especially in urban areas, violence against women has deterred Indian women from entering the workforce.

Together, superior human capital and greater gender equality have enabled much higher Chinese total factor productivity growth, the most comprehensive measure of resource-use efficiency. Assuming that the two economies were equally productive in 1953 (roughly when they embarked on their modernisation efforts), China became over 50% more productive by the late 1980s. Today, China's productivity is nearly double that of India. While 45% of Indian workers are still in the highly unproductive agriculture sector, China has graduated even from simple, labour-intensive manufacturing to emerge, for example, as a dominant force in global car markets,



Ashoka Mody

SINCE THE MID-1980s, INDIAN AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS HAVE PREDICTED THAT THE AUTHORITARIAN CHINESE HARE WOULD EVENTUALLY FALTER, AND THE DEMOCRATIC INDIAN TORTOISE WOULD WIN THE RACE

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

The Russian disquiet

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been forced to cancel plans to attend BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, this month. Moscow fears that Putin might be arrested in South Africa for war crimes if he attends the annual event. The International Criminal Court (ICC) earlier this year had issued an arrest warrant for Putin over his alleged role in the mass abduction of Ukrainian children. As an ICC signatory nation, South Africa would have been expected to arrest Putin if he entered the country.

For months, South African diplomats tried to prevent a potential diplomatic confrontation with the Kremlin over the issue. The issued weighed so much on South African politicians that to avoid any unnecessary controversy, President Cyril Ramaphosa even reportedly requested permission from the ICC for an exemption in order to avoid arresting Putin during the summit.

With tensions mounting ahead of the summit, South Africa Deputy President Paul Mashatile admitted in a 14 July

interview that the best option would be for Putin to stay away. "The Russians are not happy, though. They want him to come," he commented.

The Russian strong man under whose rule Russia's relationship with the Western bloc has reached its lowest point since the Cold War, wanted his attendance at the BRICS Summit to show his internal audience that still Russia carries weight at the global level. To achieve these two objectives Russian diplomats continued to pressure their South African counterparts. To counter this, in a court affidavit made public earlier last week, Ramaphosa had claimed any attempt to detain Putin could lead to war between Russia and South Africa.

Though South Africa might have saved its relations with Russia, for the Russian government this has ended in a negative perception around Putin and the Russian might. Now the common Russian is aware that Putin is a declared war criminal, and though he might justify him not being so, using the state media machinery, the result is clear that Putin

has not been able to achieve what he urgently wanted to prove to the Western world. In the end, Russia was forced to end the speculation and declare that Putin would not be travelling to Johannesburg for the summit. Though salvage efforts are still on and Putin may address the summit leaders virtually.

The year 2023 has not been kind to Putin so far. First came the ICC decision in March to charge him with war crimes, resulting in severely damaging his reputation, then weeks later he was forced to announce cancellation of the traditional May Day parades in Moscow and around Russia, without giving any reason, but obviously it was done due to shortage of troops and military hardware being lost in the Ukraine war, as rumour mills propounded.

Later in June, units of Russian military-funded private paramilitary group, Wagner added to his woes, as reports of a mutiny and control of the county's military control by Wagner troops emerged in Western media. Though the so-called 'mutiny' was suppressed but not before the world saw

the mutinous troops controlling major Russian cities and marching within 200 kms distance of Moscow, perplexing the Western world and Russian citizens and pushing Putin to a tough spot.

At the moment Putin looks his weakest during his 23 years as the Russian strongman. The Russian disquiet is evident in the wordings of spokesman Dmitry Peskov, who commenting on Putin's decision not to travel to South Africa used very severe wording: "In this world, it is absolutely clear to everyone what an attempt to encroach on the head of the Russian state means. Therefore, there is no need to explain anything to anyone here."

Brave words indeed, but to restore his personal and his country's image as a global power, Putin might have to resort to some quick and tough measures. The coming days might be tough for Putin, even putting his survival at stake.

The writer is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator. ©IANS



All absoluteness is pure delight.

SRI AUROBINDO

Democracy in Danger

Israel is dangerously moving towards autocratic rule, the first step of which has been taken when the Knesset (Parliament) passed a law curtailing the power of Israel's Supreme Court last week. The Opposition walked out of the 120-member House and the Bill got 64 votes in its favour. The law is part of a wider effort to turn the judiciary subservient to the government, in other words, the executive. Whatever separation of powers among the legislature, executive and the judiciary was there in Israel's hybrid democracy has now been eroded. Israel, it may be noted, has no Constitution. Eleven basic laws are the foundation on which its parliamentary democracy rests. The law passed by the far-right controlled government of Benjamin Netanyahu now prevents the Supreme Court from striking down government decisions thought to be inimical to the principles of democracy, fairness and justice.

In the absence of a written Constitution the Supreme Court in Israel has, since the birth of the country, been using "reasonability" standard that gives judges powers to overrule government decisions and laws passed by the legislators. Netanyahu and his allies belonging to far-right forces are vehemently opposed to the powers of the Supreme Court which stand in the way of fulfilment of their respective agendas. While Netanyahu, facing charges of corruption, fears the apex court may pronounce him guilty and destroy his political career, the far-right forces cannot carry out their agenda of legalising occupied territories and driving away their legitimate owners – the Palestinians. Hence, the two parties have joined hands to render the Supreme Court powerless so that they can act and pass laws to suit their interests without fear of being overruled by the top court. In reality this step, marking a "dark day" in Israel's history, as critics are terming it, takes away a key element of the court's oversight powers and opens the way for corruption and improper appointments. Under the new provisions even the appointment of judges will effectively be decided by the government of the day.

After the vote, Justice Minister Yariv Levin, the architect of the plan, said parliament had taken a "first step in an important historic process" of overhauling the judiciary.

The new measure has triggered further division in Israeli society and politics. Despite the ruling alliance's claim that it is only fulfilling the desires of the majority of people who have voted them to power, the fact remains that only about 25 per cent of the country's population are in favour of implementing the judicial reform. Even thousands of military personnel have declared their refusal to serve under a government taking steps that they see as setting the country on a path to dictatorship. Those moves have prompted fears that the military's preparedness could be compromised. "These are dangerous cracks," military chief Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi wrote in a letter to soldiers.

Alarmed by the development, thousands of people in different parts of Israel, including Tel Aviv, have taken to the streets in protest against the Bill. There were even clashes recently between police and demonstrators.

US President Joe Biden's administration, which has frequently spoken out against Netanyahu's government and its overhaul plan, made only a tame protest against the adoption of the Bill by the House warning the legal changes would trigger further division.

If the law is enacted, it will undermine the independence of the nation's judiciary and its role as the guarantor of its liberal-democratic values. But this is exactly what Netanyahu and his far-right allies – Religious Zionism embracing an ideology of Jewish supremacy and United Torah Judaism advocating ultra-Orthodox way of life want. The far-right parties' efforts of robbing the Palestinians of their land as also to neutralise the judiciary are closely linked.

An almost similar thing is happening in Manipur where land grab by the majority community has plunged the state into unprecedented violence, killing, arson and rape. These incidents in North East India are not only the need for 'lebensraum' (living space) but also triggered by political interests that have eyes on the hill areas exclusively for highly profitable mining activities. Meanwhile, the Indian Supreme Court, by warning the Union and the State's government about its intention to step in if the perpetrators of violent crimes against women are not immediately brought to book, has set in motion the efforts by groups favourable to the ruling political party, to ask for impeachment of the Chief Justice of India (CJI). For this order regarding Manipur, the CJI is also being trolled by the right-wingers.

Undoubtedly, the success of the far-right in Israel is primarily due to Netanyahu, who has normalised outright racism, political muckraking and talking downright lies. The ruling coalition in Israel had proposed all but abolishing the role of the Supreme Court as the sole check on executive power. India seems to be mirroring many of these aspects. Democracy is in peril, globally.

WISDOM CORNER

The thing that doesn't fit is the thing that's the most interesting: the part that doesn't go according to what you expected.

RICHARD P. FEYNMAN

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

WORDSWORTH

Mastigophorous

Mastigophoros is classical Greek, derived from mastix, a whip, and -phoros, bearing or carrying. A mastigophore was an attendant or officer carrying a whip. This rare word has celebrated its 200th birthday, having been used in English in a letter from the writer and minister Samuel Parr to his close friend Charles Burney on 12 December 1812. The letter is effusive and academically humorous in the way of one scholar of the time to another, peppered with classical allusions in Latin and Greek. It may have been some mental association with Parr, who had been a schoolmaster, and Burney, who then still was, but the word was used subsequently as a jocular way to refer to a pedagogue who was over-fond of corporal punishment. Sydney Smith wrote in 1826 of a boy who was trying to look up words in his dictionary while his "mastigophorous superior" frowned over him; another writer in 1832 described how the boys of Winchester College rebelled against their "mastigophorous tyrant". Mastigophorous, a bit of obscure academic drollery, is now as dead as dead can be.

LOL

Is he a good dentist?

A couple of old guys were golfing when one said he was going to Dr. Taylor for a new set of dentures in the morning. His friend remarked that he had gone to the same dentist a few years before. "Is that so?" the first said. "Did he do a good job?"



"Well, I was on the course yesterday when the fellow on the ninth hole hooked a shot," he said. "The ball must have been going 200 mph when it hit me in the stomach." "That," he added, "was the first time in two years my teeth didn't hurt."



