

Actor Rakul Preet Singh, during an 'Ask Me Anything' session, reveals about her mantra of energy and good looks

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 93 | www.orissapost.com

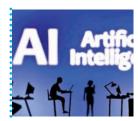
LEISURE | P2



PM mocks Rahul

Prime Minister Narendra Modi mounts a stinging counterattack on Rahul Gandhi as he mocks the latter as 'balak buddhi' (childish mind)

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY JULY 3, 2024



Another bubble

US stock rally supercharged by AI draws comparisons with the dotcom bubble two decades ago, raising questions on valuations

BUSINESS | P11



SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, running completely dry, Tuesday.

As per information accessed

by Orissa POST, apart from SCB,

the SDH Baliguda in Kandhamal;

NALCO Hospital, Damanjodi;

DHH, Nuapada; SDH, Athamallik; Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar; DHH Baripada;

SDH, Dharmagarh; AMRI

Hospitals, Bhubaneswar and

NALCO Hospital, Angul had ex-

hausted stock of the life-saving

Also, baring a few, many of

the remaining 50 blood banks

were having single digit stock

that may prove insufficient in

For example, DHH Khurda has just one unit of blood, while

SDH Rairakhol (4), CHC Jajpur

Road (3), DHH Paralakhemundi

(3), SDH Gunupur (6), SDH Rairangpur (3), SDH Kantabanji

(2), SDH, Champua (2), DHH

Boudh (8), DHH, Puri (8), DHH

Sonepur (3), DHH Keonjhar (6),

CRCBC Cuttack (8), SDH

Titilagarh (3), DHH, Jajpur (4)

and DHH, Kendrapara (6) as

Sources said with a total of

2,326 units, the 60 blood banks in

the state are having just 10 per

cent of their regular storage at

Top sources in the Health de-

partment said the situation looks

precarious in the backdrop of

the fact that the state requires at

least 40,000 units of blood for

various healthcare facilities

every month (4-5 lakh units per

year) for regular and scheduled

transfusions. Hospitals in

Cuttack city alone need around

4,000 units of blood every month,

we are also facing difficulties

in administering blood to tha-

lassemia (state has 17,000 tha-

lassemia cases) and sickle cell pa-

tients who are solely dependent

on blood banks for their regular

requirements," sources added.

"Due to the present shortfall,

present.

they said.

fluid by Tuesday morning.

case of exigencies.

Most important call

Rahul Dravid says that a call from Rohit Sharma prompted him to continue as coach after the loss in the ODI World Cup final

SPORTS | P12

116 killed in UP stampede Blood bank-ruptcy

Overcrowding at religious events without adequate crowd control measures and contingency rescue plans once again caused mayhem when as many as 116 people, including scores of women and children, lost their lives in a stampede during a 'satsang' at Pulrai village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district, Tuesday. The incident is a crude reminder of death of several pilgrims during the recent Chhota Char Dham Yatra, or the 1997 tragedy at Baripada where 178 persons perished during the annual conference of devotees of a guru. The latest tragedy nevertheless, a wakeup call for authorities to tighten norms for visitors' safety than leaving the besotted public to the mercy of greedy organisers

AGENCIES

Hathras (UP), July 2: A stampede at a religious congregation Tuesday killed 116 people, most of them women, as devotees suffocated to their deaths and bodies piled atop each other in the worst such tragedy in recent years.

The stampede took place as the 'satsang' here ended. Some accounts said people slipped in the slush as they ran after the preacher's car, triggering the stampede. Tens of thousands of devotees had gathered in the Hathras district's Phulrai village for the 'satsang', conducted by Baba Narayan Hari who is also known as Saakar Vishwa Hari Bhole Baba.

Twenty-seven bodies were brought to a hospital in neighbouring Etah district, and 89 lay dead in Hathras itself.

UP Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh put the death toll at 116. Barring seven children and a man, the dead are all women. Singh said 72 have been identified so far. Victims, dead or unconscious, were brought to the Sikandara Rau Trauma Centre in trucks and 'tempos'. The bodies lav scattered outside this Hathras health centre as people milled around them. A video clip showed a woman crying as she sat in a



MASSIVE TRAGEDY: Relatives outside a hospital where victims of the Hathras' stampede are admitted, in Etah, Tuesday

Navami at a temple in Indore city.

throne-like chair. The preacher was a policeman in the 1990s when he left the force, and started holding satsangs, according to one account. Politicians

truck, amid five or six bodies.

Another showed a man and a

woman lifeless in another ve-

hicle. Clips before the stampede

showed people in a large 'shami-

ana', listening to Bhole Baba.

The 'baba' sat before them on a

are said to be among his followers. District Magistrate Ashish Kumar said the 'satsang' was a private event for which the subdivisional magistrate had granted permission. The local administration provided security outside the venue while the arrangements inside were made by the

IN THE PAST

- MARCH 31, 2023: At least 36 people were killed on the occasion of Ram
- JANUARY 1, 2022: At least 12 people died and over a dozen were injured in a stampede at the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir
- JULY 14, 2015: Twenty-seven pilgrims died and 20 others were injured in a stampede at a major bathing spot on the banks of the Godavari river in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh
- OCTOBER 3, 2014: Thirty-two people were killed and 26 injured in a stampede at Gandhi Maidan in Patna after the Dussehra celebrations
- OCTOBER 13, 2013: 115 people were killed and over 100 injured in a stampede during the Navratri festivities near Ratangarh temple in Madhya Pradesh

organisers, he added.

tary, the application letter seeking permission for the event put the number of expected participants at 80,000. "But it was much

more than that," he said. According to the chief secre- 'Satsang' participant Sonu Kumar blamed the slippery ground for the stampede.

"When Guru ji left the place after almost one and half hours.

all of a sudden devotees ran behind him to touch his feet," he said. When they turned back, some slipped. Amid his reply to a twoday debate in Parliament on the motion of thanks on the President's address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the deaths.

President Droupadi Murmu said the news was heart-rending. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed sadness.

The PMO announced an exgratia compensation of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each person killed in the stampede. The injured will be given ₹50,000. UP CM Yogi Adityanath made a similar an-**MORE: P3&8**

Bhubaneswar, July 2: The state is presently facing an acute shortage of blood, with blood banks at 10 hospitals, including the

While authorities attributed the long election season and grueling summer months for the present scarcity, organizations engaged in collection of blood alleged that the problem has been persisting since long in the ab-

sence of any policy framework. Swaroop Das, Assistant

Director, State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC), the apex body for operation of blood banks in Odisha, told Orissa POST that the present 'deficit' was on account of the 'lean' collection months. "Blood collection took a beating during the three-four election months as donation camps were few. Moreover, during summer season people are often averse to donate due to heat conditions. Also, most of the schools and

closed due to summer vacation,' he said. Spokesperson of a voluntary outfit, which organises blood donation camps across the state, claimed that successive governments' failure in streamlining the 'voluntary act' of blood donation through a defined policy and lack of incen-

tives to donors were playing the

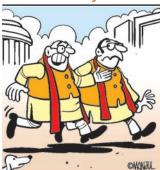
colleges (students constitute a

majority of blood donors) were

dampener in the process. He said situation has come to such a passé that patients at several hospitals are being fleeced by middlemen while arranging donors in exchange of getting transfusions. It is worth mentioning here that while ornagisations like Rotary Club, Lion's Club and other voluntary/social groups are contributors to blood banks, the majority regular stock used to be supplied by volunteers of Odisha Mo Parivar.

Meanwhile, despite several attempts, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling could not be contacted for his response over phone.

IRREGULAR by MANJUI



Forget infra projects, what worries me is the crumbling of factories of lies

MARKET WATCH SENSEX **79441.45** 🖊 34.74 **24,123.85 1**8.10 DOLLAR **83.55** ₹0.18 EURO GOLD ₹71,301 SILVER ₹88,016 1 ₹494

WEATHER

CTC 31.4°(**Max Temp** Min Temp 81% Humidity 12.1mm Rainfall

Partly cloudy sky



2-day holiday for Rath Yatra

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday announced a two-day holiday for the upcoming Rath Yatra, July 7 and 8, marking a special occasion after 53 years.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review preparations for the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings in Puri, Majhi highlighted the significance of this rare two-day festival, last observed in 1971.

He emphasised the blessings and auspicious timing of this event coinciding with the tenure of the new BJP government.

"As the Rath Yatra will span two days, I direct the officers concerned to declare public holidays on these days," Majhi said, urging all officials to ensure the



festival's smooth execution to uphold the pride of Puri and Odisha. The Chief Minister said President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to participate in the Rath Yatra celebrations. She is likely to arrive in Puri July 6 evening and participate in the fes-

tival and chariot pulling July 7. Given the convergence of key rituals like 'Nabajaubana Darshan, 'Netra Utsav', and the 'Gundicha Yatra' July 7th, Majhi called for collective cooperation from stakeholders to facilitate timely rituals and the successful culmination of the festival.

CJI bench to hear NEET pleas July 8 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear July 8 a batch of pleas related to the controversy-ridden NEET-UG, including those alleging irregularities in the examination held May 5 and seeking a direction that it be held afresh.

According to the cause list for July 8 uploaded on the apex court's website, the batch of 26 petitions would come up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoi Misra.

NEET-UG is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

The NEET-UG. 2024 was held

RAHUL URGES PM FOR DEBATE IN LS

New Delhi: Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting his government to facilitate a debate on the medical entrance exam NEET issue in the Lok Sabha, Wednesday, He said the Opposition's request to discuss NEET was denied in both Houses of Parliament June 28 as well as Monday, and added that the Lok Sabha Speaker had assured the Opposition that he would discuss the matter with the government.

across 4,750 centres May 5 and around 24 lakh candidates appeared in it. Initially expected June 14, the results were announced June 4 due to an early completion of answer-sheet evaluation. Allegations of irregularities, including paper leaks, have led to protests in several cities and sparring between rival political parties.

On June 11, hearing a plea seeking that the exam be held afresh on the grounds of alleged question paper leak and other malpractices, the top court observed that the sanctity of the NEET-UG has been affected and sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on the petition.

It, however, refused to stay the counselling of the successful candidates for admissions to MBBS, BDS and other courses.

On June 20, the top court sought the responses of the Centre, the NTA and others on a slew of petitions, including those seeking the scrapping of the NEET-UG and a court-monitored probe.

New horned frog species found in Arunachal

Shillong, July 2: A team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has discovered a new species of forestdwelling horned frog in Arunachal Pradesh, sources said Tuesday.

The new-to-science Xenophrys apatani, found from the Talle Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Subansiri district, has been named after the dominant Apatani community in recognition of their ingenuity in the conservation of wild flora and

fauna, they said. "The research, published in the



current edition of the Zoological Survey of India, overturns an earlier erroneous report of the

Maoson horned frog (Xenophrys maosonensis) in India, which was reported by ZSI researchers

in Shillong in 2019," said Bhaskar Saikia, one of the scientists.

'The discovery of Xenophrys apatani underscores India's rich biodiversity and highlights the importance of rigorous taxonomic studies in understanding our natural heritage. It is a significant addition to the country's herpetofaunal diversity,'

The researchers also provided insights into the biogeographic distribution of the Xenophrys species in India, distributed along the Eastern Himalayan and the Indo-Burma biodiversity hot spots of the country. "The findings are expected to guide future conservation efforts and enhance understanding of amphibian evolution in the region," Saikia said.

He explained that the revised conclusion regarding the species' identity came after further analysis revealed substantial genetic disparities between the Indian specimen and X. maosonensis from Vietnam and China, prompting a reevaluation.

Saikia, along with his colleague Bikramjit Sinha, also from ZSI Shillong, led the research. The team included KP Dinesh and A. Shabnam from ZSI Pune, and Ilona Jacinta Kharkongor from ZSI Itanagar.

Selective expunction defies logic: Rahul



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 2: Leader of Opposition (LoP)Rahul Gandhi Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over portions of his speech in the House having been expunged, saying "selective expunction" defies logic and that the remarks be restored.

In his first speech as the LoP in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi had launched a no-holds-barred attack on the BJP, accusing the leaders of the ruling party of dividing people on communal lines. Certain remarks he made during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha

Monday were later expunged. In his letter to Birla, Gandhi said while the Chair derives powers to expunge certain remarks from the proceedings of the House but the stipulation is only those kinds of words, the nature of which have been specified in Rule 380 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. "I am, however, shocked to note the manner in which considerable portions of my speech have been simply taken off from the proceedings under the garb of expunction," the former Congress chief said.



leisure



CAMILA CABELLO IS 'COMPLETELY SINGLE'

Pop star Camila Cabello has declared she is 'completely single' at the moment but she just doesn't have time for romance right now. The 27-year-old pop star previously dated relationship coach Matthew Hussey, singer Shawn Mendes and businessman Austin Kevitch and was recently linked to her collaborator Drake.

BURTON'S BEETLEJUICE 2 TO OPEN VENICE FILM FEST

Filmmaker Tim Burton's film Beetlejuice Beetlejuice, starring Michael Keaton, Jenna Ortega, and Willem Dafoe, is set to open the upcoming Venice Film Festival. The film also stars Catherine O'Hara, Winona Ryder, Justin Theroux, and Monica Bellucci.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.co™

Today the stars advocate that you concentrate on money matters and how to save some, and in this purpose you will remain engrossed, However, Ganesha advises you not to neglect domestic duties lest you encounter a morose spouse. So carry on and make a dash for that movie as planned. Don't cancel it.

TAURUS

You are likely to turn excessively self centred today, says Ganesha. This could have a tendency to control and domi nate others. There is a likelihood that you may, thereby, jeopardize importan

Ganesha opines that today you might feel a little blue and under the weather. You may harbour feelings of loneliness today. Your repressed emotions and yearnings as well as your intellectual leanings will likely come to the fore today, says Ganesha

CANCER Your ideas today are source of your energy. A situation may arise, which will force you to take hard decisions later. A new business or venture may prove beneficial Your magical touch will bestow success

You might be the man of the house, but to make that house a home, you need a family. So keep that in mind, says Ganesha, and remember that your fam ily is the foundation of your success. Make every possible effort to make your family's roots stronger

Today might just bring those emotions to the fore that have been lying in the closet of your heart since long. You will even develop a bonding – a sentimenta attachment - with your belongings. But, if and when you don't find the sur roundings to your liking, you shall be like a fish out of the water

Unleash the artist in you today! Don't be surprised i you happen to discover a love for the fine arts. The stars bestow result, your penchant for interior decoration is sure to get a boost. There is also the possibility of you capitalising on the commercial aspect of your newly acquired hobby, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Family matters have been screaming for long for your attention now. Your estranged spouse may deal the final blow to sever all ties, foretells Ganesha, But keep calm, and hold that tongue, advises Ganesha. Your priority should be to secure your family's peace.

SAGITTARIUS

Family matters have been screaming for long for your attention now. Your estranged spouse may deal the final blow to sever all ties, foretells Ganesha But keep calm, and hold that tongue, advises Ganesha. Your priority should be to secure your family's peace.

CAPRICORN

The chances of you meeting financial success are few, but they are there nonethe less, says Ganesha. If you really want to improve your account balance and settle all the burgeoning debts, focus on what all needs to be done, and get it done without delay. You will make merry later in the day and will enjoy the company of your loved ones.

AQUARIUS

The day is taxing. You may find that others have dumped their share of work on you. But you are not one to admit defeat, and will deal with the challenge squarely, says Ganesha. You will outwit your opponents, and toast your success by starlight!

PISCES

While your day is unlikely to be very satisfactory, keeping your expectations low will help lessen your disappointment, says Ganesha. However, the evening is likely to be as refreshing as your day was depress



Mumbai: The horror-comedy movie Muniva has entered the Rs 100 crore club, grossing Rs 112 crore at the domestic box office. Actress Sharvari is ecstatic with the overwhelming response the film has received.

The actress said it's quite an overwhelming moment for her as it's her first film breaching the Rs 100 crore mark.

The film also features Abhay Verma, Mona Singh, and Sathyaraj.

Talking about the re sponse to the film Sharvari said: "I have been awed by the big stars who have huge Rs 100 crore and above hits to their credit. To think that so many people have come to the theatres to see you, to shower their love and appreciation on your film and your work is quite an overwhelming moment for me. Munjya is only the second release of my career. So, to taste this kind of success so early in my career is hugely motivating.'

The actress further mentioned that, as an actor, one always wishes that their films become hits.

"Being known as the '100 crore girl' definitely





Rakul's mantra for energy, looks

> Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming Tamil vigilante action film Indian 2, Tuesday conducted an Ask Me Anything(AMA) session with her fans on social media, and revealed about her mantra of energy, good looks, her favourite holiday spot in India, and her favourite cricket players. Taking to Instagram Stories, Rakul an-

swered the fun questions of the fans. During the session, a fan asked the diva about her mantra of energy and good looks. Replying to the same, Rakul said: "The mantra of my energy is to keep myself away from all the negativity. I just focus on my job, my people, my life, and I am really not worried about who is thinking what, and I try to keep my karma clean. "And I think that what keeps me posi-

tive and kind of reflects on your skin. So, I think for each one of us, if we have a clear conscience, if we are happy from within, I think that's what is going to reflect on your face," she shared.

Speaking about her favourite cricket players, Rakul said: "It has to be Virat Kohli. I think he is amazing. And also Rohit Sharma.

Rakul also revealed her favourite holiday spot in India, saying, "Goa. I just love Goa." Rakul married actor-filmmaker Jackky Bhagnani February 21, 2024, in

SRK to be honoured at Locarno Film Festival

Mumbai: Top star Shah Rukh Khan will be honoured with the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera, or career leopard, which pays tribute to his work in Indian cinema, at the 77th edition of the Locarno

The 58-year-old star, who has a career spanning over three lecades in Hindi cinema, will be feted with the honour at Locarno's conic Piazza Grande August 10, according to a statement.

Along with the honour, as a tribute to the star, Shah Rukh's iconic 2022 film Devdas by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, will be screened August 11. and SRK will appear at the Forum @Spazio Cinema for a conversation open to the public. Giona A Nazzaro, artistic director, expressed his excitement, stating, "To welcome a living legend like Shah Rukh Khan to Locarno is a dream come true! The wealth and breadth of his contribution to Indian cinema are unparalleled.'

'Khan is a king who has never lost touch with the audience that crowned him. This brave and daring artist has always been willing to challenge himself while remaining true to what his fans all over the world eagerly expect from his films, Nazzaro said in a statement. The artistic director also tagged SRK as a 'people's hero', describing him as sophisticated yet grounded. "Shah Rukh Khan is a legend of our times," Nazzaro con-

FUN

JUST

Across

1 Depression

4 Wooden shoe

8 Ignominious

10 Kind of

11 Turkish

14 Motif

15 Cherubic

column

authorities

12 Winter hanger

9 Eliminate (4,3)

cluded. IANS

Sushmita's insights on friendship with exes

Mumbai: Actress Sushmita Sen has always been candid about her views on marriage, relationships, and maintaining friendships with former partners. The former Miss Universe, known for her honest and fearless approach to life, shared insights into her personal journey.

