



AGE NO BAR
Ananya Panday says the age gap between a lead pair is okay as long as they look good on screen
LEISURE P2



RECORD RAIN
China's capital records its heaviest rainfall in at least 140 years over the past few days
INTERNATIONAL P10



STUNNING WIN
Unheralded Mithun Manjunath secures an upset win over World No.7 Kean Yew Loh at the Australia Open badminton
SPORTS P12

Haryana seeks addl forces; death toll mounts to 6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 2: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Wednesday appeared to disagree with his deputy over the cause of the communal violence that has killed six people as he sought four more companies of central forces to restore peace in the state.

Asked about his deputy Dushyant Chautala saying the organisers of the religious procession that was attacked did not give a proper estimation of the expected turnout, Khattar said at a press conference that "it was not like that".

Khattar also sought four additional companies of central forces following the communal clashes and said a battalion of the India Reserve Battalion will also be deployed in Nuh.

Twenty companies of central forces are already deployed in Haryana - 14 in Nuh, three in Palwal, two in Gurugram and one in Faridabad.

Six people, including two home guards and a cleric, have died in the clashes that erupted in Nuh over an attempt to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession and spread to Gurugram over the past two days.

As he appealed for peace, the Chief Minister asserted that those found responsible for the clashes will not be spared. Khattar said 116 people have been arrested and 90 detained since Monday's clashes in Nuh.
MORE P9

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

OVER 14K SCHOOLCHILDREN DISPLACED



UP IN FLAMES: Firefighters try to douse a blaze that was set in a couple of abandoned houses by miscreants at Imphal in violence-hit Manipur
PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: Over 14,000 schoolchildren have been displaced due to the ethnic violence in Manipur, the Ministry of Education said Wednesday.

Over 93 per cent of these children have been admitted to the nearest school, Union Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. "A total of 14,763 school-going

children have been displaced due to the current Manipur situation. A nodal officer has been appointed for each relief camp to facilitate the admission process of the displaced students," she said.

As many as "93.5 per cent of the displaced students have been admitted to a nearest feasible school, free of cost", the minister said. More than 160 people have been killed and hundreds in-

jured since ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur on May 3, after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Now, social security for barbers, tailors

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Workers in 50 more unorganised sectors in Odisha will now be covered under the Odisha Unorganised Workers Social Security Board (OUWSSB) welfare scheme. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday issued direction to officials in this regard.

With this decision, people working as tailors, barbers, fishermen, and those working in spas, beauty parlours and saloons, delivery boys, potters, blacksmiths, pipe mechanics, among others, will be covered under the scheme.

At present, workers in 10 sectors, including street vendors, small shopkeepers, domestic help, rickshawallahs, auto drivers, agricultural workers, forest workers, newspaper hawkers, and sanitation workers are availing themselves of the facilities given under the scheme.

The Chief Minister increased the assistance given to the next of kin of workers registered with the Board in case of death in accidents from ₹2 lakh to ₹4 lakh.

Similarly, the assistance given in the event of the natural death of a worker has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to ₹2 lakh.

Around 3.65 lakh workers registered with the Board are getting the facilities under the scheme launched on May 1, 2017.

HEAVY RAIN BATTERS ODISHA; SCHOOLS SHUT IN OVER 12 DISTRICTS; 1 KILLED & 6 HURT IN WALL COLLAPSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 2: One person was killed and six others, including two children, were injured in separate wall collapse incidents as heavy rain triggered by a deep depression lashed Odisha Wednesday, officials said.

Heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours has led to the swelling of water levels in different rivers in both northern and western Odisha.

Brahmani, Baitarani, Jalaka, Vamsadhara, Nagabali and Jhanjabati rivers were in spate. However, Water Resources department sources claimed that there was absolutely no flood threat except for river Baitarani.

A report from Keonjhar district said that an old woman died as the wall of her dwelling unit collapsed at Ghuntupani village under Jhumpura block. The deceased was identified as Shreemati Lohar (70).

As many as 206 houses have collapsed due to heavy downpour in Keonjhar district, an official at the district emergency cell said.

A report from Kalahandi district said that several kutcha

Rain havoc

83.8 mm average rainfall in last 24 hours

- Boudh block records highest at 390.6 mm
- Goods train derailed between Handapa and Boinda in Angul
- Water level in Brahmani, Baitarani and Vamsadhara rivers expected to rise
- IMD warns of heavy to very heavy rains in 10 districts

houses collapsed due to non-stop rain in several villages under Bhawanipatna, M Rampur, Narla and Jaipatna blocks.

"In Vimla village under Jaipatna block the wall of the house owned by one Laxman Naik collapsed in which his wife and five children were injured," an official said, adding that two minor children were admitted with serious injuries to Jaipatna Community Health Centre and later shifted to Bhawanipatna district headquarters hospital. Meanwhile, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik reviewed the situation due to heavy rain and in-

structed the officials to rush rescue teams and distribute relief materials among the affected people.

The state government has so far rushed 23 rescue teams of NDRF (two), ODRF (eight), and Fire personnel (13) to the rain-affected districts like Bhadrak, Jajpur, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Subarnapur, Boudh and Kandhamal. NDRF teams were deployed in the districts of Bhadrak and Jajpur where the rivers have breached the danger marks.

The authorities announced the temporary closure of educational institutions in more

than 12 districts, officials said. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu also held a review meeting on the prevailing situation and asked Collectors of 17 districts to provide relief to the affected people.

Odisha received an average rainfall of 83.8 mm in the last 24 hours with the highest at 390.6 mm recorded in Boudh block.

At least four blocks received rainfall of more than 300 mm, 17 experienced over 200 mm and 68 recorded between 100 and 200 mm of rain, the officials said.

A goods train derailed between Handapa and Boinda in Angul during the day, after a boulder fell on the engine of the train due to a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall, an official said.

Fire brigade personnel rescued a woman trapped on an island in the Baitarani River in Keonjhar, a district official said.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Keonjhar, and Boudh districts.

Ninth cheetah dies at Kuno National Park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: One more cheetah has died at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, making it the ninth cheetah to die since March, according to a statement from the state Forest department.

"This morning, one of the female cheetah - Dhatri (Tbilisi) - was found dead. A post-mortem is being conducted to determine the cause of death," the statement reads. Fourteen cheetahs - seven male, six female and a female cub - are kept in enclosures in Kuno. A team comprising Kuno wildlife veterinarians and a Namibian expert regularly monitors their health.

One female cheetah is out in the open and is under intensive monitoring by the team. Efforts are underway to bring her back to an enclosure for a health examination, the statement said.

Last month, two cheetahs died due to infection in wounds caused by the radio collars around their necks. However, the environment ministry said all cheetah deaths were due to natural causes.

Experts involved in the cheetah reintroduction project had told PTI that heavy rain, extreme heat, and humidity may have

RAMESH SLAMS MODI GOVERNMENT

Former Environment minister Jairam Ramesh lashed out at the Modi government Wednesday over the latest cheetah death in the Kuno National Park, saying this is what happens when "science and transparency take a backseat". Taking to Twitter, Ramesh said, "Something has really gone wrong at Kuno...The ninth cheetah death took place this morning. The argument that all these deaths are expected mortality is complete nonsense and has been debunked by international cheetah experts." "This is what happens when science and transparency take a backseat. This is what happens when one man's vanity and desperate need for self-glory takes over," the former Environment minister said.

caused the problems, "with the collars fitted around the necks of the cheetahs potentially causing additional complications".

Following the deaths, all the cheetahs, except the two females, were brought back to their enclosures for examination. An expert veterinarian from South Africa cleaned up the wounds. All the cheetahs have been administered Fluralaner, a systemic insecticide and acaricide given orally or topically.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



ARCHANA GETS HC BAIL, BUT TO STAY IN JAIL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 2: The Orissa High Court Wednesday granted conditional bail to Archana Nag in an alleged extortion case registered with Khandagiri police in Bhubaneswar.

While allowing Nag bail in the case registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by her former colleague Shrandhanjali Behera, Justice V Narasingh asked Nag to cooperate in the ongoing investigation, not to leave state without permission and not to influence the witnesses in the case.

The HC had earlier granted bail to Nag in an alleged honey-trapping case registered with Nayapalli police in Bhubaneswar.

However, despite the HC bail, Nag will continue to remain in jail as she is facing another case registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Nag was arrested October 6, 2022 by Nayapalli police following a complaint by film producer Akshay Parija. She has since been in custody for allegedly demanding ransom from Parija and threatening to publicise photographs and video of his intimate moments with a co-accused following non-payment of the demanded ransom amount.

Iconic computer that launched Apple to go under hammer

ABOUT 200 APPLE-1 WERE MANUFACTURED IN STEVE JOBS' GARAGE IN LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA, IN 1976 AND 1977 AND ABOUT 175 OF THEM WERE SOLD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston, August 2: A vintage Apple computer signed by company co-founder Steve Wozniak is being sold at auction.

The Apple-1 set in motion the company that in June became the first publicly traded business to close a trading day with a \$3 trillion market value, according to RR Auction in Boston. The computer has been restored to a fully operational state and comes with a custom-built case with a built-in keyboard, the agency said.

The computer, which originally sold for about \$666, is expected to sell for about \$200,000 at an auction that runs through August 24. An Apple-1 prototype

sold last year for nearly \$700,000. About 200 were manufactured in Steve Jobs' garage in Los Altos, California, in 1976 and 1977 and, about 175 of them were sold, RR's Executive Vice President Bobby Livingston said.

"It is the legendary computer that launched Apple," he said. Jobs approached Paul Terrell, owner of The Byte Shop in Mountain View, California, and he agreed to buy 50 Apple-1 computers, but only if they were fully assembled, according to RR Auction. The Apple-1 thus became one of the first personal computers that did not require soldering by the purchaser, RR said, although it did not come with a power supply, case, key-



An Apple-1 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California
PC: TONY AVELAR/EPA

board or monitor. It was followed by the introduction of the Apple-2 in 1977, which revolutionized the personal computing industry.

The Apple-1 up for auction was signed "Woz" by Wozniak at an event at Bryant University in 2017. The signature "adds to the desirability," Livingston said.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	65782.78 ↓ 676.53
NIFTY	19526.50 ↓ 207.00
DOLLAR	82.63 ↑ ₹0.31
EURO	90.78 ↑ ₹0.32
GOLD	₹59,120 ↑ ₹181
SILVER	₹72,918 ↓ ₹1025

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 26.2°C	25.8°C
	MIN 24.2°C	24.0°C
Humidity	100%	98%
Rainfall	21.3mm	47.8mm
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



LIZZO ACCUSED OF RACIAL, SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Pop star Lizzo is being sued by three of her former dancers over claims including sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. The lawsuit, filed, includes accusations of sexual, religious and racial harassment, discrimination, assault and false imprisonment, reports [bbc.com](#).

BEYONCE PAYS TRIBUTE TO FAN WHO DIED AFTER BEING STABBED

Singer Beyonce Knowles has paid a tribute to a special fan named O'Shae Sibley, who passed away after being fatally stabbed at a Mobil gas station in Brooklyn for voguing to one of her songs. She made use of her official website to honour her late fan, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Right now you need to summon all your mental abilities as you will have to take quick, on-the-spot decisions. However, Ganesh cautions you to take proper advice as your decisions may have a long-term impact, more so if they involve monetary matters.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you acting very possessive about people and things. You are, consequently, likely to feel suspicious, uncertain and insecure about everything, particularly people. It's even possible that you may even suspect the feelings and intentions of those who are close to you. An uneasy anxiety and excitement will prevail at home.

GEMINI
You will be seized by a desire to go on a trip with friends and family. This trip may have been some time in the planning as well. The day will be filled with fun and frolic and entertainment. Marital life will be blissful as well, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Though you work with dedication, you will be dejected as higher-ups do not fully appreciate your devotion. Don't take it to heart, says Ganesh, and suggests not to be sad. In the end, you will succeed with your firmness and boldness. By evening, you may have tense moments.

LEO
Your competitors will try to malign your reputation today. They will try to spoil your image and impression in front of others. You need to be courageous and nip their efforts in the bud. You need to delegate decision-making activities to others today.

VIRGO
Ganesh says a turning point in life is important if you wish to understand it in a better way. You will excel in whatever you do today. Financial matters and relationships are on top of the priority list, but perhaps not in the same order. You will spend a lot of time praying to God.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be a different person today, full of vigor and enthusiasm. You will be able to showcase your creative skills in your personal life and at the same time you will be able to go ahead in your chosen field and gain prestige too. You will have to make a decision about studying further in the field of higher education abroad.

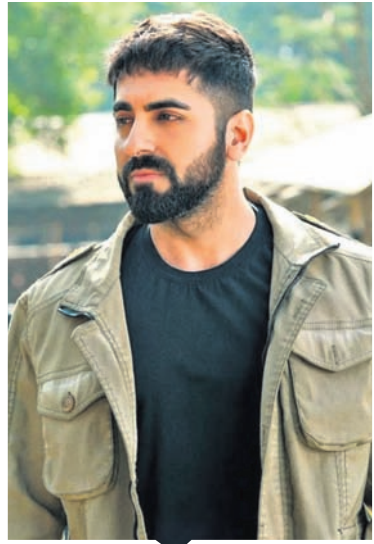
SCORPIO
Elegance personified, you are loaded with compliments today. This may encourage you to do better work and have good equations with people. However, make sure your success does not go to your head and affect your work, warns Ganesh. Watch your words while communicating.

SAGITTARIUS
Conversation and interaction with like-minded people is going to make your day, says Ganesh. Shooting ideas, brainstorming and casual discussions may enlighten you today. Those around you will enjoy your company.

CAPRICORN
It is always easy to lose mental balance when going gets tough, but Ganesh advises you to hold on to your patience as it will help you reach your destination. Don't enter into war of words with anyone at work as the conflicts may harm you very badly.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will decide to clean up the pile of files on the desk at work. Also, you will do everything that it requires to lighten the burden. Ganesh advises you to plan out your career wisely and set targets for the future.

PISCES
You are not too much of a money-minded person. Planning your finances for the future may not really be your cup of tea. You take every day as it comes. However, you will have an epiphany of sorts today and decide to become more serious towards life.



Ayushmann's next responds to idea of toxic masculinity

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann Khurrana said he has challenged the idea of toxic masculinity right from the beginning of his career and is confident his upcoming film *Dream Girl 2* will take the discourse to another level.

"From the beginning, I've criticised toxic masculinity. I'm glad that *RARKPK* is doing well. They have set a good ground to address toxic masculinity because our film is going to take it to the next level. It's good to see people accepting these kinds of films on social causes or trying to say something about breaking stereotypes. It's not just the messaging in *Dream Girl 2*, it has a lot of comedy as well," the actor said.

"You take inspiration from Kamal Haasan sir in *Chachi 420* or Govinda in *Aunty No 1*. A lot of actors have done this, including Kishore Kumar ji. So, actors have got an opportunity every decade to play characters like these. I'm glad I got it too with *Dream Girl 2*, which says a lot in a light-hearted, fun way," he added.

Khurrana, also known for social issue-based movies such as *Article 15* and *Badhaai Ho*, said *Dream Girl 2* has been his most massy film. **PTI**

Let's not fixate on age: Ananya

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday will be next seen in *Dream Girl 2*, which pairs her with actor Ayushmann Khurrana. At the trailer launch of the film Tuesday, when Ananya was asked about the 14 years age gap between her and Ayushmann, she said that it should not matter as age gaps have always existed in cinema.

At the trailer launch when the 24-year-old was asked about the age difference between herself and the 38-year-old Ayushmann, she said, "I don't think this is today's issue. The age difference has always existed. People should not fixate on age while watching the film. If they are pre-occupied with this factor, then it becomes a problem. As long as two actors are suitable for their respective roles, it's perfectly acceptable."

Dream Girl 2 is the spiritual sequel to the 2019 film *Dream Girl* and it stars Ayushmann Khurrana, Vijay Raaz, Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Annu Kapoor, Manoj Joshi, Seema Pahwa, Manjot Singh and Abhishek Banerjee is set to be released August 25 in theatres. **AGENCIES**



Nargis finds joining 'OTT gang' enticing

New Delhi: Actress Nargis Fakhri has expressed her excitement on joining the 'OTT gang', with her debut in *Tatubaaaz*, calling it an undeniably enticing and exhilarating experience.