Asad Mirza

THE COMING DAYS MIGHT BE TOUGH FOR PUTIN, EVEN PUTTING HIS SURVIVAL AT STAKE

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Compelled to speak

Sir, In a significant move, the Congress party on behalf of all Opposition parties, has tabled a no-confidence motion in Parliament not to remove Narendra Modi as Prime Minister or dislodge the BJP government but to urge him to address the contentious Manipur issue. The Opposition's decision to bring forth the no-confidence motion is rooted in their belief that PM Modi lacks the confidence to make statements in Parliament, especially on sensitive matters like the heinous crime against women in Manipur. He remains silent on these issues until the Supreme Court intervenes, leading to a stalemate in the legislative process. With the no-confidence motion admitted in Parliament, there is a sense of anticipation for meaningful debates on the Manipur issue. Now it becomes an obligation when 50 members of the Lok Sabha support the no-confidence motion and it will make the PM to respond and engage in the discussion. The Opposition's concerted efforts to force Modi to address the Manipur situation are noteworthy. However, the possibility of a peaceful discussion on Manipur remains uncertain, given the contrasting stances within the ruling party. While Home Minister Amit Shah seeks the cooperation of all parties, PM Modi himself has expressed disdain for the Opposition, comparing them to terror outfits and colonisers. At its core, the no-confidence motion reflects Modi's reluctance to face Parliament on the pressing matter of Manipur. By raising this motion, the Opposition aims to hold the Prime Minister accountable for his silence and compel him to address the issue in a transparent and democratic forum.

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

Protocol violation

Sir, AirAsia India's refusal to let Karnataka Governor Thaaarachand Gehlot board a flight on uncertain grounds portrays a negative image of the airline. The goof-up occurred on Thursday at the Kempegowda International Airport when the Governor arrived in time to board a flight to Hyderabad. He alighted in front of the aircraft in his car, but the airline wouldn't let him in, even though the door was still open. AirAsia has apologised for the protocol violation, but its reputation has taken a knock.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

UP jail inmates to be screened for TB

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 30: Uttar Pradesh Health Department is set to launch an intensive Tuberculosis (TB) screening and testing of jail inmates. Efforts are on to reduce TB prevalence among the vulnerable population which includes jail inmates.

India has pledged to make the country TB-free by the year 2025.

According to India TB Report 2023, about 11 per cent of the total jail inmates screened for TB in Uttar Pradesh had tested positive which is more than the national average of 2 per cent. Besides, a recently released Lancet study indicates that jail inmates in India have a five times higher risk of contracting TB than the usual population.

The study published in the Lancet in July also noted that in India, 1,076 inmates carried TB infection per one lakh population which is way higher than the national average of 210 per lakh population in general.

In addition, the researchers found that 30 to 40 per cent TB cases are either detected late, or go undetected.

As a result, they keep spreading the infection (a TB patient can infect 10 to 15 persons in a year). The paper rang alarm bells in the State Health Department besides catching the attention of the Chief Minister's office.

An official spokesperson said that the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed the concerned officials to launch a fresh screening and testing drive in all UP jails.

The Chief Minister has also said that the task must be achieved through mutual coordination among the departments concerned to minimise risk and ensure complete treatment for the patient.

UP launches five DTH channels for children

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 30: The Uttar Pradesh government has launched five direct-to-home (DTH) television channels to enhance children's learning experience at home.

The initiative is a part of the Centre's PM e-Vidya programme. These channels will broadcast subject-wise and class-wise educational videos for students from Classes 1 to 12. Additionally, videos on pre-primary education and others made specially for the differently abled children will be broadcast.

The channels, which were made available free of charge on DD Free Dish and Dish TV from Saturday, bring supplementary education to children's homes in their own languages.

It may be noted that the PM e-Vidya programme was launched on May 17, 2020. One of its components was the launch of DTH TV channels under the One Class-One Channel initiative.

Pawan Sachan, the director of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), has informed the District Institute for Education and Training (DIET) principals, district school inspectors, and district basic education officers about the inauguration of PM e-Vidya DTH channels. While new videos on different subjects will be broadcast daily, their repeat telecast will run throughout the day, he said.

'Smart Tea villages' empowering Assam's small growers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 30: Assam's small tea growers, forming the backbone of the 200-year-old tea industry, have long faced challenges of getting remunerative prices, limited access to resources and markets but an initiative to create 'Smart Tea villages' has brought in changes, leading to their empowerment through sustainable practices.

To complement the Tea Board's initiatives for small tea growers a programme titled 'Trinitea' was launched. It aims to enhance the competitiveness of

the farmers by hand-holding them to move up the value chain, said Shatadru Chattopadhyay, managing director of Solidaridad Network. The first approach towards being weather smart includes the use of specific mobile apps created for the purpose of information on the state of local weather throughout the year and not become its victim while water smart includes better irrigation facilities and saving of water for more crops, he said. The programme focuses on 'carbon smart' by restoring degraded soil, using less water, reduced the use of fertilizers and



improving productivity.

The small tea farmers also lack access to the latest information

related to agricultural practices and this project aims to take the best of knowledge of tea experts

to them through phones as well as regular training organized by the Assam Agricultural University's (AAU) out-reach programmes in respective villages, Chattopadhyay said.

The initiative is also motivating farmers to work together and strengthen their associations so that they have better collective bargaining power in the market.

The programme, though pan-India, is mostly focused on Assam with over 60 per cent of the growers covered so far in the tea districts of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Udalguri, the com-

pany's Senior Advisor (Tea) Gangan Boriah said.

As the average holdings of the growers are minuscule and scattered, "so we have identified them, mapped their holdings, their location, the amount of leaf produced and the supply points. All these have been digitally mapped and are available on our dashboards", he said.

The tea factories often complained of poor quality leaves and so we are encouraging the growers to form self-help groups and adopt the various approaches of better agricultural practices, Boriah added.

Manipur's ethnic conflict is fight over tribal land rights

In the ongoing ethnic violence, which broke out in Manipur May 3, over 160 have been killed and more than 600 injured, huge destruction of properties took place, after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts by the All Tribal Students' Union of Manipur to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, July 30: The ethnic conflicts in Manipur for over three decades have mostly been land-centric and in all of them, Kuki tribals are involved.

The Kukis and their sub-tribes are hill tribes living in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and other northeastern states besides Myanmar and the Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeast Bangladesh.

This northeastern region is culturally and ethnically diverse having more than 200 ethnic groups, including 34 in Manipur, with distinct languages, dialects and socio-cultural identities.

Kuki tribals felt that if the Meitei community gets the ST status, their various rights, including the land rights, would be curtailed and Meitei people would be able to purchase and live in their existing lands.

The ongoing conflict between non-tribal Meiteis and Kuki tribals can also be termed as hills versus plains conflict.

Meiteis account for 53 per cent of Manipur's three million population, while tribal communities account for around 40 per cent. Out of these, Naga tribes make up for 24 per cent and Kuki/Zomi tribes constitute 16 per cent.

The valley areas, where the Meiteis are living, are around 10 per cent of the total geographical areas of Manipur while the hilly areas comprise around 90 per cent territory.

On September 13, 1993 militants belonging to National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah faction massacred around 115 Kuki civilians in the hills of Manipur.

On March 10, the tribals organised protest rallies against the state government's actions against the illegal poppy cultivators and illegal encroachments of forest lands in three hills districts that were also allegedly backed by the Kuki militants

The rallies in several places turned violent, injuring many, while the Manipur government unilaterally withdrew itself from the SoO deal the very next day

However, the Central government is yet to approve the Manipur government's decision to withdraw from the SoO deal

The Manipur government also claimed that the Myanmarese immigrants came from across the border, encouraging illegal poppy cultivation and the drugs trade

activities of Meitei, Naga, Kuki, Zomi, and Hmar insurgent groups. To curb the illegal and unlawful activities by insurgent groups of northeastern states, a total of 16 insurgent organisations have declared "unlawful associations" and/or "terrorist organisations" under The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Out of these 16, eight are from Manipur. These are People's Liberation Army (PLA) and its political wing, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and its armed wing the Manipur People's Army (MPA), the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), the Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL), the Coordination Committee (Cor-Com), the Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK), and the Manipur People's Liberation Front (MPLF).

There are 2,266 Kuki cadres who have been staying in different designated camps in Manipur after the Centre and the Manipur governments signed the tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO) August 22, 2008, when Congress was in power in Manipur.

Officials in Manipur alleged that the cadres of the Kuki National Army (KNA), Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) and Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) are instigating the poppy cultivators in the state against the government, which has been taking action against illegal poppy cultivators by destroying poppy fields in the forest lands, especially in the reserve and protected forests.

However, the Naga outfit rejects responsibility for the killings.

In 1990, there were clashes over land. Kukis often claimed 350 of their villages were uprooted, over 1,000 killed, and 10,000 people displaced.

In 1993, there were clashes between Meitei Pangal (Muslims) and Meiteis.

A bus carrying Muslim passengers was set on fire and over 100 people were killed.

Manipur had scores of militant outfits and violence was largely triggered by insurgents. A total of 23 underground outfits under two conglomerates - 8 under the United Peoples' Front (UPF) and 15 are under Kuki National Organisation (KNO) - are currently under Suspension of Operation (SoO) with the Centre since August 2008.