When asked about her marriage plans, Sen re cently expressed an open-minded attitude, stating, "It has never been a 'never' situation. Be it the biological clock or the right time provided by social conditioning, neither is the right reason to get married. But if the person is right and ticks all the boxes as far as I am concerned, of course, I will get married."

Regarding the possibility of being friends with ex-partners, Sen acknowledged the complexities involved, but also expressed her own experiences. "Definitely, But I think it's hard and confusing. Many people can be friends with their exes and not know where to draw the line or have boundaries. But it's possible because I have seen it happen, and I am bless

to have it in my life as well." The personal life of the Main Hoon Na actress has often been a topic of discussion, with her relationships with notable figures such as actor Randeep Hooda, model Rohman Shawl, and businessman Lalit Modi making headlines. IANS

CROSSWORD

5 Black Death

(7,6)

6 Molasses

10 Disguised

11 Pause that

16 Lamb

18 Martini

7 River in Ghana

refreshes (3,4)

13 Mother-of-pearl

seasoning

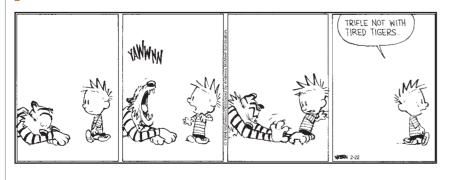
ingredient



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

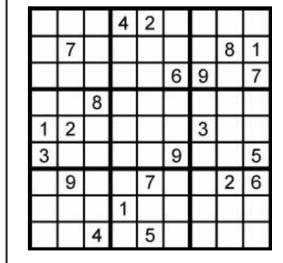


BREVITY



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

JUST SHOCKING CROSSWORD NARROWM

> 8 1 2 3 5 4 1 8 7

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

9 2 6

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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17 It can be itchy

(7,6)

19 Heathen

20 Slapstick

1 House style

2 Music genre

(4,9)

3 Ice cream

flavour

4 Military address

<u>Down</u>

downtown



CBI nabs 4 including FCI GM over bribery

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 2: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested four persons, including the general manager (GM) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) posted in the City here, in connection with a bribery case of ₹1 lakh, the Central agency sources said, Tuesday.

FCI (Bhubaneswar) GM Prem Singh Bhanot, FCI manager (Accounts) Sanjoy Dey, M/s SP Traders and Suppliers Pvt Ltd proprietor Malina Dey and middleman Syed Hasnain Ahmed have been taken into custody, they said.

According to the CBI, Bhanot aided and favoured M/s SP Traders and Suppliers Pvt Ltd. a Kolkata-based company who had participated in the tender and was declared L-1, in securing a tender pertaining to transportation of rice grain.

"An accused middleman contacted and informed the FCI GM that M/s SP Traders and Suppliers Pvt Ltd proprietor would like to offer him a bribe for having facilitated her in the allotment of work order in tender. The accused GM asked him (middleman) to inform the pro-



prietor to give ₹5 lakh as bribe in lieu of this favour rendered to her," said a CBI spokesper-

The CBI registered a case against five persons-FCI GM, manager, the Kolkata-based company and two middlemen—June 28, 2024 and launched a probe.

"It was alleged that the FCI GM, manager, middlemen and the private company were indulged in corrupt activities causing wrongful gain to themselves and loss to the exchequer by processing the tender for rice grain transportation," the CBI said.

The Central investigating agency carried out a trap oper-

ଫ୍ରିକ୍ ସମୀଯା କେଠି ପ୍ରଥିନ - ଟାଉନ ହଲ୍ (ପୌରସଦନ), ପୁରୀ ୦୨. ୦୭. ୨୦୧୪ (ମଙ୍ଗଳବାର) ସମୟ - ପୂର୍ବାହ ଘ.୧୯

ation in which Bhanot, Ahmed and Malina Dev were arrested while exchange of ₹1 lakh bribe was taking place, they said, adding that Sanjoy Dey was ar-

"All the arrested accused persons were produced before the Competent Court at Bhubaneswar and have been remanded to police custody till July 6, 2024," the spokesperson said.

The CBI seized ₹5 lakh cash, locker keys, mobile phones, laptops and incriminating documents during searches in Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, the spokesper-

Man arrested for raping child in City

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 2: The Commissionerate Police here, Tuesday, claimed to have arrested a 23-year-old man on charges of raping a two-and half-year-old girl under Airfield police limits a couple of days back.

Meanwhile, the condition of the rape survivor who was admitted to Capital Hospital is stated to be stable. "She would be discharged from the hospital soon," said the hospital sources.

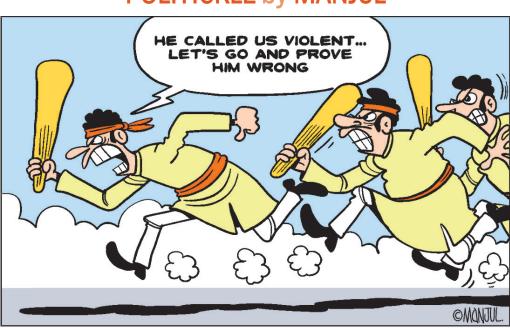
Addressing the media, Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh said the accused has been identified as Santosh Khuntia alias Kanha. The victim, along with her grandfather, had gone to play outside near Sundarpada, Sunday evening. However, the girl left for a grocery shop nearby to buy some essentials and asked his grandfather to wait for her. Meanwhile, Santosh lured the victim with a chocolate and took her to his house where he raped her.

When the girl did not turn up, her grandfather and parents started searching for her. When they reached Santosh's house, they saw the minor girl lying on a bed and bleeding. However, by then, Santosh had fled the scene.

Singh added that her parents lodged a complaint with Airfield police that formed a team and began a probe. The cops traced Santosh to a place near Pipli and arrested him, Tuesday.

भाराबा समयकाठम सम्मेशि

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Rahul remark: 10 hurt as BJP, Cong workers clash

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 2: At least 10 people were injured here, Tuesday, when a scuffle broke out between Congress and BJP workers during a demonstration over Rahul Gandhi's speech in Parliament recently.

According to sources, the incident happened outside the state Congress headquarters where the BJP was holding a demonstration over Gandhi's remarks in Lok Sabha, Monday.

'When we were staging a peaceful protest outside the Congress Bhawan, stones were pelted at our workers. Some police personnel and journalists were also attacked," alleged state Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) president Abhilash

"We demand unconditional apology from Rahul Gandhi for insulting and hurting Hindus,"

A complaint has been lodged at Capital police station against the Congress workers for the violence, another BJP leader

Besides stones, the two sides also threw cow dung at each thrown at a hoarding of Gandhi, which was later washed by Congress workers



Police had a tough time to bring the situation under control. NSUI state president Yashir

Nawaz said, "Every individual has the right to protest. But we have never seen a violent protest like the one organised by the BJP today. The people who have voted for the BJP will give them a befitting reply.

In his first speech as the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Monday, Gandhi had launched a no-holds-barred attack on the BJP, accusing the leaders of the ruling party of dividing people on communal lines.

His remarks drew massive protests from the treasury benches, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slamming the Congress leader for calling the entire Hindu community violent. Gandhi, however, clarified that he was speaking about

CM seeks cooperation for car fest success

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs Pravati Parida & KV Singh Deo, and Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan among others during the meeting

Puri, July 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday sought cooperation from servi tors, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration, the district administration, and devotees to make the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and His siblings a grand success

Majhi, who chaired a final review meeting for the annual Rath Yatra scheduled for July 7, said there would be little time left for pulling the chariots July 7 as the day will also have Netra Utsav, Nabajouban Darshan apart from Rath Yatra Temple sources said one of

the chariots would be pulled a short distance July 7, as per tradition, and the pulling of the chariots would resume Monday to their final destination, the Gundicha Temple.

The CM said Lord Jagannath is considered a deity of the Adivasis, adding that as a member of the

Adivasi community, he feels blessed to be a part of this festival. He stated that this rare opportunity came after the new government took power and appealed to everyone to observe it grandly.

The CM informed the meeting that President Droupadi Murmu and some other VVIPs are likely to visit Puri to participate in the opening day of the festival. Law Minister Prithiviraj

Harichandan emphasised the need to perform all rituals of the deities according to the prescribed timetable. He sought the cooperation of all to make this grand festival of Lord Jagannath

Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said that almost all the required preparations for the festival have been completed. He informed that 100 beds have been reserved in the district headquarters hospital for heatstroke victims, and 179 additional doctors have been posted

Swain said that 60 ambulances, including 30 provided by NGOs, will be deployed. Additionally, 300 units of blood will be kept in the blood bank for emergencies, and seven food inspectors with their staff have been pressed into service to ensure the quality of food.

The Public Health department will deploy 42 additional water tankers at various spots to provide drinking water to pilgrims, and 165 drink-from-tap fountains will be made operational.

'30 hand-held water sprinkling units will be used to cool the temperature on the Grand Road. About 400 lifeguards will be posted at various stretches along the beach to prevent drowning in the sea. TPCODL has been directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply to the entire town during the festival,"

State Transport Authority has been asked to ensure the operation of more buses to Puri from

different areas, display rate charts, and deploy four interceptors and seven cranes on various routes to Puri.

The railways will run 315 special trains to Puri during the festival in addition to all regular trains. A railway information counter will operate near the Gundicha Temple to cater to the needs of passengers, while 35 ticket booking counters and six ticket vending units will operate for the Rath Yatra, the District

Collector said. Srimandir Administrator Vir Vikram Yadav said all the required timber has been provided by the Nayagarh Forest division, and the construction of the three chariots has reached the final stage.

In his brief speech, newly-appointed Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja sought the cooperation of all to make the festival a grand success. Almost all Cabinet ministers along with MLAs were present at the meeting.

State govt plans ₹3,000 social security pension

POST NEW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 2: The state government is planning to increase pensions and allowances for eligible beneficiaries across various schemes in the state. Security Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Minister Nityananda Gond told reporters, Tuesday, that efforts are underway to raise pensions for elderly, widows and persons with disabilities (PwDs).

The department has proposed an increase of ₹3,000 in monthly pension for the above three categories which is pending for approval of the Finance department.

The minister emphasised that discussions regarding budgetary allocations are in progress with the Finance department to facilitate the proposed adjustments.

The BJP, in its 2024 poll man-

ifesto, had promised to raise the allowance upto ₹3,000.

Earlier, the BJD government under the chief ministership of Naveen Patnaik had hiked the monthly pension by ₹500 each for the distressed people covered under various social security schemes. As many as 36.75 lakh beneficiaries have received the revised amount.

Under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY), beneficiaries up to 79 years of age were eligible for a monthly pension of ₹500, while those beyond 80 years of age are eligible for ₹700 per month. Similarly, beneficiaries with 60 per cent or more disability and above 80 years of age were eligible for a monthly pension of ₹900

After the hike by the previous government, they were getting ₹1,000, ₹1,200 and ₹1,400 per month, respectively.

5 cybercriminals held for ₹36.34 lakh fraud

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 2: The Commissionerate Police here Tuesday claimed that five persons of a gang were arrested in connection with a cyber fraud of ₹36.34 lakh, nearly two months after the incident came to the fore.

The police seized 80 bank accounts, 60 ATM cards, 30 SIM cards, 23 mobile phones, two laptops and a four-wheeler from the possession of the accused.

ACP Aniana Tudu said the accused were identified as Sheik Tajuddin, 38, Muchumari Chitti Babu, 34, Laleng Zauva Kaipeng, 28, Jiten Kaipeng, 21 and Elvish Tara, 36.

Tudu said the fraudsters contacted the victim, a government official, and introduced themselves as Mumbai Cyber Branch officials. They said his Aadhaar data is being used by a few miscreants to illegally ship a parcel from Taiwan to Mumbai. In addition, they claimed that four new bank accounts have been opened using his Aadhaar data for illegal transactions.

Later, they coerced the victim to transfer ₹36.34 lakh to escape police action. Panicked, the victim transferred the money to the bank account of the miscreants. May 7. Following this. the miscreants again transferred the entire amount to another bank account.

Cyber police have booked the five accused under relevant Sections of IPC alongwith Section 66 (C) and 66 (D) of IT Act.



Cop-turned-preacher Bhole Baba attracted lakhs

Lucknow, July 2: The deadly stampede in Hathras Tuesday that claimed over 100 lives occurred at a congregation of Baba Naravan Hari alias Saakar Vishwa Hari 'Bhole Baba', a former policeman who turned into a religious preacher and gained a following, espe-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

cially in western Uttar Pradesh. The real name of Bhole Baba

is Surajpal. He is a native of

Bahadur Nagar in Kasganj district, a retired IPS officer said. Circle Officer (CO) of Patiyali

Vijay Kumar Rana told PTI that Surjpal left his job as a policeman in the late 1990s and turned to spirituality. He started conducting 'satsang' (religious

One of Surajpal's three brothers died and he set up a Trust and appointed a caretaker for his property in Bahadurgarh where his ashram is located, the

He has no children and takes his wife along with him to 'satsang'. Surajpal belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC) community. After he established his ashram in Bahadur Nagar, Bhole Baba's fame grew rapidly among the poor and deprived sections and lakhs of people became his followers, according to locals.

A person from Hathras said. "Bab̄a conducts sermons and



keeps his own volunteers for security who take care of the

arrangements of his satsang.' The stampede, which occurred as people headed home after a 'satsang' in the district's Phulrai village conducted by Bhole Baba, killed 116 people Tuesday, in the worst such

tragedy in recent years. According to Sikandra Rao sub-divisional magistrate Ravendra Kumar, the tragedy occurred when devotees tried

to get a glimpse of Bhole Baba as the event ended. They also wanted to collect some soil from around the Baba's feet.

District Magistrate Ashish Kumar said the satsang was a private function for which the sub-divisional magistrate had granted permission.

The local administration provided security outside the venue, while the arrangements inside were made by organisers, he added.

Merged schools to reopen: S&ME Min



ARINDAM GANGULY, OF

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Several schools in the state which were either permanently closed or merged with others during the BJD regime will be reopened based on necessity and official reports on the ground reality, School and Mass Education Nityananada Gond said

Tuesday **PREVIOUS** GOVERNMENT Interacting with **HAD MERGED MORE** mediapersons, the THAN 7,400 SCHOOLS minister said, "A WITH NEARBY SCHOOLS number of pri-IN THE LAST 10 YEARS mary schools were CITING LOW ENROLMENT either closed or ND AS A STEP TO AVOI merged in tribal **DUPLICATION OF** and remote areas FRASTRUCTUR based on faulty reports. As a result, children have to walk long distances to go to school every day merged more than 7,400 schools

There is a long-standing demand by locals for reopening them. We will certainly reopen such schools which will be eligible for the purpose-based on the departmental report.

"We have already asked the S&ME secretary to submit a report and on the basis of that, a final call will be taken. We will consider the probable number of

64 deer to be shifted from Taptapani park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, July 2: State forest department has decided to translocate 64 deer from the Taptapani deer park, designated as the mini zoo, to Lakhari Valley in Ganjam and Chandaka wildlife sanctuary, an official said.

The decision to shift the animals has been taken due to overpopulation in the deer park, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Ganjam Sudarshan S said.

Of the total 64 animals to be shifted, 32 are spotted deer, while 32 are sambar deer.

Taptapani, famous for its hot spring, has already been declared one of the major tourist centres by the state government.

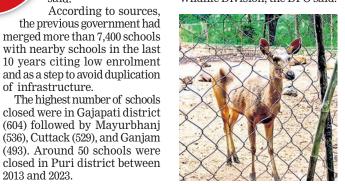
From a small number of spotted deer, the park started functioning in 1980 at Taptapani, and their number has increased to 128, forest officials said.

Besides spotted deer, the park houses 57 sambar deer, one emu, one barking deer and one sloth

The sprawling 1.86 hectare park is one of the major attractions for visitors to Taptapani which is situated on the border of Ganjam and Gajapati dis-

The principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife) has got permission from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to shift the wild

The translocation process of the animals has already started with the shifting of four Sambars from the park to the Chandaka Wildlife Division, the DFO said.





RAISING VOICE: Members of All India Save Education Committee stage a protest near Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Monday, against the centralisation of education system and irregularities by National Testing Agency

MANGROVE PATHA UTSAV

'Collaborative efforts key to save coastal ecosystems'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Collaborative efforts and innovation are keys to save the coastal ecosystems, claimed the stakeholders who participated on the concluding day of the Mangrove Patha Utsav organised by Socratus Foundation and Nature's Club here, Tuesday.

The three-day event, held at Odisha State Museum, was organised with support from Rainmatter Foundation, State Museum and Bakul Foundation.

During the event, stakeholders from various sectors discussed integrated pathways for sustainable mangrove conservation and economic development.

The event was graced by Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagatha Satpathy and CEO Adyasha Satpathy, Bhawani Tripathy from Sambad and Sandeep Sahu, BBC and Outlook along with CSO leader and NITI Aayog advisor Jagadananda



from CYSD, and Divisional Forest Officer of Mangrove Forest Division Rajnagar, Kendrapara.

Adyasha Sathpathy stressed on the importance of village level institutions in conservation, planning and implementation of climate policies in the state. She also underlined the importance of community-based participatory research and development.

Earlier, the day began with a collaborative session which focused on creating integrated pathways that would strengthen mangrove conservation efforts while also providing economic op-

The participants shared their views on innovative approaches to mangrove restoration and conservation, financial mechanisms to support sustainable

practices, technological ad

vancements aiding ecological

preservation and community-

driven initiatives for economic

development The following session facilitated an exchange of feedback and inputs from other groups, fostering a collaborative environment to refine the proposed

strategies. Discussions also fo-

cused on potential opportunities for collaboration to advance the pathways identified. Climate Champions, who have been instrumental in implementation of ECRICC's project objectives. were recognised during the event for their relentless efforts.

Their dedication to conserve Bhitarkanika landscape, promote sustainable livelihood activities in their areas was highly appreciated.

Madhusmit Pati, Secretary of Nature's Club, and organiser said, "The final day of Mangrove Patha Utsav has been incredibly productive, with diverse stakeholders coming together to chart a sustainable future for Odisha's coastal ecosystems.'

Participants in the event were from organisations like CEEW, FES, MSSRF, SELCO Foundation, Goonj, XIMU, KIIT TBI, Unicef, Accion, Reliance Foundation, UNDP, DEFT, Dasra, Dakshin Foundation, and Mangrove Foundation of India.

ASSIFIED

I, SK AZARUDDIN, S/O -SEKH SAMSURDDIN, AT/ P.O.-Kerang, P.S. - Khurda, Dist. - Khurda declare by this Affidavit No. - 620, Dtd. - 29.05.2024 that both names SK AZARUDDIN and SEKH AZARUDDIN refer to the same person identified as SK AZARUDDIN for all Purpose.

I Apun Kumar Mahapatra aged about 47 years, S/o. Amarendra Mahapatra, resident of D-10, Maitri Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, S.E. Rly. Proj. Complex, Bhubaneswar, PIN 751023, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha hereby declare that I have changed my name from Apun Kumar Mahapatra to Venkates Kumar Mahapatra by an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar on Dt.01.07.2024. Hence I shall be known as Venkates Kumar Mahapatra for all purposes.

