

Ridhima opens up
Actor Ridhima Pandit breaks silence on her dating rumours with Indian cricketer Shubman Gill

LEISURE | P2

NATO irks China
China hits out at NATO for terming it as a 'decisive enabler' of Russia's war against Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL | P10

Rate cut talk
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das says the question of change of stance on interest rate is quite premature given the gap between current inflation and 4% target

BUSINESS | P11

England in final
Ollie Watkins added on time goal helps England beat the Netherlands and qualify for Euro 2024 final

SPORTS | P12

Arabinda Padhee SJTA Chief Administrator

Bhubaneswar: The state government Thursday appointed senior IAS officer Arabinda Kumar Padhee as the Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), removing VV Yadav from the coveted post. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 19 of Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1954 (Odisha Act, 11 of 1955), the State Government do hereby appoint Shri Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS, as Chief Administrator, SJTA, Puri in addition to his present duties for the time being and until further orders in place of Sri VV Yadav," read a notification issued by the Law department.

Top celebs expected at Ambani wedding

Mumbai: Top celebrities Kim and Khloe Kardashian, boxer Mike Tyson, former UK prime ministers and global business tycoons are expected to attend the wedding of Anant Ambani, youngest son of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, in Mumbai Friday. After four months of star-studded pre-wedding celebrations, Anant Ambani, 29, will tie the knot with Radhika Merchant, daughter of pharma tycoons Viren and Shaila Merchant.

P2

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	79,897.34 ↓ 27.43
NIFTY	24,315.95 ↓ 8.50
DOLLAR	83.61 ↑ ₹0.06
EURO	90.62 ↑ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹73,234 ↑ ₹566
SILVER	₹94,100 ↑ ₹1268

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.8°C	35.6°C
Min Temp	27.9°C	26.5°C
Humidity	78%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain



WATER WOES: People walk through a flooded area of JJ Colony in New Delhi's Bawana, Thursday, after a breach in Munak canal that supplies water from Haryana to the national capital

Non-Gujarati candidates, answers in Gujarati: CBI

SC defers hearing to July 18; one of kingpins held in Patna

New Delhi, July 11: Several NEET-UG candidates from states like Odisha, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh who appeared for the exam at a centre in Gujarat's Godhra were asked by the accused to choose Gujarati as the language for the test, the CBI told a Gujarat court while seeking custody of the accused. "This was done to enable dummy Gujarati candidates, who were part of the exam process, to fill in the candidates' answer sheets," the Central agency said. These candidates were also allegedly told to show their permanent address as Panchmahal or Vadodara, the CBI's probe into alleged malpractices at two exam centres revealed. The CBI said the control of both the examination centres was with the same operators. All these candidates from different states were contacted by the accused

NEET UG 2024

through different links. According to sources, the CBI has taken five of the six accused into its custody, including Dixit Patel, owner of Jai Jalaram School in Godhra that was one of the designated centres for the NEET-UG held May 5. Patel, who was arrested June 30 from his residence, is alleged to have demanded ₹10 lakh from each student for clearing the NEET-UG 2024. The CBI, which took over the probe into the case from Gujarat police last month, is now focusing on unearthing 'interstate links' as part of a larger conspiracy. The Central agency has registered six FIRs. The FIR registered in Bihar pertains to paper leaks, while

the remaining from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are linked to the impersonation of candidates and cheating. Meanwhile, the CBI Thursday arrested one of the alleged kingpins in the NEET-UG paper leak case who was on the run ever since the crackdown on irregularities in the entrance exam began. Rocky alias Rakesh Ranjan, who hails from Nalanda, and is said to be a relative of mastermind Sanjeev Mukhia, was nabbed by the agency from outskirts of Patna, they said. The Supreme Court Thursday adjourned till July 18 the hearing of a clutch of petitions seeking cancellation, retest and probe into alleged malpractices in the conduct of NEET-UG 2024 as the responses of the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) were yet to be received by some parties. "The further hearing shall be Thursday (July 18)," a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said.

PANEL TO LOOK INTO PUJA KHEDKAR ROW

New Delhi, July 11: The Centre Thursday formed a single-member panel to check the 'candidate claims and other details' of controversial probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, who has been accused of allegedly misusing disability and OBC quota to secure a position in the service. An additional secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) will enquire into the matter and submit a report within two weeks. "The Central government has constituted a single-member committee, chaired by a senior officer of the rank of Additional Secretary to government of India to verify the candidature claims and other details of Ms. Puja Manorma Dilip Khedkar, a candidate of Civil Services Examination-2022 and earlier CSEs. The committee will submit its report in 2 weeks," the Personnel Ministry said in a statement. She was transferred Monday to Washim from Pune over allegations of bullying and entitled behaviour. Earlier in the day, she took charge as an assistant collector at the Washim district collectorate in Vidarbha region.

9-yr-old girl gang-raped, killed by 3 schoolmates

Nandyal (Andhra Pradesh), July 11: A nine-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped and killed by three minor boys, reportedly her classmates, here, a police official said Thursday. According to Nandyal district superintendent of police (SP) K Raghuvendra Reddy, two of the accused are 15 years old, while the other one is 12 years old. The girl and the accused were from the same school. Reddy said police received a missing complaint from the girl's parents that prompted them to launch a search operation. Police searched everywhere in the locality and questioned locals for information but couldn't find the girl. They also pressed the dog squad into action. The clues provided by the sniffer dog helped the police zero in on the three minor boys. "The dog not only led the police to the scene of the crime but also stopped at the houses of the accused. After initial round of investigation, the minor boys were detained," he said. Upon interrogation, the three boys confessed to the crime. "The boys spotted the girl playing near Muchumarri park around 5pm Sunday. Finding her alone, they took her near Muchumarri canal, where they took turns to rape her. Fearing action, they killed the girl, threw her body into the water body and left the spot," said an official quoting the boys as saying. The girl's body could not be found till the last report came in. A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team arrived Thursday to search the body. Meanwhile, Nandyal Member of Parliament Byreddy Shabari, accompanied by Collector G Rajakumari and the SP, reached the village of the victim and found out more details from her family. Shabari also consoled the family and ensured justice to them.

ADM collapses on stage, dies

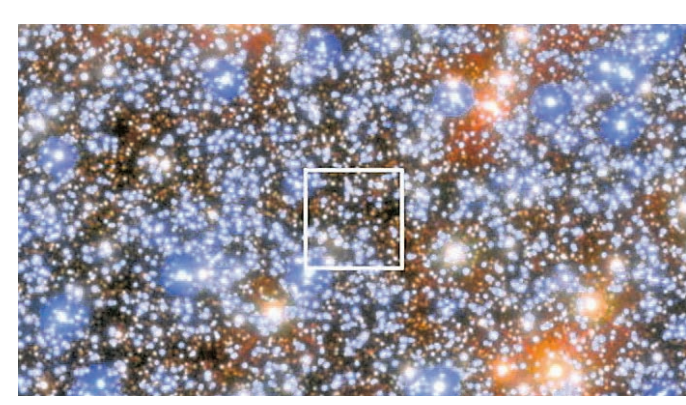
Bhubaneswar, July 11: An additional district magistrate (ADM) collapsed on the stage while singing a bhajan during a get-together of government officials at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district and later died, an official said Thursday. The deceased, identified as Birendra Kumar Das, was serving as ADM (Revenue) in the district. "The ADM suddenly collapsed while singing a bhajan and was taken to a local hospital, where it was found that his blood pressure was very high. After preliminary treatment, he was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, where doctors declared him brought dead," district Collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan said. Chandrakant Mallick, a relative of Das, said that a get-together of officers was organised to mark the completion of elections. "When he (Das) went on stage and was singing an Odia devotional song of Lord Jagannath, he suddenly collapsed," added Mallick. Sangram Keshari Panda, administrative officer of MKCG Medical College and Hospital, said from preliminary medical examination, it was found that Das died of massive cardiac arrest.



Rare black hole spotted at swallowed galaxy's centre

Washington, July 11: Astronomers have scrutinised a cluster of stars that is the apparent remnant core of a relatively small galaxy that was swallowed by the sprawling Milky Way eight to 10 billion years ago. What lurks at the centre of this cluster has them excited. Researchers said the unusual motion of seven stars in this cluster provides compelling evidence for the presence of an elusive mid-sized black hole at its heart. These are bigger than the class of ordinary black holes formed in the implosion of a single star but smaller than the behemoths residing at the nucleus of most galaxies. "The cluster, called Omega Centauri, contains about 10 million stars. The black hole within

it is at least 8,200 times as massive as our Sun," the researchers said. The supermassive black hole called Sagittarius A* at the centre of the Milky Way possesses four million times the mass of the Sun. And that is dwarfed by supermassive black holes billions of times the mass of the Sun in other galaxies. "There has been a long debate whether intermediate-mass black holes exist in general, and specifically in Omega Centauri, and our detection might help to resolve that debate," said astronomer Maximilian Häberle of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Germany, lead author of the study published in 'Nature'. This black hole is located about 17,700 light-years from Earth. A light-year is the distance light



travels in a year, 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion km). The Milky Way's only larger-known black hole is Sagittarius A*, located about 26,700 light years from Earth. Black holes are extraordinarily dense objects with gravity so strong not even light can escape, making it difficult to spot them. This one was detected based on how its gravitational pull influences the velocity of seven fast-moving stars in its vicinity, documented in two decades of Hubble Space Telescope observations. The researchers believe the smaller galaxy, which had been

perhaps 10 per cent the Milky Way's size, harboured a black hole that, if left undisturbed, would have become supermassive as it fed off gas and other nearby material drawn by its gravitational pull. But the galactic merger, which occurred when the Milky Way was about a quarter or third its current age, left the black hole frozen in time. "In this merger process, the galaxy lost all of its gas, and hence the growth of its central black hole got interrupted, leaving it in an intermediate-mass state," Max Planck Institute for Astronomy astronomer and study co-author Nadine Neumayer said. The merger stripped away most of the smaller galaxy's stars, leaving just the central batch - now the Omega Centauri star cluster.

leisure



KANYE RETIRING FROM PROFESSIONAL MUSIC!

Rapper-producer Rich the Kid has claimed that Kanye West is retiring from music, though it's unclear what exactly that entails or if the decision is final. According to a since-deleted screenshot of a text exchange posted by Rich the Kid from West: "I am retiring from professional music," reports *people.com*.

MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY GETS A SWOLLEN EYE FROM BEE STING

Actor Matthew McConaughey, who is known for *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Interstellar*, *True Detective* and other films, had an apparent run-in with a bee. The actor recently shared a close-up photo of himself on his Instagram showing his right eye completely swollen, reports *People* magazine.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

For no reason whatsoever, you may clam up today. Of course, you will give credit to others wherever they've contributed. But you need to be more generous than that, says Ganesh, and share the secrets of your success with your compatriots. Also, do you really need to buy that \$100 wallet?

TAURUS

This is a bright, rosy day for students and scholars, particularly who are engaged in, or are looking forward to higher studies, specializing in a particular professional stream. This a great day for making plans for higher studies abroad. Do not miss this opportunity. Plans made today are likely to materialize.

GEMINI

It is better for you to swim with the current in all of today's dealings, suggests Ganesh. This will help you effortlessly deal with even the most morbid state of affairs. No need to be a hero, today. Pleasure is the key word for you. Your performance will be satisfying at work, and more than satisfying back home.

CANCER

A shopping spree with your darling is likely to be the highlight of the day, even though you will be paying for almost everything. Though you have decided to be this lavish out of sheer love, your sweetheart will more than return the favour with a sweaty thank you 'return gift' in the evening.

LEO

Seems today is just one of those days when things simply refuse to go your way. It happens to the best of us, says Ganesh, and there isn't much one can do about it except slog it out and find that hidden reserve of moral support. On a brighter note, Ganesh observes the possibility of you meeting the right person who shall help you rekindle your imagination.

VIRGO

Today is the right time to start a new project, while older projects which had been postponed will be finished. Over the next week you will try to boost your energy levels. Parties will lead to a lot of entertainment and joy, Ganesh says children will bring home pride which will put you in even higher spirits.

LIBRA

The clock ticks on, but chances are it can hardly beat you in the race, thanks to your prompt and sincere efforts. Today, you shall be a paragon of excellence. However, Ganesh waves the red flag of caution: it always pays to be safe rather than sorry. Keep your eyes open and pay attention to the fine print before signing any contract or paper. You'd be surprised once you see the entire picture.

SCORPIO

Add a pinch of innovation and inventiveness to your daily working style. There shall be order in the chaotic way you perform your tasks - though not apparent to others. Revitalize yourself and plunge into work with new-found zest and vigour, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, find yourself driving all your thoughts and actions towards your family. You will also spend some superb time with your dearie and discuss intimate matters. A relaxing day today as you spend time with your friends and family, chilling out and having a good laugh or two.

CAPRICORN

Now is the perfect time to showcase your talents and skills. You are all geared up to hit your target and do everything that is needed to be done. Your efforts will not go in vain as they will bear fruits for sure, says Ganesh. You will spend quality time with your family member and catch with old friends.

AQUARIUS

It's a day you may want to spend with yourself. But it may still not bring the desired peace and tranquility. An unpleasant situation may force you to deal with reality, says Ganesh. You now realise how much strength you derive from your devotion to God.

PISCES

Of late, the harder you try, the more it seems you have to do. You are likely to put your foot down today and spend some time taking care of yourself and playing truant with your responsibilities. Recharge your batteries fully while you are at it, says Ganesh.

Ridhima on dating rumours with Gill

Mumbai: Actress Ridhima Pandit reacted to the allegations of people calling her dating rumours with cricketer Shubman Gill a PR stunt.

Addressing the current claims, she said, "I don't want to give such perceptions an importance because that would be stupidity. If I wanted to do all this, I would have done it in *Bigg Boss*. I could have easily stayed in the show and made a name by mingling with someone for publicity, but I didn't."

Pandit, who made her debut in 2016 in the TV show *Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant*, tells us that she values her profes-

sional reputation over fleeting publicity stunts. "I have worked hard to reach where I am today. I want to be known for my work and not my relationships."

Speaking about the pervasive nature of rumours in the entertainment industry, Pandit remarked, "It is so easy for a rumour to spread these days. It's a good thing that they linked me with Shubman Gill, who is a promising cricketer and I respect him a lot. But, people could have linked me to somebody who is 75 years old."



'Manipulation is part of Hindi film industry'

Mumbai: Actor Rajeev Khandelwal has spoken about the dark side of the glitzy world of glamour and said that manipulation is a part and parcel of the industry.

Talking about manipulation being a part of the industry, Rajeev, who made his debut with the action-thriller *Aamir* in 2008 told this agency: "Manipulation is something we all have seen from our school days to till now to whichever industry we are working in. Manipulation is a part of every industry and human nature. Everyone is out there to make a living for themselves and their families. For us to think about producers to manipulate for making more money and aligning themselves with certain favourable people who they think are going to bring them more success is very natural."

"I have seen it. But just to say it probably could be scandalous. From the time when I was not part of the industry or from those years when the industry came into existence these manipulations could have been there... Manipulations are a part and parcel of our industry," he added.

Having goal is extremely important: Sayli Salunkhe

Mumbai: Actress Sayli Salunkhe is happy with the way her career is progressing and wants it to grow gradually.

Sayli, who is currently seen as Vedika in the show *Pukaar: Dil Se Dil Tak*, shared: "When I look back at myself from 10 years ago, I feel a sense of pride. I think, 'Oh my god, what have I accomplished?' I feel proud of myself and grateful to my parents because, without them, I wouldn't be here today."

"I am very happy and want to continue growing gradually. Sudden growth can pull you down just as quickly, so I want to enjoy this journey and take my time," she said.

For Sayli, growth and life ambitions are important. "If you stay at

one stage in life, you can only enjoy it for so long. Growth is necessary for everyone. You will grow when you have ambitions and a set goal in your life. Once you have a goal, you feel the need to keep moving forward. Without ambitions, I think we remain stuck, both as individuals and in our work. So, I believe having ambition is extremely important," she concluded.



Mumbai: Top celebrities Kim Kardashian, boxer Mike Tyson, former UK prime ministers and global business tycoons are expected to attend the wedding of Anant Ambani, youngest son of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, in Mumbai Friday.

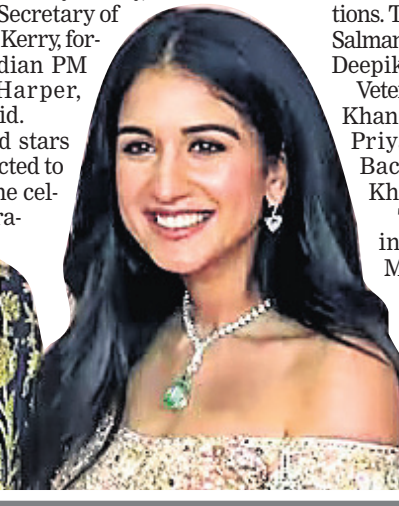
After four months of star-studded pre-wedding celebrations, Anant Ambani, 29, will tie the knot with Radhika Merchant, daughter of pharma tycoons Viren and Shaila Merchant. The guest list is a mix of Indian and international celebrities, politicians and corporate bigwigs, sources aware of the matter said. Besides the Kardashians, the extravaganza is expected to be attended by former UK prime ministers Boris Johnson and Tony Blair; futurist Peter Diamandis, artist Jeff Koons, self-help coach Jay Shetty, former US Secretary of State John Kerry, former Canadian PM Stephen Harper, sources said. Bollywood stars too are expected to attend the celebration.

Kardashians to Tyson expected at Ambani wedding

The events leading to the wedding featured Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, and Alia Bhatt.

Veteran actors Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan are also expected to attend. And so is Priyanka Chopra-Jonas, Aishwarya Rai-Bachchan, Janhvi Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan.

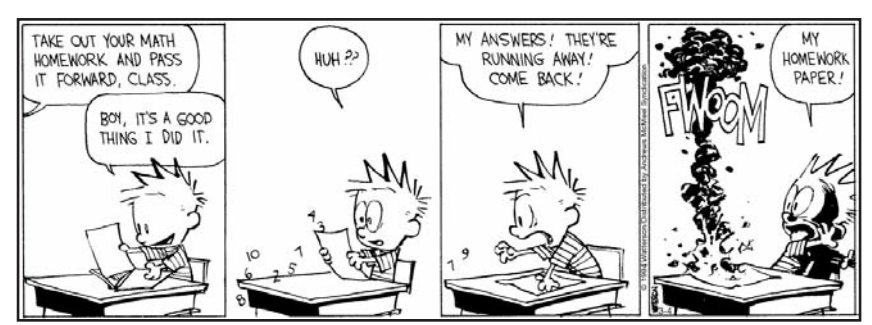
The corporate world luminaries expected include HSBC Holdings plc Chairman Mark Tucker, Samsung Electronics chairman Jay Lee, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser, BP chief executive Murray Auchincloss, Emma Walmsley of drug giant GSK Plc, Jim Taiclet of Lockheed Martin and FIFA President Gianni Infantino.