Manipur is also affected by

Rahul's BJY second phase plan enthuses UP Congress cadres

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 30: After staying away from Uttar Pradesh for almost four and a half years, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is now expected to tour a major part of the state in the second leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

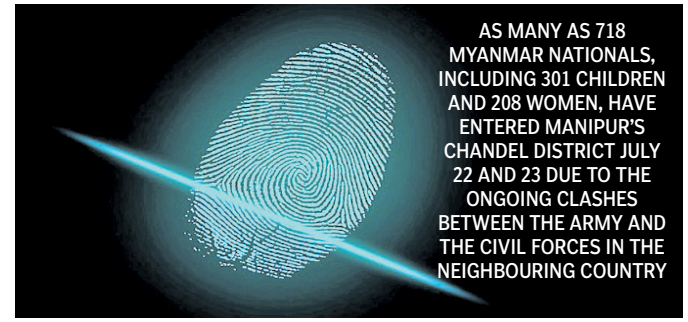
State Congress president Brijlal Khabri said, "Though things are fluid at the moment, party workers and state leadership have urged Rahul Gandhi to spend more time in UP in the second phase of his Bharat Jodo Yatra." He said that the route map and dates were being finalised. "The 'yatra' is likely to commence either from August 15 or October 2," he said.

"Almost everyone in UP Congress has a problem with Priyanka's coterie and whenever we tried to approach Rahul with the problems here, he told us 'Talk to Priyanka' and Priyanka was not willing to listen. This led to an exodus from the party which has hit rock bottom in Uttar Pradesh," said a veteran party leader.

A former Congress MLA said that if Rahul tours Uttar Pradesh, he would revive the party organisation to a great extent and the cadres would be mobilised.

"His mere presence here would lift the party up from the realms of despair," he said. Moreover, in the changed political scenario after the formation of Opposition's INDIA, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary could join Rahul in Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) in UP.

In Manipur, biometric recording of nationals from Myanmar begins



AS MANY AS 718 MYANMAR NATIONALS, INCLUDING 301 CHILDREN AND 208 WOMEN, HAVE ENTERED MANIPUR'S CHANDEL DISTRICT JULY 22 AND 23 DUE TO THE ONGOING CLASHES BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE CIVIL FORCES IN THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, July 30: The Manipur government — on the instructions of the Home Ministry — on Saturday began collecting the biometrics of illegal Myanmar immigrants in the northeastern state, an official said, adding the exercise would be completed by September. A team of officials of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), deputed by the Home Ministry, assisted the state government officials in collecting the biometrics of illegal immigrants at the Foreigners' Detention Centre at Sajiwa in Imphal East district on Saturday. The exercise would continue in all districts until the data of all illegal Myanmar immigrants in the state are collected. As many as 718 Myanmar nationals, including 301 children and 208 women, have entered Manipur's Chandel district on July 22 and 23 due to the ongoing clashes between the Army and the civil forces in the neighbouring country.

The Myanmar nationals are now staying in seven locations of the Chandel district — Lajang, Bonse, New Samtal, New Lajang, Yangnomphei, Yangnomphei Saw Mill, and Aivomjang — all villages along the India-Myanmar border. Manipur Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi on July 24 had asked the Assam Rifles to push back the Myanmar nationals.

"The government has sought a detailed report from the Assam Rifles to clarify on the facts and reasons, as to why and how these 718 Myanmar nationals were allowed to enter into India in Chandel district without proper travel documents. The state government has strictly advised the Assam Rifles to push back those 718 illegal Myanmar nationals immediately," the Chief Secretary had said. Joshi further said that the state government has told the Assam Rifles to take strict action to prevent entry of Myanmar nationals into Manipur on any ground without valid visa and travel documents as per the instructions of the Home Ministry.



Security personnel deployed at Doshipura area, a day after clashes during Muharram procession in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

UP records 18% increase in tiger population

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 30: Uttar Pradesh has recorded a rise of 18.49 per cent in the total tiger population in the past four years, according to the state level data shared under 'Status of Tigers' in India report.

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) has been ranked number four among tiger reserves in the country.

Uttar Pradesh's tiger count went up from 173 in the 2018 census to 205 in 2022. The rise is almost double (88.07 per cent) since 2006, when there were 109 tigers in the state.

"DTR came at number four in country with 135 tigers. The tiger population in Uttar Pradesh shows an increase of 18 per cent



compared to the 2018 census. UP's share in the Shivalik range, which comprises Bihar, Uttarakhand and UP is 205 out

of total 819 tigers reported in the Census in the Shivalik Range," said Mamata Sanjeev Dubey, head of the forest force

Uttar Pradesh and the principal chief conservator of forests.

DTR registered a growth in the tiger population from 82 in 2018 to 135 in 2022 in the reserve area. The growth was from 107 in 2018 to 153 in 2022 in the area around the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

Bihar, which is also in the Shivalik Range, reported 54 Tigers in 2022 as compared to 31 in 2018. Uttarakhand that had reported 442 Tigers in 2018 recorded 560 in 2022, according to the report.

The fifth cycle of the tiger census for India was released in April, giving details of the various landscapes and its tiger population.

The tiger count was 819 in the Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains landscape that includes Uttar

Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

In the Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains landscape, the count went up from 646 in 2018 to 819 (camera trapped tigers) by 2022, a rise of 173. The state count for tigers was not part of the stats released for landscape.

The Pilibhit tiger reserve has got the CA TS (Conservation Assured Tiger Standards) certificate, which is a worldwide accreditation standard for the conservation of tigers.

It comprises several elements that assure the successful restoration of the tiger population within a protected natural spot.

The certificate was given by Union minister for state for environment, forest and climate change Ashwini Chaubey at a function in New Delhi.

Assam to get new Assembly building

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 30: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the new building of the Assam Legislative Assembly Sunday.

The Assembly was earlier functioning from an old tea warehouse, which was converted for the sittings when Dispur became the capital of Assam in 1972.

Besides Birla, Assam Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union ministers Sarbananda Sonowal and Rameshwar Teli, among others, will be present at the inauguration.

The new Assembly complex is spread across 10 acres of land and has the main building, which will accommodate the House



and annexe buildings for administrative and other sections, the officials said. The foundation for the new complex was laid over 10 years ago with an initial estimate of Rs 234.84 crore. With the delay in construction and introduction of new components to the complex, the revised estimate has been put at Rs 351 crore, they said.



Members of Archdiocese of Bangalore, CCBI Commission for Women and other social organisations stage a protest over violence against women in Manipur, at St. Xavier's Cathedral Church in Bangalore



A warship floats along the Neva river during the main naval parade marking Russian Navy Day in St. Petersburg, Russia



ISRO's PSLV-C56 carrying Singapore's DS-SAR satellite along with 6 co-passenger satellites lifts off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota



Idols of Lord Ganesha at a workshop ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Mumbai



BSF soldiers, retired soldiers and volunteers take part in the 'Ride with Soldiers' bike rally in Bangalore



Fishermen repair their boats at Vizhinjam fishing harbour in Thiruvananthapuram



Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai plants a sapling during a 'Van Mahotsav' organised at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in New Delhi



A resident removes debris from her house after flood water of the swollen Yamuna river receded at Yamuna ghat in New Delhi



Construction work underway at Asia's longest bi-directional Zojila Tunnel at Baltal area in Ganderbal district

national

of the day quote

India's semiconductor mission is not just about meeting domestic requirements but also aimed at contributing to a global demand for trusted manufacturing

In the hospitals of Uttar Pradesh, patients or their relatives should take medicines, injections or glucose only after carefully checking whether they are useless or not expired. The news of their proving them fatal is continuously increasing

Opposition parties want peace in strife-torn Manipur. I hope Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in Parliament soon on the situation in the state

SHORT TAKES

Varsity expels 18 ABVP students

Gorakhpur (UP): Cracking the whip after its Vice Chancellor and other officials were manhandled by protesting students, the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University has expelled 18 students and banned six outsiders from entering the campus. All those who faced action are members of the RSS' student wing Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and were part of the protest against fee-hike and other issues that turned violent on July 21. The university's chief proctor Satyapal Singh Sunday said that the decision was taken a day earlier following reports of the Dean of Students Welfare and a judicial inquiry that had been set up to look into the incident.

Delhi cop killed

New Delhi: An inspector of the Delhi Police died early Sunday allegedly after his car was hit by a truck in west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh area, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Vichitra Veer said that in the early hours of the day, the accident took place on Rohtak Road (near Madipur Metro Station) in which a Ciaz car was hit by a truck from behind. The car had stopped due to some mechanical problem when it was hit by the truck from behind.

PM to visit Pune

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Pune in Maharashtra Tuesday during which he will perform 'pooja' at Dagdusheth Mandir, will be conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award and will lay the foundation stone for various development projects. Prime Minister Modi will visit Pune on August 1 and at around 11 am, he will perform 'darshan and pooja' at Dagdusheth Mandir, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. At 11:45 am, he will be conferred the Lokmanya Tilak National Award. Thereafter, at 12:45 pm, the Prime Minister will flag off metro trains and inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various development projects.