LOST

I Prafulla Kumar Dash, S/o. Late Padmalochan Dash, R/o. Plot No. GL/03, **VSS Nagar Housing** Society, Bhubaneswar, have lost somewhere my Original Lease-Deed of OSHB No. 3093 of 1999. If anybody find it, then kindly contact: Prafulla Kumar Dash, Mobile No. 9568007858.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

of infrastructure.

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra visited several parks and gardens in Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

schools, and local demand. This

will help benefit the children to receive elementary education,

Taking about BJD govern-

ment's 5T initiative regarding

transformation of schools, he

said, "5T had nothing to do with

the development of infrastruc-

ture in the state schools.

Rather, it was meant to

provide sources of earn-

ing by the previous

government to their

party workers. I vis-

ited many primary

schools and found

the quality of work

to be utterly sub-stan-

dard," the minister

Gond said.

Accompanied by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) vice chairman Balwant Singh and other officials. the minister's early morning tour included Anandabana, the State Silviculture Garden at Ghatikia. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Park at Kalinga Nagar, and the Waste to Art Park at K-7, Kalinga Nagar.

At Anandabana, Bhubaneswar's premier urban forest park, the minister spent quality time exploring the facilities. He planted a Swarna Champa sapling and visited the open library, amphitheatre, parking space, and



H&UD Min Mahapatra visits key parks in City

other amenities.

He suggested developing a flower garden within Anandabana to support local livelihoods and expressed his desire to see similar parks established throughout the City.

facilities, and healthy food kiosks. At the Waste to Art Park in K-

Anandabana offers various amenities, including ample parking, benches, gazebos, rain shelters, children's play area, public 7. Kalinga Nagar, the minister instructed officials to expedite the redevelopment work Spanning 4.5 acres, the park will feature sports facilities including roll ball, skating, and basketball. Additionally, it will include flower bed trails, various landscaping el ements, and sculptures. The park is being developed by the BDA.

During his visit to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Park, the minister urged officials to expedite the ongoing redevelopment work and initiate a light and sound show to attract more visitors. The BDA manages this park.

At the State Silviculture Garden, which is being developed by the BDA and the Forest department, the minister asked officials to complete the ongoing work promptly and open the facility to the public.

RSP logs highest production in June

Bhubaneswar, July 2: The state-of-the-art 'Hot Strip Mill-2' (HSM-2) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has registered a new benchmark by achieving the best monthly production record in

RSP sources said the mill rolled 2,37,422 tonne of slab surpassing the previous best of 2.33,760 tonne. It has also produced 2,31,353 tonne, the highest Coil Weight in a month since inception, surpassing the previous best of 2,25,995 tonne.

The Sheet Shearing Line (SSL) of HSM-2 has also achieved a major milestone by producing 17.729 tonne of HR Sheets in June 2024, marking the highest monthly production to date.

RSP director in charge Atanu Bhowmick visited HSM-2 along



with other senior officials, Monday and congratulated the HSM-2 collective.

He advised the collective to im for 2.5 lakh tonne of slabs rolling in a month and emphasised the importance of rolling special steel and coils of HSM-2 in improving the NSR

It is noteworthy that the SSL line achieved a historic milestone of shearing over 1,000 tonne (42 coils totaling 1025 tonne) in a single day, a first since its establishment. The HSM-2 also successfully produced over 3000 tonne of coils in the less than 2 mm coil shipment category in June 2024.

Less than 1% of teens in MICs seek help for mental health

ess than a per cent of teenagers in middle-income countries including India, sought professional help for mental health problems, despite 28 to 50 per cent facing high levels of such issues, according to a study. The research also found that

informal sources of help are widely used among adolescents for seeking help in many countries, particularly in lower-income nations. Researchers found that 0.6-0.9

per cent of girls and 0.9-1.2 per cent of boys in the middle-income countries they studied --India, Vietnam and China -sought professional help.

The study, led by the University of Turku in Finland, included over 13,000 teenagers aged 13 to

15 across eight Asian and European countries who responded to surveys between 2011

Overall, girls were found to be more likely than boys to seek help for mental health problems.

come countries, the researchers found that more adolescents sought formal help six to seven per cent in Greece, Israel and Japan,

and 21 to 25 per cent

and 2017.

In high-in-IDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES THEY

STUDIED – INDIA, VIETNAM AND CHINA – SOUGHT PROFESSIONAL HELP THE STUDY, LED BY THE UNIVERSITY O TURKU IN FINLAND, INCLUDED OVER 13,000 TEENAGERS AGED 13 TO 15 ACROSS EIGHT ASIAN AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHO RESPONDED TO SURVEYS

in Norway and Finland. The findings were published

European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

in the journal found that informal sources of help are widely used among adolescents and are the key sources The researchers also of help in many countries, parsurveyed the participants for the ticularly in lower-income counmeans of seeking support and

Among the teenagers who sought help, about 90 per cent sought informal help in all Asian countries, ranging from almost 92 per cent (India) to 96 per cent (China) for girls, and almost 88 per cent (India) to 96 per cent (China) for boys, the authors found. Further, in India, more boys were found to seek help from teachers than girls.

"Adolescents may get help from informal sources such as friends, teachers, and family members or formal sources such as school nurses, psychologists, and counsellors for professional assistance. Where they seek help from depends, for example, on the availability of services, cultural background, and stigma associated with mental illness," said the study's lead author Yuko

Mori, a doctoral researcher at the University of Turku.

Widely used informal sources of help, especially in lower-income countries, highlight a global need for mental health awareness and literacy programmes, according to Andre Sourander, a professor at the University of Turku and leader of the Eurasian Child Mental Health Study (EACMHS), of which this research was a part.

"Cross-cultural studies on adolescent mental health such as the present study are important because almost all mental health research comes from high-income Western countries. There is a huge knowledge gap because most research represents less than 10 per cent of adolescent population," said Sourander. PTI

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Joda flyover cracks spark concern

THE STATE'S LONGEST FLYOVER WAS INAUGURATED LESS THAN 4 MONTHS BACK, MARCH 11, 2024

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, July 2: The appearance of cracks on the newly-built flyover passing through this town in Keonjhar district has sparked concern among the residents. Regular commuters are now questioning the quality of its construction. The flyover was opened for public use March 11, 2024. Hence the appearance of cracks in less than four months of its inauguration has created serious apprehensions in the minds of the commuters.

It's not just the cracks that are bothering the users. At various places concrete slabs have become loose and at other places iron rods are protruding out putting the lives of the commuters at risk. Someone can seriously get injured due to the rods, they opined.

After initial reports of the damages surfaced, Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation Ltd (OBCCL), the main agency entrusted with the responsibility of building the flyover acknowledged the issues and stopped movement of heavy vehicles and



Residents are now worried as to whether they should use the flyover or not. They have blamed the shoddy work of the agency for the present state of affairs.

Locals said the Joda flyover is deemed as the longest in Odisha. The state government had sanctioned ₹250 crore for construction of the flyover which is 2.9km

Narasingh Mohanta, general manager of OBBCL had claimed after the flyover's inauguration that it can endure the movements of heavy to very heavy vehicles. However, now it seems those claims were false. Mohanta had also asserted that with proper maintenance, the flyover will last more than 100 years. He had

also claimed that using of rubber bearings in place of iron ones will increase the durability of the bridge. Now it seems that the tall claims have fallen flat.

Such is the condition of the flyover that it shakes violently when a couple of heavy vehicles pass over it at the same time. Pictures of the shaking bridge have gone viral on several social media platforms. However, more importantly, residents of this town remain panic-stricken when they use the bridge.

Residents alleged that the previous state government inaugurated the flyover hastily without conducting proper examination as both the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections were on the anvil. They wanted to take credit for construction of the bridge. Now however, safety concerns have cropped up in a major way due to the wear and tear of the bridge.

When contacted, Bhagirathi

Panda, a human resources official of 'Chevrox Constructions Private Ltd' which had received the contract from OBCCL for construction said the flyover has a capacity to take a maximum load of 200 tonne at any particular time. However, the movements of heavy vehicles have not been streamlined. sions when the bridge has to bear weight exceeding its capacity. Panda said that this is the main reason why the 'wearing coat' (upper layer) is peeling off. Unless the weight is streamlined, the flyover will suffer excessive wear and tear, he added.

Panda informed that the flyover has been closed for commuters as a fresh layer of 'wearing coat' is being laid. He also added that the service roads leading to the flyover will be

Girl student's body found hanging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 2: The Town police here, Tuesday, recovered the body of a girl student that was found hanging inside a rented house at Jagannathpur here.

The deceased has been identified as Ishwari Das, daughter of Kalandi Das, a native of Garasang village under Simulia police limits in Balasore district. According to sources, Ishwari was pursuing her study at a private engineering college in Cuttack and was residing with her family here.

Ishwari's family members said the former had gone to sleep after having dinner Monday night. However, when she did not wake up, they grew suspicious and through the windows they spotted her body hanging inside the room, Tuesday morning. On being informed, a team of Town police reached the spot and seized the body. Police also recovered a note penned by Ishwari in which she has mentioned two mobile numbers and made a request to inform the duo about her death.

Family members held these two persons responsible for Ishwari's death.

Shift to food court, RMC tells vendors



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, July 2: Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has issued a notice to street vendors directing them to shift their shops to the newly-constructed food court near Udit Nagar within a week. The move comes after the vendors showed no interest to shift there.

Food safety inspector Swagatika Behera said, "RMC has issued notice to the vendors to shift their shops inside the food court. This is a must. We have already taken action against erring vendors for food standards and once they move to the vending zone, it will be easier to keep a tab on them.'

RMC has constructed 51 shops, each having a beautifully designed tin body, inside the vending zone. The entire zone bears an aesthetic look. Besides, the place is well-lit. Presently, only three vendors have moved to the

Those visiting the place are impressed with the arrangements made there. "I can compare this with any food court I have seen elsewhere in the country. Besides, this is well maintained and spacious," said Gurmeet Kaur, who was having her evening snacks

A few of the vendors, however, charted out their issues with the place. They complained raised issues like improper water arrangement, inadequate drainage, less washing points and inadequate number of taps.

"Uncovered water tanks pose a threat as monsoon has fully set in. So that must be taken care of along with sitting arrangements," said one of

It is learnt that RMC Commissioner Ashutosh Kulkarni has instructed the officials to bring in all the allottees inside the court failing which stringent action will be initiated against the violators.

MORTUARY FREEZERS MISSING

RGH director seeks expeditious probe



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 2: Director of Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) has written to the SP here requesting him to expedite the investigation into the mortuary freezers missing case.

Ever since Dr Ganesh Dash has taken over as the director of this premier government healthcare facility, he has unearthed a couple of big irregularities. During the course of one such investigation, it was found June 22, 2024 that four mortuary freezers (freezer boxes meant for preserving bodies) were missing from the store house. On the same day, the director lodged a complaint in Raghunathpali police station that registered a case in this regard.

Meanwhile, an internal probe was launched and the needle of suspicion is pointed towards the involvement of the hospital manager who went on leave the day after the incident came to the fore. "He applied for leave on the

same day citing ill health of his wife and that he would take her to a doctor for consultation," said the director of RGH. Since then, his mobile is showing switched-off. He has remained incommunicado till date, he added.

The director cancelled his leave June 25 as his absence hampered the investigation. "I found his answers not very convincing and that raised my suspicion on him and about the missing freezers," Dash said. Finally, the same day, he came and told me that it was Ramdev Enterprise which supplied the new freezers by replacing the old ones. And when I asked him on what authority you gave away the freezers and what is the status of those items, he told me that they have been dismantled.'

The director, through mail, had asked him to join office and cooperate in the investigations. However, the manager has not responded. In his letter to the SP and DIG Rourkela, Dash has requested for furthering the probe.

Curfew lifted from Balasore town

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, July 2: The ongoing night curfew was withdrawn from all areas of violence-hit Balasore town as the law and order situation has improved, an official said Tuesday.

Curfew was imposed in the north Odisha town following a group clash June 17. Later, only night curfews were

'From Tuesday midnight, the curfew imposed in Balasore municipality jurisdiction will be completely lifted. However, in view of the upcoming Rath Yatra and Muharam festivals, strict vigil will be there to ensure the law and order situation," Balasore Collector Ashish Thakare said earlier in the day.

Earlier, as the situation of law and order gradually improved, partial curfews with the relaxation of timings were granted by the administration phasedwise, in the Industrial, Sahadevkhunta and Town police station areas.

A total of 94 arrests have been made and 24 cases registered in connection with the group clash and violation of law and order

A micro-level peace committee with elected people's representatives and eminent citizens in the sensitive areas was organised by the administration to restore peace among various communities.

"A total of 94 arrests have been made and 24 cases registered in connection with the group clash and violation of law and order." Balasore Superintendent of Police Sagarika Nath said.

She appealed not to misuse social media platforms and to help the police if any such case came to public knowledge.

The SP said police deployment is to be tightened and close vigil will be maintained to ensure peace in the town, especially in the upcoming festival season.

Forest official killed in road mishap

Dhenkikote: A forest official was killed after an unknown vehicle hit his motorcycle at Fakir Square on National Highway-20 near here in Keonjhar district, Monday night. The deceased was identified as Prasant Kumar Nayak, 36, posted at the forester's office in Ghatagaon. He was returning home from office when a speeding vehicle hit his bike. Police reached the spot and rushed him to Ghatagaon hospital in an ambulance. However, the doctors at the hospital pronounced him dead. Later, police registered a case and handed over the body to his family members after a post-mortem.



ZILLA PARISHAD, RAYAGADA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

No.CAD-401:- Sealed Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of HRSPA on Outsourcing basis in Rayagada District" are invited from eligible bidders which shall confirm to the terms and conditions of the RFP No.5767 date: 27.06.24. Date of Issue of RFP: 27.06.24.

Deadline for submission of Pre-Proposal Query though email: 16.07.24 by 05.00 P.M.

Last date for submission of Proposal: 22.07.24 by 05.00 P.M. Date of opening of Technical Proposal: 23.07.24 at 11.00 A.M. Date of opening of Financial Proposal: Immediately after technical verification.

For details visit: https://rayagada.odisha.gov.in

OIPR-19266/11/0001/2425

Sd./- CDO-cum-EO Zilla Parishad, Rayagada



Gaja Vihar, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar - 751003 chandakadampara@gmail.com

Dated: 01st July 2024 Tender Notice No. 02

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. MM-60: Sealed tenders are invited in two Bid Systems from established reputed / registered / experienced and accredited manufacturers dealers/suppliers within the country of India for supply of Radio Collar as per specification of tender documents for use in Wildlife wing of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha.

Quantity	Cost of Tender Paper
2	3
5 (Five) 2 (Two) 7 (Seven) Sets	Rs.10,000/-
	2 5 (Five) 2 (Two) 7 (Seven)

above will be available from Dt.04.07.2024 and can be downloaded through the website https://www.khordha.nic.in / https://www wildlifeodisha.in / www.chandakawildlife.in. The tender docume cost which is non-refundable, should be deposited along with Technica Bid in shape of crossed Demand Draft drawn at any Nationalized Bank in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka Wildlife Division Bhubaneswar payable at Bhubaneswar. Tender papers will be received from Dt.05.07.2024 to Dt.12.07.2024

upto 05.00 P.M. in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Chandaka Wildlife Division, Gaia Vihar, Baramunda, Bhubaneswai Tender opening for Technical Bid - 11.30 A.M. of Dt.15.07.2024.

OIPR-08096/11/0002/2425

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer Chandaka Wildlife Division

16.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o



POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, July 2: When children of his age are busy playing with toys, four-year-old Swapnil Baral is engrossed in the intricate details of martial arts. It is this passion of his which has helped him find a place in the 'India Book of Records'. A resident of Nandira colony in this town. Swapnil has brought laurels to not only his native place, but to the entire state by his achievements. His taekwondo skills have made him the cynosure of

all eyes Swapnil, son of Sushil Kumar Baral, an engineer working at Ananta Colliery, is currently studying at the MCL Kalinga DAV Public School. Other than his studies, he rigorously trains in martial arts at the Talcher Taekwondo Academy under the watchful eyes and guidance of Pramod Kumar Pradhan. The latter is a coach and also the secretary of the Angul District Taekwondo

Association. Swapnil has showcased his talent in a number of district and state-level competitions. He has won quite a few medals including gold. Recently, while participating in a state-level competition, Swapnil became the voungest taekwondo exponent in Odisha to win a gold medal. Prior to that, he had won two more gold medals at a district-level tournament. This remarkable achievement of winning three gold medals at such a tender age has earned him a place in the 'India Book of Records'.

The organisation has honoured him with a certificate and a medal. Swapnil's parents are no doubt, very pleased with his achievements. They hope that Swapnil continues to pursue his passion of taekwondo along with his studies. "We hope that he brings glory to the state as well as the country in the future,

they said in unison. Pradhan also termed Swapnil 'very talented'. He stated that despite his young age. Swapnil is a quick learner which enables him to pick up the difficult moves easily.

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A Gold Rated State PSU) O/O. SR. GENERAL MANAGER, RENGALI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, RENGALI, P.O. RENGALI DAM SITE,

DIST: ANGUL (ODISHA), INDIA, PIN:759105, TEL: 06760-277214, FAX:06760-277324, Email: CIN:U40101OR1995SGC0038 No.OHPC:RHEP/PUR-III/182/23-24 4712 Date:01.07.2024 (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price bid in separate sealed en

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. RHEP-11/2024-25 (nclusive of GST (@ 18%)

For details of the tender document. Terms and Conditions please visit our website www.ohpc.ltd.co Sd./- C & P Head, RHEP, Rengali OIPR-04022/11/0007/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER UPPER INDRAVATI RIGHT CANAL DIVISION NO.-II, JUNAGARH, KALAHANDI, ODISHA email: eeuircd2@gmail.com

No.A-101 e-Procurement Notice No.SE/UIRCD-II-01/2024-25

RHEP, Rengali

Dtd.27.06.2024 1. Type of the work :Renovation of canal. 2. No. of works : 01 (One) No. of work. 3. Class of contractor : 'D' & 'C'. 4. Bid tification No. : SE/UIRCD-II-01/2024-25. 5. Estimated cost : Rs.13.69 lakhs. 6. Period of completion : 6 calendar months Other details as follows Procurement officer Bid Identification Availability of Bid Submission of Bid Date & time of opening of tender

From 05.07.2024

Superintending Engineer, UI Right Canal Division, From 05.07.2024. 01/2024-25 10.00 A.M. to 10.00 A.M. to Superintending Engineer, UI Right No.-II, Junagarh, Dist.-15.07.2024, 5.00 15.07.2024, 5.00 Canal Division No.-II, Junagarh, Dist. (A) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website

SE/UIRCD-II-

Sd./- Superintending Engineer OIPR-32016/11/0001/2425 UI Right Canal Division No.-II, Junagar

ADDENDUM Ref.: Short Tender Call Notice No. 1-2024 Dt.27.06.2024

ODISHA STATE CASHEW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)

At/Post: Ghatikia, Near Kalinga Studio, Bhubaneswar - 751029

No. CAD-424: Some more terms & conditions are

idded to the existing ones in the tender document for Engagement of Transport Contractor for Transportation of Cashew Grafts inside & outside States for the planting Season 2024". The detail is available in the website www.oscdc.com. Sd./- Managing Director

OIPR-01049/11/0004/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GEOLOGY,

e-mail:srgeologistbolangir@gmail.com Jyotinagar, Laltikra, P.O:Rajendra College, Dist-Bolangir,Pin-767002 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No.01/GWBLGR/2024-25 of 2024-25, Dt.29.06.24

GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, BOLANGIR

No.A-93: e-Procurement Notice

01. Name of the Work

Single System 02. Type of Bid Rs.8.57 Lakh to 33.50 Lakh

03. Estimated Cost 04. Period of Completion

05. Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the portal

5.00 PM of 15.07.2024 06. Last date/time of receipt of 3.00 PM of 15.07.2024 bids in the portal

07. Date & Time of opening of technical Bids

08. Name and Address of the Deputy Director, Geology Ground Water Development Division Officer Inviting Bid

Jyotinagar, Laltikra PO-Rajendra College - 767002.