PEANUTS



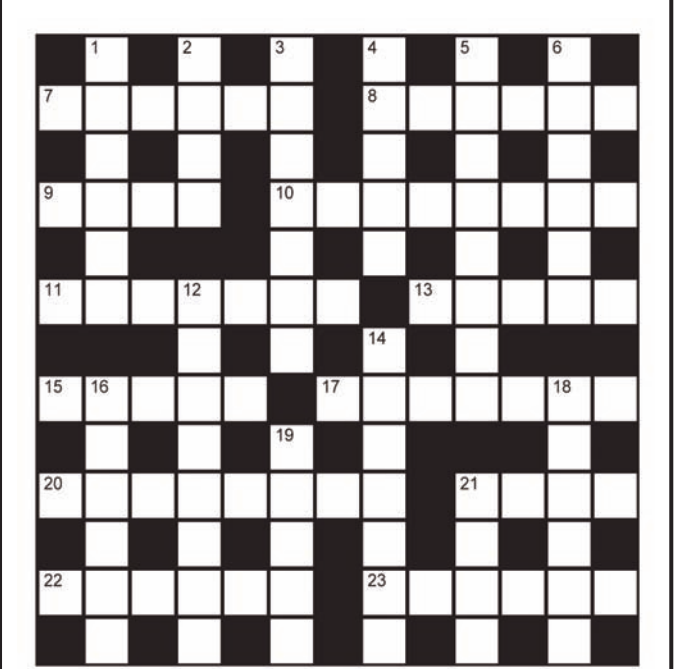
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



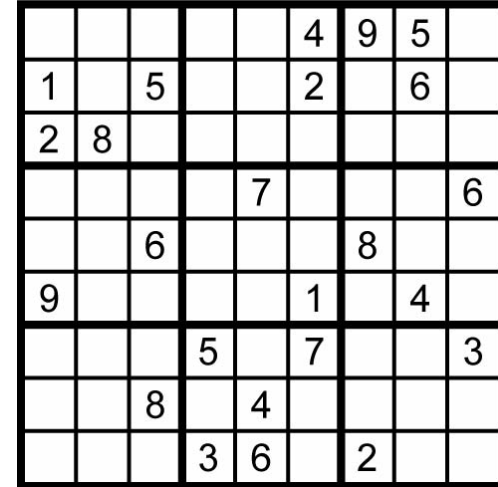
FUN post CROSSWORD



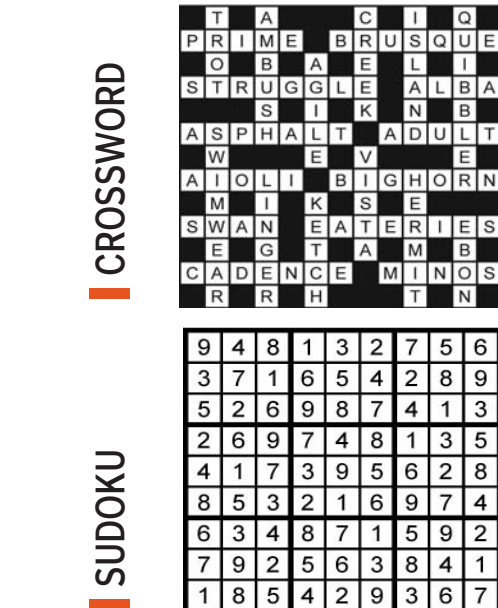
- Across**
- 7 Short sleep
 - 8 Recluse
 - 9 Intellect
 - 10 Ground-shaker of old
 - 11 Cheese type
 - 13 Tree with catkins
 - 15 Egg scrambler
 - 17 Fossilise
 - 20 Most furious
 - 21 Debt
 - 22 Some like it hot
 - 23 French dance
 - Down**
 - 1 Maze goal
 - 2 Employed
 - 3 Childrens' sleep aid
 - 4 Odd-toed ungulate
 - 5 Ring battler
 - 6 Water down
 - 12 Defector
 - 14 Leaves for dinner
 - 16 Dieter's complaint
 - 18 Altercation
 - 19 E-mail option
 - 21 Connection

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra pays a visit to Chhatra Bazar Urban Haat in Cuttack Thursday

downtown

FALL OF BALABHADRA IDOL

Naveen writes to CM, seeks action



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Naveen Patnaik Thursday wrote to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, urging him to take action against those responsible for the fall of the Lord Balabhadra idol during 'Adapa Pahandi' Tuesday.

Patnaik, the former CM, said the incident has "deeply hurt the sentiments of devotees all over the world". Describing Lord Jagannath as the symbol of Odia 'Asmita' (pride) and the identity of the people of Odisha, Patnaik said the incident that occurred during the 'Pahandi' of Lord Balabhadra was unprecedented and had never happened in the tradition of Rath Yatra. The former chief minister said he could not believe his eyes that such a mishap could happen. At least nine servants of Puri

Simandir were injured Tuesday when the idol of Lord Balabhadra fell on them while it was being taken out of the chariot to Gundicha Temple as part of Rath Yatra festival.

The incident happened when the heavy wooden idol was being brought down from Lord Balabhadra's chariot to be taken to the Gundicha Temple on what is known as 'Goti Pahandi'.

It appears that those who were carrying the idol lost control of it. "The way some members of the Odisha Cabinet made comments about such a sensitive subject has doubled the grief of Jagannath lovers. The incident has deeply hurt the feelings of all the devotees of the Lord. Such an insensitive approach of the government could not assuage the wounded feelings of Jagannath devotees," Patnaik said.

He requested Majhi to personally intervene in the matter and take necessary steps to en-

Let's ensure smooth Rath Yatra: Majhi

CM Mohan Majhi wrote a reply letter to Naveen saying that Lord Jagannath is not only the symbol of 'Odia Asmita', but also is the Lord of the entire universe. "The gathering of the Trinity and Lord Sudarshan during Rath Yatra is a unique occasion and their worship system is rare. This year, the mishap happened during 'Pahandi' of the deities to 'Adapa Mandap'. We all have been saddened by the incident. I fully understand your concern. After learning about the incident, I had directed Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida and Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan to visit Puri immediately, and advised everyone to take care so that this does not happen again in future," Majhi wrote to Naveen. He also said "let us all of us together perform all the services of Srigundicha Yatra properly".

sure that such an incident does not occur in future.

Senior BJP leader and Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab questioned the presence of a large number of people on the chariot at the time of the ritual.

The MP demanded action against those who were at fault. Meanwhile, a complaint has been lodged by some advocates in the Capital police station here, demanding action against Jagannath temple chief administrator VV Yadav.

They alleged that the chief temple administrator was not present there during the 'Pahandi' ritual.



BIZ HOUR: Rush at Palishree Mela, a craft fair, opened on the occasion of Rath Yatra Thursday

OP PHOTO

CGST Supt arrested for accepting ₹15K bribe

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Superintendent of Central GST & Central Excise, Berhampur Manoj Kumar Subudhi for accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 from a complainant in lieu of processing his goods and services tax (GST) refund.

CBI sources here Thursday said a case was registered against

Subudhi, July 9, on the basis of the complaint against him.

It was alleged that Subudhi demanded a bribe of ₹20,000 from the complainant on the ground that the accused had earlier processed a refund of GST amounting to ₹1.77 lakh to the complainant and on the ground of smoothly processing another GST refund of nearly ₹3 lakh to the complainant.

The Central agency laid a trap and Subudhi was arrested



from the office of assistant commissioner, Central GST & Central Excise, Berhampur after he was caught red-handed while accepting the first instalment of

the bribe amount of ₹15,000 out of the total demanded amount of ₹20,000 from the complainant.

Searches were conducted at the residential and official premises of the accused at Berhampur and Bhubaneswar which led to recovery of incriminating documents.

CBI sources said Subudhi was produced before the Court of Special Judge for CBI cases at Bhubaneswar later in the day.

Padhee assumes charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: A day after a major reshuffle among IAS officers, Usha Padhee assumed charge as Principal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department Thursday.

After taking charge, Padhee interacted with senior officers of the department to outline her vision for the department.

During the discussions, she underscored the department's reputation nationwide and articulated a clear path forward. Emphasising the importance of teamwork, Padhee stressed that the department must operate cohesively as 'Team Urban', moving away from individual efforts. She highlighted the necessity of strategic and futuristic planning to address the evolving challenges and opportunities in urban development.

"It is imperative that we harness the collective strength of our team to build upon the stellar reputation our department has earned. By adopting a forward-thinking approach and strategically planning our initiatives, we can effectively steer the department towards achieving its goals," she added.

Padhee brings a wealth of experience and a visionary leadership style to her new role. Her commitment to collaborative efforts and strategic foresight promises to usher in a new era of innovation and progress for the department, said sources.



POLITICKLE by MANJUL

5 held for gangraping woman in Ganjam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, July 11: Five people were arrested for allegedly gangraping a 30-year-old woman in Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

The incident occurred Tuesday night in an area near Khairapalli under Kabisuryanagar police station when the accused as-

saulted the woman and gangraped her over a monetary dispute, a senior officer said.

"We have arrested all five accused involved in the incident from the district," Ganjam Superintendent of Police (SP) Jagmohan Meena said.

The woman was rescued by police personnel and undergoing treatment, he said.

The incident might have taken place due to the monetary dispute in ganja trade, in which the victim and the accused persons were involved, an officer said after a preliminary inquiry.

"The medical report of the victim is awaited. A woman DSP in the district has been engaged to talk to the victim for further investigation," the SP added.

Cybercriminals swindle ₹36 crore in six months

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Crackdown against cybercrimes by the Commissionerate Police seems to have little impact as there is no sign of decline in such cases. In fact, there is a steep rise in cybercrime cases in the past six months during which the tricksters swindled ₹36 crore in 2,394 cases, said police sources.

Several of the registered cases belong to different parts of the state, the sources claimed.

Addressing the media here Thursday, twin city Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said the victims have lost nearly ₹36 crore to such scams. Besides, the cops have frozen ₹9.50 crore belonging to the scamsters and returned ₹9.5 lakh to the victims. However, many of the accused are yet to be traced.

Analyzing the data further, Panda said the cyber cell here received 966 complaints related to UPI transaction frauds, 554 complaints regarding harassment through social media, 282 NEFT-related frauds and 110 credit card frauds. The remaining 482 complaints are yet



Though the cops have frozen ₹9.50 crore belonging to the scamsters and returned ₹9.5 lakh to the victims, many of the criminals are yet to be traced

to be classified under any category, said the police commissioner, adding that 21 cyber fraudsters, including five interstate criminals, have been arrested so far.

A senior cop said as per preliminary investigations, the cases could be broadly classified into two sub-types- UPI frauds and fake investment

frauds. For UPI frauds, the scamsters, impersonating cops, blackmail the victims by saying that their credentials have been used for illegal activities. Later, when the victim gets frightened, the criminals manipulate them to transfer lakhs of money to their bank accounts. The cyber fraudsters deceive the victims by sharing details of fake investment schemes.

When the victims begin to trust them, they swindle money from their bank accounts, he added.

It is worth mentioning that the Commissionerate Police have recently inducted an assistant commissioner of police (ACP)-rank officer in the cyber cell due to surge in cyber fraud complaints.

2 lions swim croc-infested river in search of soulmates

FACING FIERCE COMPETITION FOR LIONESSES AND HAVING LOST A FIGHT FOR FEMALE AFFECTION IN THE HOURS LEADING UP TO THE SWIM, THE BROTHER DUO WAS DRIVEN TO EMBARK ON THE PERILOUS JOURNEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Possibly in search of their female partners, two lion siblings swam 1.3 km across an African river known to be infested with hippos and crocodiles, making it the longest documented swim for African lions with visual evidence.

Facing fierce competition for lionesses and having lost a fight for female affection in the hours leading up to the swim, the

brother duo was driven to embark on the perilous journey, likely to get to females on the other side of the channel, according to the authors of the study published in the journal Ecology and Evolution.

They filmed the lions trekking their way through the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda before crossing the Kazinga Channel, using heat cameras on drones.

Threatened by human pressures and high levels of poach-



ing, the Panthera leo species' population has been shown to have nearly halved in just five years.

One of the lion brother duo, whom the researchers named Jacob and called a local icon, is famous for having survived

multiple life-threatening events. "I'd bet all my belongings that we are looking at Africa's most resilient lion: he has been gored by a buffalo, his family was poisoned for lion body part trade, he was caught in a poacher's snare, and finally lost his leg in another attempted poaching incident where he was caught in a steel trap," author Alexander Brackowski from Griffith University, Australia, which co-led the study, said.

In one of the video footage accompanying the study, Jacob can be seen limping and leading the way for his brother, Tibu, through the national park, before approaching the shore.

The lion siblings began moving along the water's edge and entering water February 1, 2024. They can be seen making three

attempts at crossing the channel, each time swimming a certain distance, before encountering a likely threat - an animal or a current, and being forced back to the banks.

On the fourth attempt, the brothers finally succeed in swimming across, reaching the Katunguru region of the park February 4.

While an amazing show of resilience, the lions' swim, an attempt in search of homes and partners, is a direct symptom of skewed sex ratios in lion populations, the authors said.

"Jacob and Tibu's big swim is another important example that some of our most beloved wildlife species are having to make tough decisions just to find homes and mates in a human-dominated world," Brackowski said.

Free civil services coaching for 78 students at CUO

Bhubaneswar: Seventy eight students have enrolled for free civil services coaching programme for the academic year 2024-25 under Dr Ambedkar Centre of Excellence, Central University of Odisha (CUO) in Koraput, Thursday. CUO VC Chakradhar Tripathi expressed hope and said, "The students will perform outstanding results in civil services examination next year." "The university is actively promoting the initiative to uplift the downtrodden sections of the region as a part of institutional social responsibility," he added.

Rising suicide cases a social issue: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Terming the rising number of suicides a 'social issue', the Supreme Court Thursday granted four weeks to Centre for filing a PIL seeking effective implementation of a public health programme for prevention and reduction of suicides.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of lawyer and petitioner Gaurav Kumar Bansal that effective steps are needed to deal with the rising number of suicide cases and asked the Centre to file a comprehensive affidavit. "It is a social issue, let them (Centre and authorities) file a counter affidavit," the CJI said. The top court, August 2, 2019, had issued notices to Centre and all states and Union Territories (UTs) on the PIL.

The plea has also sought a direction to all the states and UTs to start a project for providing support and advice through call



centres and helplines to persons with suicidal thoughts.

Referring to data provided by Delhi Police, the petition said, 140 cases of suicides of children below 18 year were recorded between 2014 and 2018.

The plea said, the failure of the authorities in "drafting, designing and implementing public health programme for the prevention and reduction of suicides in India is not only violative of section 29 and 115 of the

A PIL seeking effective implementation of a public health programme for prevention and reduction of suicides said all the states and UTs have failed to implement various provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017

vention and reduction of suicides in their jurisdiction.

It said that the authorities should be asked to provide status report on the steps taken by them to implement public health programme for reduction and prevention of suicides.

Referring to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) report 'Preventive Suicide - a Global Imperative', the petitioner has said that young people are among the most affected and suicide is now the second leading cause of death for those between the age of 15 and 29 globally.

'Ratna Bhandar likely to be opened July 14'



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 11: The Ratna Bhandar of Srimandir likely to be opened July 14, state Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said Thursday.

Talking to the newsmen, Harichandan said the temple managing committee had approved the proposal of the high level committee under the chairmanship of former Orissa High Court judge Justice Biswanath Rath, to open the Ratna Bhandar July 14.

The temple managing committee Wednesday approved the proposal of the Justice Rath committee after making minor changes to some SOPs.

Later, the managing committee had sent its approval to the state government with a request to issue necessary orders.

A 16-member high level committee headed by Justice Biswanath Rath was constituted by the state government July 4, after dissolving the previous committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Arijit Pasayat.

July 9, Justice Biswanath Rath Committee proposed to reopen Bahara (outer) and Bhitara (inner) enclosures of the Ratna Bhandar July 14 for both inventory and conservation works with approval of the state government.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Anil Patro, S/o P. Baleswar Patro and P. Rashmita Patro, resident of Madhusudan Nagar, Rajabagicha, Nayagarh, P.O./P.S./Dist. - Nayagarh, Pin - 752069, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. V-31/162/09.07.2024 dtd. 09.07.2024 that now onwards my mother will be known as P. RASHMITA PATRA for all my future purposes.

I, P. Baleswar Patro, S/o Late P. Antaryami Patro, resident of Madhusudan Nagar, Rajabagicha, Nayagarh, P.O./P.S./Dist. - Nayagarh, Pin - 752069, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. V-31/163/09.07.2024 dtd. 09.07.2024 that my wife name has changed from Patam Rasmita Kumari Patro to P. Rashmita Patra and she will be known as P. RASHMITA PATRA and the same shall be used for my future purposes.

I, Saswati Priyadarsani, D/o Khageswar Maharana resident of At-Plot No. EB-404, Stage-2, Laxmisagar BDA Colony, Bhubaneswar -751006, Dist.- Khordha, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 214, dtd.11.07.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Saswati Priyadarshini for all future purposes.

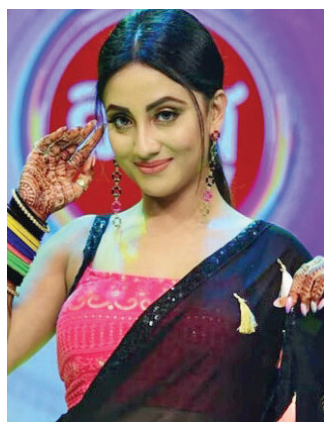
I, Ranjan Giri, S/o - Atul Chandra Giri, resident of At - Suniti, Suniti (Benakandha), Post - Suniti, PS. - Tantiapala Marine, Dist - Kendrapara, Pin - 754224, Odisha, declare by this affidavit No. 1081 dtd. - 06.07.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Ranjan Kumar Giri for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit No.- 4999 dt. 05.07.2024 sworn before Notary Public, Bhadrak. I, Pramoth Chandra Mohanty, S/o- Lt. Parshuram Mohanty, Vill/P.O.- Bamanabindha, P.S.- Pirahat, Dist.- Bhadrak, Odisha, PIN- 756131 do hereby declare that my actual and correct name spelling is PRAMOTH CHANDRA MOHANTY. That PRAMATH CHANDRA MOHANTY and PRAMOTH CHANDRA MOHANTY is same and one person. Henceforth, my correct name PRAMOTH CHANDRA MOHANTY shall be used in all purpose.

Probe ordered into alleged torture of domestic help by actress Riya Dey

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 11: The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OS-CPCR) has taken suo moto cognizance regarding the allegation of torture levelled against actress Riya Dey by her domestic help.