Boy injured

Kolkata: A nine-year-old boy was injured in a crude bomb explosion in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district Sunday, police said. The boy, a Class 4 student was injured in Basirhat block 2 when he mistook a crude bomb lying in the field close to his house to be a ball and touched it, they said. He was rushed to a local hospital in Basirhat but as his condition deteriorated he was referred to R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

'Bills passed after admission of no-trust motion constitutionally suspect'

New Delhi, July 30: Congress MP Manish Tewari Sunday claimed that all bills passed after the no-confidence motion was admitted in the Lok Sabha are "constitutionally suspect" and asserted that any substantive legislative business must succeed the outcome of the motion, not precede it. The former Union minister also said the 10-day period for scheduling a discussion on the no-confidence motion tabled in the Lok Sabha cannot be used to "steamroll" bills. The Lok Sabha

MP's assertion comes as the bill to replace the Delhi services ordinance is set to come up in the House this week. In an interview, Tewari said once the no-confidence motion has been tabled in the Lok Sabha, any legislation or material business brought before the House is "completely in violation of morality, propriety and parliamentary conventions". He claimed the very legality of all the legislations which have been passed in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha after the no-confidence motion was admitted would have to be exam-



in by a court of law as to whether they were legally passed or not. All legislative business transacted after the no-confi-

dence motion was tabled is "constitutionally suspect", he claimed. On the BJP comparing the 2018 no-confidence motion against the Narendra Modi government and the massive mandate it got in the 2019 elections with the current scenario, Tewari said, "If history repeats itself once, it is a tragedy and if it does so twice, it is a farce." A no-confidence motion by the Congress on behalf of the opposition alliance INDIA against the government was admitted in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday amid concerted ef-

orts by the anti-BJP bloc to force Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak on the contentious Manipur issue in Parliament. Asked about the numbers not adding up for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc for the no-confidence motion, Tewari said it was not a question of numbers but of morality. "What has happened in Manipur and what is continuing to happen there is absolutely reprehensible. There is a BJP government in the state, there is a BJP government at the Centre. Therefore, somebody needs to

take responsibility," Tewari said. He said the opposition expected the prime minister to make a suo motu statement in both Houses of Parliament on the "extremely critical situation" in Manipur and that statement would have been succeeded by a discussion. But, unfortunately, the prime minister chose to make a very "cursory remark" just before the commencement of the Monsoon session. After that, adjournment motions tabled in both Houses of Parliament repeatedly were not admitted by the presiding officers, the Congress leader said.

Fire at hospital; 106 patients evacuated

Ahmedabad, July 30: A fire broke out in the basement of a 10-storey hospital building in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city on Sunday causing thick smoke in the premises, following which 106 patients were evacuated as a precautionary measure, officials said. There was no report of any casualty in the blaze which erupted at around 4.30 am in Rajasthan Hospital, located in the city's Sahibaug area, they said. A four-wheeler parked in the basement of the facility was partially damaged, a fire official said. Due to the renovation work underway at the hospital, several items stored in the basement caught fire and caused massive smoke, the official said. The state government later said all hospitals will be inspected in view of this fire. It took about eight hours to control the blaze because of the massive smoke in two basements of the building and difficulties faced by the fire fighters in entering one of the basements, he said. The hospital is run by a charitable trust. The fire broke out at around 4.30 am in the basement of Rajasthan Hospital, inspector M D Champavat from Sahibaug police station said, adding that heavy smoke emanated from the basement of the medical facility.

IIM amendment bill triggers autonomy debate

New Delhi, July 30: A new amendment bill of the Centre that proposes the President will be Visitor to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) with powers to audit their functioning, order probes and appoint as well as remove directors, has triggered an "autonomy" debate for the prestigious B-schools. The bill to amend the IIM Act of 2017 was introduced in the Lok Sabha last Friday amid disruptions by opposition members over the Manipur violence issue. While the Congress has alleged that PMO wants to maintain the tightest possible control and ensure "ideological purity", the IIMs are concerned about the amendment possibly taking away their autonomy rather than just fixing accountability. "IIMs were given greater autonomy in 2017 and the legislation had wide support in Parliament. But six years later, the Narendra Modi government is undoing what it itself had introduced. Clearly, autonomy is unwelcome for this government," Congress General Secretary and MP Jairam Ramesh said. "The PMO now wants to maintain the tightest possible control and ensure ideological 'purity' setting aside all considerations of quality, free-



According to the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the President of India shall be Visitor of every institute

dom of thought and flexibility of administration of programmes," he added. According to the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the President of India shall be Visitor of every institute. "The Visitor may appoint one or more persons to review the work and progress of any institute, to hold enquiries into affairs thereof and to report in such manner as the Visitor may direct. The board may also recommend to the Visitor an enquiry as deemed proper against the institute which has not been func-

tioning in accordance with provisions and objectives of the Act," the bill stated. The IIMs are concerned about whether the bill will dilute their autonomy in the name of fixing accountability. "There can be other ways of fixing accountability. This will be a direct attack on the autonomy. The concept of an independent board governing the functioning of a B-school is a global model which has been successful everywhere... It can work in India too," the director of a top IIM said on condition of anonymity. The director of another IIM, echoed the sentiments saying, introducing the concept of Visitor in IIMs "is a way for the government to exercise direct control". However, certain experts also believe that IIMs are public institutions and the bill will ensure they do not turn into private "fiefdoms". "IIMs are public institutions, answerable to the people of India (through parliament). They shouldn't turn into private fiefdoms. The leash on directors and Board of Governors provisioned in the bill should be keenly watched," said Atul Kumar, a policy analyst with the Ministry of Skill Development. The concept of a Visitor in IIMs had first found a mention in the draft of the present act released by the Centre in 2015. However, IIMs had resisted it saying that it would "put a question mark on their said autonomous powers". It was later removed from the final bill. The President of India is the Visitor of all the central universities and IITs and appoints their vice-chancellors and directors. Under the IIM Act, which came into force in January 2018 and granted the premier B-schools greater autonomy, the board of governors of each institute has 19 members, including one representative each from the central and state governments.

Jawan on leave goes missing from J&K

Srinagar, July 30: An army soldier on leave has gone missing from his native Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir leading to security forces launching a massive search and rescue operation, officials said Sunday. The father of the soldier, posted in the Ladakh region, said he was supposed to join work Sunday. Javid Ahmad Wani, a resident of Aachathal area of Kulgam district, went missing on Saturday evening. His car was found at Paranhall, they said. His father has appealed to those who might have abducted the soldier to release him alive since he was the only breadwinner of the family. "I appeal to all the brothers to let him go alive. If he has troubled anyone, I apologise for that. If they want I will get him to quit his job as well," Mohammad Ayoub Wani said. Wani said his son had gone out to buy meat on Saturday evening as he was to go back to his place of posting on Sunday. "He told his brother to drop him at the airport tomorrow (Sunday). Sometime later, we got a call that his car was found abandoned with its doors ajar," the father said. Eyewitnesses claim that there were blood marks in the car but officials did not confirm it.

ATIQ'S LAWYER HELD IN UMESH MURDER CASE

Prayagraj (UP), July 30: Police Sunday arrested slain gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad's lawyer Vijay Mishra from Lucknow in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case, officials said Sunday. Several cases, including those under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Explosives Act and the Indian Penal Code, are pending against Mishra, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) Deepak Bhukar said Mishra was arrested by officers from the Dhoomanganj police station. He was nabbed outside a hotel and legal action is underway, police sources said. Mishra was accused of sharing Pal's location from a Prayagraj court before the latter



along with two policemen was shot dead on February 24. He was booked in an extortion case on May 21 after he allegedly demanded Rs 3 crore from a plywood trader in Prayagraj district. In an FIR at Attarsuiya Police Station in Prayagraj, Sayeed Ahmad, who hails from Dariyabad and owns a shop in the Muthiganj locality, alleged that Mishra had bought goods worth Rs 1.20 lakh from him on credit but refused to clear his dues. He alleged, in the FIR dated April 20, that Mishra dialled Saeed and demanded Rs 3 crore in the name of Atiq and his

henchmen. Umesh Pal, the main witness in the 2005 murder of BSP MLA Raju Pal, and his two security guards were shot dead on February 24. Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf, the main accused in this case, were shot dead by assassins when they were being taken in police custody for a medical examination in April. Ahmad's wife Shaista Parveen, also wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case, is still absconding. Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) Deepak Bhukar said Vijay Mishra was arrested by officers from the Dhoomanganj police station. Mishra was accused of sharing Pal's location from a Prayagraj court before the latter along with two policemen was shot dead on February 24.



People at the flooded Foy Sagar Lake after heavy rain in Ajmer

Kuru Kolumn

Pawar's stony silence

NCP president Sharad Pawar declined to speak at the 26 Opposition parties' conclave in Bangalore on July 18. He maintained a studied silence despite being specifically requested by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. He requested Pawar at the beginning of the meeting itself to speak. When Pawar showed his reluctance, Kharge moved on and came back to Pawar again. But Pawar was in no mood to speak. After his most

trusted colleagues and nephew Ajit Pawar split the party to join hands with the BJP, Pawar has not been in his element. He has maintained a silence and is looking for an opportunity to turn the tables on those who deserted him at the fag end of his political career. Even in the Rajya Sabha, he has been maintaining silence. Though the majority of MPs in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are with him, the strength on the ground in Maharashtra is yet to be tested. **Waiting for the auspicious day** The new Parliament building was ready and cleared after mock drills were conducted by experts. Every Member of Parliament was excited to start the new innings in the State-of-the-Art 'Temple of Democracy' during the Monsoon session. Then came the word that the shifting would be done during the midst of the

Monsoon session. Why? Are there any hiccups? Any problem? It was stated by Hanuman Beniwal, a Member of the Lok Sabha from Rajasthan who is neither with the NDA and nor with the Opposition, that there is waterlogging and leakage in the new building after heavy rains hit the national capital. The official sources deny this insinuation. But insiders have another tale saying there is nothing of that sort. The Modi dispensation is looking for an auspicious date for the inauguration ceremony as conflicting views are being expressed by astrologers. **Shah takes command** After drubbing in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, it is clearly emerging that Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has taken the command of Assembly elections in five states going to polls this year-end. Amit Shah has deployed some of his loyalist ministers as state Prabharies in addition to party

incharges in these five states. The Prime Minister was upset over the defeat in Himachal. But after the Karnataka loss, days of niceties are gone and Amit Shah is ruthlessly dealing with errant party leaders in these states. Amit Shah is extremely confident of winning Rajasthan after a truce of sorts has been worked and working very hard in Madhya Pradesh where all surveys said that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is on a weak wicket. But Amit Shah decided that changing the horse at this late stage will not work and gave full support. **RSS baffled** The RSS is extremely baffled as to why the Prime Minister did not deem it fit to speak on violence in Manipur as it washed out decades of its work there. The Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, a wing of the RSS founded 68 years ago, is dedicated to uplift eight crores tribal in the North East. Its other major task is to

ensure that clashes among the communities must not be turned into Hindu-Christians conflicts. The RSS leadership was happy that PM Modi helped tremendously during all these years not only in Manipur but other NE states by creating infrastructure and going there almost every month. The people of Manipur take the PM in high esteem and adore him. When the violence erupted in Manipur in May and started getting out of hand, it was conveyed to the government that intervention was needed at the highest level. After a month and a half the RSS issued an appeal for peace in Manipur on June 19 expecting the PM to take a hint and break his silence. The PM first spoke on Manipur violence on July 20, opening day of the Parliament session for just 36 seconds to waiting TV channels. Many in the RSS are surprised as to why the PM is not speaking inside the Parliament as it will have an electrifying effect.