At 4.00 PM of 15.07.2024

02 Calendar Months

Bolangir, Dist-Bolangi Further details can be seen from the website http://tenders.ori.nic.in or

From 11.00 AM of Dt.04.07.2024 to

ww.tendersorissa.gov.in. Sd./- Deputy Director, Geology OIPR-32471/11/0001/2425

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL (ODISHA). PIN-759001

E-mail:- dhenkanalm.hud@gmail.com

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE No. C-132:- Quotation call is invited from Registered Service Provider/

Dated: 30.6.2024

Reputed Manpower supply agencies for supply of Manpower to Dhenkanal Municipality for engagement in different services of this Municipality as required time to time on two years contract basis. They are requested to submit their Quotation from 01.07.2024 to 08.07.2024 by 12 Noon through registered post/ speed post/by hand with required documents. Last date of submission of Quotation is 08 07 2024. The same will be opened same date i.e. on dtd, 08 07 2024 at 4 00 P.M. The security deposit of non-refundable amount of Rs. 12,000.00

Rupees Twelve Thousand) only in shape of Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque from any Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of "THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DHENKANAL MUNICIPALITY" payable at

The Quotationers have to submit the documents duly filled up along with the attested photo copies of qualifying documents as indicated

DOCUMENTS REQUIRMENTS FOR THE TENDERING MANPOWER SERVICE PROVIDER/ AGENCY: -

Application Technical-Bid

The registered office or one of the branch offices of the manpowe service provider should be located within the jurisdiction of the Dhenkanal District area (copy of labour license to be submitted for

Covering Letter on the bidder's letter head

Demand Draft in support of Bid processing fee as applicable Demand Draft in support of EMD as applicable.

Copy of Certificate of Incorporation/Registration of the firm/ agency and also office address should be registered under Shop & Commercial/Establishment Act.

Copy of Labour License of minimum 300 Nos. labourers of SPA and concerned district labour license.

Copy of GSTIN.

Copy of PAN/Aadhar Card

years (Duly certified by CA).

10. Copies of IT Returns and turnover of Rs. 2.00 Core of last three Copy of EPF Certificate and Deposit Challan (ESR) for 100 Nos

12. Copy of ESI Registration Certificate Copy of bank details (Cancel Cheque/Mandate Form).

14. Copy of ISO Certification i.e. ISO: 9001, SA 8000, 20000, 22000 27001, 45001, 30500, CMMI level 3 & 5 (preference to be given). Copies of the financial statements along with balance sheet for the

last three years (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23). (Duly certified by CA) 16. Copies of work orders from the previous organizations towards providing services during last three years.

Undertaking regarding non-blacklisting on bidder's letter head. 18. Undertaking regarding non-pending of any judicial proceedings (On bidder's letter head).

Sd./- Executive Officer **Dhenkanal Municipality** OIPR-13146/11/0005/2425



To hope for a true change of human life without a change of human nature is an irrational and unspiritual proposition

SRI AUROBINDO



French Mood

rench President Emmanuel Macron's gamble of a snap par-→ liamentary poll has miserably failed to pay off in the first round of voting. Instead of helping him consolidate his position, it has created a situation in which the Far Right - National Rally party (RN) led by Marine Le Pen, is moving fast towards its goal of forming its first ever government in the post-war history of France. After having tasted ignominious defeat in last month's European polls at the hands of the RN, Macron took the supposedly foolhardy step to dissolve the parliament controlled by his party and went for the snap poll hoping the historic levels of support for the RN would go down once voters, not wedded to the Far Right ideology, were confronted with the prospect of a radical Right government for the first time in post-war France. He possibly had not judged the mood of his people.

The results of the first round of voting on 30 June leave no one in doubt as to the utter folly and high risk taken by Macron with his poll decision. A high turnout saw RN comfortably win first place with 33.1 per cent of votes, almost two points up compared with what it had got three weeks ago in the European parliamentary polls. If one considers results of the first round of the 2022 presidential polls, the figures appear even more startling for France's liberal tradition. Marine Le Pen then got 1.3 million votes less.

To set the record straight, this is the first time the party founded by the anti-Semitic and neo-Fascist Jean-Marie Le Pen has broken through the 20 per cent barrier in a legislative election. Macron's party has been so discredited that even the hastily assembled New Popular Front (NPF), comprising Left forces, secured 28 per cent of votes. Macron's Centrist coalition trailed far behind occupying third position with 20.8 per cent votes. The outcome is such that the President is in danger of becoming the lamest of the lame duck Presidents should Marine Le Pen's youthful protégé, Jordan Bardella, become the next Prime Minister after the second round of voting on 7 July which is a likely prospect.

It goes to the credit of Marine Le Pen that she has succeeded in rebranding her father's party, distancing it from its anti-Semitic and neo-Fascist roots and incorporating in its political agenda the economic discontent of the populace. During the ongoing election campaign, Bardella is even talking about big spending commitments. All the same, the party's deeply authoritarian, xenophobic political line remains intact. One testimony to this is the plan to exclude dual nationals from sensitive professions. France has one of Europe's biggest minority ethnic populations. But, that has not deterred the Far Right party from presenting before the electorate a political agenda that seeks to marginalise and stigmatise Frenchborn citizens who are not white. A mooted law to combat "Islamist ideologies" and a proposal to ban headscarves from public places clearly show to what extent Islamophobia drives the party's cultural agenda. This is only because France is suffering from acute Islamic action and the local populace, the French people, are in no mood to tolerate the irritating behaviour and actions of the Moslem population that has seen a large increase in recent years. In brief, the French mood seems very anti Moslem and the RN seems prepared

It also has plans for new legal protections for the police which is an euphemism for allowing the force to take aggressive measures against the minorities - mostly Jews and Moslems.

Significantly, Alice Weidel, the co-chair of the Far Right Alternative for Germany, hailed the results "with admiration and respect," noting that Marine Le Pen's party was a role model.

There is still a faint hope for Macron as France's two-round elec $to ral\ system\ means\ candidates\ can\ drop\ out\ to\ allow\ voters\ to\ form$ a single bloc of opposition to the radical Right. The situation is so desperate that Macron and his coalition have to immediately cobble up an alliance with the Left shedding their allergy as only five days are left for the second round of voting. If he fails, a party that does not care a fig for the republican values that laid the foundation of modern France will surge ahead and form a government. This will spell doom for both France and the European Union.

WISDOM CORNER



A desire arises in the mind. It is satisfied immediately another comes. In the interval which separates two desires a perfect calm reigns in the mind. It is at this moment freed from all thought, love or hate. Complete peace equally reigns between two mental waves

Man is fond of counting his troubles, but he does not count his joys.

If he counted them up as he ought to, he would see that every lot has enough happiness provided for it

Love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

done in love is done well

- **1863:** Battle of Gettysburg ends. The 3-day long battle during the American Civil War was fought between the Union and Confederacy in-and-around the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Thought to be one of the bloodiest battles of the war - around 50,000 soldiers were lost on both sides - the Battle of Gettysburg marked a key turning point in the conflict. The decisive Union victory led to the retreat of Confederate soldiers from the north.
- 1962: Algeria gains its independence from France. Algeria's independence from France, after 132 years of French rule, was finalized after the signing of the Évian Accords in the spa town of Évian-les-Bains. The accords ended a 7year long voilent war of independence. Independence was finally achieved after the July 1, 1962, referendum favored complete Algerian independence. Ahmed Ben Bella became the first President of the country.
- 1969: Just weeks after being fired from the rock band the Rolling Stones, British musician Brian Jones was found dead in his swimming pool.
- **1976:** An Israeli commando squad, led by Dan Shomron, launched a rescue of hostages held by airplane hijackers in Entebbe, Uganda.
- **1985:** The comedy Back to the Future, directed by Robert Zemeckis and starring Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly, was released in American theatres; a huge hit, it was followed by several seguels.

Free haircut

A man and a little boy entered a barbershop together. After the man received the full treatment - shave, shampoo, manicure, haircut, etc. - he placed the boy in the chair. "I'm goin' to buy a green tie to wear for the parade." he said. "I'll be back

When the boy's haircut was





completed and the man still hadn't returned, the barber said, "Looks like your daddy's forgotten all about you." 'That wasn't my daddy," said the boy. "He just walked up, took me by the hand and said, 'Come on, son, we're gonna get a free haircut!"

FOCUS POLICYMAKING

AGENDA FOR THE PEOPLE



Dani Rodrik & Laura Tyson

AS PART OF A

CONSENSUS, **CLIMATE POLICIES WILL NEED TO COMBINE REASONABLE CARBON PRICING** WITH STRONG **POSITIVE INCENTIVES AND AMBITIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

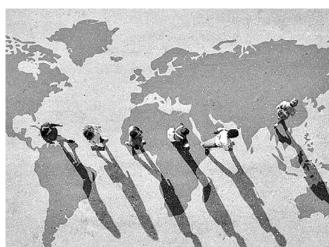
aradigm shifts in mainstream economic thinking usually accompany crises demanding new answers, as occurred after $stagflation-low\ growth\ and$ high inflation - gripped advanced economies in the 1970s. And it may be happening again, as liberal democracies confronted a wave of popular distrust in their ability to serve their citizens and address the multiple crises – ranging from climate change to unbearable inequalities and major global conflicts - that threaten our future.

The consequences can now be seen in the United States, where former President Donald Trump has a good chance of winning the presidential election in November. Similarly, a Far Right government could take power in France after the snap election. To prevent dangerous populist policies that exploit voters' anger, and to avert major damage to humanity and the planet, we must urgently address the root causes of people's resentment.

With this imperative in mind, many leading economists and practitioners convened in Berlin at the end of May for a summit organised by the Forum New Economy. The "Winning Back the People" summit led to something resembling a new understanding that may replace the market-liberal "Washington Consensus," which for four decades emphasised the primacy of free trade and capital flows, deregulation, privatisation, and other pro-market shibboleths.

The Berlin Declaration published at the end of the gathering has since been signed by dozens of leading scholars, including Nobel laureate Angus Deaton, Mariana Mazzucato, and Olivier Blanchard, as well as by Thomas Piketty, Isabella Weber, Branko Milanovic, and many others.

The Washington Consensus has been wobbly for some time, challenged by abundant research documenting rising income and wealth inequality and its causes, as well as reassessments of the role of in-



A concerted effort to put citizens and their governments back in the driver's seat and promote well-being for the many is needed to restore trust in our societies' ability to overcome crises and secure a better future

dustrial policy and strategies to combat climate change. Recent crises, not to mention the danger of losing the fight for liberal democracy itself, have catalysed an effort to translate all this research into a new common framework of policies to win back citizens.

The Berlin Declaration highlights widespread evidence that people's distrust is to a large extent driven by the shared experience of a real or perceived loss of control over one's own livelihood and the trajectory of societal changes. This sense of powerlessness has been triggered by shocks stemming from globalisation and technological shifts, amplified by climate change, artificial intelligence, the recent inflation shock, and austerity.

This diagnosis logically leads to an equally clear conclusion. To win back people's trust requires policies that restore confidence in their - and their governments' - ability to respond effectively to the real problems they face. This means focusing policies on the creation of shared prosperity and good jobs, including policies that proactively address imminent regional disruptions by supporting new industries and directing innovation toward wealth creation for the many.

There is equally strong support for designing a healthier form of globalisation, for coordinating climate policies, and for allowing national control over crucial strategic interests. Underlying these priorities is broad agreement that income and wealth inequalities must be narrowed.

As part of a new consensus, climate policies will need to combine reasonable carbon pricing with strong positive incentives and ambitious infrastructure investment. And there is widespread acceptance of the need for developing countries to get the financial and technological resources they need to embark on the climate transition. In sum, there is a new shared common sense that a new balance between markets and collective action needs to be established.

To agree on all of this would probably not have been possible five years ago. The large number of signatories, and the diversity of perspectives they represent, reflect how much the discussion has changed with the accumulation of more and

more empirical evidence.

The signatories of the Berlin Declaration do not pretend to have all the answers; far from it. Rather, the Declaration's purpose is to offer a statement of principles that obviously differ from the previous orthodoxy and to create a mandate to refine political concepts for practice. How to get industrial policy right must be defined in a national context. as well as in a cooperative international effort; the same is true of how governments can best incentivise climate-friendly behaviour. How to re-frame globalisation or most effectively reduce economic inequality also remain open questions.

Nevertheless, achieving a consensus on the principles that should guide policymakers is hugely important. Recognising that markets on their own will neither stop climate change nor lead to a less unequal distribution of wealth is only one step toward devising optimal strategies that can effectively address the real challenges that confront us. A lot of progress has already been made

on this front. We now face a choice between a protectionist populist backlash, with all the conflict that this implies, and a new suite of policies that are responsive to people's concerns. To preempt the populists, we need a new political consensus that focuses on the causes of citizens' distrust, rather than

on the symptoms. A concerted effort to put citizens and their governments back in the driver's seat and promote wellbeing for the many is needed to restore trust in our societies' ability to overcome crises and secure a better future. To win back the people requires nothing more and nothing less – than an agenda for the people.

Dani Rodrik is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School. Laura Tyson is a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

If you have 'starting trouble,' you're not alone



Melvin Durai

TAKE IT FROM ME. **A LONGTIME DRIVER, THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN YOUR CAR NOT STARTING IS YOUR CAR NOT STOPPING**

phrase "starting trouble," you may be reminded of all the people in your life who are always starting trouble. Perhaps it's your cousin, who always brings up politics at the family get-together, suggesting that only a dimwit would vote for a particular political candidate.

"Starting trouble" may also remind you of an old car. Perhaps it's a 2005 Hyundai that just won't start, much to the dismay of vour uncle, who is trying desperately to get away from a family get-together where he has just been called a dimwit.

"Starting trouble" may also remind you of a project you've always wanted to do, but just haven't started. Perhaps it's a book you've wanted to write, a self-help book entitled "Keeping Peace with Dimwits in the Family" that might have helped your cousin maintain a better relationship with his dad.

I'm quite familiar with the

Then you see the various types of "starting trouble." In fact, if you ask my wife, she'll tell you that I'm an expert at "starting trouble." Not only do I have no trouble starting trouble, I have trouble not starting trouble. (I would disagree with my wife, but I don't want to start any trouble.) From my experience as a par-

> ent, it's clear to me that humans learn how to start trouble at a very young age (5 to 12), master this skill during their early teen years, and earn a PhD by age 18. Some dedicate their lives to starting trouble, becoming professional hackers, streakers or internet trolls. But most realise that it's just not worth it. They try to keep peace at family gettogethers, resisting the urge to deflate any tyres outside or any egos inside.

As for "starting trouble" involving machines, I've experienced it all, including cars not starting, lawn mowers not starting and computers not starting. It can be very frustrating when your car doesn't start in the morning. Take it from me, a longtime driver, the only thing worse than your car not starting is your car not stopping. Public transportation offers solutions, of course. If there's a bus stop sign nearby, you can drive into it to stop your car. But this is always a last resort, unless you're trying to start trou-

I'm also familiar with the "starting trouble" that keeps us from achieving our goals, whether it's a small goal like "grow peas in my garden" or a large goal like "grow peace in the Middle East." I struggle with this type of "starting trouble" all the time. I had "starting trouble" writing this column about starting trouble.

The best way to overcome "starting trouble," I've found, is to tell yourself that you're going to do only a small part of a task -- and nothing more unless you feel like it. When I'm doing laundry in our house and have a lot

of clothes to put away, I tell myself that I'm going to put away only 10 items. That gets me started, and I often just get it all done. But if I'm feeling tired or lazy, I stop at 10 items and come back later. By splitting up the task, it increases the chances that my kids will notice that there's a chore to be done and hide in their rooms until it's

Almost any task can be broken up into smaller parts. That makes it less likely that you'll have "starting trouble." For example, if you need to see a dentist but have been putting it off, just write "google dentist" on your calendar for tomorrow. The next day, you can write "click on link." After that, you can write "read reviews," followed by "dial the number and quickly hang up before anyone answers." In a few days, you'll be able to write "make an appointment for June 2034." This is how I get all my medical appointments done.

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 rissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Multi-crop farming

Sir, The shift from single-crop farming to multi-crop farming is becoming increasingly necessary in light of the findings from agricultural science and meteorological data. Singlecrop farming has been shown to lead to decreased productivity over time. This is compounded by rising temperatures, which further reduce crop yields. As climate change continues to impact weather patterns and agricultural conditions, the reliance on single crops makes farmers more vulnerable to these changes, threatening their livelihoods and food security. The NSSO's Household Consumption Expenditure Survey highlights a significant shift in dietary preferences among the population. There has been a notable decrease in cereal consumption, with individuals now preferring fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk, and meat. Twenty years ago, the average individual consumed 11.78 kg of food grains per month; this figure has dropped to 8.97 kg in 2022-23. This shift in consumption patterns is reflective of broader dietary trends and suggests a need for agricultural practices to adapt accordingly. Farmers focusing solely on traditional cereal crops may find themselves at a disadvantage in this changing market. Economic data further underscores the importance of diversifying agricultural production. Given that agriculture still contributes significantly to the country's economy (54 per cent), there is a clear need to transition from single-crop to multicrop farming. This shift is essential not only for improving land productivity and soil fertility but also for ensuring economic stability and growth in the agricultural sector.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Infra challenges

Sir, The roof collapse at Delhi's busy airportduring record rainfall isn't just a tragic event but a stark symptom of India's broader infrastructure challenges. This incident, amidst a backdrop of similar failures nationwide such as bridge collapses and monsoon-related havoc exposes systemic flaws in planning, execution, and maintenance across the country. The issue goes beyond weather; inadequate drainage systems in rapidly urbanising areas exacerbate flooding, turning urban growth into a hazard. The rush to complete projects, often timed with elections, prioritises speed over quality, compromising infrastructure integrity. Infrastructure development must prioritise public safety over political expediency, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR





WEDNESDAY | JULY 3 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

WATERFALL TRAGEDY

Pune administration comes up with safety measures for tourists

The notification says that agencies should deploy divers, rescue boats, lifeguards, life jackets at water bodies frequented by tourists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, July 2: The Pune administration has outlined a series of safety measures for hazardous tourist locations in the district which includes identification and demarcation of dangerous areas, the presence of lifeguards and rescue teams, and the installation of warning

The move comes after the incident Sunday when a woman and four children were swept Bhushi Dam, a well-known picnic spot in the picturesque Lonavala hill station of Maharashtra's Pune district.