The OSCPCR has directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in Bhubaneswar, Khurda District Labour Officer and District Child Protection Officer to conduct a probe into the allegations and submit a report by July 25. The OSCPCR has asked the above-said officials to submit detail information regarding the age, educational status and health condition of the victim in the probe report. It also asked the Khurda District Labour Officer and District Child Protection Officer to take steps for the rehabilitation of the victim in accordance with the law.

The domestic help, in her complaint, alleged that the actor and her husband subjected her to domestic violence. The couple often locked her in their house at Mahanadi Vihar in Cuttack besides physically and mentally torturing her. Riya's husband even hit her with beer bottle in inebriated condition, she alleged.

However, the victim managed to escape from Dey's house and come to the Capital city here. Subsequently, the victim was rescued by the Child Line. A complaint in this regard was lodged with Chandrasekharpur police station. Basing upon the complaint, Chandrasekharpur police registered a case against the actress and her husband. The case was later transferred to Bidanasi police in Cuttack.

Speaking to media, Additional DCP of Commissionerate Police Anil Mishra said a case has been registered against Riya and Sunil under various charges. The police will also record the victim's statement, he added. Monday, Riya's husband had filed a complaint at Bidanasi police station stating that their caretaker had gone missing. The police would now investigate both cases simultaneously, the sources said.

Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 but is also in violation of Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution". Bansal has alleged in his plea that the Delhi government has "failed to provide a healthy social atmosphere" here. The plea said all the states and UTs have failed to implement various provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 and they should be directed to take appropriate steps for the pre-



SEARCH ON: NDRF team launches a search operation using a special robot prepared by NIT Rourkela to trace the missing youth who fell into Tapang lake in Khurda, Thursday

Robot engaged to trace youth in Tapang lake

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 11: A youth, who fell into a water body at Tapang stone quarry Khurda district four days ago, is yet to be traced. A special robot prepared by NIT Rourkela was engaged in the rescue operation Thursday. The youth went missing after he fell into the water body at Bada Saunlia under Tapang police limits in Khurda. As per information, four students from a Pahala-based ed-

ucational institute visited the Tapang Green Lake at Bada Saunlia Monday to shoot a reel. One of the youths fell into the quarry while making reels standing on the brink of the lake. His friend Om Prakash Rath immediately jumped in an effort to rescue him. Though the youth who had slipped could be rescued, Om Prakash went missing. A team of fire services rushed to the spot with an advanced waterproof camera to rescue



Om Prakash. The firefighters, with assistance from the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), and the National Disaster Rapid Action Force were also engaged in the operation. While all their efforts are yet

to yield any positive result, the robot prepared by NIT Rourkela has now been engaged in the operation. An official of the NIT said that the stone quarry is 100-foot deep and the whole area is being scanned inch by inch. It may be mentioned that Khurda district administration had declared Nijigarh Tapang as a prohibited area. It urged people not to visit the place as many undetonated dynamites are still lying in the area which may pose threat to lives.

WORLD POPULATION DAY

'Focus on needs of women, youth, marginalised groups'

It is imperative to focus on the needs of women, youth, and marginalised communities that remain inadequate owing to the rising population, said experts on World Population Day Thursday. World Population Day is observed every year July 11 to raise awareness about global population issues and their impact on society. The theme for this year is 'Leave no one behind, count everyone'. With about 142.86 crore population, India overtook China to become the world's most populous nation, according to the UNFPA's State of the World Population Report in 2023. Speaking to IANS, Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director of

the Population Foundation of India (PFI), said even though India became the world's most populous nation, "we have attained the replacement-level fertility rate". "This means that the average number of children born per woman is sufficient to keep the population size stable from one generation to the next," she explained. Yet, due to a large proportion of young people, the population in India will continue to grow. "Nonetheless, we have made remarkable progress towards population stabilisation," Poonam said. However, she called for a shift in focus -- on reaching the unreached, that is, the women, young people, and marginalised



communities. "The reproductive rights, access to resources, and health and well-being outcomes of these groups remain inadequate," Poonam said. There are approximately 24 million women with an unmet need for family planning, mean-

ing they want to stop or delay childbearing but lack the access or agency to use contraception. "The upcoming budget must increase the investment in family planning, especially in long-lasting modern contraceptives, as addressing these needs is cru-

cial for achieving equitable and sustainable development," the PFI chief said. This was also advocated by the Union Health Minister JP Nadda, who called for "healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy for the health and well-being of mother and child". Population increases also create congestion and deplete human health resources. "It also adds load to our already overburdened infrastructure, deprives people of basic amenities, causes scarcity of water, problems related to hygiene and sewage," M Wali, Senior Consultant, department of Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, told IANS. Overpopulation can also worsen health care indices like

morbidity and mortality as preventive and screening health care needs of the population (especially the vulnerable sections like women, children, and elderly) are not adequately met. "Uplifting women is an efficient strategy to keep the overpopulation problem in check. Educated women are more likely to exercise their reproductive rights, that is, use contraception and motivate their partners for the same, plan families, and consider termination of undesired pregnancies. They are also more likely to understand the importance of having small and healthy families," Isha Wadhawan, from Fortis Faridabad, told IANS.

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Banspani-Barbil railway route remains a pipedream



2009. However, due to the detour of 60-70 kms, it takes four hours to reach Barbil. Moreover, it also results in loss of precious revenue for the railways, Mohanty added.

"The lack of direct rail link forces passenger trains to travel via the Danguapasi section in Jharkhand to reach Barbil which is causing revenue loss to the railways," he said.

Similarly, trucks carrying iron ores extracted from Barbil and Bolani mining areas have to travel extra miles to reach Paradip, Dhamra ports and other areas.

Rasanand Behera, another member of Barbil Civil Society, said the Railway Budget presented in the Parliament in 2016-17 FY had a proposal for the construction of this rail route. "But nothing has happened on the ground so far," he said.

Following the mention in the Budget, the state government proposed to construct this rail route with district mineral foundation (DMF) funds. A plan outlay of ₹363.38 crore was made for the purpose. However, the project failed to take off.

Moreover, the rail routes in the mining areas fall under the Chakradharpur division of South Eastern Railways in Jharkhand. Locals and members of the civil society have been demanding for the inclusion of the rail routes under the East Coast Railways (ECoR), Khurda since the last 12 years.

km, causing severe inconvenience to passengers.

Basant Mohanty, a member of the Barbil Civil Society said there are more than 40 mines in Barbil mining area from where minerals are extracted and transported via roads. However, the transportation of minerals and pellets in trucks is causing accidents and the resultant loss of lives and properties.

The rail route, when completed, will connect the district headquarters town of Keonjhar with Barbil. This will benefit people of Keonjhar as they can travel directly in trains to Barbil and the vice versa.

Similarly, iron ores extracted from the mines in Barbil and Bolani areas can be transported via trains to Paradip and Dhamra ports as well as to the various plants and other industries in the state. The rail link will also help in reducing road accidents and ensure safe commuting.

Mohanty said that the Puri-Barbil train started plying from

Man held for hunting birds in Chilika, 18 carcasses seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, July 11: A 48-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly hunting birds in Chilika lake, a Forest official said.

He was hunting birds at Bidharpursahi near Bhusandpur in Tangi forest range and 18 carcasses of four bird species were seized from his possession, Chilika Wildlife Division DFO Amlan Nayak said.

The carcasses of the birds include those of Grey Headed Swamphen (14), Lesser Whistling Duck (2) and one each of Pheasant Tailed Jacana and Bronze Winged Jacana, he said. Wildlife personnel suspected that the accused person was taking the carcasses to the market for sale and for own consumption.



Nayak said the poacher was suspected to have hunted the birds by poisoning them in Chilika Lake.

After conducting a post-mortem examination, the carcasses were buried, he said. The DFO said the tissue samples of the carcasses would be sent to the Centre for Wildlife Health in Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) and to the state forensic laboratory, Bhubaneswar for toxicological analysis.

Though not a single poaching case was registered in Chilika in the last bird migration season when lakhs migrated to the lake in winter, hunting of waterfowls has been reported recently. The latest poaching case at the lake was second in the last one week, and third in a month. Several residential birds and some migratory birds that have stayed back are in Chilika now.

On July 3, wildlife personnel arrested two bird poachers at Deipur in Tangi range of Chilika Wildlife Division. The carcasses of 14 birds of two species -- Grey Headed Swamphen (14) and Water Cock (one) -- were seized from the duo.

Similarly, Forest officials had arrested a bird hunter at Tentuliapada and seized the carcass of two Open Billed Storks, a scheduled animal under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Normally poachers become active after the withdrawal of the anti-poaching camps in March. Patrolling has been intensified in the lake with the existing staffers, the DFO said.

NHM team probes into 'corruption' in RGH

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, July 11: The three-member team of the national health mission (NHM) that arrived Wednesday at Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) to conduct enquiry into the alleged gross irregularities at the premier government health facility, carried out verification and scrutiny of related documents for the second consecutive day, Thursday.

The team is learnt to have seized many incriminating documents related to the corruption charges.

Shedding lights on the probe, Director RGH Ganesh Das said, "The members of the inquiry panel are enquiring into the corruption unearthed recently. They are looking into all irregularities such as those related to security, laundry, theft of the mortuary freezers and others." The Director said the team was scheduled to leave in the night after wrapping up the probe.

He said the Hospital manager, Mohit Kumar has been issued two show cause notices by his appointing authority - the national health mission (NHM) -, but he did not respond to those. He termed him as a 'habitual offender' saying he himself had issued him three show cause notices for his delinquency.

The NHM team consists of Priyadarshi Dash, senior consultant P&IM, Malaya Kumar



Panigrahi, state finance manager, NHM and Ajit Kumar Biswal, consultant HR, NHM.

It is worth mentioning here that OP (July 9 edition) had reported extensively about the gross irregularities in laundry billing at the hospital.

The corruptions in RGH snowballed into a major scandal when special consideration was shown to a vendor, M/s Mediaid Medical Ancillary Services (MMAS) which was paid a whopping ₹20 lakh for providing 'excellent service'. It was allegedly done by the then incumbent Director of RGH. The vendor was given a five year contract in 2020, it claimed the amount after three years.

The whole payment process was allegedly initiated by hospital manager Mohit Kumar. Kumar has reportedly obtained

anticipatory bail in a corruption case pertaining to four missing freezers from the hospital mortuary. A show cause notice has been issued to him on July 6 by the mission director of NHM, Odisha.

Kumar has been issued the notice on three grounds: For availing leave without prior approval of the superintendent cum director of RGH, availing the EL from the June 24 to July 4 without any valid reason/document in support, and involvement in gross irregularities in the procurement and disposal of BS freezer chamber for RGH mortuary.

Both the NHM team and the Director have termed the EL as 'unauthorised'. "This may invite big trouble for him (Kumar)," said a source in RGH.

Fake zarda worth ₹50L seized; 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 11: The Puruna Bazar police here seized fake zarda (flavoured tobacco) worth over ₹50 lakh, along with various materials used in its preparation, and arrested two persons during raids at multiple locations, Thursday.

Another suspect in the case is currently on the run, informed the police.

The arrested accused were identified as Sheikh Rabani, 31, and Sheikh Khalik, 20, both res-



idents of Helasahi, while the absconding accused was identified as Mir Inam.

A team from Puruna Bazar police station conducted the raids following information about the proliferation of fake zarda trade in the area. The team was led by City DSP Anshuman Dwivedi and Puruna

Bazar IIC Niroj Samal.

The raids were carried out at three separate locations in Helasahi. Along with fake zarda consignments, the police also recovered logos of various zarda manufacturing companies, significant quantity of Gopal-60 and Kanak tins, oil used in the making of zarda, a mixing machine, and pouches, informed the Dwivedi at a press conference.

Three separate cases (No. 204/24, 205/24, and 206/24) have been registered in this regard, he said.

Dengue surge: Rourkela worst hit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 11: Dengue fever has spread its wings in the district, while Rourkela remains the worst affected at present.

So far, 64 persons have been detected with the vector-borne disease and, of them, 57 are from Rourkela.

Meanwhile, the sudden surge of the fever has caused panic among people and

sent alarm bells ringing in the Health department.

Sector-14 in Rourkela Steel Township has been declared a dengue hotspot after most of the cases were found from the locality. The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has undertaken a massive cleanliness drive there. It is learnt that the government and RSP authorities have stored adequate quantity

of medicine and testing kits to meet the situation.

At present, seven dengue affected persons have been admitted to RGH. Dr Bhakta Mohan Swain ADPHO, RGH, said, "The maximum numbers of cases have been identified in Rourkela urban area. Till date, we have found 64 cases. Majority of them are in the Sectors, Railway Colony and RMC areas."

District admin bans Muharram processions in Sambalpur town



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 11: The district administration here has banned Muharram processions in Sambalpur town scheduled to be held July 17.

Inspector General (IG) of Police, Northern Range, Himanshu Kumar Lal said Thursday that the decision came following a meeting between the district administration and the joint Muharram peace and co-ordination committee held at the conference hall of the IG office during the day.

The IG told mediapersons that holding Muharram processions in the present situation is not conducive. "Restrictions have been

clamped on religious processions in Sambalpur town for a year for which it has been decided that people will observe the occasion of Muharram in their respective localities, like the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations at local levels in April this year. There will be no religious processions including Muharram processions in Sambalpur," he said.

District officials will conduct joint visits to various localities in the town and try to restore confidence and the spirit of brotherhood among the denizens, the IG said.

The IG said the ground situation will be reviewed at a later stage and a decision will be taken on whether to permit reli-

gious processions or not. It is worth mentioning that at a meeting Wednesday, the district administration had decided to allow Muharram processions, while making it clear that the participants will be barred from carrying weapons (of any kind) with them. District Collector Akshaya Kumar Agarwal had directed the district police and Muharram committees to hold a meeting to finalise a route chart for the processions. He had instructed all liquor shops in the area to remain closed on the day, and urged Health officials to keep the primary health centre open and ambulances ready during the festivities for quick assistance, if needed.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, RANPUR
RANPUR, DISTRICT: NAYAGARH-752026
Tel. : 06755-236099, E-Mail: eoranpurnac.nac@gmail.com
Letter No. 1852 / NAC/Date: 11.07.2024

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/QUOTATION
No. C-193: The Executive Officer, on behalf of Ranpur NAC Dist-Nayagarh invites Expression of interest from Registered Architects/ Consultants/any other agencies having GST registration certificate and experience for the following work. Preparation of DPR for developmental projects under Ranpur NAC to be taken up during the FY 2024-25 & 2025-26. The Quotationers should furnish their percentage rate over the cost of DPR for individual work. Preference will be given to those Registered Architects/ Consultants/ any other agencies who have already rendered similar types of services to various Urban Local Bodies of Govt. of Odisha. Interested firms can obtain the bid document from the office of Ranpur NAC by paying Rs. 600/- only towards bid document fees during the office hours from Dt. 12.07.2024 to 25.07.2024. The Bid document should reach through speed post/Regd. Post or by person to the office of the undersigned on or before dt.25.07.2024 up to 5.00 P.M. and the same will be opened on Dt.26.07.2024 at 03.00PM. The quotation received beyond the schedule date and time will not be considered at all. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal or all the EOI proposal without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd./-Executive Officer, NAC, Ranpur
OIPR-13196/11/0004/2425

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.pace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK --6 PUBLIC NOTICE
[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice :ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/392 Date: -26/06/2024

Reference:
(1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (1) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AA8347526	U40200OR2022PTC041067	SAROJINEE POWER PRIVATE LIMITED

(2). Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under subsection (9) of section 12, but if they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

(3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

(4) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Harihara Sahoo
Registrar
CBC 07123/11/0217/2425 Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: ELS-ANGL-OT-24-25-07
Dt.: 05.07.2024

Name of Work: MAINTENANCE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER FOR ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES AT ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, ANGL FOR PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

Advised Value: ₹30,58,522.18, EMD: Rs.61,200/-
Cost of Tender Document: 3540/-
Completion Period: 36 (Thirty Six) Months

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. on 31.07.2024
The Tender documents complete details available at www.irps.gov.in

Sr. Divt. Elect. Engineer (TRS) ANGL
PR-294/P/24-25

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: MCSW-SHOTBLAST-24-25-16
Dt.: 04.07.2024

Name of Work: JET CLEANING, SHOT BLASTING, MAGNAPLUX TESTING, PAINTING AND OVEN DRYING OF HELICAL COIL SPRINGS OF FIAT BOGIES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORK SHOP MANCHESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF 36 (THIRTY SIX) MONTHS.

Advised Value: ₹6,35,21,553.60
EMD: Rs. 4,67,600/-
Completion Period: 36 (Thirty Six) Months

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. on 26.07.2024
The Tender documents complete details available at www.irps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH) Manchewar
PR-291/P/24-25

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: ET-M-KUR-AMC-CRANE-262-24
Dt.: 03.07.2024

Name of Work: AMC OF HYDRAULIC AND PNEUMATIC SYSTEM (ALL SYSTEM EXCEPT MAIN ENGINE, AUX. ENGINE & S/LI SYSTEM) OF 1407 BD CRANE/KHURDA FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

Advised Value: ₹17,70,000/-, EMD: Rs.35,400/-
Cost of Tender Document: 2360/-
Completion Period: 36 (Thirty Six) Months

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1530 hrs. on 26.07.2024
The Tender documents complete details available at www.irps.gov.in

Sr. Divt. Mechanical Engineer Khurda Road
PR-289/P/24-25

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JALESWAR
Tel.No.06781-222407, Email:jaleswaramunicipality@gmail.com
Address:Near Tahasil Office, Jaleswar, 756032 Date:10.07.24

Ref.No.2727

E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No-JM 02 2024 25
Notice Inviting to Detailed Tender Call Notice

No. C-190-Name of the work: "Privatisation of Sweeping of roads, cleaning of drains & Bush uprooting in both sides of roads and lifting of Municipal Solid Waste separately Wet & Dry Waste including other waste to the identified Micro Composting Centre (MCC) / Material Recovery Facility (MRF) /Landfill Site/ Disposal Centers located at different places from W.No-1 to W.No.-17 within the Jaleswar Municipality area." Cost of DTCC EMD :- 1% of the total yearly estimated cost. Period of contract :- 1 Year (from 01.08.2024 to 31.07.2025) Start Date of Sale/download of DTCC :- 11.00 A.M. on dt.12.07.2024 Last Date of receiving pre-bid Queries :- Upto 4.00 P.M. of dt.16.07.2024 (through e-mail only) Last Date of Receipt of Tender :- Upto 5.30 P.M. of dt.25.07.2024 Date of pre bid meeting :- 04.30 P.M. on dt.16.07.2024 (In the Office Chamber of the Executive Officer, Jaleswar Municipality) Date of Opening of Technical Bid :- 11.00 A.M. on dt.26.07.2024 Date of Opening of Financial Bid :- 11.00 A.M. on dt.29.07.2024 Further details can be seen / downloading from e-Procurement portal i.e. <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app>

Sd./- Executive Officer, Jaleswar Municipality
OIPR-13126/11/0002/2425

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, DHENKANAL
No. 2092
e-Procurement Notice Dt.10.07.2024
Bid Identification No. DMID-03/2024-25
e-mail ID: eemidk@yahoo.co.in

No. A-147: The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Dhenkanal on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

Name of the Work	: Civil works in different Blocks of Dhenkanal District under the ERM Scheme for the year 2024-25.
No. of Works	: 12 (Twelve) Nos. Only
Estimated Cost	: Varies from 8.00 lakhs to 34.00 lakh (Approximately).
Cost of Tender Paper	: 4000/- to 6000/- (Non-refundable)
Period of Completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar Months
Availability of bid documents for sale and receipt through Online	: From Dt.16.07.2024, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.30.07.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 30.07.2024 (5.00 P.M.)
Date of Technical Bid opening through online	: On Dt.31.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the S.E., M.I. Division, Dhenkanal
Mode of Payment of Bid Cost	: Online
Digital Signature Certificate	: The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website:	http://dowrorissa.gov.in
Name & Address of the OIT	: Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Dhenkanal, At/P.O./District: Dhenkanal, Ph. No./ Fax No.: 06762-224461, Email ID: eemidk@yahoo.co.in

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
M.I. Division, Dhenkanal
OIPR-32027/11/0007/2425

Government of India Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India
3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003

Invitation of applications for Engagement of Office Support Professional (Secretarial Personal Assistant) on Contract Basis in Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India proposes to hire one (01) Office Support Professional (Secretarial Personal Assistant) on contract basis. The number of vacancies may vary as per the requirement. Candidate with requisite qualification and experience as prescribed would be hired as Office Support Professional. The interested candidates must indicate the post of which they applied.

2. Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India invites applications from eligible candidates as Office Support Professional. The details including eligibility criteria, Terms & Conditions etc. are available on the AERA's website: www.aera.gov.in. Last date of receipt of application is 01.08.2024 upto 5.30 P.M. Applications received after due date and time will not be considered.

Sd./- Deputy Chief
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003

CBC-03112/12/0002/2425

FOCUS POLITICS

TRANSFORMING A PARTY



Upon taking the reins from Jeremy Corbyn in 2020, just after the party's worst defeat since 1935, Starmer emphasised moderation and policies to improve the economy and public services

logical frontier. Although specialising in financial services can provide a boost, the benefits are temporary. And as the British example shows, becoming a financial hub for money from Russian oligarchs, petrostates, and tax evaders brings a range of societal ills.

But innovation is easier said than done. Despite the previous government's emphasis on artificial intelligence, Britain is lagging behind in the technology race, and no amount of government emphasis will miraculously turn things around. Instead, the UK needs a coherent long-term strategy geared toward finding a niche in the broader innovation economy. Success will require more than just an old-style industrial policy of supporting specific companies or sectors.

There are also potential fault lines within Labour's plans for making democracy work better. Responsive democratic governance means that no major public concern is ignored, and the British electorate has again signalled that it is very concerned about immigration.

As in the rest of Europe, the British right will face growing pressure to tilt further rightward, and Labour and other centrist politicians will need to prepare for this shift. Election after election has shown that ignoring the population's views on immigration is not a viable strategy. Labour must make the humanitarian case for allowing in refugees, while also promising greater transparency and control on immigration overall. Finding the right communication strategy and the right principles to guide its immigration policy will be one of the new government's biggest challenges. As someone who formerly worked both as a human-rights lawyer and as a chief prosecutor dealing with public-order issues, Starmer may be uniquely qualified to succeed where others have failed.

The writer is Institute Professor of Economics at MIT. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

The Labour Party's sweeping victory in the United Kingdom's general election already holds lessons for center and center-left parties elsewhere. But whether it will matter in the long run depends on Prime Minister Keir Starmer's ability to address his country's economic woes – a very tall order.

To their credit, the Tories showed respect for democracy by accepting defeat, with Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak graciously congratulating Starmer even before the vote count was final. It is impossible to imagine a scenario in which Donald Trump would do the same in this year's US presidential election. With many Republicans already preparing to deny any electoral defeat this November (further undercutting Americans' already low level of trust in institutions), the British example reminds us that we must never normalise such behaviour. The US media and civil society have a duty to call out Trump and his allies' anti-democratic behaviour at every turn.

Starmer's rapid rehabilitation of the Labour Party also holds valuable lessons. Upon taking the reins from Jeremy Corbyn in 2020, just after the party's worst defeat since 1935, Starmer emphasised moderation and policies to improve the economy and public services. His victory shows that it is possible to win elections without extremism. He promised to make democracy work better for everyone.

This is a powerful message. My own recent research shows that people become much more pro-democratic when they see democracy functioning properly and delivering in terms of economic growth, stability, public services, and low levels of inequality and corruption. The same basic formula has worked well for workers' parties and social democrats elsewhere. The birth of the storied Nordic model can be traced to election victories by workers' parties in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway almost a century ago. These parties first moved away from

hard left ideas and rhetoric. Then, once in power, they delivered on the concrete improvements they had promised.

In Sweden's case, social democracy was forged in the crucible of the Great Depression. The Workers' Party – which had broken from its Marxist roots two decades earlier – campaigned on a platform of macroeconomic stability, more jobs, and wage growth. After it delivered on these promises, it became the country's main governing party.

The Norwegian Labour Party carved out a path even more like that of its British cousin in 2024. After running on a hard-left platform and losing more than 20% of its seats in the 1930 election, it underwent a rapid rehabilitation. In 1935, a fundamentally different Labour Party came to power by campaigning on school reform, welfare programmes, and jobs. Through its historic "Folk School Reform," it raised the quality of education in less economically developed parts of the country, winning the lasting support of many voters. Social democracy has remained the dominant model in Norway ever since.

Transforming a party is difficult. For Starmer, it involved sidelining Corbyn and making clear that his brand of far-left extremism would no longer be on the agenda. Starmer endured many months of widespread crit-

icism from the left, but he held firm. Now comes an even bigger test. The import of Labour's victory ultimately will depend on whether the party delivers, especially when it comes to reviving economic growth. Britain's economic performance during the past 14 years of Tory rule has been rather disappointing. Per capita income growth has been slow, and the country's leaders have failed to address an obvious productivity problem: growth in output per hour worked compares poorly to that of the United States, France, and Germany.

Recognising that a lack of public and private investment underlies the UK's anemic productivity and employment performance, Labour has sound ideas for kickstarting a robust economic recovery. But to finance the public investments in health care, education, infrastructure, and technology that Starmer has promised, the government will need to increase its tax revenues. Starmer therefore may need to walk back a separate promise not to increase taxes for working people.

If so, he should point out that no advanced economy can achieve sustained, dynamic growth without innovating. While countries such as Vietnam and China have been able to leverage mature technologies and low-cost labour, high-income economies lack this option. They must either innovate or fall behind the global techno-



Daron Acemoglu

STARMER ENDURED MANY MONTHS OF WIDESPREAD CRITICISM FROM THE LEFT, BUT HE HELD FIRM



Tano Santos & Luigi Zingales

Knowledge diffusion – which depends on both access to knowledge and the ability to absorb it – is the key to a prosperous society

Knowledge Policy

Industrial policy is back in vogue. After decades of eschewing the use of market-shaping policy tools like tariffs and subsidies, many Western governments have embraced them, spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, and by broader fears about Chinese technological and commercial dominance, which could cost the West countless well-paying jobs. If these efforts are to succeed, however, an emphasis on knowledge is crucial.

Industrial policy has a poor track record in the West. When postwar governments tried it, they usually failed to achieve their goals, because they supported industries with no viable path to profitability. By the 1970s and 1980s, they abandoned industrial policy altogether. But if we view industrial policy as knowledge policy, its comeback can succeed.

An effective knowledge policy would focus less on creation of knowledge than on its diffusion. While innovation is clearly valuable, it is also expensive and challenging, requiring a particular combination of conditions that is often difficult to ensure. Not every country can realistically aspire to be a technological frontier. But a country does not have to produce cutting-edge innovations of its own to be able to reap the benefits (including higher productive capacity, greater wealth, and stronger military capabilities) of new processes, methods, and ideas produced elsewhere.

Knowledge diffusion – which depends on both access to knowledge and the ability to absorb it – is the key to a prosperous society. The German and Japanese economies recovered rapidly after World War II largely because, while their physical infrastructure was in ruins, their stock of knowledge was intact. Both countries had a cohort of engineers, doctors, scientists, and managers capable of absorbing, spreading, applying, and building upon the advanced knowledge brought by occupying American forces.

Recognising the value of such knowledge transfers, one might ask why the state needs to get involved. The answer is that knowledge diffusion is the quintessential externality. When an individual or a firm invests in knowledge, it typically captures only a fraction of the returns: knowledge acquisition often brings far higher social returns than private gains. This explains why the state has long supported and incentivised knowledge production, such as by creating a patent system and strengthening education.

An effective knowledge policy must include both domestic and international components. On the domestic front, it requires a targeted education policy, subsidies encouraging local actors to import knowledge, and a flexible intellectual property (IP) framework, which strikes the right balance between motivating innovation and encouraging its diffusion. Countries that are far from the technological frontier are better off with lax IP regimes, such as the one that enabled India to build a thriving pharmaceutical industry. (Membership in the World Trade Organization has since driven India to adhere to stricter rules.)

In a geopolitically fragmented world, such domestic measures must be complemented by free-trade zones to facilitate knowledge-sharing among partner countries. These zones would allow for specialisation in some areas, but not in all. Economists' obsession with comparative advantage notwithstanding, this is not necessarily a bad thing. After all, a country at the technological frontier – or close enough that it can continue to absorb new knowledge – is likely to be a more productive and prosperous economic partner.

When it comes to importing technology, countries should erect barriers only in sectors where catch-up is both achievable and desirable (the same sectors where direct subsidies might also be justified). In this sense, the United States and the European Union have much better reason to invest in strengthening their domestic semiconductor industries than India, which is so far behind in this area that any resources spent on catching up are probably wasted. But even the US risks failing to achieve its semiconductor ambitions, unless it also implements an education policy that encourages the study of engineering. Taiwan leads the world in semiconductor production thanks not only to its vast knowhow, but also to its appropriately educated workforce.

But even for an economy with the right capabilities, if too many of its peers are trying to catch up in the same area, the costs of the strategy will rise, and the probability of success will drop. This brings us to another reason why free-trade zones are useful: they can facilitate policy coordination, at least among allies. India would be far more willing to abandon its semiconductor ambitions if it knew it could rely on a steady supply from a trusted partner.

To be sure, that partner might make demands of its own – say, for India to strengthen its IP enforcement, which would be very costly. But, in today's tense and divided world, such trade-offs are practically inevitable. A sensible knowledge policy must recognise the constraints under which allies operate.

Western governments are bringing back industrial policy at a particularly fraught moment. Strategic considerations cannot be ignored, as they were during the decades when globalisation was progressing rapidly, and Pax Americana remained firmly in place. Instead, leaders must rise to the challenge and devise sophisticated industrial-military strategies – including knowledge policies – that account for a wide range of risks, objectives, and pressures.

Tano Santos is Professor of Finance at Columbia Business School. Luigi Zingales is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Money has never made man happy, nor will it, there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants.
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

People crushed by laws, have no hope but to evade power. If the laws are their enemies, they will be enemies to the law; and those who have most to hope and nothing to lose will always be dangerous.
EDMUND BURKE

There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.
MARK TWAIN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1884: Italian painter and sculptor Amedeo Modigliani, whose portraits are among the most important of the 20th century, was born.
- 1920: The independent republic of Lithuania, having successfully expelled invading Soviet troops, signed a peace treaty with Russia.

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Riding two horses at same time

Prime Minister Narendra Modi just concluded a two-day visit to Russia. When he deputed EAM Jaishankar to lead the Indian delegation to Astana, Kazakhstan for the 24th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State, it was viewed by observers as watering down India's relations with SCO and a reaction to growing Sino-Russian axis. But the impression was belied by Modi landing in Moscow just four days after the SCO summit.



DK Giri

RUSSIA HAS MOVED CLOSER TO CHINA AND FURTHER AWAY FROM THE WEST. THIS HAS MADE INDIA QUITE UNCOMFORTABLE

Modi was there to attend the 22nd annual summit between Indian and Russian leadership. Furthermore, he was conferred 'Order of St Andrew the Apostle', the highest civilian honour of Russia. However, Modi's visit to Russia hours after Russian bombing in Ukraine killing at least 41 people would have been watched by the world leaders. The US is playing down Modi's timing of the visit which coincided with NATO summit in Washington. But US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller urged Modi to talk about Ukraine war and emphasise Ukraine's territorial integrity.

The reaction from Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky

was more forthright and sharp. He said, "It is a huge disappointment and devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day." The day he was referring to was the day of Modi's arrival and Russian bombing in Ukraine killing children. Modi did raise the need of ending the war in Ukraine and openly mourned the death of children. He spoke to the media in Russia reiterating his remark to Putin a couple of years ago that war is 'not a solution'.

Reportedly, Prime Minister Modi told the Russian President Putin that, "peace talks do not succeed amidst bombs, guns and bullets." He added that "whether it is war, conflict or a terrorist attack, any person who believes in humanity, is pained when there is loss of lives. But even in that, when innocent children are killed, the heart bleeds and the pain is very terrifying."

Modi had wide ranging discussion with Putin. On the top of his agenda was to raise the case of Indian men fighting for Russia in Ukraine. Indian nationals were lured with false promises

of job offers and ended up joining the Russian army in Ukraine. Quite a few Indians have died so far. Putin agreed to release the Indians from their army duty.

India and Russia signed nine agreements during Modi's visit that included several sectors – trade, climate and research. India's relationship with Russia goes back to the 17th century with the establishment of India House at Astrakhan, where Gujarati trades had settled. Russia has stood by India during Bangladesh liberation war and during the entire Cold War phase. But much water has flown down the river Volga. USSR, the forerunner of Russia has disintegrated. Russia has moved closer to China and further away from the West. This has made India quite uncomfortable.

Russia's relationship with China has grown dramatically over the last 10 years. As Russia has jumped into the bandwagon of China, New Delhi could not expect Moscow to perform any balancing act in Asia. Unarguably, the level of continuity has dropped in India-Russia relations. The defence and strategic ties, the main pillars of bilateralism between two countries, have suf-

fered greatly over the last decade. Modi's visit does not appear to revive them to their earlier state. The factors that contribute to the decline in these ties consist of dissatisfaction with the quality and volume of defence trade and increasing strategic diversions on dealing with China and India's growing relations with the US. In particular, India is increasingly being wary of Russian 'soft mediation' in the ongoing India-China face-off as there is a growing perception of Russia lacking empathy for India's position and concerns around the crises.

The ongoing tragic war has widened the wedge between Russia in the West. New Delhi, whether it likes it or not, is caught precariously between the two camps. Even though, India does not expect great benefits out of its ties with Russia, it will continue to maintain historical relations even at the cost of some exasperation to the West. The question is how long India will be able to ride two horses at the same time?

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

Significant decision

Sir, The decision by the Supreme Court on alimony for divorced Muslim women was significant. The court determined that every woman, regardless of faith, has the right to alimony. Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustin George Masih though made independent decisions, they ultimately came to the same outcome. Both indicated that a divorced Muslim woman could file a lawsuit against her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC to receive alimony. From this perspective, Supreme Court's ruling is admirable and consistent with the duties of a welfare state. This verdict is identical to the one handed down in the Shah Bano case on 23 April, 1985. In fact, before now, alimony for divorced women was determined by Muslim Personal Law. According to Shariat law, alimony can only be paid to a divorced woman during the duration of Iddat. Iddat refers to the three-month time during which a woman cannot marry anyone else. The fact in reality is most women in Indian society are still dependant on their husbands after marriage. It is tough to sustain them if their husbands abandon them on certain conditions. Women who are responsible for raising and teaching their children encounter a mountain of challenges. Many divorced Muslim women do not remarry, therefore collecting alimony merely during the Iddat period does not resolve their issues.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Task cut out

Sir, The selection of Gautam Gambhir as Indian men's cricket's head coach has elicited mixed reactions. Had India failed to win the T20 World Cup, Gambhir would have been welcomed with open arms by the much opinionated Indian cricket fan because nothing succeeds like success and failure is an orphan. There were shrill cries from some quarters that Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli hung their boots from T20 because that was one pre-condition set by Gambhir: Be that as it may, the outspoken Gambhir has an uphill task of keeping the side together because an Indian coach's job is nothing more than astute man-management. The former Indian opener should do well not to rub senior members of the team the wrong way. Gambhir has to ensure a happy and secure dressing room; nothing more, nothing less.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

'Student migration a dangerous trend'

LEFT GOVERNMENT TERMS IT GLOBAL PHENOMENON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 11: The Congress-led UDF Opposition Thursday said in the state Assembly that the increasing student migration from Kerala was a dangerous trend which if not addressed, would result in the southern state becoming the home of elderly people.

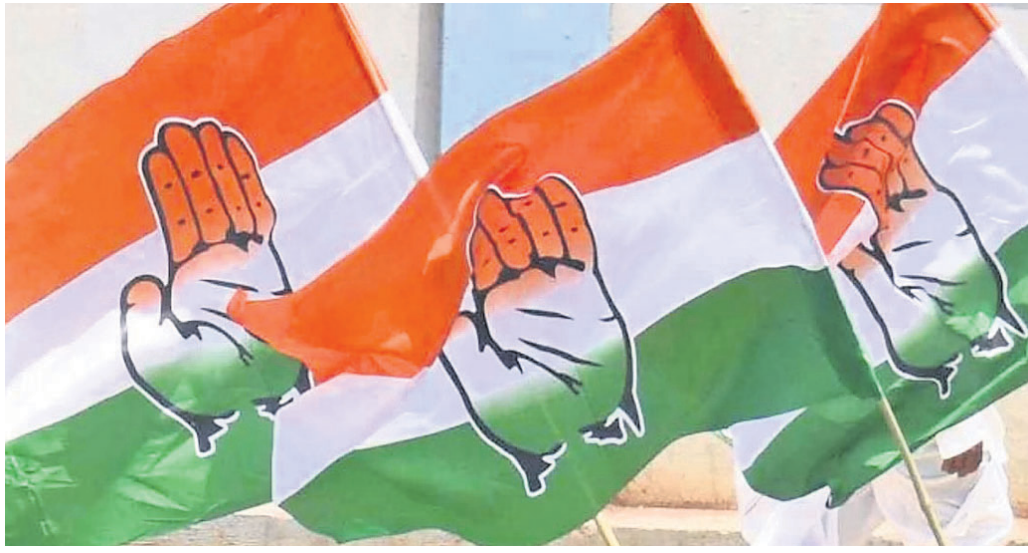
The Left government, however, brushed it aside, saying it was a global phenomenon that was not confined to Kerala alone.