Nargis made her acting debut with a lead role in Imtiaz Ali's musical romantic drama *Rockstar* in 2011, opposite Ranbir Kapoor.

Reflecting on her foray into the ever-evolving landscape of OTT, the Rockstar actress said, "In the ever-evolving landscape of OTT, the surge of 'captivating content' has made joining the 'OTT gang' undeniably enticing. Having worked in films previously, the opportunity to dive into a series was a refreshing and exhilarating experience for me." *Tatubaaaz* will stream on EPIC ON, the OTT platform under the IN10 Media Network umbrella. Talking about the same, Nargis added, "EPIC ON is venturing into the realm of OTT originals with an unyielding hunger to establish its mark in the market. Together, we embrace the challenge and excitement of delivering exceptional storytelling in this ever-evolving landscape."

Set against the enchanting backdrop of Varanasi, the show delves into the gripping tale of a notorious con artist, weaving a web of intrigue and suspense.

On the work front, Nargis was last seen in *Shiv Shastri Baiboa*. **IANS**

Art director Nitin Desai found dead

Desai was the creator of lavish sets for films such as 'Lagaan', 'Devdas' and 'Jodhaa Akbar' as well as the TV show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' hosted by Amitabh Bachchan



Mumbai: Renowned art director Nitin Desai was found hanging at his studio in Karjat near Mumbai Wednesday. He was 57. Desai's company ND's Art World Pvt Ltd had defaulted on a Rs 252-crore loan to its financial creditor, according to an insolvency petition filed in a bankruptcy court last week.

"Desai's body was found hanging with a rope in the morning at ND Studios," Raigad Superintendent of Police Somnath Gharge told reporters, adding that it seemed to be a case of suicide and the case was being investigated from all angles.

Police rushed to the studio in Karjat area in Raigad, about 50 km from Mumbai, as soon as information of his death came in.

Desai's company had borrowed Rs 185 crore through two loans from ECL Finance in 2016 and 2018, and troubles with repayments started from January 2020.

His sudden death shocked the industry with Hema Malini, Manoj Bajpayee, Sanjay Dutt, Resul Pookutty, Madhur Bhandarkar and Siddhartha Basu among others sending their condolences. **PTI**

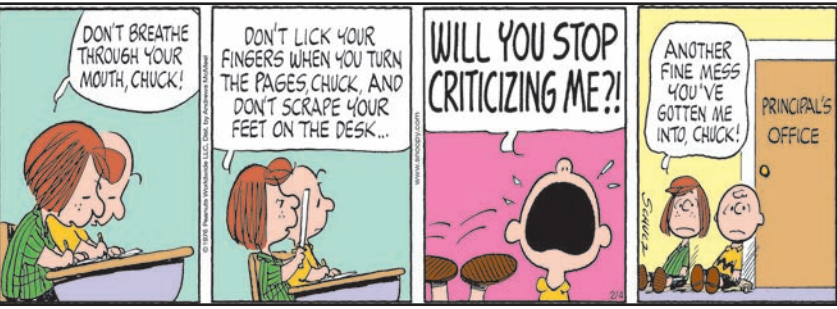
FIRST LOOK



Artistes and crew members of upcoming Odia fiction show *Ama Jhili*, to be aired on Zee Sarthak channel from August 7, released the serial's poster at a City hotel in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. **OP PHOTO**

FUN post

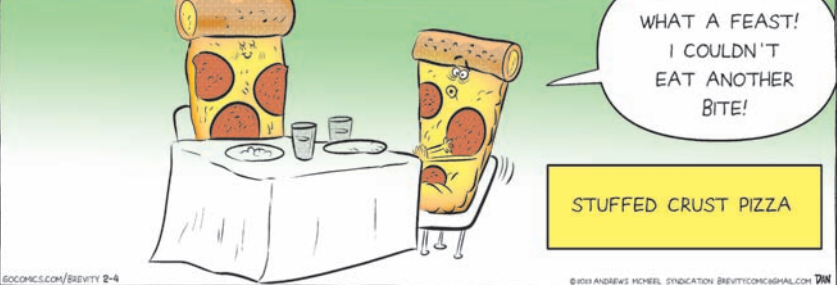
PEANUTS



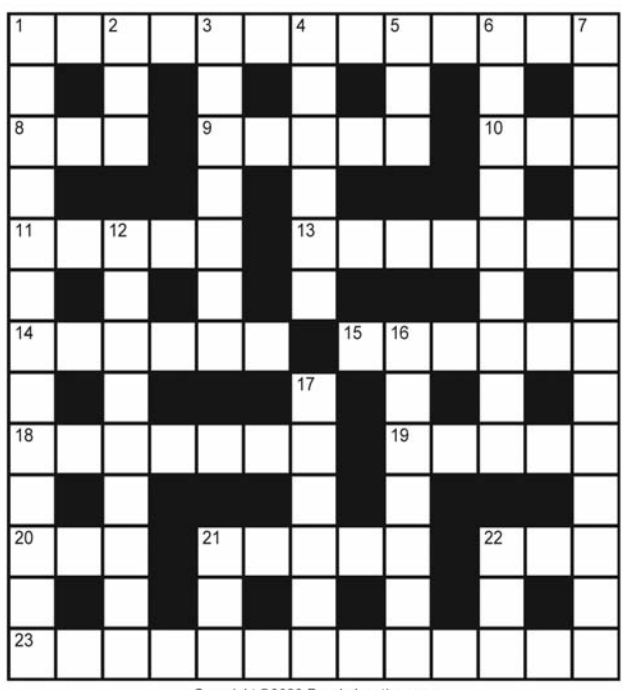
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



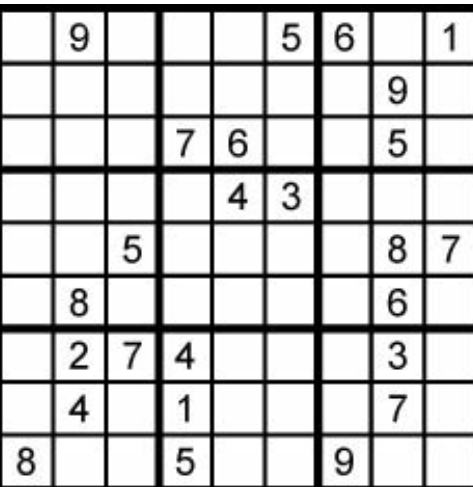
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Popular dog breed (6,7)
 - 8 Purchase
 - 9 True heath
 - 10 Flyspeck
 - 11 African antelope
 - 13 Light lager
 - 14 Enigma
 - 15 Kitty-cat, for one
 - 18 Worship
 - 19 Coronet
 - 20 Genesis name
 - 21 Riyadh resident
 - 22 Corn site
 - 23 Technology type (5,2,3,3)
- Down**
- 1 Pleasure boats (5,8)
 - 2 Have a bawl
 - 3 Examine
 - 4 Lean
 - 5 Literary olio
 - 6 Java locale
 - 7 Author's negotiator (8,5)
 - 12 Pegasus's neighbor
 - 16 Two-toed flightless bird
 - 17 Cold shoulder
 - 21 Take to court
 - 22 Sri Lanka export

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

EW NABS 6TH ACCUSED IN GOVT SUBSIDY FRAUD CASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has arrested another fraudster for his involvement in misappropriating government subsidies of ₹7.16 crore meant for supply of agricultural equipment to farmers, an EOW official said Wednesday.

The accused identified as Prahallad Meshua, proprietor of Subhalaxmi Traders, Bargarh was arrested Wednesday. Earlier, five persons including the prime accused Srinath Rana were arrested in this case by the EOW.

This case was registered based on the complaint filed by KG Sree Charan, director of Varushapriya Agrotech Pvt Ltd, Bangalore.

Prime accused in the case, Srinath Rana, who earlier worked as regional manager in the said company, was authorised to register the sale of machinery in Odisha and facilitate subsidies to the beneficiaries/ farmers by accessing the state Agriculture department website.

During the period from 2017-21, accused Srinath in criminal conspiracy with the present accused Prahallad and several other dealers had fraudulently uploaded the details of more than 556 paddy transplanters and equal number of beneficiaries covering 18 districts of Odisha. The accused have done it without the knowledge of the complainant farm, the officials said.

Five persons including the prime accused Srinath Rana were earlier arrested in this case by the EOW

By submitting fake documents, the accused managed to get release of subsidy amount to the tune of about ₹7.16 crore in favour of the beneficiaries.

Soon after the credit of subsidy amounts in accounts of beneficiary farmers, the accused persons in a criminal conspiracy with others used to lure the beneficiaries by giving them some token amount and were grabbing the subsidy amount, they said.

The cost of the transplanter ranges from ₹2.33 lakh to ₹3 lakh and the government released subsidy amounts ranging from ₹3,320 to ₹1.50 lakh.

Out of 556 paddy transplanters, 54 are shown to have been supplied by Prahallad, proprietor of Subhalaxmi Traders, who was also the authorised dealer of Varushapriya Agrotech Pvt Ltd. The EOW is further investigating the case to find out other persons involved in the fraud.

OCS: Jagatsinghpur girl secures 67th rank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulnakhara, August 2: Desalin Sethy's happiness knew no bounds when she learnt about clearing the Odisha Civil Service (OCS) Examination 2021, the results of which were announced by the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC), Monday.

Born to Gajendra Nath Sethy, a retired divisional senior accounts officer, and Renu Bala Sethy, Desalin secured 67th rank in the OCS 2021 examination.

The Sethys, who hail from Bhuansar village under Tirtol police limits in Jagatsinghpur, were residing in Pokhaript area of Bhubaneswar.

After her schooling from Saraswati Sishu Vidyamandir in Bhitmangi area of Bhubaneswar, Desalin completed her degrees in Agri Sciences from Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University and in Fruit Science and Technology from OUAT in the Capital city.



DEATH TRAP

An open drain in Puri, Wednesday. Open drains across the state have time and again claimed many lives



KESHARPUR

RAIN BATTERS SILVER CITY

As heavy rain triggered by a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal inundates many low-lying areas in the state Wednesday, **Orissa POST** takes stock of the situation in Cuttack



COLLEGE SQUARE



BADAMBADI



PATAPOLA

Lokayukta orders Vig probe into culvert cave-in deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Acting on a report published in **Orissa POST**, the state Lokayukta Wednesday ordered a Vigilance probe into the death of five persons including four children in collapse of an under-construction culvert in Rayagada district.

Five people were crushed to death when a portion of the culvert fell on them while they were taking bath in a rivulet at Upparsaja village in Kalyansinghpur block of the district, July 31.

The deceased were identified as Laxmidhar Miniaka, 50, and his son Prince, 5, Charan Miniaka, 8, and his brother Suman, 7, and another child Manoj Kulesika, 5.

Taking suo motu cognisance on the report published in this newspaper August 1, the



OP IMPACT

Lokayukta has directed the Vigilance to conduct a preliminary inquiry for ascertaining whether there exists a prima facie case for proceeding further in the matter against any public servant or any other person(s).

It is also reported that construction of the culvert had started only two months ago but due to rain, the work had to be stopped.

"Had the construction work really been carried out as per prescribed norms and by using standard material by the contractor under supervision of the concerned government authorities, the culvert would not have collapsed, resulting in untimely tragic deaths of five persons," the Lokayukta observed in its order. The Vigilance was asked to submit the preliminary inquiry report within two months. The case will be heard October 9, 2023.

Mettle Meet to see new blood

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The fifth edition of **Orissa POST** Mettle Meet-2023 will witness participation of some new institutions in Junior and Senior categories for the first time.

These participants are very excited to be part of the quizzing extravaganza and are preparing hard to grab the grand prize.

A total of 74 teams are taking part in the mega event amongst which the new teams are: Stewart School (Bhubaneswar), Christ College (Cuttack), Salipur College (Cuttack), Deepika English Medium School (Rourkela) and VIMSAR (Burla).

Orissa POST spoke to some of the new participants and asked them about their strategies.

Abishek Samuel Patro, a Class XI student of Stewart School, Cuttack, said, "We are excited as well as nervous for the event. We, as a team, have divided different topics of study among ourselves and are preparing accordingly."

Similarly, Manoj Kumar



Behera, a Plus III third year Science student of Salipur College, said, "Participating in a grand competition like Mettle Meet where top educational institutes of the state are in the race is big thing for us and we will try to give our best."

Punyatoya Mishra, a Plus III third year Arts student of Christ College, said, "We will play with no pressure as we are completely new. We are focusing on current affairs of recent times and also using internet for watching quizzes of previous editions."

Arjya Sarathi Swain, a Class XII Science student of English

Medium School, Rourkela said, "We are preparing ourselves by dividing the subjects and categories like general knowledge, current affairs, History and Science among four of us."

Tejesh Banka, a fourth year MBBS student of VIMSAR, Burla, said that they are a little nervous because they had watched the previous edition videos. "We can say that it will be tough task for us but we are preparing our best for it, he added.

Mettle Meet, a quiz initiative, was launched by Odisha's only home-grown English daily Orissa POST in 2016. It was done to revive the art of quizzing in the state. Mettle Meet 2023 will be the fifth edition of the event.

Since its inception, Mettle Meet has created a huge buzz across Odisha and today it is an event that the students eagerly wait for: The high standards of quizzing, the fervour of the competition makes it a standout event among the students of Odisha. It is a competition where knowledge is not the only criteria, but knowledge combined with common sense is.

Irregular sleep patterns may affect your health

WORKING SHIFTS DISRUPT THE BODY CLOCK AND CAN INCREASE RISK OF WEIGHT GAIN, HEART PROBLEMS AND DIABETES

Irregular sleep patterns like late sleeping on weekends, waking up early on workdays could be associated with harmful bacteria in your gut and negatively affect your health, suggests a research.

The study, published in The European Journal of Nutrition, is the first to find multiple associations between social jet lag – the shift in your internal body clock when your sleeping patterns change between workdays and free days – and diet quality, diet habits, inflammation and gut microbiome composition in a single cohort.

Previous research has shown that working shifts disrupt the body clock and can increase risk of weight gain, heart problems and diabetes.

However, there is less awareness that our biological rhythms can be affected by smaller in-

consistencies in sleeping patterns due to waking early with an alarm clock on workdays, for example, compared to waking naturally on non-work days for people working regular hours.

Researchers found that just a 90-minute difference in the timing of the midpoint of sleep – the halfway point between sleep time and wake-up time – is associated with differences in gut microbiome composition.

Having social jet lag was associated with lower overall diet quality, higher intakes of sugar-sweetened beverages, and lower intakes of fruits and nuts, which may directly influence the abundance of specific microbiota in your gut.

"Sleep is a key pillar of health, and this research is particularly timely given the growing interest in circadian rhythms

and the gut microbiome. Even a 90-minute difference in the mid-point of sleep can encourage microbiota species which have unfavourable associations with your health," said Kate Bermingham, from King's College London.

"Maintaining regular sleep patterns, so when we go to bed and when we wake each day, is an easily adjustable lifestyle behaviour we can all do, that may impact your health via your gut microbiome for the better," added Sarah Berry from King's College London.

The composition of the microbes in your gut (microbiome) may negatively or positively affect your health by producing toxins or beneficial metabolites. Specific species of microbes can correspond to an individual's risk of long-term health conditions such as diabetes,



A 90-minute difference in the timing of the midpoint of sleep – the halfway point between sleep time and wake-up time – is associated with differences in gut microbiome composition

heart disease and obesity. The microbiome is influenced by the food you consume which

makes the diversity of your gut adjustable. In a cohort of 934 people, re-

searchers assessed blood, stool and gut microbiome samples as well as glucose measurements in those whose sleep was irregular compared to those who had a routine sleep schedule.

While previous studies into the association between social jet lag and metabolic risk factors have been done in populations with obesity or diabetes, this cohort consisted of mainly lean and healthy individuals with most getting more than seven hours sleep per night throughout the week.

Three out of the six microbiota species more abundant in the social jet lag group have 'unfavourable' associations with health.

These microbes are associated with poor diet quality, indicators of obesity and cardiometabolic health, and markers in your blood related to higher levels of inflammation and cardiovascular risk.

E-audio guided tour at Kala Bhoomi launched

This innovative offering introduces visitors to a seamless blend of technology and cultural exploration, ensuring an unforgettable and enriching museum experience



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday launched a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region – the E-Audio Guided Tour at Kala Bhoomi Museum in Bhubaneswar.