The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, highlighting the urgent need for improved safety protocols at popular tourist destinations.

Furthermore, the tranquil setting of the Pavana Dam in Lonavala has also been marred by a series of tragic drownings, underscoring the critical importance of implementing enhanced safety measures in the region.

During the monsoon season, a large number of tourists visit the Bhushi and Pavana dams, Lonavala, Sinhgad, Malshei and Tamhini and other places, nestled in the Western Ghats in Pune district, often venturing into unknown and dangerous areas.

Pune Collector Dr Suhas Divase Monday issued a set of guidelines and instructed authorities to conduct a survey to identify potential hazardous spots at these tourist places and



ensure necessary measures for the safety of visitors.

"Identify the dangerous spots at various tourist places, such as dams, waterfalls, lakes, rivers. cliffs, and mark them as prohibited areas by installing perimeter lines and warning boards, so that tourists do not venture beyond them," Divase said in a notification.

'Places which are disasterprone and where safety meas-

Agencies such as Revenue, Forest, Railways, Municipal Corporations, and the Public Works Department should deploy divers, rescue boats, lifeguards, life jackets at water bodies frequented by tourists.

"They should rope in NGOs, rescue foundations, trekkers, NDRF and locals for disaster management work at these places. Ambulances with first aid facilities should also be deployed," the collector said.

Also, visitors will not be allowed to enter tourist spots located in forest areas after 6 pm, he said in the notification.

"The Forest Department should take action against encroachments at tourist spots in forest areas, and the local administration should decide the timings for visitors and ensure they do not stop there after sunset," he said.

"If required, take action against those who violate the rules and regulations," Divase

T'gana govt to expand enforcement wing

In view of the expansion of the geographical area of

Hyderabad, the CM A Revanth Reddy directed expanding the purview of the disaster management

wing up to the city's Outer Ring Road (ORR)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, July 2: The Telangana government has decided to expand the disaster management wing of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to offer various services, including protecting government assets like water bodies against the threat of encroachments.

A preliminary decision has

been taken at a meeting held by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to name the expanded wing as Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA), an official release said Monday night.

In view of the expansion of the geographical area of Hyderabad, the CM directed expanding the purview of the disaster management wing up to the city's Outer Ring Road (ORR).

The wing would serve the GHMC and also the 27 municipal bodies, 33 Gram Panchayats neighbouring the city.

CM Revanth Reddy directed Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari to prepare a draft on the reor ganization, requirement of personnel, duties, allocation of funds and responsibilities of the wing.

The CM decided that the disaster management wing would take up key responsibilities of

protecting the lakes and ponds within the GHMC area of about two thousand kilometers, 'nalas' (drainages) in the city and the government properties from the

threat of encroachment.

Apart from this, the disaster management wing will also pro-

vide services like controlling hoardings, drinking water pipelines, power supply lines, drainages, flood management and traffic control, the release

The Chief Minister instructed officials to speed up the works of Musi Riverfront Development project and said it should work in tune with the government's goal to promote Hyderabad as the 'best international city'.

Officials were also asked to take appropriate measures to restore the buildings of historical importance in Hyderabad.

The GHMC officials made a powerpoint presentation on various historic places, including City Library, ayurvedic hospital near Charminar, Nizamia Observatory, Gudimalkapur lake.

The Chief Minister suggested exploring ways to develop them as tourist spots, the release added.



Police personnel detain an ABVP activist protesting against the Telangana government demanding release of a job calendar for recruitment to different posts in the government departments, in Hyderabad, Tuesday

POST HIJAB CONTROVERSY

Mumbai college bans T-shirts, torn jeans

The directive came after the Bombay High Court June 26 refused to interfere in a decision taken by the college to impose a ban on hijab, burka and nagab on its premises, observing that such rules do not violate students' fundamental rights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 2: A city-based college, which has been in news for imposing a ban on hijab, has now also barred students from wearing torn jeans, T-shirts, "revealing" dresses and jerseys, or a dress that reveals religion or shows "cultural disparity"

The Chembur Trombay Education Society's NG Acharya and DK Marathe College, in the notice issued June 27, also said students should wear a formal and decent dress while on campus.

Students can wear a half or full shirt and trousers. Girls can wear any Indian or western outfit, it said.

The directive came after the Bombay High Court June 26 refused to interfere in a decision taken by the college to impose a ban on hijab, burka and naqab on its premises, observing that such rules do not violate students' fundamental rights.

"Students shall not wear any dress which reveals religion or shows cultural disparity. Nakab, hijab, burka, stole, cap, etc shall be removed by going to the common rooms on the ground floor and then only (students) can move throughout the college campus," the notice said.

"Torn jeans, T-shirts, revealing dresses and jerseys are not allowed," it said.

Students belonging to the Muslim community from Shivaji Nagar, Govandi and Mankhurd areas are enrolled at the college,

located in Chembur.

The notice also states that 75 per cent attendance is com-

"Discipline is the key to success," it added.

Subodh Acharya, General Secretary of the college governing council, said no notice with new directives has been issued by the college, referring to a circular issued by the institute earlier this year.

"The notice is not new. We are only asking students to follow the dress code which states not to wear revealing clothes. We are also not asking students to wear sarees or attire of any particular colour," he said.

"Students can come to college wearing a hijab or burka, change it in the college common room and then do their work," college principal Vidyagauri Lele said.

Last month, the students moved the high court, challenging a directive issued by the college imposing a dress code under which they cannot wear hijab, naqab, burka, stoles, caps and badges inside the

The HC June 26 said a dress code is meant to maintain discipline which is part of the college's fundamental right to "establish and administer an educational institution".

The dress code was applicable to all students irrespective of religion or caste, the high court said, dismissing a petition filed against the ban by nine girl students.

Probe officers to be given 1 case per month to ensure quality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 2: An investigation officer will be assigned only one major case in a month for quality probe, Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Milind Bharambe has said, asserting his force is geared up for an effective implementation of the new criminal laws.

The Navi Mumbai Police have been imparted training to maintain quality of investigation in cases, which are expected to increase with the facility to file an e-complaint under the new criminal laws. Bharambe told reporters in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township Monday.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Hyderabad, July 2: Tension prevailed at the office of Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGSPSC) here Tuesday as ABVP workers tried to lay siege in support of their

demands. On a call given by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), a large number of protestors gathered at TGSPSC in Nampally.

increase in the number of posts under Group II and Group III and to allow 100 candidates for every post under Group I main exam.

The ABVP leaders demanded that the Congress government fulfil its election promise of two lakh jobs in the first year. They also wanted the government to issue a District Selection

for the posts of 25,000 teachers.

Raising slogans against the government, the protestors sat on the road in front of the Commission premises, leading to traffic jam in the busy area. Police personnel swung into action to clear the road.

ABVP leaders resisted the attempts by the police personnel to arrest them. Finally, the policemen physically lifted the pro-

ABVP tries to lay siege to TGSPSC Committee (DSC) notification testors and whisked them away

> in vehicles. ABVP State Secretary Chinthakayala Jhansi said they would continue the protest till the government increases the number of posts as promised by the Congress party during Assembly elections.

She alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy betrayed students and the unemployed after promising to fill the vacancies.

He asked Information & Public Relations and Police Departments

to call a meeting of film per-

sonalities and management of

theatres to present the govern-

plain the government's think-

support to the Police Department

ing and its policy.

He said he would subsequently hold a meeting with them to ex-

Revanth Reddy assured all

for the effective discharge of its duties. He was

crimes.

all praise for the

Cybercrime team

for checking the

cern over the

growing menace

of drugs and said

this was ruining

families and society.

He voiced con-

ment proposal before them.

Telangana sets precondition for film shootings

CM A Revanth Reddy asked officials that if the film personalities approach the government with requests to enhance ticket rates, they should be asked to make videos on drug control and cybercrimes featuring stars of the movies concerned

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, July 2: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Tuesday said the state government will give permissions for film shootings and enhance cinema ticket rates only if the filmmakers produce videos to create awareness on drug abuse and cybercrime as part of their social responsibility.

The Chief Minister said such videos of 1.5 minutes to 2 minutes duration should feature stars of the movies, for which the filmmakers seek permissions for shooting or approach the government to enhance cinema ticket rates.

He made the announcement after flagging off new vehicles of the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau and Telangana Cyber Security Bureau. The Chief Minister lamented

that the film personalities are not discharging their social responsibility. 'When your new films are re-

leased, you come to the govern-

ment for GOs to increase ticket

rates but my government feels that you are not fulfilling your social responsibility to control social problems like cybercrimes and drug abuse," he said.

He asked officials that if the film personalities approach the government with requests to enhance ticket rates, they should be asked to make videos on drug control and cybercrimes featuring stars of the movies concerned.

"This is the precondition. I am giving clear instructions to my officials. How big they may be, if they come with a request to us, they should be asked to make videos of oneand-half-minute to two minutes featuring stars of the same movie," he said.

He suggested that the same pre-condition should apply for permissions for film shootings.

He mentioned that shootings of many films take place in and around Hyderabad, especially under the limits of Cyberabad and Rachakonda Police Commissionerates.

The Chief Minister said only



& Public Relations

and Police Departments

to call a meeting of film

present the government

crimes for free before screen-

ing of the movie.

proposal before them

personalities and

directed the management of all cinema theatres in the state to compulsorily screen videos on drug control and cybercrimes for free before screening of the movie

those who make videos on so-Chiranjeevi for voluntarily comcial problems should be proing forward to make a video vided required facilities. He for drug control to participate said giving back to society was in a campaign to create awarethe responsibility of film perness in society.

sonalities. The Chief Minister also di-Stating that the drug menace rected the management of all and cybersecurity are destroycinema theatres in the state to ing society, he said saving the compulsorily screen videos society is the responsibility of the on drug control and cyber-

cine industry. He thanked megastar

Minister not discharging their social responsibility management of theatres to

lamented that the film personalities are

He said Drug addicts are committing crimes under the influence of Ganja (Cannabis). Narcotic drugs are the main reason for increasing

violence against children. The Chief Minister said the government would give promotion to those officers working effectively for drug control. A Bill in this regard will be passed after a debate in the Assembly.

He appealed to the youth to not become drug addicts and to be strong enough to deal with the problems and challenges.



national



INDIA will no longer allow this "Bulldozer Nyay" to run on the **Parliamentary system**

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

FRESH MOB VIOLENCE IN WB

Amid the surge in incidents of mob attacks in West Bengal, a video clip surfaced Tuesday purportedly showing a teenage boy and his mother being assaulted at Ariadaha in North 24 Parganas district. The police arrested six people in connection with the incident which took place Sunday night, an officer said





strives hard to cultural domain. Now our Dravidian Model government is proud to join hands with the World Bank in empowering women in the economic domain as well

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN | TN YOUTH WELFARE &

We are providing adequate relief and rehabilitation to the affected people. Medical camps, food, including baby food, are being arranged for those staving in the relief camps while the officials have been directed to undertake

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

repair of roads and embankments at



the earliest



NAYAB SINGH SAINI HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

2 newly-elected TMC **MLAs resume dharna**

Kolkata: Two newly-elected Trinamool Congress MLAs resumed their dharna Tuesday, demanding that they be administered oath in the West Bengal assembly rather than in the Rai Bhavan as per Governor C V Ananda Bose's invite. The sit-in by Baranagar MLA Savantika Bandvopadhvav and Bhagabangola legislator Ravat Hossain Sarkar entered the fourth day as they staged the demonstration on the assembly premises on June 27, 28 and July 1.

Committee to probe bridge collapses

Patna: The Bihar government recent bridge collapses across the state, including six incidents in the past 13 days. The latest collapse took place at Khausi Dangi village in Kishanganj Sunday, involving a small bridge built over Boond river in 2009-10 with MPLAD funds.

IAF rescues 13 fishermen

Guwahati: The Indian Air Force (IAF) Tuesday rescued 13 fishermen, who were stranded on a small island in the flooded Brahmanutra in Assam's Dibrugarh district since June 28. State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) officials said. The ASDMA had requested the IAF to help rescue the fishermen from the Hatia Ali area in the district. The IAF in a post on the X said: "IAF rescued 13 marooned survivors from a small island in the flooded Brahmaputra, north of Dibrugarh in Assam."

Kavitha one of main conspirators, says HC

New Delhi: BRS leader K Kavitha was prima facie one of the main plotters of the criminal conspiracy behind the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, the Delhi High Court has said while denying bail to her in two cases of corruption and money laundering linked to the alleged liquor scam. The high court, which perused the material collected by the investigating agencies, said Kavitha was prima facie involved in the payment of kickbacks in various processes and activities relating to proceeds of crime and in the commission of the offence of money laundering.



New Delhi, July 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday mounted a stinging counterattack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi as he mocked him as 'balak buddhi' (childish mind). accused him of linking Hindus with violence and making false claims in Lok Sabha, and sought stringent action against him to protect parliamentary democracy.

Replying to a nearly 18-hourlong discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Lower House, Modi said the Congress and its "ecosystem" are working day and night to impress upon people that the BJP-led NDA has been defeated in the elections despite voters handing his government a historic third-term for stability and continuity.

"I will tell Congress leaders to not suppress people's mandate under the garb of fake victory celebrations," he said and added the Opposition party was behaving as if it had won 99 out 100 seats and not out of 543, the actual strength of the House. The Congress turned into a 'parasitic party" in these polls, feeding off its partners' votes to boost its tally, he said.

Instead of conceding defeat, the Congress is behaving arro-

5 Naxals killed

in encounter

Narayanpur (Chhattisgarh),

July 2: Five Naxalites were

killed in an encounter with se-

Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur dis-

The gunfight took place

in a forest under Kohkameta

police station area in Abujhmad,

a hilly forest area when a joint

team of personnel from different

security forces was out on an

anti-Naxal operation, a senior

killed in the action so far. The

search operation is still under-

way in the area and further de-

tails are awaited," he said, adding

that security personnel were re-

sonnel of the District Reserve

Guard, Special Task Force,

Border Security Force and the

Indo-Tibetan Border Police from

different districts, was launched

the number of Naxalites killed

so far this year in separate en-

counters with security forces

gunned down in the Bastar di-

vision, comprising seven dis-

tricts including Narayanpur,

two others were killed in

Dhamtari district under the

Raipur division. On June 15,

eight Naxalites and a jawan

of the Special Task Force (STF)

were killed in an encounter

in Narayanpur district. Six

Naxalites were gunned down

in an encounter in Narayanpur

June 5 and seven Naxals were

killed on the Narayanpur-

Bijapur border May 23.

While 136 Maoists were

in the state has risen to 138.

With the latest incident,

The operation, involving

"Five Naxalites have been

police official said.

ported to be safe.

Sunday, police said.

trict Tuesday, police said.

personnel in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



The Congress Tuesday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his scathing criticism of the party during his address in the Lok Sabha, saying that he mentioned "tumse na ho payega" in his speech when 140 crore Indians had told his government the same thing in the just-concluded general election. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge slammed Modi for calling the party "parasite" and claimed that the Prime Minister had used the term for farmers as well in 2021. In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "The way you mentioned 'Tumse Na Ho Payega' in your speech of two hours and twenty four minutes, 140 crore Indians had have said the same thing to your government in this election. The farmers who provide food to us voted against your false promises of 'doubling their income' and said - 'Tumse na ho payega (You are not up to it)'," he said.

gantly, he said, adding its cheerful response to the mandate is like a parent encouraging a child who has fallen off a cycle. In his nearly 135-minute speech, which saw continuous sloganshouting on the Manipur issue and heckling by Opposition members, Modi turned his usual combative self after initially listing various successes of his gov-

ernment since 2014 as he took on the Congress and Gandhi without naming him.

"The mandate for the Congress is to sit in the Opposition and keep shouting once it runs out of logic," he said. Asserting that the main Opposition party delivered its third worst performance in the national elections and failed to reach 250-mark after the 1984 polls, he took a swipe at Gandhi saying, "Aaj desh inse kah raha hai - tumse na ho payega (Country is telling him that you are not up to it)". He said the Congress became

a "parasitic party" in these polls as its tally of 99 was largely curtsey its allies, while it performed poorly with a strike rate of merely 26 per cent where the party was pitted directly against the BJP or was the main Opposition force. Its strike rate rose to 50 per cent where it was a junior partner, he added. The Congress won only two out of 66 seats in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh, he said while contrasting the BJP's performance in Lok Sabha as well as Assembly polls in Odisha where it formed its maiden government.

The Congress is not visible even with the help of a microscope in four states where assembly polls were held while the NDA won an unprecedented mandate. He accused the party of trying to spread anarchy through its economic policies. man-eater animal to blood.

"divisive" politics around castes and regions and by raising doubts about India's democratic process. Keeping the Congress, especially Gandhi, in his crosshairs, Modi said it has become addicted to lies like a



PROTEST TURNS UGLY: Police personnel try to control the situation after a clash broke out between Bajrang Dal and Congress workers during a protest against Rahul Gandhi's remark on BJP that "You are not Hindus" in Lok Sabha, at the Congress office in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

HATHRAS STAMPEDE

Bodies on ice blocks, kin wait for autopsy

have put the

death toll at

children

Hathras (UP), July 2: Scores of bodies were lying on blocks of ice inside the government hospital here Tuesday night in the aftermath of the deadly stampede at a religious congregation, as the wailing relatives of the victims waited outside in drizzle to take mortal **Officials** remains back home.

put the death toll at 116 - 108 of them women and seven chilwomen and seven dren. The victims were part of the crowd of thou-

Officials have

sands that had gathered near Phulrai village in the Sikandrarau area for the 'satsang' by religious preacher Bhole Baba. The stampede took place at around 3.30 pm when Baba was leaving the venue.

Meena Devi, who lost her mother Sudama Devi (65), said, "It was drizzling in the area (Sadiqpur) where I live, otherwise I had planned to go to the 'sangat' with my mother." An inconsolable Devi sat outside the TB department of the Bagla Combined District Hospital where scores of bodies were kept on the ground floor. "My brother and sister-in-law, their kids had accompanied my mother to the 'Sangat'. In the crowd, my mother got left behind and was crushed over," Meena told PTI.

Vinod Kumar Survayanshi. who lives in Barse village in the Sasni Tehsil, lost his 72-year-old maternal aunt while his mother luckily survived. "I have been here for three hours. The body is still here and I have been told

but I am not sure how much more time it will take," he said as he waited for his aunt's son who was arriving here from Greater Noida.

Suryavanshi said his aunt and mother have been following the Baba's sermons for around 15 years now and described the stampede as "unfortunate".

A number of bodies were kept at the district hospital here. Some were at the trauma centre in Sikandrarau area 116 - 108 of them near the incident spot while some others were sent to the government hospital in the

adjoining Etah district. "My mother's body is here but I'm unable to get an ambulance to take it for post-mortem," said Rajesh, wearing a face mask as he made frantic inquires with police officials on duty inside the TB department.

Meanwhile, workers and volunteers of the RSS and the Bajrang Dal also remained at the hospital since the afternoon. distributing water packets and offering guidance on medical procedures to relatives of victims, many of whom were in shock and struggling to come to terms with the tragedy.