The issue was raised by the UDF while seeking adjournment of the House proceedings to discuss the matter, permission for which was denied by the Speaker after the state government said that student migrations were a normal trend and an outcome of globalisation.

Following the denial of permission for the motion to adjourn the House, the Opposition staged a walkout, alleging that the government and the state higher education minister were "in denial mode" and not acknowledging the danger posed by student migration.

State Higher Education Minister R Bindu claimed that student migration was a "global phenomenon" following globalisation and was not confined to Kerala alone.

"Kerala is one of the states where student migration is very low," Bindu said, adding that students go abroad as they can work there while studying and also because of relaxed visa



norms in countries with a smaller population.

To address the issue, the state government has initiated various 'earn while you learn' projects, she said.

The government was also considering framing laws to regulate agencies which recruit students to go abroad by luring them with false promises, the minister added.

Bindu also claimed that the higher education in the state was one of the best in the country which was evident from the high grades received by universities and colleges in Kerala at the national level. "Therefore, there was no need to discuss the issue in the House," the minister said.

Disagreeing with the minister's claims, Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalnadan, who was one of the legislators who moved the adjournment notice, said that youngsters were leaving Kerala as they have not been provided a proper socio-economic environment to survive in the state.

Kuzhalnadan said that one of the major reasons for it was the "stagnant economic growth" in the state as compared to its neighbours.

He contended that the reason for the lack of economic growth was the "ideological stubbornness" in the state, which was leading to FDI and other investment and job opportunities flowing to the neighbouring states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

Kuzhalnadan also pointed out that urban unemployment was

The government was also considering framing laws to regulate agencies which recruit students to go abroad by luring them with false promises

the highest in Kerala.

"For all these reasons, youngsters in Kerala are socially, economically, and politically frustrated, and they want to escape from here. That is why they migrate abroad," he claimed.

While Kuzhalnadan's claims were refuted by Bindu as being contrary to the actual situation, he was backed by the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, VD Satheesan, who said that student migration was "unregulated" and a matter of immense concern.

The Opposition leader said that when people go to the Gulf nations for work, Kerala gets remittances from them, and then those people come back to the state and start some business here.

"But these students go abroad after spending huge amounts and then settle down there. So, there is no remittance, and they do not come back. The state, therefore, loses money as well as the cream of our population," he further said.

BENGAL BYPOLLS

EC seeks action taken report on malpractice charges

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from Bagdah, Maniktala and Ranaghat Dakshin as the BJP accused TMC activists of assaulting its booth agents and stopping its candidates from visiting some polling stations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 11: The Election Commission of India has sought an action taken report from the West Bengal CEO after receiving nearly 100 complaints from the BJP regarding bogus voting, violence and intimidation during Wednesday's bypolls at four Assembly constituencies in the state, a senior official said.

The ruling TMC has denied those allegations and dubbed them as "baseless".

"There were some reports of violence, but overall, the election was peaceful yesterday. We promptly took action whenever reports of such violence and malpractices were reported to us or came to the notice of our officers," CEO Ariz Aftab said.

Sources at the CEO's office confirmed that it would respond to the EC's query Thursday by listing out the actions the poll conducting body has so far taken or initiated vis-a-vis those complaints.

The bypolls were held at Maniktala, Bagdah, Ranaghat Dakshin and Raiganj Assembly seats. Three persons were arrested in Bagdah for their al-



The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has denied the allegations and dubbed them as 'baseless'

leged involvement in intimidating electors and attacking the BJP candidate, an official said, adding that two were held in Ranaghat Dakshin Assembly constituency for the same reason. Among the constituencies, Raiganj witnessed the highest turnout at 67.12 per cent, followed by Ranaghat Dakshin at 65.37 per cent, Bagdah at 65.15 per cent and Maniktala at 51.39 per cent.

According to Election Commission officials, the turnout may increase as queues were observed outside polling booths at 6 pm when polling officially ended.

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from Bagdah, Maniktala and Ranaghat Dakshin as the BJP accused TMC activists of assaulting its booth agents and stopping its candidates from visiting some polling stations.

BJP candidates Manoj Kumar

Biswas and Binay Kumar Biswas from Ranaghat Dakshin and Badgah respectively claimed that they were not allowed to visit some booths.

"I was stopped from visiting the booths after I got complaints that BJP workers were being beaten up by TMC goons," Binay Kumar Biswas said.

Manoj Biswas alleged that BJP camp offices in some areas were ransacked by the TMC.

BJP's Maniktala candidate Kalyan Chaubey also faced protests and was greeted with "go back" slogans by alleged TMC activists as he tried to enter a booth in the constituency on the day of the polls. Later, security personnel dispersed the crowd.

Chaubey later Wednesday evening reached the CEO's office and demanded repolling in 89 booths. Calling the allegations baseless, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh had insisted that BJP was "only making excuses to hide its failure in the elections".

The TMC in the last Lok Sabha polls won 29 seats, whereas the BJP won 12 and the Congress won one seat. The counting of votes will take place July 13.

Kerala aims to be India's Gen AI hub: CM Vijayan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, July 11: The first International Gen AI Conclave, hosted by the Kerala government along with IBM, is a stepping stone towards elevating Kerala into the country's hub of generative artificial intelligence, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Thursday, while inaugurating the event.

Addressing the massive gathering of industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators, Vijayan said models based on Gen AI can play a decisive role in tackling global warming and climate change as well as health emergencies.



They can also protect and preserve the environment and improve public and mass transportation, in addition to being used for many other applications, he added.

"This is indeed a stepping stone towards elevating Kerala into the hub of generative artificial intelligence in the country, as we explore AI's transformative potential and its impact on our society and economy," Vijayan said.

He said Kerala has been providing platforms for emerging talent, enabling innovation and entrepreneurship, and that its well-recognised industrial and startup ecosystem has been rapidly emerging as a hotspot for top AI startups and companies.

"The Kerala government is committed to supporting AI-based investments and fostering an environment conducive to technological advancement. We anticipate more AI-based investments to flow into the state in the coming years, further boosting our efforts to become the leading AI hub," Vijayan said.

The chief minister said the conclave assumes greater significance as it is taking place at a time when generative artificial intelligence is rapidly developing and opening up a myriad of opportunities to the world.

"As a hub of IT and startups in the country, Kerala can function as India's nerve centre in making indigenous contributions in the field of generative artificial intelligence," he said.

Visva Bharati launches 'World Heritage Volunteers' campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 11: Nearly a year after Santiniketan received the UNESCO World Heritage tag, Visva Bharati University has announced plans for a 15-day awareness campaign during which participants will be immersed in the ideals and visions of Rabindranath Tagore and his father Debendranath Tagore, while also exploring the rich heritage of the region.

Dubbed 'World Heritage Volunteers' (WHV), the campaign is scheduled to begin from August 1 on the university campus and is open to participants from across the country, abroad as well as Visva Bharati students and staff, a university official said Thursday.

Activities during the campaign will include introductions to Tagore's philosophy, an orientation to Santiniketan and Visva Bharati's mission, discussions on rural reconstruction and development, strategies for conserving historical structures and manuscripts, and practical documentation efforts.

Participants will engage in dialogues regarding challenges faced by Santiniketan as a UNESCO World Heritage site, interact with local communities and stakeholders, and visit significant local



landmarks such as the 'Ashram' within the Visva Bharati compound, as well as nearby sites like Sonajhuri and Sriniketan village, where they will interact with artisans, Baul singers, and other folk artistes.

Professor Anil Kumar, Visva Bharati WHV project coordinator, told PTI that around 50 volunteers are expected to attend the camp. This initiative follows UNESCO's recognition of Santiniketan as a World Heritage site September 17, 2023.

Kumar emphasised that the campaign aligns with UNESCO's goal to involve heritage volunteers in advocating for preservation and respecting the historical significance of the region. Various participation fee will be accepted based on a volunteer's respective country- India, SAARC-ASEAN member, or other nations and home university (Visva Bharati), officials said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 11: A big cargo ship called 'San Fernando' from China arrived at Kerala's newly built Vizhinjam International Sea Port Thursday, marking the first container ship arrival at India's largest trans-shipment port.

The mothership was given a water salute by four tugs, which piloted it to the dock.

San Fernando, a 300-meter-long cargo ship, will offload 1,900 containers at Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL).

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will formally welcome the ship Friday.

In a Facebook post, Kerala Port Minister V N Vasavan said San Fernando has been berthed at Vizhinjam Port and termed it as a truly momentous occasion.

The minister said the ship had been tied up to the dock using a heavy-duty rope, and this process (called mooring) has been completed successfully.

The mothership carries large containers which will be transferred to other ships and later transported to other ports in the country and abroad.

The formal reception ceremony will be attended by



Container ship San Fernando reaches Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL), in Thiruvananthapuram, Thursday PTI PHOTO

several dignitaries, including Central and state ministers, officials, and members of the public.

"The dream is approaching the shore. The first mothership is reaching Kerala's Vizhinjam port. San Fernando will be officially welcomed on behalf of Kerala tomorrow," Vijayan in a Facebook post said Thursday.

Equipped with modern equipment and advanced automation and IT systems, Vizhinjam will become India's first semi-auto-

mated port, expected to be fully commissioned in September or October 2024.

"It is a natural port with depths between 20 and 24 meters. We have found that the ocean bottom here is rocky, which is very rare. Elsewhere, we would have to dredge to attain such depths," Vasavan said.

"A special action calendar was prepared, and monthly reviews were conducted. Even a special mobile app was prepared for daily reviews. The construction work was carried out ensuring

the availability of construction materials from within and outside the state."

"The timely completion of each component of the project was ensured. Adani Group has worked to complete this project in a time-bound manner," Vijayan said.

He said the total investment for the Vizhinjam port is ₹8,867 crore. Out of this, the state government and the Central government have allocated ₹5,595 crore and ₹18 crore respectively.

Kumartuli artisans gear up for overseas Durga puja idols

WITH METICULOUS ATTENTION, IDOLS OF THE GODDESS ARE BEING CRAFTED IN DIFFERENT SIZES TO CATER TO ORDERS FROM PUJA ORGANISERS ABROAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 11: Durga Puja, West Bengal's biggest festival, is almost three months away but potters' hub Kumartuli in north Kolkata is already abuzz with activity, as artisans diligently sculpt idols to deliver overseas orders on time.

With meticulous attention, idols of the goddess are being crafted in different sizes to cater to orders from puja organisers abroad.

Durga Puja will be celebrated this year from October 9-13. Renowned clay modeller Kaushik Ghosh is burning the midnight oil sculpting an over eight-foot fibreglass idol for the London Durgotsav Committee in Camden.

"At least 36 idols will be sent to countries such as the UK, US, Japan, UAE, Russia, and Singapore this year. Half of this consignment will be dispatched by this month, via sea or air, while the remainder will follow by August," Ghosh said.

"We are committed to maintaining the 'sabeki' (traditional) look of Maa Durga in every idol. However, we are adding some unique touches. For instance, the Camden puja will feature an 'ekchala' idol where the goddess and her offspring are integrated into a single structure," he explained.

Another artisan Mintu Pal is busy crafting idols for 21 overseas puja committees. Eleven images have already been shipped to



countries such as the US, Germany, Canada, France, Spain, Switzerland and Dubai, he said.

"Six idols have been sent to the US, where Bengali expatriates in various states celebrate the fes-

■ The artisans are also making use of online platforms for preliminary bookings, which are followed by detailed signing procedures

■ Organisers or their representatives are required to visit the studios at least once to finalise the arrangements

about 3 feet tall, for organisers interested in smaller Durga images.

"These clay idols, priced at approximately ₹15,000 each, are available for purchase by Bengali associations or groups of friends," he said.

The artisans are also making use of online platforms for preliminary bookings, which are followed by detailed signing procedures.

Organisers or their representatives are required to visit the studios at least once to finalise the arrangements.

"While some local organisers have deviated from the traditional 'sanatani roop' (traditional look) of Maa Durga, those residing abroad or outside West Bengal are unwavering in their reverence for the deity," emphasised Paul, who has over 50 years of experience in this craft.

been dispatched to Florida in the US, with work progressing swiftly on two more bound for the same destination.

"In the coming weeks, idols will be shipped to Germany, Canada and Australia," Paul said.

In total, the craftsman estimate that at least 100 idols from Kumartuli will be dispatched to foreign locations this year.

Mantu Paul has also set aside two finished 'ekchala' idols, each

of the day quote

Maharashtra is the wrong hands. In the Lok Sabha polls, people have given results that indicate change. The picture is that the opposition will win 225 of the 288 seats in the (Maharashtra) assembly polls

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP(SP) CHIEF

It is apparent that presently all is not well with functioning of our Parliament and legislatures. These temples of democracy are suffering sacrifice of strategised disruptions and disturbance

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

We will formulate a strategy for development of the north-east states based on their strengths and capabilities. For this, decisions will be taken after meeting the concerned state governments

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Bihar: 10 killed in lightning strikes

Patna: Ten people lost their lives due to lightning strikes in the last 24 hours in Bihar, said officials Thursday. Three persons died in Rohtas, two in Siwan, and one each in Kaimur, West Champaran, Supaul, Munger and Banka districts. Authorities are taking necessary actions, including post-mortem examinations and providing medical treatment to the injured. As per the norms, the state government will give a compensation of ₹4 lakh to the family members of the deceased.

4 Naxalites surrender

Sukma: Four Naxalites, one of them carrying a bounty of ₹1 lakh on his head, surrendered before the security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Thursday, police said. One of them is a woman, they said. The Naxalites turned themselves in before senior officials of the police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) citing atrocities committed on tribals by Maoists and their "inhuman and hollow" ideology as the reasons for their disappointment, an official said.

Three die as boat sinks in floodwater

Goalpara (Assam): At least three persons were killed and two others went missing after a boat sank in the floodwaters in Assam's Goalpara district Thursday evening, officials said. According to a senior police officer, the incident took place at Simitola in Rongjuli police station area when the boat with around 20 people on board was returning after the cremation of a person in a nearby isolated location. "There were approximately 20 people on the small boat. It sank due to being overloaded while navigating through flooded areas after the evening cremation," the officer said.

ASF kills 5,430 pigs in Mizoram

Aizawl: Pig farmers and rearers in Mizoram have suffered colossal losses of over ₹20 crore due to the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) since February causing the deaths of over 5,430 pigs and culling of over 10,300 pigs, officials said Thursday.

Mob assault: Mamata charges BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 11: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday blamed the BJP and a section of the media for maligning the state over the recent mob assault incident in Ariadaha in North 24 Parganas district.

Speaking to reporters at Kolkata airport, Banerjee said an incident of 2021, a video clip of which had gone viral, happened when Arjun Singh was BJP MP of Barrackpore Lok Sabha constituency.

The BJP, however, denied the allegations against the party and Singh and accused the state's ruling party of unleashing a reign of terror.

She accused a section of TV channels of showing the old incident repeatedly ahead of Wednesday's bypolls at the behest of BJP. "A section of the media and BJP are trying to malign the state as part of their damage control for the defeat that BJP has suffered in Bengal. The scandal that they ran doesn't align with Bengal's values. They presented a one-sided news item about an incident of 2021 continuously for 72 hours," she said.

The TMC supremo claimed that some TV channels are working in a biased manner favouring the BJP due to fear of CBI-ED raids. "Some news channels are misleading people. They have become BJP mouthpieces. If the media wants to cross-check, there are people at the state secretariat. They can cross-check



something with police to find the actual situation. Even when police are providing information, it is not being reported," she said. "This cannot continue for so long. I am requesting them not to do this. If requests don't work, I will take legal steps," Banerjee said. She named a couple of TV channels which allegedly operate in a biased manner, contending that she does not want to identify other such media houses as it would provide them "unnecessary publicity".

Reacting to the allegations, BJP leader Arjun Singh dubbed the allegations baseless.

"Everybody knows, be it Jayant Singh or Sheikh Sahajahan. They were all close to the TMC dispensation and this area Ariadaha falls under Dum Dum Lok Sabha constituency. The TMC is now making those allegations to divert attention," he said. Senior TMC leader Sougata Roy is a four-term MP of Dum Dum Lok

WB CM to meet Uddhav, Sharad, Akhilesh Yadav

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she will meet Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and NCP leader Sharad Pawar in Mumbai Friday to discuss the present political situation in the country. Speaking to reporters Thursday before leaving for Mumbai to attend the wedding of Mukesh Ambani's son, Banerjee said she will also meet Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

"I am going to Mumbai as you all know that Mukesh Ambani ji's son is getting married. They have extended the invitation multiple times, and Mukesh Ambani ji has attended the Biswa Bangla convention multiple times upon Bengal's invitation. I might not have gone, but since they have repeatedly asked me to come including Mukesh ji, his son, and Neeta ji, I decided to go," she said.

Sabha constituency and Madan Mitra is the local TMC MLA.

Echoing Arjun Singh, state BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said the TMC and its goons have unleashed a reign of terror across the state. "Be it Ariadaha, Chopra or Sandeshkhali, it is a well-known fact that the goons have the support of the TMC leadership," he said. After the old video clip showing a person being assaulted by a group of people in Ariadaha went viral, police initiated a suo motu case and arrested three

persons, including local TMC leader and prime suspect Jayant Singh. Jayant Singh, who was arrested in 2023 in another case and was out on bail with a bond promising no further illegal activities, is now facing additional charges for violating this condition. Later, Alapan Bandyopadhyay, Chief Advisor to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said Jayant Singh has a history of five arrests in various cases since 2016, indicating that law enforcement agencies had not shown leniency towards him.

He also said the person who was seen being beaten up in the old video clip was a man and not a girl as claimed by various quarters. BJP leaders including the party's state president Sukanta Majumdar had shared the video on social media claiming that the victim was a girl. The gender of the person was not clear from the clip. He also expressed concern over the sudden resurgence of the 2021 incident ahead of the byelections.

At the press conference, ADG (Law and Order) Manoj Verma reiterated the police's commitment to taking stringent action against any attempt to disrupt law and order or engage in criminal activities.

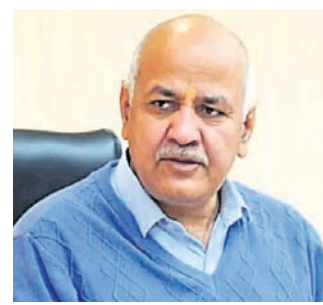
Barrackpore Police Commissioner CP Alok Rajoria on Wednesday stated that eight persons have been identified from the footage, and stringent action will be taken against all those involved.

SPACE REGULATOR NOD MUST

The government has issued an advisory to satellite television broadcasters to seek authorisation from India's space regulator IN-SPACE for using non-Indian satellites from April 1 next year



SC judge opts out of hearing Sisodia plea



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kumar Thursday recused himself from hearing AAP leader Manish Sisodia's pleas seeking to revive his bail petitions in the excise policy-related corruption and money laundering cases.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna, Sanjay Karol and Sanjay Kumar said another bench in which Justice Kumar is not a member will take up Sisodia's two separate pleas for reviving his bail petitions in cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the case.