A presentation of Odisha Crafts Museum, this e-audio tour is available in three languages-Odia, Hindi, and English. The audio guide serves as a personal companion, guiding guests through captivating narratives and providing insights into the artefacts on display. It creates

an immersive experience that connects visitors with the heart and soul of state's rich cultural heritage.

This innovative offering introduces visitors to a seamless blend of technology and cultural exploration, ensuring an unforgettable and enriching museum experience.

Patnaik, during his visit to Kalabhoomi, also unveiled the museum's revamped website, showcasing avant garde features like an enthralling 360 virtual tour, an e-ticketing system, and a curated collection of mementos from the souvenir shop de-

The e-audio guided tour is a milestone achievement in Odisha's cultural landscape. It is set to transform the way visitors engage with the museum's treasure trove of art and heritage

signed to elevate the user experience.

The Chief Minister also released a captivating Coffee Table Book, an artistic marvel created by the renowned maestro of contemporary art Trotsky Marudu.

The e-audio guided tour is a milestone achievement in Odisha's cultural landscape. It is set to transform the way visitors engage with the museum's treasure trove of art and heritage.

This initiative reflects the state's commitment to preserve and promote Odisha's artistic legacy while embracing the advancements of modern technology. The tour promises to create a deeper and more meaningful connection between visitors and the state's cultural heritage.



HEALTH PRIORITY: Seeking a solution to prevailing dengue menace, City Congress workers marched towards Collectorate and handed a memorandum on the issue to an official in Cuttack, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Workshop to promote millets for better health

Bhubaneswar: A state-level workshop on 'Millet for better health and nourishing future' was organised by Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) at the convention centre of Lok Seva Bhawan here Wednesday. The primary objective of the meeting was to foster cooperation between the health and education sectors, bringing together important stakeholders, including the department of Health and Family Welfare, the department of School and Mass Education, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said, "The work being carried out by the state government through Odisha Millets Mission programme is for a great cause and commendable."

Cong only oppn party in Odisha: OPCC president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 2: The Congress Wednesday claimed that it was the only opposition party in Odisha as the BJD has announced its decision to support the bill to replace the Delhi Services Ordinance and oppose the no-confidence motion against the NDA government at the Centre.

Addressing a press conference here, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Patnaik and other senior leaders came down heavily on the ruling BJD and alleged that

the regional party has completely surrendered before the BJP. "We have been saying this for a long time and it is proved once again after the BJD announced its support to the BJP-led central government," he said.

Stating that the BJD had dropped the BJP from its coalition in 2009 calling the saffron party "communal," Patnaik said that how come the same party support Narendra Modi and group on all issues? The party has virtually surrendered and the people of Odisha now realise that the BJD and BJP are not different parties.

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, August 2: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra Wednesday reiterated the Odisha government's demand for awarding special focus status to the state in Rajya Sabha citing the state's vulnerability to natural calamities.

The BJD Rajya Sabha MP, while speaking during the zero hour, said that Odisha has been facing natural disasters on a regular basis. "Cyclones hit Odisha frequently and adversely affect the state's economy. We have faced at least 99 cyclones in the last 100 years," Patra said.

He proposed that through the special focus status, Union government should change the financial sharing pattern between Centre and the state in case of government schemes for 3 years from the date of incidence of a natural disaster in Odisha.

"The sharing pattern should be changed from the present 60:40 ratio to 90:10 ratio between Centre and the state for three years. Currently, the govern-

ment schemes have a sharing pattern of 60:40, in which 60 per cent funds are provided by the Union government and 40 per cent are provided by the state. Our demand is to change the sharing pattern to 90:10 for three



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

years from the date of incidence of a natural disaster," Sasmit Patra said.

Patra stressed that NDRF and SDRF funds are not enough to enable sufficient recovery from havoc wreaked by cyclones. He pressed that the sharing pattern should be changed to 90:10 for a period of three years in order to expedite the infrastructural de-

Centre urged to set up CoE on millets

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sujet Kumar Wednesday urged the Union government to set up a centre of excellence (CoE) and research institute on millets in Odisha.

While speaking in Rajya Sabha during the zero hour, the BJD MP said that Odisha has recorded 14-fold-increase in area of millet production in the last five years but still there are no research institutes on millets in the state. He also informed the House that Odisha is home to seven of the total 11 millet varieties and out of 30 districts, 15 grow millets in the state.

"This growth is credited to the state's emphasis on millet

production through Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) which was launched in 2017 and has been commended by the NITI Aayog," Kumar said. He added that millets, apart from their various health benefits, are suitable for cultivators as they are drought resistant, climate resistant and can be grown without pesticides.

"I request the Union government to set up a centre of excellence in Odisha and research institutes on millet especially in western part of the state to boost millet research, and production, for country's food security, and to ensure farmers' welfare," he said.

velopment and rebuilding of affected regions of the state.

He also apprised the House that the demand for special focus

status for the state has been placed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik before the Union government on various forums.

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Tabsum Ara Begum, W/o SK Anwar Allam, residence of village Santa Sahi, P.O. - Tarakote, P.S. - Korai, Dist.- Jajpur, Odisha -755025, declare by this affidavit No.- 274/2023, Dated - 05.05.2023 that onwards I shall be known as Sayeda Tabsum Ara Begum for all future purposes.

I, Kuldeep Saraya, S/o Late Ramprasad Saraya, reside at Ranipatna, P.S. - Sahadevkhunta, P.O. /Dist.: Balasore. I have officially changed my name to Kuldeep Saraya from Kuldeep Saraya through affidavit SI. No. 970, dated 01.08.2023, sworn before Executive Magistrate Shantiram Hembram, Balasore. Henceforth, I shall be known as Kuldeep Saraya, S/o Late Ramprasad Saraya, for all future references.

I, Srikanta Swain, S/o Sridhar Swain, Turintira, P.O.- Turintira, P.S.- Balipatna, Dist.- Khordha, Pin- 752102, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. CF-35, dtd.31.07.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as SRIKANT SWAIN for all future purposes.

CS reviews progress in PMFBY enrolment

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 2: State Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena reviewed progress made in enrolment of farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in presence of officials from the Cooperation and Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment department at Lok Seva Bhawan here Tuesday.

As a target has been set to enrol 25 lakh farmers, Jena appreciated the efforts of field level officials, under the Collectors, for enrolling more than 13 lakh farmers within a brief period.



Joining the meeting, Agriculture and FE principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee informed officials about the Central government's decision to extend the last date for enrolment to August 5 on the

request of Odisha government, while he expressed displeasure over enrolment of negligible number of non-loanee farmers by the Banking network.

"The cooperative banks have been given target to enrol 1 lakh

non-loanee farmers by August 5 with other commercial banks being asked to enrol 1 lakh non-loanee farmers. The common service centres have been given the target to enrol 4 lakh non-loanee farmers within the extended cut-off date," said an official present.

After the meeting, Padhee said to the officials that the target enrolment numbers can be easily achieved given the state government has taken a decision to bear farmers' share of premium under the scheme, which will help lakh of farmers to benefit from the pro-farmer policies of the state.

KIMS doctors remove tumours in novel way



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 2: In two weeks, a team of doctors at KIMS Bhubaneswar has performed two rare surgeries consecutively removing tumours in the lower ends of trachea in minimal invasive processes using endoscope.

Usually, a tumour from trachea or airway is removed by surgery in which anaesthesia is given through a tube, but in these cases as the tumours were blocking the tracheal tube itself, the surgery was done with help of the heart-lung-machine, which was also used to supply oxygen to the lungs during the surgery.

The complex procedures were carried by doctors from ENT and cardio vascular and thoracic surgery (CTVS) departments.

In the first case involving a 68-

year-old male patient, a tumour in the lower end of trachea was blocking the opening of lungs. After his successful surgery, within a week, another 46-year-old lady was successfully operated on by the same ENT and CTVS team.

Both the surgeries were performed with the help of the heart-lung-machine, which is generally used in cardiac surgery. Both the patients are doing fine at KIMS and would be discharged soon, informed a doctor.

Explaining the procedure, head of ENT Khageswar Rout said, "The tumours in both the cases were blocking the lungs and in the second case one part of the lung of the lady was not working. The strategic location of the tumour between heart and lung also posed as a challenge for the ENT and CTVS team while planning."



Accounting Matters

Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha addressing the annual general body meeting of Odisha Secretariat Auditors' Service Association during the Annual Conference at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

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LEOPARDS DISAPPEAR

SEVEN BIG CATS THAT WERE WANDERING IN DIFFERENT RESERVE FORESTS OF DHENKANAL DISTRICT JUST A YEAR AGO ARE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN NOW, AS PER A RECENT REPORT RELEASED BY THE UNION GOVT



the biodiversity-rich Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary.

Even Koi and Kandhara reserve forests were given special focus on protection of leopards. Watchtowers were being erected and trap cameras installed for keeping a watch on the activities of leopards. Trained gunmen were deployed to counter the poachers. The pictures of the leopards were captured in the camera on a regular interval. But now the photos of the leopards are not being captured in the trap cameras. Hence, concerns are being raised after Dhenkanal district is declared 'leopard less' in the recent report published by the Centre.

The negative outcome has raised questions about the Forest department's style of functioning even though attempts were made to protect the leopards. Comprehensive security arrangements and huge investment on the project yields little result.

Meanwhile, the state government has started preparations for the census of tigers and elephants in the district as it believes the Union government's data is unreliable. Divisional forest officer (DFO) Sumit Kar said the report released by the Centre mentions that there are no big cats in Dhenkanal forests. The state government will conduct a census of elephants and tigers again. The DFO said preparations for this fresh survey is in progress.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, August 2: Leopards in Dhenkanal forests have made a vanishing act, if a recent report published by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is to be believed.

The seven leopards that were wandering in different reserve forests just a year ago are nowhere to be seen now, as per the report. However, it is unclear whether the leopards have fallen prey to the poachers which has gone unnoticed by the Forest department officials or they have moved into other forests.

On the other hand, not a sin-

gle photo of a leopard has been caught in the trap camera installed in the forest. So, the Forest department is unable to provide accurate data about the availability of wild cats in the district.

As per the report, the last survey for tigers was conducted in 2017-18 which mentioned about the presence of seven leopards in the district. The Forest department also insisted that the number of leopards is increasing in Koi and Kandhara reserve forests under Hindol forest range on the frontier of Satkosia, Anantapur reserve forest under Kamakhya Nagar forest range situated on Keonjhar border and in



SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE: Girls performed Sambalpuri dance at a state-level programme organised by Paschimanchal Ekata Mancha to celebrate 'Sambalpuri Din' at Jail Square in Sambalpur

30kg plastic removed from cow's stomach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, August 2: Doctors at the government-run veterinary hospital in Berhampur Wednesday removed plastic materials weighing around 30 kg from the stomach of a stray cow.

It took a four-hour long operation for a team of veterinary doctors, led by Satya Narayan Kar, to remove the undigested polythene bags from the stomach of the 10-year-old cow, chief district veterinary officer of Ganjam

Manoj Kumar Sahu said.

The cow, which used to feed on leftovers dumped in polythene bags by people, ended up with its stomach full of plastic and subsequently its intestines got blocked.

If left unattended for long, the animal would have died, said Kar. The cow is stable now and it will stay in the hospital for a week in observation.

The ailing animal was taken from Giri Road here in an animal ambulance Monday evening

when some people informed officials about its critical condition. The cow was not able to even stand.

"The cow was in critical condition when it was brought to the hospital. The animal had problems in passing stool and urine and had been kicking its belly in pain. The clinical examination of the cow revealed the accumulation of plastic waste in its stomach," said Kar.

Last year, doctors at the hospital had removed plastic ma-

terials of around 15kg from a stray cow here.

The incident highlights the severity of plastic pollution, despite a government ban on its use, transport and manufacture for five years, said Sudhir Rout, founder of Aryabhata Foundation, an organisation spearheading campaigns against the use of plastic.

"We appealed to the Berhampur Municipal Corporation to enforce the ban properly," said Rout.



RISKY PROPOSITION: Unmindful of the risk involved, a youth washes his motorcycle while others look on as rainwater overflows on a bridge over a nullah between Shyamsundarpur and Napri panchayats following incessant rain under Bangiriposhi block in Mayurbhanj district

Baitarani flows above danger mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, August 2: Following incessant rain in the upper catchment areas for the last couple of days, the Baitarani river is in spate with water level crossing the danger mark near Akhuapada in Jajpur district Wednesday, officials said.

The water in the river is flowing at 18.30 metres as against the danger mark of 17.83 metres near Akhuapada this evening, they said.

As rain is continuing in the upper catchment area, it is expected that the water flow in Baitarani river will rise further.

Baitarani's branch Budha river is also flowing much above the danger mark resulting in floods in some low-lying villages of two blocks in the district.

As rain is continuing in the upper catchment area, it is expected that the water flow in Baitarani river will rise further

Baitarani river flowing above the danger mark has triggered flood apprehensions in many panchayats of Dasarathapur, Jajpur, Binjharpur and Korei blocks in the district.

Meanwhile, the Jajpur district administration is keeping a strict vigil on the possibility of flash floods.

Jajpur Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore said the district administration has taken adequate precautionary measures and kept all its field-level func-

tionaries at strategic locations prone to flood to meet any eventuality.

The Collector has also directed officials to evacuate people from low-lying areas if required and shift them to safe shelters and provide them with dry/cooked food and drinking water.

Both NDRF and ODRAF teams are being deployed in the flood prone blocks in Jajpur, said the Collector.

The district administration has alerted the people living in the villages situated in the low-lying areas through the public address system.

"The district administration is fully prepared to face any eventuality. Besides, the field officials have been directed to remain in their respective positions," Rathore said.

Pangolin rescued; 8 held in Mayurbhanj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, August 2: A pangolin was rescued Wednesday in Mayurbhanj district and eight people were arrested on the charges of trading wildlife, an official said. Acting on a tip-off, forest personnel conducted a raid in a lodge at Rairangpur and rescued the animal, he said.

The accused were identified as They also seized an SUV, a scooter and eight mobile phones from the possession of the accused, he added.



Probe begins into pollution in Shankha river

Huge quantity of industrial residue from local sponge iron units was found dumped on the riverbed to set up a road for plying heavy vehicles deep into the river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 2: Nandita Kujur, the tehsildar of Lathikata in Sundargarh district, Wednesday started an investigation into the alleged pollution of Shankha River here in the district.

A person, who got lease to lift sand from the river bed near Beldihi Vedyas, reportedly dumped huge quantity of char-

coal, an industrial residue from local sponge iron units inside the river. He did this to set up a road so that his trucks could go deep into the river to lift sand. The charcoal works as a solid top on the sandy bed and can bear the weight of loaded vehicles. Besides, there were large RCC pipes laid on the river bed, which worked as a makeshift bridge to take the heavy vehicles to the other side of the river for excavation.

After receiving complaints from locals, Orissa POST carried an article on this illegality July 22. Kujur initiated the probe after the news was brought to her notice.

"I have started an investigation into the matter after the issue came to my notice. The Revenue Inspector (RI) also did a spot



verification and found the allegations to be true," acknowledged the tehsildar.

Asked if she has taken any immediate action, the tehsildar said, "I have spoken to the leaseholder, who is outside the state at this moment and ordered him to

clean whatever dump is there." Besides, Kujur also informed, "I have brought this to the notice of the State Pollution Control Board officials and have asked them to take necessary action in the matter." Contacted, RI Harshit

BADAGHAGARA TO HAVE NEW LOOK SOON

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 2: Badaghagara, one of the unique and beautiful natural waterfalls in Keonjhar district, is undergoing a transformation. This waterfall is situated in the middle of the forest, only 5 km away from the famous Sanaghagara waterfall and 11 km from the district headquarters.

The beautiful scenic place is situated on the upper part of the Sanamachhakandana river while Sanaghagara is situated on the lower part of that river. Badaghagara is going through a makeover after the completion of the Sanaghagara waterfall redevelopment project.

The estimated budget for the development of the tourism site



a rich atmosphere, attracting the nature lovers.

Extensive arrangements have been made here for the convenience of tourists. Watchtower, concrete steps, food plaza, parking facility, toilet complex, several viewpoints, multiple beautiful small

bridges to cross the creeks, jetty facility to view the waterfall from inside the reservoir, concrete benches, resting places, pathways and other infrastructure works are also in progress.