Iran will pursue its rights over the Durra/Arash field if other parties shun cooperation

BNP SUPPORTERS CLASH WITH POLICE

Supporters of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), who are demanding polls under a non-party interim government in early 2024, clashed with police in Dhaka after which 90 of them were detained. The clashes left 20 policemen and six protesters injured



of the day quote

How shall I put this delicately? There are clauses that are far more important or problematic than such-and-such declarations in the Palestinian realm

YULI EDELSTEIN | MEMBER OF THE ISRAELI KNESSET

All political officials in the old-term government would be reappointed to the new term

HUN SEN | OUTGOING CAMBODIAN PM

The situation is quite tense. There is a great threat of sabotage by the Kyiv regime, which can be catastrophic in its consequences,

DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESMAN, KREMLIN

SHORT TAKES

Iran extradites Azerbaijani convict

Tehran: A female Azerbaijani national imprisoned in Iran has been repatriated to her home country under a convict extradition agreement between the two neighbours, media reported.

Seven killed, 22 hurt in hurricane

Moscow: Seven people, including three children and four adults, were killed and 22 others injured when trees fell on their tents during a hurricane in Russia's Republic of Tatarstan.

Six killed in plane crash

Ottawa: Six people were killed in a plane crash in west of Calgary in Canada's Alberta province, media reports said.

Large explosion in Thailand kills 10

Bangkok: A large explosion at a fireworks warehouse in southern Thailand killed at least ten people and wounded dozens, officials said.

Pro-coup protests in Niger

THE MILITARY COUP IN NIGER HAS BEEN WIDELY CONDEMNED BY NEIGHBOURS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED NATIONS, THE AFRICAN UNION, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND FORMER COLONIAL POWER FRANCE

AGENCIES

Niamey, July 30: France warned Sunday that it will not tolerate any attack on its interests after pro-junta supporters in Niger stoned its embassy, burned French flags and chanted anti-French slogans in a protest organised by the new military leaders.

Niger's military junta is seeking to shore up support ahead of an emergency summit of West African heads of state in Nigeria where they will decide on further actions to pressure the army to restore constitutional order following a coup.

The military coup in Niger has been widely condemned by neighbours and international partners including the United States, the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and former colonial power France.

They have all refused to recognise the new leaders and have demanded that President Mohamed Bazoum be restored to power. Heads of state of the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the eight-member West African Economic and Monetary Union, could suspend Niger from its in-

African leaders leave Russia summit without grain deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nairobi, July 30: African leaders are leaving two days of meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin with little to show for their requests to resume a deal that kept grain flowing from Ukraine and to find a path to end the war there.

Putin in a press conference late Saturday following the Russia-Africa summit said Russia's termination of the grain deal earlier this month caused a rise in grain prices that benefits Russian companies. He added that Moscow would share some of those revenues with the "poorest nations."

That commitment, with no details, follows Putin's promise to start shipping 25,000 to 50,000 tons of grain for free to each of six African nations in the next three to four months — an amount dwarfed by the 725,000 tons shipped by the UN World Food Program to several hungry countries, African and otherwise, under the grain deal.

Russia plans to send the free grain to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Eritrea and Central African Republic. Fewer than 20 of Africa's 54 heads of state or government attended the Russia summit, while 43 attended the previous gathering in 2019, reflecting concerns over Russia's invasion of Ukraine even as Moscow seeks more allies on the African continent of 1.3 billion people.

Biden needs young voters to win again

JOE BIDEN IS ALREADY THE OLDEST SITTING PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY AT AGE 80

AGENCIES

Washington, July 30: At 24, Alberto Rodriguez has grandparents younger than Joe Biden. But he's more interested in the 80-year-old president's accomplishments than his age.

"People as young as me, we're all focusing on our day-to-day lives and he has done things to help us through that," Rodriguez, a cook at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, said of Biden's support among young voters.

Rodriguez pointed specifically to federal COVID-19 relief payments and government spending increases on infrastructure and other social programmes.

Voters like him were a key piece of Biden's winning 2020 coalition, which included majorities of young people as well as college graduates, women, urban and suburban voters and



Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, receiving close to \$2 billion a year in official development assistance, according to the World Bank

It is also a security partner of former colonial power France and the United States, which both use it as a base to fight an Islamist insurgency in West and Central Africa's wider Sahel region

stitutions, cut off the country from the regional central bank and financial market, and close borders. The West African leaders could for the first time, consider a military intervention to restore Bazoum who was ousted when General Abdourahamane Tiani was declared new head of state



People walk during a pride parade in Bucharest, Romania. According to organizers and local media, the pride parade was the largest to date in the Romanian capital with more than twenty thousand participants calling for legal rights for gay people, like civil partnership, marriage or the right to adopt a child

Russia says it brought down 3 Ukrainian drones

REUTERS

Moscow, July 30: Russia's Defence Ministry said it had brought down three Ukrainian drones early Sunday that had been trying to attack Moscow.

Nobody was hurt and there was only minor damage to the facade of two office buildings in the Moskva-Citi business district, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said. The area, several miles from the Kremlin, is known for its modern high-rise towers and



Russia accuses Ukraine of new drone attack on Moscow

Says all three drones shot down or forced to crash

Nobody hurt, minor damage to two buildings - mayor

one of the buildings damaged was home to three Russian government ministries as well as residential apartments, Russian media reported.

The fact that hostile drones have begun reaching the heart

of the Russian capital in recent months, even if they do not inflict serious damage, is uncomfortable for the authorities who have told the public that Russia is in full control of what they call its "special military operation"

44 killed in suicide blast at Islamic party's meeting in Pakistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar, July 30: A powerful blast triggered by a suicide bomber killed at least 44 people and injured nearly 100 others on Sunday at a rally of a hard-line Islamic party in a restive tribal district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

The explosion took place at 4 pm at the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers' convention in Khar, the capital of Bajaur tribal district.

At least 44 people were killed and nearly 100 injured in the blast, police sources said.

Saad Khan, the district emergency officer in the Bajaur region, said that Maulana Ziaullah Jan, JUI-F's local leader, was also killed in the blast, one of the worst in recent years.

Rescue workers said they feared the number of casualties would rise. Television footage showed panic-stricken people gathering at the site following the blast as ambulances arrived to move the injured to hospitals.

Over 500 people were attending the convention when the blast occurred. DIG police Malakand Range Nasir Mehmud Satti said the initial investigation revealed it was a suicide blast. However, evidence is being collected to determine the nature of the blast. An official of the Bomb Disposal Unit said the initial investigation report confirmed it was a suicide blast in which 12 kg explosives were used.

The area was sealed and a search operation has been ini-

tiated, he said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the blast at the JUI-F convention. He said terrorists targeted those who advocated the cause of Islam, the Holy Quran and Pakistan.

Elements involved in the incident would be meted out with strict punishment, he said. President Arif Alvi prayed for eternal peace for the departed souls and commiserated with the bereaved families.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah vowed to bring the perpetrators of today's attack to justice. The JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman demanded Prime Minister Sharif and the province's caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan to investigate the incident.

Chief Minister Khan condemned the blast and sought a report from the district administration. Police said that the injured have been shifted to a nearby hospital. The condition of many injured people was stated to be critical. The US extended its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured in the suicide blast and vowed its support for Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist attacks following the Afghan Taliban's return to power in August 2021 and called upon the interim rulers to take decisive actions against terrorists including the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) responsible for cross-border attacks.

Typhoon Doksuri batters China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, July 30: Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from flood-prone areas of Beijing as Typhoon Doksuri lashed China's capital with heavy rain on Sunday and residents were urged to stay indoors.

The deadly storm has been sweeping northeast over China since Friday when it careened into the southern Fujian province after battering the Philippines.

The Chinese capital and surrounding region were drenched over the weekend, with officials warning of potentially hazardous conditions including floods, swelling rivers, mudslides, and landslides.

More than 27,000 people in high-risk areas of Beijing have been evacuated, and another 20,000 were relocated from parts of Hebei's capital Shijiazhuang, state media said.

Hundreds of millions of people in northern China, including in Beijing, remain under a red alert - the highest level - for heavy precipitation through at least Monday afternoon.

Beijing residents were urged not to go outside unless necessary, advice that appeared widely heeded with the usually buzzing streets empty of many cars or pedestrians.

Many popular sites in the capital were temporarily closed, including the Forbidden City, libraries, and museums.

The sprawling National Centre for the Performing Arts, located near Tiananmen Square, cancelled opera and musical performances scheduled for Sunday.



or Trump. "There's a frustration and exhaustion that they feel with the rematch," Terrance Woodbury, co-founder and CEO of the Democratic polling firm HIT Strategies, said of young voters.