As soon as the matter was taken up for hearing, Justice Khanna said, "Our brother has some difficulty. He will not like to hear this matter for personal reasons." Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, requested the bench to list the matter urgently, saying time is of essence.

He said the trial has not yet commenced in both the cases. The bench said another bench will take it up July 15. The top July 8 court agreed to list Sisodia's plea after Singhvi said an application has been filed for revival of a disposed of petition which was filed seeking bail in the cases.

The plea said the law officer, appearing for the probe agencies, told the bench that the charge sheet and prosecution complaint in the main excise policy case and the linked money laundering matter will be filed on or before July 3.

"In the Manish Sisodia matter, he has been in jail for 16 months. The court said the trial must conclude, it hasn't started. I filed the special leave petition (SLP), they gave liberty to revive after July 3. The court gave liberty to list..." Singhvi had submitted.

The top court June 4 refused to entertain the bail pleas of Sisodia in cases lodged by the CBI and the ED in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam.

While declining the bail, the bench June 4 said Sisodia can revive his petitions for bail after the ED and the CBI file their final prosecution complaint and charge sheet respectively in the cases involving alleged corruption and money laundering. A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a charge sheet.

KATHUA AMBUSH

J&K, Punjab police, BSF officials discuss ways to boost security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 11: Senior BSF and police officials from Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab Thursday discussed ways to share real-time inputs and further strengthen the anti-infiltration grid along the International Border in a meeting in Kathua district, where five army personnel were killed in an ambush by terrorists three days ago.

The interstate security review meeting came in the backdrop of information that the terrorists behind the Monday ambush on an army patrol could have infiltrated through the International Border (IB) either into Kathua and Samba districts in the Jammu region or Pathankot in Punjab, officials, aware of the developments, said.

The security grid along the IB in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab was reviewed along with measures to plug any loopholes to counter infiltration from Pakistan, they said while giving details of the meeting that was held at the District Police Lines in Kathua and chaired by Border Security Force (BSF) Special Director General, Western Command, Y B Khuria.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain and his Punjab counterpart Gaurav Yadav were among those present at the more than three-hour-long meeting.



Locks left by graduating students of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS) seen on a compound fence, in Kolkata, West Bengal

Hathras stampede: SC to hear plea for probe today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Friday a petition seeking a probe into the recent Hathras stampede that left 121 dead. The plea has sought the appointment of a five-member expert committee under the supervision of a retired apex court judge to probe the July 2 stampede incident. According to the cause list of July 12 uploaded on the apex court website, the plea is scheduled to come up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The petition, filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, has also sought a direction to the Uttar Pradesh government to submit a status report on the incident and to initiate legal action against the authorities, officials and others for their negligent conduct.

SpiceJet staffer held for slapping CISF man at airport

Jaipur: A SpiceJet staff member was arrested Thursday after she allegedly slapped a Central Industrial Security Force officer during an argument over security screening, police said while the airline called it a "serious case of sexual harassment". A CCTV video clip shows the CISF officer speaking to the woman. Suddenly, she moves two steps towards him and then delivers a slap on his face. A woman constable then takes her aside. While the police have registered a case of assault against Anuradha Rani on the basis of a complaint by Assistant Sub Inspector Giriraj Prasad, the airline too has approached the local police and said it is taking "immediate legal action".



Munak canal breach causes chaos in Bawana

New Delhi: The residents of outer Delhi's Bawana faced chaos on Thursday as water entered the streets and residential areas due to a major breach in the Munak canal sub branch (CLC) overnight. The pictures and videos of the locals wading through waist deep water in Bawana JJ colony area, waterlogged houses, school and hospital went viral on social media even as teams of engineers from Haryana and Delhi worked on a war footing to plug the breach. Water Minister Atishi, who visited the site of canal breach, said the repair work was expected to be complete by Thursday night. Water supply of the carrier line channel (CLC) was diverted to the other sub branch of the Munak canal for the purpose of repair work.

Is replacing butter with high-quality plant oils healthy?

THE NEW STUDY, PUBLISHED IN NATURE MEDICINE, DEMONSTRATED THAT A CONTROLLED DIETARY SUBSTITUTION OF SATURATED FATS WITH UNSATURATED FATS MAY BE GOOD FOR HEALTH AND CAN REDUCE CARDIOMETABOLIC RISK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 11: Switching from a diet high in saturated animal fats like butter to one with plant-based unsaturated fats like olive oil can affect the fat composition in the blood, which, in turn, can influence long-term disease risk, according to a study Thursday.

The current guidelines call for increasing dietary unsaturated fat intake while reducing saturated fats to prevent cardiometabolic diseases, which include heart attack, stroke, diabetes, and insulin resistance.

The new study, published in Nature Medicine, demonstrated that a controlled dietary substitution of saturated fats with



unsaturated fats may be good for health and can reduce cardiometabolic risk.

For the study, the team involved 113 participants who were divided into two groups: one

consuming a diet high in saturated animal fats, while the other group had a diet rich in unsaturated plant-based fats.

These were followed for 16 weeks, and their blood samples were analysed using lipidomics, or an analysis of fats in the blood.

A higher multi-lipid score (MLS) - indicating a healthy blood fat profile - showed a substantially reduced risk of developing cardiometabolic diseases. A healthy fat-rich diet was found to be associated with a 32 per cent fewer incident of cardiovascular disease and 26 per cent fewer type 2 diabetes cases.

The "study confirms with even more certainty the health ben-

efits of a diet high in unsaturated plant fats such as the Mediterranean diet and could help provide targeted dietary advice to those who would benefit most from changing their eating habits", said Clemens Wittenbecher, research leader at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden.

The study also showed that it is possible to accurately measure diet-related fat changes in the blood and directly link them to the risk of developing cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. It also highlighted the potential of lipidomics-based scores for targeting and monitoring dietary interventions in biomarker-guided precision nutrition approaches.

national



The responsibility of Pakistan on improving the relations is much more, it should stop the attacks, the prevalent atmosphere should improve. Pakistan has to play its role in improving the relations between the two countries
OMAR ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT

JAYA PRADA ACQUITTED

Former MP from Rampur and Bollywood actress Jaya Prada has been acquitted by the Rampur MP/MLA court in a case of violation of model code of conduct. Jaya Prada was booked in 2019 at Kamri police station for code of conduct violation



of the day quote

The goal of Viksit Bharat can only be achieved when the health of India's families is well maintained which can be achieved by smaller families
JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA | UNION MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

According to experts from this industry, a maximum five per cent of youth of Goa join the hospitality sector. But the requirement is for much more than that. These are white collar jobs
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

The supply of water through the CLC may resume by Friday afternoon
ATISHI MARLENA | DELHI WATER MINISTER

X POST OF THE DAY

GUJARAT MODEL EXPOSED
Stampede-like situation in Bharuch, Gujarat where thousands of youth gathered for a private job. Imagine the state of unemployment in PM Modi's home state
@mr_mayank

SHORT TAKES

NLD-BSP to jointly contest Haryana polls

Chandigarh: The Indian National Lok Dal has decided to again join hands with its former ally Bahujan Samaj Party for the Haryana Assembly polls due later this year, the leaders of the two parties announced Thursday. Alliance leaders have also decided to project Indian National Lok Dal (INDL) leader Abhay Chautala as its chief ministerial face. Under the arrangement, out of 90 assembly seats in Haryana, the BSP will contest 37 seats leaving the rest for its senior partner in Haryana, where the ruling BJP is eyeing to come to power for third time in a row.

Smriti Irani vacates official bungalow

New Delhi: Former Union minister Smriti Irani, who lost the recently held Lok Sabha elections, has vacated her official bungalow at 28 Tughlak Crescent in Lutyens' Delhi, officials said Thursday. Irani vacated the bungalow earlier this week, weeks after she was defeated by Congress leader Kishori Lal Sharma from Amethi parliamentary seat with a margin of over 1.5 lakh votes. The former women and child development minister was dubbed a giant slayer in 2019 after she defeated Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from the seat.

Delhi govt increases PUC certificate charges

New Delhi: The Delhi government has increased the pollution under control (PUC) certificate charges for petrol, CNG and diesel vehicles after a gap of about 13 years, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said Thursday. The charges for petrol, CNG or LPG (including bio fuel) two and three wheelers has been increased from ₹60 to ₹80 and for four wheelers from ₹80 to ₹110, he said in a statement. Gahlot said the charges of PUC certificates for diesel vehicles has been revised from ₹100 to ₹140. The Delhi government is committed to maintaining the city's air quality and ensuring that all vehicles meet the required pollution standards, he said.

JUDICIAL OFFICERS' PAY

TOP COURT SUMMONS CHIEF SECYS, FIN SECYS



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 11: The Supreme Court Thursday summoned the Chief Secretaries (CS) and Finance Secretaries of states and Union Territories which are defaulting on the implementation of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission's (SNJPC) recommendations.

Expressing strong displeasure over non-compliance of the SNJPC's recommendations, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, "We know how to extract compliance now. If we just say that the chief secretary will be present if the affidavit is not filed then it will not be filed."

"We are not sending them to jail but let them be here and then an affidavit will be submitted. Let they be personally present now," the bench said. Though seven opportunities have been granted to the states, it appears that full compliance has not been affected and several states are in default, it said.

"The chief and finance secretaries have to be personally present. Failing compliance, the court will be constrained to initiate contempt," it said. According to the details which emerged during the hearing, the court found that Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Sikkim and Tripura were non-compliant states and UTs. The bench directed the top two bureaucrats of these states to personally appear before it August 23.

The detailed order is awaited. The bench made it clear that it will not grant any more more extensions. It passed the orders after taking note of the submissions and perusing the note provided by lawyer K Parmeswar who is assisting the court as amicus curiae (a friend of court). At the outset, he also referred to the deduction of tax at source by the states on allowances which are due to the present and retired judicial officers. "Wherever exemptions are available under the Income Tax Act from deduction of TDS (tax deducted at source) on allowances, the state governments shall ensure that no deductions are made. Wherever TDS are wrongly deducted, the amount shall be refunded to the judicial officers," the bench said.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Farm workers plant paddy saplings in a field in Satara district of Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

Mihir was drunk at time of crash: Cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 11: Mihir Shah, the main accused in the BMW hit-and-run case and son of a Shiv Sena politician, was under the influence of alcohol when he allegedly rammed his luxury car into a two-wheeler here, killing a woman, a Mumbai police official said Thursday. A probe team of the police

recreated the accident scene in the early hours of the day to get more information about the chain of events and also confronted Mihir Shah (24) with his family driver and co-accused Rajrishi Bidawat, who was in the car at the time of the horrific crash in central Mumbai's Worli area.

A woman, Kaveri Nakhwa (45), was killed and her husband Pradip injured after their two-wheeler was hit from the rear by a BMW allegedly driven by Mihir Shah at 5:30am Sunday in Worli's arterial Anni Besant Road. The probe has found that Mihir Shah sped off towards the Bandra Worli Sea Link even as

the woman remained on the bonnet of the car and then got entangled in its wheels for a distance of a more than 1.5 kilometres. The prime accused, who was arrested from Virar Phata in neighbouring Palghar district Tuesday, is in cop custody till July 16 and being questioned by a team of the Worli police, the official said.

Karachi-bound banned chemicals seized in TN

ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, PAKISTAN IS ALLEGEDLY WORKING ON AN OFFENSIVE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE PROGRAM WITH THE HELP OF CHINA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 11: Security agencies have seized a Chinese shipment of internationally banned chemicals, apparently intended for Pakistan's biological and chemical warfare program, at a port in Tamil Nadu, officials said Thursday.

The consignment of Ortho-Chloro Benzylidene Malonitrile, also known as CS is used as a tear gas and riot control agent, was intercepted by Customs authorities at Kattupalli Port in Tamil Nadu, they said. CS is a dual-use chemical listed under international agreements and India's export control list. While it has civilian applications as riot control agents, the sheer quantity seized raises concerns about its potential military use. The 2560-kg shipment originated from the Chinese



firm, Chengdu Shichen Trading Co. Ltd., and was consigned to Rohail Enterprises, a Rawalpindi-based defence supplier in Pakistan. Stored in 103 drums of 25 kgs each, the cargo was loaded on a vessel Hyundai Shanghai (sailing under Cyprus flag), April 18, 2024, at Shanghai Port, China. The Karachi-bound vessel reached Kattupalli Port (Tamil Nadu) May 08, 2024.

The Customs authorities after routine checking detained the consignment as the chemical figured under India's export control list of Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials,

Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) as a controlled substance, they said. Further investigation of the chemical showed that the consignment was a listed substance under the Wassenaar Arrangement, of which India is a signatory, they said. The ship was seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, and the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005. Pakistan and China are not signatories to the Wassenaar Arrangement. Established in July 1996, the Wassenaar Arrangement is a voluntary export control regime. There are 42 members in the grouping. Members share information on conventional weapons transfers and dual-use goods and technologies.

CISF, BSF to reserve 10% posts for ex-Agniveers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: The chiefs of CISF and the BSF Thursday said 10 per cent posts of constables will be reserved in their respective forces for former Agniveers in line with a decision by the Union Home Ministry. The remarks by CISF Director General Nina Singh and her BSF counterpart Nitin Agrawal came amid fresh spotlight on the Agniphath recruitment scheme for short-term induction of personnel in the Army, Navy and the Air Force. "The Union Home Ministry has taken an important decision regarding the recruitment of ex-Agniveers. Accordingly, the CISF is also preparing the process of the recruitment of ex-Agniveer," Singh said.

The chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said 10 per cent jobs will be reserved for ex-Agniveers in all future appointments of constables. "In physical tests also, they will be given exemption along with the relaxation on the age.



In the first year the age relaxation is for five five years and in the subsequent year, the age relaxation will be three years," she told DD News. The Agniphath scheme provides for recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years and 21 for four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years. Several Opposition parties including the Congress have been targeting the government over the scheme wondering what will happen to 75 per cent of the Agniveers after their four-year tenure ends as only 25 per cent of the total recruits will be retained for 15 years.

UP: 83 BRIDGES FOUND 'UNSAFE'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 11: Following the recent cases of bridge collapse in Bihar, an ongoing inspection of bridges across Uttar Pradesh has found that 83 such structures in the state are 'unfit to commute', government officials said.

The audit done so far of more than 700 bridges in 41 districts found that there are heavily used bridges on which rectification was needed to be made on a war footing.

Among the measures being taken are closing them completely for commuters or banning them for heavy vehicles. Two of these unfit bridges are in the state capital.



Brijesh Singh, the Minister of State for the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD), said, "The monitoring and repair of bridges is a continuous process that our department undertakes. We have identified the bridges that need repair. Those that are found to be no longer of use will be shut down for traffic completely."

In Lucknow, Pucca Pul over the Gomti river in Chowk and another bridge over the Sai river in Mohanlalganj have been identified as unfit and have been shut down for the movement of heavy vehicles.

Experts feel that regular monitoring followed by prompt action to rectify damaged bridges is required to avoid a situation such as collapse.

The 83 bridges that have been found unfit/vulnerable are in 41 districts of Uttar Pradesh. The highest number of seven such bridges was identified in Kanpur Dehat, followed by four in Saharanpur.

In several districts, diversions were put in place after finding the bridge pillars to be of poor strength. The inspection/strength test was conducted for pillars, bridge girders, expansion joints, pier caps and wing walls.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to get inspections of all bridges in Uttar Pradesh that are more than 50 years old.

7/11 terror mayhem on Mumbai trains is a faint memory

Snuffing out 209 innocents, the terror attack became the second worst extremist disaster in Mumbai, preceded by the March 12, 1993 serials bomb blasts (257 killed) and followed by the November 26-29, 2008 terror strikes (166+9 terrorists killed)

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 11: On the rainy evening of July 11, 2006, as millions of commuters hurried to their homes by the Western Railway (WR) suburban trains, they were stopped dead in their tracks at the high-peak hour, at around 18:24 hours (6.24 pm).

For the next 11 minutes, seven of the chock-a-block local trains were surgically targeted with 'pressure cooker bombs' innocuously placed in the first class gents compartments, which the harried crowds ignored.

When the commuters had settled down for the long commute to their waiting families, the 'train bombs' suddenly exploded with devastating results on several stations between Matunga (south Mumbai) and Bhayander (Thane) stations. This led to massive chaos among the terrified commuters,

the lights went off in many coaches, and left the WR authorities rattled plus shook awake the central and state administrations.

The multiple blasts in the trains, either running or halted at stations on their journeys, brought the usually efficient WR system to a grinding halt, but the pre-smartphone era mobiles and the still-reliable landlines were jammed, confusion reigned among the people and the officialdom.

As the suburban trains had stopped running and hordes of security personnel launched their primary investigations, lakhs of commuters trooped onto the road, grabbing any available mode of transport, but the main thoroughfares, highways, arterial roads and even local streets witnessed unprecedented traffic snarls. Eyewitnesses remember that



horrifying evening when the much-cursed and congested suburban trains earned silent prayers and blessings for reaching the commuters home quickly, safely and efficiently, barring of

course the odd aberration...like July 11, 2006. Hungry, thirsty, confused and stranded for hours in the BEST buses, autorickshaws, taxis, cars, vans, and two-wheelers, the or-

inary Mumbaiers opened their hearts and rushed to their aid - akin to the great floods of July 26, 2005, which claimed 1,094 lives.

In a show of solidarity in the face of the tragedy, thousands of Mumbaiers, ranging from slums to skyscrapers, poured out to offer umbrellas, raincoats, plastic sheets, tea-coffee-biscuits-snacks-light meals, complimentary to the bewildered commuters trudging home.

Many big and small restaurants offered refreshments-meals 'on the house' for that night, and the supplies continued till the stocks lasted or the last wayward commuter had his fill, in some cases till dawn the next morning.

Though the WR services had limped back shortly before midnight (July 11), the next morning many services had poor occupancy as people had barely reached home after last night's ordeal.

international



The Chinese Communists' threat to regional stability continues to rise, and its grey zone intrusions into the Taiwan Strait and surrounding areas are also increasing day by day, which are a common challenge to global democracy
LAI CHING-TE | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

NEW GOVERNMENT AHEAD

Kenyan President William Ruto Thursday dismissed all of his Cabinet ministers and promised to form a new government that will be lean and efficient following weeks of protests over high taxes and poor governance



of the day quote

There are still gaps remaining between the two sides (Hamas-Israel). We believe those gaps can be narrowed, and that's what Brett McGurk and CIA Director Bill Burns are trying to do right now

JOHN KIRBY | WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY SPOKESPERSON, US

Indirect talks are being conducted through Oman but the negotiation process is confidential and its details cannot be recounted

ALI BAGHERI KANI | ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

I have a real good feeling in my heart that the spacecraft will bring us home, no problem

SUNITA WILLIAMS | AMERICAN ASTRONAUT

SHORT TAKES

Deuba-Oli discuss new coalition govt

Kathmandu: Ahead of a floor test for the embattled Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Friday, leaders of the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML have agreed to form a new coalition government after ousting the former guerrilla leader, Oli, the CPN-UML chairperson, met Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba Wednesday. The meeting between the two leaders was aimed at formulating a future strategy on how to move forward after the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) agreed to form a new coalition government.