Moreover, there is a plan for construction of a big watch-

tower. From that tower, tourists can see deep forests, the reservoir, the river and the scenic beauty of the place, said Assistant Director for Tourism, Ramesh Chandra Nayak.

Many years ago hydroelectricity production had started but later it discontinued. Now, the renovation of the project rekindles the hope of revival of hydroelectricity project, which can supply power to nearest villages, said the locals.

Sanaghagara witnesses huge footfall of tourists during winter. However, renovation of Badaghagara may pull the crowd from Sanaghagara, said sources.

The importance of the place which is situated in deep forests will also be go up, said nature lover Bimbadhara Behera.

The estimated budget for the development of the tourism site has been pegged at ₹4.5 crore

has been pegged at ₹4.5 crore. It is situated near the pleasant Sanamachhakandana reservoir. Tourists often come here for a visit and picnic.

After being neglected for long

years, it is now being renovated. Here the water of Sanamachhakandana falls about 60 feet to form a waterfall and also flows down through a rocky gorge. In fact, its beauty creates

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By: Chief Electrical Engineer (Con-I) / PR-50/CG/23-24
Bhubaneswar



In sincerity is the certitude of victory. Sincerity! Sincerity! How sweet is the purity of thy presence?

THE MOTHER



Green Globalisation

International trade has boosted economic growth in many countries, especially those without abundant natural resources or fixed capital. In addition to creating opportunities for cross-border specialisation, trade has made it possible to import cheap consumer goods, intermediate inputs for manufacturing, and capital equipment. This is especially true in Asia and the Pacific, which accounted for 35% of global trade in 2020, up from 25% a decade earlier.

Likewise, globalisation and open trade could play an indispensable role in saving the planet. Given the existential threat of climate change, environmental goods and services should be made widely available at affordable prices to support a rapidly greening world economy. Imports of solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicles, along with services such as wastewater treatment, could also generate technological spillovers that stimulate and support the development of renewable-energy sectors and clean industries domestically.

But overall progress has been slow. The lack of a collective commitment to liberalise trade in environmental goods and services, coupled with a rise in protectionist measures, will almost surely undermine mitigation and adaptation efforts. Global and regional cooperation is urgently required to agree on common principles for facilitating such trade and safeguarding supply chains.

The first challenge is to define an environmental good or service. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) agreed to a list of 54 environmental goods on which they would apply tariffs of 5% or less. Yet the agreement has only a limited impact, owing to its voluntary nature and the relatively small number of products covered. Negotiations to conclude an Environmental Goods Agreement among a group of World Trade Organization members have stalled. Of course, if governments want to expedite the green transition, they are free to lower tariffs on environmental goods (such as manufacturing equipment) unilaterally, in whatever way cuts domestic greenhouse-gas emissions most dramatically. Their inclusion in international trade agreements, however, requires consensus on objective standards. Beyond the technical challenges of defining environmental goods, countries may seek to tailor specifications to protect their own producers.

The recent rise of competing industrial policies in both advanced and emerging economies creates some opportunities to disseminate environmental goods more widely and at lower prices. After all, subsidies for renewable-energy producers can increase investment in research and development, which may yield cost-reducing innovations. For example, the price of solar modules has plunged, on average, to below \$1 per watt for the world's largest producers, including Germany, Japan, the United States, and the People's Republic of China. The ability to import such cheap renewable technology makes the clean-energy transition more affordable for a broader range of countries.

But the huge challenges that such policies pose to climate action outweigh the benefits. According to the International Energy Agency, China's share in all the components used to manufacture solar panels – such as polysilicon, ingots, wafers, cells, and modules – exceeds 80%. This is largely a result of its cost competitiveness, with prices 20% lower than in the US and 35% lower than in Europe. But much of the world cannot access cheap solar panels from China because of countervailing and anti-dumping duties imposed by its trading partners. While efforts to level the playing field between foreign and domestic producers are understandable and permitted under WTO rules, erecting trade barriers for environmental goods slows the green transition. Moreover, other protectionist policies, like those that link domestic sourcing requirements to market access, may be even harder to justify on competitive grounds. Imposing export restrictions on critical raw materials such as lithium, rare-earth elements, and chromium, all of which are in high demand as the energy transition gathers pace, is also unhelpful. Such restrictions, which include licensing requirements as well as export tariffs and bans, increased fivefold from 2009 to 2020. Any reduction in the cross-border flows of these materials could significantly challenge the security of supply chains for green products. Moreover, trade fragmentation makes it more difficult for leading global companies to maximise their competitive and innovative potential, reducing opportunities to cut costs further.

And yet, relatively few international trade agreements include provisions to liberalise trade in environmental goods and services. The urgency of the climate crisis obliges the international community to be proactive in agreeing on the definitions of such goods and services and implementing practical measures to lower both tariff and non-tariff trade barriers. These issues could be discussed at international forums such as the G20 and APEC, or as part of regional economic cooperation efforts like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

Improving access to environmental goods and services can accelerate mitigation and adaptation efforts globally at a lower cost. So, rather than engage in protectionism, governments wishing to support domestic production of such goods are far better off subsidising research and development, which is permitted under WTO rules because it can help companies become more efficient and innovative. At the same time, they must support the free flow of trade, because making these goods more widely available might be our best chance to solve the climate crisis.

Albert Park is Chief Economist and Jong Woo Kang is Principal Economist at Asian Development Bank.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Albert Park & Jong Woo Kang

Improving access to environmental goods and services can accelerate mitigation and adaptation efforts globally at a lower cost



Jayakrishna Sahu

DEATH SENTENCE HAS ALMOST BEEN PRACTICALLY ABOLISHED THROUGH STRINGENT RESTRICTIONS BY JUDICIAL DECISIONS

The monstrous growth of heinous crimes is a cause of concern for Indian society. There seems to be no end to the upward movement of the graph of crimes. What is more alarming is the gruesomeness of crimes and the guts and audacity of criminals while committing crimes in broad daylight and in full public glare. As if criminals are not at all afraid of the consequences of their actions or may be, sure of coming out scot-free from the proverbial spider's web of our justice system.

There are many factors behind such an ominous development. Firstly, weak and archaic laws, specifically procedural laws like the Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Evidence Act which were enacted in the 19th century by the British who had the least concern for Indian people or their socio-cultural roots. Secondly, the abnormal and inordinate delay in delivering justice reaffirms the dictum "justice delayed is justice denied." The last, but the most important factor is, the punishment inflicted on the convicts by the courts of law does not commensurate with the crime and thus fails to generate any fear in the minds of the culprits.

Now let's see why our punishment-system does not intimidate criminals or fails to make any deterrent effect on people inclined to crime. Section-53 of Indian Penal Code mentions about five types of punishments: death, imprisonment for life, rigorous or simple imprisonment, fine, and forfeiture of property.

Death penalty is awarded for waging war against India, armed rebellion by defence personnel, fabricating evidence to fraudulently obtain capital punishment for an innocent person, abetting a minor's suicide, kidnapping for ransom, causing harm or death, murder, rape and murder, repeat of rape-of-



What is alarming is the gruesomeness of crimes and the guts and audacity of criminals while committing crimes in broad daylight and in full public glare

stone of "rarest of rare case" set by the Supreme Court in Bachchan Singh Vs. State of Punjab (1982) and Machi Singh Cases, have almost made it impossible for trial courts to award death-sentence even in most heinous crimes.

Then comes the punishment of life-imprisonment. The apex court in many of its decisions including the Gopal Vinayak Godse (1961) and Mohammad Munna (2005) cases, has clarified that life-imprisonment means imprisonment for the whole of the remaining period of the convict's natural life. But then how the life-convicts in the sensational Bilkis Bano case and the mafia-politician Anand Mohan were released after they served sentences for only 14 years?

Section 54 of IPC, Section 433 of CrPC and provisions of State Jail Manuals empower the Central and state governments to commute life-imprisonment of convicts to imprisonment for 14 years. The Article 72 and 161 provide the President and the Governors respectively to grant pardon or suspend, remit or commute sentence of a convict. The Supreme Court in Bikram Dorjee Vs. State of WB (2009) has held that punishment should conform to be consistent with atrocity and brutality with

which crime has been perpetrated, and it should respond to society's cry for justice against criminals. "The object of punishment is to protect the society and deter the criminal". In State of MP Vs. Sheikh Shahid case (2009) the apex court has warned other courts of the country against showing undue sympathy by imposing inadequate sentence as it would harm justice system and erode public confidence in the system.

There is another confusing Section 57 in IPC which mentions, "In calculating fraction of term of punishment, imprisonment for life shall be reckoned on equivalent to imprisonment for 20 years." Many life-convicts claim benefit of this provision by claiming to be released after 20 years. The intent of this British-era legislation is yet to be understood, but the Supreme Court has made it clear through its decisions in Maru Ram Vs. Union of India (1980) and Krisan Lal Vs. State of Rajasthan (2001) that imprisonment for life means imprisonment for lifetime of the convict and no life-convict can claim that he be released after 20 years in jail as per Section 57, IPC. The top court however candidly admits that the Central or state government can remit the whole or part of sentence of a convict as per Section 401 of CrPC.

The miserable plight of the two major punishments under our legal and justice system – death sentence and life imprisonment – is enough to multiply the morale of criminals. The wise words of the 4th Century BC Greek philosopher Aristotle are still relevant: "The generality of men are naturally apt to be swayed by fear rather than reverence, and to refrain from evil rather because of punishment that it brings than because of its own foulness."

The author is an advocate & columnist. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Endangering our forests & environment



Bhala Chandra Shadangi

EXEMPTING SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF PROJECTS FROM THE CLEARANCE PROCESS WILL MEAN THAT FOREST-DWELLING PEOPLE WILL NO LONGER BE CONSULTED, RATHER THEY WILL FACE EVICTION

Ignoring all appeals, objections, and suggestions of eminent ecologists, scientists, naturalists, activists, tribal organisations, and Opposition parties, the BJP-led Central government has unilaterally passed the controversial Forest Conservation Bill 2023 in the Lok Sabha. Surprisingly, such an important Bill was hurriedly passed without any debate or discussion in Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill after a brief debate.

The government made many tall claims on increasing forest cover and reducing carbon emissions and targets "net zero emissions by 2070" by "creating carbon sink" for higher carbon dioxide absorption. But the Bill will facilitate large-scale diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes and will have devastating effects on the environment and biodiversity.

Certain provisions of the Bill could jeopardise vast tracts of ecologically important forests and leave out several so-called unclassified forests that cover around 15% of India's total forest cover. Unclassified forests are recorded as forests but not included in reserved or protected forests category. According to the Forest Survey of India, the ownership of such forests varies from state to state. In the Bill, the govern-

ment has brought only declared or notified forests under the Indian Forest Act - 1927 or any other law and those recorded as forests on or after October 25, 1980 within its ambit. The states will now be able to classify unclassified forest land or patches of trees as forest land in order to be able to show larger tree coverage, within the definition of "forests." The purpose of this is to permit a huge part of the forest land including biodiversity hotspots to be potentially sold, diverted, cleared, and exploited for non-forestry purposes.

This will also render the Supreme Court verdict of 1996 in the case of "TN Godavarman vs Govt of India" meaningless. There, the SC had interpreted the definition of forest and ordered the declaration of all lands having dense tree cover and being surrounded by forests to be treated as forest land and be conserved. This unclassified forest also plays a sensitive and important role in protection of environment. If these classified forests are declassified, then thousands of square kilometers of forests will lose protection overnight and the government in the name of development will hand them over to corporates. There will be no need for taking permission or forest clearance for diversion from forest use.

This could destroy vast tracts of ecologically important forests.

As we know, the declared aim of Forest Conservation Act - 1980 was conservation of forests. For forest conservation all non-forest activities are strictly prohibited in forest land. If forest land is needed for any development project, then by giving a detailed report the state can apply for permission for diversion of forest land to the Central government. But the latest amendment dilutes this provision.

The Bill provides exemption for lands, "situated within a distance of 100 km along international borders or Line of Control or Line of Actual Control," for "construction of strategic linear projects of national importance and concerning national security." This clause could harm forests in Himalayan, trans-Himalayan and north-eastern regions significantly. Clearing such forests can trigger extreme weather conditions besides threatening the biodiversity of ecologically fragile areas.

The Bill also exempts certain types of land from its purview. This includes land used for non-forest purposes along railway lines, roads and habitations. Earlier, activities relating to "development and management of forests and wildlife" only were exempted from permission, now

the Bill has exempted "establishment of zoos and safaris," "eco-tourism facilities" and also "any other like purpose" which the government may specify from the ambit of permissions. The government wants to hand over vast tracks of forest land to private players for tourism activities for the super-rich. It also sidelines the rights of tribals and forest-dwellers. Exempting such a large number of projects from the clearance process will mean that forest-dwelling people will no longer be consulted, rather they will face eviction from forest land.

The latest move of the Modi government is not an isolated one. It is part of a series of amendments to various laws related to forest and environment in the interest of large corporates. During the nine years of BJP rule, there were attempts to amend the Indian Forest Act-1927. They brought the Forest Conservation Rules 2022 and also tried to weaken the Forest Rights Act-2006. These were intended only to consolidate the control of the state and corporates over our land, forest, and natural resources and ultimately affected the livelihood of lakhs of tribals and forest-dwellers.

The author writes on socio-political issues. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

- Life begins at the end of your comfort zone. NEALE DONALD WALSCH
- You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great. ZIG ZIGLAR
- A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence. JIM WATKINS

WORDSWORTH

Merrythought

It's the forked bone between the neck and breast of a bird. But that's the wishbone! Indeed it is, but merrythought is the older term for that part of a turkey, chicken or other fowl served at table. Wishbone was created in America; from the evidence, it seems to have appeared sometime around the 1850s, but has since taken over everywhere. The name of wishbone comes, of course, from the folk custom in which two people hold its ends and pull, the one left with the longer piece making a wish. Merrythought refers to an older version of the custom, in which it is assumed that the one left with the longer piece will get to marry first.

Wake-up call

Sir, The editorial "Green Oceans" (August 1) is a grim reminder of the monumental catastrophe that awaits humanity in the foreseeable future due to rapid climate change, reckless deforestation, unprecedented loss of biodiversity and alarming levels of despoliation of our water bodies. The enormous stress we place on our natural ecosystems is pushing the planet's tolerance limits and poses an insurmountable threat to its sustainability. Leaving aside the oft-repeated rhetoric and hyperbole associated with environmental protection, the time has dawned for initiating immediate action and necessary follow-through on a war-footing on the various promises, policies of earlier COP summits and collaborative efforts needed to avoid the onset of a doomsday scenario. To address these existential threats, the time is ripe for nurturing more sustainable and harmonious relationship with the natural world by effectively adopting the three Rs – "reduce, reuse and recycle."

Amit Banerjee, NEW DELHI

Govt in the dock

Sir, Questioning the delay in filing an FIR in the case related to the video clip of two women being paraded naked in Manipur, the Supreme Court has expressed concern over the "systemic acts of violence" and said it could consider "intervention," including setting up a team of "officers or judges... who are not politically aligned." The court also asked for details of the "6,000 FIRs" filed in the state, and the action taken. While a court-appointed team will not "supplant" the investigating officers, there is a need to administer "some healing touch," the court said, adding that such a team would send across the message that the "highest constitutional court of the country is deeply concerned." "The extent of our intervention will also depend on what the government has done so far. If we are satisfied that the government has done adequately so far, we may not intervene at all. But if we are not satisfied, then we feel there is a grave and urgent need for us to do so," Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

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

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HP: Transportation of apples a challenge for farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 2: The over ₹5,000-crore apple industry of Himachal Pradesh is in dire straits as farmers see transportation of the fruit a major challenge amid closure of roads due to heavy rains triggering floods and landslides.

Apple farming generates employment for thousands of labourers and plays a pivotal role in the growth of carton manufacturers and transporters in the state. Apple is grown in 21 out of 68 assembly segments in Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Kinnaur,

Lahaul and Spiti, and Chamba districts as well as in selective pockets of Solan, Sirmaur and Kangra districts.

The closure of roads in the apple growing areas following landslides has taken a toll over early apple variety Tideman and Pear. The crop has already started rotting and the situation is likely to worsen in the next ten days when the plucking season would reach its peak, Fruit Vegetable Flower Growers Association President Harish Chauhan told PTI.

More than 350 roads are still closed as per the state emer-



gency operation centre. A majority (about 60 per cent) of such roads are linked to apple growing areas. The apple season in the lower belt has already started,

however, farmers have stopped plucking the fruit as several link roads are closed, he said.