A woman sat crying among five or six bodies in a truck, urging people to help her get the body of her daughter out of the vehicle. "There are almost 100-200 casualties and there was only one doctor at the hospital. There was no facility for oxygen. Some are still breathing but there are no proper treatment facilities," an agitated youth said outside the hospital.

Maha Council polls: Uddhav aide files papers

Mumbai: A contest appears on the cards in the July 12 biennial elections for 11 seats of the Maharashtra Legislative Council after the Shiv Sena (UBT) Tuesday fielded Milind Narvekar, a close aide of party chief Uddhav Thackeray, taking the number of candidates in the fray to 12. If one of the 12 candidates does not withdraw nomination by July 5, the last date for doing so, elections to the Upper House of the state legislature from the MLA quota will take place July 12. All candidates - nine of the ruling alliance Mahayuti and three of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) -- filed their nomination papers Tuesday. Thackeray expressed confidence that all three candidates of the MVA, which comprises the Sena (UBT). the Congress, the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) and some smaller parties will emerge victorious. When pointed out that the Opposition bloc does not have the numbers in the Assembly to ensure the victory of its third candidate, the former Chief Minister remarked, "We would not be doing it (fielding 3rd nominee) had we not been confident (of winning).'

Silence on Manipur not normal: Akoijam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: Lok Sabha member A Bimol Akoijam expressed his anguish over the absence of any reference to ethnic violence-hit Manipur in President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

In a fiery speech late Monday night, the first-time Congress member from Inner Manipur drew attention to the 60,000 people living in deplorable conditions in relief camps in the northeastern state for the past year.

Akoijam, a professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University,

was the last speaker in the Lok Sabha Monday and spoke close

to midnight. 'The hurt, the anger has thrown a nobody like me to be part of this temple of democracy, beating the BJP cabinet minister. Think about the pain. I will keep quiet the moment the Prime Minister opens his mouth and the nationalist party says that Manipur is a part of India and we care for the people of that state," said Akoijam, who defeated Union minister Rajkumar Ranjan

He said every inch of Manipur was covered by central armed forces, yet 60,000 people

Singh in the recent elections.

Akoijam said it was "sad to see a nationalist party like the BJP being comfortable with the silence on Manipur's tragedy"

were rendered homeless, and thousands of villages were destroyed. "Our Prime Minister remains silent, not even uttering a word, and the President's address failed to mention this. This silence is not normal," Akoijam said in his speech. He said over 200 people have died,

and a civil war-like situation has ensued, with armed individuals roaming around, fighting each other, and defending their villages, while the Indian state has remained a mute spectator to this tragedy for one year. "Is this silence communicating to the people of the Northeast and particularly Manipur that you do not matter in the Indian State's scheme of things," Akoijam wondered. He said the absence of the Manipur crisis in the President's address to Parliament Friday was a reminder of the 'rashtra chetana' (national consciousness) which excludes people.

Five kids die at shelter home, 31 hospitalised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, July 2: As many as five children have died at a shelter home here over the last three days while 31 other inmates have been hospitalised, prompting the Madhya Pradesh government to order a high-level inquiry.

While the exact reasons for the deaths were yet to be ascertained, food poisoning could be among the causes, a doctor said.

More than 204 children, including orphans and those suffering from mental ailments, were housed at 'Bal Ashram' shelter home of Shri Yugpurush Dham, NGO, in Malharganj police station limits, an official said. A sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) was transferred after a video showing him laughing during a probe into the deaths surfaced on social media.

While Shubh (8) died Sunday after suffering from seizures, Karan (12), Akash (7), Chhota Govind (5) and Rani (11) died over the last two days, officials said. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Alok Kumar Sharma said the exact cause of deaths will be known once post-mortem reports arrive.

A total of 31 children are admitted to the Government Chacha Nehru Children's ঽ Hospital at present. Hospital superintendent Dr Preeti Malpani said the children started vomiting and suffering from diarrhea after dinner Monday night, "At first glance, it seemstheir health deteriorated due to food poisoning," she said.

1,500 stones removed from woman's gallbladder

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 2: In a shocking case, doctors here removed 1,500 stones from the gallbladder of a 32-year-old woman.

A 32-year-old woman, who was suffering from persistent bloating and heaviness after eating junk and fatty foods, had her gallbladder removed which contained 1500 stones, said Dr Manish K Gupta, Vice Chairperson and Senior Consultant, Laparoscopic and General Surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The woman Riya Sharma, who successfully underwent a laparoscopic cholecystectomy at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, had also been self-medicating for what she believed to be gas, Dr Gupta

She also experienced recur-



rent episodes of right upper abdominal pain radiating to her back and shoulder, often accompanied by nausea and vom-

iting, he added. After a thorough evaluation, the patient was scheduled for a laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a minimally invasive procedure

to remove the gallbladder and stones. "During her surgery (Saturday), 10 mm and 5 mm incisions were made in her abdomen to facilitate the removal of the gallbladder," Dr Gupta said. Speaking about her condition, Riya Sharma, who lives in Gurgaon, told PTI, "I live by

increasing due to lifestyle changes, including long gaps between meals and extended fasting periods, which can lead to bile precipitation and stone

DR MANISH K GUPTA

myself, which is why I am mostly dependent on outside food."

"A few weeks back, I was suffering from persistent bloating and heaviness. After consulting my family physician, an ultrasound revealed that my gallbladder was full of stones and I was then referred to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital," she added.

Despite the extensive number of stones, the patient was discharged the day after surgery, able to eat a normal diet and move around independently, Dr Gupta said.

He also emphasised the importance of timely intervention, noting that small stones can migrate into the common bile duct (CBD), causing jaundice and pancreatitis, while large stones can lead to chronic irritation and potentially gallbladder cancer if left untreated.

The incidence of gallstone disease is increasing due to lifestyle changes, including long gaps between meals and extended fasting periods, which can lead to bile precipitation and stone formation, said Dr Gupta.

The women are particularly susceptible due to hormonal influences, especially during pregnancy, which can relax the gallbladder and prevent complete emptying, he added.



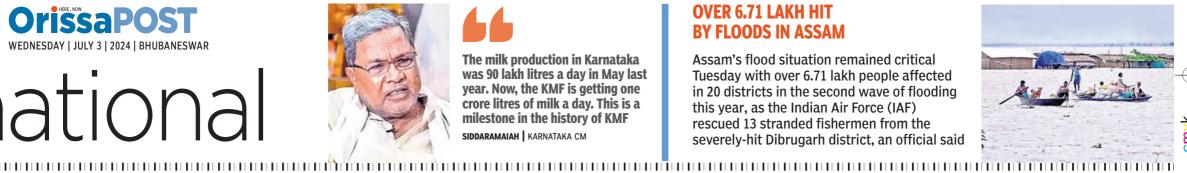
national



The milk production in Karnataka was 90 lakh litres a day in May last year. Now, the KMF is getting one crore litres of milk a day. This is a milestone in the history of KMF SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

OVER 6.71 LAKH HIT BY FLOODS IN ASSAM

Assam's flood situation remained critical Tuesday with over 6.71 lakh people affected in 20 districts in the second wave of flooding this year, as the Indian Air Force (IAF) rescued 13 stranded fishermen from the severely-hit Dibrugarh district, an official said



International Quizzing Association (IQA) has chosen Kerala as the launchpad for its Asian chapter,

marking a significant milestone. The Government of Kerala has appointed the IT Secretary as this initiative's guardian and goodwill ambassador

PINARAYI VIJAYAN KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

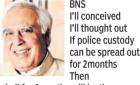
(delimitation) is a subject that I hope will benefit from common sense and wisdom of those in power, who can certainly create a huge mess if they think in short term political gains

SHASHI THAROOR CONGRESS LEADER

None of the staff has been paid salary for the last six months. the budget has been reduced by 28.5 per cent, 181 helpline has been withdrawn and no work has been done to fill the posts of chairman and two members

SWATI MALIWAL FORMER DCW CHIEF





No hail for 2months will be the norm Getting rid of colonial era provisions or @KapilSibal

Monsoon covers entire India 6 days ahead of schedule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: The southwest monsoon has covered the entire country six days ahead of the normal date despite making sluggish progress during mid-June, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

The southwest monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab today. Thus, it covered the entire country July 2, 2024, against the normal date of July 8," the IMD said in

The monsoon arrived in Kerala and the northeastern region May 30, two and six days earlier than usual. It progressed normally up to Maharashtra but lost momentum in between, extending the wait for rains in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh, and worsening the impact of a scorching heat wave in northwest India.

The country recorded 16 days of below-normal rainfall activity from June 11 to June 27, leading to overall below-normal precipitation in June, with 147.2 mm of rainfall against a normal of 165.3 mm for the month, the seventh lowest since 2001. June rainfall accounts for 15 per cent of the total precipitation of 87 cm recorded during the four-month monsoon season in the country.

Typically, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17, withdrawing entirely by October 15. IMD data shows this is the third

The Indian monsoon is characterised by inherent fluctuations and changes that occur over time due to various natural factors

This is called natural variability. However, research shows climate change is making the monsoon more variable

Increased variability means more extreme weather and dry spells

consecutive year that the monsoon has covered the entire country ahead of schedule. Monsoon rains covered all of the country July 2 in both 2022 and 2021. Since 2011, the monsoon has covered the country earlier than the usual date seven times.

Last year, the monsoon rolled into Kerala June 8, which was seven days behind the normal date, and covered the entire country by July 2, six days early. Monsoon withdrawal began in west Rajasthan September 25, with an eight-day delay.

The IMD Tuesday said the monsoon will remain active over northwest, east, and northeast India during the next four to five days. Isolated very heavy rainfall is expected over Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura during July 2–6. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall is very likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya July 5-6.

Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, parts of Gujarat, and coastal Karnataka could experience a few spells of very heavy rain during this period, the Met office said



One-horned rhinos at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district, Assam

RAHUL WRITES TO PM FOR DEBATE ON NEET IN PARI

New Delhi, July 2: Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting him to facilitate a debate on the NEET issue in the Lok Sabha Wednesday.

He said the Opposition's request to discuss the issue related to the medical entrance exam NEET was denied in both Houses of Parliament June 28 as well as Monday, and added that the Lok Sabha speaker had assured the Opposition that he would discuss the matter with the government. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said the aim was to engage "constructively to find a way forward".

Student bodies of INDIA bloc parties slam Centre

New Delhi: Student outfits of INDIA bloc parties slammed the BJP-led Centre Tuesday over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG and reiterated their demand that the medical entrance test be held again for all the 24 lakh candidates who had appeared in it. At a press conference held at the Press Club here, national leaders of the student outfits signed a common resolution against discrepancies in the examination conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and pressed their demand to scrap the testing agency for its failure in hold-

"I am writing to request for a debate in Parliament on NEET, Gandhi said in his letter to the prime minister Tuesday. "Our aim is to engage constructively to find a way forward. At this moment, our only concern is the welfare of nearly 24 lakh NEET aspirants across India," he said.

Referring to the government's move to postpone other examinations and replace the Director General of the National Testing Agency, he said these moves are to "cover up the systemic breakdown of our centralised testing system".

"The NEET examination deserves immediate attention because it has exposed the deep rot in our higher education system. The past seven years have seen over 70 paper leaks, affecting over two crore students." the Congress leader said.

New Delhi, July 2: A court here Tuesday granted two-hour custody parole to Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid to take oath as a Lok Sabha MP July 5, subject to some conditions.

Rashid granted

two-hour parole

to take oath as MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid, was elected from Baramulla seat as an independent candidate defeating National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in the recent Lok Sabha polls. He was arrested in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case

Rashid had moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alterative, to take oath and perform his parliamentary functions. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh allowed custody parole for two hours July 5 to enable him to take oath, subject to a few conditions. These included a custody parole of two hours or till the conclusion of proceedings, whichever was later. The designated time of two hours excluded travel time.

It said Rashid's wife and children were allowed to be present, on production of identity cards, during the making and subscribing of the oath and that he was not allowed access to a phone and internet.

After joining AAP, Surjit makes U-turn; back to Akali fold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 2: In an embarrassment to the AAP in Punjab, SAD's Surjit Kaur was back to the Akali fold Tuesday evening, within hours after she had joined the ruling outfit in the presence of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Days after the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) withdrew support and disowned its candidate Surjit Kaur, who was fielded for Jalandhar West bypoll, she had joined the ruling AAP in Jalandhar in the presence of the Chief Minister.

However, taking a U-turn by evening, Kaur, who had joined the AAP along with some of her family members, was back to the SAD fold led by the rebel

Rebel Akali leader Bibi Jagir Kaur welcomed her back while interacting with reporters in Jalandhar.

Sukhbir Singh Badal-led SAD had last week said the party will support the BSP nominee for the July 10 bypoll to the Jalandhar West Assembly seat instead of the officially fielded candidate Surjit Kaur who was picked by a panel, two of whosemembers have now rebelled against the party chief.

Couple hurt after shed collapses at hotel New Delhi: A couple suffered

SHORT **TAKES**

minor injuries when a portion of a shed near a swimming pool at a five-star hotel in southwest Delhi collapsed and fell on them, police said Tuesday. "A PCR call was received at around 8.56 pm (Monday) in PS (police station) RK Puram about caving/falling of roof and injury to husband and wife, who were staying at Hyatt Regency," the police said. According to the police, Amit Jain (42) and his wife Reva Jain (32) were standing near the swimming pool -- located in the ground floor of the hotel -- when a portion of a shed collapsed and fell on them, leaving them with minor head injuries.

30 villages cut off as rains submerge roads

Junagadh: Around 30 villages in Junagadh district of Gujarat were cut off as roads leading to them got submerged following heavy rains, with Vanthali in the district recording 361 mm rains in the 24-hour period ending Tuesday morning, officials said. Ten talukas in the Saurashtra and southern region of the state received more than 200 mm rainfall in the 24-hour period resulting in water-logging in low-lying areas, they said.

'NEET-PG likely to be held mid-Aug'

New Delhi: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2024 is likely to be held mid-August, sources said Tuesday. A meeting was held in the Union home ministry Monday, in which officials from the health ministry, National Board of **Examinations in Medical** Sciences (NBEMS), along with its technical partner Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Cyber Cell officials discussed the preparedness for the NEET-PG, which is to be held online.

Aditya-L1 completes first halo orbit Quota row: Bihar govt moves SC PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bangalore, July 2: India's first solar mission Aditya-L1

spacecraft completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point Tuesday, ISRO said. The space agency said its station-keeping manoeuvre Tuesday ensured its seamless transition into the second

> During its travel in the halo orbit, Aditya-L1 spacecraft will be subjected to various perturbing forces that will cause it to depart from the targeted

> orbit, the space agency said. "Aditya-L1 underwent two station-keeping manoeuvres February 22 and June 7, re

spectively, to maintain this orbit. Today's third stationkeeping manoeuvre has ensured that its travel continued in the second halo orbit path around L1," ISRO said.

The agency explained that Aditya L1's journey around Sun-Earth L1 Lagrangian point involves modeling of complex dynamics. The understanding of vari-

ous perturbing forces acting on the spacecraft helped in determining the trajectory accurately and planning precise orbit manoeuvres, it added.

With today's manoeuvre. the state-of-the-art flight dynamics software developed in-house at URSC-ISRO for the Aditya-L1 missions stands fully validated," ISRO said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: The Bihar government has moved the Supreme Court challenging a Patna High Court verdict that has set aside the amended reservation laws in the state, which enabled the Nitish Kumar government to increase the quotas for Dalits, tribals and backward classes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent.

In its June 20 verdict, the high court declared that the amendments, passed unanimously by the state's bicameral legislature in November last vear, were "ultra vires" of the Constitution, "bad in law" and "violative of the equality clause". The state's plea has been filed in the apex court through advocate Manish Kumar.

A division bench of the high court had allowed a bunch of pe-

We uphold them by enforcing

rights-based substantive laws

and fairness-based procedural

laws," Justice Chandrachud said,



Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the Bihar (In Admission in Educational Institutions) Reservation (Amendment) Act, 2023, while "leaving the parties to suffer their respective costs". In a detailed order running into 87 pages, the high court made it clear that it saw "no extenuating circumstance enabling the state to breach" the 50-per cent cap on reservations laid down by the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case.

like all buildings, are not just

made of bricks and concrete.

They are made up of hope. Courts

are made to realise the virtues

of justice and the rule of law.

Every case that is being filed

before us is with that hope for jus-

tice. When we invest in the safety,

accessibility and comfort of our

judges, lawyers and litigants,

Climate change cannot be ignored: CJI

This year, Delhi experienced the hottest-recorded weather. We have experienced two heatwaves followed by record-breaking rain in a single day. Our infrastructure must reflect the reality we live in -- climate change can no longer be ignored

AGENCIES

halo orbit.

January 6, 2024.

The Aditya-L1 mission,

which is an Indian solar

observatory at Lagrangian

point L1, was launched

September 2, 2023 and was

inserted in its targeted halo orbit

According to ISRO, Aditya-

L1 spacecraft in the halo orbit

takes 178 days to complete a

revolution around the L1 point.

New Delhi, July 2: Flagging recent heatwaves followed by heavy rainfall in Delhi, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud Tuesday said climate change cannot be ignored and stressed the need to adopt a "green lifestyle" to reduce carbon emissions.

The CJI was speaking at a foundation stone-laying ceremony at Karkardooma, Shastri Park and Rohini here for trial

court buildings in the capital. "This year, Delhi experienced the hottest-recorded weather.

We have experienced two heatwaves followed by record-breaking rain in a single day. Our infrastructure must reflect the reality we live in - climate change can no longer be ignored.'

DY CHANDRACHUD

"One crucial step is to incorporate a green lifestyle into our daily lives, which includes reducing carbon emissions. I was delighted to know that the new buildings will focus on heat-island mitigation and reduce environmental footprint," he said.

The CJI referred to an 18th-century case, in which one Rama Kamati's servant was subjected to custodial torture to confess his



Kamati was convicted in the

case and he later died in prison "Our legal and constitutional system is fundamentally premised on the virtues of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. Courts are the guardian of these foundational virtues.

adding that in that case, it later came to light that the evidence against the convict was fabricated. The CJI said courts are not merely sights of sovereign power but are also essential public service providers. Laying down the foundation

we build more than just an efficient system - we make a just and stone, he said, "Court premises, inclusive system."