Biden's campaign is relying heavily on the Democratic National Committee, which during last year's midterms, hired campus organisers in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and other

battleground states and offered weekly youth coordinating meetings to encourage in-class contacts and "dormstorms".

The DNC sees young people as some of the most critical voters it will need to reach in 2024 and promises "significant investments" to mobilise them. Plans are underway to expand on its work last cycle, including trainings it held on how best to turn out voters.

The Republican National Committee is trying to use Biden's age against him, posting online videos of Biden seeming frail or making verbal gaffes, such as when he declared in June "God save the queen," nearly nine months after the death of England's Queen Elizabeth II. Rodriguez shrugged off online attacks, "People can make all the hit pieces and memes and TikToks all they want."

business



We urge the government to take some steps to check these imports (steel products from a select group of countries including China). The government can put anti-dumping duty (ADD) and countervailing duty (CVD) on the import of the items
ABHYUDAY JINDAL | MD, JSL

BANKBAZAAR.COM IPO ON CARDS

Fintech firm BankBazaar.Com expects its bottomline to turn positive this financial year helped by newer products including co-branded credit cards on UPI. Post breakeven, the company would start the preparation for listing and hopes to file the Draft Red Herring Prospectus for initial public offering (IPO) in the next financial year, BankBazaar.Com founder and CEO Adhil Shetty said



of the day quote

We are quite excited with what is happening in India. We are eager and hopeful that there will be large-scale manufacturing facilities set up here. We know what it takes, and we have seen it in many countries



SRINIVAS SATYA | COUNTRY PRESIDENT, APPLIED MATERIALS INDIA

All our businesses are well-positioned, and we expect high-single-digit consolidated topline growth for FY24



DILIP SHANGKVI | MD, SUN PHARMA

Apart from earnings, we have been closely following the performance of global indices for cues and the prevailing buoyancy in the US markets gives us the comfort to hold the bullish view



AJIT MISHRA | SVP- TECHNICAL RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING

PCI seen rising nearly 70% to \$4K by FY30

The report sees as many as nine states growing to the upper middle income country status with \$4,000 in per capita income

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: The country's per capita income (PCI) is likely to grow by close to 70 per cent to \$4,000 by fiscal 2030 from \$2,450 in fiscal 2023, helping it become a middle-income economy with \$6-trillion GDP, more than half of which will be coming in from household consumption, says a research report.

Per capita income/GDP has risen from \$460 in fiscal 2001 to \$1,413 in fiscal 2011 and further to \$2,150 in fiscal 2021. The biggest growth driver will be external trade which may nearly double to \$2.1 trillion by 2030 from \$1.2 trillion in fiscal 2023 when the GDP printed in at \$3.5 trillion, Standard Chartered

Bank said in a weekend report which assumes a 10 per cent nominal GDP growth annually from now on.

According to the report, the second biggest growth driver will be household consumption which is seen jumping to \$3.4 trillion by fiscal 2030—which as big as the current size of the GDP—from \$2.1 trillion in fiscal 2023. Household consumption is as much as 57 per cent of GDP now.

Last week Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he would ensure that the economy becomes \$5 trillion during his next term in office, which will make it the third largest after the US and China. Currently, Japan is at the third slot and Germany



at four. Currently, Telangana leads in the per capita income league table with Rs 2,75,443 or \$3,360 in FY23, followed by Karnataka with (Rs 2,65,623), Tamil Nadu (Rs 2,41,131), Kerala (Rs 2,30,601), and Andhra Pradesh with Rs 2,07,771.

But StanC report sees Gujarat leading on this from fiscal 2030, followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The report also did not name other three states, though. Among these Telangana, Delhi,

Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra together account for 20 per cent of the national GDP today, and will have per capita GDP of \$6,000 by fiscal 2030.

On the other hand, large states UP and Bihar, which together make up 25 per cent of the population, will have per capita income below \$2,000 even in fiscal 2030, which still be two times their fiscal 2020 levels.

Currently, the household consumption expenditure accounts for 57 per cent of its GDP and if household expenditure share

falls by 1 per cent, the size of the consumer market will still be the size of the economy today.

The overriding growth enabler will continue to be the higher share of working age population. The share of working age population in the country in 2020 was 64.2 per cent, which will rise to 64.8 per cent, may marginally slip to 63.6 per cent in 2040 and further down to 61.1 per cent in 2050.

This will help the economy benefit from labour efficiency, capital deployment, and continued increase in working age population. However, persistently negative growth in employment rate is a drag on per capita real GDP growth.

The report also names the consistent reform progress, macro stability, healthy financial sector, deleveraging of corporate sector and public capex push as other growth enablers.

Hybrid schemes gain traction; attract ₹14K-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: After witnessing incessant outflow for three consecutive quarters, hybrid mutual fund schemes have caught investors' fancy and attracted over Rs 14,000 crore for three months ended June, following a recent change in taxation for debt funds.

This was way higher than the Rs 10,084 crore inflow seen in hybrid schemes in the April-June quarter of 2022, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

In addition, the asset base of hybrid funds and investors' account or folio numbers of such schemes increased in the quarter under review.

Hybrid funds are mutual fund schemes that typically invest in a combination of equity and debt securities and sometimes in other asset categories such as gold.

Mcap of 7 of top-10 valued firms declines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms fell by Rs 77,434.98 crore last week, with ITC and HDFC Bank taking the biggest hit, in-line with a muted trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark fell by 524.06 points or 0.78 per cent. While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC and Bajaj Finance Limited were the main laggards in the top-10 pack, Infosys, State Bank of India and Bharti Airtel made gains in their market capitalisation (mcap).

The valuation of ITC fell by Rs 26,192.05 crore to Rs 5,83,732.19 crore. HDFC Bank's mcap declined by Rs 22,747.89 crore to Rs 12,40,322.63 crore and that of Bajaj Finance plunged Rs 12,127.47 crore to Rs 4,47,298.52 crore.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries tumbled Rs 5,818.43 crore to Rs 17,10,076.74 crore and that of TCS went lower by Rs 5,214.15 crore to Rs 12,27,739.80 crore.

Hindustan Unilever's valuation eroded by Rs 4,417.23 crore to Rs 6,07,369.34 crore and that of ICICI Bank dipped by Rs 917.76 crore to Rs 6,96,495.74 crore.

However, the mcap of Bharti Airtel jumped Rs 5,643.3 crore to Rs 5,00,369.30 crore and that of Infosys climbed Rs 4,129.44 crore to Rs 5,56,271.03 crore.

The valuation of State Bank of India gained Rs 981.71 crore to Rs 5,49,800.72 crore. In the ranking of top-10 companies, Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance.

INTEREST RATE 'RBI may keep status-quo'

THE BORROWING COST WHICH STARTED RISING IN MAY LAST YEAR HAS STABILISED WITH RBI KEEPING THE REPO RATE UNCHANGED AT 6.5% SINCE FEB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status-quo on the key interest rates for the third time in a row in its upcoming bi-monthly policy review despite the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank hiking benchmark rates, as domestic inflation is within the RBI's comfort zone, say experts.

In the previous two bi-monthly policy reviews in April and June the benchmark rate was retained.

The RBI Governor-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled August 8-10. The policy decision would be announced August 10 by Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"We do expect the RBI to hold on to a status quo position on both rates and stance. The reason is that while inflation is presently running at less than 5 per cent there would be some upside risk to this number in the coming months with prices of vegetables and pulses going up sharply. Therefore, an extended pause is expected," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda.

In fact, he added that with the

The surge in vegetable prices is likely to push the CPI or retail inflation above 6 per cent in July 2023. As a result, we expect the MPC's commentary to be fairly hawkish, amid a continued pause on the repo rate and stance in the upcoming policy review
ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST (HEAD RESEARCH AND OUTREACH), ICRA

India's retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index rose to a three-month high of 4.81% in June, mainly on account of hardening prices of food. The inflation, however, remains within the RBI's comfort level of below 6%

RBI having a forecast of inflation of 5.4 per cent for the third quarter, it looks unlikely that the repo rate or stance may be changed till the beginning of the next calendar year.

Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank said: "On the policy stance, since the liquidity conditions have turned favourable post the announcement of the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 note, we expect the RBI to continue to hold on to the current stance of withdrawal of accommodation". All eyes will be on how do-

mestic inflation plays out and the global cues that are suggesting a greater probability of a peak out of the US Fed's monetary tightening cycle, thus easing, Bhardwaj added.

Last week, the US Federal Reserve increased interest rate by 25 basis points to 5.25-5.5 per cent, taking it to a multi-year high. The European Central Bank Thursday announced a new rate increase of a quarter percentage point, bringing its main rate to 3.75 per cent. The European Central Bank

too has increased its main rate by a quarter percentage point.

On expectations from the upcoming RBI Policy, V Swaminathan, Executive Chairman, Andromeda Sales said the central bank will maintain the status quo and opt for hawkish stance in view of the recent rate hikes announced by the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank.

"Secondly, the retail inflation may not ease to the anticipated levels on account of widespread rains and disruption in supply chain due to flooding in different parts of the country. Taking into account these factors the best possible course for the central bank would be to go in for the status quo for the third time in a row," he added.

The last MPC meeting was held during June 6-8.

The MPC consists of three external members and three officials of the RBI. The external members on the panel are Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, and Jayanth R Varma. Besides Governor Das, the other RBI officials in MPC are Rajiv Ranjan (Executive Director) and Michael Deabrata Patra (Deputy Governor).