Quality and size of apple was affected due to vagaries of

weather like scanty snowfall, thunderstorm and hailstorm and untimely heavy rains. The output almost halved compared to last year and disruption of road network due to landslides has left the growers high and dry, said Sujaat Chauhan, an apple grower.

The outbreak of fungal disease triggered by excessive moisture and foliage has added to the woes of farmers. Rain-related damage is enormous and buses and trucks cannot ply on around 70 per cent of interior routes, said Lokinder Bisht, president of the Progressive

Growers Association.

Though machines are deployed to open the roads, there is a lurking fear that the produce might not reach the market on time and rot enroute as the rains continue, he added.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Monday sanctioned ₹23 crore for undertaking repair and restoration of road links across the state.

Officials said that the work to restore roads is going on war footing but incessant rains are triggering landslides time and again, creating further disruptions.

Shimla-Chandigarh NH blocked after landslide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 2: A landslide blocked the national highway connecting Shimla to Chandigarh in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district Wednesday morning, leaving many vehicles stranded, officials said. A 50-metre road stretch completely caved in following the landslide.

Light vehicles coming from Chandigarh have been routed through Parwanoo-Kasauli-Jangushu Road-Kumarhatti while vehicles going from Solan would take Bhognagar-Banasar-Kamli road.

Men and machinery have been deployed at the damaged stretch and work to open the road has commenced, officials said. The Shimla Police has routed traffic going from Shimla to Chandigarh via Theog-Sainj-Giripul-Oachghat-Kumarhatti-Sarahan-Kala Amb-Panchkula road while the traffic coming from Chandigarh would be routed via Dherowal-nalagarh-Parsehar-Kunihar-Totu-Shimla for light vehicles.

The local weather department has issued an orange alert warning of heavy to very heavy rains in isolated places in seven out of 12 districts, including Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmaur, August 3 and 4.

Rain related incidents like flash floods, cloud bursts and landslides and road accidents have so far claimed 194 lives in the state while 34 are missing since the onset of monsoon on June 24, according to the state emergency operation centre.

About 320 roads are still closed for traffic in the state as landslides triggered by rains and flash floods had wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh.



A backhoe machine removes the debris that fell upon a vehicle due to a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh PTI PHOTO

Dispute over ghee for Tirupati 'laddus' spills out of K'taka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 2: It looked like the pan was being prepared for a fresh Congress-BJP showdown in Karnataka. But the Tirupati laddu issue instead slipped into boiling ghee with Tirumala authorities in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

The ruling Congress in Karnataka immediately felt the splatter as opposition BJP turned on the heat over the issue.

BJP leader Nalin Kumar Kateel accused the Karnataka Congress government of stopping the supply of ghee, due to its "policy of indifference towards temples, and Hindu beliefs and devotion"

e-procurement tender, whoever quotes the lowest rate will get it," Naik said, adding that the current supplier is providing ghee to TTD at a very low rate compared to KMF. Naik also said, "KMF ghee was used for Tirupati Laddu. I'm of the belief that no other ghee can stand up to the quality of Nandini ghee; our customers have given us this 100 per cent certification."

But here's when the issue spilled over and came to a boil with TTD. A V Dharma Reddy, Executive Officer of TTD, official custodian of Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati told PTI that KMF has supplied ghee only once in the past 20 years.

Nandhini brand of products



A day after Tirumala Temple Devasthanams (TTD) officials said that Tirupati laddus had used Nandini ghee only for a year in the past two decades, Karnataka Milk Federation said they had never made any claim about how long they have been supplying ghee to the famous temple

The recipe for a political battle over the delicious Tirupati temple offering was set in motion with developments Sunday

This was when a reference was made to Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) not supplying Nandini brand ghee to the renowned Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Andhra Pradesh

To keep the flames under check, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said the supply of Nandini ghee to make Tirupati laddus was suspended one-and-half years ago, during the BJP government's tenure. The chief minister's statement was in line with KMF Chairman Bheema Naik's observation Sunday.

"About one year ago they (TTD) called for a tender and asked us to participate in the tender. We cannot give ghee at the competitive rate, because in the

and KMF had faced its share of political claims and counter-claims in Karnataka both before and after the state Assembly elections held in May.

The opposition BJP recently accused ruling Congress of politicising the Nandini issue during the assembly elections and the "milked it to malign (Gujarat-based) Amul". The Karnataka cabinet had July 27 cleared the proposal by KMF to hike selling prices of its Nandini milk by ₹3 a litre. The new prices came into effect from August 1.

'K'taka has highest total asset of MLAs'

AS PER THE REPORT, KARNATAKA IS FOLLOWED BY MAHARASHTRA WITH 284 MLAS WHOSE ASSETS STOOD AT ₹6,679 CRORE, AND 174 MLAS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH HAVE TOTAL ASSETS WORTH ₹4,914 CRORE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: Karnataka has the highest total asset of MLAs among states, a report claimed Tuesday. According to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the National Election Watch (NEW), the total asset of 223 MLAs analysed from Karnataka is ₹14,359 crore, which is more than the individual annual budget of 2023-24 of Mizoram and Sikkim.

The report said it is 26 per cent of the combined total assets of all sitting MLAs, which stood at ₹54,545 crore. "It is also more than the combined assets of sitting MLAs from Rajasthan, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Goa, Meghalaya, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. The total combined assets of sitting MLAs from these 21 States and Union Territories are ₹13,976 crore," the report added.

As per the report, Karnataka is followed by Maharashtra with 284 MLAs whose assets stood at



₹6,679 crore, and 174 MLAs from Andhra Pradesh have total assets worth ₹4,914 crore.

As per the report, Tripura has the lowest total asset of MLAs. The total asset of 59 MLAs analysed from the state is ₹90 crore, followed by 40 MLAs from Mizoram with ₹190 crore, and 60 MLAs from Manipur have total assets worth ₹225 crore.

The report was released after analysing the self-sworn affi-

davits of sitting MLAs in State Assemblies and Union Territories across the nation.

The data has been extracted from affidavits filed by the MLAs prior to contesting their last elections. The report said that a total of 4,001 MLAs out of 4,033 have been analysed across 28 State Assemblies and two Union Territories. This report covers 4,001 sitting MLAs belonging to 84 political parties and Independent MLAs.

FAKE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

K'taka CM warns action

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, August 2: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah while addressing the media in Mangaluru has said that strict action will be taken against those who unnecessarily spread fake news against the state government or any individual on the social media.

We will not take action against criticism, but if fake news is spread then action will be taken

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM



that SIT will take appropriate action.

"The facilities given to the coastal region have been mentioned in the budget."

In the month of July, Udupi, Mangalore and the coastal region received rains, the Chief Minister added, and said that he would be visiting some areas which are damaged due to rains. He informed that he will hold a review meeting soon.

The Chief Minister said that he has given instructions to the police to take strict action against those who indulge in moral policing, adding that, no one can take the law into their own hands.

An FIR has been registered by the police regarding the Udupi college video recording case, Siddaramaiah added.

K'taka to conduct survey of startups

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, August 2: The Karnataka government has decided to conduct a survey to understand the requirements of startups in the state.

Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT and BT, Tuesday made the announcement on social media in this regard.

"Attention to all registered startups! The IT and BT Ministry of Karnataka government is conducting a survey to understand your requirements. Based on the collected responses, we will design tailored programmes and workshops to support the startup community in Karnataka. Selected sector-wise startups can also participate in open house discussions with the government." The deadline for submissions is August 9.

Kharge also has the link to fill in the form on his social media account.

The initiative is undertaken



The initiative is undertaken to ensure the status of Bangalore as the 'startup haven' in the country

The department also intends to create a more conducive atmosphere for the startups in the IT capital of the country

to ensure the status of Bangalore as the 'startup haven' in the country. The department also intends to create a more conducive atmosphere for the startups in the IT capital of the country.

There are 15,000 startups operating in Karnataka and with the new efforts, the government wants to increase the numbers

by another 10,000. The Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Science and Technology have designed the startup policy of the state to make Karnataka lead in the startup zone.

The policy floated in December 2022 aims to establish 25,000 startups in the state by 2027.

HP received 71% more than normal rain in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 2: Himachal Pradesh received 437.5 mm of rain during the month of July against the normal rainfall of 255.9 mm, an excess of 71 per cent, according to the data issued by the meteorological department Tuesday.

The department has issued an "orange" alert for heavy rains in isolated places in seven districts -- Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmaur -- of Himachal Pradesh on August 3 and 4. According to the monthly rainfall data shared by the MeT Tuesday, eight districts in Himachal received the highest rain in July since 2004 during the

same period.

Bilaspur received 459.7 mm of rainfall, Chamba 484.2 mm, Kinnaur 197.3 mm, Kullu 476 mm, Lahaul and Spiti 156.8 mm, Shimla 584.6 mm, Sirmaur 1097.5 mm and Solan 735.7 mm, it said.

Himachal received 437.5 mm rain during the month of July against normal rainfall of 255.9 mm, an excess of 71 per cent and all districts received excess rains ranging between 11 per cent in Kangra and 199 per cent in Kinnaur, it said.

Seven out of eight records were broken on July 9. The tourist town of Manali recorded 131.3 mm of rain on July 9 breaking the previous record of 105.1 mm July 9, 1971. Solan, which received 107 mm of rain on July 9 broke the previous record of 105 mm July 7, 2015.



Rohru in Shimla received 185 mm of rain July 9 surpassing the record of 170 mm on July 25, 1966, while Una made a new record of 228.5 mm July 9. The past record for Una was not available.

Ghamroor in Kangra recorded 166 mm of rain July 9 against the previous record of 164.8 July 19, 2021. Similarly, Pachhad in

Sirmaur received 220 mm of rain on July 10 breaking the past record of 189.2 mm July 26, 1973.

Hampur and Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti also set new records of 169.5 mm and 83 mm rains July 9 surpassing the previous records of 146 (Hampur) July 30, 1996 and 78 (Keylong) July 28, 1951, as per the Met office.

Rain-related incidents like flash floods, cloud bursts and landslides and road accidents have so far claimed 194 lives in the state while 34 are missing since the onset of the monsoon on June 24 till August 1, according to the state emergency operation centre.

The state has suffered losses to the tune of ₹5722 crores and 728 houses have been completely damaged while 734 houses suffered partial damages as per the centre. About 320 roads are still closed to vehicular traffic.



Coastal road workers take rest as high tidal waves lash the seashore at Marine Drive, in Mumbai



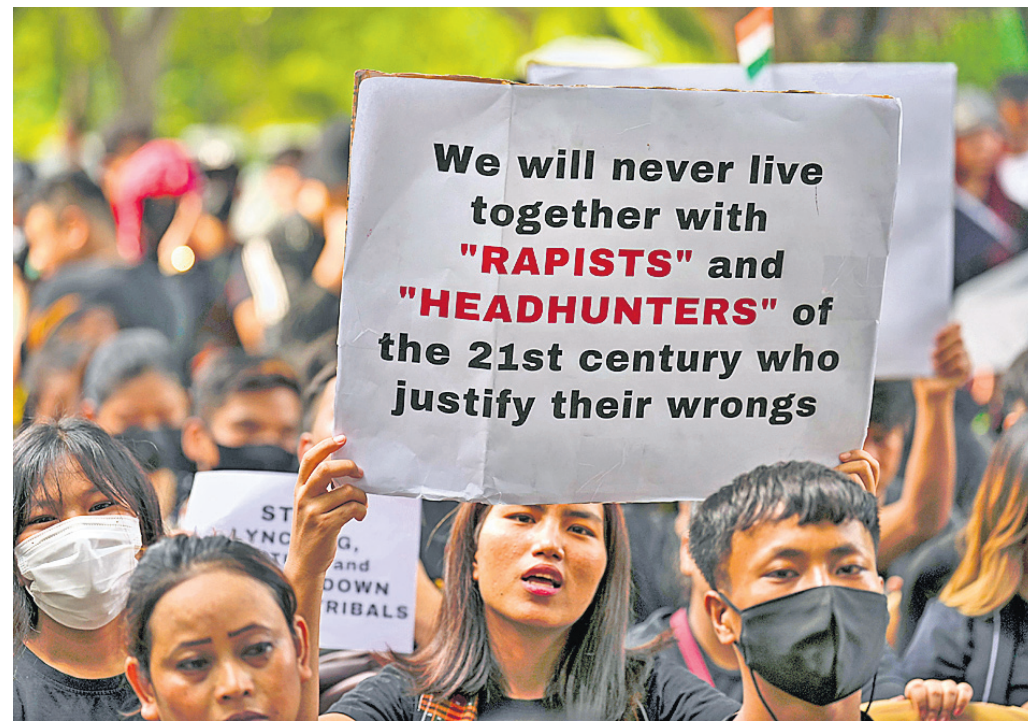
Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal supporters burn an effigy during a protest against the violence in Haryana's Nuh district, in Jabalpur



Pope Francis kisses a child on his way to the Belem Cultural Center in Lisbon, Portugal



Rescuers using rubber boats evacuate trapped residents through floodwaters in Zhuozhou in northern China's Hebei province, south of Beijing



Kuki community people from Manipur during a protest organised by Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) over the ongoing violence in the northeastern state, in Chennai



US President Joe Biden rides a bike on a path at Gordons Pond in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware



A farmer ploughs a field for planting paddy saplings after monsoon rains, in Nadia

national

of the day quote

B R Ambedkar always said that if you want to develop the country, you need to educate each and every child. He too belonged to a very poor family but had the finest education from abroad

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

The state government should make honest efforts to restore peace and harmony in Haryana. It is the constitutional duty of every government to protect all religions and public property

MAYAWATI | BSP LEADER

Entire world is watching Supreme Court proceedings in Article 370. Jammu and Kashmir, despite being a Muslim majority state, rejected the two-nation theory based on religion and joined hands with India. We were granted assurances under the Constitution. These guarantees were not given by China, Pakistan or any neighbouring country

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

CBI brings back rape accused from UAE

New Delhi: The Kerala Police has brought back fugitive Sony Poulose, facing an Interpol Red Notice in a case of alleged rape and trespass, from the UAE after a successful operation coordinated by the CBI and authorities of that country, officials said Wednesday. In a statement, the CBI said its Global Operation Centre, in close coordination with Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB) in the UAE and the Kerala Police, led to the return of a Red Notice subject. The National Central Bureau of a country is the nodal organisation for all matters related to the Interpol, including the fugitives and data sharing. In the case of India, the NCB is the CBI.

Tomato prices surge again

New Delhi: Tomato prices have again hit the roof in the national capital with Mother Dairy selling the key kitchen staple at a whopping Rs 259 per kg Wednesday via its Safal retail stores. Tomato prices have been under pressure for more than a month now on account of supply disruptions caused due to heavy rainfall in the key producing regions. With central government's intervention through sale of tomatoes at a subsidised rate since July 14, retail prices in the national capital had begun softening recently but have again firmed up due to short supply.

Parliament passes Jan Vishwas Bill

New Delhi: Parliament Wednesday passed a bill which seeks to promote ease of business by decriminalising minor offences through amendments in 183 provisions of 42 Acts. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 was passed by Rajya Sabha by a voice vote. Lok Sabha had cleared the legislation July 27. Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said the bill will promote the ease of doing business by decriminalising a number of provisions.

Bridge collapses

Gopeshwar (U'khand): A 28-year-old labourer was swept away by strong currents of the Alaknanda Wednesday when a part of an under-construction bridge collapsed into the river. The bridge collapsed around 12.40 pm, taking down two labourers, Superintendent of Police (Chamolli) Pramendra Dobhal said.