Paddy variety Pusa 44 cultivation continues in Punjab

NEW DELHI: Farmers in Punjab's districts with the highest stubble-burning incidents continue to cultivate the long-duration and water-intensive paddy variety Pusa 44, according to a new survey released Tuesday. The survey, conducted by researchers from the Delhi-based independent think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), also found that nearly half of Punjab farmers using in-situ crop residue management (CRM) machines still burn some loose paddy straw to ensure the machines' efficient operation and for pest control. The CEEW report highlighted that 36 per cent of the 1,478 farmers surveyed in 11 districts of Punjab grew Pusa 44 in Kharif 2022 due to its high yield.

international



The release of the director of Shifa **Hospital is a serious mistake** and a moral failure. The place of this man, under whose responsibility our abductees were murdered and held, is in prison BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

LONGEST CYCLONE EVER

The UN weather agency said **Tuesday that Tropical Cyclone** Freddy, a deadly Indian Ocean storm that lashed eastern Africa last year, was confirmed to be the longest-lasting cyclone ever recorded at 36 days





Authorities will not sit across the table with Afghan civil society in this format, but they have heard very clearly the need to

include women and civil society in all aspects of public life ROSEMARY DICARLO

India is a country in which we are deepening our relations within a number of

keyspaces, especially as it relates to deepening our economic ties, deepening our security cooperation VEDANT PATEL | STATE DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY SPOKESPERSON, US





FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESWOMAN, CHINA

SHORT **TAKES**

China, Philippines hold crucial talks

Manila: China and the Philippines held a crucial meeting Tuesday to try to ease escalating tensions following their worst confrontation in the disputed South China Sea that sparked fears of a wider conflict that could involve Manila's ally the United States. The Chinese and Philippine delegations 'affirmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions without prejudice to their respective positions," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said. An agreement was signed to improve communications during emergencies at sea and both sides agreed to continue talks on enhancing ties between their coast guards but no details were provided.

PIO pleads guilty to healthcare fraud

Washington: A 51-year-old Indian American physician from the Chicago area has pleaded guilty to a federal healthcare fraud by billing Medicaid and private insurers for nonexistent services. Mona Ghosh, who owns and operates Progressive Women's Healthcare, specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology services, pleaded guilty to two counts of health care fraud. Each count is punishable by up to ten years in federal prison. US District Judge Franklin U Valderrama has set sentencing for October 22. Federal prosecutors allege that Ghosh is accountable for at least \$2.4 million in fraudulently obtained reimbursements

'INTERNAL ISSUE'

UN group demands release of Khan

The group says Khan's conviction in the graft case was 'part of a much larger campaign of repression targeting the PTI'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 2: A UN group has demanded the immediate release of Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, saying at least two cases slapped on him were politically motivated and aimed to exclude him from the country's political scene.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted its opinion on the 71year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party founder's detention in its 99th session from March 18-27 in Geneva.

The UN body said that Khan's detention and prosecution in the first Toshakhana corruption case and cipher cases were politically motivated to exclude him from competing in the political arena. The UN group also said that it was "without legal basis'

Reacting to the development, the Pakistan government Tuesday dismissed the plea, saying the jailed former Prime Minister's arrest and the pending cases against him were "internal matters.

Khan getting relief in many cases is "a manifestation of a transparent and fair trial and iudicial system. Any demand beyond the constitution, law and international norms will be called discriminatory, biased and against justice," Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar said in a statement reacting to the UN agency's report.

He also said that Pakistan as an independent state enforces the constitution and prevailing laws through the courts, "Imran



A Pakistani anti-corruption court **Tuesday granted** pre-arrest bail to jailed ex-PM Imran Khan's wife and former first lady Bushra Bibi in a case of alleged corruption

Khan has all the rights according to the country's constitution and law and international norms, he is in jail as a convicted prisoner," Tarar said.

PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari, in his reaction to the Law Minister's remarks, said that the issue of Khan's arrest is no longer an 'internal matter' of Pakistan.

'The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, based in Geneva, after months of work, has given their official opinion. This is huge and reveals that Imran Khan's detention is illegal and should be released immediately," Bukhari said in a statement on X.

The Dawn newspaper reported that the UN body based its opinion on its source's detailed and unrebutted submissions regarding the ultra vires nature of the prosecution in the first Toshakhana case, as well as the context of the political repression of Khan and his party in which that prosecution occurred.

It further added that how Khan was convicted in the first Toshakhana case (namely, a summary judgment delivered in absentia) and his subsequent arrest by law enforcement personnel who broke into his residence and assaulted him and his staff were concerning and compounded the illegality.

The working group further said that Khan's prosecution in the cipher case "lacks a grounding in law, as his actions do not appear to have violated the Official Secrets Act, as was apparently corroborated by the intelligence services, according to the source's unrebutted

Accused scammer 'Irish heiress' extradited to UK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 2: A woman accused of travelling across the US claiming to be an Irish heiress and scamming several victims out of tens of thousands of dollars has been extradited to the United Kingdom, a US official said Tuesday.

Marianne Smyth faces allegations that she stole more than \$170,000 from the victims from 2008 to 2010 in Northern Ireland.

A US magistrate judge in Maine ruled in May that there was sufficient evidence for extradition of the American, who accusers say has also fashioned herself as a witch, a psychic and a friend to Hollywood stars.

A spokesperson for the US Department of Justice confirmed the extradition, and referred questions to law enforcement officials in Northern Ireland. An attorney for Smyth did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

Authorities overseas have said Smyth stole money that she had promised to invest and also arranged to sell a victim a home but instead took the money. Smyth's victims in the US included Johnathan Walton, a podcaster who warned others about her grifts. A court in Northern Ireland issued arrest warrants for her earlier this decade. She was arrested in Maine in February.

Smyth drew comparisons to Anna Sorokin, a scammer who impersonated a German heiress to pay for a glamorous lifestyle in New York City, and became subject of a Netflix series. Sorokin, whose real name is Anna Delvey, was convicted in 2019 of conning \$275,000 from banks, hotels and swank New Yorkers to finance her deluxe lifestyle.

French candidates pull out of blocking far-right



President Emmanuel Macron's gamble on a snap election backfires, leaving his centrist camp in a lowly third place behind the RN

REUTERS

Paris, July 2: Opponents of France's National Rally (RN) stepped up their bid to block the far-right party from power Tuesday as more candidates agreed to pull out of this weekend's run-off election to avoid splitting the anti-RN vote.

More than 200 candidates have confirmed they will not stand in Sunday's second-round for France's 577-seat national Parliament, according to local media estimates. Others have until 6 pm to make their choice.

Marine Le Pen's RN came out well ahead in Sunday's firstround vote after President Emmanuel Macron's gamble on a snap election backfired, leaving his centrist camp in a lowly third place behind the RN and a hastily formed left-wing alliance. But even before the manoeu-

vring of the last 24 hours to create a "republican front" to block the anti-immigrant, eurosceptic party, it was far from clear the RN could win the 289 seats needed for a majority.

Pollsters calculated the first round put the RN on track for anything between 250-300 seats. But that was before the tactical withdrawals and cross-party calls for voters to back whichever candidate was best placed to defeat the local RN rival.

"The match is not over. We must mobilise all our forces,' the Socialist mayor of Paris. Anne Hidalgo, told France 2, insisting the rise of the far right should not spoil the festive mood in the French capital as it hosts the summer Olympics

Nepal PM in soup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, July 2: In a dramatic development, politically fragile Nepal's two largest parties have inked a midnight powersharing deal to form a new government to replace the ruling coalition led by Prime Minister



'Prachanda', who Tuesday refused to resign and asserted that he would rather face a confidence vote.

The agreement, finalised between Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman K P Sharma Oli Monday night, outlines the ministerial division, provincial leadership roles and a rotation for the Prime Ministerial position.

Deuba, 78, and Oli, 72, both $former\ premiers, agreed\ to\ share$ the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the term of the Parliament, said ex-foreign minister Narayan Prakash Saud, who is a Nepali Congress central member.

Nepali Congress, the largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, has 89 seats at present, while CPN-UML has

> strength of 167 is sufficient for a majority of 138 seats in the lower house. Prachanda's party has 32 seats. Meanwhile, embattled

Prime

In a meeting of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) office-bearers held in Baluwatar, Prachanda said he would rather face a vote of confidence in Parliament than resign from the post, the party Secretary Ganesh Shah told PTI.

The two leaders tentatively agreed to form a new government, amend the Constitution, and work out a power-sharing formula, which they reportedly shared with a few confidants, media reports said, quoting multiple senior leaders



Minister Prachanda refused to step down despite the agreement between the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML.

from both parties.



Local Jamaican fishermen help each other prepare by bringing boats inland as Hurricane Beryl approaches, in Kingston, Jamaica

STORM CHURNS TOWARDS JAMAICA

urricane Beryl barreled to-Hurricane Dei yi barrolo ...
Wards Jamaica as a powerful Category 5 storm Tuesday after making landfall on smaller islands in the Caribbean, downing power lines, bringing floods and reportedly killing two people. The storm made landfall Monday on Carriacou Island, part of Grenada, where one per-

son was killed, the BBC reported, and power was cut island-wide. Another person was reportedly killed in St Vincent, though Reuters could not immediately verify either fatality. Beryl is expected to bring 4 to 12 inches of rainfall to Jamaica Wednesday, possibly triggering flash floods, the US National Hurricane

Center (NHC) said. As of 1200 GMT, Beryl, packing winds of up to 165 miles per hour, was about 1.006 km east-south east of Kingston, Jamaica's capital, it said. The unusually early timing and rapid intensification of the storm, the first in this year's Atlantic hurricane season, is partly due to warmer ocean tem-

peratures, scientists say. Jamaica issued a hurricane warning Monday, while tropical storm warnings were in effect for parts of the southern coasts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. While it has picked up to a 5 on a five-point scale, it was expected to become less intense later in the day, NHC said.

UK election gives hope to first time immigrant voters

IMMIGRATION IS AN ELECTORAL BATTLEGROUND IN BRITAIN, WITH SUNAK PROMISING TO CUT NET MIGRATION LEVELS IF THE CONSERVATIVES WIN

REUTERS

London, July 2: Voting for the first time in a British election, Prathesh Panjak and other immigrant voters are excited to take part in the July 4 ballot, hoping they can influence change in the country that they have chosen to call home.

The Opposition Labour Party is widely expected to win by a landslide, replacing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party which has been in power for 14 years.

Refugees and immigrants from Commonwealth countries, mainly former territories of the British Empire such as Nigeria. India, and Malaysia, are eligible to vote in British elections.

Panjak, 27, who came to Britain in February last year, said he was excited to cast his vote after missing the election in his native

"In my country, they don't allow people from other countries to vote. I came here on a student visa, but they are giving us an opportunity, like British citizens. said Panjak who works part-



time as an ambassador at his university in Manchester, northwest England.

Teh Wen Sun, a 33-year-old Malaysian student from Salford, not far from Manchester, said she did not see much difference between the two main parties, but she was keen to vote for a party that is more receptive to immigrants.

Immigration is an electoral battleground in Britain, with Sunak promising to cut net migration levels if the Conservatives win, amid concern from many British voters that it was too high and put excessive pressure on the staterun National Health Service, housing and education.

Sunak has since tightened visa rules and made international headlines for a policy to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. Oyinkansola Dirisu, 31, a sup-

port worker from Manchester who came to Britain in 2022. said she was looking forward to voting for Labour, and said she wanted whoever won power to make it easier for people like her to move to Britain.

 $Others, like\ Esther\ Offem, 26,$ who came from Nigeria last September, are still undecided. 'None (of the parties) have done much in the areas that I'm most interested in. But at the moment, I would probably go for the Conservatives. I'm not sure yet."

Turkey shuts Syria border amid violence

Amman, July 2: Turkey closed its main border crossings into northwest Syria Tuesday after Turkish troops came under fire from Syrians angered by violence against their compatriots in Turkey, a Syrian opposition

source and residents said. In Turkey, police detained 474 people involved in attacks targeting the Syrian community across the country overnight, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said, in spreading unrest that

began late Sunday. Properties and vehicles owned by Syrians were vandalised and set on fire in the central city of Kayseri, stoked by social media reports that a Syrian man had sexually abused a female child relative. Yerlikaya said the in-

cident was being investigated. The violence spread to the

provinces of Hatay, Gaziantep, Konya, Bursa and an Istanbul district, Turkey's MIT intelligence agency said in a statement. There were social media reports of some injuries among Syrians.

Subsequently, hundreds of angry Syrians took to the streets in several towns in the rebelheld northwest Syria, an area where Turkey maintains thousands of troops and has carved out a sphere of influence that has stopped Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from regaining control.

Late Monday, Turkey responded to the unrest by closing until further notice the Bab al Hawa border crossing, a main trade and passenger conduit for more than 3 million inhabitants, along with Bab al Salam andother smaller crossings, a border official told Reuters.

business



It is up to the government and the stakeholders to see how soon they want to accelerate the transformation to carbon free mobility and emission free

SANTOSH IYER | MERCEDES-BENZ INDIA MD AND CEO

FAST FASHION INDUSTRY POISED FOR GROWTH

Driven by millennials and Gen Z population, the Indian fast fashion industry is projected to reach a massive \$50 billion market by FY31, a report showed on Tuesday. In FY24, the fast fashion sector (currently valued at \$10 billion) saw a remarkable growth rate of 30-40% in India, according to data from Redseer Strategy Consultants. In contrast, the broader fashion sector in India saw a modest 6% (y-o-y) growth.





states in the last two years, the demand will touch 384 GW and may easily cross 400 GW by 2031-32. For this we must have an installed (power generation) capacity of 900 GW

PANKAJ AGARWAL POWER SECRETARY

In 2024, BMW Group India is implementing its strategy by achieving



BMW GROUP INDIA PRESIDENT



be an exciting one for Royal Enfield, as we have several new launches planned that will significantly strengthen our product portfolio

B GOVINDARAJAN ROYAL ENFIELD CEO

COAL **PRODUCTION**

Coal production rises 14% in June

New Delhi: The country's coal production rose by 14.49 per cent to 84.63 million tonne (MT) in June. The country's coal output was 73.92 MT in June last fiscal, according to provisional figures of the government. In June Coal India Ltd's (CIL) production was at 63.10 MT, registering a rise of 8.87 per cent compared to the same period last year, the coal ministry said in a statement. India's coal dispatch in June was at 85.76 MT, up by 10.15 per cent compared to the same period last year. Additionally, as on June 30, the coal stock held by coal companies witnessed a surge, reaching 95.02 MT. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal

NaBFID raises ₹5,000cr via bonds

New Delhi: The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Tuesday said it has raised ₹5,000 crore by issuance of listed bonds. The issue received overwhelming response from the investors with bids of ₹12,287 crore, NaBFID said in a regulatory filing. The bonds were oversubscribed 6 times, against the base issue of ₹2,000 crore. The unsecured non-convertible, 'AAA' rated with stable outlook, debt securities have been issued at an annualized coupon rate of 7.43 per cent for a 10 yeartenure. This represents a spread of 26 basis points over the corresponding Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd (FBIL) GSec par yield curve, it said, adding, the total number of bids received was 131, indicating wider participation with heterogeneity of bids.

HCLTech, IBM team up for GenAl

New Delhi: IT services company HCL Technologies and tech giant IBM on Tuesday announced a new collaboration to establish a Generative AI Centre of Excellence. Along with IBM, HCLTech aims to train 10,000 of its engineers and architects in IBM's AI technologies, specifically 'watsonx'. IBM's watsonx is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data platform built for business. According to a release, the centre will be available through HCLTech's AI and cloud native labs in Noida. London and New Jersey and Santa Clara in the US.

Hindenburg calls SEBI notice 'nonsense'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: India's markets regulator SEBI has slapped Hindenburg Research with a show cause notice for alleged 'unfair trade practices' in its 2023 broadside against the Adani Group - a move that the US firm termed as 'nonsense' and an attempt to 'silence and intimidate' those exposing corruption.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the June 26 show cause notice charged Hindenburg of 'deliberately sensationalising and distorting certain facts' in the damning January 2023 report on the Adani group as well as working with a New York hedge fund to make its bet.

Hindenburg, which published the notice on its website, said it made just USD 4.1 million from its declared positions on Adani stocks and criticised the regulator for not focusing its investigation into the January 2023 report 'providing evidence' of the conglomerate creating 'a vast network of offshore shell entities' and moving billions of dollars 'surreptitiously' into and out of Adani public and private entities.

It said while SEBI was seeking to claim jurisdiction over a USbased investor, the regulator's notice 'conspicuously failed to name the party that has an actual tie to India: Kotak Bank. which created and oversaw the offshore fund structure used by Hindenburg's investor partner to bet against Adani. The regulator 'masked the 'Kotak' name with the acronym 'KMIL',' it

KMIL refers to Kotak Mahindra Investments Ltd, the asset management company. While KMIL stated that

Hindenburg was 'never' its client. SEBI's show cause notice said that Hindenburg's client Kingdon Capital Management had invested in KMIL's K-India Opportunities Fund, which created positions in Adani Enterprises Ltd prior to the report release and 'a total profit of ₹183.24 crore (USD 22.25 million)' thereafter.

Hindenburg had shared its report with Kingdon Capital prior to the release, that led to a rout in Adani group stock, wiping out over USD 150 billion in market value of the 10 listed entities at their lowest point.

Adani has repeatedly denied all allegations of wrong doing and most of its stocks have recouped losses since.

'KMIL and KIOF unequivocally state that Hindenburg has never been a client of the firm nor has it ever been an investor in the Fund," a KMIL spokesperson said. "The Fund was never aware that Hindenburg was a partner of any of its investors. KMIL has also received a confirmation and declaration from the Fund's investor that its investments were made as a principal and not on behalf of any other person.

Hindenburg said the SEBI's notice "is nonsense, concocted to serve a pre-ordained purpose: an attempt to silence and intimidate those who expose corruption and fraud perpetrated by the most powerful individuals in India."

A show-cause notice is often a precursor to formal legal action that may include imposing financial penalties and barring participation in the Indian cap-

SEBI has given Hindenburg 21

days to respond to its allega-

In its 46-page notice, SEBI alleged a relationship between Hindenburg and Kingdon began in the autumn of 2022, months before the damning report was released. Kingdon created positions in Adani stocks to benefit from their decline when the report was released.

Hindenburg said it made about USD 4.1 million in gross revenue through gains related to Adani shorts from 'one investor relationship' as well as USD 31,000 through its own 'tiny' short of the group's US bonds. It did not name the investor.

After expenses related to its two-year investigation into Adani 'we may come out ahead of breakeven on our Adani Short,' said Hindenburg.

"After 1.5 years of investigation, SEBI identified zero factual inaccuracies with our Adani research. Instead, the regulator took issue with things like our use of the word 'scandal' when describing multiple prior instances of Adani promoters being charged with fraud by Indian regulators, and our quoting of an individual that alleged SEBI is corrupt and works 'hand in glove' with conglomerates like Adani to help it skirt regulations," it said.

The US firm said the show cause notice does resolve some questions: "Did Hindenburg work with dozens of firms to short Adani, making hundreds of millions of dollars? No - We had one investor partner, and net of costs we may barely come out above breakeven on our Adani short.'

"Our work on Adani was never justifiable from a financial or personal safety perspective, but it is by far the work we are most

Sensex, Nifty close flat after hitting fresh highs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 2: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit fresh lifetime high levels before closing flat due to profittaking in select banking and telecom shares amid mixed global cues Tuesday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 34.74 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 79,441.45 in a volatile trade. During the day, it jumped 379.68 points or 0.47 per cent to hit a record peak of 79.855.87.

The Nifty declined by 18.10 points or 0.07 per cent to 24.123.85. Intra-day, it climbed 94.4 points or 0.39 per cent to hit a lifetime high of 24,236.35.

Among the Sensex pack, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, Bajai Finance, State Bank of India and Titan were the biggest laggards. Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers.