Saudi Airline catches fire

Islamabad: A Saudi Airlines flight from Riyadh caught fire upon landing at Pakistan's Peshawar airport Thursday, prompting a swift evacuation of all 276 passengers and 21 crew members to safety. The plane caught fire upon landing at Peshawar's Bacha Khan International Airport, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. According to CAA spokesperson Saifullah, air traffic controllers witnessed smoke and sparks emanating from the left-hand side landing gear of the aircraft as it landed and alerted the pilots.

Ex-Indonesian min sentenced to 10 yrs

Jakarta: Indonesia's anti-graft court sentenced a former agriculture minister to 10 years in prison Thursday after finding him guilty of corruption-related extortion, abuse of power and bribery involving ministry contracts with private vendors. The case has tarnished President Joko Widodo's credibility in fighting corruption. Five other members of Widodo's Cabinet have been sentenced to prison terms in corruption cases, casting a shadow over his efforts to clean up government while his term will end in October.

Bus collision kills 11 in Philippines

Tuguegarao: A bus collided with a pickup truck early Thursday morning, killing 11 people and injuring six others in a northern Philippine town, police said. Those who died were riding the small truck as it was rammed on the side by the bus, causing it to lose control and smash into a roadside food stall in Abulug town, about 600 km north of Manila, said police chief Maj. Antonio Palatiao. Most of the victims aboard the truck were on their way home from a wake shortly after midnight Thursday.

'DECISIVE ENABLER'

China condemns NATO accusation

NEXT TO RUSSIA, CHINA APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME A CENTERPIECE OF NATO'S CRITICISM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 11: China Thursday hit out at NATO for terming it as a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine, lodging a diplomatic protest to the Western alliance for the "provocative" remarks and asking it not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia.

The China-related paragraphs in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Washington summit declaration are "biased, provocative and aimed at vilifying" Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing here.

"We strongly deplore it and firmly oppose it and lodged a serious representation, (diplomatic protest) to NATO," Lin said.

He also lashed out at the NATO Asia-Pacific push, saying the organisation is strengthening ties with China's neighbours and US allies trying to seek security at the expense of others and asked it not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia.

NATO's Asia Pacific strategy has damaged China's interests, he said and urged it to stop in-



Hungary thinks otherwise

Hungary does not want NATO to become an "anti-China" bloc, and will not support it doing so, Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said Thursday. In comments on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Washington, he also said Ukraine's admission to the military alliance would weaken unity in the group. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban met Chinese President Xi Jinping Monday to discuss a potential Ukraine peace deal following visits to Kyiv and Moscow.

terfering in its internal affairs.

China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, he said.

The NATO Washington summit has made scathing criticism of Beijing, saying China has "become a decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine" through its so-called "no limits" partnership and its large-scale support for Russia's defence industrial base.

Also, China's military exercises with Belarus, a close ally of Russia, were sharply criticised by NATO especially since they are being held close to the

border of Poland, a NATO member.

Next to Russia, China appears to have become a centerpiece of NATO's criticism which comes at a time when Beijing is trying to scale down trade tariffs and sanctions, especially for its electric vehicles which it is trying to market in the EU to reduce its overcapacity.

Chinese analysts have also been airing concerns over China getting involved in the Ukraine war risking its political and trade ties with the EU and confrontation with the powerful NATO alliance.

China urges NATO to stop interfering in its internal politics and smearing China's image and not create chaos in the Asia-Pacific after creating turmoil in Europe

LIN JIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

China is also trying to deflect criticism for supplying materials related to weapons production to Russia.

The NATO declaration said, "We call on the PRC, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council with a particular responsibility to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; to cease all material and political support to Russia's war effort".

"This includes the transfer of dual-use materials, such as weapons components, equipment, and raw materials that serve as inputs for Russia's defence sector. The PRC cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation", the NATO declaration said.

Lin also tried to play down strong EU and NATO criticism of Chinese troops taking part in joint military exercises with Belarus near the Polish border, saying that it is normal military cooperation, and does not target any specific country.

Bravery award for Indian ship captain, crew



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 11: Captain Avhilash Rawat and his crew of an oil tanker have been named among the winners of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) 2024 Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea for their "extraordinary courage" shown in a Red Sea rescue mission.

Rawat and his crew were declared winners by the IMO Wednesday for the determination and endurance demonstrated while coordinating firefighting and damage control efforts to combat a fire that broke out after an anti-ship missile reportedly fired by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels struck their vessel 'Marlin Luanda' earlier this year.

Captain Brijesh Nambiar and the crew of the Indian Navy ship INS Visakhapatnam have been conferred a Letter of Commendation for their support to the oil tanker when in distress.

"On the evening of J26

January 2024, the Marlin Luanda, carrying 84,147 tonnes of Naphtha, was en route from Suez to Incheon when it was struck by an anti-ship ballistic missile. The explosion ignited a cargo tank, creating a significant fire hazard with flames exceeding 5 meters," reads the award citation.

"Despite the damage, Captain Avhilash Rawat swiftly organised firefighting efforts, ensuring the crew's safety and maintaining the ship's navigability amidst the chaos. With the starboard lifeboat destroyed, the remaining crew mustered at the port lifeboat station, ready for potential evacuation," it added.

After four and a half hours fighting the fire on their own, assistance arrived from the merchant tanker Achilles and later from the French frigate FS Alsace and the United States frigate USS Carney, which provided additional firefighting foam and support, followed soon after by the Indian warship INS Visakhapatnam.

PARIS OLYMPICS

French unions call for strike



REUTERS

Paris, July 11: A top French trade union leader Thursday urged President Emmanuel Macron to let a left-wing alliance govern after it came first in a legislative election, hinting that any alternative could be met with protests during the Paris Olympics.

In his first public comments since the New Popular Front (NFP) beat his own centrist camp into second place in Sunday's election, Macron said Wednesday that "no one had won" and asked "republican forces" to form a "solid majority" to govern.

Sophie Binet, leader of the CGT union, said Macron was in denial about the result of the election and should appoint as Prime Minister whoever the NFP picks. Members of the alliance have been trying all week to agree on a name and a strategy to govern without a majority.

"Emmanuel Macron must snap out of his denialism. He has lost the election. He's like Louis XVI holed up at Versailles. He must listen to the country and stop being so disconnected," Binet said on LCI television.

It said the protests should take place in front of prefectures, the seats of state author-

ity all around the country, and in front of the National Assembly in Paris, to demand that the NFP form a government.

"Let's not allow our victory to be stolen from us!", its statement concluded.

Binet said "all of us should take part in these gatherings to keep the National Assembly under scrutiny and ensure that the people's vote is respected," hinting that protests could continue during the Olympics if Macron did not comply.

TROUBLE FOR THE GAMES

"At this stage, we haven't planned any strikes during the Olympics, but if Macron continues to throw petrol on the flames," she said, without finishing her sentence. The Olympics start July 26.

Options for government include a broad coalition, a minority government or a technocratic government led by a non-politically affiliated person, which would seek to pass laws in Parliament on a case-by-case basis, with ad hoc agreements.

The head of the larger, more moderate CFDT union, Marylise Leon, said the NFP's programme should be the starting point for the next government.

The Socialist Party leader Olivier Faure portrayed Macron as disconnected from reality, seeking to maintain his people in power despite their electoral loss. Faure portrayed Macron as disconnected from reality, seeking to maintain his people in power despite their electoral loss.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla speaks at the Plenary Session at BRICS on 'The BRICS Parliamentary dimension: prospects for strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation'

PTI PHOTO

Moscow declines Ukraine peace summit

REUTERS

Moscow, July 11: Russia will not attend a follow-up to last month's Ukraine peace summit, state news agency RIA quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin as saying Thursday.

Russia was not invited to the initial summit in Switzerland that was attended by representatives of 92 countries, and said that discussing the war in its absence was a waste of time.

Ukraine has said it wants to hold another such summit later this year, probably in the Global South, and that representatives from Russia could be invited this time.

RIA cited Galuzin as describing Ukrainian preconditions for peace talks as an "ultimatum"



and that Moscow was "not going to participate in such summits".

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman was less categorical than Galuzin, saying there was currently "no precise substance" regarding the idea of a second summit.

"What proposals are we talking about?" the spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, was quoted by RIA as saying.

"You know that President Putin and the Russian Federation are always open to dialogue. But we have never refused dialogue. But we must understand what we are talking about."

Putin said last month that Russia was willing to end the war, but only on condition that Ukraine drop its NATO ambitions and hand over the entirety of four regions claimed by Moscow. Ukraine dismissed those demands as tantamount to surrender.

Russian controls nearly a fifth of its neighbour's territory. Kyiv says it is committed to take back all of that, and that peace is only possible if Russia pulls out its forces and Ukraine's full territorial integrity is restored.

Trump seeks Black, Latino support despite unpopularity

While both groups do see Donald Trump a little more favourably than when he left office in 2021, their opinion of him is still more negative than positive

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 11: As he prepares to accept the Republican nomination for the third time, Donald Trump has promised new efforts to expand his coalition and, in particular, to win over more of the nonwhite voters who largely rejected him during the 2020 election.

But an AP analysis of two consecutive polls conducted in June by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that about 7 in 10 Black Americans have a somewhat or very unfavourable view of

Trump, as do about half of Hispanic Americans. While both groups do see Trump a little more favourably than when he left office in 2021, their opinion of him is still more negative than positive.

Any gains in support among Black or Hispanic Americans would be helpful for Trump, who won 35% of Hispanic voters and 8% of Black voters in 2020, according to AP VoteCast, and has struggled to grow his appeal beyond his base. He's hoping, in part, to capitalize on frustration with his opponent, since President Joe Biden's favora-



bility among Black and Hispanic Americans has also fallen since 2021. It's not clear, though, that Biden's loss of enthusiasm among Black and Hispanic adults is helping Trump's own standing among these groups.

About half of Hispanic adults view Trump negatively

Trump has said on the campaign trail that he has "great

support" from Hispanic communities. But the AP analysis found that about half of Hispanic adults have an unfavourable view of Trump. About 4 in 10 Hispanic adults in the recent AP-NORC polls see Trump positively, up from about 3 in 10 in January 2021.

And even though Trump's campaign advisers have said he

has specific appeal among Hispanic men and younger Hispanic adults because of his business focus, that's not what the poll analysis shows. Current views of Trump are similar among Hispanic men and women, older and younger Hispanic adults, and those with and without a college degree.

Trump remains unpopular among Black adults

The Trump campaign has claimed that he could perform better among Black adults this year than in 2020, speculating that his legal woes could endear him to a community that has faced systematic discrimination by the criminal justice system, and that his immigration policies could also hold appeal. Black adults continue to have

broadly negative views of Trump, however. About 7 in 10 Black adults have an unfavourable view of Trump, a decrease of about 20 percentage points since early 2021. And although the Trump campaign has said Black men may be more receptive to his message, Black men and women have similar views of him.

Younger Black Americans might be a little more open to Trump's appeals. About one-third of Black younger adults, those under 45, see him positively, compared to around 1 in 10 Black adults who are 45 or older. But most younger Black adults view him unfavourably.

About 6 in 10 Black Americans, meanwhile, have a positive view of Biden, down from 8 in 10 when he took office.



I find it strange that India is so heavily reliant on oil imports despite the abundant geological resources available to us
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

VEG OIL IMPORTS UP 18% IN JUNE

Import of vegetable oils, comprising edible and non-edible oils, rose 18 per cent in June to 15.5 lakh tonnes on higher imports of crude palm oil and crude sunflower oil, according to trade data. Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) data showed that import of vegetable oils during June 2024 stood at 15,50,659 tonnes compared to 13,14,476 tonnes in the year-ago period.



of the day quote

The important area that needs to be addressed now, amongst others, is the continued lower-than-expected growth in private consumption

ANIL G VERMA | GODREJ & BOYCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

There is a huge requirement for components and that component requirement is where I think MSMEs have a huge role to play and need to come into play, in a significant way

T KOSHY | ONDC MD & CEO

Our current focus revolves around innovation, leveraging new technologies, and consistently introducing products that resonate with our customers' evolving preferences. These elements are pivotal as we aim to achieve our ambitious target of Rs 5,000 crore within the next five years.

AMAN CHOUDHARY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARKETING AT ANMOL INDUSTRIES LIMITED

SHORT TAKES

TCS net profit rises 8.7%

Mumbai: India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Thursday posted an 8.7 per cent year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 12,040 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024. The net profit for the year-ago period stood at Rs 11,074 crore. The company - which competes in the IT services market with the likes of Infosys, Wipro and HCLTech - reported a 5.4 per cent increase in its revenue at Rs 62,613 crore for the quarter just ended. Sequentially, however, the net profit fell 3.1 per cent compared to March quarter. "I am pleased to report a strong start to the new fiscal year with all-round growth across industries and markets," K Krithivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of TCS, said in a release.

Vedanta to raise up to ₹1,000cr

New Delhi: Mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd Thursday said it plans to raise up to Rs 1,000 crore through the issuance of debentures. In a regulatory filing the company said, its directors have approved the allotment of 1,00,000 non-convertible debentures aggregating to Rs 1,000 crore on a private placement basis. "The duly constituted committee of directors of the company has approved the allotment of 1,00,000 secured, rated, listed, redeemable, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of face value Rs 1,00,000 each aggregating to Rs 1,000 crore on a private placement basis," the filing said. Vedanta Ltd, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Ltd, is one of the world's leading natural resources companies.

Double-digit volume growth for PepsiCo

New Delhi: Global food and beverages major PepsiCo Thursday reported a double-digit growth in beverages volume in India in the second quarter of the 2024 calendar year, thereby leading to a 2 per cent overall rise in Africa, Middle East & South Asia region. The company also said its convenient foods unit volume grew double-digit in India in the April-June period. "Beverage unit volume grew 2 per cent, primarily reflecting double-digit growth in India, partially offset by a high-single-digit decline in Pakistan, a low-single-digit decline in the Middle East and a mid-single-digit decline in Nigeria," PepsiCo said in a regulatory filing.

Premature to talk about rate cut: RBI Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das Thursday said the question of change of stance on interest rate is quite premature given the gap between current inflation and 4 per cent target.

"Given gap between current inflation and 4 per cent target, question of change of stance is quite premature...when we move towards 4 per cent CPI (retail inflation) on a sustained basis is when we will get the confidence to think about a change in stance," Das said in an interview to CNBC-TV 18.

He said inflation journey is progressing as per expectations, but added that it is the last mile of the journey towards 4 per cent, which will be the most difficult or sticky.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation has been projected at 4.5 per cent with quarter-wise projections at 4.9 per cent in Q1 (April-June), 3.8 per cent in Q2, 4.6 per cent in Q3, and 4.5 per cent in Q4, RBI had said in its June bi-monthly report.

The Reserve Bank, which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent (with margin of 2 per cent on either side), mainly factors in CPI while



arriving at its monetary policy. He had said headline inflation softened further during March-April, though persisting food inflation pressures offset the gains of disinflation in core and deflation in the fuel groups.

Despite some moderation, pulses and vegetables inflation remained firmly in double digits.

Vegetable prices are experiencing a summer uptick following a shallow winter season correction. The deflationary trend in fuel was driven primarily by the LPG price cuts in early March.

Core inflation softened for the 11th consecutive month since June 2023. Services inflation

moderated to a historic low and goods inflation remained contained.

With regard to GDP, Das said many drivers of growth are playing out their role and momentum of growth was very strong in fourth quarter of last financial year which continues to be strong in the first quarter.

The June policy also revised upwards the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent on rising private consumption and revival of demand in rural areas.

When the projected GDP growth of 7.2 per cent for 2024-25 materialises, it will be the fourth consecutive year with growth at or above 7 per cent.

India widens use of foreign currency accounts in GIFT City

REUTERS

Mumbai, July 11: Indians have been allowed wider usage of foreign currency accounts at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, or GIFT City, boosting business prospects for a finance hub pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

GIFT City, launched in the western state of Gujarat by Modi in 2011, has been planned as an alternative to regional financial centres like Dubai. It offers easier regulations compared with the rest of India but has seen a slow pick up in interest from foreign investors. The latest changes, announced by the Reserve Bank of India in a circular late Wednesday, allow Indian investors to use GIFT City as a route for more overseas spending and investments.

Indians are allowed to remit up to \$250,000 overseas each year for education and medical expenditure as well as certain kinds of investments. So far, foreign currency accounts in the finance hub could only be used for investing in overseas-listed securities and for paying tuition for foreign universities at GIFT City. The relaxation of norms will help banking and financial services in the finance hub, such as payments and insurance.

The biggest beneficiary will be banks and the move will "open up the window" for life insurance companies, Jaiman Patel, partner at EY India said.

State refiners in talks for oil import deal with Russia



REUTERS

New Delhi, July 11: India's state-run refiners are jointly negotiating a long-term oil import deal with Russia, a government source aware of the development said Thursday.

India and Russia have yet to finalise terms, such as the payment currency, for the imports, the source said, declining to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

"Joint negotiations of state refiners with Russia are already happening," the source said.

Indian private refiners Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries have already signed term deals for Russian oil imports. Nayara is part-owned by Russian oil major Rosneft.

Indian private refiners may

join the negotiations with their state-run peers later, the source said.

Asia's third-largest economy needs "predictable and stable" oil supplies as it is expanding its refining capacity to meet rising fuel demand, the source said.

Russia is the top oil supplier to India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer.

India has emerged as the biggest buyer of Russian seaborne oil sold at a discount as Western entities have shunned purchases due to a raft of sanctions imposed on Russia over its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia this week, India had sought energy deals with Rosneft and other leading Russian oil firms.

KVIC turnover crosses ₹1.5L-cr

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 11: Khadi and Village Industries' annual turnover crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time in FY 2023-24 with over 10 lakh new jobs generated during the fiscal, its Chairman Manoj Kumar has said.

According to provisional figures for 2023-24 released by KVIC, a 315 per cent increase in production and a 400 per cent rise in sales were registered in the last 10 years.

New employment generation also witnessed an 81 per cent increase during the decade starting from 2013-14.

"For the first time, over 10 lakh new jobs were created and our turnover crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore in 2023-24," Kumar said.

Surpassing all previous figures, there has been an increase of almost 400 per cent in sales,

nearly 315 per cent in production, and 81 per cent in new employment generation compared to the financial year 2013-14, KVIC stated.

KVIC's sales were Rs 1.34 lakh crore in 2022-23.