BJP members only do politics of appeasement. Whenever elections come near, they make conspiracy and get riots done

SHIVPAL YADAV | SP LEADER

RS PASSES FOREST CONSERVATION BILL

Rajya Sabha Wednesday passed a bill that exempts land within 100 km of the country's borders from the purview of conservation laws and permits setting up of zoos, safaris and eco-tourism facilities in forest areas. The Upper House passed the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 after a brief debate, though the opposition had walked out over the ethnic violence in Manipur. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha July 26



UGC DECLARES 20 UNIVERSITIES AS 'FAKE'

As per details, the highest number of fake universities are in the national capital, and then followed by Uttar Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The University Grants Commission (UGC) Wednesday declared 20 universities as "fake" and not empowered to confer any degree with Delhi having eight such

institutions, the highest. "It has come to the notice of the UGC that a number of institutions are offering degrees in contrary to the provisions of the UGC Act. Degrees awarded by such universities shall neither be recognised nor valid for higher education or employment purpose. These universities are not empowered to confer any degree," UGC secretary Manish Joshi said. These universities are "fake", he said while releasing a list of these institutions. Delhi has eight "fake"



universities - All India Institute of Public and Physical Health Sciences; Commercial University Ltd, Daryaganj; United Nations University; Vocational University; ADR-Centric

Juridical University; Indian Institution of Science and Engineering; Viswakarma Open University for Self-Employment; and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University), according to the UGC. Uttar Pradesh has four such universities - Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University (Open university); and Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad. Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have two such universi-

ties each. These are Christ New Testament Deemed University and Bible Open University of India in Andhra Pradesh, and Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine and Institute of Alternative Medicine and Research in West Bengal. Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society (Karnataka), St John's University (Kerala), Raja Arabic University (Maharashtra) and Sree Bodhi Academy of Higher Education (Puducherry) are also on the list.

Train shooting: Rlys withdraws statement on mental condition of accused RPF constable

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: The Railways Wednesday said in a statement that no mental ailment was detected in the last periodic medical examination of the RPF constable accused in the Jaipur-Mumbai train shooting incident but withdrew it within hours.

Railway Protection Force (RPF) Constable Chetan Singh (33) is accused of gunning down his senior colleague Tika Ram Meena and three passengers aboard the moving train near Palghar railway station.

Following media reports claiming that the constable suffered from "abnormal hallucinations" and was diagnosed with serious anxiety disorder, the Ministry of Railways in a statement said that the matter is being investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP), Borivali.

On July 31, around 5:23 am, on duty, RPF train escort staff Constable Chetan Singh shot his in-charge ASI Meena using his service ARM rifle (AK-47) while he was performing duty in the B-5 coach of the Jaipur-Mumbai Express at Vaitarna railway station, the railways said.

Ask PM to speak in Parl: Oppn to Prez

In the memorandum submitted to the President, 31 leaders of the Opposition bloc also raised the issue of communal tension in Nuh and alleged that the Central government was not bothered about the developments that are taking place "barely 100 km from the Prime Minister's Office"

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: Leaders of the opposition bloc INDIA Wednesday met President Droupadi Murmu and submitted a memorandum over their demand for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement in Parliament on Manipur and to list steps needed to restore peace in the violence-hit state. They also demanded that the prime minister visit the strife-torn state and make an appeal to the warring communities to end violence and promote brother-

MANIPUR CRISIS



Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge with other I.N.D.I.A leaders after a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

hood. Addressing the media after meeting the President, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the members of the delegation that included MPs who had recently visited Manipur also apprised the President of the situation in the state and shared what they saw in the affected areas.

Kharge along with other opposition leaders told reporters outside Rashtrapati Bhawan that 31 members of the alliance met the President and apprised her of the developments in Manipur. "We also submitted a memo-

MANIPUR CRISIS

random to the President and how incidents of violence were continuing, especially atrocities against women and parading them naked," he said, adding that over 5,000 houses have been burnt, over 200 are dead and more than 500 people were injured in the violence in Manipur so far, even as 60,000 people have been displaced. "We had met the President to bring her attention to the Manipur issue...We told the President about everything, be it Manipur or Haryana violence," Kharge said. "We urgently request your

kind intervention to establish peace and harmony in the state without any further delay. Accountability for the devastation of the past 92 days must be determined. Both the Union government and the state government must fulfil their duty to provide justice to the affected communities," the memorandum also said.

It said her support and intervention are crucial in alleviating the suffering of the people of Manipur. Kharge later said that the President has assured to look into their memorandum and demands. Among the leaders who accompanied the Congress chief were Tiruchi Siva, Kanimozhi, Rajiv Ranjan 'Lallan' Singh, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Gaurav Gogoi, Sushil Kumar Gupta, Sushmita Dev, Jayant Singh, Manoj Jha, among others. Kharge said the prime minister has neither been coming to the House nor making a statement on what steps he intends to take to bring peace and normalcy in the state.

Meanwhile, bodies of 35 Kuki-Zo community people who died in the ethnic strife in Manipur will be laid to rest at Lamka town in Churachandpur district Thursday.

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS CASE

Court reserves order on Tylter's bail plea for Aug 4

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: A Delhi court Wednesday reserved its order for August 4 on Congress leader Jagdish Tylter's plea seeking anticipatory bail in connection with the anti-Sikh riots in 1984 in the national capital's Pul Bangash area.

Tylter Tuesday moved Rouse Avenue Court, which had issued a notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the case. During the hearing on Wednesday, the probe agency took an objection with his request saying that the witnesses have come forward showing great courage and the possibility of influencing them cannot be ignored.

On July 26, the court summoned Tylter for August 5 in the matter. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Vidhi Anand Gupta of a special MP-MLA court had passed the order after taking cognisance of a CBI chargesheet in the case.

Gurdwara Pul Bangash at Azad Market was set on fire by a mob on November 1, 1984 and three persons, namely Sardar Thakur Singh, Badal Singh and Gurcharan Singh, were burnt to death.

The incident took place a day after the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

In its chargesheet filed before the court, the CBI has said that Tylter incited, instigated and provoked the mob that had assembled at gurdwara on November 1, that resulted in the burning down of the gurdwara and killing of three persons of the Sikh community.

Charges under Sections 147 (rioting), 109 (abetment) read with 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), among others, have been invoked against Tylter by the probe agency.

Apext court orders enhanced deployment of security forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: With communal clashes claiming six lives in parts of Haryana close to Delhi, the Supreme Court Wednesday ordered enhanced deployment of security personnel in sensitive areas and a crackdown on hate speech but refused to stop the proposed rallies by VHP and Bajrang Dal in the NCR.

Observing that hate speeches vitiate the atmosphere, a bench of Justices Sanjay Khanna and S V Bhatti also ordered installation of CCTV cameras in vulnerable places. The CCTV footage and the video recording will be preserved, the apex court said. "During the course of hearing,

HARYANA VIOLENCE



VHP, Bajrang Dal supporters take part in a protest march

it is accepted and admitted that the directions given in the order dated October 21, 2022, as extended have to be complied." "We hope and trust that the state governments, including the police authorities, will ensure that there are no hate speeches

against any community and there is no violence or damage to properties. Wherever required, adequate police force or paramilitary forces will be deployed," the bench said.

The top court directed that the order be communicated by the Registry to the standing counsel for the state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. The apex court directed Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Centre, to immediately get in touch with authorities and ensure no untoward incident takes place anymore.

The apex court has posted the matter for hearing Friday.



Shiv Sena (UBT) supporters sit on a silent protest over the atrocity against women at Norman Point in Mumbai, Maharashtra

SC begins hearing pleas challenging abrogation of Art 370

LEADERS OF MANY POLITICAL PARTIES WELCOMED THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SC'S DAY-TO-DAY HEARING ON A BATCH OF PETITIONS CHALLENGING THE ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370 AND SAID THEY EXPECTED JUSTICE WOULD BE FINALLY SERVED TO THE PEOPLE OF J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 2: Who can recommend the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir when no constituent assembly exists there? The Supreme Court Wednesday put this question to the petitioners who have challenged the abrogation of the constitutional provision that bestowed special status on the erstwhile state.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, the lead counsel for the petitioners, as to how can a provision (Article 370), which was specifically mentioned as a temporary provision in the Constitution, become permanent after tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent

assembly came to an end in 1957.

The top court referred to proviso 3 of Article 370 which says, "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: Provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification."

The CJ asked Sibal, "What happens when the tenure of constituent assembly comes to an end? No constituent assembly can have an indefinite life. The proviso to clause (3) of Article 370 refers to the recommendation



of the constituent assembly of the state, and it says before President issues notification the recommendation of constituent assembly is required. But the question is what would happen when the constituent assembly ceases to exist?"

Sibal responded, saying it was precisely their point and their

the tenure of the Jammu and Kashmir constituent assembly came to an end.

Sibal said the court is currently interpreting a constitutional provision and it is not here to legitimise the process which is unknown to the Constitution.

"Through a political act Article 370 was tossed out of the window. This was not a constitutional act. Parliament took upon itself the role of constituent assembly and revoked Article 370 saying it is exercising the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir? Can such a power be exercised?" said Sibal contesting the way Article 370 was repealed.

The hearing remained inconclusive and will continue Thursday.

The top court is conducting day-to-day hearing in the matter

and will hear arguments except Mondays and Fridays, which are days for hearing miscellaneous matters in the apex court. Only fresh petitions are taken up on these days for admission hearing and regular matters are not heard.

The top court had earlier said that the Centre's affidavit with regard to the conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir after the August 5, 2019 notification repealing Article 370 will have no bearing on the constitutional issue to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench.

Several petitions challenging abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

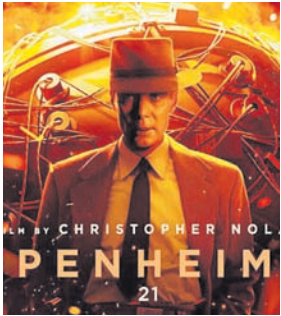
international



I dream of a Europe, the heart of the West, which employs its immense talents to settling conflicts and lighting lamps of hope
POPE FRANCIS | HEAD, VATICAN CITY

BIDENS WATCH 'OPPENHEIMER'

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden took a break from their Delaware beach vacation to see the summer blockbuster 'Oppenheimer'. The Bidens chose 'Oppenheimer' over the even bigger blockbuster 'Barbie', which was showing at the same time at the Movies at Midway theatre



of the day quote

We have to hold the elections on the basis of the new census... When a census has been conducted, the polls should be held on its basis unless there is an obstacle that cannot be overcome. But I don't see any such hurdle

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever commits it

CSABA KOROSI | PRESIDENT, UNGA

Let me assure Singaporeans that we will protect the integrity of our system of government. For the good of our country, we will carry through what needs to be done in accordance with the law, even if it may be politically embarrassing and painful to the party

LEE HSIEN LOONG | PM, SINGAPORE

₹ not legal tender for home payments in SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 2: Sri Lanka's Central Bank said Wednesday that no domestic transactions would be allowed with the Indian Rupee in the island country, as it warned people not to be misled by inaccurate information surrounding the issue.

The apex bank said that even though the Indian Rupee (INR) has been endorsed as a designated foreign currency, it is not a legal tender in Sri Lanka for domestic payments or settlements.

"Any transaction executed between or among residents in Sri Lanka shall be in LKR (Lankan Rupee), being the legal tender in Sri Lanka," the central bank said in a statement. It added that the INR was designated a foreign currency in Sri Lanka in August 2022.

"Trade between Sri Lanka and India has grown rapidly after the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, which came into force in March 2000, the bank said.

In view of the expanding economic activities between India and Sri Lanka, particularly in promoting existing trade relations between the two countries, on several occasions, CBSL (Central Bank of Sri Lanka) has communicated to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Monetary Authority of India, its willingness to authorise INR as a designated foreign currency in Sri Lanka, the statement said.

The statement came days after Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's official visit to India and talks with the top Indian leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Beijing records heaviest rains in 140 years

The record rainfall comes as northern China has been deluged with heavy rains as the remnants of Typhoon Doksuri moved north after earlier hitting southern Chinese provinces

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Fangshan (China), August 2: Deadly rains that pummelled China's capital in recent days were the heaviest since records began 140 years ago, Beijing's weather service said Wednesday, as a massive cleanup operation began.

Millions of people have been hit by extreme weather events and prolonged heat waves around the globe in recent weeks -- events that scientists



say are being exacerbated by climate change.

And the Beijing Meteorological Service said the capital has just experienced the "heaviest rainfall in 140 years", when city authorities started keeping records.

"The maximum (amount) of rainfall recorded during this storm, which was 744.8 millimetres, occurred at the Wangjiayuan Reservoir in

Changping," the service said, adding the largest volume previously recorded was 609 millimetres in 1891.

Chinese authorities said Tuesday the torrential rains around Beijing had caused at least 20 deaths and 27 people are missing.

The epicentre of flooding shifted to neighbouring Hebei province Wednesday. Heavy rains began pound-

ing the typically dry capital and surrounding areas Saturday. The amount recorded in just 40 hours neared the average rainfall for the entire month of July.

State media warned last week that 130 million people would be affected by the extremely heavy rainfall across northern China.

Swathes of suburban Beijing and the surrounding areas have been inundated, with state media reporting 974,400 people have been evacuated in the capital and neighbouring Hebei province.

And to the west, a further 42,211 people have been evacuated in Shanxi province.

Authorities in the capital lifted the red alert for flooding Wednesday morning "as the water flow in major rivers has gone below the warning mark", Xinhua reported.

MORE TROUBLE FOR TRUMP

AGENCIES

Washington, August 2: Former US President Donald Trump was indicted on a slew of charges for trying to overturn the 2020 election verdict, which put Joe Biden in the White House, stay in power by making false claims of election fraud and for fueling the January 6 attack on the US Capitol in pursuit of those goals with these lies.

Trump has been indicted -- and arrested -- twice previously on multiple charges regarding payment of hush money to an adult film star to keep quiet about their affair (by New York state) and (by the federal government) for spiriting away classified papers from his presidency instead of turning them over to official archives as required by law.

These indictments, and arrests that follow, had made Trump the only American President facing this kind of legal jeopardy -- and there is more coming as Georgia state pursues a similar case of trying to overturn the 2020 election verdict with similar election fraud claims -- but they will stop him from continuing his campaign for the White House in the upcoming 2024 election.

Trump will be arraigned Thursday. Despite having lost, the defendant was determined to remain in power, said the



A DEFIANT DONALD LASHES OUT

A day after his third indictment, a defiant Donald Trump Wednesday said he has never had so much support as he gears up for the next year's race for the White House. In an all-caps post on his Truth Social platform, Trump wrote that he has never had so much support as he does after the latest federal charges against him. Referring to the indictment as unprecedented, Trump says it has awoken the world to the corruption, scandal, & failure that has taken place in the United States for the past three years. Thanking his supporters for rallying to his defence, Trump described his indictment as unprecedented and vowed to make America great again. "America is a nation in decline, but we will make it great again, greater than ever before. I love you all!!!!" he tweeted.

four-count and 45-page indictment, with the help of false claims and lies.

These claims were false, and the defendant knew that they were false. In fact, the defendant was notified repeatedly that his claims were untrue -- often by the people on whom he relied for candid advice on important mat-

ters, and who were best positioned to know the facts -- and he deliberately disregarded the truth, the indictment states.

Jack Smith, the special prosecutor for this case and the one about Trump's mishandling of confidential papers, said announcing the charges. "The attack on our nation's capitol

January 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy."

It was fueled by lies, lies by the defendant. Trump responded to the indictment with a post on "Truth Social", he launched after being banned from the popular social media platform Twitter.

"Why didn't they bring this ridiculous case 2.5 years ago? They wanted it right in the middle of my campaign, that's why!" he wrote.

Prosecuting a former President takes time, for one. And, two, Trump is believed by many to have launched his third run for the White House to protect himself from these kinds of legal problems. That he can seek to describe them as a politically motivated move by President Biden against his top Republican rival.

Trump is the current top contender for the Republican ticket. The Tuesday indictment refers to several co-conspirators but does not name them.

But US media reports indicted Rudy Giuliani, who was Trump's personal lawyer and led the lies barrage with his legal team.

SHORT TAKES

Pak SC rejects Imran's plea

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court rejected for a second time Wednesday former prime minister Imran Khan's plea seeking a halt on the trial court's criminal proceedings against him in the Toshakhana corruption case. Despite approaching the Islamabad High Court (IHC) twice, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Khan failed to get relief in the case pertaining to the concealment of details of state gifts. A three-member apex court bench headed by Justice Yahya Afridi conducted the hearing Wednesday.

Khanun pounds Japan's Okinawa

Tokyo: A powerful typhoon slammed Okinawa and other islands in southwestern Japan Wednesday with high winds injuring more than 20 people as it moved west making its way toward mainland China. Typhoon Khanun, which means jackfruit in Thai, was heading west at speeds of 10 kmph, packing surface winds of up to 180 kmph. It was at sea southwest of Okinawa's main island, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. 22 people were injured, most of them minor, according to the Okinawa prefectural government.