"The domestic market took a breather, resonating with the mixed global trend, with the ECB showing caution regarding further rate cuts. Recent spikes in US Treasury yields and a gradual rise in crude oil prices are affecting market trends," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Investors are closely monitoring the progress of monsoon, the forthcoming Union budget, alongside the US election, which can have potential global economic implications. Nair added.

"Markets had touched fresh highs in early trade on fresh optimism but failed to capitalise on it and slipped into the red. Weak European cues coupled with a negative sentiment in Dow Futures fuelled profit-taking in banking, telecom and auto shares," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.57 per cent while smallcap index went up marginally by 0.07 per cent. Among indices, telecom-

munication declined 1.31 per cent, bankex (0.91 per cent), auto (0.74 per cent) and financial services (0.67 per cent) were among the major laggards. IT, capital goods, realty

Zerodha sees end of zero brokerage model after new fee rules

REUTERS

Bangalore, July 2: Zerodha, India's largest discount broker, said Tuesday it will in all likelihood have to abandon its zero-brokerage model and raise derivative trading fees after the market regulator mandated uniform charges that are not based on volumes.

Exchanges often charge a lower fee to brokers if they generate high volumes. Brokers, in turn, charge traders little to no fees, which has contributed to a surge in trading across segments like derivatives that the SEBI wants to curb. The new fee structure, which kicks in from October, has a significant impact on brokers, traders and investors, Nithin Kamath, CEO and cofounder of Zerodha, said on social media platform X.

With the new circular, we will, in all likelihood, have to let go of the zero brokerage structure and/or increase brokerage for F&O trades," he said.

RBI rolls out new draft rules to ease export & import deals



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 2: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Tuesday came out with new draft regulations and directions to liberalise the rules covering foreign trade transactions to promote the ease of doing business, especially for small exporters and importers.

The new regulations are also intended to empower authorised dealer banks to provide quicker and more efficient service to their foreign exchange customers.

The RBI said the decision to rationalise regulations that cover

export and import transactions is a continuation of its efforts to progressively liberalise policies governing foreign exchange

transactions under FEMA, 1999. The RBI said the draft regulations under FEMA and directions to authorised dealer banks are available on its website for public response. Comments on the draft proposals (regulations as well as directions) may be forwarded via email by September 1, 2024, with the subject line 'Feedback on draft regulations and directions on export and import under FEMA', the RBI said.

India in talks with Africa, Latin America for critical mineral blocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: India is in talks with Africa as well as Latin America to get critical mineral blocks on a government-to-government basis. Veena Kumari Dermal, joint secretary of the Ministry of Mines, said Tuesday. Critical minerals such as

lithium are essential components in many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies, including wind turbines, electricity networks, and electric vehicles.

"We are having lots of discussions with many other resources-rich countries both in Africa as well as in Latin America for getting... a block on a G2G basis or on a priority basis," Dermal said at India Energy Storage Week (IESW) 2024 organised by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA).

The mines ministry, she said, is giving more and more im-



portance to the exploration of critical minerals in India.

On the domestic front, the government has successfully auctioned one lithium block in Chhattisgarh, the joint secretary added.

She said the Chhattisgarh government will take steps to start

the exploration and production from the lithium block at the Maiki South Mining Pvt Ltd had last month bagged the coun-

try's first lithium block in Chhattisgarh that was put up for sale. Meanwhile, the government cancelled the auction of 14 critical minerals that were on offer

in the second round of auction. In June, the government had put on sale 21 blocks in the fourth round of auction of critical and

strategic minerals. The government received 56 physical bids and 56 online bids for 18 of the 20 blocks offered during the first tranche of the auction, which began November

29, 2023. However, the auction for 13 of the 20 blocks was cancelled due

to a lukewarm response. Seven of these cancelled blocks were re-notified for auction in the

Echoes of dotcom bubble haunt AI-driven stock rally

While various metrics show stock valuations and investor exuberance have yet to hit peaks reached at the turn of the century, the similarities are easy to spot

REUTERS

New York, July 2: A US stock rally supercharged by excitement over artificial intelligence is drawing comparisons with the dotcom bubble two decades ago, raising the question of whether prices have again been inflated by optimism over a revolutionary technology.

AI fever, coupled with a resilient economy and stronger earnings, has lifted the S&P 500 index to fresh records this year following a run of more than 50% from its October 2022 low. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite index has gained over 70% since the end of 2022.

While various metrics show stock valuations and investor exuberance have yet to hit peaks reached at the turn of the century, the similarities are easy to spot. A small group of massive tech stocks including AI chipmaker Nvidia symbolise today's

market, recalling the 'Four Horsemen' of the late 1990s: Cisco, Dell, Microsoft and Intel.

The dizzying run in shares of Nvidia, which gained nearly 4,300% in a recent five-year period, stirred memories of how network equipment maker Cisco surged about 4,500% over five years leading up to its peak in 2000, according to a BTIG comparison of the two stocks.

Valuations have grown as well, though many tech champions appear to be in far better financial shape than their dotcom counterparts of the late 1990s and early 2000s. Other measures, such as investor bullishness, have vet to reach the frothy heights of the turn of the century.

The concern is that the AIdriven surge will end the same way as the dot-com boom - with an epic crash. After nearly quadrupling in just over three years, the Nasdaq Composite plunged



peak to October 2002. The S&P 500, which doubled in a similar timeframe, collapsed nearly 50% in that period

While several internet stocks such as Amazon survived and eventually thrived, others never recovered. "No one exactly knows what will happen with artificial intelligence," said Sameer Samana, senior global market strategist at the Wells Fargo Investment Institute, noting the same uncertainty about the eventual long-term winners

Echoing the dot-com boom, the information technology sector has swelled to 32% of the S&P 500's total market value, the largest percentage since 2000 when it rose to nearly 35%, according to LSEG Datastream. Just three companies, Microsoft, Apple and Nvidia, represent over 20% of the index.

However, tech stocks are more modestly valued now than at the peak of the dotcom bubble, trading at 31 times forward earnings, compared to as high as 48 times in 2000, according to Datastream.

The difference is clear in the valuations of Nvidia and Cisco, a key provider of products supporting internet infrastructure. whose stock has yet to rescale its peaks of the dotcom boom. While both stocks have soared, Nvidia trades at 40 times forward earnings estimates, compared to Cisco's 131 level reached in March

2000, according to Datastream. Capital Economics analysts also note that the current rally is being fueled more by solid earnings outlooks rather than growing valuations, a sign that fundamentals are more of a driver this time.

Forward earnings per share in sectors containing today's market leaders - tech, communication services and consumer discretionary - have been growing faster since early 2023 than the rest of the market, a Capital Economics analysis showed.

By contrast, expected earnings in the sectors grew at a similar pace to the rest of the market in the late 1990s and early 2000s, while their valuations soared faster than for other

stocks. More broadly, the S&P 500's price-to-earnings ratio of 21 is well above its historical average but below the roughly 25 level reached in 1999 and 2000, ac-

cording to Datastream. "Our base case is that this tech bubble won't burst until the valuation of the overall market has reached the sort of level thatit did in 2000," Capital Economics analysts said in a note.



Call that changed Dravid's life Rohit still living a dream

DEPARTING HEAD COACH THANKS ROHIT SHARMA FOR CALLING HIM UP AND ASKING HIM TO STAY ON AFTER THE ODI FINAL LOSS

Bridgetown (Barbados), July 2: Had he not received a phone call from India skipper Rohit Sharma, requesting him to continue after the ODI World Cup final defeat, Rahul Dravid wouldn't have been a part of history, the outgoing head coach revealed in his farewell speech to the team after they were crowned T20 World Champions here. The video of the speech has been uploaded by the BCCI in its 'X' account.

Dravid's tenure had ended with the ODI World Cup after India lost to Australia in the final. However, he and the coaching staff got an extension till the end of the T20 World Cup which concluded Saturday.

Rahul in his farewell speech mentioned Rohit's role in urging him to continue as the coach. "Ro(hit), thank you very much for making that call to me in November and asking me to continue," Dravid said.

"I think it's been such a privilege and a pleasure to work with each and every one of you. but Ro, also thanks for the time...there is a lot of time we have to chat, we have to discuss, we have to agree, we have to disagree at times, but thank you so very much," Dravid said as Rohit laughed.

Dravid praised the players for putting up collectively solid performances through the tournament and urged them to celebrate the achievement as much as they would like.



THE FINAL HURRAH: Rahul Dravid could not have ended his tenure as head coach in a better manner

resilience. There has been some

disappointment over the years

where we have come close, we

have never been able to cross

With BCCI secretary Jay Shah

the line," he said.

Your parents, your wives, your children, your brother, your coaches, so many people have made so many sacrifices and worked so hard with you for you to enjoy this memory in this moment

"All of you will remember these moments. We always say, it is not about the runs, it is not about the wickets, you never remember your career but you remember moments like this, so let's really enjoy,' Dravid said.

"I could not be more proud of

ple close to each and every player made in order to allow them the spotlight they are now enjoying. "So many sacrifices that each and every one of you make, to you guys, to come back the way you did, the way you fought, the way we worked as a team... the

see your families here enjoying, so many of your families back home, just think about all the sacrifices, each and every one of them has made since the time vou were kids, for you to be here in the dressing room,

in attendance, Dravid also spoke

about the sacrifices that peo-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bridgetown (Barbados), July 2: Rohit Sharma held the T20 World Cup trophy like a newborn baby as he walked towards the beach here Monday for the triumphant captain's post-tournament photo shoot, a serene smile refusing to leave his face and the feeling of being a world champion yet to fully sink in. He couldn't be faulted for being a bit dazed. After all, a jinx that lasted over a decade had been broken.

"It's surreal. It feels like a dream. It feels like it hasn't happened. Although it has happened but it feels like it hasn't happened," Rohit laughed trying to process his thoughts. The coastal city of Bridgetown

is battling a hurricane. The same could also be said about the Indian captain, only that his is a battle to control a gamut of emotions threatening to over-

whelm him like a huge sea wave every now and then.

"Saturday night we had a good time, we had a blast with the teammates till the early morning," Rohit couldn't stop grinning before becoming a touch emotional. I would say I didn't sleep properly but that's absolutely fine by me. There is a lot of time for me to go back and sleep. I want to live this moment, each minute, each second that is passing by and will try to make the most of it," Rohit was quoted as saying by BCCI.TV.

'It's been a great moment right from the time the game got over to till the skipper.

amused to see Rohit walk to the

22-yard strip at Kensington Oval and put a tiny speck of soil in his mouth, just like Novak Djokovic

does after winning Wimbledon. The 37-year-old said it was a spur of the moment act. "Nothing was scripted. It was all coming instinctively. I was feeling the

moment," Rohit informed. When I went to the pitch, that pitch gave us this trophy. I will remember this ground forever in my life and that pitch as well. I wanted to have a piece of it with me,

he added



Team to reach

Wed evening



even now. That's the emotions and feelings you have," said

People were amazed and



SHORT TAKES

2 more new venues for Durand Cup

New Delhi: Indian football's domestic season-opener Durand Cup will be played July 27 to August 31 across four venues with Indian Super League, I-League and other invitational teams competing in it. A total of 43 matches will be played in the 133rd edition of the Asia's oldest tournament. Other than the existing venues, the cities of Jamshedpur and Shillong will also host matches of the tournament. The opening game and the final will be played at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, officials said.

Afghan eves seek ICC help

Sydney: A group of Afghan women's cricketers has again approached the ICC asking for backing to reform as a refugee team based in Australia. The women sent a letter to the ICC in the wake of the Afghanistan men's historic run to the semifinals of the Twenty20 World Cup in the Caribbean last week. More than two dozen Afghan women cricketers sought refuge in Australia in 2021 after the Taliban took over. "A profound sadness remains that we, as women, cannot represent our country like the male cricketers," the women wrote in a letter to ICC chairman Greg Barclay, a section of the Australian media reported Tuesday. "We are asking the ICC to assist us in setting up a refugee team in Australia," they added.

Murray to play doubles only

London: Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will play only doubles at his last appearance at the All England Club following his withdrawal from singles Tuesday, just over a week after back surgery. Murray announced his withdrawal hours before he was supposed to play Tomas Machac on Centre Court. "Unfortunately, despite working incredibly hard on his recovery since his operation just over a week ago, Andy has taken the very difficult decision not to play the singles this year." his managemen team said in a statement. "He is extremely disappointed but has confirmed that he will be playing in the doubles with brother Jamie and he is hoping to win," the statement added.

Maneiro sends Marketa packing

1ST DEFENDING CHAMPION TO BE BEATEN IN 1ST ROUND SINCE STEFFI GRAF IN 1994

AGENCIES

London, July 2: Defending champion Marketa Vondrousova was knocked out Tuesday in the first round of the Wimbledon women's singles here Tuesday. the first female holder to fall at the opening hurdle since Steffi Graf 30 years ago.

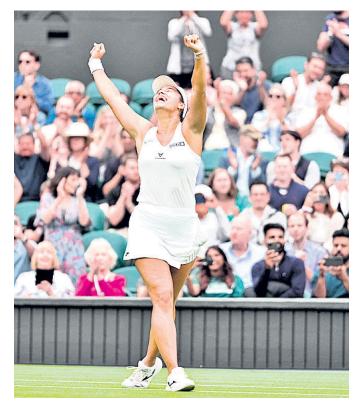
Czech Vondrusova, who became the first unseeded woman to lift the title last year, earned a far less welcome accolade after a 4-6, 2-6 defeat by Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro.

Ranked World No.83, Maneiro had won only one tour-level match all year heading into Wimbledon, but secured her first win across all Grand Slams when she slapped a backhand down the line.

The Spaniard hit the ball cleanly throughout an unremarkable Centre Court clash, but only really needed to keep it in play as errors flew from the champion's racket with alarming regularity.

"It is one of the most important moments of my life," the Spaniard smiled as she soaked up the cheers. "I'm just... I'm surprised with myself to be honest," Bouzas Maneiro stated.

"The atmosphere was so nice,



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro can't control her emotions after defeating reigning women's champion Marketa Vondrousova

so... elegant... it feels like I was at home, I don't know why," she added, explaining her lack of

nerves on one of the sport's greatest stages

In another women's singles

Nagal bows out

London: India's top singles player Sumit Nagal committed 44 first round exit from the Wimbledon, going down in four sets to Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia here. Nagal fought hard but lost to world No. 53 Kecmanovic 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6 Monday night. The 26-year-old, ranked 72 did show flashes of brilliance as hit 47 winners but in general, struggled on the grass court. In the end, he could manage only 104 points against

match former champion Elena Rybakina swept aside Romanian qualifier Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-3, 6-1, her power and movement proving too much for the Romanian qualifier.

In the men's singles matches played on the day fourth seed Alexander Zverev trounced R Caraballes Baena 6-2, 64, 6-2 in just 114 minutes while second seed Novak Djokovic cruised past Vit Kopriva 6-1, 6-2, 6-2, to start their campaigns on a positive note. Both looked in full control of their matches and did not drop a single serve during their respective ties.

World Sports Journalists' Day celebrated with fervour



Bhubaneswar, July 2: The Odisha Sports Journalists' Association (OSJA) in association with the the Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha, celebrated the 'World Sports Journalists' Day' at a function in the Kalinga Stadium here Tuesday.

Sports & Youth Services Minister Survabanshi Suraj took to social media and extended heartfelt wishes to all sports journalists, acknowledging their significant contributions to the promotion and development of sports in Odisha and across India. The minister emphasised the indispensable role of sports journalists in inspiring athletes, informing the public, and fostering a culture of sportsmanship and excellence.

Olympian and SWG medallist weightlifter K Ravi Kumar was

Kalinga Stadium as chief guest. Guest of Honour, R Vineel Krishna, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Sports and Youth Services department, extended his best wishes to the media fraternity and highlighted the importance of the collaborative efforts between the government and media in fostering a robust sports culture in the state. "Today, we recognise not just the achievements of our athletes but also the dedication of sports journalists who bring their stories to life and encourage them to perform better," Vineel Krishna stated.

Olympian Srabani Nanda shared her experiences and the pivotal role of the Media in her athletic journey. On the occasion Sambit Mohapatra, working president of OSJA and Suresh Kumar Swain, secretary OSJA reinforced on the association's commitment to support and empower sports iournalists in the state.

Samal shines with bat



Swastik Samal receives his man of the match award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Odisha Cheetahs and Odisha Pumas won their respective games of the OCA T20 cricket tournament Tuesday at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack

The first game of the day between the Odisha Cheetahs and Odisha Jaguars was a thrilling affair with the former winning by a margin of 10 runs. In their

20 overs, Odisha Cheetahs scored 140 for the loss of five wickets with Shreyansh Bhardwaj (44, 39b) emerging the top scorer. Subham Nayak (2/26) bowled well for the Jaguars. In reply, the Jaguars could only manage 130 for eight in their 20 overs against some disciplined bowling by the opposition. Shantanu Mishra (46) battled hard, but he batted too slowly. Sarbeshwar Mohanty (2/18) was the best bowler for Odisha Cheetahs.

In the second game Odisha Lions scored 169 all out in 19.5 overs. State player Anurag Sarangi (51) batted well for the Lions. However a brilliant century by Swastik Samal (100, 58b) powered the Pumas to victory with five deliveries remaining. Samal was adjudged the man of the match for his brilliant knock.

UNBEATEN SAINA SETTLES FOR SILVER



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Aakanksha Hagawane and Saina Salonika finished with gold and silver medals respectively at the FISU World University Chess Championships-2024 which concluded recently at Entebbe in Uganda. Saina remained unbeaten winning four of her nine games and drawing five.

Ronaldo redeems himself

Striker scores during shoot-out after missing penalty in regular time

AGENCIES

Frankfurt, July 2: Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved three Slovenia penalties to earn his side a 3-0 shoot-out victory after Cristiano Ronaldo redeemed himself from the spot in a dramatic Euro 2024 last 16 clash late evening here Monday.

Portugal forward Ronaldo broke down in tears after missing a penalty in the first period of extra-time in the goalless tie in Frankfurt. But he recovered to convert in the shoot-out as Portugal scraped through to set up a blockbuster clash with France in the quarterfinals. Slovenia battled valiantly to keep Portugal at bay, with Jan Oblak making a stunning save to



Cristiano Ronaldo scores from the spot against Slovenia

keep out Ronaldo's penalty after

Diogo Jota was fouled. However, Ronaldo, Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva all scored in the shoot-out and Slovenia's trio missed, sending the Selecao through in heart-

stopping fashion. The Euro 2016 winners dominated the ball and created more

Last Euro for CR7

Hamburg: Cristiano Ronaldo has confirmed this year's European Championship will be the last of his career. The Portugal superstar, who is 39, is playing at the Euros for a record sixth time. Speaking to Portuguese public broadcaster 'RTP' after the penaltyshootout victory over Slovenia, Ronaldo said: "It is, without doubt, my last European Championship, But I'm not emotional about that. I'm moved by all which football means - by the enthusiasm I have for the game, the enthusiasm for seeing my supporters, my fami-

chances than their opponents. Ronaldo made three attempts on the Slovenian goal off freekicks, but all were saved.

ly, the affection people have for me."

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159