Foreign investors' buying spree continues

FPIs INVEST ₹45,365CR IN EQUITIES IN JULY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continue with their buying spree in July with a net infusion of Rs 45,365 crore in Indian equity markets on stable macroeconomic fundamentals and steady earnings growth.

However, it appears that the momentum of buying has slowed down and FPIs have turned sellers during the two trading days ahead of the US Federal Reserve meeting Wednesday.

According to the data, FPIs have been continuously buying Indian equities since March and infused Rs 45,365 crore this



month. Only one trading day is left in July. Also, this figure marks the third straight month, when the net flows have sur-

passed Rs 40,000 crore mark. It was Rs 47,148 crore in June and Rs 43,838 crore in May.

During the last three months, from May to July, FPIs invested Rs 1.36 lakh crore in Indian equity markets. Before March, overseas investors pulled out Rs 34,626 crore collectively in January and February.

Apart from equities, overseas investors injected Rs 3,340 crore

into the Indian debt market during the period under review.

With this, inflow in the equity market reached Rs 1.22 lakh crore, and while the same for debt was at over Rs 20,000 crore so far this year, data with the depositories showed.

In terms of sectors, financials, automobiles, capital goods, real estate, and FMCG continue to attract the bulk of FPI investment.

AN EASY GUIDE TO HOME INSURANCE CLAIMS

There are very few assets which are as valuable to us as our home; a house is our treasured asset for many reasons. Leaving aside the monetary aspect, our home also holds a deep emotional value. Given our home's importance in our life, it is only natural for us to want our place to be safe.

One product that helps us secure our home is 'Home Insurance', an insurance cover that protects the home against unforeseen events like natural calamities, theft and burglary, fire and allied perils; additionally, it covers the breakdown of domestic appliances due to voltage fluctuations and accidental damages as opted under policy. Through this policy, you can insure your flat, independent building, or villa. Having home insurance ensures that should anything happen to your home,

you will be able to deal with the exigency without losing all your hard-earned savings. This naturally makes the claims process the most important aspect, so let us take some time to understand the claims process of home insurance.

How to initiate home insurance claims?

The first step is to inform the insurance company about the event over email, through call or the mobile application of the insurer. You can also contact your insurance advisor/agent in case the policy purchase has been assisted from their side. You will require the policy number while you inform the insurer about the loss, so keep it handy for a smooth process.

In case of a relatively smaller claim amount of below Rs 1 lakh the insurance company may not assign an independent surveyor,



but if the claim amount exceeds the mentioned limit, then the insurance company will assign a surveyor or claims assessor to evaluate the extent of the damage. A surveyor is an independent third party that investigates the loss and estimates the repair cost. The surveyor will visit your home to assess the loss and will prepare a loss assessment report. They may ask you for supporting documents like purchase bills, repair bills of various electronics/assets etc. Surveyor will

then submit the assessment report to the insurance company and the claims department will verify the documents and arrive at the final claim assessment amount as per policy terms and conditions. The insurance company will inform you about the final claim assessed amount and will seek your consent before they release the payment to the bank account which you would have given to them with NEFT details.

Importance of the claim form: A duly filled claim form is crucial for the claim settlement. Fill out the form clearly and state the details as accurately as possible. In case of damage to the contents inside the house, give the list of the damaged assets. Double-check the form to make sure everything is correct and complete; this will help ensure a seamless process. Attach all

the supporting documents as required. Also, mention the add-on covers, if opted under the policy, like accidental damage, loss of rent or rent for alternative accommodation, etc.

Collect additional documents: Take photographs or videos of the loss; it will work as additional supporting documents. In case of vandalism, robbery or any such man-made disaster or a malicious damage, file the first information report with the local police station, which you will have to submit along with the claim form. In case of flood, inundation or any other natural calamity, reports from India Meteorological Department (IMD), media reports/paper cuttings talking about the event, will also come in handy while filing the claim.

It can be a scary experience to undergo if anything happens to

your much-beloved home, and insurers do understand this. They try to settle the claim as early as possible to help you resume your life at the earliest. Rest assured, as long as the claim is admissible and is within the purview of the policy, it will be honoured by the insurance company. It is advisable to go through the terms and conditions of the policy, as well as do a detailed study of the insurer, before buying the policy. Always choose an insurer that is known for its claim-paying capacity and stands by its customers during their time of need. After all claims are the most important aspect of your entire insurance journey!

Surdeep Singh Batra - National Head - of Retail Non-Motor Underwriting & Coinsurance, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

India's WC aspirants flop

India's World Cup team contenders fail big time as West Indies level ODI series with their first win against Men in Blue since Dec 2019

AGENCIES

Bridgetown, July 30: The batting audition of India's World Cup aspirants didn't go as per plan on a bouncy track as West Indies levelled the three-match ODI series with a comfortable six-wicket victory, riding on superb bowling efforts from Romario Shepherd and Gudakesh Motie.

Indian team management's decision to rest skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli badly backfired as none of the middle-order batters could cope with pace, bounce and turn, getting all-out for 181 in 40.5 overs in the rain-marred second ODI, here Saturday.

In reply, West Indies survived a lively spell from Shardul Thakur (3/42 in 8 overs) before skipper Shai Hope (63 not out, 80 balls) and young Keacy Carty (48 not out, 65 balls) added 91 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket to close the game in 36.4 overs and break a chain of nine successive bilateral defeats since December, 2019.

However it was an inept batting effort that became India's undoing. Losing five wickets for 23 runs in just 7.2 overs after opening stand of 90 between Ishan Kishan (55 off 55 balls) and Shubman Gill (34 off 49 balls) hurt India's cause after the West Indies skipper Shai Hope opted to bowl.

The rationale behind Rohit and Kohli's forced break with only 10 months left before the big event, didn't make much sense. Not to forget that the failures left more questions than answers.

There were two rain delays but the West Indies bowlers never let their intensity drop in an impressive display.

While Kishan, who will not open during World Cup, consolidated his case for selection as second wicket-keeper (provided KL Rahul gets fit for World Cup) with a second successive half-century,



We will always look at the bigger picture. At this stage in the cycle, the Asia Cup and World Cup coming up we have to look at the bigger picture because of some of the injuries we have. We can't get worried about every single game. Every single series, if we do that it will be a mistake

RAHUL DRAVID | HEAD COACH, INDIA

the same couldn't be said about Sanju Samson (9 off 19 balls) and Axar Patel (1 off 8 balls).

Promoted as Nos 3 and 4 to keep the left-right combination going, both players struggled not only against short-ball tactic employed by Jayden Seales (1/28 in 6 overs), Alzarri Joseph (2/35 from 7 overs) and Shepherd (3/37 in 8 overs) but also the grip, turn and bounce that spinners Motie (3/36 in 9.3 overs) and Yannic Cariah (1/25 in 5 overs) generated.

Kishan, who had by then completed his 50, tried to square cut Shepherd when the ball bounced a tad more and the width wasn't big enough but Alick Athanaze took a fine diving catch at point.

Stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya (7 off 14 balls) was peppered with short balls and fi-

nally his patience gave off as he tried to pull Seals and Brandon King had an easy catch at mid-wicket. Seals and Joseph had pried on the Pandya's patience for a fair duration.

Axar Patel (1), who is now more of a batter in white ball cricket than a bowler, was sent in at No 4, a slot which India haven't yet got a hang since they are waiting for Shreyas Iyer to get fit. He got an unplayable one from Shepherd and it brushed his gloves before landing safely into Shai Hope's gloves.

Samson, who has a good chance of missing out on the final 15 berth, never looked in sync, having last played a competitive match May 19 in the IPL. He has never read leg-spinners well in his career (case in point Wanindu Hasaranga in

BROAD BIDS ADIEU

ENGLAND PACE GREAT STUART BROAD, SECOND-HIGHEST TEST WICKET-TAKER AFTER ANDERSON, STUNS CRICKET WORLD BY ANNOUNCING HIS RETIREMENT

AGENCIES

London, July 30: Joe Root scored 91, England No 11 James Anderson smashed two fours in the final over and fellow bowling great Stuart Broad announced his shock retirement from cricket in another eventful day in the Ashes series which saw the hosts take a commanding 377-run lead over Australia at stumps Saturday.

Broad called time on his 17-year-old career at the end of Day 3 of the final Ashes Test at The Oval.

"Tomorrow or Monday will be my last game of cricket," Broad said. "It's been a wonderful ride, a huge privilege to wear the Nottinghamshire and England badge for as much as I have."

The 37-year-old has claimed 602 wickets in 167 Tests, making him the second most successful pacer in Test history behind team-mate James Anderson.

Broad, who made his Test

debut against Sri Lanka in 2007, sits fifth on the all-time list of wicket-takers, and is one of only two fast bowlers to take over 600 wickets, alongside long-time bowling partner James Anderson.

The experienced pacer will retire as England's most prolific Ashes bowler of all-time with 151 wickets to date, trailing only Australian titans Shane Warne (195) and Glenn McGrath (157) on the all-time Ashes wickets list.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan, who was leading the national side when Stuart Broad began his Test cricket journey in 2007, showered praise on the veteran pacer after his decision to retire following the Ashes series, saying "all young players aspire to achieve what he has accomplished for the national side."

Taking to social media, Vaughan paid a heartwarming tribute to the veteran seamer on his incredible career and

hailed him as the "ultimate Ashes warrior".

Tributes started flowing in for Stuart after England star's shock retirement call as former Australia fast bowler, Glenn McGrath hailed the English veteran a "true champion" of the game.