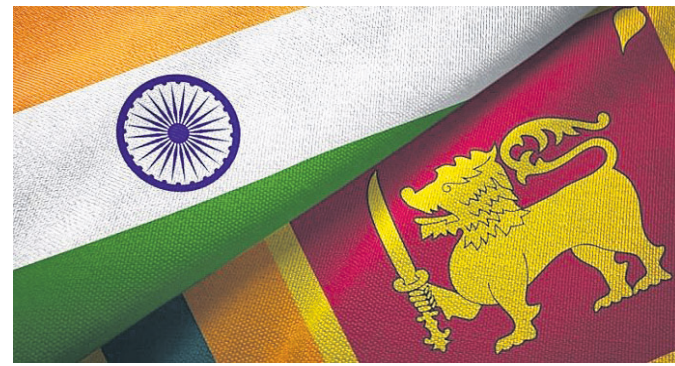
Tunisia sacks its first woman PM

Tunis (Tunisia): Tunisia's president has sacked the country's prime minister, who was the first woman to hold that job in an Arab League nation. A brief statement from the presidential office late Tuesday did not give reasons for the dismissal of Najla Bouden Ramadhane. President Kais Saied had appointed the engineering school professor as Tunisia's first female prime minister in September 2021. Her replacement is retired central bank director Ahmed Hachani, who was sworn in Tuesday night.

Russia attacks Ukrainian port

Kyiv: Russian drones Wednesday hit a Ukrainian port city along the border with Romania, causing significant damage and a huge fire at facilities that are key to Ukrainian grain exports. The attacks followed the end of a deal with Russia that had allowed Ukrainian shipments to world markets from the Black Sea port of Odesa. Since scrapping the deal, Russia has hammered the country's ports with strikes.

SL Prez to press ahead with 13th Amendment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 2: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe plans to press ahead with his quest for the full implementation of the 13th Amendment as part of his reconciliation efforts with the country's minority Tamil community, presidential officials said Wednesday.

The minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka has been demanding the implementation of the 13th Amendment that provides for devolution of power to it. The 13th Amendment (13A) was brought in after the India-Sri Lanka agreement of 1987. It created 9 provinces as devolved units with a temporary merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces.

Presidential officials said Wickremesinghe would deliver a speech in parliament next week when it is reconvened for its regular session. The President will outline his plan to implement it with all powers that could be granted to provincial councils, an official said.

During an all-party meeting last month, Wickremesinghe had said that all powers, except police powers, could be granted to the councils. He would also submit to par-

liament all proposals received from different political parties on the full implementation of the 13A.

However, the main Tamil party -- the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) -- was adamant about holding the stalled provincial council elections at the talks.

The TNA cited previous Sri Lankan government statements which said full powers would be granted.

The elections for the nine provinces have been on hold since 2018 following a move to introduce electoral reforms. It now needs a parliamentary amendment to enable the elections to be held under the existing proportional representation system.

Wickremesinghe convened the all-party meeting immediately after his recent two-day visit to India during which 13A figured prominently in his wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi had reiterated India's wish to see the full implementation of the 13A.

The Sinhala majority parties have urged Wickremesinghe to hold the stalled council elections.

Some Sinhala parties have renewed their fears that full powers to councils would pave the way for the separation of the north and east from the island nation.

TRUDEAU, WIFE TO SEPARATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Toronto, August 2: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, announced Wednesday that they are separating after 18 years of marriage.

The two said in statements posted on Instagram that they made the decision after "many meaningful and difficult conversations." A statement from the prime minister's office said both have signed a legal separation agreement.

The couple was married in 2005. They have three children, 15-year-old Xavier, 14-year-old Ella-Grace and 9-year-old Hadrien.

"They remain a close family and Sophie and the prime minister are focused on raising their kids in a safe, loving and collaborative environment," the statement from his office said. The family will be together on vacation, beginning next week.

His office requested respect for their privacy. Trudeau is the second prime minister to announce a separation while in office. His father, Pierre Trudeau, separated from wife Margaret in 1979, and the two divorced in 1984.

Justin Trudeau channeled the star power of his Liberal icon father when he first won office in 2015. Scandals, voter fatigue and economic inflation have taken a toll on his popularity after eight years in power.

Shahbaz invites Turkey to join CPEC

AGENCIES

Karachi, August 2: Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif Wednesday invited Turkey to join the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), turning it into a trilateral arrangement so that all three friendly nations could benefit from its potential.

Sharif made the remarks at the launch ceremony of a fourth MILGEM class corvette warship PNS Tariq, which was inducted into the Pakistan Navy fleet at a ceremony at the Karachi Shipyard.

Initiated in 2018, the MILGEM project envisaged the construc-



tion of four corvettes for the Pakistan Navy - two in Pakistan and two in Turkey. Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz was

also present at the ceremony.

Renewing his last year's invitation to Turkey to join the CPEC, Shahbaz said turning the multi-billion dollar infrastructure project into a trilateral arrangement would bring regional prosperity and empower people through the best facilities, including education and health.

"I think all three nations can benefit from the potential of the CPEC which has been a big success," the prime minister underlined.

While Pakistan and China describe their relations as all-weather, Pakistan and Turkey, both Muslim-majority nations, enjoy close bilateral ties.

Ukraine drops Soviet symbol from Motherland Monument

It may also change the name of the Motherland Monument to Mother Ukraine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kyiv, August 2: Ukrainian authorities have removed the Soviet-era hammer and sickle symbol from the landmark Motherland Monument in Kyiv, making way for the installation of a trident -- Ukraine's coat of arms.

The Soviet emblem on the monument -- the tallest statue in Ukraine -- will be replaced by the trident by August 24, when the country celebrates its Independence Day, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry of

Culture and Information Policy as saying in a statement.

Experts Monday carried out some preparatory work and constructed the metal sculpture of the trident, the Ministry said.

It also said that it will consider a proposal made by local scientists to change the name of the Motherland Monument to Mother Ukraine.

The 102-meter-high statue was built in 1981 when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. The Kyiv Independent reported. It depicts a woman holding a



sword and a shield emblazoned with the Soviet hammer and

sickle symbol. In April 2015, the Ukrainian

parliament outlawed most Soviet and communist symbols, street names, and monuments as part of a decommunisation policy.

As the monument stands on the site of the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in World War II, the statue was exempted.

However, in a 2022 survey, following the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, 85 per cent of respondents backed the idea to replace the Soviet emblem with a trident.

On May 3 this year, Ukraine's parliament voted on a law to remove the remaining Soviet and Russian Empire monuments left in the country.



You can bring down your cost by 15-20 per cent by usage of methanol which comes at ₹25 a litre. This will reduce your overall cost
NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

UBER WORKING ON AI-POWERED CHATBOT

Ride-hailing platform Uber is reportedly working on an AI-powered chatbot to boost customer service as the company posted its first-ever operating profit in the second quarter this year. Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said that Uber has been leveraging machine learning for years



of the day quote

Coal PSUs have made an investment plan of ₹2.5 lakh crore by 2030 in the new business like developing renewable energy (projects), clean coal technologies and new mine development projects
PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

Since the time of its launch, Harley-Davidson X440 has created significant excitement in the industry
NIRANJAN GUPTA | HERO MOTOCORP CEO

Our margins during the quarter got impacted by high-cost inventory in a falling edible oil price environment and dis-aligned hedges compared to spot prices of physical commodity
ANGSHU MALLICK | MD & CEO, ADANI WILMAR

Banks unprepared for climate risks: Report

The Reserve Bank of India has accepted that the climate crisis could pose a systemic risk to the Indian economy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 2: A report by Climate Risk Horizons Wednesday said that India's major banks remain unprepared to confront climate risks.

The report titled 'Still Unprepared' builds on a 2022 assessment and finds that despite the accelerating impacts of climate change, there remain significant gaps in the preparedness of the Indian banking sector to measure, manage and mitigate climate risks.

The analysis finds little progress towards climate-preparedness among India's 34 largest banks that have a combined market cap of ₹29.5 trillion. "In 2022, extreme weather events battered India on 314 out of 365 days. These floods, heat waves and other extremes are exacting a financial toll, and the science tells us that with carbon emissions continuing to rise, things will get worse before they get better. This is not just an ecological issue, it has real financial consequences for the Indian economy and for investors' portfolios - banks need to start treating it as such," said Sagar Asapur, Head of Sustainable Finance for Climate Risk Horizons and report author.

The analysis ranks banks on



several criteria, including a Fossil Fuel Exclusion Policy, Emissions Disclosure, Climate scenario analysis and Net Zero Targets. While Yes Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank have emerged as the top three performers in climate-risk preparedness, IndusInd Bank has slipped down four places since the last assessment.

Suryoday Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank continue to be the only banks that have a policy against financing new coal projects, one of the leading sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Since the last assessment in March 2022, eight banks have started disclosing some Scope 3 emissions (emissions that are an indirect result of the bank's activities) in addition to Scope 1 and 2.

Yes Bank remains the only

bank to measure its financed emissions, but this too is only for the electricity sector. YES Bank is also the only bank to have explicitly identified climate risk as a Pillar 2 risk under its Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP).

At a time when climate disruption in the form of extreme weather events has hit new extremes, not a single bank has yet undertaken climate-related scenario analyses to gauge the resiliency of their portfolios.

The report also finds that public banks in particular are failing to adequately finance India's energy transition. For example, public sector banks have accounted for less than eight per cent of total financing for the renewable energy sector.

Only 10 banks have disclosed their green financing activities.

India passes law allowing auction, mining of lithium

Under the law, lithium, along with other critical minerals was removed from a previous list of atomic minerals, which prevented it from being auctioned to and mined by private companies



statement said. "As a result, exploration and mining of these minerals is expected to increase significantly in the country," the statement said.

Lithium reserves were discovered earlier this year in the federally administered region of Jammu and Kashmir, and the government has said it hopes to find more reserves later this year.

Other minerals that will now be open for mining and auction include titanium, beryl, niobium and zirconium, the statement said.

These minerals were earlier only allowed to be mined by state-run companies, which meant that they were mined in limited quantities, and the involvement of private companies could be a 'force multiplier', the statement said.

"There is a need to vigorously increase exploration and production of the minerals proposed to be removed from the list of atomic minerals to meet the growing demands of the country," the statement said.

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 2: The Parliament Wednesday passed a law allowing the government to auction and mine its newly-discovered reserves of lithium, among other minerals, increasing the mining of the critical raw material for electric vehicle batteries.

Under the law, lithium, along with other minerals was removed from a previous list of atomic minerals, which prevented it from being auctioned to and mined by private companies.

"Upon removal of these minerals from the list of atomic minerals, exploration and mining of these minerals will be open to private sector," a government

Q1 RESULTS CORNER

Titan net profit dips 4 per cent

New Delhi: Leading jewellery and watchmaker Titan Wednesday reported a 4 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit at ₹756 crore in the June quarter. The company had posted a net profit of ₹790 crore in the April-June period last fiscal. Total income, however, rose to ₹11,070 crore in the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal as against ₹9,131 crore in the year-ago period, Titan Company Ltd said in a regulatory filing. "The year has started well for us with double-digit revenue growth across business segments. The jewellery business remained the star performer with a 19 per cent growth on a year-on-year basis," Titan Managing Director CK Venkataraman said. The company is pursuing market share gain across categories and investing in various capabilities and retail network expansion, he added.

IOB net profit rises 28 per cent

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Wednesday posted a 28 per cent increase in net profit at ₹500 crore in the June quarter, mainly due to a decline in bad loans. The Chennai-based lender had posted a net profit of ₹392 crore in the year-ago period. The total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to ₹6,227 crore against ₹5,028 crore, IOB said in a regulatory filing. The lender's interest income also increased to ₹5,424 crore from ₹4,435 crore in the same quarter a year ago. On the asset quality side, the bank witnessed an improvement with the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) easing to 7.13 per cent of the gross advances by June 2023 as against 9.12 per cent a year ago. The net NPA too declined to 1.44 per cent over 2.43 per cent in the same period of the previous financial year.

IndiGo posts record profit

New Delhi: With tailwinds of strong operational performance and favourable market conditions, IndiGo Aviation Wednesday reported a record profit after tax of ₹3,090.6 crore in the three months ended June. The parent of the country's largest airline also reported its highest-ever quarterly total income of ₹17,160.9 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal, according to a release. The carrier, which had 316 planes in its fleet at the end of June 2023, had registered a loss of ₹1,064.3 crore in the 2022 June quarter. In a release, the airline said in June quarter, it had highest-ever quarterly profit.

Foxconn to invest \$600mn in K'taka

REUTERS

Bangalore, August 2: Foxconn will invest \$600 million in two projects in Karnataka to make casing components for iPhones and chip-making equipment, signaling its growing interest in the south Asian nation as it spreads bets beyond China.

Some \$350 million will go towards setting up the iPhone component facility, which will generate 12,000 jobs, while Foxconn will tie up with Applied Materials in a \$250 million project to make chip-making tools, Karnataka state said in a statement.



The state government said both projects were signed via so-called letters of intent, meaning final modalities could change. Foxconn, which assembles around 70% of iPhones and is world's largest contract manufacturer, has been diversifying production away from China amid COVID disruptions and geopolitical tensions.

The investment decisions follow a meeting between Foxconn Chairman Young Liu, Karnataka's IT minister Priyank Kharge, and Industries Minister MB Patil.

28% GST on online gaming stays: FM

THERE WOULD BE A REVIEW OF THE LEVY AFTER SIX MONTHS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, SAYS SITHARAMAN

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 2: The decision to impose a 28 per cent tax on the full face value of bets placed on online games will be implemented from October 1 even though there was demand for a review from states like Delhi and Goa, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Wednesday.

The GST Council - the highest decision-making body of the new indirect tax regime that comprises Union finance minister and representatives of all states - discussed the language of amendments that will be

needed to enabling taxing online gaming, she said after the panel meeting.

The panel had at its last meeting decided to levy a 28 per cent GST on full face value of bets placed and Wednesday's meeting was to deliberate on the tax law changes that would be required to implement it.

Sitharaman said Delhi finance minister opposed the levy of the tax on online gaming while Goa and Sikkim wanted the levy on GGR (gross gaming revenue) and not on face value.

Sitharaman, however, said other states ranging from Karnataka to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh wanted the decision taken at the last meeting to be implemented.

The new levy, after required changes are made in the central and state laws, is likely to come into effect from October 1, she said. There would be a review of the levy after six months of its implementation, she added.



Sensex, Nifty plunge 1% amid weak global trends

Negative news regarding the US rating downgrade on fiscal concerns, coupled with weak factory activity data from Eurozone and China, led to widespread worries across the globe

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 2: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell by 1 per cent Wednesday on weak global market trends and continuous foreign fund outflows.

Fitch Ratings has downgraded the United States government's credit rating, citing rising debt at the federal, state, and local levels and a "steady deterioration in standards of governance" over the past two decades.

The rating was cut Tuesday one notch to AA+ from AAA, the highest possible rating.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 676.53 points or 1.02 per cent to settle at 65,782.78. During the day, it cracked 1,027.63 points or 1.54 per cent to 65,431.68.

The NSE Nifty fell by 207 points or 1.05 per cent to end at 19,526.55.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel declined 3.45 per cent, followed by Tata Motors which fell by 3.19 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, JSW Steel, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro and Bharti Airtel were among the other major laggards.

Nestle, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever and Tech Mahindra were the gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell by 1.39 per cent and smallcap index declined



Investors' wealth falls by ₹3.46 lakh crore

New Delhi: Investors' wealth eroded by ₹3.46 lakh crore Wednesday as equity markets took a sharp tumble amid weak global trends and foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 676.53 points or 1.02 per cent to settle at 65,782.78. During the day, it plunged 1,027.63 points or 1.54 per cent to 65,431.68. In line with the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹3,46,947.54 crore to ₹3,03,33,258.69 crore.

1.18 per cent. All indices ended lower with metal tumbling 2.45 per cent, utilities falling by 2.32 per cent, power (2.31 per cent), telecommunication (2 per cent), capital goods (1.83 per cent), auto (1.52 per cent), oil & gas (1.47 per cent), industrials (1.46 per cent), financial services (1.33 per cent) and commodities (1.22 per cent). A total of 2,353 stocks declined

while 1,240 advanced and 139 remained unchanged.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,877.84 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 0.80 per cent to USD 85.59 a barrel.