According to KVIC, sales of its products in the last ten financial years of the Modi Government have increased from Rs 31,154.2 crore in 2013-14 to the highest level of Rs 1,55,673.12 crore in 2023-24.

"In the financial year 2023-24, KVIC's efforts

have created 10.17 lakh new jobs in rural areas, strengthening rural India's economy," it stated.

The KVIC Chairman said the demand for Khadi and village industry products made by rural artisans is increasing rapidly in the market, which is reflected in the production, sales, and employment figures.



Indices close down amid profit-taking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 11: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed marginally down in a rangebound session Thursday as investors booked profits in heavyweights ahead of the announcement of key financial results for the June quarter.

Retreating from early highs, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 27.43 points or 0.03 per cent at 79,897.34. As many as 15 Sensex shares closed with gains while the rest declined.

The index climbed 245.32 points to hit a high of 80,170.09 in early trade but later lost momentum due to selling in index heavyweights. The barometer hit a day's low of 79,464.38, down by 460.39 points from the last close.

The NSE Nifty edged down 8.50 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,315.95. The broader index gyrated between a high of 24,402.65 and a low of 24,193.75 in day trade.

"The main indices are trading in a narrow range, struggling to justify its premium valuation ahead of the Q1 earnings season, which is forecast to be subdued," Vinod Nair, Head of Research,



TOP GAINERS	
1.64	ITC
1.52	Tata Motors
0.93	Asian Paints
0.88	SBI
0.84	Titan

TOP LOSERS	
-1.48	Bajaj Finance
-1.24	M&M
-1.14	NTPC
-1.05	Nestle India
-0.95	Power Grid

Geojit Financial Services said.

Among Sensex shares, Bajaj Finance fell the most by 1.48 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra (1.24 per cent), NTPC (1.14 per cent) and Nestle (1.05 per cent) were also among the major losers. HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Bharti Airtel, RIL and Larsen & Toubro also declined.

On the other hand, FMCG major ITC rose the most by 1.64

per cent. Tata Motors, Asian Paints and Titan also gained.

TCS gained 0.33 per cent ahead of the release of its quarterly financial results. India's largest IT services company after market hours reported an 8.7 per cent year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 12,040 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024. Its revenue rose by 5.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 62,613 crore for the June quarter.

"After the flat start, the Nifty oscillated in a range and finally settled at 24,315.95 levels. Meanwhile, a mixed trend on the sectoral front kept the traders occupied wherein energy and FMCG ended in the green while realty and pharma closed lower," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.57 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.34 per cent.

Analysts said the broader market is exhibiting marginal momentum, led by a shift in FIIs inflow and budget expectations.

Among the indices, realty declined by 1.41 per cent, auto by 0.43 per cent and utilities by 0.19 per cent.

Oil & Gas jumped 1.68 per cent, while energy (1.20 per cent), services (1.13 per cent), industrials (0.31 per cent) and telecommunication (0.24 per cent) also advanced.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 583.96 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent to USD 85.26 a barrel.

India to become real estate capital of Asia: Report

WHILE IN INDIA, WITH THE MIDDLE CLASS PROJECTED TO REACH 547 MILLION BY 2030, RESIDENTIAL SALES ARE EXPECTED TO GROW 10-12 PER CENT IN FY2024-25

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 11: With real estate companies worth \$36 billion in 2024, India is accelerating to become the real estate capital of Asia, pushing away China in terms of growth rate, a new report said Thursday.

China's real estate market is facing significant headwinds due to government clampdowns and demand slowdown.

While in India, with the middle class projected to reach 547 million by 2030, residential sales are expected to grow 10-12 per cent in FY2024-25, according to the '2024 GROHE-Hurun India Real Estate 100' report.

"Rising foreign investments of around \$4 billion yearly are further catalysing growth," said Anas Rahman Junaid, Founder and Chief Researcher, Hurun India.

Sixty of the top 100 companies operate beyond their core state headquarters, indicating a significant trend towards national brand building in the real estate sector.

"Notably, six companies on the list have an international



presence, demonstrating the global ambitions of Indian real estate companies. With the strength of the Indian diaspora, Indian real estate companies are well-positioned to expand internationally, a trend we expect to see grow in the coming years," Junaid emphasised.

DLF emerged as the top real estate company in the list, with a valuation of Rs 2,02,140 crore, followed by Macrotech

Developers with a valuation of Rs 1,36,730 crore and Indian Hotels Company at third spot with a Rs 79,150 crore valuation.

Among the top 10 companies, 60 per cent are headquartered in Mumbai, while two are based in Bangalore and one each in Gurugram and Ahmedabad.

"The list showcases that entrepreneurs hailing from tier 2 cities are forging some of the most impactful real estate enterprises in the nation. Five per

cent of the entrants in 2024 GROHE-Hurun India Real Estate 100 hail from tier 2 cities. This highlights the fact that geographic boundaries no longer limit the rise of influential real estate players in India," informed Junaid.

India is projected to add 200,000 km of national highways by 2037, fostering the growth of micro cities and further value addition by India's real estate sector, he added.

Vodafone Idea seeks waiver of ₹24,700-cr bank guarantee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 11: Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has reached out to the Department of Telecom to seek waiver on a financial bank guarantee worth Rs 24,747 crore for spectrum payment due in September 2025, according to sources. Vodafone Idea (VIL) needs to securitise the annual instalment one year before the due date of the payment.

"Vodafone Idea has reached out to DoT seeking waiver for financial bank guarantee (FBG) worth Rs 24,747 crore which it has to pay in September 2025. The FBG needs to be deposited one year before the due date as per spectrum auction rules," a source, who did not wish to be identified, told PTI.

An email query sent to Vodafone Idea elicited no response. The payments are for frequencies that VIL purchased in auctions that were conducted before 2022. VIL in 2022 opted for a four-year moratorium to pay for the spectrum allowed under a government relief package.

The moratorium period for the spectrum payment obligations related to spectrum auctions conducted until 2016 ends between October 2025 and

September 2026.

The company also opted for a moratorium on AGR payments. The moratorium ends in March 2026. VIL is required to provide bank guarantees at least 13 months prior to the expiry of the relevant moratorium period.

The company has cited relief based on the spectrum auction rules of 2022 and 2024 in which the requirement for providing bank guarantees has been removed. VIL had outstanding dues of Rs 2,03,430 crore to the government as of March 31, 2024. The total outstanding includes deferred spectrum payment obligations of Rs 1,33,110 crore and AGR (adjusted gross revenue) liability of Rs 70,320 crore.

While opting for the moratorium, VIL cleared about Rs 16,000 crore interest obligation on the deferred payment by offering equity in the company to the government.

The government shareholding in VIL fell from about 33 per cent in 2023 to 23.8 per cent as of March 31, 2024, after the company raised Rs 18,000 crore through a follow-on public offer; Rs 7,000 crore between March 2022 and May 2024 from the promoters and is issued preferential shares to vendors to clear their dues.

Super sub Watkins turns hero

Gareth Southgate's plan pays off as he replaces Kane with little-known striker to send the Dutch packing



SUPER STRIKE: Ollie Watkins is over the moon after scoring as the Dutch players look completely shocked

AP PHOTO

AGENCIES

Dortmund, July 11: Ollie Watkins struck a stunning injury-time winner as England beat the Netherlands 2-1 here Wednesday to set up a Euro 2024 final showdown Sunday with Spain in Berlin. However, more than Watkins, England coach Gareth Southgate must be complemented for the risk he took in replacing skipper Harry Kane with Watkins.

It was an incredible finish to an evening that began badly for England, as Xavi Simons gave the Netherlands an early lead in the semifinal. However, England were soon level through a Kane penalty following a controversial VAR call by German referee Felix Zwayer, and the match looked set to drift towards extra time until Watkins struck.

Watkins received a pass from fellow substitute Cole Palmer with his back to goal in the first minute of added-on time, turned and fired low shot into the far corner to leave the Netherlands completely stunned. It has rarely been a convincing

campaign from Southgate's England side, but they are through to their second consecutive European Championship final as they dream of finally winning a first major trophy since 1966. To do that they will surely have to perform better than at any point so far in Germany as they face an outstanding Spain team.

Southgate was quick to hit back at critics. "We all want to be loved, right? When you're doing something for your country and you're a proud Englishman, when you don't feel that back and when all you read is criticism, it's hard. So to be able to celebrate the second final (after Euro 2020) is very special," Southgate said, paying tribute to England's travelling fans.

"If I hadn't been on the grass, I'd have been watching, celebrating like they were. We are kindred spirits in many ways but of course I'm the one who has to pick a team. So to be able to give them a night like tonight (Wednesday), it's very special," the coach added.

England had got to this stage despite not winning any of their last four matches in 90 minutes, and having

been taken to extra time by Slovakia and Switzerland. That might have given the Dutch an edge physically, after the Oranje shrugged off finishing third in their group to brush aside Romania and then see off Turkey. However, in the end, Southgate's tactics prevailed.

The Dutch went ahead after just seven minutes thanks to a stunning goal by Simons, who robbed Declan Rice 35 metres from goal and advanced before sending a rasping drive beyond Jordan Pickford.

The Dutch players ran off to celebrate with their fans behind that goal, as England found themselves behind for the third game running. Just like against the Swiss in the quarter-finals, however, they reacted swiftly.

Kane forced a save from Bart Verbruggen and moments later sent a volley over the bar. He was caught by Denzel Dumfries on the follow-through. It seemed totally innocuous but Zwayer was summoned across to review the images and gave a penalty. Kane made no mistake, slotting low into the bottom-left corner.

SHORT TAKES

Venues announced

New Delhi: India will play three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs during their tour to Sri Lanka across July and August, and the matches will be played at Pallekele and Colombo, the BCCI announced Thursday. The white ball tour will kick off with the T20Is (July 26, 27, 29) at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium and the series will then move to Colombo where the ODIs (August 1, 4, 7) will be played at the R Premadasa International Stadium. India will be manned by newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir, while the Lankans will also have a new coach in Sanath Jayasuriya.

Starc unhappy

Sydney: Australian pacer Mitchell Starc has expressed his displeasure at being dropped for the crucial T20 World Cup Super Eight match against Afghanistan in the Caribbean. He stated he was not one bit amused by the team management's decision. Australia lost the game by 21 runs. Australia had replaced Starc with Ashton Agar for the match but the left-arm spinner could not take any wickets. "I could not believe when the team management said Ash (Ashton) replacing me. This was the second time, the first being 2022 when I was dropped against Afghanistan in a World Cup game," Starc said on Willow Talk podcast.

Kapil backs Aditi

New Delhi: India's leading golfer Aditi Ashok can go one step further and win a medal at the Paris Olympics provided her form does not betray her in pressure situations, newly-appointed PGTI president Kapil Dev stated here Thursday. The Indian golfer had finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics. "I want to see Aditi playing with the same pomp that she played with in the Tokyo Olympics. For cricketers and golfers, form is very important. If Aditi plays in the same form, she has a good chance to win a medal. And if she has a bad week, then she can only sit out and rue the loss," Kapil stated.

Lerma header puts Colombia in Copa final

AGENCIES

Charlotte (US), July 11: Ten-man Colombia defeated Uruguay 1-0 to reach the final of the Copa America for the first time in 23 years after an ill-tempered semifinal here Wednesday. A 39th-minute Jefferson Lerma header sealed victory for the Colombians, who will now face holders Argentina in Sunday's final in Miami.

It was an anarchic semifinal played in front of a packed and passionate crowd which ended with scuffles on the field and fighting in the stands, including several players who had climbed in among supporters amid the flying punches.

Colombia, despite having Daniel Munoz sent off just before the interval and facing plenty of Uruguay pressure, hung on for a famous victory to the delight of their massive following of fans.

Colombia started strongly with their livewire Liverpool winger Luis Diaz doing well to wriggle some space for a cross on the left, finding Munoz at the back post but the full-back's header was off target.

Uruguay were, as always, a threat on the counter-attack and



Colombia players (in yellow) celebrate their hard-fought win against Uruguay

their Liverpool star, Darwin Nunez, was close to finishing off on the break when Rodrigo Bentancur found him with a clever pass but the forward poked his shot wide.

The breakthrough came when Lerma rose majestically above Jose Maria Gimenez and powerfully headed home James Rodriguez's corner. It was the sixth assist of the tournament for Rodriguez with the former Real Madrid midfielder beating the record for most assists in a single Copa, which was set by Lionel Messi in 2011.

But having been so influential down the right in the opening half, Munoz lost his head completely, just before the break, picking up a second yellow card, after landing an elbow on Manuel Ugarte. It was a moment of madness which left Colombia to defend their lead with just 10 men for the entire second half.

However, they fought bravely to snatch an important victory and seal a place in the final. Uruguay did have chances in the second session but Nicolas de la Cruz and substitute Luis Suarez were off target.

Anderson shows his class against Windies

AGENCIES

London, July 11: In his final innings as a bowler in Tests, James Anderson looked sharp enough as England tightened the nooze around West Indies here Thursday. Anderson picked up the wickets of Kraigg Brathwaite (4) and Alick Athanaze (22), as hosts England reduced West Indies to 79 for six at stumps. The visitors need another 171 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Earlier England scored 371 to take a mammoth lead of 250 runs with wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith scoring 70. Other than Anderson, pacer Gus Atkinson (2/27) and skipper Ben



Stokes (2/25) bowled well for England. This game will be the last for Anderson who has now 703 Test wickets. The England team management had decided well in advance that the game against the West Indies would be Anderson's farewell Test.

Cheetahs win close match

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 11: Odisha Cheetahs defeated Odisha Jaguars by 18 runs in a match of the OCA T20 tournament at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Thursday.

After being put in, Odisha Cheetah's scored 158 for the loss of seven wickets in their 20 overs. Aashirwad Swain (40, 26b) was the top scorer for the Cheetahs. He was well-supported by Shreyansh Bharadwaj (30, 33b). Krishna Palai (2/15) was the most economical bowler for Jaguars.

Despite a fine knock by Venkatesh Bhande (64, 50b), the Jaguars could not reach the victory target. This was because their other batters consumed too



Aashirwad Swain

many deliveries and were dismissed even after settling down. In the end, Anil Parida (34, 23b) made a valiant effort to take the Jaguars over the line, but they finished on 140 for four to lose the game by 18 runs. Sarbeswar Mohanty (2/26) was the most successful bowler for the Cheetahs.

Paolini in title round

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Jul 11: Jasmine Paolini reached her second consecutive Grand Slam final with a 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) victory Thursday over unseeded Donna Vekic at Wimbledon in a rollicking match that lasted two hours, and 51 minutes, making it the tournament's longest women's semifinal on record.

Paolini kept coming back — after dropping the opening set, after being two games from defeat at 4-all in the second, after twice trailing by a break in the third at 1-3 and 3-4. However, the seventh-seeded Paolini never went away, eventually convert-

ing her third match point when Vekic sent a forehand wide.

The 28-year-old Italian is the first woman to get to the title matches at the French Open and Wimbledon in the same season since Serena Williams in 2015 and 2016. "These last months have been crazy for me," Paolini said with a laugh.

Paolini's win at the Centre Court was anything but easy for either woman. Vekic often seemed to be in distress, crying between points or while sitting in her changeover chair late in the third set. She iced her right forearm between games or looked up at her guest box with a flushed face.



Jasmine Paolini reacts after her victory Thursday

AP PHOTO

Manpreet ready for 1 last battle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 11: Manpreet Singh's life has never been easy. He had to play hockey through shattering life experiences such as a poverty-stricken childhood, a family struggling to make both ends meet, and an allegation which burns his soul till date.

Manpreet, whose CV includes an Olympic bronze (Tokyo) and two Asian Games gold medals (2014, 2022), has those scarring moments to draw strength from when he walks onto the field in the Indian jersey in the Paris Olympics later this month.

It will be his fourth Olympics and probably his last, something the 32-year-old never imagined to achieve when he started his



journey from the modest lanes of Mithapur, a town in Punjab. "I never thought that I would be able to play in four Olympics. It is every player's dream to win Olympic medals. I consider myself very lucky that this is my fourth Olympics," stated

Manpreet. I am going (to play) as if this is my last Olympics and I have to give my best," he added.

Manpreet made his debut for India in 2011 as a 19-year-old. But in sports, as it often happens in life, a low closely tails a high. Manpreet knows this axiom better than anyone else.

After the Tokyo glory, Sjoerd Marijne, the former India coach, alleged that Manpreet asked a player to underperform so that his friends could get in the team during the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Both the men's and women's teams jointly denied the allegation, stating that the Dutchman did so to publicise his book. But the wounds are still raw. "It was the most difficult phase

Our pool is tough and we cannot take any team lightly. New Zealand have defeated us in the World Cup and Ireland have recently beaten Belgium. So we have to execute our strategies properly

MANPREET SINGH

for me. I could never even think of such things. I was broken and lost faith in everyone. I spoke to Sreejesh (India goalkeeper) with whom I share everything," Manpreet informed. "My mother also encouraged me to keep playing to fulfil my father's dream and the whole team supported me," he added in a voice choked with emotion.

A CHANCE TO BE PART OF

METTLE MEET 2024

HERE . NOW

OrissaPOST

It's time for **METTLE MEET** – an initiative by the state's only homegrown English daily to revive quizzing in Odisha. This year, the **Preliminaries** will take place **August 3** and the **Grand Finale August 4**. Like in previous years, most of the top educational institutions of Odisha – both schools and colleges will be competing for the **Grand Prize of ₹1,00,000** in the Junior and Senior segments.

A
QUIZ
Extravaganza

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Everyone will have to mail their answers to mettlemeet@orissapost.com
- Answers to the questions will follow the next day. The names of the winners will also be announced along with their pictures.
- Answers mailed between 8.00am to 6.00pm each day will be considered valid.
- **Orissa POST's** decision on all entries will be final. No complaints will be entertained.
- Participants must send their entries with a **passport size photograph, mobile numbers and residential address**. Otherwise the entries will be rejected.
- There can be only one winner from one family.
- Invitation cards to the winners will only be issued on presentation of **Valid ID proof – Voter Card, Aadhaar Card, Driving License, Passport, School ID card** (In case of students till Class XI)
- No employee of **Orissa POST** or their family members can be part of the competition

TODAY'S QUESTION

As a reader of **Orissa POST**, this is a great chance for you to be part of the exciting **Grand Finale** if you can predict the correct answer. There will be one question on each day for you to answer till **July 31, 2024**. Every day there will be two winners. If there are more than two correct entries, then the winners will be decided by draw of lots. All the winners will be invited for the **Grand Finale** which will be conducted by nationally acclaimed quiz-master **Ajay Poonia**. There will be prizes for the daily winners too. So buckle up your seatbelts and get set for some brainstorming.

ANSWER OF YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

US President. Four out of 46 have been assassinated

WINNER OF YESTERDAY'S QUIZ

?

?

There were no correct answers