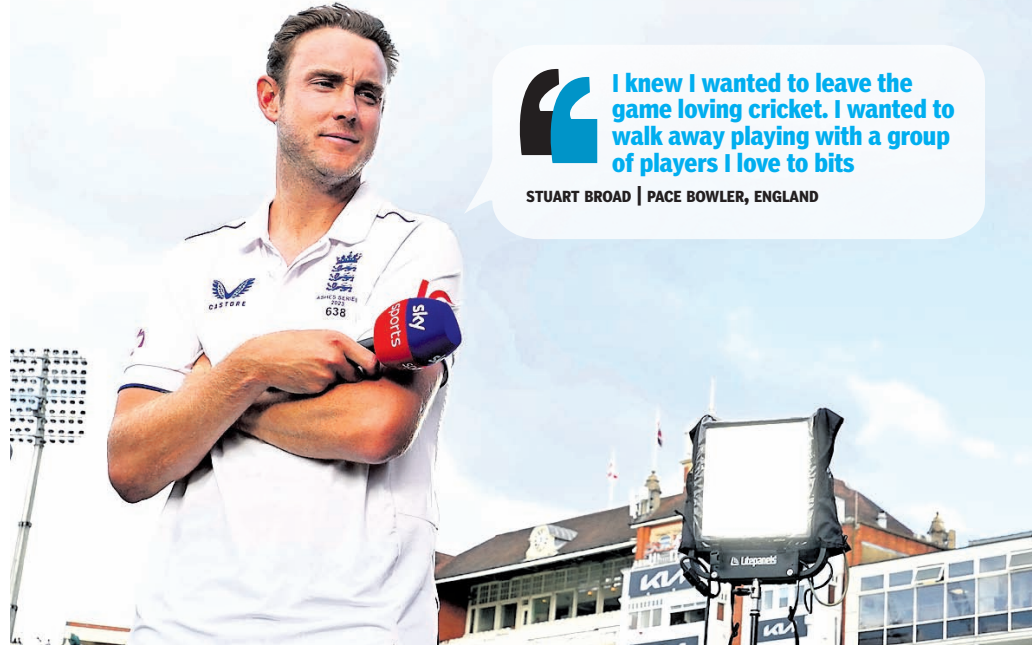
"He loves the big moments, he loves the pressure and that is the sign of a true champion. He has been incredible for England for a long, long time," McGrath told BBC.

The play was abandoned for the day at the Oval Sunday with Australia needing 249 more runs with all wickets intact to beat England in the fifth Ashes test, setting up a potentially thrilling finish to a classic series.

Rain had already frustrated both teams on the fourth day with Australia going to an early tea — which turned into stumps — on 135-0 in its second innings after 38 overs, chasing a target of 384 after quickly dismissing England for 395 in the morning.

David Warner (58 not out) and Usman Khawaja (69 not out) are at the crease.

Holder Australia leads the five-test series 2-1 and has already retained the urn.



I knew I wanted to leave the game loving cricket. I wanted to walk away playing with a group of players I love to bits

STUART BROAD | PACE BOWLER, ENGLAND

BRIEF SCORES

INDIA

181; 40.5 overs (Ishan Kishan 55, Shubman Gill 34, Gudakesh Motie 3/36, Romario Shepherd 3/37)

WEST INDIES

182/4; 36.4 overs (Shai Hope 63 not out, Keacy Carty 48 not out, Kyle Mayers 36; Shardul Thakur 3/42) by 6 wickets

Indian women beat Spain 3-0 to clinch Spanish Federation hockey tournament



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barcelona, July 30: The Indian women's hockey team produced a dominant performance to comfortably beat hosts Spain 3-0 and win the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament here on Sunday.

Vandana Katariya (22nd minute), Monika (48th) and Udita (58th) were the goal scorers as India remained unbeaten in the tournament.

Riding on the success of Saturday's match against England, where Lalremsiami's hat-trick helped them win 3-0, table toppers India got off to strong start in the first quarter.

The Indians started cautiously and maintained a disciplined structure with short, accurate passes that allowed them to create space in the circle. But goals eluded the visitors in the first quarter.

India started the second quarter in a dominant fashion, showing clear intent to take the lead.

They built on a strong attack, with Sushila setting up a fine field goal opportunity in the 22nd minute. She assisted Neha Goyal with a swift pass in the top of the circle, but Neha's shot bounced off the Spanish goalie Clara Perez's pads.

The lead gave India the edge, allowing them to make confident forays into the striking circle.

With a 2-0 lead, India defended stoutly. Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan and Sushila Chanu kept the Spanish attack in check while the forwards pushed for a third goal. The opportunity came knocking two minutes from the final hooter when a confident Udita showed patience, coupled with good dribbling skills, to find the back of the net.

India bag 4th gold in World University Games

THE COUNTRY NOW STANDS AT FOURTH IN MEDAL STANDINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The compound mixed archery team of Aman Saini and Pragati clinched a gold medal, India's fourth in the event, at the World University Games in Chengdu, China Sunday.

Aman and Pragati put up a brilliant show in the final to win the yellow metal, beating Korea's Sua Cho and Seunghyun Park 157-156 in a thrilling summit clash.

The bronze was bagged by Ming-ching Lin and Z-wei Wu of Chinese Taipei.

India are currently placed fourth in the medal standings with 10 medals including four gold, two silver and four bronze.

The Indians won two more medals in archery in men's and women's compound team events.

While the men's compound



Indian archers Aman Saini and Pragati defeat Korea in the Gold medal Match to become the Compound Mix Team Champions at the 31st World University Games, in Chengdu

team of Sangampreet Bisla, Aman Saini and Rishabh Yadav won a bronze beating Korea's

Minchang Kwon, Hakjin Sim and Seunghyun Park 229-225, women's compound trio of

Purvasha, Pragati and Avneet lost 224-229 to Korea's Sooin Sim, Seunghyun Han and Sua Cho in the final to settle for the silver.

The bronze in this event was bagged by Yi-hsuan Lo, Yen-hua Hsu and Ming-ching Lin of Chinese Taipei.

Apart from archery, the Indians also bagged two medals in shooting.

The trio of Vijayveer, Udayveer Sidhu and Adarsh Singh won a silver in the 25m rapid fire pistol team event with a cumulative score of 1729. Surya Pratap, Sartaj Singh and Aishwary Tomar won a bronze in the 50m rifle team category.

With 583 points, Vijayveer has also sailed to the individual final of the 25m rapid fire pistol event.

Aishwary also made it into the final of individual 50m rifle event.

JAPAN OPEN

Axelsen, Se-young win singles titles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tokyo, July 30: Olympic badminton champion Denmark's Viktor Axelsen beat Indonesian Jonatan Christie to bag the men's singles title while Korean star An Se-young outplayed He Bing Jiao of China to win the women's singles crown at the Japan Open, here Sunday.

World number one Axelsen, who recently retained his European title in Poland, registered a 21-7, 21-18 win over Christie, to win his third BWF title of the year.

In the women's singles, world

number two Se Young continued her superb form this season and outshined world no 5 Chinese shuttler 21-15, 21-11 to claim the top spot on the podium.

In the men's doubles, reigning Olympic champions duo Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Li defeated fifth-seeded local pair Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 21-19, 21-13 to win the title.

In the women's doubles, fourth seed Korean combination of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong stunned top seed Chinese Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan 21-17, 21-14 in the final.



UNDERDOG DEBUTANTS

Morocco claim first-ever Women's World Cup win

THE FIRST ARAB OR NORTH AFRICAN NATION TO QUALIFY FOR THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP STUNNED SOUTH KOREA FOR FIRST WOMEN'S WORLD CUP VICTORY

REUTERS

Adelaide, July 30: Debutantes Morocco claimed its first-ever victory at the Women's World Cup with a 1-0 win over South Korea in its second Group H encounter Sunday, all but confirming the Asian side's exit.

Morocco is 55 runs below South Korea in the women's rankings, but the African side made an early breakthrough with their first-ever World Cup goal in the



sixth minute from striker Ibtissam Jraidi.

Hanane Ait El Haj whipped in a cross from the right and Jraidi dived forward to make contact with a deft glancing header that

went in at the far post.

Park Eun-sun nearly levelled with a diving header of her own at the other end but the forward saw her effort go agonisingly wide of the post, much to the

relief of Khadija Er-Rmichi in Morocco's goal.

The 33-year-old Er-Rmichi saw Germany find the net six times in its group opener, but she was hardly tested by the South

Koreans, who failed to have a shot on target and struggled to make inroads into the final third as the Moroccan defence stood firm. Morocco defender Nuhaila Benzina, who became the first player to wear a headscarf at the Women's World Cup, made crucial interventions, while she almost scored from a set-piece when she volleyed a snapshot over the bar.

She even took one for the team when she deliberately clipped Ji So-yeon, who was racing through on goal on a counterattack with support, accepting a yellow card without protest.

But South Korea could not capitalise from the free kick, which hit the wall as coach Collin Bell stood on the touchline shaking his head in frustration.

South Korea's Casey Phair nearly equalised late in the game, but the 16-year-old, who became the youngest player to take the field in Women's World Cup his-

tory in their opener, fired wide to leave them bottom of the group.

"I can't believe it, to be honest. We saved the worst two performances in my tenure for the World Cup. I didn't recognise my own team," said Bell, who took over in 2019 and guided the team to the final of the Asian Cup last year.

"The reality is we were not good enough in both games. Why that was, we have to analyse in detail. I'm not going to let my emotions take over now, and obviously we're all very disappointed.

"The players are much better than they've shown in both matches and it really is almost unbelievable that we've performed like we have."

Morocco is level with Germany and Colombia with three points ahead of its game later Sunday. South Korea has zero points and will be eliminated if Germany avoids defeat.