WALMART TOPS FORTUNE GLOBAL 500 LIST

SAUDI ARAMCO MOST PROFITABLE COMPANY EVER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, August 2: Fortune announced that US retailer Walmart has topped its Global 500 list for 2023, ranking the world's largest corporations by revenue for fiscal 2022.

On Fortune's authoritative ranking of the (current) corporate world order, the Arkansas-based retailer claimed No. 1 for the 10th consecutive year and for the 18th time since 1995.

Walmart joins a spike in the number of US companies on the Global 500 this year, reaching its highest total since 2010 at 136 companies, which is also the highest for a stand-alone country.

The strength of the global energy sector was dramatically clear as Saudi Aramco nearly knocked the retail Goliath from

its perch.

Saudi Aramco (No. 2) benefited from soaring energy prices - fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine - that also propelled Exxon Mobil (No. 7) and Shell (No. 9) back into the top 10 by revenue. In profits, Saudi Aramco earned \$159 billion, the highest annual total ever for a Fortune Global 500 company.

Big Tech, meanwhile, proved it also remains a robust and profitable sector. Together, Apple, Alphabet, and Microsoft brought in \$233 billion in net income, with Apple (No. 8) earning just short of \$100 billion in profits, the most ever by a US company.

There were 39 newcomers to this year's Fortune Global 500, including 23 companies making their debut, such as Warner Bros. Discovery (No. 449), plus first time Chinese companies,



Contemporary Amperex Technology (No. 292) and Meituan (No. 467).

By geography, Chinese companies in total - Greater China: mainland China including Hong Kong, and adding Taiwan - top

this year's Global 500 with 142 companies.

But the 136 US companies generated more revenue in 2022 - \$13 trillion to Greater China's \$11.7 trillion. An economic slump, tighter regulation, and the lin-

Reliance at top within India Inc

New Delhi: Reliance Industries maintained its highest ranking among Indian corporates in the latest Global 500 list published by Fortune for year 2023. Reliance Industries improved its rank by 16 places to rank number 88 rank from its previous year's rank of 104. The company has gained a whopping 67 places in last two years from 155 of 2021. Thus, the company has gained 83 places in the Fortune Global 500 rankings in just two years. The ranking of 88 is the best ever achieved by Reliance on the Fortune Global 500 ranking list. India had eight companies in the Fortune's Global 500 list this year - five of them from the public sector - IOCL, LIC, ONGC, BPCL and SBI - and just three from the private sector.

gering impact of Covid restrictions in mainland China hurt revenue at consumer-facing companies such as Alibaba (No. 68), Tencent (No. 147), and JD.com (No. 52).

Fortune Global 500 companies generated revenues totaling \$41 trillion - more than one-third of the world's GDP - for an increase of 8 per cent over last year.

Cumulative profits were down 7 per cent from last year at \$2.9 trillion. Companies on the 2023 list employ 70.1 million people worldwide and are based in 232 cities and 33 countries/territories and regions around the world.

The number of women CEOs of Fortune Global 500 companies rose to 29 this year, from 24 last year.

INTO T20 GROOVE All-round India trounce WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Mukesh Kumar was delighted after dismissing a West Indies batter, Tuesday

Tarouba (Trinidad), August 2: A clinical India outclassed West Indies by a whopping 200 runs in the third ODI to win the series 2-1 but the lingering questions on the team combination ahead of the World Cup remained in the horizon despite four half centuries and a top notch bowling effort here Tuesday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and senior pro Virat Kohli once again opted out to give World Cup hopefuls a fair go but the dominant result isn't a good enough indication that all boxes have been ticked as the team look far from settled.

Shubman Gill, who has had a quiet Caribbean sojourn so far, finally found some rhythm with 85 (92b, 11x4) and his opening stand of 143 with an in-form Ishan Kishan (77, 64b, 8x4, 3x6) set the platform for a commanding score of 351/5 after being put into bat.

Sanju Samson (51, 41b, 2x4, 4x6) made a compelling case to be picked as a reserve middle order batter while skipper Hardik Pandya's knock (70 n o, 52b, 4x4, 5x6) added the finishing flourish on a good batting strip.

The chase was always out of question and Mukesh Kumar's (3/30) three-wicket burst with some quality seam bowling in the first powerplay dashed West Indies' hopes as they were shot out for 151 in only 35.3 overs. Gudakesh Motie (39 n o) and Alzarri Joseph (26) delayed the inevitable with a 55-run stand for the ninth wicket.

Shardul Thakur (4/37), Jaydev Unadkat (1/16) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/25) were also among the wickets as the series decider turned out to be a lopsided contest. But

there would be questions that will beg for answers ahead of the upcoming Asia Cup and subsequent World Cup at home.

For Kishan, the performance in this series will keep him in good stead ahead of Asia Cup but the bigger question remains about his batting position in case KL Rahul isn't fit for the tourney.

The chances of Rohit Sharma sacrificing his place at the top of the order to accommodate Kishan are slim. And then if Kishan is asked to bat in the middle order - No.4 or 5, would it be fair to ask him to perform at that slot straightaway?

Samson, one of the contenders for the No.4 slot in case Shreyas Iyer doesn't get fit in time for the

World Cup, gave a good glimpse of his talent and enthralled his millions of followers on social media. Suryakumar Yadav (35) did hit his customary pick-up shot but once again wasted a golden opportunity to make a mark.

Hardik and Suryakumar added 65 runs in 8.1 overs for the fifth wicket but the latter will only have himself to blame or not making most of the opportunities. Not scoring a fifty against this West Indies attack can surely come back to hunt him in case both Rahul and Shreyas Iyer get fit.

Similarly in bowling department, not picking Yuzvendra Chahal for a single game was slightly baffling as now only nine matches (if they play Asia Cup final) are left before World Cup starts. With Ravindra Jadeja picking himself as the first spinner, there is no way that Axar Patel can make it to the playing XI.

Similarly, Mukesh Kumar despite his performances at best could be in list of five standbys if Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur are picked in the squad of 15.

BRIEF SCORES: India 351/5 (Shubman Gill 85, Ishan Kishan 77, Hardik Pandya 70 n o, Sanju Samson 51, Suryakumar Yadav 35, Romario Shepherd 2/73, Gudakesh Motie 1/38) beat West Indies 151 (Gudakesh Motie 39 n o, Alick Athanaze 32; Shardul Thakur 4/37, Mukesh Kumar 3/30, Kuldeep Yadav 2/25) by 200 runs.

THE SQUADS

INDIA: Ishan Kishan (wk), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav (vc), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya (C), Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.

WEST INDIES: Rovman Powell (C), Kyle Mayers (vc), Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Obed McCoy, Nicholas Pooran, Romario Shepherd, Odean Smith, Oshane Thomas.

MATCH SCHEDULE

INDIA vs WEST INDIES
1st T20 International
Time: 8 pm
Telecast: DD Sports
Stream: Jio Cinema & Fan Code

The 29-year-old Hope, the West Indies captain in the three-match ODI series, last played a T20I in February last year in Kolkata during the tour of India.

The 26-year-old Thomas, on the other hand, is coming back after playing his last T20I in Karachi in December 2021. Kyle Mayers has been named vice-captain of the squad that is aiming for next year's T20 World Cup.

After the opener, the teams will move to the Guyana National Stadium for the second and third fixtures August 6 and 8. The series will conclude with the matches at the Broward County Stadium, Lauderdale, Florida August 12 and 13.

uled next year, these men will be motivated to perform and cement their places in the team.

As far as the West Indies are concerned, they are coming into the rubber on the back of defeats in the Test and ODI series and will also not find it easy in the slam-bang format, their strongest suit.

Wicketkeeper-batter Shai Hope and fast bowler Oshane Thomas have been recalled to strengthen the 15-member West Indies team led by Rovman Powell.

HARDIK TAKES A DIG AT WEST INDIES BOARD

TAROUBA (TRINIDAD): Indian captain Hardik Pandya rued the lack of basic facilities during their stay here, saying "it's time" for Cricket West Indies (CWI) to take note of and address the issues.

"This was one of the nicest grounds we have played. Things can be better when we come to West Indies next time. From travelling to managing a lot of things. Last year also, some hiccups happened," Hardik said after the game at the Brian Lara Stadium.

"I think it's time for West Indies Cricket to take note of it

and make sure that when a team travels... We don't ask for luxury but we need some basic necessities taken care of. Other than that, really enjoyed coming here and playing some good cricket," he added Tuesday.

The Indian cricketers had earlier expressed their displeasure to BCCI after their late-night flight from Trinidad to Barbados got delayed by close to four hours, leaving them sleep-deprived ahead of the ODI series opener.

Rotation, experiment
Hardik said stalwarts Rohit



Sharma and Virat Kohli needed to be rested for the second and third ODIs against West Indies to help India give opportunities to youngsters ahead of the World Cup.

"Virat and Rohit are very in-

tegral part of the team. And, you know, obviously, this was very important for someone like Rutu (Ruturaj Gaikwad) to get a game or Axar (Patel) to get a game because they've been playing cricket for so many years, they know how exactly all these situations have been.

"So kind of giving the youngsters exposure and kind of making sure that if we want to check something, we have the opportunity to do it," Hardik said at the post-match presentation ceremony.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tarouba (Trinidad), August 2: Less than 48 hours after their ODI series triumph, India will switch to T20 mode, again as overwhelming favourites against the West Indies in a five-match rubber starting here from Thursday, which will provide an ideal platform to the youngsters to express themselves.

In the preceding three-match 50-over rubber that had some context in the year of the ODI World Cup, India emerged victorious 2-1 after a shock defeat in the second match and the fancied visitors will have their tails up in the T20 series, too.

Led by dynamic all-rounder Hardik Pandya, India will look to give opportunities to hungry guys such as Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma and Mukesh Kumar in these five matches beginning with the opener at the Brian Lara Stadium.

It was their stellar performances in the Indian Premier League that have earned the maiden call-up to India's T20I squad and they will certainly look to make the most of it.

On the other hand, the selectors, in the first meeting with

Ajit Agarkar as their chairman, brought back Sanju Samson, and the seasoned swashbuckler batter-cum keeper will strive to make the opportunity count and see where he stands as far his place in the ODI World Cup squad is concerned.

Given the West Indies' terminal decline across formats in recent times, the Indians are expected to call the shots. Ravi Bishnoi is also back in the squad with Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, who will be the spin options alongside Axar Patel.

With Hardik and his deputy for the series - the last two matches of which will be held in Florida - Suryakumar Yadav occupying two slots in the middle order, and the likes of Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill and Jaiswal at the top, it makes for an intimidating batting line-up and the Indians are expected to rake up big totals if the coin lands in their favour at the toss.

Besides newcomer Mukesh, whose three-wicket burst rocked the West Indies top order in the final ODI here on Tuesday, India will have the trio of Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik and Avesh Khan shouldering the pace bowling responsibility.

With the T20 World Cup sched-

SHORT TAKES

Eves stun Colombia

BERLIN: India's compound women's team comprising Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami jolted defending champions Colombia 220-216 to enter the final of the ongoing archery World Championships Wednesday. However, Indian hopes in the compound men's and mixed team events ended after tight defeats. In the men's event, Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar went down in the quarterfinals to Netherlands 230-235. In the mixed category, Deotale and Jyothi Surekha were pipped by the USA 154-153 in the round of last-eight. Earlier, Indian archers failed to secure Paris Olympics team quota places after making quarterfinal exits in both men's and women's recurve events. The men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Rajat Chauhan and Tushar Shelke lost to India's nemesis Korea 1-5 (49-55, 57-57, 53-55). The women's team of Bhajan Kaur, Anika Bhakat and Simranjeet Kaur lost to the Netherlands 2-6 (49-48, 52-53, 48-50, 54-57). India also disappointed in the recurve mixed team event, despite a favourable draw because of their fourth-place finish in the qualification.

OFC rope in Puitea

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha FC Wednesday completed the transfer of Indian Super League-winning Mohun Bagan midfielder Lalhathanga Khawlhing 'Puitea' on a three-year deal, for a club-record transfer fee. The Mizoram-born midfielder kickstarted his career with Bethlehem Vengthlam before securing a move to the DSK Shivajians Academy. Puitea was awarded the 'Best Midfielder' in the Mizoram Premier League for the 2015-16 season. Puitea joins the Kalinga Warriors on the back of winning the ISL 2022-23 with ATK Mohun Bagan (now Mohun Bagan Super Giant) beating BFC in the final.

Eyes on Asiad, India begin final preparation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 2: Tournament favourites and three-time champions India will look to give final touches to their Asian Games preparation and address the areas of improvement in the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament, beginning here Thursday.

World No.4 India are the highest ranked side in the tournament and will open their campaign against China at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here, which will host a major event for the first time since 2007. It is also the first time India would be hosting the ACT since the tournament's inception in 2011.

For India, the primary objective in the tournament would be to test the players and get a fair bit of idea about their Asian rivals ahead of the Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8.

With the Asian Games providing a direct ticket to next year's Paris Olympics, India are expected to test their resources in the ACT while also playing a balancing act to keep their players fresh and free from injuries ahead of the all-important continental showpiece.

While the scheduling of the ACT just five weeks before the Hangzhou Games has drawn some criticism from the visiting sides, India head coach Craig

Fulton does not seem to be too fended by the prospect of featuring in this event.

India might have gained both in terms of ranking and respect in world hockey, but the Tokyo Games bronze medallists fared poorly in the FIH World Cup co-hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela earlier this year.

The Indians finished a disappointing ninth in the World Cup. But since then, the Harmanpreet Singh-led side has played as many as 16 games, winning nine of them, losing five, along with a couple of draws.

The Indians will come into the tournament straight from a four-nation Europe tour, with only a three-day gap between

MANJUNATH STUNS WORLD NO.7; SINDHU, SRIKANTH ALSO ADVANCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, August 2: Unheralded Indian Mithun Manjunath stunned fourth seed and World No.7 Kean Yew Loh of Singapore in the opening round while PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth secured straight-game wins at the Australia Open badminton tournament here Wednesday.

Manjunath, ranked 50th in the world, beat Loh 21-19, 21-19 in the men's singles first round match that lasted 41 minutes. Manjunath faces the winner of the match between Lee Zii Jia and Leong Jun Hao - both Malaysians

- in the second round of the BWF Super 500 tournament.

Meanwhile, Lakshya Sen conceded his men's singles match against compatriot Kiran George due to an injury. Sen was trailing 0-5 in the opening game when he decided to quit.

Fifth seed Sindhu, who has lost in the first round at seven different tour events this season and is playing under a new personal coach in Malaysia's Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, defeated compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-18, 21-13 in 36 minutes in her opening women's singles match.



MITHUN MANJUNATH

India might visit Pak for Olympic qualifiers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 2: Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, Wednesday, said that the national men's team will travel to Pakistan for qualifiers in case they fail to directly qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics by winning gold at the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games, starting September 23.

The team winning the continental event gold shall receive direct berth in the quadrennial extravaganza as per rule but other nations need to play the qualifiers and this time venues identified are Pakistan and Spain.

"We will be trying to get the job done in Hangzhou. But, if for some reason, we fail to qualify, then there are a couple of venues that have been identified for the qualifiers - Pakistan and Spain. So, wherever it happens, we will definitely go," he said during a media interaction on the eve of the tournament Wednesday.

Travelling to Pakistan requires government clearance and it is there to be seen what will be the centre's stance in case situation demands that national hockey team is needed to travel to Pakistan to play the qualifiers.

In other men's singles opening round matches, Srikanth, World No.19, defeated Japan's Kenta Nishimoto 21-18, 21-7, while sixth seed HS Prannoy had to dig deep to beat Cheuk Yiu Lee of Hong Kong 21-18, 16-21, 21-15. Rising shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat also tasted success as he beat Australia's Nathan Tang 21-12 21-16.

Among other Indians in the fray Wednesday, Aakarshi Kashyap beat Malaysia's Jin Wei Goh 21-15, 21-17, but it was curtains for Malvika Bansod as she lost 20-22, 11-21 against Yu Po Pai of Chinese Taipei.

Only one Indian will survive after the second round in the women's singles as Sindhu and Kashyap are pitted against each other.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy made first round exit after losing 14-21, 18-21 to World No.5 and third seeded Korean pair of Seung Jae Seo and Yu Jung Chae.

In the men's singles second round, Prannoy will take on Yu Jen Chi of Chinese Taipei, while Rajawat and Srikanth will be up against opponents from Taipei in Tzu Wei Wang and Li Yang Su respectively.